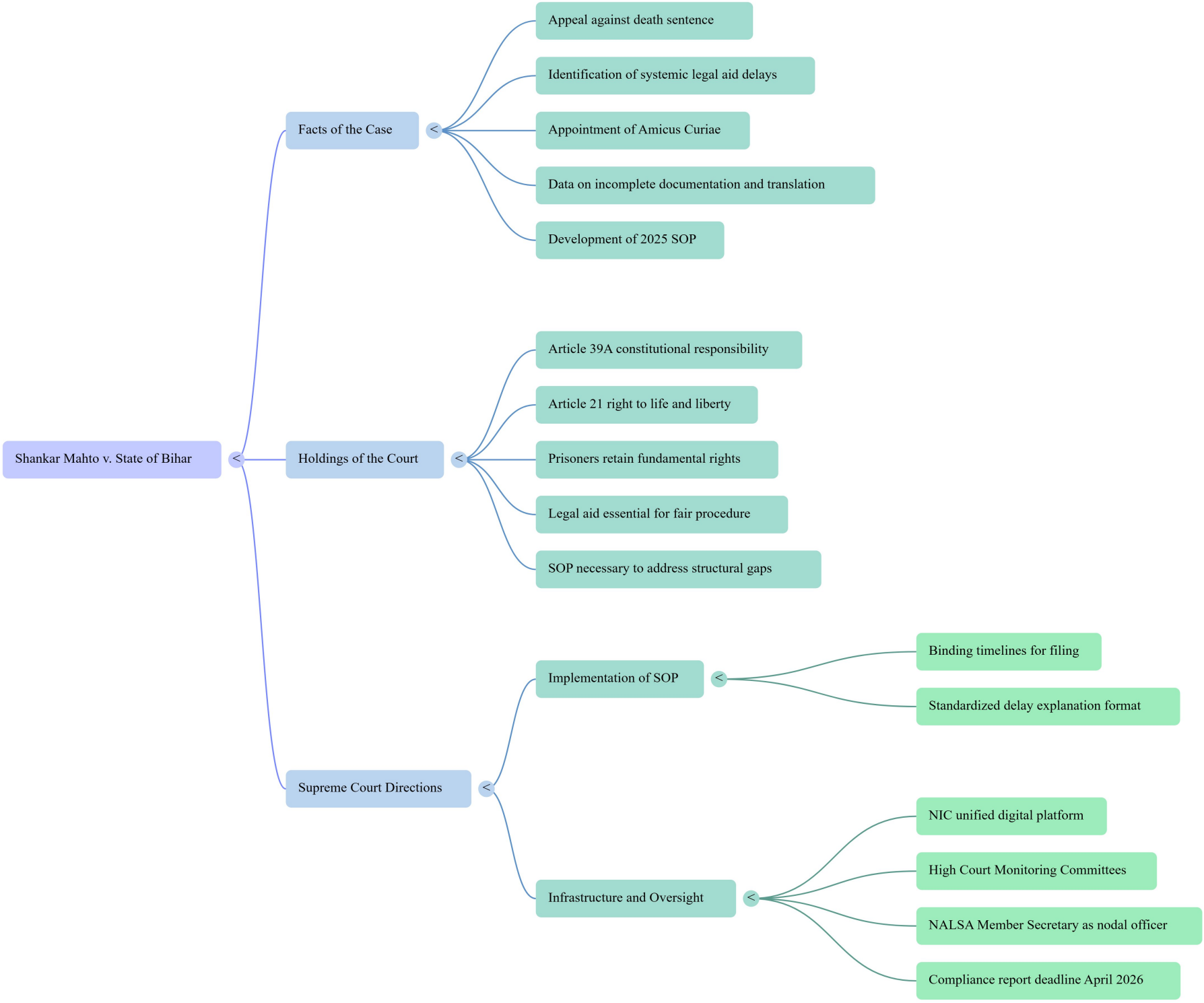
Shankar Mahto v. State of Bihar
Facts of the Case
Appeal against death sentence
Identification of systemic legal aid delays
Appointment of Amicus Curiae
Data on incomplete documentation and translation
Development of 2025 SOP
Holdings of the Court
Article 39A constitutional responsibility
Article 21 right to life and liberty
Prisoners retain fundamental rights
Legal aid essential for fair procedure
SOP necessary to address structural gaps
Supreme Court Directions
Implementation of SOP
Binding timelines for filing
Standardized delay explanation format
Infrastructure and Oversight
NIC unified digital platform
High Court Monitoring Committees
NALSA Member Secretary as nodal officer
Compliance report deadline April 2026