

Thursday June 08 2023

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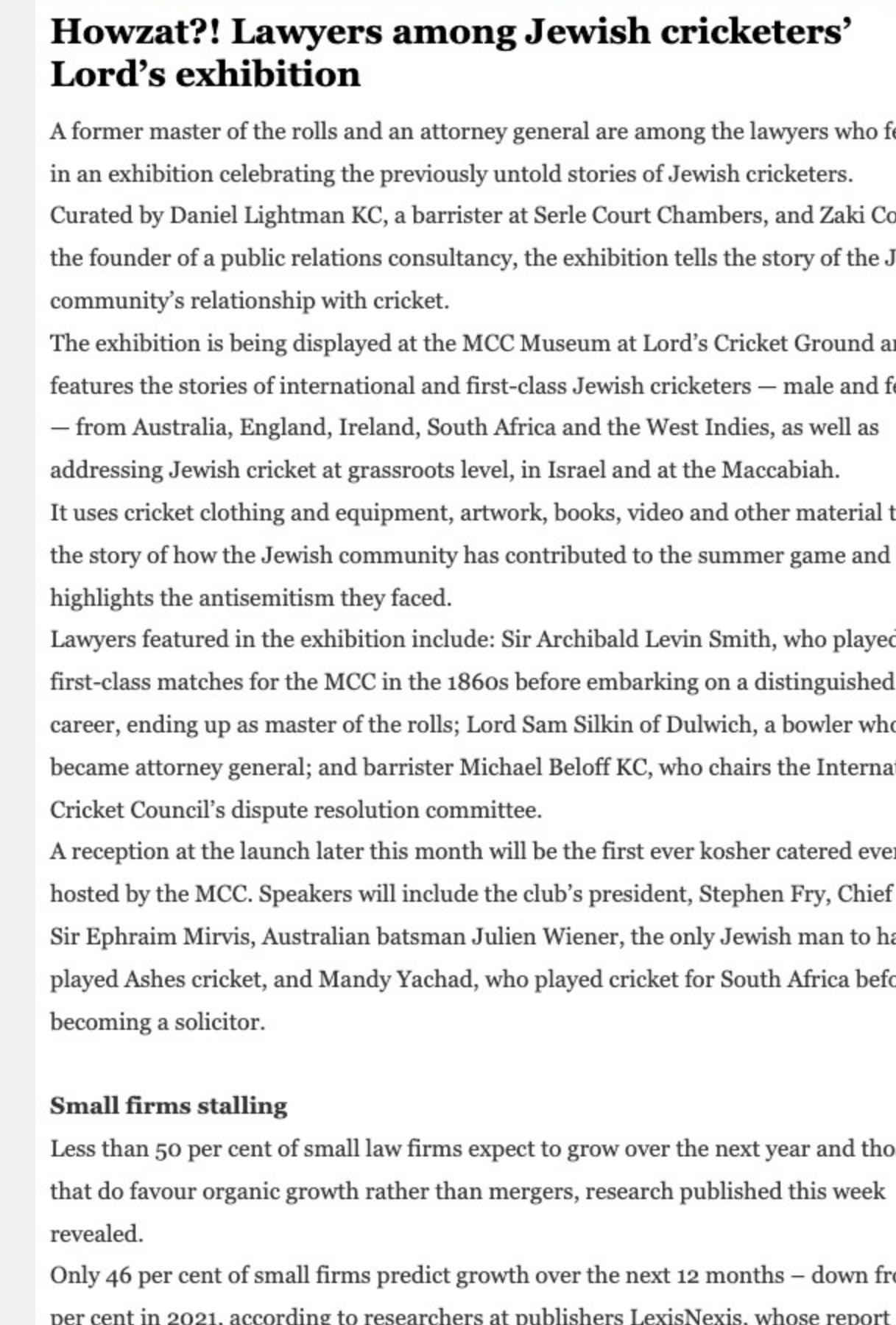
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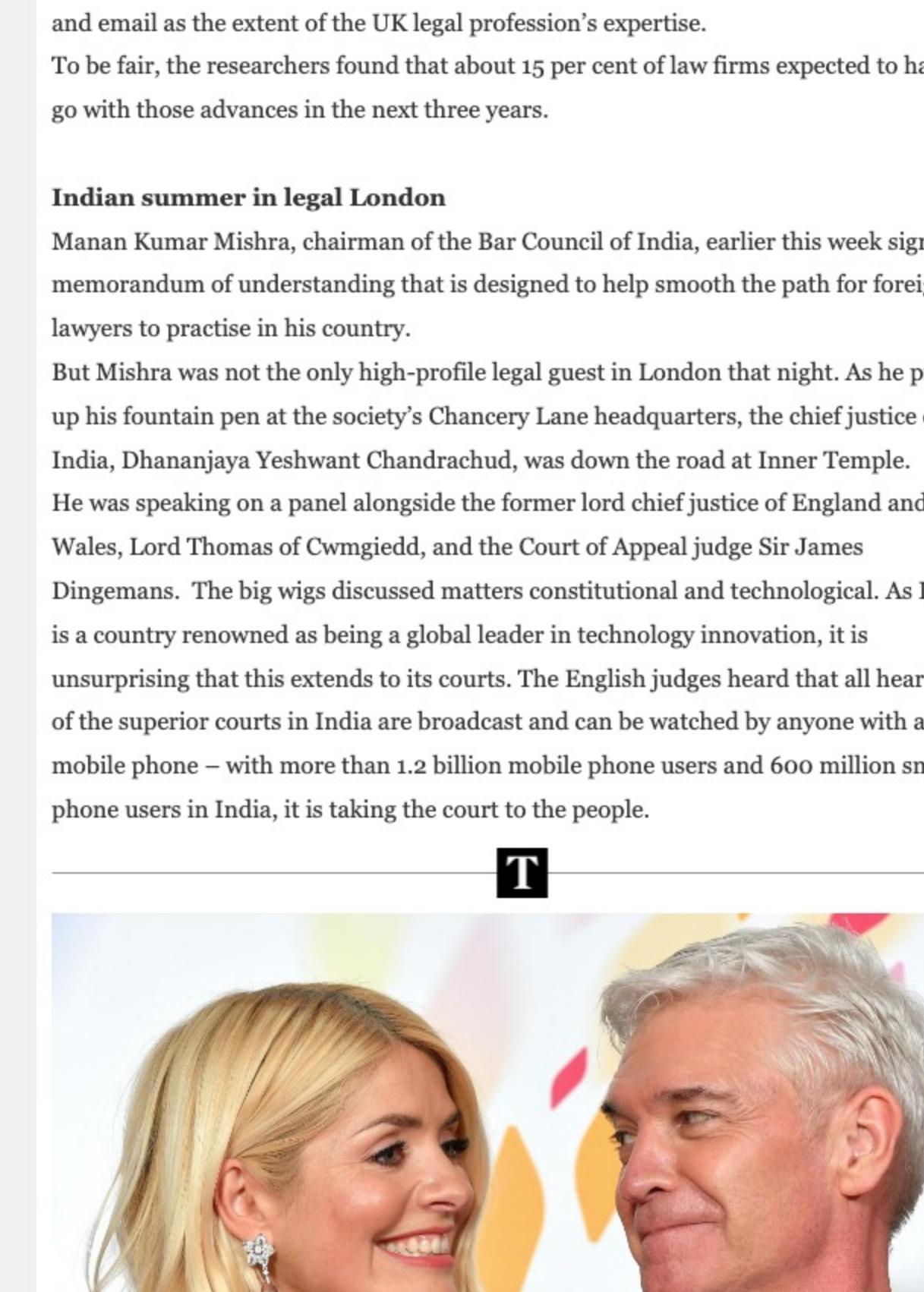
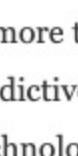
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Doubts over soaring cost of inquiries

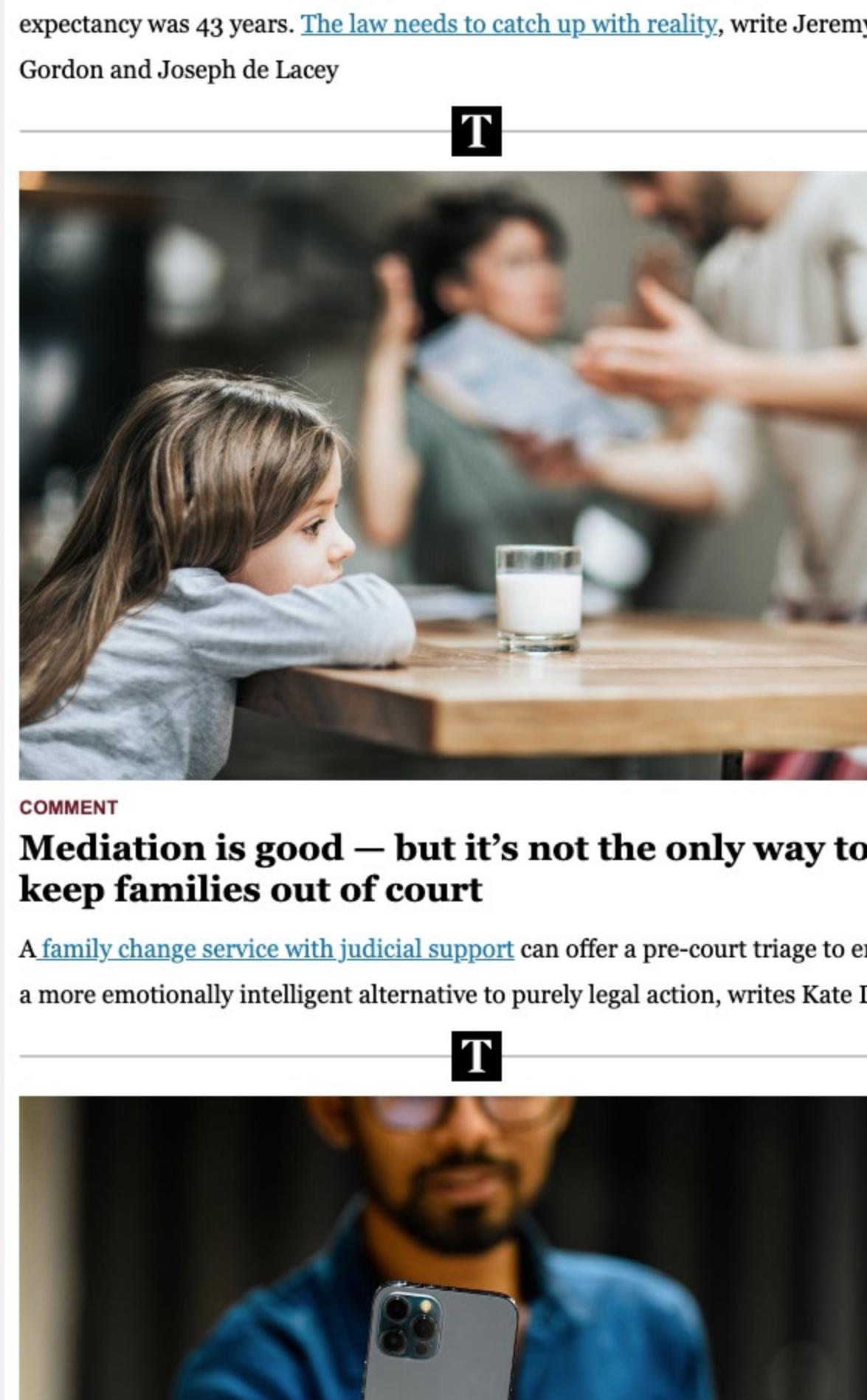
Covid response triggers debate on alternative ways to find the truth

The Covid Inquiry highlights two of the biggest problems with public inquiries: cost and time. Baroness Hallett's inquiry has already cost more than £100 million and is likely to surpass the almost £200 million spent on the Bloody Sunday investigation, which took 12 years, [Catherine Baksi writes](#).



Features round-up

- Record numbers of women criminal defendants [are being remanded to prison](#) amid fears that attempts to reduce court backlogs have resulted in them waiting longer for trials
- Londoners with a lawyer phobia should duck for cover next Tuesday as thousands will swarm the streets of the capital to [raise money for advice and law centres](#)
- [Lawyer of the week:](#) David Groome, who prosecuted the gang that was jailed for illegally streaming Premier League matches
- Out of court: Law chiefs celebrated as they signed a memorandum of understanding designed to allow foreign law firms to practise in India, but [there may be trouble ahead](#)



Howzat?! Lawyers among Jewish cricketers' Lord's exhibition

A former master of the rolls and an attorney general are among the lawyers who feature in an exhibition celebrating the previously untold stories of Jewish cricketers.

Curated by Daniel Lightman KC, a barrister at Serle Court Chambers, and Zaki Cooper, the founder of a public relations consultancy, the exhibition tells the story of the Jewish community's relationship with cricket.

The exhibition is being displayed at the MCC Museum at Lord's Cricket Ground and features the stories of international and first-class Jewish cricketers – male and female – from Australia, England, Ireland, South Africa and the West Indies, as well as addressing Jewish cricket at grassroots level, in Israel and at the Maccabiah.

It uses cricket clothing and equipment, artwork, books, video and other material to tell the story of how the Jewish community has contributed to the summer game and highlights the antisemitism they faced.

Lawyers featured in the exhibition include: Sir Archibald Levin Smith, who played two first-class matches for the MCC in the 1860s before embarking on a distinguished legal career, ending up as master of the rolls; Lord Sam Silkin of Dulwich, a bowler who became attorney general; and barrister Michael Beloff KC, who chairs the International Cricket Council's dispute resolution committee.

A reception at the launch later this month will be the first ever kosher catered event hosted by the MCC. Speakers will include the club's president, Stephen Fry, Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis, Australian batsman Julian Wiener, the only Jewish man to have played Ashes cricket, and Mandy Yachad, who played cricket for South Africa before becoming a solicitor.

Small firms stalling

Less than 50 per cent of small law firms expect to grow over the next year and those that do favour organic growth rather than mergers, research published this week revealed.

Only 46 per cent of small firms predict growth over the next 12 months – down from 66 per cent in 2021, according to researchers at publishers LexisNexis, whose report was based on responses from 169 small firms and sole practitioners.

Only 13 per cent of respondents said they plan to grow through mergers or acquisitions, a drop from 16 per cent in 2022 and 15 per cent in 2021.

That focus on organic growth is reflected in firms' investment plans – more than 80 per cent say they will increase investment in marketing, up from 24 per cent in 2022, and 88 per cent will invest in business development.

Investment in business development seems to be at the cost of technology. Only 24 per cent plan to implement new systems over the next 12 months, choosing to maintain existing technology rather than upgrade.

Legal Luddites

Speaking of technology, despite the hullabaloo over artificial intelligence, lawyers seem hell-bent on retaining their reputation as being complete Luddites.

Research published this week by the Legal Services Board, the oversight regulator in England and Wales, found that no more than 5 per cent of law firms in the jurisdiction use technology-assisted review, predictive technology, robotic process automation, and blockchain or distributed ledger technology. That pretty much leaves word-processing and email as the extent of the UK legal profession's expertise.

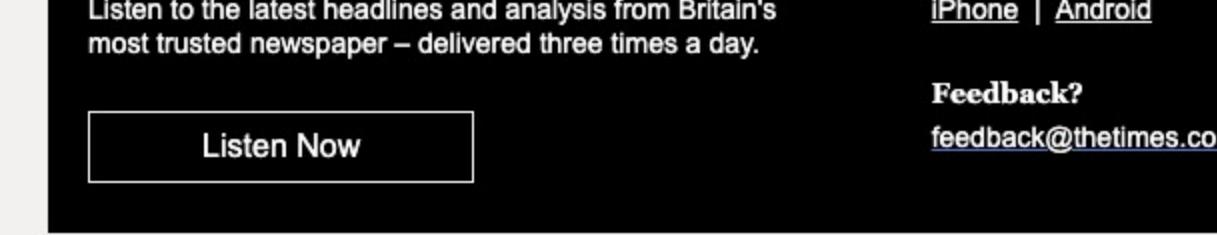
To be fair, the researchers found that about 15 per cent of law firms expected to have a go with those advances in the next three years.

Indian summer in legal London

Manan Kumar Mishra, chairman of the Bar Council of India, earlier this week signed a memorandum of understanding that is designed to help smooth the path for foreign lawyers to practise in his country.

But Mishra was not the only high-profile legal guest in London that night. As he picked up his fountain pen at the society's Chancery Lane headquarters, the chief justice of India, Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, was down the road at Inner Temple.

He was speaking on a panel alongside the former lord chief justice of England and Wales, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, and the Court of Appeal judge Sir James Dingemans. The big wigs discussed matters constitutional and technological. As India is a country renowned as being a global leader in technology innovation, it is unsurprising that this extends to its courts. The English judges heard that all hearings of the superior courts in India are broadcast and can be watched by anyone with a mobile phone – with more than 1.2 billion mobile phone users and 600 million smart phone users in India, it is taking the court to the people.



Employers must investigate misconduct allegations quickly and seriously

Failing to act fast over workplace complaints can cause issues to fester and become a reputational threat, [writes Jonathan Maude](#)

We must act to protect vulnerable elderly in the 'twilight zone' of cognitive decline

The current test of mental capacity to make a will was set in 1870, when life expectancy was 43 years. [The law needs to catch up with reality](#), write Jeremy Gordon and Joseph de Lacey

Mediation is good – but it's not the only way to keep families out of court

A family change service with judicial support can offer a pre-court triage to enable a more emotionally intelligent alternative to purely legal action, writes Kate Daly

Everyone loses with no UK seat on European patent court, but we still have influence

Two centuries of case law and the quality of our patents judiciary and lawyers ensure decisions made here will still have an impact beyond our borders, [writes Alex Wilson](#)

Elsewhere this week

- Prince Harry in court – rolling coverage from [The Times](#)

- I had no knowledge of Gray's Inn 'explosive plot', businessman tells court – [Law Gazette](#)

- Olympic fencer sued by wife wins age discrimination case – [The Times](#)

- Christian train cleaner sued bosses over 'Lord' graffiti – [The Times](#)

- Groom wins case after manager refused to dismount horse – [The Times](#)

- Sushi chef awarded £7,000 after fight with business partner – [The Times](#)

- WealthTek boss John Dance faces criminal FCA inquiry – [The Times](#)

- Future pupil barrister 'overwhelmed' by crowdfunding success – [Legal Check](#)

- Our criminal record disclosure system is unnecessary and unfair – [The Times](#)

- [Red Box](#)

- Generative AI could radically alter the practice of law – [The Economist](#)

- Why is Japan redefining rape? [BBC News](#)

- Unmarried couple publicly whipped 21 times each for breaching Sharia in Indonesia – [MailOnline](#)

TIMES LAW REPORTS

Supreme Court: Failure to remove contamination caused by oil spill not a continuing private nuisance

A major oil spill that was alleged to have caused oil to be present on the claimants' land that had not been removed or cleaned up, was not a continuing nuisance but a one-off event so that the limitation period for bringing a claim in the tort of private nuisance against the alleged tortfeasor ran from the day of the actual oil spill.

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