



# INDIAN JUDICIARY

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**Emblem of the Supreme Court of India**



CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA



# From the Desk of The Chief Justice of India

"WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA", gifted ourselves the Constitution 71 years ago, to run our Republic as a modern democracy. The Constitutional scheme of separation of powers guaranteed total freedom to all the three organs of the State, viz., Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary.

While the framers of the Constitution made accountability an integral element *vis-à-vis* the Legislature and Executive, they consciously decided to keep the Judiciary on a different pedestal. They trusted the conscience of the men and women who would come to adorn the Bench and their competence in upholding the Constitution in letter and spirit. This explains the absence of any provision in the Constitution to judge the functioning of the Judiciary. Looking back, I, as a member of this pre-eminent organ, can proudly claim that as an institution, the Judiciary has lived up to the faith reposed in it by the Constituent Assembly.

In the absence of any overseeing mechanism, it is imperative for the Judiciary to be extremely cautious. It is only through regular stock taking and introspection that this Institution can measure the effectiveness of self-regulation in discharge of its duties. I am happy to present this Annual Report on the year gone-by which is a result of such stock taking and introspection. Part 1 of this report gives a bird's eye view of the Supreme Court and Part 2 deals with 25 High Courts and the lower judiciary.

This report also gives me an opportunity to place before all the stakeholders our vision for the future. Every dynamic public institution needs to constantly innovate to keep pace with changing times and to live up to people's imagination. The Judiciary in India is no exception to this. The Supreme Court of India, faced with the challenges posed by the devastating pandemic, had to be at its innovative best to ensure that not a day was lost in the Court's working. I give full credit to my colleagues on the Bench, members of the Bar and the Registry for meeting this challenge collectively.

This period also witnessed a host of other initiatives taking shape. Through a judicial order, FASTER system is being introduced for secure and instantaneous communication of orders between the Court and prisons. This model will be replicated for other services too. The Centre for Research and Planning is being augmented. In a first, the media is granted access to Court proceedings through the Supreme Court mobile application. The application is constantly being enriched with user friendly features and now also has a link for indicative notes. Live streaming of Court proceedings is on the cards.

During the period under report, I had the great privilege of administering the oath of office to nine new Judges in the Supreme Court Auditorium, an event that was beamed live for the first time. It is very heartening to note that the number of vacancies in the Apex Court is reduced to just one, and for the first time ever the number of women Judges has touched four. I hope to see this number grow further.

The Collegia worked overtime to facilitate filling up of vacancies across the High Courts as well. This is an ongoing exercise and I am hopeful that the vacancies will be reduced to the bare minimum in the near future.

I am sure this Annual Report will be a fascinating study for the researchers, academicians, lawyers, students, policy makers, people's representatives and the general public alike.

(N V Ramana)





# INTRODUCTION

The “Indian Judiciary: Annual Report 2020-2021” is a consolidated ready reckoner on the recent initiatives, achievements and accomplishments of the Indian judiciary led by the Supreme Court of India. The Report is divided into two parts; Part-1 pertains to the Supreme Court while Part-2 is dedicated to the 25 High Courts.

Part-1 of the Report comprises of 16 chapters. Chapter 1 contains brief profiles of Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India and Hon’ble Judges of the Supreme Court. Chapter 2 gives a historical perspective on the Supreme Court- tracing its’ evolution from past to present. Chapter 3 is about the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Chapter 4 gives details about the architecture, features and facilities in the original Supreme Court Building as well as the Additional Building Complex. Chapter 5 entitled ‘Court Administration’ contains information about the different sections of the Supreme Court Registry including the specialized Secretariats. Chapter 6 is about court processes, judicial work flow and case management. Chapter 7 contains information about some of the specific initiatives taken by the Supreme Court in the recent past. Chapter 8 is about the challenges faced by the Supreme Court - in ensuring “access to justice” during the COVID-pandemic era; and the solutions arrived at. Chapter 9 is about the Bar while Chapter 10 relates to the Supreme Court Judges Library, and the Supreme Court Museum. Chapter 11 is a narration about use and deployment of information and communication technology in Supreme Court as an effective tool for administration and dispensation of justice. Chapter 12 details information about the activities of the National Judicial Academy (NJA), the Indian Law Institute (ILI), and Universities in which Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India / Hon’ble Judges of the Supreme Court are Chancellors/ Visitors. Information about engagement and selection of Law Clerks-cum-Research Assistants and Law Trainees in Supreme Court, and activities of the ‘Centre for Research and Planning’ unit of the Supreme Court is also contained therein. Chapter 13 includes information on activities of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), Supreme Court Mediation Centre (SCMC) and Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC). Chapter 14 contains information about some of the important meets and visits of the Hon’ble Chief Justice of India and the Hon’ble Judges; and also contains a brief write-up on the Constitution Day Celebrations of last year. Case notes on some of the recent important / landmark decisions pronounced by this Hon’ble Court are covered in Chapter 15. Chapter 16 contains information about Supreme Court Reports (SCR)- the official journal of reportable Supreme Court decisions and Court News- the quarterly newsletter of the Supreme Court.

Part-2 of the Annual Report comprises of 25 Chapters- with each Chapter relating to one High Court. Each such Chapter contains a “brief introduction” of the High Court concerned and details about its’ “administrative achievements” and “technological accomplishments” during the judicial year 2020-2021.





**PART 1**

**SUPREME COURT  
OF INDIA**

# 1

## PROFILE OF JUDGES

### Chief Justice of India

#### JUSTICE N.V. RAMANA

Born on 27 August 1957 in an agrarian family in Ponnabaram Village, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. Did B.Sc. and B.L.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 10 February 1983. Practiced in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Central and Andhra Pradesh Administrative Tribunals and the Supreme Court of India in Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Labour, Service and Election matters. Specialized in Constitutional, Criminal, Service and Inter-State River laws.

Functioned as a Panel Counsel for various Government Organizations and as an Additional Standing Counsel for Railways in the Central Administrative Tribunal at Hyderabad before rendering services as Additional Advocate General of Andhra Pradesh.

Appointed as a permanent Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh on 27 June 2000. Served as President of the Andhra Pradesh Judicial

Academy and as the Executive Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Legal Services Authority. Acted as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh from 10 March 2013 to 20 May 2013.

Elevated as the Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi on 2 September 2013, and thereafter as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 17 February 2014.

Served as Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee from 7 March 2019 to 26 November 2019. Held the office of Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority from 27 November 2019 to 23 April 2021 and is currently its Patron-in-Chief.

Took oath as the 48<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India on 24 April 2021.

Due to retire on 26 August 2022.



# JUSTICE UDAY UMESH LALIT

Born on 9 November 1957.

Enrolled as an Advocate in June 1983.

Practiced in the High Court of Bombay till December 1985.

Shifted his practice to Delhi in January 1986.

Designated as Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court in April 2004.

Appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 13 August 2014.

Due to retire on 8 November 2022.



# JUSTICE A.M. KHANWILKAR

Born on 30 July 1957 in Pune, India.

Did B.Com. from Mulund College of Commerce, Mumbai and LL.B. from K.C. Law College, Mumbai. Enrolled as Advocate on 10 February 1982.

Appointed as Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on 29 March 2000 and confirmed as Permanent Judge on 8 April 2002.

Appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 4 April 2013. Thereafter, appointed as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court on 24 November 2013.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 13 May 2016.

Due to retire on 29 July 2022.



# JUSTICE DHANANJAYA Y CHANDRACHUD

Born on 11 November 1959. Graduated with a B.A. (Honours) in Economics from St. Stephens's College, Delhi and completed his LL.B. from Delhi University. Obtained LL.M. and SJD from Harvard Law School. Designated as a Senior Advocate in 1998 and was Additional Solicitor General for India from 1998 to 2000. Was a Judge of the Bombay High Court (March 2000 - October 2013) and was the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court (October 2013 - May 2016).

During his career as a lawyer, joined Bombay Bar and was visiting Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Mumbai and taught International Law at the University of Oklahoma. Has been a guest lecturer at Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, Australian National University, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa and University of Hawaii. Has been invited by several organizations as a speaker, including the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Environmental Program, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India in May 2016. Since appointment to the Supreme Court in 2016, has delivered several seminal judgments, including on decriminalization of homosexuality; decriminalization of adultery; declaration of privacy as a fundamental right; caste and gender discrimination; protecting the rights of the disabled; environmental jurisprudence; and insolvency and bankruptcy. As the Chairperson of the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India, he is spearheading a digital transition of the judicial system in India, with an aim of ensuring access to all litigants. During his tenure, the e-Committee, *inter alia*, developed the National Judicial Data Grid to track pendency of cases; virtual courts to deal with traffic violations through online adjudication; e-Filing software for digital filing of cases; Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System for live electronic exchange of data between the police and judiciary; portal for electronic

payment of fines, fees and deposits; and judgment search portal with a free text search engine.

Under his guidance, the e-Committee has also taken steps to ensure that digital services are accessible to marginalized sections. The e-Committee is currently undertaking projects relating to digitisation of court records, live streaming of court hearings and enhancing security and privacy of data of users accessing e-Courts services. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the e-Committee ensured that courts across the country continued to hear cases through video conferencing platforms.

Due to retire on 10 November 2024.





# JUSTICE L. NAGESWARA RAO

Born on 8 June 1957 at Chirala, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh. Did his B. Com., B.L. from Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 29 July 1982 at Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh. Practiced at the District Court, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh from July 1982 to January 1984.

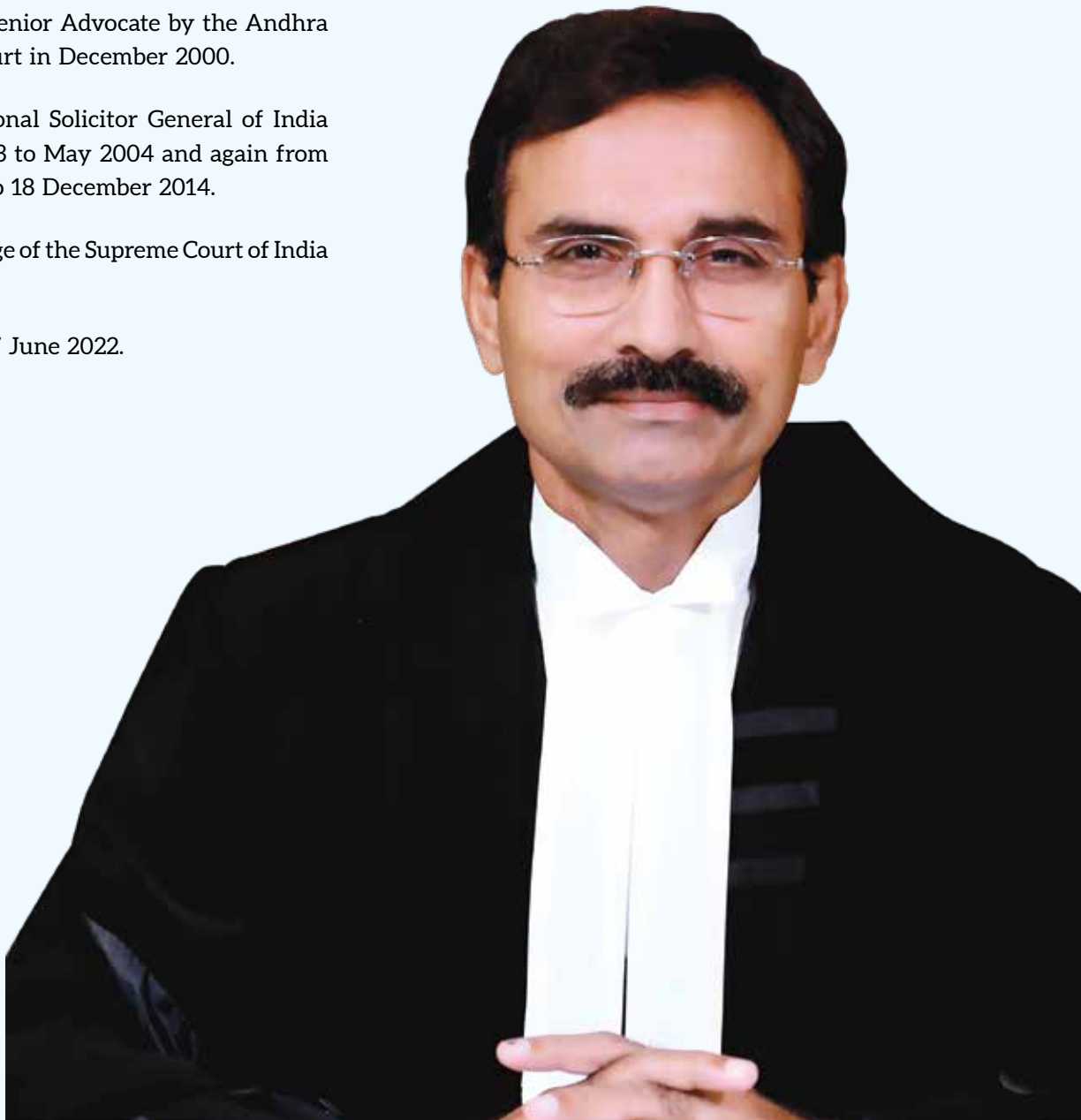
Practiced at the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad from January 1985 to December 1994. Practiced at the Supreme Court of India from January 1995 to May 2016.

Designated as a Senior Advocate by the Andhra Pradesh High Court in December 2000.

Served as Additional Solicitor General of India from August 2003 to May 2004 and again from 26 August 2013 to 18 December 2014.

Appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 13 May 2016.

Due to retire on 7 June 2022.



# JUSTICE SANJAY KISHAN KAUL

Born on 26 December 1958. Studied in Modern School, New Delhi from 1964 to 1976 completing his school education in Science & Economics. Graduated in Economics (Hons.) from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University in 1979. Obtained LL.B. Degree from The Campus Law Centre, Delhi University in 1982.

Enrolled as an Advocate with Bar Council of Delhi on 15 July 1982. Practiced mainly in the Commercial, Civil, Writ, Original and Company

jurisdictions of the High Court of Delhi and the Supreme Court of India. Remained Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India from 1987 to 1999 and was designated as a Senior Advocate in December, 1999.

Elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court of Delhi on 3 May 2001 and was appointed as a permanent Judge on 2 May 2003.

Elevated as the Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court w.e.f. 23 September 2012 to 25 September 2012.

Elevated as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 1 June 2013 and assumed charge as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court on 26 July 2014.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 17 February 2017.

Deeply interested in theatre, music and golf.

Due to retire on 25 December 2023.



# JUSTICE S. ABDUL NAZEER

Born on 5 January 1958.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 18 February 1983.

Practiced in the High Court of Karnataka.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court on 12 May 2003 and as a Permanent Judge on 24 September 2004.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 17 February 2017.

Due to retire on 4 January 2023.



# JUSTICE INDIRA BANERJEE

Born on 24 September 1957.

Passed India School Certificate Examination from Loreto House, Calcutta. Graduated with History (Hons.) from Presidency College, then affiliated to Calcutta University, LL.B. from Calcutta University, College of Law.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 5 July 1985. Practiced both in the Original and Appellate Sides of the Calcutta High Court in all branches of law except Criminal law, with appearances in Supreme Court, other Courts and Tribunals. Elevated as a permanent Judge of Calcutta High Court on 5 February 2002.

Was Chairperson of the Calcutta High Court Service Committee for almost 4 years. Officiated as Executive Chairperson of West Bengal State Legal Services Authority for almost a year, till transfer as Judge of the Delhi High Court. Nominated in July 2013 by the then Chief Justice of India for a week-long training in Judicial Administration at the Civil Services College, Singapore.

Appointed Judge of the Delhi High Court on

8 August 2016. Was Chairperson of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority.

Sworn in as Chief Justice of Madras High Court on 5 April 2017.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 7 August 2018.

Due to retire on 23 September 2022.



# JUSTICE VINEET SARAN

Born on 11 May 1957. Did B.A., LL.B.

Enrolled as an Advocate with the U.P. Bar Council on 28 July 1980. Practiced in the Allahabad High Court from 28 July 1980 to 13 February 2002 on the Original, Constitution, Civil and Criminal sides. Conducted cases for various private and public sector companies and also as special counsel for the Central and State Governments. Served as Additional Advocate General for the State of U.P in the year 1995.

Elevated as Permanent Judge on 14 February 2002. Took oath as Judge of Karnataka High Court on 16 February 2015. Appointed as the Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court on 26 February 2016.

Appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 7 August 2018.

Due to retire on 10 May 2022.



# JUSTICE K.M. JOSEPH

Born on 17 June 1958. Educated at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kochi and New Delhi, Loyola College, Chennai and Govt. Law College, Ernakulam.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 12 January 1982 in Delhi. Later shifted to the High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam in 1983 and practiced in Civil and Writ matters.

Appointed as Permanent Judge of the High Court of Kerala on 14 October 2004.

Appointed as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court on 31 July 2014.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 7 August 2018.

Due to retire on 16 June 2023.



# JUSTICE HEMANT GUPTA

Born on 17 October 1957. Belongs to a family of professionals in law. His grandfather was a prominent civil lawyer who voluntarily left practice at the prime of his professional career at the age of 65. His father retired as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court in the year 1991.

Enrolled as an Advocate in July 1980 and practiced at the High Court after spending initial few years in the District Court. Mainly dealt with the civil cases. Also worked as Additional Advocate General, Punjab from 1997 to 1999.

Appointed as Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court on 2 July 2002. Was member of the Computer Committee, Punjab and Haryana High Court for more than 10 years. Also remained as Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority, U.T. Chandigarh from July 2012 till January 2016.

Appointed as Judge of Patna High Court on 8 February 2016 and was appointed as Acting Chief Justice of that High Court on 29 October 2016. Appointed as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court on 18 March 2017.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 2 November 2018.

Due to retire on 16 October 2022.



# JUSTICE R. SUBHASH REDDY

Son of Late Sri R. Jagannath Reddy and Smt. R. Vishala Devi.

Born on 5 January 1957 in an agricultural family in Kamaram Village of Chinna Shankarampet Mandal, Medak District.

Had his primary education in Upper Primary School and Higher Education in Zilla Parishad High School, Sankarampet, Medak District. Passed Intermediate and Graduation from Andhra Vidyalaya College (AV College),



Hyderabad. Obtained Law Degree from the University College of Law, Osmania University, Hyderabad.

Enrolled as an Advocate on the rolls of the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh on 30 October 1980 and joined the Chambers of Sri Justice B. Subhasan Reddy (As Advocate as he then was).

Actively practised in Civil, Criminal, Constitutional and almost all other branches of Law. Had developed his independent practice within short span of time and extensively dealt with number of cases covering all branches of Law.

Was Standing Counsel for premier institutions like S.V. University and Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University etc.

Elected unanimously as the President of the A.P. High Court Advocates' Association for the year 2001-2002.

Elevated as Additional Judge of High Court of Andhra Pradesh on 2 December 2002.

Sworn in as Judge of High Court of Andhra Pradesh w.e.f. 24 June 2004. Continued as Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad till 12 February 2016.

Elevated as Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat on 13 February 2016.

Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 2 November 2018.

Due to retire on 4 January 2022.



# JUSTICE M. R. SHAH

Born on 16 May 1958. Did B.Sc. and LL.B.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 19 July 1982 and practiced in the Gujarat High Court in Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Taxation, Labour, Service and Company matters and specialized in Land, Constitutional, Education, Excise and Custom matters.

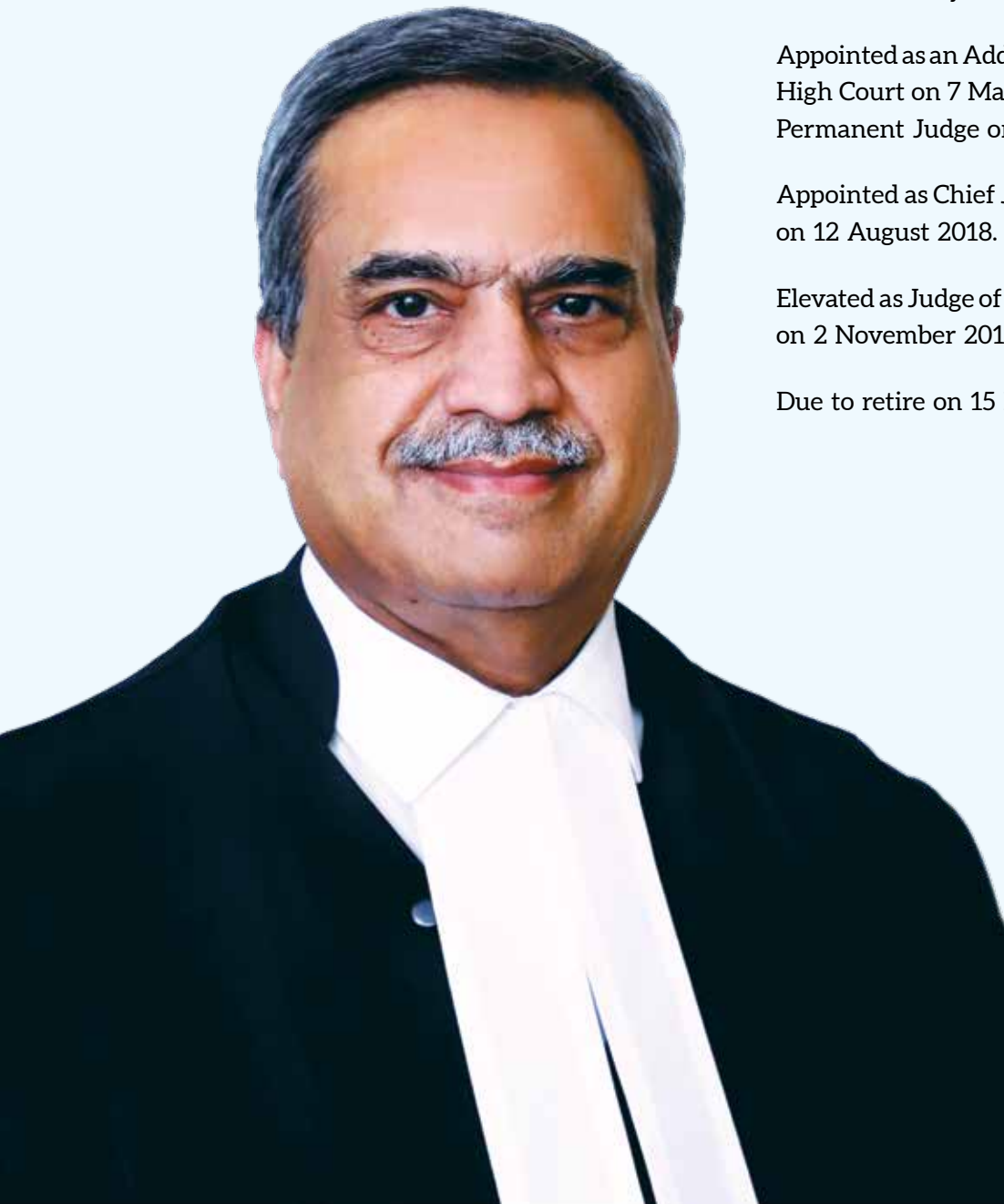
Worked as Central Government Standing Counsel and also Special Public Prosecutor for C.B.I. in the Gujarat High Court.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of the Gujarat High Court on 7 March 2004 and appointed as Permanent Judge on 22 June 2005.

Appointed as Chief Justice of Patna High Court on 12 August 2018.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 2 November 2018.

Due to retire on 15 May 2023.



# JUSTICE AJAY RASTOGI

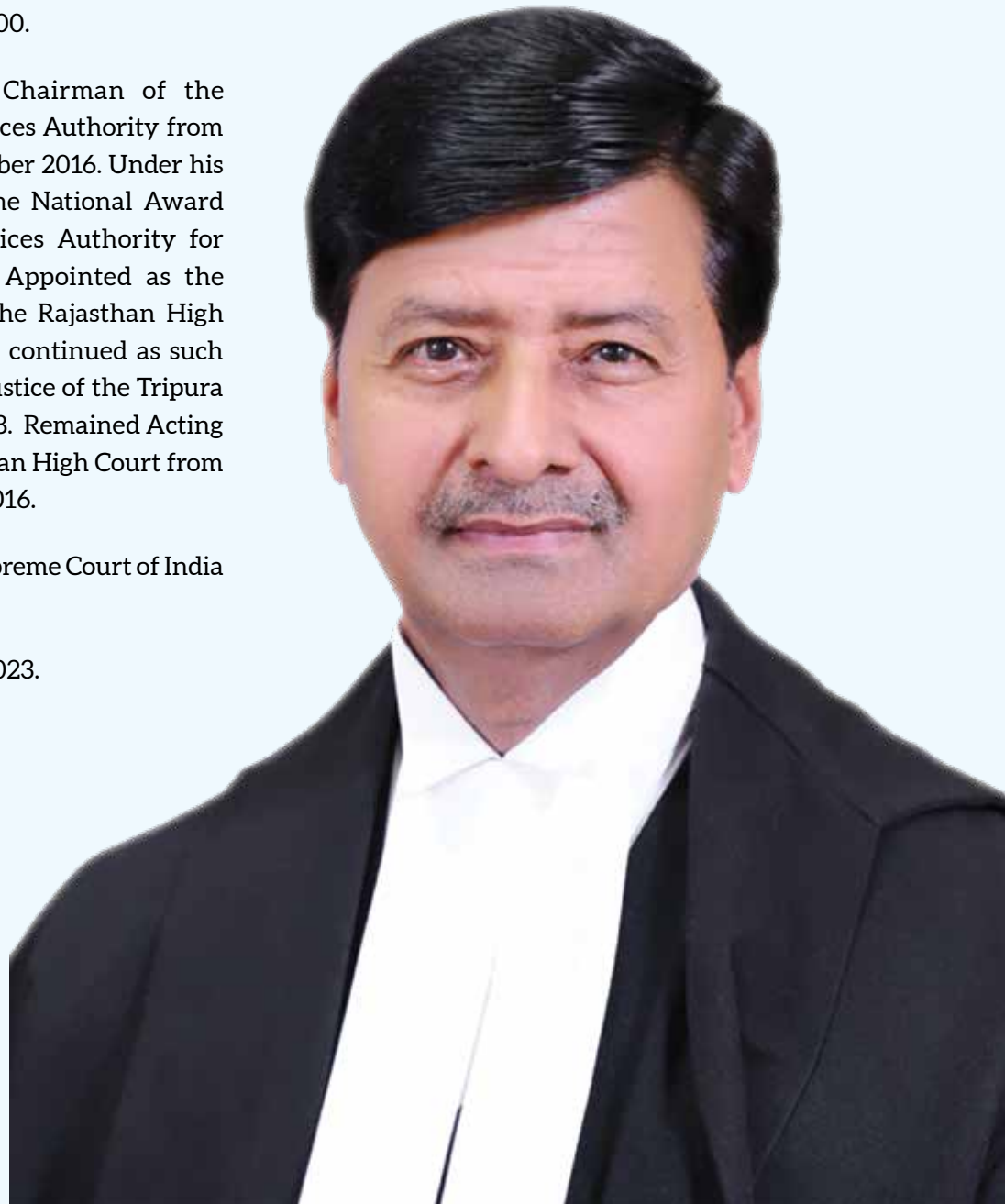
Born on 18 June 1958. Followed in the footsteps of his father Late Shri Harish Chandra Rastogi who was an eminent civil lawyer in Rajasthan High Court and joined the Bar in 1982.

During his years at the Bar practiced in different spheres of law but specialized in Constitutional and Service Laws. Was nominated as the Standing Counsel for the Rajasthan High Court in the year 1990 and continued as such till his elevation in the year 2004. Remained President of the Rajasthan High Court Bar Association at Jaipur in the year 1999-2000.

Remained as Executive Chairman of the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority from 14 October 2013 to 18 October 2016. Under his stewardship, SLSA won the National Award from National Legal Services Authority for three consecutive years. Appointed as the Administrative Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on 19 July 2014 and continued as such till his elevation as Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court on 1 March 2018. Remained Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court from 14 April 2016 to 13 May 2016.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 2 November 2018.

Due to retire on 17 June 2023.



# JUSTICE DINESH MAHESHWARI

Born on 15 May 1958 at Udaipur, Rajasthan. Hails from lawyers' lineage - grandfather late Shri Jagannath Kahalya practiced mainly at Begun, District Chittorgarh and father late Shri R.C. Maheshwari was a renowned civil side lawyer at Jodhpur.

Did B.Sc. (Hons.) in physics from Maharaja's College, Rajasthan University, Jaipur in the year 1977 and LL.B. from Jodhpur University in the year 1980.

Enrolled as an Advocate with Bar Council of Rajasthan on 8 March 1981. Practiced on Original and Appellate sides before Rajasthan High Court and its subordinate Courts. Mainly dealt with Civil and Constitutional matters. Served as Counsel for Revenue and Excise Departments of Government of Rajasthan as also several Local Bodies and Corporations. Had also been co-opted member on various Disciplinary Committees of the Bar Council of Rajasthan.

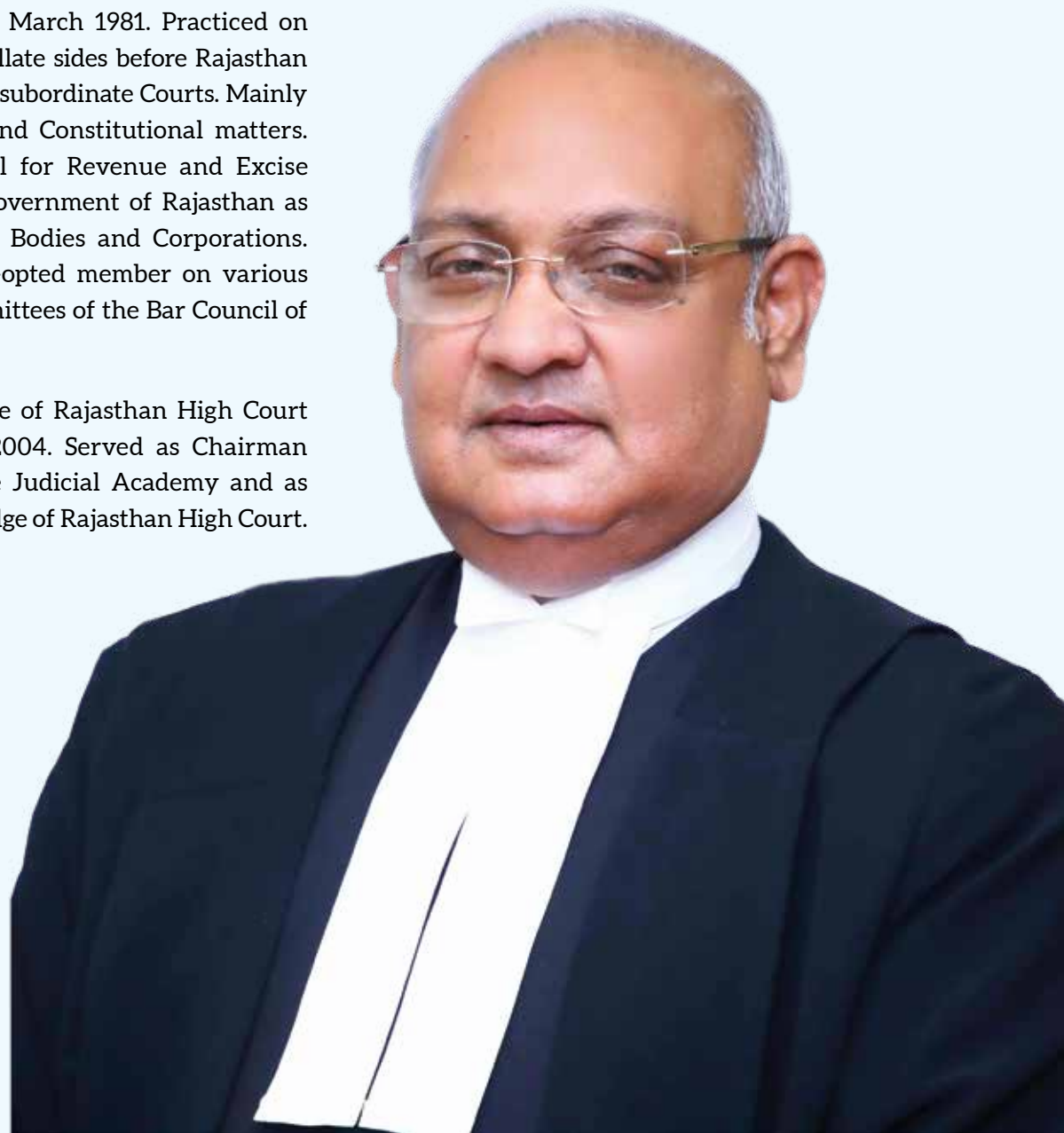
Took oath as Judge of Rajasthan High Court on 2 September 2004. Served as Chairman of Rajasthan State Judicial Academy and as Administrative Judge of Rajasthan High Court.

Transferred to Allahabad High Court and took oath on 19 July 2014. Functioned as Senior Judge, Lucknow from 3 March 2015.

Took oath as Chief Justice of High Court of Meghalaya on the 24 February 2016 and then, as Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka on 12 February 2018.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 18 January 2019.

Due to retire on 14 May 2023.



# JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA

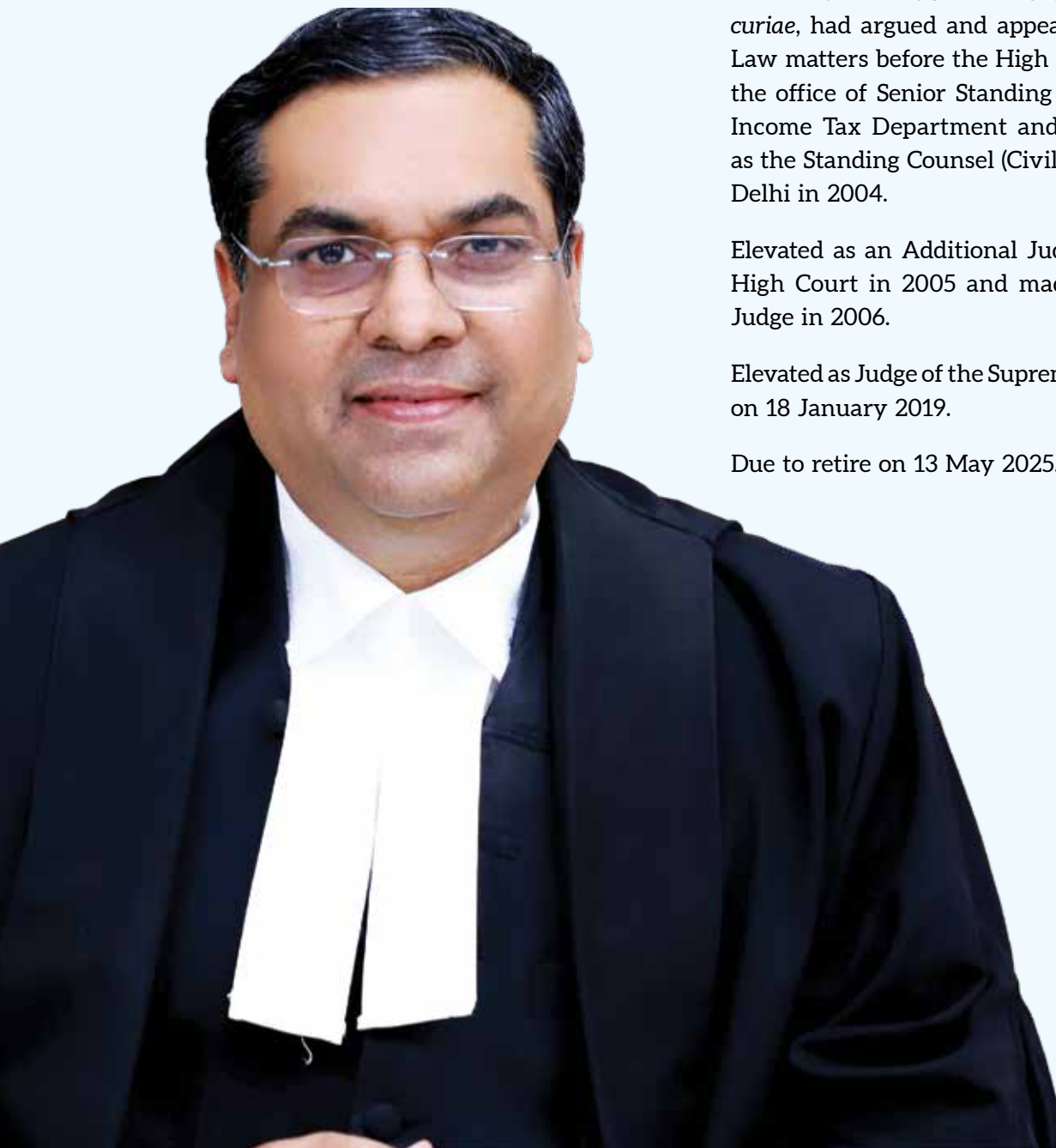
Born on 14 May 1960.

Enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983. Began practice in the District Courts at Tis Hazari and thereafter primarily practiced in the High Court of Delhi, in diverse fields of Constitutional Law, Direct Tax Appeals, Income Tax prosecutions, Arbitration matters, Commercial Suits, Company Law as well as cases concerning Environment and Pollution Laws and Medical Negligence. As an Additional Public Prosecutor and *amicus curiae*, had argued and appeared in Criminal Law matters before the High Court. Also held the office of Senior Standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department and was appointed as the Standing Counsel (Civil) for the State of Delhi in 2004.

Elevated as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and made a Permanent Judge in 2006.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 18 January 2019.

Due to retire on 13 May 2025.



# JUSTICE BHUSHAN RAMKRISHNA GAVAI

Born on 24 November 1960 at Amravati.

Joined Bar on 16 March 1985. Practiced at Bombay High Court from 1985 to 1990.

After 1990, practised mainly before Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court with occasional appearances at the Principal Seat and the Supreme Court. Practised in Constitutional Law and Administrative Law.

Was Standing Counsel for Municipal Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation and Amravati University. Appeared regularly for various autonomous bodies and Corporations like SICOM, DCVL, etc. and various Municipal Councils in Vidarbha region. Appointed as Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor for Nagpur Bench on 17 January 2000. Elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court on 14 November 2003. Became a Permanent Judge of the Bombay High Court on 12 November 2005. Presided over Benches having all types of assignments at the Principal Seat at Mumbai as well as Benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad and Panaji.

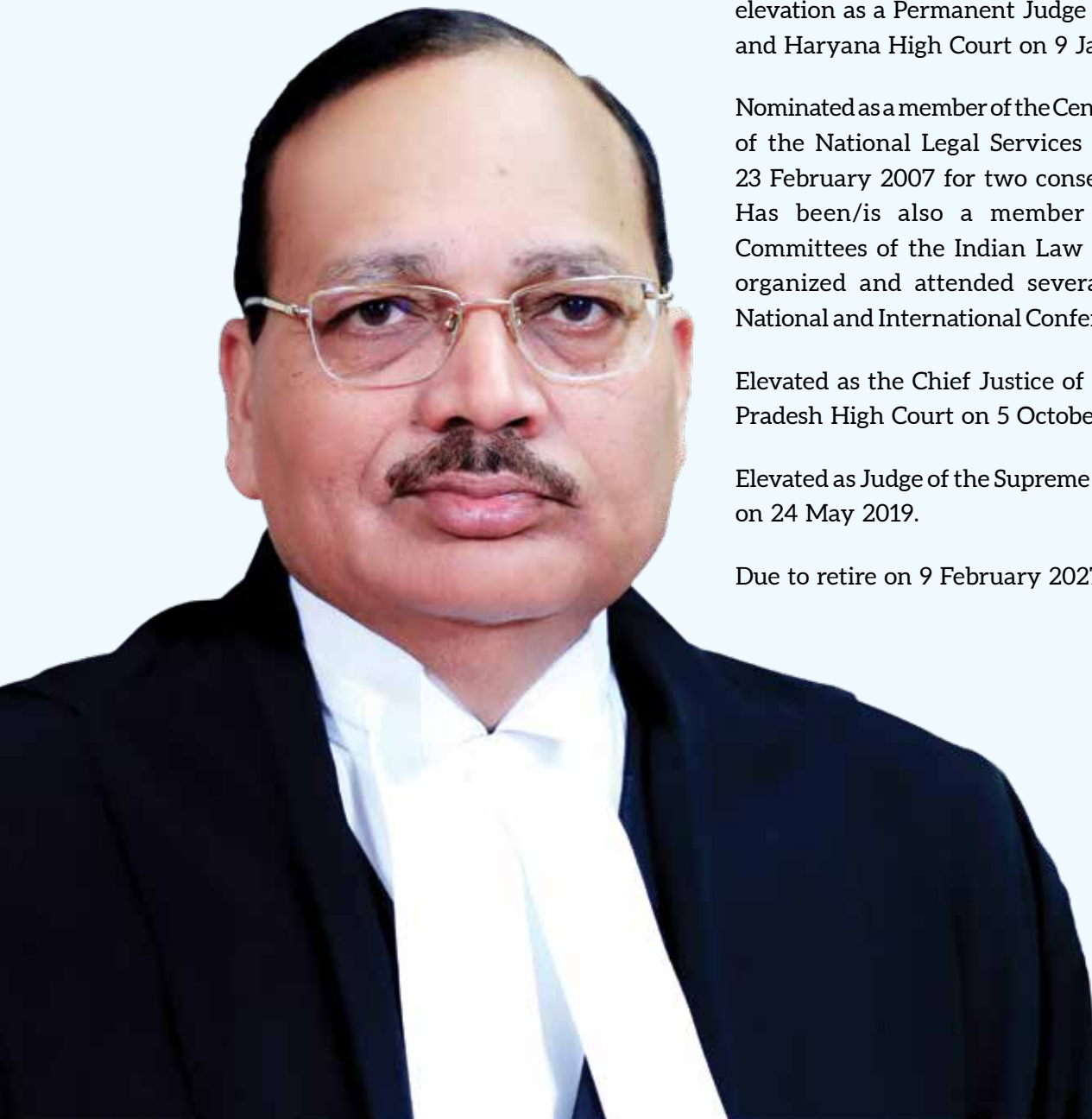
Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 24 May 2019.

Due to retire on 23 November 2025.



# JUSTICE SURYA KANT

Born on 10 February 1962 in a middle-class family in District Hisar in Haryana. Did his schooling from the rural school. Was an avid debater, graduated from the Government Post Graduate College, Hisar in 1981 and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Law from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak in 1984. Earned another distinction by standing First Class First in his LL.M. from the Directorate of Distance Education, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra in 2011.



Started law practice at the District Court in Hisar in 1984 and later shifted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in Chandigarh in 1985 and represented multiple Universities, Boards, Corporations, Banks and also the High Court itself. Specialized in Constitutional, Service and Civil matters. Appointed as the youngest Advocate General of Haryana on 7 July 2000 and was designated as Senior Advocate in March 2001.

Held the office of Advocate General till elevation as a Permanent Judge to the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 9 January 2004.

Nominated as a member of the Central Authority of the National Legal Services Authority on 23 February 2007 for two consecutive terms. Has been/is also a member of different Committees of the Indian Law Institute. Has organized and attended several prestigious National and International Conferences as well.

Elevated as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on 5 October 2018.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 24 May 2019.

Due to retire on 9 February 2027.

# JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA BOSE

Born on 11 April 1959.

Studied in St. Lawrence High School, St. Xavier's College in Kolkata. Did LL.B. from Surendranath Law College under the University of Calcutta.

Practised on Constitutional, Civil and Intellectual Property matters in the Calcutta High Court in 1985. Worked in the Original Side as well as the Appellate Side of the High Court.

Elevated as Permanent Judge of the Calcutta High Court in January 2004.

Elevated as Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court on 11 August 2018.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 24 May 2019.

Due to retire on 10 April 2024.



# JUSTICE AJJIKUTTIRA SOMAIAH BOPANNA

Born on 20 May 1959.

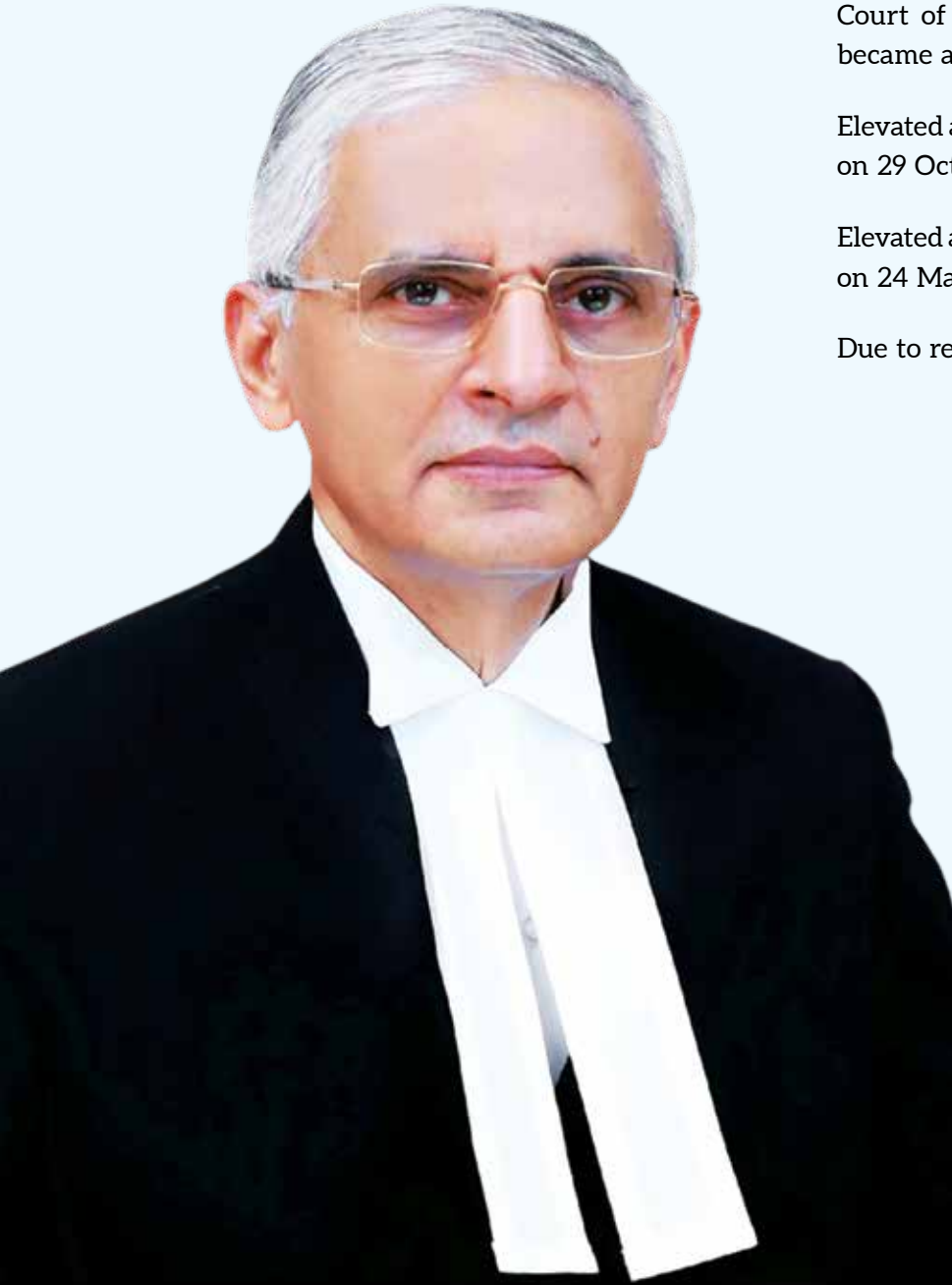
Enrolled as an advocate on 21 November 1984 and practiced Civil, Constitutional, Company, Service and Labour matters in the High Court as well as in the Civil and Labour Courts. Worked as legal advisor to Central Public Sector Undertakings and worked as Additional Central Government Standing Counsel from 1999 onwards till 2005.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Karnataka on 6 January 2006 and became a Permanent Judge on 1 March 2007.

Elevated as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 29 October 2018.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 24 May 2019.

Due to retire on 19 May 2024.





# JUSTICE KRISHNA MURARI

Born on 9 July 1958. Obtained LL.B. degree from Allahabad University, Allahabad.

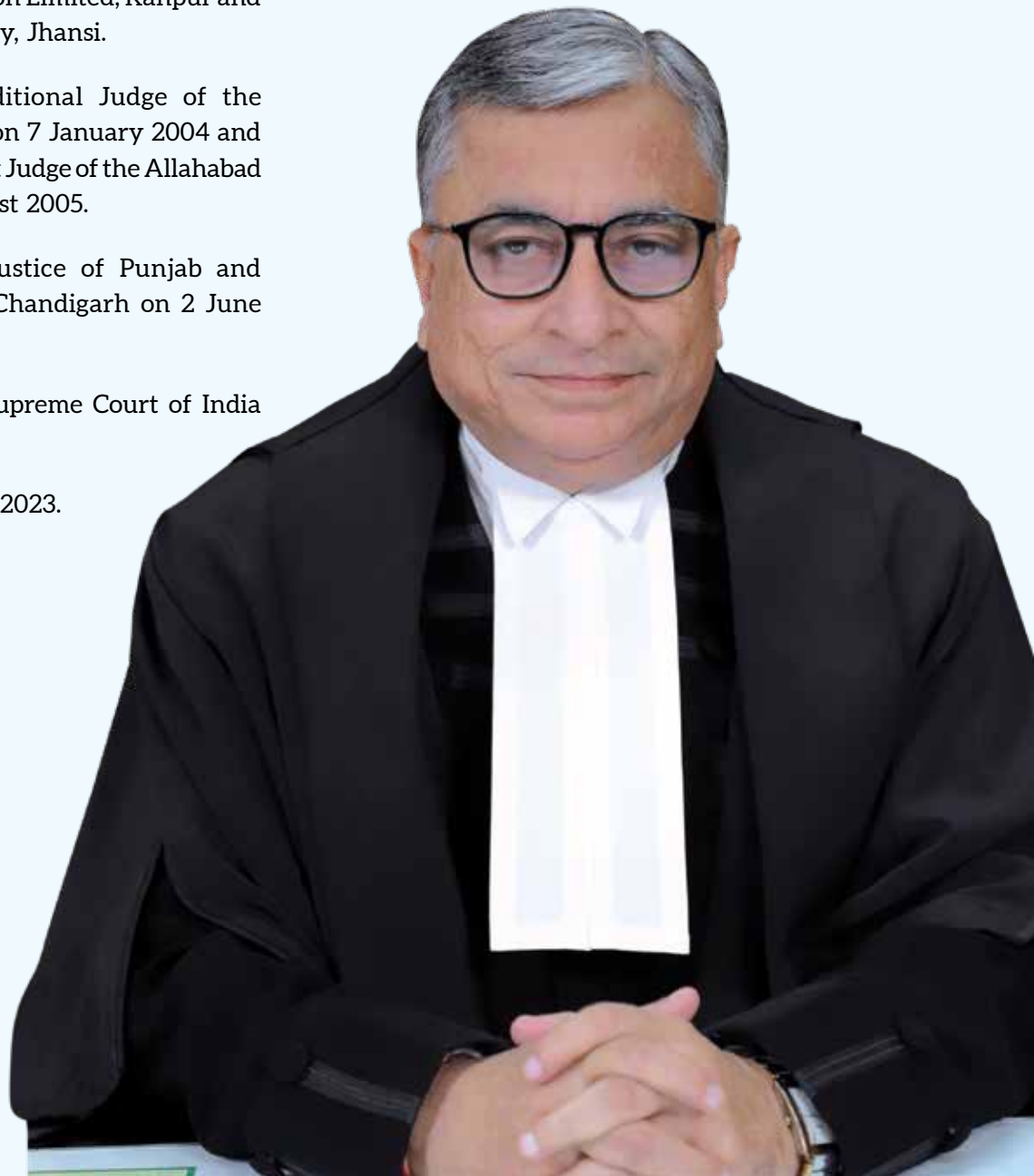
Enrolled as an Advocate on 23 December 1981. Practiced in the Allahabad High Court for over 22 years in Civil, Constitutional, Company, Service and Revenue matters and has specialised in Civil Revenue and Service cases. Appointed as Standing Counsel of U.P. State Yarn Company Limited, Kanpur; Northern Railway Primary Co-operative Bank Limited; U.P. State Textile Corporation Limited, Kanpur; U.P. Co-operative Spinning Mills Federation Limited, Kanpur and Bundelkhand University, Jhansi.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 7 January 2004 and appointed as Permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 18 August 2005.

Took over as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh on 2 June 2018.

Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 23 September 2019.

Due to retire on 8 July 2023.



# JUSTICE S. RAVINDRA BHAT

Born on 21 October 1958 in Mysore, Karnataka. Studied in Bangalore and Gwalior and completed his schooling from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Faridabad. Did B.A. (Hons.) in English from Hindu College, University of Delhi and obtained LL.B. degree from the Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, in 1982.

Enrolled as an Advocate with the Delhi Bar Council in 1982 and practiced in the Supreme Court, where he was enrolled as an Advocate-on-Record in 1989. Practiced in Public Law, Employment, Education and Constitutional Disputes and appeared in several important cases before Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court during his legal career.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court on 16 July 2004 and as a Permanent Judge on 20 February 2006. Appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Rajasthan on 5 May 2019.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 23 September 2019.

Due to retire on 20 October 2023.



# JUSTICE V. RAMASUBRAMANIAN

Born on 30 June 1958. Graduated in Chemistry from Ramakrishna Mission, Vivekananda College, Chennai and then studied Law in the Madras Law College.

Enrolled as a member of the Bar on 16 February 1983. Practiced for about 23 years in the High Court of Madras which included a stint in the office of the Senior Advocates K. Sarvabhauman and T.R. Mani for four years from 1983 to 1987.

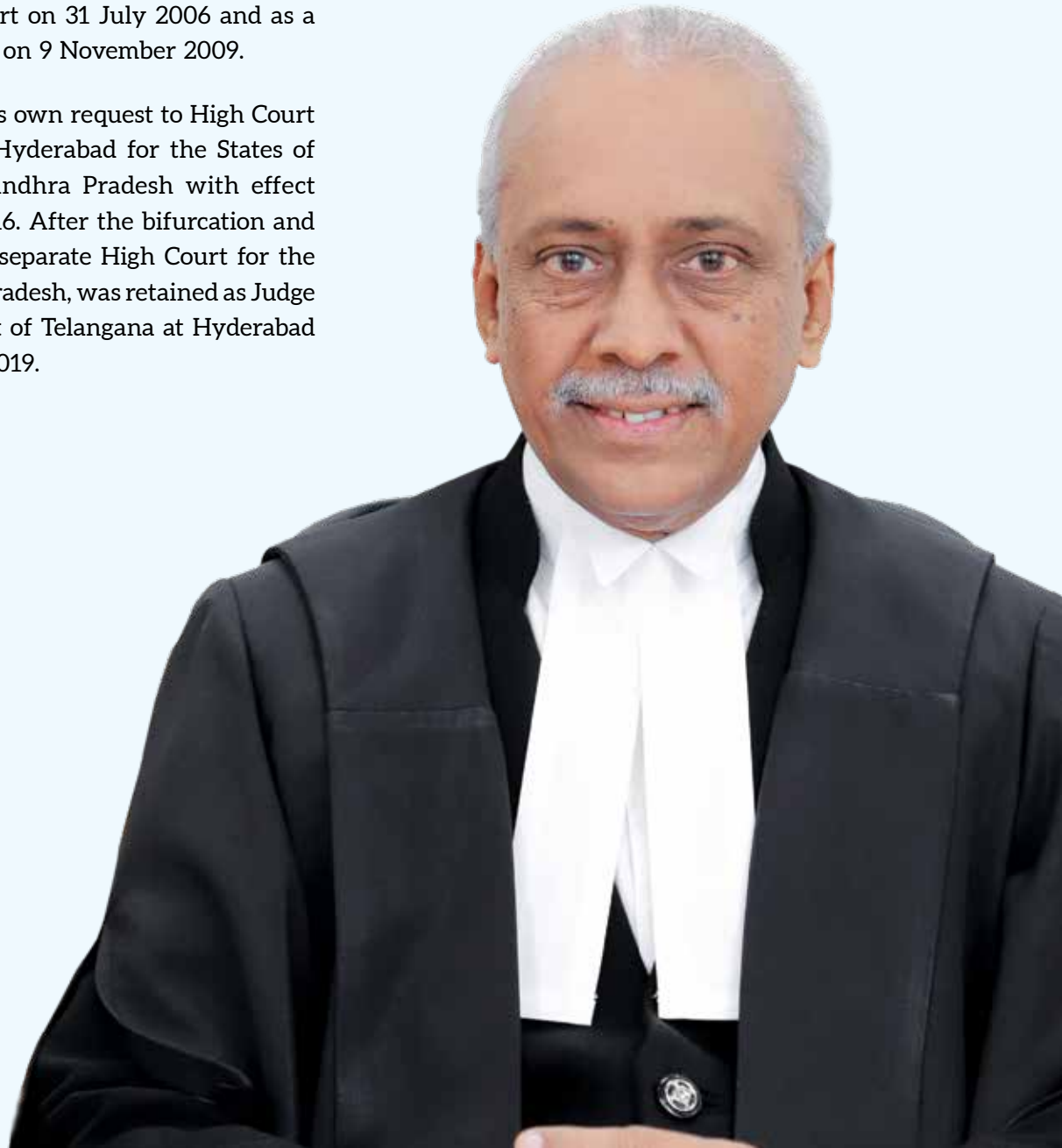
Appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court on 31 July 2006 and as a Permanent Judge on 9 November 2009.

Transferred on his own request to High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh with effect from 27 April 2016. After the bifurcation and the creation of a separate High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh, was retained as Judge of the High Court of Telangana at Hyderabad w.e.f. 1 January 2019.

Appointed as the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court on 22 June 2019.

Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 23 September 2019.

Due to retire on 29 June 2023

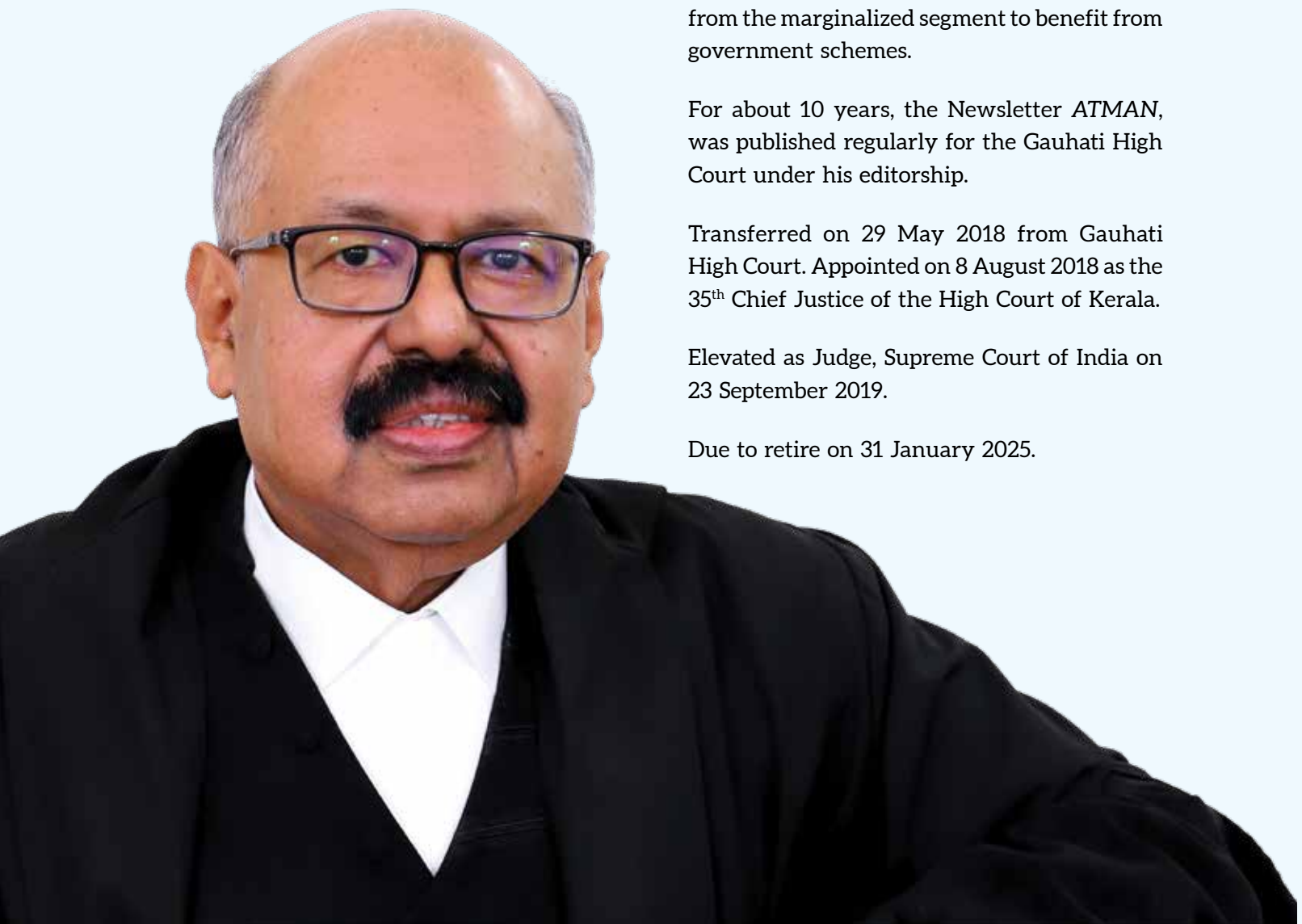


# JUSTICE HRISHIKESH ROY

Born on 1 February 1960. Obtained LL.B. Degree in 1982 from Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi.

Designated as Senior Advocate by the Gauhati High Court on 21 December 2004.

Appointed as Additional Judge of the Gauhati High Court on 12 October 2006 and Permanent Judge, with effect from 15 July 2008. Spearheaded the training programmes for the Judicial officers under the Gauhati High Court and was nominated as a member of the National Judicial Academic Council, headed by the Chief Justice of India.



While heading the Legal Services Authority in Assam and in Arunachal Pradesh, Justice Roy opted for the visual media route to communicate the effectiveness of Mediation Programme through the film *Shako* (Bridge) Produced another short film, *Apne Ajnabi*, which explained how legal help can be accessed easily by the needy, under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. Both productions were used as training tools for judicial officers, lawyers and para legal volunteers.

In Assam, to ensure justice delivery at the shortest distance, the *Reach Out & Respond* programme was launched and implemented, which helped large number from the marginalized segment to benefit from government schemes.

For about 10 years, the Newsletter *ATMAN*, was published regularly for the Gauhati High Court under his editorship.

Transferred on 29 May 2018 from Gauhati High Court. Appointed on 8 August 2018 as the 35<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala.

Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 23 September 2019.

Due to retire on 31 January 2025.

# JUSTICE ABHAY S. OKA

Born on 25 May 1960.

Did B.Sc., LL.M. (University of Bombay).

Enrolled as an Advocate on 28 June 1983. Started practising in Thane District Court in the chamber of his father Shreeniwas W. Oka. In 1985-86, joined the chamber of Shri V. P. Tipnis, a former Judge of the Bombay High Court and former Lok Ayukta. Appeared in several important matters and in public interest litigations.

Elevated as Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on 29 August 2003.

Appointed as a permanent Judge from 12 November 2005. Took oath as the Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka on 10 May 2019.

Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 24 May 2025.



# JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH

Born on 24 September 1962.

Enrolled with the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh on 30 March 1987.

Elevated as Additional Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 24 September 2004. Took oath as Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 27 February 2006.

Elevated as Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on 10 September 2019. He is the first Chief Justice of a High Court in India to live stream Court proceedings on Youtube channel.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 23 September 2027.



# JUSTICE J.K. MAHESHWARI

Born on 29 June 1961 in a small town Joura, District Morena (M.P.).

Graduated in Arts in 1982 and passed LL.B. in 1985 and completed LL.M. in 1991.

Enrolled as an Advocate with the State Bar Council of Madhya Pradesh on 22 November 1985 and practiced in Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Service and Tax matters.

Was the elected member of the M.P. State Bar Council.

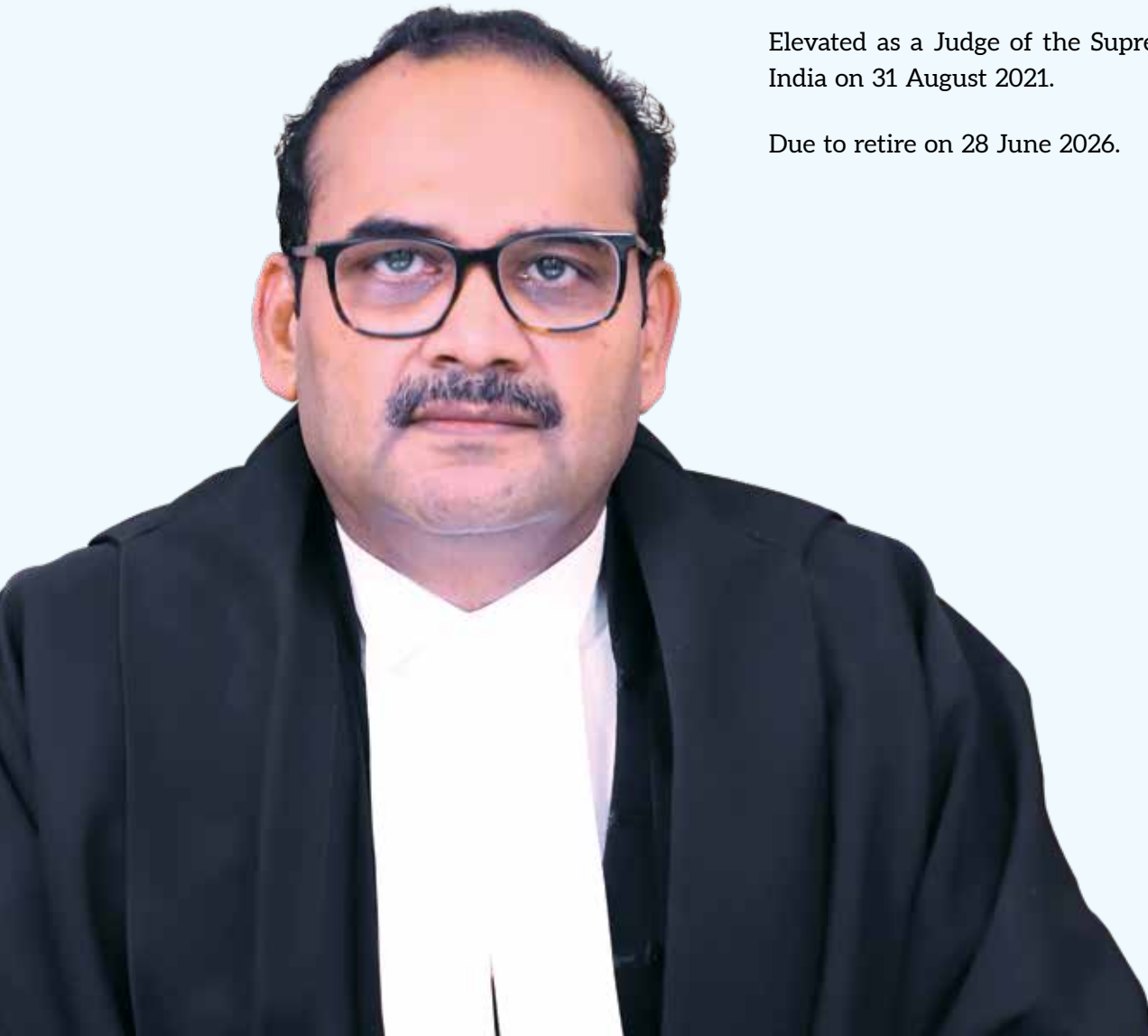
Appointed as Additional Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on 25 November 2005 and on 25 November 2008, appointed as permanent Judge of the Hon'ble Court. Was a part of various committees, pertaining to betterment of administration of High court of Madhya Pradesh and continued his good offices till 6 October 2019.

Transferred as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court and assumed office on 7 October 2019. Was the First Chief Justice of the newly established Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Transferred as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim on 6 January 2021.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 28 June 2026.



# JUSTICE HIMA KOHLI

Born on 2 September 1959 in Delhi.

Did her schooling from St. Thomas School, New Delhi and graduated in History (Hons.) from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi.

Completed her Post Graduation in History in First Division and thereafter, joined the LL.B. course at the Law Faculty, Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi and completed the same in the year 1984.

Enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in the same year. Thereafter appointed as Standing Counsel and Legal Advisor of the New Delhi Municipal Council in the High Court of Delhi from 1999-2004. In December 2004, was appointed as Additional Standing Counsel for the Govt. of NCT of Delhi and represented the State in several important public interest litigations. Appointed as Legal Advisor to several public and private organizations, banks, etc.

Appointed as Additional Judge of the High Court of Delhi on 29 May 2006 and took oath as a permanent Judge on 29 August 2007. During the tenure of judgeship in the High Court of Delhi, was appointed/nominated as a:-

- Member of the General Council of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata from 11 August 2017, Governing Council of the National Law University, Delhi from 30 June 2020 and Editorial Committee of the Official Journal published by National Legal Services Authority - "*Nyaya Deep*";
- Chairperson of the Committee of the Delhi Judicial Academy from 11 March 2020, High Powered Committee constituted by the Delhi Government on 26 March 2020 in terms of the orders passed by the Supreme Court dated 23 March 2020 for decongestion of the Jails in all States and Union Territories in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Delhi High Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society from 29 June 2020.

- Chaired several Committees in the Delhi High Court including the Delhi High Court Building and Maintenance Committee, Mediation and Conciliation Committee and the Family Courts Committee.
- Executive Chairperson of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority from 20 May 2020.

Was sworn-in as Chief Justice of the High Court for the State of Telangana on 7 January 2021. Appointed as Chancellor of NALSAR, Hyderabad.

Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 1 September 2024.





# JUSTICE B. V. NAGARATHNA

Born on 30 October 1962.

B.A. (Hons.) in History from Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University in 1984. Obtained LL.B. Degree in July 1987 from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University.

Started practice in Law in 1987 and practised in KESVY & Co. and started independent Chamber in July 1994 till elevation as a Judge of the High Court of Karnataka in 2008. Practiced in a wide variety of areas such as administrative

law; constitutional law; commercial law; family law, etc. Also represented Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and High Court Legal Services Committee.

Appointed on 18 February 2008 as Additional Judge of Karnataka High Court and Permanent Judge on 17 February 2010.

Some of the positions held as a Judge :  
(1) President, Karnataka Judicial Academy;  
(2) Chairperson, Committee Overseeing Commercial Courts; (3) Administrative Judge, City Civil Court, Bangalore; (4) Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, and (5) Chairperson, Committee Overseeing Implementation of POCSO Act, etc.

Contributor to the book "Courts of India" released by the Supreme Court on the chapter on Karnataka High Court; Chairperson of the Committee in charge of bringing out Kannada translation of the book "Courts of India" released in April 2021.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 29 October 2027.



# JUSTICE C.T. RAVIKUMAR

Born on 6 January 1960 in Peermadu, Kerala.

Graduated in Zoology from Bishop Moore College, Mavelikara and obtained an LL.B. degree from Government Law College, Calicut and enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Kerala on 12 July 1986, commenced his practice at Mavelikara Courts, and later shifted to Kerala High Court.

Served as Government Pleader w.e.f. 1996 to 2001 and appointed as Senior Government Pleader in 2006 and later appointed as Senior Government Pleader in the High Court of Kerala.

Appointed as Additional Judge of the High Court of Kerala on 5 January 2009 and a permanent judge on 15 December 2010.

Served as President of Kerala Judicial Academy and as Executive Chairman of Kerala State Legal Services Authority.

Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 5 January 2025.



# JUSTICE M. M. SUNDRESH

Born on 21 July 1962.

B.A. Degree at Loyola College, Chennai and B.L. Degree at Madras Law College.

Enrolled as an Advocate in the year 1985 and worked as Government Advocate between 1991 to 1996.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of Madras High Court on 31 March 2009 and confirmed as permanent Judge on 29 March 2011. Was the President of the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy.

Avid sportsman having proficiency in Cricket, Tennis and Table Tennis.

Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 20 July 2027.



# JUSTICE BELA M. TRIVEDI

Born on 10 June 1960 at Patan, North Gujarat. Did her schooling at various places as her father had a transferable judicial service.

B.Com.-LL.B. from the MS University, Vadodara. Practised as a lawyer on Civil and Constitutional side in the High Court of Gujarat for about ten years.

Was appointed directly as the Judge, City Civil and Sessions Court at Ahmedabad on 10 July 1995.

It was a happy coincidence that her father was already working as the Judge, City Civil and Sessions Court when she was appointed. The Limca Book of Indian records has recorded the entry in their 1996 edition that "Father-daughter judges in the same Court". Worked on different posts like Registrar - Vigilance in the High Court, Law Secretary in Govt of Gujarat, CBI Court Judge, Special Judge - Serial Bomb blast matters etc.

Elevated as the Judge of Gujarat High Court on 17 February 2011.

Transferred to the Rajasthan High Court where she worked since June 2011 at the Jaipur Bench till she was repatriated to the Parent High Court at Gujarat in February 2016. Since then was working as the Judge of Gujarat High Court.

Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 9 June 2025.



# JUSTICE PAMIDIGHANTAM SRI NARASIMHA

Born on 3 May 1963 to Smt. Satyavati and Late Shri P. Kodanda Ramayya in Hyderabad.

Graduated with triple majors in Economics, Political Science and Public Administration from Nizam College, Hyderabad and pursued law from the Campus Law Centre, Delhi University in 1988 and enrolled at the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh.

Practiced in Andhra Pradesh High Court, Hyderabad and shifted counsel practice to Supreme Court in 1989. Appeared in a large number of cases in the Supreme Court. Worked as the Commission Counsel for the Justice Chinnappa Reddy Commission.

Designated as a Senior Advocate by the Full Court of the Supreme Court of India in the year 2008. Appeared in a large number of public law

cases involving constitutional, administrative, environmental issues. Appointed as *amicus curiae* by the Supreme Court in many cases such as the Forest Bench, Judicial Appointments where he assisted the Court.

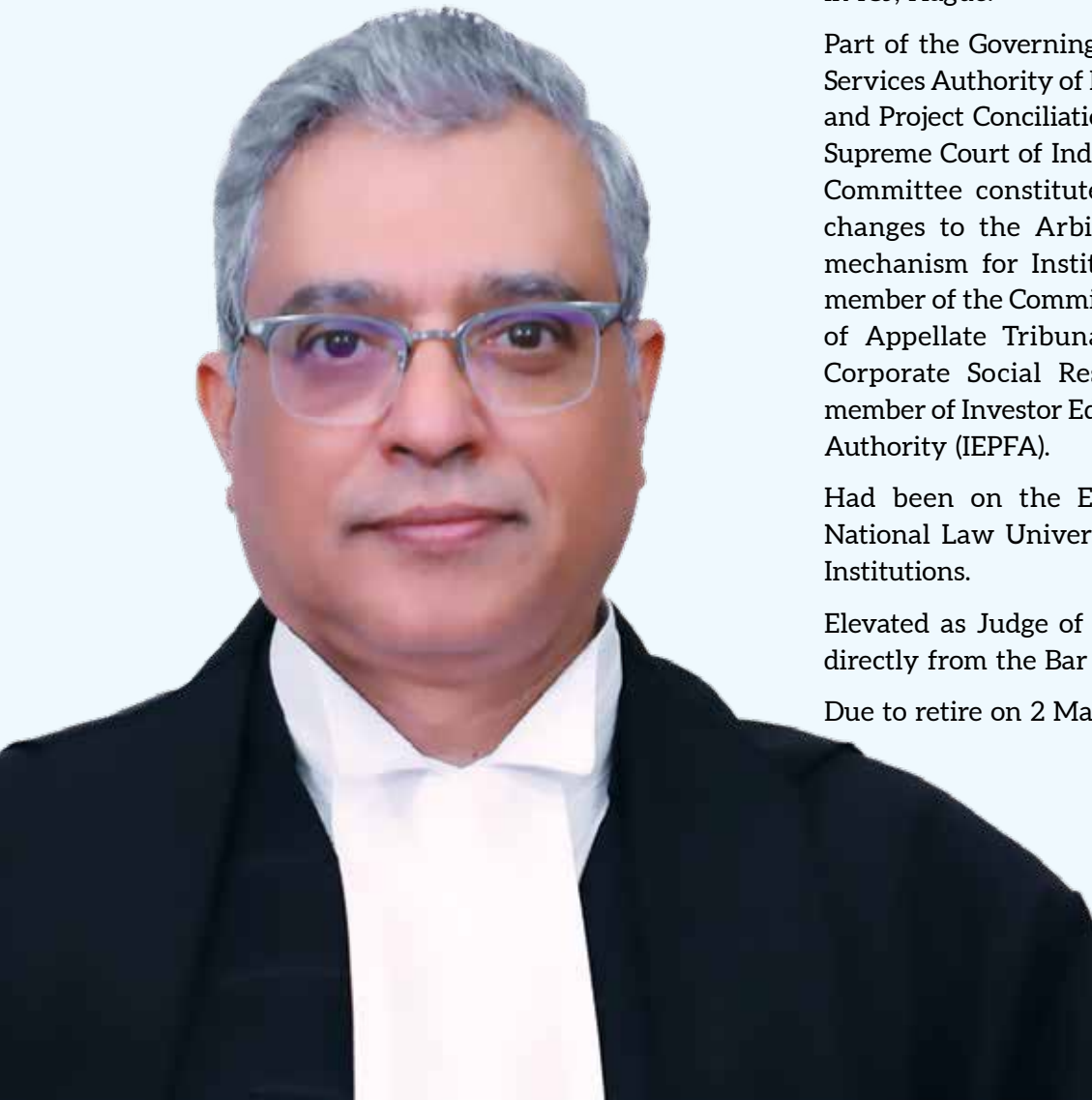
Appointed as the Additional Solicitor General of India in 2014, during which time he represented the Union in a number of land mark cases including the NJAC case before the Constitution Bench. Part of the Indian Supreme Court Delegation to the Canadian Supreme Court where he presented a paper on extradition. Had the rare opportunity to represent the Indian Republic before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), at Hamburg, Germany. Also defended India before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in ICJ, Hague.

Part of the Governing Body of the National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) and Mediation and Project Conciliation Committee (MCPC) of the Supreme Court of India. Part of the High powered Committee constituted for suggesting sweeping changes to the Arbitration Act and to suggest mechanism for Institutional Arbitration. Was a member of the Committee relating to restructuring of Appellate Tribunals and the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility. Also been a member of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA).

Had been on the Executive Council of many National Law Universities and other educational Institutions.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India directly from the Bar on 31 August 2021.

Due to retire on 2 May 2028.



# **HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE RETIRED**

From 1 October 2020 to 20 November 2021



**Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde**  
Former Chief Justice of India

Date of appointment as Judge, Supreme Court : 12 April 2013

Date of appointment as CJI : 18 November 2019

Held office till : 23 April 2021

# HON'BLE JUDGES RETIRED

From 1 October 2020 to 20 November 2021



**Justice Rohinton F. Nariman**  
Date of appointment : 7 July 2014  
Held office till : 12 August 2021



**Justice Ashok Bhushan**  
Date of appointment : 13 May 2016  
Held office till : 4 July 2021



**Justice Navin Sinha**  
Date of appointment : 17 February 2017  
Held office till : 18 August 2021



**Justice Indu Malhotra**  
Date of appointment : 27 April 2018  
Held office till : 13 March 2021

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\* In Annual Report 2019-20 the period for which details of retired Judges was published may be read as 21 Nov 2019 to 30 Sep 2020

# IN MEMORIAM



**Late Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar**

Date of appointment : 17 February 2017

Left for heavenly abode : 24 April 2021



# 2 SUPREME COURT: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Supreme Court of India is at the summit of a pyramidal, unified and integrated judicial system. Though the formal political structure of India is primarily federal, its judicial organization is purely unitary. Both Union and State laws are interpreted and litigated in a single court system; and there is no division of judicial business between the Union and the States. The unitary character of the judicial structure is reflected in several constitutional provisions which strengthen and reinforce the authority of the Supreme Court. Below the Supreme Court of India are the High Courts for each State or group of States; and below the High Courts lie a hierarchy of Subordinate Courts.

## TRACING THE EVOLUTION

Law as a matter of religious prescriptions and philosophical discourse has an illustrious history in India. Emanating from the Vedas, the Upanishads and other religious texts, it was a fertile field enriched by practitioners from different Hindu philosophical schools and later by the Jains and Buddhists. An early document throwing light on the theory of jurisprudence, which forms part of practical governance, is the Artha Sastra of Kautilya dating back to circa 300 B.C. Islamic law became relevant in India during the medieval period or the middle ages, especially with the advent of the Mughal

Empire in the mid-16th century CE. In the colonial period, laws were established through a series of royal charters issued by the British Crown.

The promulgation of Regulation Act of 1773 by the King of England paved the way for establishment of Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta. Letters Patent was issued on 26 March 1774 to establish the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta, as a Court of Record, with full power & authority to hear and determine all complaints under any existing law also to entertain, hear and determine any suit or action against any of His Majesty's subjects in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Similarly, Supreme Courts were established at Madras and Bombay by King George-III on 26 December 1800 and 8 December 1823, respectively.

In the year 1857, after the first war of independence, the power from the East India Company was transferred to the British Crown and Indian judicial system was also changed accordingly. The Indian High Courts Act, 1861 was enacted to create High Courts for various provinces and the Supreme Courts at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay were abolished. High Courts were established in Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and subsequently in Lahore, Nagpur and Patna. In this period, the Appeals against the judgment of British-Indian Court lay to the Privy Council in Britain.

However, because of inaccessibility of Privy Council (in terms of distance and expenses as well as its judicial aloofness), there were rising calls for a 'Federal Court' in India. Subsequently, the Federal Court of India was created under the Government of India Act, 1935 which began functioning from 1 October 1937. However, there was still a right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London from the Federal Court of India.

After attaining Independence, India became sovereign and, like most of modern sovereign countries, it adopted a constitution. The constitution lays down the court system for independent India. The final appellate power of Privy Council was transferred to the Supreme Court of India. On 28 January 1950, two days after India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic, the Supreme Court of India came into being. The inauguration took place in the Chamber of Princes in the Parliament building, which also housed India's Parliament, consisting of the Council of States and the House of the People. In the inaugural proceedings, the Judges of the Federal Court - Chief Justice Harilal J.Kania and Justices Saiyid Fazl Ali, M. Patanjali Sastri, Mehr Chand Mahajan, Bijan Kumar Mukherjea and S.R.Das - took their seats. Also in attendance were the Chief Justices of the High Courts of Allahabad, Bombay, Madras, Orissa, Assam, Nagpur, Punjab, Saurashtra, Patiala and the East Punjab States Union, Mysore, Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat and Travancore-Cochin. Along with the Attorney General for India, M.C. Setalvad were present the Advocate Generals of Bombay, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, East Punjab, Orissa, Mysore, Hyderabad and Madhya Bharat. Present too, were Prime Minister, other Ministers, Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of foreign States, a large number of Senior and other Advocates of the Court and other distinguished visitors.

## SUPREME COURT- AT PRESENT

After its inauguration on 28 January 1950, the Supreme Court commenced its sittings in a part of the Parliament House. The Court moved into the present building in 1958. The building is shaped to project the image of scales of justice and has a 27.6 metre high dome and a spacious colonnaded verandah. The Central Wing of the building is the Centre Beam of the Scales. The Chief Justice's Court is the largest of the Courts located in the Centre of the Central Wing.

Chapter IV of Part V of the Constitution of India makes provision for "Union Judiciary". Article 124 deals with establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court, *inter alia*, prescribing its composition, qualifications and mode of appointment as a Judge thereof, and procedure for removal of a Judge from office. There is also a provision for appointment of ad hoc Judges under Article 127, and attendance of retired Judges at sittings, under Article 128. It is a Court of Record, as per Article 129, and has all the powers of such Court including the power to punish for its contempt. With its extensive powers under Articles 32 & 129 to Article 145 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court of India stands out as the forum for redressal of grievances, as the guardian of liberties and rights and also as the final arbiter in most disputes, not only between individuals, but also between States or between the Union and State/s or between individual/s and State/s. As an appellate court, it can hear appeals from the High Courts on civil, criminal and constitutional matters. The Supreme Court has the Appellate Jurisdiction over all Courts and Tribunals in India. The Court can review its own judgments. In its advisory capacity, it answers references by the President of India on any question of law or fact of public importance, which may have arisen or is likely to arise. The Supreme Court is designated as the custodian of fundamental rights and "rule of law". Article 144

mandates all authorities, civil and judicial, to act in aid of the Supreme Court.

Interwoven into these powers is the power of judicial review, the power to strike down such legislation or executive action as may be violative of the provisions or the basic structure of the Constitution or inimical to the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. The Court has the authority to pass any decree and order as is necessary for doing “complete justice”. Under Article 141 of the Constitution, the law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within the territory of India. The Supreme Court exercises a wide and powerful discretionary jurisdiction under Article 136 which is unique and is aimed at doing complete justice rather than strictly following the letter of the law. Article 32 of the Constitution confers a right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of fundamental rights, and also power on the Supreme Court to issue writs for the protection of such rights. Further, for doing complete

justice, the Supreme Court is empowered, under Article 142, to pass necessary orders. The Supreme Court thus wields a unique jurisdiction unfettered by the strict letter of the law.

The proceedings of the Supreme Court are conducted in English only. Supreme Court Rules, 2013, framed under Article 145 of the Constitution, regulate the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court.

### STRENGTH OF JUDGES

The present strength of Supreme Court Judges is 34 i.e. Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India and 33 Hon’ble Judges. The strength of the Judges in the Supreme Court at the time of its inception was eight which has been increased from time to time by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956. The strength of the Judges in the Supreme Court, as increased by amending Acts from time to time, has been as under: -

Constitutional Provision /Acts	Strength of Judges	Bill No.
Article 124, Constitution of India	Chief Justice + 7 Judges = 8	-
Act No. 55/1956	Chief Justice + 10 Judges = 11	Lok Sabha Bill No. 44/1956
Act No. 17/1960	Chief Justice + 13 Judges = 14	Lok Sabha Bill No.V/1960
Act No. 48/1977	Chief Justice + 17 Judges = 18	Lok Sabha Bill o.135/1977
Act No. 22/1986	Chief Justice + 25 Judges = 26	Lok Sabha Bill No.157/1985
Act No. 11/2009	Chief Justice + 30 Judges = 31	Lok Sabha Bill No.41/2008
Act No. 37 /2019	Chief Justice + 33 Judges = 34	Lok Sabha Bill No. 191- F/2019

### THE FORMER JUDGES

The Supreme Court, since its inception has been nurtured and served by the judicial vision of 47 Hon’ble Chief Justices and 176 Hon’ble Judges

besides the present Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India and 32 Hon’ble Judges (as on 20 November 2021)

**RETIRED HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICES  
(ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SENIORITY)**

S. No.	Name	Date of Appointment in Supreme Court	Date of Appointment as C.JI	Held Office Till
1	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harilal Jekisundas Kania	26/01/1950	26/01/1950	06/11/1951*
2	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Patanjali Sastri	26/01/1950	07/11/1951	03/01/1954
3	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan	26/01/1950	04/01/1954	22/12/1954
4	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bijan Kumar Mukherjea	26/01/1950	23/12/1954	31/01/1956**
5	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das	26/01/1950	01/02/1956	30/09/1959
6	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhuvneshwar Prasad Sinha	03/12/1954	01/10/1959	31/01/1964
7	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.B. Gajendragadkar	17/01/1957	01/02/1964	15/03/1966
8	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sarkar	04/03/1957	16/03/1966	29/06/1966
9	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Subba Rao	31/01/1958	30/06/1966	11/04/1967**
10	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.N. Wanchoo	11/08/1958	12/04/1967	24/02/1968
11	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Hidayatullah	01/12/1958	25/02/1968	16/12/1970
12	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.C. Shah	12/10/1959	17/12/1970	21/01/1971
13	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.M. Sikri	03/02/1964	22/01/1971	25/04/1973
14	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.N. Ray	01/08/1969	26/04/1973	28/01/1977
15	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Hameedullah Beg	10/12/1971	29/01/1977	21/02/1978
16	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Y.V. Chandrachud	28/08/1972	22/02/1978	11/07/1985
17	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N. Bhagwati	17/07/1973	12/07/1985	20/12/1986
18	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.S. Pathak	20/02/1978	21/12/1986	18/06/1989**
19	Hon'ble Mr. Justice E.S. Venkataramiah	08/03/1979	19/06/1989	17/12/1989
20	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sabyasachi Mukherji	15/03/1983	18/12/1989	25/09/1990*
21	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranganath Misra	15/03/1983	25/09/1990	24/11/1991
22	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.N. Singh	10/03/1986	25/11/1991	12/12/1991

23	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.H. Kania	01/05/1987	13/12/1991	17/11/1992
24	Hon'ble Mr. Justice L.M. Sharma	05/10/1987	18/11/1992	11/02/1993
25	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah	05/10/1987	12/02/1993	24/10/1994
26	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Ahmadi	14/12/1988	25/10/1994	24/03/1997
27	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.S. Verma	03/06/1989	25/03/1997	17/01/1998
28	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Punchhi	06/10/1989	18/01/1998	09/10/1998
29	Hon'ble Dr. Justice A.S. Anand	18/11/1991	10/10/1998	31/10/2001
30	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Bharucha	01/07/1992	01/11/2001	05/05/2002
31	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.N. Kirpal	11/09/1995	06/05/2002	07/11/2002
32	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.B. Pattanaik	11/09/1995	08/11/2002	18/12/2002
33	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.N. Khare	21/03/1997	19/12/2002	01/05/2004
34	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Rajendra Babu	25/09/1997	02/05/2004	31/05/2004
35	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.C. Lahoti	09/12/1998	01/06/2004	31/10/2005
36	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Y.K. Sabharwal	28/01/2000	01/11/2005	13/01/2007
37	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan	08/06/2000	14/01/2007	11/05/2010
38	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.H. Kapadia	18/12/2003	12/05/2010	28/09/2012
39	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Altamas Kabir	09/09/2005	29/09/2012	18/07/2013
40	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sathasivam	21/08/2007	19/07/2013	26/04/2014
41	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Mal Lodha	17/12/2008	27/04/2014	27/09/2014
42	Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu	17/12/2008	28/09/2014	02/12/2015
43	Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur	17/11/2009	03/12/2015	03/01/2017
44	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.S. Khehar	13/09/2011	04/01/2017	27/08/2017
45	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra	10/10/2011	28/08/2017	02/10/2018
46	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi	23/04/2012	03/10/2018	17/11/2019
47	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde	12/04/2013	18/11/2019	23/04/2021

\* Date of Death

\*\* Date of Resignation

**RETIRED HON'BLE JUDGES  
(ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SENIORITY)**

S. No.	Name of the Hon'ble Judge	Date of Appointment	Held Office Till
1	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sir Syed Fazl Ali	26/01/1950	18/09/1951
2	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Chandrasekhara Aiyar	23/09/1950	24/01/1953
3	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivian Bose	05/03/1951	08/06/1956
4	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ghulam Hasan	08/09/1952	05/11/1954 *
5	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Natwarlal Harilal Bhagwati	08/09/1952	06/08/1959
6	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Jagannadhadas	09/03/1953	26/07/1958
7	Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.L. Venkatarama Aiyar	04/01/1954	24/11/1958
8	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Jaffer Imam	10/01/1955	31/01/1964 **
9	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Das	30/04/1956	02/09/1963
10	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Govinda Menon	01/09/1956	16/10/1957 *
11	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.L. Kapur	14/01/1957	12/12/1962
12	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.C. Das Gupta	24/08/1959	02/01/1965
13	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raghubar Dayal	27/07/1960	25/10/1965
14	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Rajagopala Ayyangar	27/07/1960	14/12/1964
15	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.R. Madholkar	03/10/1960	03/07/1966 **
16	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.S. Bachawat	07/09/1964	31/07/1969
17	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramaswami	04/01/1965	29/10/1969
18	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Satyanarayana Raju	20/10/1965	20/04/1966 *
19	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.M. Shelat	24/02/1966	30/04/1973 **
20	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vishishtha Bhargava	08/08/1966	04/02/1971
21	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.K. Mitter	29/08/1966	23/09/1971
22	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.A. Vaidyalingam	10/10/1966	29/06/1972
23	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.S. Hegde	17/07/1967	30/04/1973 **
24	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.N. Grover	11/02/1968	31/05/1973 **
25	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Jaganmohan Reddy	01/08/1969	22/01/1975
26	Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.D. Dua	01/08/1969	03/10/1972
27	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subimal Chandra Roy	19/07/1971	12/11/1971 *

28	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.G. Palekar	19/07/1971	03/09/1974
29	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hans Raj Khanna	22/09/1971	12/03/1977 **
30	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kuttyil Kurien Mathew	04/10/1971	02/01/1976
31	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.N. Dwivedi	14/08/1972	08/12/1974 *
32	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Mukherjea	14/08/1972	23/10/1973 *
33	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Alagiriswami	17/10/1972	16/10/1975
34	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer	17/07/1973	14/11/1980
35	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.K. Goswami	10/09/1973	31/12/1977
36	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.S. Sarkaria	17/09/1973	15/01/1981
37	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.C. Gupta	02/09/1974	31/12/1981
38	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.L. Untwalia	03/10/1974	31/07/1980
39	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Murtaza Fazal Ali	02/04/1975	20/08/1985 *
40	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N. Shingal	06/11/1975	14/10/1980
41	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jaswant Singh	23/01/1976	24/01/1979
42	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.S. Kailasam	03/01/1977	11/09/1980
43	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.D. Tulzapurkar	30/09/1977	08/03/1986
44	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.A. Desai	30/09/1977	08/05/1985
45	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.D. Koshal	17/07/1978	06/03/1982
46	Hon'ble Mr. Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy	17/07/1978	24/09/1987
47	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Sen	17/07/1978	19/09/1988
48	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Baharul Islam	04/12/1980	12/01/1983 **
49	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Varadarajan	10/12/1980	16/08/1985
50	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amarendra Nath Sen	28/01/1981	30/09/1985
51	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi	30/01/1981	18/06/1987
52	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.B. Misra	30/01/1981	14/06/1986
53	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.P. Madon	15/03/1983	06/04/1986
54	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.P. Thakkar	15/03/1983	03/11/1988
55	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Khalid	25/06/1984	30/06/1987
56	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.L. Oza	29/10/1985	11/12/1989
57	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.C. Ray	29/10/1985	31/10/1991

58	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Dutt	10/03/1986	29/10/1989
59	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Natarajan	10/03/1986	28/10/1989
60	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Jagannatha Shetty	01/05/1987	14/12/1991
61	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ranganathan	05/10/1987	30/10/1992
62	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.D. Ojha	18/01/1988	18/01/1991
63	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian	14/12/1988	12/03/1994
64	Hon'ble Dr. Justice T.K. Thommen	14/12/1988	25/09/1993
65	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.N. Saikia	14/12/1988	28/02/1991
66	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kuldeep Singh	14/12/1988	31/12/1996
67	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramaswami	06/10/1989	14/02/1994
68	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.B. Sawant	06/10/1989	29/06/1995
69	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.M. Kasliwal	06/10/1989	03/04/1993
70	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Ramaswamy	06/10/1989	12/07/1997
71	Hon'ble Ms. Justice M. Fathima Beevi	06/10/1989	29/04/1992
72	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Jayachandra Reddy	11/01/1990	14/07/1994
73	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.C. Agrawal	11/01/1990	04/09/1998
74	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.M. Sahai	11/01/1990	24/06/1995
75	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yogeshwar Dayal	22/03/1991	02/08/1994 *
76	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Mohan	07/10/1991	10/02/1995
77	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy	07/10/1991	13/03/1997
78	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.N. Ray	07/10/1991	30/04/1998
79	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.C. Patnaik	03/12/1991	30/05/1992 *
80	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.P. Singh	15/06/1992	24/12/1996
81	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Venkatachala	01/07/1992	02/07/1995
82	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.K. Mukherjee	14/12/1993	30/11/1998
83	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Faizan Uddin	14/12/1993	04/02/1997
84	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.L. Hansaria	14/12/1993	24/12/1996
85	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.C. Sen	11/06/1994	20/12/1997
86	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.S. Paripoornan	11/06/1994	11/06/1997
87	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.B. Majmudar	19/09/1994	19/08/2000



88	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sujata V. Manohar	08/11/1994	27/08/1999
89	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.T. Nanavati	06/03/1995	16/02/2000
90	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Saghir Ahmad	06/03/1995	30/06/2000
91	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Venkataswami	06/03/1995	18/09/1999
92	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Kurdukar	29/03/1996	15/01/2000
93	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.T. Thomas	29/03/1996	29/01/2002
94	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Jagannadha Rao	21/03/1997	01/12/2000
95	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.P. Wadhwa	21/03/1997	04/05/2000
96	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Srinivasan	25/09/1997	25/02/2000 *
97	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Prakash Misra	04/12/1997	31/08/2001
98	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.S.M. Quadri	04/12/1997	04/04/2003
99	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.B. Shah	09/12/1998	24/09/2003
100	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.P. Mohapatra	09/12/1998	02/08/2002
101	Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.C. Banerjee	09/12/1998	17/11/2002
102	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Santosh Hegde	08/01/1999	15/06/2005
103	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.P. Sethi	08/01/1999	06/07/2002
104	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.N. Phukan	28/01/1999	31/03/2002
105	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Doraiswamy Raju	28/01/2000	01/07/2004
106	Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Ruma Pal	28/01/2000	02/06/2006
107	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.N. Variava	15/03/2000	07/11/2005
108	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shivaraj V. Patil	15/03/2000	11/01/2005
109	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brijesh Kumar	19/10/2000	09/06/2004
110	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.N. Agrawal	19/10/2000	14/10/2009
111	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Venkatarama Reddi	17/08/2001	09/08/2005
112	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok Bhan	17/08/2001	01/10/2008
113	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Arijit Pasayat	19/10/2001	09/05/2009
114	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Singh	14/12/2001	08/07/2007
115	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.M. Dharmadhikari	05/03/2002	13/08/2005
116	Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.K. Sema	09/04/2002	31/05/2008
117	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.B. Sinha	03/10/2002	07/08/2009

118	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar	03/10/2002	11/04/2006
119	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.N. Srikrishna	03/10/2002	20/05/2006
120	Hon'ble Dr. Justice AR. Lakshmanan	20/12/2002	21/03/2007
121	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.P. Mathur	20/12/2002	18/01/2008
122	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Mathur	07/06/2004	06/08/2008
123	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.K. Thakker	07/06/2004	09/11/2008
124	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarun Chatterjee	27/08/2004	13/01/2010
125	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.K. Balasubramanyan	27/08/2004	27/08/2007
126	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.P. Naolekar	27/08/2004	28/06/2008
127	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.V. Raveendran	09/09/2005	14/10/2011
128	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dalveer Bhandari	28/10/2005	27/04/2012**
129	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lokeshwar Singh Panta	03/02/2006	22/04/2009
130	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.K. Jain	10/04/2006	24/01/2013
131	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Markandey Katju	10/04/2006	19/09/2011
132	Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.S. Bedi	12/01/2007	04/09/2011
133	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.S. Sirpurkar	12/01/2007	21/08/2011
134	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Sudershan Reddy	12/01/2007	07/07/2011
135	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.S. Singhvi	12/11/2007	11/12/2013
136	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aftab Alam	12/11/2007	18/04/2013
137	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.M. Panchal	12/11/2007	05/10/2011
138	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Mukundakam Sharma	09/04/2008	17/09/2011
139	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Cyriac Joseph	07/07/2008	27/01/2012
140	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Ganguly	17/12/2008	02/02/2012
141	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Verma	11/05/2009	27/08/2012
142	Hon'ble Dr. Justice B.S. Chauhan	11/05/2009	01/07/2014
143	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Patnaik	17/11/2009	02/06/2014
144	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan	17/11/2009	14/05/2014
145	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.S. Nijjar	17/11/2009	06/06/2014
146	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Swatanter Kumar	18/12/2009	19/12/2012**
147	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.K. Prasad	08/02/2010	14/07/2014

148	Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.L. Gokhale	30/04/2010	09/03/2014
149	Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Gyan Sudha Misra	30/04/2010	27/04/2014
150	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave	30/04/2010	18/11/2016
151	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. J. Mukhopadhaya	13/09/2011	14/03/2015
152	Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai	13/09/2011	29/10/2014
153	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jasti Chelameswar	10/10/2011	22/06/2018
154	Hon'ble Mr. Justice F.M. Ibrahim Kalifulla	02/04/2012	22/07/2016
155	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur	04/06/2012	30/12/2018
156	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.Y. Eqbal	24/12/2012	12/02/2016
157	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Gopala Gowda	24/12/2012	05/10/2016
158	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikramajit Sen	24/12/2012	30/12/2015
159	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose	08/03/2013	27/05/2017
160	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph	08/03/2013	29/11/2018
161	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri	12/04/2013	06/03/2019
162	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shiva Kirti Singh	19/09/2013	12/11/2016
163	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Nagappan	19/09/2013	03/10/2016
164	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.K. Agrawal	17/02/2014	04/05/2018
165	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Mishra	07/07/2014	02/09/2020
166	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel	07/07/2014	06/07/2018
167	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.F. Nariman	07/07/2014	12/08/2021
168	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre	13/08/2014	27/08/2019
169	Hon'ble Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi	13/08/2014	19/07/2020
170	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prafulla C. Pant	13/08/2014	29/08/2017
171	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitava Roy	27/02/2015	28/02/2018
172	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok Bhushan	13/05/2016	04/07/2021
173	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar	17/02/2017	24/04/2021*
174	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navin Sinha	17/02/2017	18/08/2021
175	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta	17/02/2017	06/05/2020
176	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indu Malhotra	27/04/2018	13/03/2021

\* Date of Death

\*\* Date of Resignation







# 3 JURISDICTION

The Supreme Court has jurisdiction over - the authority to hear - a wide range of cases. Its jurisdiction is generally classified into three categories namely, original, appellate and advisory.

## ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

The Supreme Court of India is empowered by Article 131 of the Constitution of India to entertain original jurisdiction exclusively with regards to any dispute between the Government of India and one or more States; or, between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more other States on the other; or, between two or more States, if and in so far as the dispute involves any question (whether of law or fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends: Provided that the said jurisdiction shall not extend to a dispute arising out of any treaty, agreement, covenant, engagements, and or other similar instrument which, having been entered into or executed before the commencement of this Constitution, continues in operation after such commencement, or which provides that the said jurisdiction shall not extend to such a dispute. In addition, Article 32 of the Constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court in regard to enforcement of Fundamental Rights. It is empowered to issue directions,

orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari to enforce them. In accordance with the power conferred under Article 71 of the Constitution, all doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a President or Vice President shall be inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision shall be final. Apart from this, Section 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 enables the Supreme Court to transfer any case, appeal or other proceedings from High Court or other civil court in one State to a High Court or other civil court in any other State. Moreover, Supreme Court can also transfer any case involving same or substantially same questions of law pending before it and one or more High Courts in certain contingencies to itself, as per the provisions under Article 139A. The Appointment of Arbitrators by the Chief Justice of India Scheme, 1996 as framed under Section 11(10) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 regulates the appointment of arbitrators under Section 11(6) of the said Act. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has all the powers to punish for contempt of itself. For this purpose, 'Rules to Regulate proceedings for Contempt of the Supreme Court, 1975', have been framed in exercise of the power under Section 23 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, read with Article 145 of the Constitution of India.

## APPELLATE JURISDICTION

The Supreme Court has very wide appellate jurisdiction over all Courts and Tribunals in India. The Appellate Jurisdiction is exercised under Articles 132 to 134. According to Article 132, an appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court from any judgment, decree or final order of a High Court in the territory of India, whether in a civil, criminal or other proceeding, if the High Court certifies under Article 134A that the case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of this Constitution. Apart from the above, Supreme Court also has the discretion to grant Special Leave to Appeal under Article 136 of the Constitution from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order in any cause or matter passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India. Further, the Supreme Court of India has the jurisdiction to decide a statutory appeal, whenever any legislation provides for appeal to the Supreme Court. A number of special statutes provide for an Appeal to Supreme Court. Such provisions for statutory appeals include the following:

- Section 35L of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944);
- Section 116A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951);
- Section 38 of the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961);
- Section 261 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) before the establishment of National Tax Tribunal from 28.12.2005;
- Section 130E of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962);
- Section 19 (1) (b) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 (70 of 1971);
- Section 374 and Section 379 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) read with Section 2 of Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, 1970 (28 of 1970);
- Section 23 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986);
- Section 19 of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 (28 of 1987);
- Section 10 of the Special Courts (Trial of Offences relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992 (27 of 1992);
- Section 15Z of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992);
- Section 18 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997);
- Section 53T of the Competition Act, 2002 (12 of 2003);
- Section 125 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003);
- Section 24 of the National Tax Tribunal Act, 2005 (49 of 2005);
- Section 30 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 (55 of 2007);
- Section 37 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 (19 of 2006);
- Section 31 of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 (27 of 2008);
- Section 22 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (19 of 2010);
- Section 423 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013);
- Section 38 of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013 (23 of 2013);
- Section 21 of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 (22 of 2015);
- Section 33E of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (18 of 2016);



- Sections 62 and 182 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (31 of 2016);
- Section 118 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017);
- Section 73 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (35 of 2019); and
- Section 60(2) of the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 (1 of 2021).

## ADVISORY JURISDICTION

- Article 143(1) of the Constitution of India states that if at any time it appears to the President of India that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such nature or of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, the President may refer the question to the Supreme Court for consideration. The Supreme Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President, its opinion thereon. In accordance with Article 143(2) of the Constitution, the President may, refer a dispute of the kind mentioned in the proviso of Article 131 of Constitution to the Supreme Court for opinion and the Supreme Court shall, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President its opinion thereon.
- Reference to the Supreme Court can also be made under following provisions:
  - Article 317 of the Constitution of India, as regards removal of Chairman or any other Member of a Public Service Commission.
  - Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2002, as regards removal of Chairperson and other Members of the Commission.
  - Sections 14 and 17 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, as regards the Removal of Chief Information Commissioner or any Information

Commissioner and State Chief Information Commissioner or State Information Commissioner, respectively.

- Section 257 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, as regards reference by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

## OTHER POWERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

In addition to the Original, Appellate and Advisory Jurisdiction, the Supreme Court also exercises the following powers:

- **Public Interest Litigation (PIL):** A Public Interest Litigation may commence in any of the manner, such as: (i) through a suo motu petition in pursuance of the order of the Chief Justice or Judge of the Supreme Court; (ii) in pursuance of an order of the Chief Justice or a Judge nominated by the Chief Justice on a letter or representation; (iii) by an order of the Supreme Court to treat a petition as a Public Interest Litigation; (iv) by presentation of a petition in the Supreme Court.
- **Power of Review:** The Supreme Court under Article 137 of the Constitution of India has the power to review any judgment pronounced, or any order made by it. Review Petitions are disposed of by circulation as per listing procedures. However, in death sentence cases, oral hearing has been made permissible, limited to 30 minutes as per the verdict in *Sonu Sardar v. Union of India* [2014(9) SCC 737]
- **Curative Petitions:** Order XLVIII of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 provides that the Supreme Court can reconsider its final judgment/order by way of a Curative Petition on limited grounds after the dismissal of Review Petition.

## IMPORTANT ACTS RELATING TO SUPREME COURT

The important legislations relating to Supreme Court of India are as follows:

- Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 (51 of 1968);
- Judges (Protection) Act, 1985 (59 of 1985) [amended by Act No. 34 of 2019];
- Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, 1970 (28 of 1970) [amended by Act No. 37 of 1972];
- Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 (55 of 1956) [amended by Act Nos. 17 of 1960, 48 of 1977, 22 of 1986, 11 of 2009 and 37 of 2019]; and
- Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 (41 of 1958) [amended by Act Nos. 77 of 1971, 36 of 1976, 57 of 1980, 36 of 1985, 38 of 1986, 20 of 1988,

32 of 1989, 72 of 1993, 2 of 1994, 20 of 1996, 18 of 1998, 7 of 1999, 8 of 2003, 46 of 2005, 23 of 2009, 13 of 2016 and 10 of 2018].

## SUBORDINATE LEGISLATIONS

The subordinate legislations relating to the Supreme Court are as follows:

- Judges (Inquiry) Rules, 1969;
- Supreme Court Rules, 2013;
- Supreme Court (Decree and Orders) Enforcement Order, 1954;
- Supreme Court Judges Rules, 1959;
- Supreme Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Rules, 1959; and
- Rules to Regulate Proceedings for Contempt of the Supreme Court, 1975.

# 4 SUPREME COURT BUILDING

The Supreme Court of India is the Apex Court of the judicial pillar of the Indian democratic State. Its journey began two days after India became a Sovereign, Democratic Republic on 26 January 1950.

## THE BEGINNING

The Supreme Court of India came into existence on 28 January, 1950, the day on which the erstwhile Federal Court of India ceased to exist. The first sitting of the Supreme Court was held in the Chamber of Princes inside the Parliament Building, from where the Federal Court used to function. The Court shifted to the present building, which was inaugurated by the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, on 4 August, 1958. In the year 1979, two new wings, the East wing and the West

wing, were added to the original building. In the year 1994, the second extension of the building was constructed, connecting the East wing and the West wing. The New Extension Block near the Supreme Court Museum came to be inaugurated on 4 November, 2015. The Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India across the historical Mathura Road came up in the year 2019 and was inaugurated by the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

## ARCHITECTURE

The original Supreme Court building was built on a triangular plot of 17 acres. Supreme Court Building was designed by Chief Architect Ganesh Bhikaji Deolalikar, who was the first Indian to head CPWD and designed it in the



Indo - British architectural style. The design of the building is in the shape of a balance with a pair of Scales of Justice and it was conceived and planned by Engineers and Architects who were trained as per western standards and hence the Building bears testimony of western expertise and skill set of high order, combined with the Indian concept of justice. Traditionally, justice is represented as a pair of scales, the two pans of which have to be held evenly without allowing the beam from which they hang to incline to either side. There are two wings on the two sides. At the end of each wing are semi circular structures, each representing the pans which are attached to the beam at the top, which accommodates the Court rooms wherein the Hon'ble Judges are seated while dispensing justice without inclining either to the right or to the left.

The Central beam from the ends of which the scales hang, comprises of the Chief Justice's Court at the Centre with two Court halls on either side. The right wing of the structure consists of the Bar Association rooms, the offices of the Attorney General for India and other Law officers and the library of the Court. The left wing consists of offices of the Court.



*Mural in the Judges' Gallery*

### **ADDITIONAL BUILDING COMPLEX OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

In order to cope up with the space constraints felt in the original Supreme Court Building, an additional complex of the Supreme Court with a futuristic vision was conceptualized on a land measuring 12.19 acres, abutting Pragati Maidan, and its foundation stone was laid on 27 September, 2012. The Additional Building Complex (ABC) has been built as a state-of-the-art, environment friendly, centrally air-conditioned office complex with all modern facilities. The curved facade introduced in some of the building design together with European style pillars that rise from the ground



*View of Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India*

level, in the A block and the colour scheme of the buildings with an external cladding of sand-stone is indicative that the design of this complex seeks to retain the marvel of the main building of Supreme Court of India. The Additional Building Complex has also been designed to maximize the use of available sunlight, air and water- the complex is capable of producing solar power of 1400 KWp which is integrated with the main grid supply. This project has been designed as a GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) compliant rated energy efficient Building Complex. This new complex comprises of five functional blocks and one service block.

Library Block	-	Block A
Judicial Block	-	Block B
Convention Centre	-	Block C
Lawyers Chambers	-	Block D
Facilities Block	-	Block E
Service Block	-	Block F

These Blocks are four to nine storeys high and have a three-level underground basement area which have sufficient car parking areas and storage godowns. The additional building complex, built by CPWD, has a total built-up area of 1,80,700 square meters.

### NEW INITIATIVES

- **Congregation Hall & Lounge of the Supreme Court Administration was made**



**Functional:** A Congregation Hall & Lounge has been created on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Southern Flank, 'B' Block, Additional Building Complex with state-of-the-art fittings and fixtures. It is expected to complement the existing Multipurpose Hall and Conference Hall at 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 'C' Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India.

- **Common Utility Room(s):** To provide the Registry staff earmarked areas to enable them to have lunch or tea and interact informally, Common Utility Rooms have been created in designated floors in 'A' and 'B' Blocks, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India.



- **Restrooms for Transgenders:** In compliance with statutory norms, creation of designated restrooms for Transgenders has been undertaken in the Main and Additional Building complexes of the Supreme Court of India.
- **Augmented CGHS Facility, 'C' Block, Additional Building Complex:** Space on the First Floor, 'C' Block, Additional Building Complex has been earmarked for shifting of the CGHS with more space and better facilities so as to accommodate various diagnostic equipments as also bigger and better Consultation Rooms, Waiting Area, Pharmacy Area, etc. The area is being developed as per requirement of the CGHS health officials so as to provide better services to all the stakeholders.

- **ATM Facility in Additional Building Complex:** ATM machines have been installed in the Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India for the benefit of the Registry staff and other stakeholders.
- **Sculpture of 'Tree of Life' at Front Lawn in Additional Building Complex:** A 12 feet high bronze sculpture 'Tree of Life' has been installed in the lawns near Gate No.1, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India. The sculpture representing the first element of nature expresses the fundamental truths of life as a symbol of the ethos of the Supreme Court of India.



- **Tree Guards for the plantation in Additional Building Complex:** To protect and give life to the plantation done in the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India, tree guards have been erected



with the provisioning of a plate containing common name as well as botanical name and numbering of each plantation, if found effective, tree-guards would also be introduced in the Main Campus.

- **Entry bars at the Ramps of the Basements:** To secure the basements of the Additional Building Complex from any damage due to entry of heavy vehicles, 'Entry Bars' have been installed at the ramps leading to the basement to prevent entry of vehicles with height higher than 2 metres.
- **Observation Posts in the Additional Building Complex:** In order to strengthen the security of the premises, observation posts have been erected along the perimeter wall of the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India with provision of flood-lights to illuminate the areas falling in line of sight from such posts.

- **Regulating Vehicular Movement in Additional Building Complex:** To ensure safety of the pedestrians and to control speed of the vehicles, speed bumps at appropriate locations on the paved roads inside the Additional Building Complex with the speed limit signage of 20 km/hr have been installed.
- **Administrative Godowns in the Additional Building Complex:** To meet the ever increasing demand/requirement of storage area of various Branches/Sections as well as those of coordinate agencies likes CPWD, etc, additional Godowns for safe storage have been constructed in the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India.
- **Laser Illumination - Independence Day, 2021 - Supreme Court Main Building & Additional Building Complex:** For the first time, the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India was illuminated on the occasion of Independence Day Celebrations with a tri-colour laser light illumination. This laser light illumination has proved to be a better alternative to conventional illumination in terms of

energy saving, lighting and preserving the aesthetics of the building.

- **Secretariat of Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India & New Judges Lounge:** An area has been developed to house the Secretariat of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India having contemporary and state-of-the-art facilities including VRV/VRF facility, LCD Display, Public Address System, etc.; and given its exclusive location, a vertical garden has been set up therein for the first time in Supreme Court of India. New Lounge for the Hon'ble Judges is also made functional.
- **Restoration of storm water drainage along the boundary wall of Supreme Court Building towards Mathura Road and Tilak Marg side:** The original storm water drain alongside the boundary wall of Supreme Court Building facing Mathura Road has been restored and is being beautified, and the work of pedestrian footpath is being implemented; in addition, a new storm water drainage line has been laid through trenchless method along the Tilak Marg, as the old Line got chocked and was declared defunct.



- **Dedicated Workspace for National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):** A modern workspace is being created for the upcoming National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Headquarters at Ground Floor, 'B' Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India.



- **Meeting Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, West Wing:** A meeting/conference room for the administrative meetings of senior functionaries of the Registry has been created on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, West Wing.



- **Buffer Zone railing of Supreme Court Building along Mathura Road:** In order to upgrade and strengthen the security around the periphery of Supreme Court of India, boundary wall of the Supreme Court main campus alongside the Mathura Road has been re-aligned and new boundary railings are being installed; besides, the outer areas along the boundary wall have been developed into an access regulated Buffer Zone, to prevent any breach of security and to ensure effective vigil over the precincts and surroundings of the Supreme Court Premises.
- **Extension of skywalk from W-point, ITO to Tilak Bridge Railway Station and from Supreme Court Metro Station to Gate No. 1 & 3, Additional Building Complex:** Extension of the Skywalk from W-point, ITO crossing to Tilak Bridge Railway Station and Supreme Court Metro Station to Gate Nos.1 & 3, Additional Building Complex has been taken up with the concerned agencies to provide seamless entry to the stakeholders accessing the Supreme Court of India, through rail services of Indian Railways and Delhi Metro.





*A view of the Auditorium at the Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court*



*A view of the Multi-purpose Hall at the Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court*



*An interior view of the Judge's Library in Additional Building Complex*



# 5 COURT ADMINISTRATION

## I. SUPREME COURT REGISTRY - MAIN WINGS

The administrative wing of the Supreme Court is known as the Registry. For systematic functioning and efficient disposal of work, the Registry is divided into two main Wings, viz. Administration and Judicial, which are further divided into various Divisions, Branches, Sections and Cells. The subject matters dealt with by each and every Section/Unit are well defined.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India is the Administrative Head of the Supreme Court. All the administrative powers for determining the work structure of the Court and the Registry of the Apex Court and also for setting up the ministerial side of the Court, exclusively vest in Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. Powers under Article 146 of the Constitution read with the Supreme Court Officers and Servants (Conditions of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1961 are exercised by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India either directly or through some other Hon'ble Judge or a Committee of the Hon'ble Judges or Officer(s) of the Court authorized for the purpose.

The Secretary General who is of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India is the highest Administrative Officer of the Supreme

Court. The post of the Secretary General is exclusively meant for a judicial officer of the rank of a District and Sessions Judge. For positions of Registrars, mostly the judicial officers of the rank of Additional District and Sessions Judge are drawn on deputation. The Secretary General is assisted by 11 Registrars, 3 Officers on Special Duty and 25 Additional Registrars who are assigned work of specific branches and they, in turn, are assisted by Deputy Registrars, officers of other lower ranks and subordinate staff. There are 2,626 posts on the establishment of the Supreme Court Registry, which includes 2,133 permanent posts. Details of staff strength in the Registry are as under:

Staff strength in the Registry		
S. No.	Type of Posts	No. of Posts
1	Gazetted Officers	365
2	Non-Gazetted officials	1,297
3	Non-Clerical Staff	964
Total		2,626

The Supreme Court Registry has been divided into 70 Sections/Units. All case files pertaining to judicial matters, i.e. SLPs, Writ Petitions, Original Cases, References and other appeals etc. are mainly handled in 23 Sections on the judicial side and the division of work between them is based either on its nature, i.e. Special

Subject Category or on geographical area, i.e. State/ High Court wise. Further, there are other Sections dealing with judicial matters, which are called ancillary judicial Sections such as Filing Counter (Section I-B), Extension Counter, Paper Books Sections [Sections preparing Paper Books (I, I-A & I-A Annexe) & Paperbook Godown-II], Sections relating to Computerization (Computer Cell & D.E.U. Sections), Elimination Section, Sections dealing with maintenance of Original Record and Translation work (Sections V&VI), Record Room & Scanning Cell, Decree Sections (XIII & XIII-B), Copying, Editorial, PIL(English), Listing, Receipt & Issue Section, and Information & Statistics Secretariat for dealing with applications under RTI Act, 2005 and compilation and processing of statistical information. There are two supporting wings, i.e. Library Wing and Court Masters Wing. A Centre for Research and Planning has also been established to assist the Court in general and Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India in the field of legal research. It also prepares material for the purpose of Conferences, Seminars and Legal Forum Meetings. Two Courts of Registrars have also been functional, one since 3 April 2006 and the other from 1 September 2006 for dealing with matters referred to in the Supreme Court Rules.

There are 16 Sections dealing with the matters pertaining to the establishment, which includes Recruitment Cell, Admn. I - Human Resource Management Cell, Admn. II, Admn. III, Training Cell, Vigilance Cell, Admn. Materials (Purchase & Stores), Admn. Materials (Maintenance), Admn. General, Cash and Accounts-I & II, Admn. J, Protocol, Medical, Transport and Caretaking. Recruitment Cell deals with recruitment on various posts, Departmental Examination etc. Admn. I - Human Resource Management Cell deals with promotion and probation of officers and staff etc. Admn. II Section deals with leave, pay and pension of officers and staff. Admn. III Section deals with all types of advances admissible to officers and staff. Training Cell

deals with imparting training to staff. Vigilance Cell deals with vigilance matters, verification of antecedents of employees and new recruits etc. Admn. Materials (Purchase & Stores) Section deals with purchase and issue of all items including Stationery, Furniture, Livery and Printing etc. Admn. Materials (Maintenance) deals with the maintenance of all the items, award of annual maintenance contract and other miscellaneous work. Admn. General Section deals with maintenance of Supreme Court Building and allotment of Lawyers' Chambers etc. Cash and Accounts Sections deal with preparation of pay bills and budget estimates etc. Admn. Judges Section looks after the provision of necessary amenities to the Hon'ble Judges whereas overall housekeeping job, including the work connected with maintenance of the Judges' Chambers in the Supreme Court and their official residences is allocated to the Caretaking Branch. Protocol Section renders protocol services to the Hon'ble Judges and the Transport Section provides transport facilities to the Hon'ble Judges and the Registry. There also exists a Medical Section for arranging medical facilities for the Hon'ble Judges. Reception Office and the Reception Counters provide necessary assistance and hassle-free services to the visitors, litigant public and the Advocates.

While the practice and procedure of working on the judicial side of the Registry are regulated by the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 and Handbook on Practice and Procedure and Office Procedure, the practice and procedure of working on the Administrative side have been mentioned in the Supreme Court Officers and Servants (Conditions of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1961 and Manual of Office Procedure. The minimum educational qualifications and other eligibility conditions prescribed for each and every post have been specified in the Schedule to the 1961 Rules. Manuals also contain the nature of duties and responsibilities of the officers and employees.

## II. SPECIALISED SECRETARIATS

### a) Conference Secretariat

In order to monitor the progress on Resolutions made in the Chief Justices' Conference and their follow up, a Conference Secretariat at Supreme Court was established in the year 2016. Likewise, in all the High Courts similar Conference Secretariats function to prepare the progress reports on the said Resolutions and provide the data/details whenever sought for. A detailed questionnaire prepared subsequent to the adoption of Resolutions in the Chief Justice Conference, 2016, has been shared with all the High Courts and a portal was created detailing therein quantifiable/measurable deliverables based on the Resolution so adopted. The Conference Secretariats of the High Courts share their quarterly progress reports and follow up on the Resolutions so made. In the Judicial year 2020-21 quarterly reports so received have been utilized for taking stock of the progress and interventions, as may be required.

### b) Information and Statistics Secretariat

Information and Statistics Secretariat compiles the data regarding Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts as well as in the High Courts for every quarter. In the judicial year i.e 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 quarterly Statements of Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases during the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020, 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020, 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021 and 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021 were compiled. The quarterly statements are published in the Supreme Court's publication "Court-News" newsletter.

The Information and Statistics Secretariat also deals with RTI applications received under provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005. During the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, a total of 3136 RTI/N-RTI applications were received and all have been duly processed under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005. During the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, a total of 436 First Appeals under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 were received and dealt with in the office of the Ld. First Appellate Authority as per the provision of the said Act.

## FORMER REGISTRAR GENERALS / SECRETARY GENERALS

[As on 20.11.2021]

S.No	Name of the Officer	From	To
1	Shri Sankatha Rai	01.06.1987	03.11.1992
2	Shri MSA Siddiqui	09.11.1992	26.09.1994
3	Shri Chandresh Bhushan	27.09.1994	27.04.1998
4	Shri Bhanwar Singh	27.04.1998	26.03.1999
5	Shri Lal Chand Bhadoo	27.03.1999	19.01.2003
6	Shri J.C.S. Rawat	20.01.2003	28.06.2004
7	Shri B.M. Gupta	29.06.2004	24.11.2005
8	Shri V.K. Jain	01.12.2005	13.05.2009
9	Shri M.P. Bhadran	13.05.2009	12.05.2010
10	Shri A.I.S. Cheema	12.05.2010	12.05.2013
11	Shri Ravindra Maithani	12.05.2013	15.11.2014
12	Shri V. S. R. Avadhani	15.11.2014	11.12.2015
13	Shri Ravindra Maithani	11.12.2015	02.12.2018
14	Shri Sanjeev Sudhakar Kalgaonkar	20.12.2018*	03.11.2021

\* As OSD w.e.f. 03.11.2018 to 19.12.2018

**FORMER REGISTRARS**  
[As on 20.11.2021]

S. No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
1	Shri P.N. Murthy	26.01.1950	04.01.1956
2	Shri K.Krishnaswami Aiyar	05.01.1956	01.04.1956
3	Shri Arindam Dutt	02.04.1956	14.06.1962
4	Shri S.N. Sharma	01.07.1962	15.03.1964
5	Shri Y.D. Desai	13.08.1963	19.04.1969
6	Shri C.V. Rane	09.06.1969	19.10.1971
7	Shri M.P. Saxena	20.10.1971	30.04.1979
8	Shri S.K. Gupta	16.07.1973	01.01.1978
9	Shri R.Narasimhan	16.01.1978	31.03.1984
10	Shri R.Subba Rao	01.05.1979	31.03.1986
11	Shri A.N. Oberai	01.04.1986	29.02.1988
12	Shri H.S. Munjral	02.04.1987	31.08.1988
13	Shri R.R. Kumar	01.09.1988	30.04.1993
14	Ms. S.V. Kashyap	01.09.1988	30.11.1988
15	Shri R.N. Joshi	01.12.1988	28.02.1989
16	Shri Yoginder Lal	01.03.1989	30.06.1989
17	Shri S. Vardarajan	01.07.1989	31.08.1989
18	Shri Ved Prakash Sharma	16.12.1989	14.02.1995
19	Shri Susanta Ghosh	01.02.1990	25.10.1996
20	Shri P.N. Likhyan	15.02.1991	28.02.1994
21	Shri L.C. Bhadoo	01.03.1993	26.02.1999
22	Ms. Manju Goel	30.09.1994	31.03.1997
23	Shri H.S. Kapoor	12.02.1997	30.11.2002
24	Shri R.C. Gandhi	04.04.1997	31.07.2007
25	Shri B.M. Gupta	05.04.1999	23.06.2004
26	Shri Ashok I. Cheema	26.11.1999	01.04.2007
27	Shri Suresh Chandra	18.12.2002	31.01.2004
28	Shri J.K. Sharma	03.02.2004	31.07.2006
29	Shri V.K. Jain	08.07.2004	30.11.2005
30	Shri Hemant Sampat	08.12.2005	07.02.2007
31	Shri B. Sudheendra Kumar	20.03.2006	01.09.2007

S. No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
32	Shri S.G. Shah	11.05.2006	30.04.2009
33	Shri R.K. Gauba	11.05.2006	12.01.2007
34	Shri T.N. Sansi	01.08.2006	30.06.2008
35	Shri T. Sivadasan	07.02.2007	31.10.2010
36	Shri Sunil Thomas	12.03.2007	11.03.2014
37	Shri M.P. Bhadrans	27.09.2007	13.05.2009
38	Shri Ashok Kumar	16.10.2008	31.12.2010
39	Shri Ashok Menon	01.05.2009	31.05.2010
40	Shri M.K.Gupta	14.05.2009	01.05.2010
41	Shri S.G. Shah	03.05.2010	11.11.2012
42	Shri Mohammad Akram Sayeed	12.05.2010	10.05.2014
43	Shri Maharaj Krishan Hanjura	28.06.2010	24.06.2011
44	Shri Ravindra Maithani	21.09.2010	12.05.2013
45	Shri P.R. Bora	22.11.2010	01.10.2012
46	Shri H.B. Prabhakara Sastry	11.07.2011	10.10.2011
47	Shri Nizamuddin Jahiroddin Jamadar	01.05.2012	30.04.2014
48	Shri Sheo Kumar Singh	29.08.2013	06.09.2013
49	Shri Sanjiv Jain	05.02.2014	01.11.2014
50	Shri V.S.R Avadhani	02.04.2014	25.10.2014
51	Shri Pankaj Bhandari	30.04.2014	15.11.2014
52	Shri Govind K. Rathod	25.08.2014	29.11.2014
53	Shri Praveen Kumar	03.10.2014	03.01.2015
54	Shri Maharaj Krishan Hanjura	21.08.2013	12.10.2015
55	Dr. K. Arul	15.10.2014	14.10.2015
56	Ms. Rachna Gupta	31.01.2014	12.12.2015
57	Shri Surajit Dey	29.11.2014	12.12.2015
58	Dr. K. Arul	14.12.2015	18.04.2016
59	Shri Subhash Malik	01.08.2007	31.05.2016
60	Shri Raj Pal Arora	03.01.2011	31.05.2016
61	Shri Pawan Dev Kotwal	14.12.2015	31.03.2017
62	Shri M. V. Ramesh	05.01.2015	04.05.2017
63	Ms. Nisha Bharadwaj	17.11.2015	31.05.2017
64	Shri Ravinder Nath Nijhawan	17.11.2015	24.08.2017

S. No.	Name of the Officer	From	To
65	Shri Chirag Bhanu Singh	10.11.2014	9.11.2017
66	Shri Sanjay Parihar	05.09.2016	30.6.2018
67	Shri Ramkumar Choubey	26.10.2017	01.10.2018
68	Shri Kapil Kumar Mehta	20.04.2017	01.10.2018
69	Shri Manoj Jain	06.08.2018	01.10.2018
70	Shri K. Babu	01.10.2018	16.11.2018
71	Shri Surinder S. Rathi	23.11.2018	01.12.2019
72	Shri Surya Pratap Singh	20.08.2018	18.02.2021
73	Ms. Rita Chopra	05.11.2019	28.02.2021
74	Shri B. Hari (Officer on Special Duty)	02.08.2019	20.04.2021
75	Shri Sham Nagnathrao Joshi (Officer on Special Duty)	27.05.2019	07.07.2021
76	Shri Anil Laxman Pansare	20.09.2018	28.07.2021
77	Shri Rajiv Kalra	03.12.2019*	31.08.2021 (AN)
78	Shri Virender Kumar Bansal (Officer on Special Duty)	17.05.2021	21.10.2021 (FN)

\*As OSD in the grade of Registrar w.e.f. 16.11.2019



**SECRETARY GENERAL\***



Virender Kumar Bansal

**REGISTRARS\***



Chirag Bhanu Singh



Anju Bajaj Chandna

\* As on 20 November 2021

**REGISTRARS\***



Rajesh Kumar Goel



Deepak Jain



Pardeep Kumar Sharma



P. K. Gera



Avani Pal Singh



H. K. Juneja

\* As on 20 November 2021

**REGISTRARS/OSD\***



Vinod Singh Rawat



B. L. N. Achary



Rakesh Kumar



Saurabh Partap Singh Laler



Hargurvarinder S. Jaggi



Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara

\* As on 20 November 2021



# 6

## JUDICIAL WING: CASE AND COURT MANAGEMENT

The Judicial Wing of the Supreme Court Registry is responsible for case management, i.e. from the stage of filing of petition till its disposal, and consignment of record. Judicial Wing functions through its 23 Sections and the division of work between them is based either on its nature, that is special subject category or the geographical area i.e. State/High Court wise. All case files pertaining to judicial matters i.e. Special Leave Petition, Writ Petition, Original Case, Reference and other Appeals etc. are handled by these 23 Sections on the basis of nature of cases allocated to a particular Section. In addition to these 23 Judicial Sections, there are other Sections dealing with judicial matters, which are called ancillary Judicial Sections such as the Filing Counter (Section I-B), Extension Counter, Paper Books Section, Sections relating to Listing and Data Entry, Monitoring Cell, Elimination Section, Sections dealing with maintenance of Original Record and Translation Work (Sections V & VI).

Unfortunately, because of the Pandemic, the Courts literally came to be closed after 23 March 2021. For a considerable time Judicial work was hampered due to the lockdown. Gradually the Courts were resumed virtually, that is through Video Conferencing. In spite of the difficulties faced due to the pandemic (COVID-19) 18,257 (up to September, 2021) cases came to be decided by this Court.

Despite the mayhem caused by the pandemic, no doubt the pendency rose drastically, but, still this Court tried its best to mitigate the sufferings of the people through all possible means, by initiating different *Suo Motu Writs*, to help one and all. In *Re. Contagion of COVID-19 virus in Prisons*, this Court took *Suo Motu* cognizance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons and issued several directions in this behalf. Likewise *Mid-Day Meal Scheme* were also ordered to be implemented to provide food for children and lactating mothers during the pandemic (*Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) 2 of 2020*). Likewise directions were also issued to protect the children situated in protection homes from the ravaging pandemic (*Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4 of 2020*)

The problems and the miseries of the Migrant labourers also did not miss the attention of this Hon'ble Court. This Hon'ble Court took cognizance of the problems and miseries of the labourers on their way home, viciously struck by the pandemic, vide *Suo Motu Writ (Civil) No. 6 of 2020*. It also took cognizance of the onerous task of providing proper treatment to COVID-19 patients and dignified handling of dead bodies in hospitals through *Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 7/2020*. Even during the 2nd wave the Court continued to provide relief and succour to the people by way of various other *Suo Motu* petitions.

## COURT PROCESSES-CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

### A. Integrated Case Management Information System

In order to clear the backlog of cases, the Supreme Court of India has made various efforts from time to time and also succeeded in reducing the pendency. Though, due to the unprecedented situation arisen on account of COVID-19 pandemic, the normal functioning of the Court was curtailed, the benches used to sit during this entire period. The physical hearing was suspended and hearing was done through video conferencing mode by adhering to the COVID-19 protocols.

An initiative was taken in May 2017 with the introduction of an Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS). The same was inaugurated on 10 May 2017 by Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India in a glittering function attended by Hon'ble the then CJI, Hon'ble Judges and other dignitaries. This system is not only transparent and dynamic but is also litigant centric. Under the new ICMIS, the website of this Hon'ble Court was also transformed which provided lot more information for the benefit of counsel, litigants and all concerned. Through the new designed website, notices are issued to the Advocate-on-Records, litigants and also to the Government Departments electronically. Besides this, E-Cause Lists are also being forwarded on the respective e-mails of all concerned.

Yet another feature of the new ICMIS programme is that it provided for a framework for two-way communication for accessing the case information in future from the respective High Courts across the country.

In the new ICMIS programme, the Union of India, State Government and the High Courts can monitor the status of their cases through login IDs and also download the scanned copies

online. Besides this, even the jails throughout the country and all Police Stations will be integrated online. The new system is now in use for more than 4 years and is proving to be a boon for the Advocates and litigants.

### B. Constitution of Special Benches

1. In order to step up hearing and disposal of Constitution Bench matters, three Constitution Benches were constituted for disposal of CB matters.
2. In order to step up hearing and disposal of Special Bench matters, 56 Special Benches were constituted for disposal of Special Bench matters.
3. 47 Three Judge Benches were constituted with a view to expedite the disposal of Three Judge Bench matters.
4. In-Chamber Matters were listed before four Hon'ble Judges and also at times before other Hon'ble Judges.

### C. Handbook of Practice and Procedure

A handbook containing the Practice and Procedure of the Supreme Court was published online on 21 August, 2017. This book contains the complete procedure adopted right from the inception till the listing of matter before the Hon'ble Court together with other relevant information for convenience of all concerned.

### D. Changes in Judicial Work Flow

1. All miscellaneous matters are now being listed chronologically and in relative proportion of cases pending under different subject categories.
2. Matters pending on regular hearing side in which bail applications were filed are listed

before each of the Benches dealing with the criminal categories for their speedy disposal. Since the liberty of an individual is at stake in criminal matters in which the accused was in custody such matters were also listed before the Hon'ble Courts on priority basis.

3. Certain subject categories described as 'Short Categories' which includes Rent Act, Compensation Matters, Criminal matters relating to maintenance, Criminal matters relating to bail/interim bail/anticipatory bail are being listed before the Hon'ble Courts on regular hearing days for early disposal.
4. To avoid delay of service of notice on the parties, a special tracking system of notices has been devised in tandem with the postal authorities. It helps in ensuring service of notices promptly.
5. The procedure of issuing formal orders has also been simplified. Now certified copies of the orders are sent to the concerned authorities. This has expedited the process.
6. The practice of placing Record of Proceedings in Part-II case file was discontinued and the Record of Proceedings now is included in Part-I right from the inception of the matter. This has simplified the process and done away with the cumbersome exercise of shifting the Record of Proceedings from Part-II file to Part-I file after the disposal of the matter and at the time of consigning it to the Record Room.
7. The Terminal List has been converted into a running list and has been made dynamic. This list includes all the Regular Hearing

matters which are ready for listing before the Hon'ble Court.

8. The earlier practice of publication and uploading of Advance List has been restored so that the Litigants and Advocates know the listing of their matters well before the day of listing and it is generally uploaded on the website two weeks prior to the date of listing. Similarly, elimination notice of matters deleted from the Advance List is also uploaded on the website with reasons for deletion and also showing the next date of listing for the information of all concerned.
9. In order to list the fresh matters within three days of their verification, the fresh matters verified on Friday, Saturday and Monday are listed on the coming Friday in the same week and those verified on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are listed on Monday in the next week.
10. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the functioning of this Hon'ble Court has been adversely affected. However, even during the said period when there was a complete lockdown some Benches continuously assembled and heard matters of urgent nature through video conferencing mode. Apart from this, Curative and Review Petitions were also listed by circulation in Chambers during lockdown period and Hon'ble the CJI and Hon'ble Judges disposed off Curative and Review Petitions.
11. The Transfer Petitions belonging to subject categories 1412 and 1802 are now being listed before Hon'ble Judge sitting singly in chamber in pursuance of amendment in Order VI, Rule 1, of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013.

**STATEMENT OF INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL AND PENDENCY OF CASES  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

YEAR	INSTITUTION			DISPOSAL			PENDENCY		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
1950	1037	178	1215	491	34	525	546	144	690
1951	1324	600	1924	1560	227	1787	310	517	827
1952	1127	330	1457	1145	527	1672	292	320	612
1953	1354	360	1714	1163	252	1415	483	428	911
1954	1743	410	2153	1522	427	1949	704	411	1115
1955	1580	512	2092	1669	200	1869	615	723	1338
1956	1732	630	2362	1720	258	1978	627	1095	1722
1957	1490	999	2489	1517	411	1928	600	1683	2283
1958	1698	784	2482	1694	623	2317	604	1844	2448
1959	1870	783	2653	1829	682	2511	645	1945	2590
1960	1971	1276	3247	1910	1271	3181	706	1950	2656
1961	2000	1214	3214	1899	1654	3553	807	1510	2317
1962	2214	1345	3559	2291	1542	3833	730	1313	2043
1963	2189	1561	3750	2152	1131	3283	767	1743	2510
1964	2544	1520	4064	2463	1605	4068	848	1658	2506
1965	2366	1535	3901	2444	1341	3785	770	1852	2622
1966	2639	3012	5651	2429	1412	3841	980	3452	4432
1967	2826	2493	5319	2515	1566	4081	1291	4379	5670
1968	3489	3317	6806	3138	3032	6170	1642	4664	6306
1969	4185	3512	7697	3731	2737	6468	2096	5439	7535
1970	4273	3203	7476	3779	2569	6348	2590	6073	8663
1971	5338	2641	7979	4588	1903	6491	3340	6811	10151
1972	4853	4223	9076	5053	1769	6822	3140	9265	12405
1973	6298	3876	10174	6112	2063	8175	3326	11078	14404
1974	5423	2780	8203	5103	3158	8261	3646	10700	14346
1975	6192	3336	9528	5749	2978	8727	4089	11058	15147
1976	5549	2705	8254	4904	2830	7734	4734	10933	15667
1977	9251	5250	14501	8714	1681	10395	5271	14502	19773
1978	13723	7117	20840	10624	6471	17095	8370	15148	23518
1979	16088	4666	20754	11988	3845	15833	12470	15969	28439
1980	21749	4616	26365	14520	2433	16953	19699	18152	37851
1981	24474	6566	31040	16528	2162	18690	27645	22556	50201
1982	29706	13804	43510	26593	2519	29112	30758	33841	64599
1983	37602	18300	55902	35745	10079	45824	32615	42062	74677
1984	37799	11275	49074	28813	6734	35547	41601	46603	88204
1985	36243	15349	51592	36004	15074	51078	41840	46878	88718
1986	22334	5547	27881	17881	12819	30700	46293	39606	85899
1987	22234	5806	28040	15476	6331	21807	53051	39081	92132
1988	21950	5771	27721	15714	4181	19895	59287	40671	99958



YEAR	INSTITUTION			DISPOSAL			PENDENCY		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
1989	21213	6256	27469	17389	4011	21400	63111	42916	106027
1990	22265	6223	28488	20890	4348	25238	64486	44791	109277
1991	26283	6218	32501	28679	6662	35341	62090	44347	106437
1992	20435	6251	26686	20234	15613	35847	62291	34985	97476*
1993	18778	2870	21648	17166	3718	20884	37549	21245** (98240)	58794**
1994	29271	12775	42046	35853	12037	47890	30967	21983	52950
1995	35689	15754	51443	51547	16790	68337	15109	20947	36056
1996	26778	6628	33406	35227	10989	46216	6660	16586	23246
1997	27771	4584	32355	29130	7439	36569	5301	13731	19032
1998	32769	3790	36559	31054	4179	35233	7016	13342	20358
1999	30795	3888	34683	30847	3860	34707	6964	13370	20334
2000	32604	4507	37111	30980	4320	35300	8588	13557	22145
2001	32954	6465	39419	32686	6156	38842	8856	13866	22722
2002	37781	6271	44052	36903	5536	42439	9734	14601	24335
2003	42823	7571	50394	41074	6905	47979	11483	15267	26750
2004	51362	7569	58931	47850	7680	55530	14995	15156	30151
2005	45342	5198	50540	41794	4416	46210	18543	15938	34481
2006	55402	6437	61839	51584	4956	56540	22361	17419	39780
2007	62281	6822	69103	56682	5275	61957	27960	18966	46926
2008	63346	7006	70352	61219	6240	67459	30087	19732	49819
2009	69171	7980	77151	64282	6897	71179	34976	20815	55791
2010	69456	8824	78280	71867	7642	79509	32565	21997	54562
2011	68020	9070	77090	67131	6002	73133	33454	25065	58519
2012	68887	8030	76917	64682	4062	68744	37659	29033	66692
2013	68478	8264	76742	70385	6700	77085	35752	30597	66349
2014	74730	14434	89164	75980	16742	92722	34421	28370	62791
2015	69485	8959	78444	70763	11329	82092	33263	26009	59272
2016	71460	7784	79244	68618	7361	75979	36105	26432	62537
2017	50104	6000	56104	53175	9878	63053	33034	22554	55588
2018	35142	4086	39228	31729	5741	37470	36447	20899	57346
2019	37785	5828	43613	34640	6460	41100	39592	20267	59859
2020	24065	1832	25897	17791	2879	20670	45866	19220	65086
2021 (upto Sept)	22364	729	23093	16649	1608	18257	51581	18341	69922

\* The pendency figures shown up to the year 1992 indicates the number of matters after expanded hyphenated number on files

\*\* From 1993 onwards the figures of pendency of matters are actual file-wise, that is, without expanding hyphenated number of files

**Monthly Statement of Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in the Supreme Court  
(January 2021 to September 2021)**

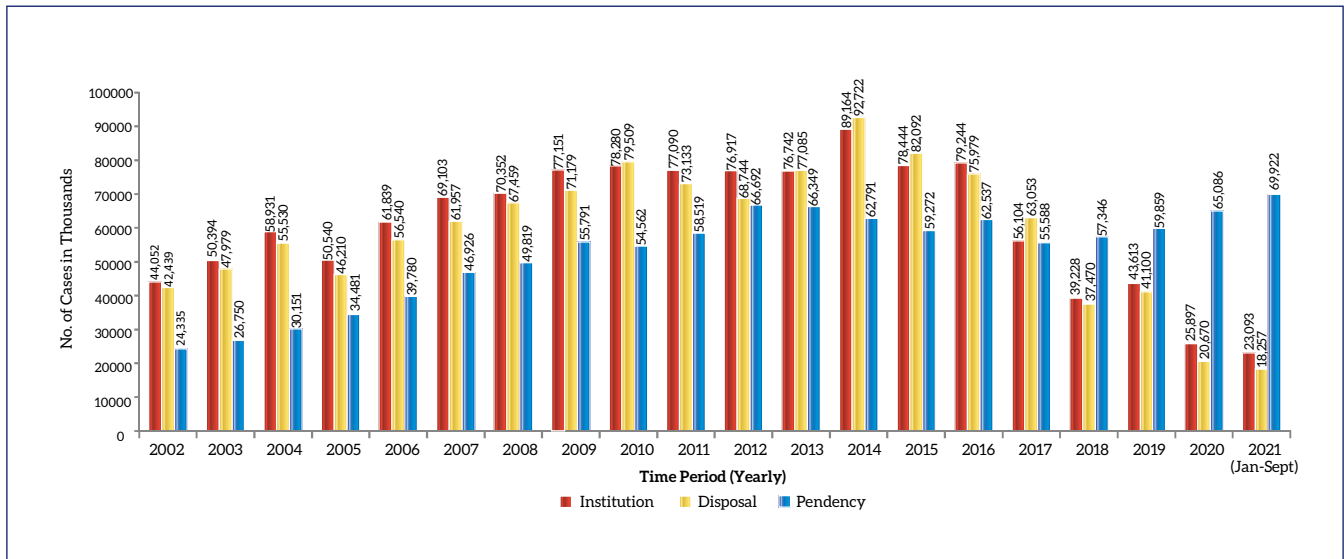
S. no	Month	Institution			Disposal			Pendency (at Month end)		
		Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
1	Jan-21	3078	117	3195	1808	401	2209	47136	18936	66072
2	Feb-21	3040	93	3133	2252	226	2478	47924	18803	66727
3	Mar-21	2872	109	2981	2381	48	2429	48415	18864	67279
4	Aprl-21	1926	81	2007	1326	62	1388	49015	18883	67898
5	May-21	1185	44	1229	659	62	721	49541	18865	68406
6	Jun-21	1624	62	1686	683	197	880	50482	18730	69212
7	Jul-21	2841	93	2934	2422	248	2670	50901	18575	69476
8	Aug-21	2914	66	2980	2434	66	2500	51381	18575	69956
9	Sep-21	2884	64	2948	2684	298	2982	51581	18341	69922
Total		22364	729	23093	16649	1608	18257			

**Civil / Criminal Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in the Supreme Court  
(January 2021 to September 2021)**

Sno	Month	Institution			Disposal			Pendency (at Month end)		
		CIVIL	CRIMINAL	Total	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	Total	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	Total
1	Jan-21	2169	1026	3195	1416	793	2209	53043	13029	66072
2	Feb-21	2069	1064	3133	1602	876	2478	53510	13217	66727
3	Mar-21	1979	1002	2981	1586	843	2429	53903	13376	67279
4	Aprl-21	1309	698	2007	851	537	1388	54361	13537	67898
5	May-21	752	477	1229	404	317	721	54709	13697	68406
6	Jun-21	1093	593	1686	536	344	880	55266	13946	69212
7	Jul-21	1983	951	2934	1776	894	2670	55473	14003	69476
8	Aug-21	1930	1050	2980	1546	954	2500	55857	14099	69956
9	Sep-21	1972	976	2948	2056	926	2982	55773	14149	69922
Total		15256	7837	23093	11773	6484	18257			

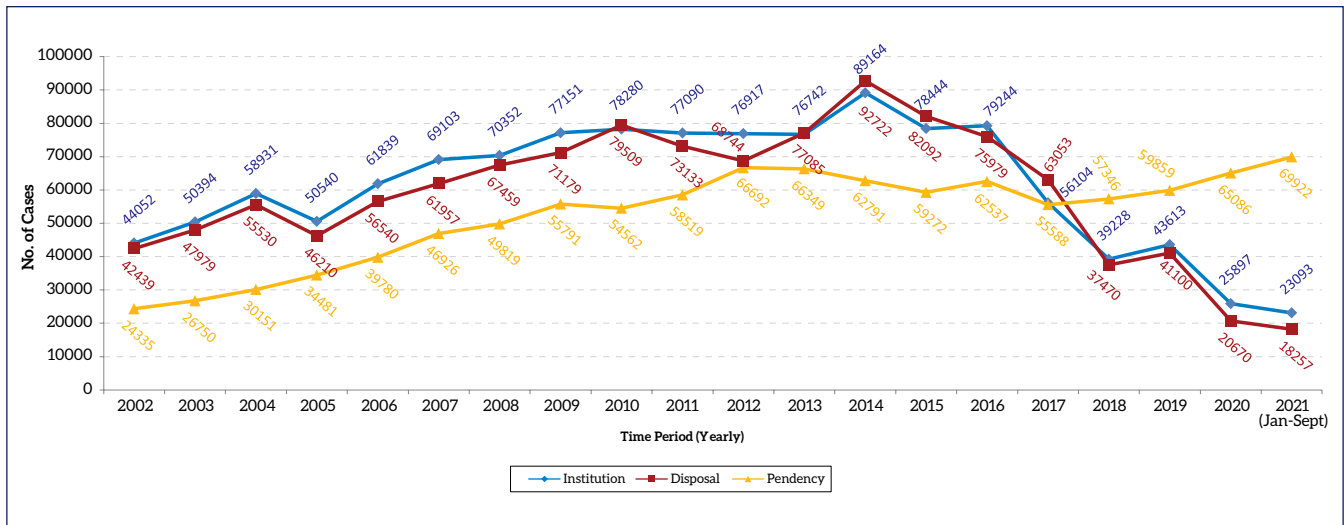
## INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY

From 2002 to 2021 (upto September)  
(Both Admission and Regular Matters)



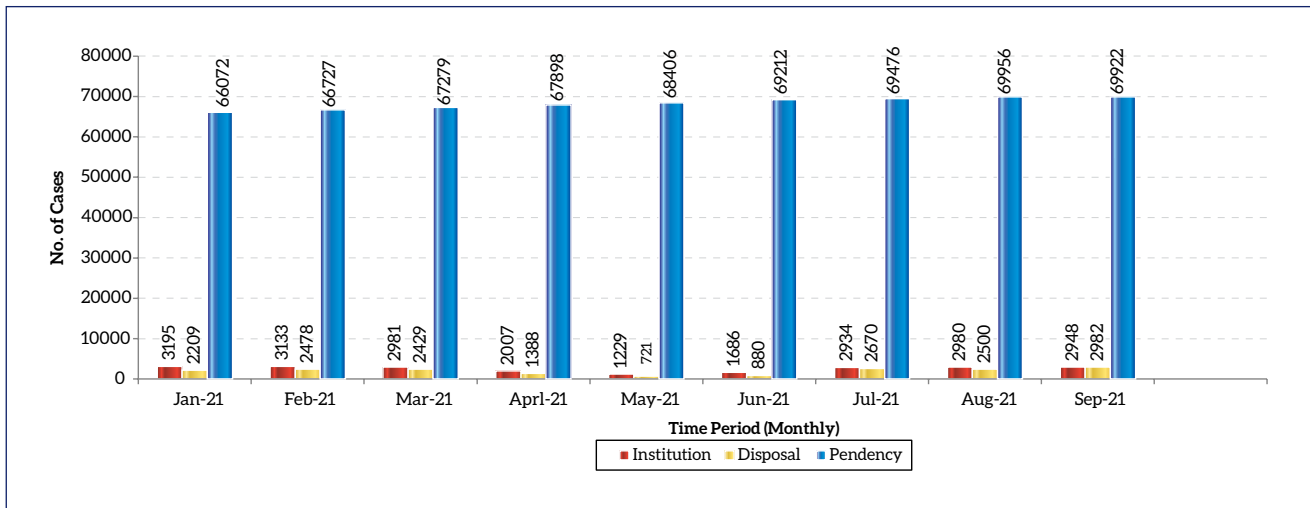
## INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY

From 2002 to 2021 (upto September)  
(Both Admission and Regular Matters)



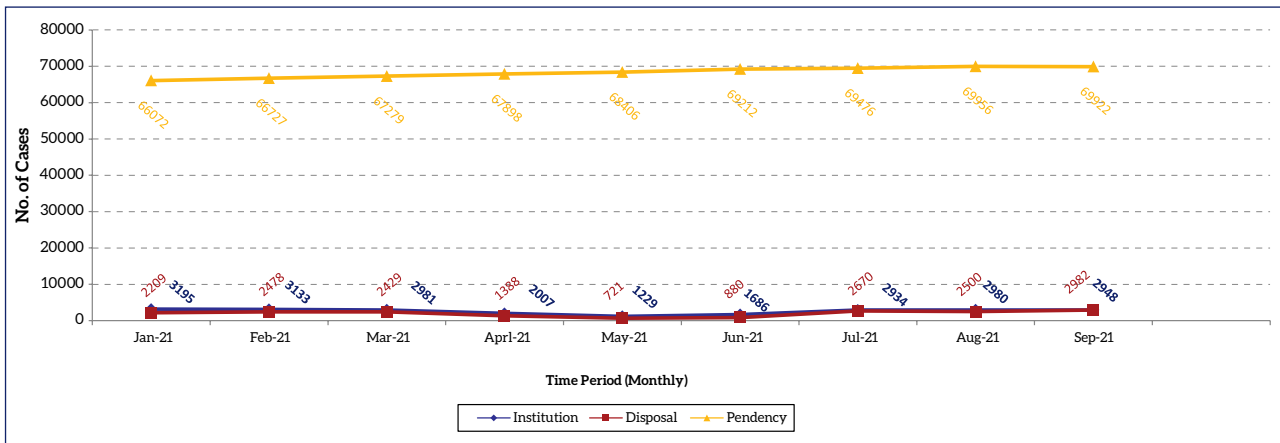
### INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY

From 2002 to 2021 (upto September)  
(Both Admission and Regular Matters)



### INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY

From 2002 to 2021 (upto September)  
(Both Admission and Regular Matters)



**Letters/Petitions and Writ Petitions (Civil and Criminal)  
Received/Filed under PIL in the Supreme Court of India**

Year	Letter-Petitions Received in English, Hindi, and Other Regional Languages	Writ Petition (Civil)	Writ Petition (Criminal)
1985	24716	105	2
1986	25419	286	10
1987	18411	119	19
1988	16271	71	25
1989	17769	76	22
1990	17971	92	26
1991	17474	61	28
1992	16961	62	16
1993	15749	96	38
1994	16466	83	20
1995	15094	109	44
1996	19180	185	36
1997	15503	180	35
1998	13087	160	17
1999	15339	137	21
2000	17764	161	22
2001	17198	159	23
2002	15518	186	13
2003	14293	156	21
2004	15653	171	22
2005	14261	215	12
2006	19840	226	17
2007	18200	232	26(3)*
2008	24666	193(1)*	33(1)*
2009	21180	153(1)*	12
2010	24611	115	14
2011	35026	135	20(1)*
2012	41314	126	23
2013	45588	214(3)*	45(2)*
2014	30404	332	48(2)*
2015	51203	264(2)*	39(1)*
2016	53282	282	35
2017	59561	79(2)*	5(1)*
2018	61061	350(1)*	49
2019	70403	374(4)*	59(4)*
2020	69124	300(8)*	26(2)*
2021 (Till 30.09.2021)	88141	225(4)*	15(2)*

\*Figure in brackets shows the number of Writ Petitions registered suo-motu.



*Swearing-In-Ceremony Of Nine Hon'ble Judges In The Auditorium*



# 7 RECENT INITIATIVES

## I. LIVE TELECAST OF SWEARING-IN-CEREMONY OF NINE HON'BLE JUDGES IN THE AUDITORIUM

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India Shri Justice N. V. Ramana administered the Oath of Office to nine Judge Designates on 31 August 2021 in a Swearing-in-Ceremony held in the auditorium of the Supreme Court's Additional Building Complex. The nine Judge Designates were: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari; Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli; Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Bangalore Venkataramiah Nagarathna; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chudalayil Thevan Ravikumar; Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh; Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela Madhurya Trivedi and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narsimha. This is for the first time in the history of the Supreme Court of India when nine judges took the Oath of Office in one go. Traditionally, Oath to the new Judges is administered in the Court Room No.1 which is presided over by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. However, in another first, this time, the venue of the ceremony was shifted to the auditorium keeping in view the need for strict adherence to COVID norms. Again, for the first time, there was a live telecast of the Oath Ceremony on DD News and DD India. Live webcast of the ceremony was also made available on the home page of official web

portal of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India i.e., <https://sci.gov.in>. The webcast can be accessed at <https://webcast.gov.in/scindia>.

## II. TRANSMISSION AND SERVICE OF NOTICE AND RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS/ ORDERS/ DIRECTIONS THROUGH ELECTRONIC MODE:

The Supreme Court of India is in the process of creating an ecosystem where the transmission and service of notices, copies of petitions etc. is completed expeditiously. The incomplete/delay in transmission and service of notice is evidently a reason for pendency of matters in the courts. This exercise will further result in speedy access to justice. The transmission and service of notice and other documents is proposed to be effected through e-mail in addition to usual mode of service on the:

- a. Standing Counsel/Advocate for the Union Government or the State Government/UTs,
- b. In-charge of the Central Agency Section at Supreme Court for the Union Government,
- c. Special Officer/ Resident Commissioner appointed by the State Government/UTs or any of its authorities in Delhi,

- d. Standing Counsel/Nodal Officer of the High Court, Advocate-on-Record of the parties,
- e. Party in person,
- f. In case of Caveats, to the caveator through AOR or Party in person, and
- g. To the District Judge for service upon a person residing in its local jurisdiction.

Additionally, for the transmission of record of proceedings/ orders /directions of the Supreme Court to the High Courts and other subordinate courts, FASTER (Fast and Secure Communication of Electronic Records) system is under development, wherein, transmission of these records is proposed to be done through secured electronic communication channel. For this purpose, database of e-Mail IDs of all the duty holders is being created.

At present, the transmission and service of notice, order and other documents on various stakeholders is generally effected by registered post for acknowledgement and/or personally at the place where the respondent ordinarily resides or through District Judge concerned as per the provisions of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. However, in most of the matters the proceedings remain pending due to non-service on the respondents or in some cases where the service is effected through Registered AD post, non-receipt of the acknowledgement due card. Thus, this initiative will go a long way not only to enable completion of service expeditiously, but also provide relief to prisoners who will get immediate release, consequent to the orders of the Hon'ble Court.

Subsequent to Supreme Court's directions vide order dated 26 July 2010, in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission vs. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited & Ors (CA No. 6005 of 2010), the service of summons has already been effected through e-Mail, for

commercial litigations and cases where party seeks urgent interim relief, in addition to usual mode of service.

### III. AUGMENTATION OF CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND PLANNING

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India has augmented the Centre for Research and Planning (CRP), as part of Secretariat of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India in Supreme Court of India by approving the "Scheme/guidelines for restructuring and functioning of Centre for Research and Planning" and defining its role, aims, objectives and staff strength. The CRP is the premier research and policy Centre of the Supreme Court primarily focusing on a number of transformational initiatives and programmes for judicial reforms to improve efficiency and sustainability of the justice delivery system and development of jurisprudence.

It has been established with the mandates in the sphere of policy and planning papers on critical justice delivery issues, drawing on available data and knowledge as well as through new research covering aspects such as access to justice, court development and planning, infrastructure, case management, human resources including diversity and use of artificial intelligence and information technology tools.

The CRP would also provide assistance in critical research as directed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Judges and various Committees of the Supreme Court. Furthermore the focus would be on strengthening legal and professional education from jurisprudential and practical point of view. CRP will also carry out its own research as well as harness research relevant to the judicial system and create a network of leading independent scholars in key domain areas.



#### IV. SUPREME COURT MUSEUM

The Supreme Court Museum is regularly making efforts to satisfy the desires of the 21<sup>st</sup> century visitor. In an endeavour to augment the collection of the Museum, an exercise was carried out for acquisition of artefacts/ objects from history pertaining to law & justice of the nation, from all High Courts, major Museums & Archives of the country and individuals. Approximately 3,613 nos. of documents/ items (in form of Photocopies/Digital copies, Photographs, Books, Videos, Photos of Cases and CDs) alongwith approximately 4,73,881 bundles of archival records have been received from Bikaner State Archives, Bikaner.

#### V. e-SCR INDICATIVE NOTES MENU/ MODULE

An e-SCR menu / module for indicative notes of important / landmark reportable Supreme Court judgments has been launched on the official Mobile App of the Supreme Court of India, for the benefit of the legal fraternity as well as the common man. The said e-SCR menu/ module for indicative notes, which has been developed by the Computer Cell of the Registry, is being regularly updated with indicative notes- of the latest judgments; as also of the judgments pertaining to the previous years. The e-SCR Indicative Notes give a brief glimpse of the judgments concerned- indicating the ratio / principle of law involved, and are also tagged / linked to the judgments concerned. In this manner, the e-SCR indicative notes menu / module seeks to provide user-friendly digital access to information about the latest important / landmark rulings of the Supreme Court and thus serve the cause of "Access to Justice for all". The indicative notes are being prepared by the Editorial Officers of the Registry.

#### VI. REVAMPING OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES' LIBRARY

1. Vidhi Sampada Project is an initiative taken by the Supreme Court Judges' Library and is part of the Knowledge Component Project of the E-Committee. The idea is to provide a gateway to access maximum possible authentic legal information at one place. It will have various modules and some of which will be a collaborative effort with Judges' Libraries of all the High Courts.
2. Supreme Court Judges library arranged for two virtual meetings with the High Court Judges libraries in the first half of this year. These meetings were to check the possibility of network inter-linking of court libraries which is an E-Committee project.
3. A new section 'Judges Library Legal Research Wing' has been created for specialized legal research like legislative history of Central Acts, in-depth research of the Articles of the Constitution and subject wise research.
4. The Periodical Section of the Library is compiling the digital current content wherein two lists of journal articles are given. The first list has links to full text of the articles available from open-source law journals directly from their website and the second list contains the details of the articles from the subscribed journals.
5. The Information Management Section of the library compiles a chronological index with keywords and citations of the judgments with links to full text of judgments in digital format.
6. A multi-bind machine was acquired by the Library for providing neatly bound compilations to Hon'ble Judges.



*A view of Judges' Library Supreme Court*

7. An attempt is being made to develop an electronic court requisitioning software for providing quick service to the Hon'ble Courts.
8. Supreme Court Judges' Library is working on feasibility of introducing RFID technology to facilitate smooth functioning w.r.t. acquisition and circulation of books along with stock verification.
9. The Library is working on the feasibility to begin a digital library/repository project.

## VII. TRAINING AND VIGILANCE

a) **TRAINING CELL:** In order to enhance efficiency in the administration of Supreme Court Registry, improve professional competence of staff and also to bring greater transparency in the working system, the Training Cell conducted various programmes, even during COVID-19

pandemic situation, which are mentioned below:-

### In-house Training

#### (i) Through Senior Officers of this Registry

- An interactive Training Session for Branch Officers/Court Masters(Non-Shorthand), Librarians and other equivalent categories on 'Vigilance matters' in three separate batches was conducted for 35, 40 and 43 Officers on 21 November 2020, 12 December 2020 and 6 January 2021 respectively.
- Training on 'Online Photo Identity Attendance Recording System' was conducted- for Officers in the rank of Branch Officer and equivalent, on 27 November 2020; and for Officers in the rank equivalent to Assistant Registrar and above, on 28 November 2020.
- Training programme on 'SCI

Interact Software' for DR-cum-PS, AR-cum-PS, Court Master(SH), Sr. Personal Assistant, Personal Assistant and other assisting ministerial staff posted at Residential Office of Hon'ble Judges was conducted on 5 December 2020 and 12 December 2020. A separate training session on 'SCI Interact Software' for Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants working at the Residential Office of Hon'ble Judges and in the Registry and Officers/officials who could not attend earlier sessions was conducted on 19 December 2020.

- An Interactive Training Session on 'e-copying Module' for officers and officials of Copying Section and Cash & Accounts Section and certain e-copying staff was conducted on 18 December 2020; and for Branch Officers and one dealing Assistant from all Judicial Sections, such training was organized on 19 December 2020.
- An Interactive Training Session on topics including 'Communication Skills: Oral and Written, supervision over Law Clerks/Law Trainees and Chauffeurs/Cooks/Attendants and other staff posted at Residential Office of Hon'ble Judges, dealing with different agencies like CPWD, NDMC, Delhi Police, various branches of the Registry, handling of Infrastructural items, services to be provided to the Residential Offices etc.' for 49 participants including Deputy Registrar/AR-cum-PS/Private Secretaries to Hon'ble Judges working in the Residential Office of Hon'ble Judges was conducted on 21 December 2020.
- Orientation Training Programme for 33 newly promoted Branch Officers/Court Masters(NS) was conducted on working Saturdays from 9 January 2021 to 13 March 2021.
- A comprehensive Induction Training Programme was conducted for 29 newly appointed Senior Personal Assistants in two batches. The programme for each batch was organized for 12 specified days during the period from 20 January 2021 to 15 March 2021.
- Orientation Training Programme for newly promoted 23 Court Masters(SH), with a duration of 10 days, was organized on working Saturdays from 13 February 2021 to 10 April 2021. The sessions for Day 9 and Day 10 which were not held due to rise in COVID-19 cases at that point of time, are likely to be organized shortly.
- An Induction-cum-Orientation Training Programme for 25 departmental promotee and appointee Junior Court Assistants, with a duration of 22 days, was commenced on 10 March 2021 and sessions till Day 16 of programme were organized till 9 April 2021. Remaining sessions for Day 17 to Day 22 of Programme (suspended due to rise in COVID-19 cases at that point of time) were organized from 1 September 2021 to 8 September 2021.
- Interactive Training Sessions on topics concerning Judicial Side of the Registry for Junior Court Assistants working in the Judicial Sections were conducted on 22 March 2021, 23 March 2021, 24 March 2021 and 26 March 2021.
- A training session regarding additional features in the existing Mobile Application developed by NIC for tracking the progress of Court cases was organized for dealing officials i.e., Senior Court Assistants, Court Assistants and Junior Court Assistants working in the Judicial Sections on 6 working days from 26 September 2020 to 3 October 2020.

- A training session regarding recent features added in the existing Mobile Application developed by NIC for tracking the progress of Court cases was conducted for all Branch officers of Judicial Sections alongwith five Dealing Assistants (Senior Court Assistants/Court Assistants/Junior Court Assistants) working in each Judicial Section on 26 October 2021.

**(ii) Through Trainers of specialized Agencies/Institutes**

- Two hour Road Safety Refresher Training Programme for Chauffeurs of the Registry to help disseminate Road Safety Awareness was organized through Institute of Driving and Traffic Research (IDTR) on 11 February 2021, 12 February 2021, 15 February 2021 and 16 February 2021 for 13, 9, 15 and 8 Chauffeurs respectively.
- Virtual Training Programme on enhancement of stenographic and soft skills of Shorthand knowing Officers and officials through Management and Entrepreneurship and Professional Skills Council (MEPSC) was organized for 36 participants for 14 specific days during the period from 19 January 2021 to 23 February 2021 and for 37 participants for 14 specific days during the period from 15 July 2021 to 14 August 2021.
- Seven participants (Officers/officials) from Admn. Material Sections attended Online Management Development Programme on Public Procurement (Basic) organized by Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM), Faridabad with 4 participants attending the training from 05 to 08 July 2021 and remaining 3 participants attending said training from 09 to 12 August 2021.
- Shri Hargurvarinder Singh Jaggi, Additional Registrar (now Officer on Special Duty) attended Online Singapore Cooperation Programme on

“Technology and Courts of the Future” from 26 to 30 July 2021.

- Training for enhancing efficiency and professional competency of Cooks/Bearers of Supreme Court Departmental Canteen and Cooking Knowing Attendants of this Registry, through Tata Strive, was conducted during the period from 23 September 2021 to 09 October 2021.
- b) VIGILANCE CELL:** In order to enhance efficiency in the administration of Supreme Court Registry, for strengthening of the mechanism for dealing with vigilance matters and for bringing greater transparency in the working system, the Vigilance Cell has been set up, which *inter alia* handles complaints, processes cases for administrative action for violation of the provisions of the Conduct Rules, and conducts departmental enquiries. The Vigilance Cell also looks after the work of verification of character and antecedents of new entrants through concerned police authorities. Complaints received against the Registry staff are dealt with expeditiously, and in case there is substance in the complaints with verifiable material, directions of the Competent Authority are solicited for initiating administrative action. The Vigilance Cell ensures due observance of Conduct Rules by the staff and timely processing of vigilance cases at all stages. Besides, in order to strengthen the administration machinery by developing responsible and efficient administration at all levels and to achieve efficiency, economy and prompt disposal of work, the exercise of periodical review of officers and staff for adjudging their suitability / fitness for continuance in service beyond specified age after completion of specified period of service is also undertaken by the Vigilance Cell at regular intervals. An In-house Training Programme was conducted for 118 Branch Officers on the administration/judicial side and officers of equivalent rank on Vigilance matters including punctuality, discipline, dress code, etc. with proper observance of “safety

guidelines” prescribed for containing the spread of COVID-19.

## VIII. HANDBOOK ON FUNCTIONING OF BRANCHES OF THE REGISTRY

To enhance the efficiency and professional competence of the court staff, Handbooks have been compiled for each Branch of the Registry, providing insights on the functioning of the branch concerned. The Handbooks aim to act as a ready reckoner for the Registry officials /staff and are useful not only for the new inductees in the Registry but also for officers/staff members transferred from one Branch to another. Each such Handbook comprises of- chapters pertaining to provisions/ practice directions relating to the branch concerned, a detailed list of the subjects to be dealt with, by officers/officials of the branch, relevant provisions of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, frequently asked questions relating to the branch and their answers; and also a compilation of the relevant circulars and guidelines.

## IX. COURT HEARINGS

Court Masters’ Wing of the Registry plays a vital role in the course of dispensation of justice. As the traditional working of the Courts through physical mode were affected due to COVID-19, a re-alignment in the work flow of the Court Masters’ Wing was necessitated keeping in mind the challenges faced by hearing through video-conferencing Mode. Following steps were undertaken by Court Masters’ Wing for smooth hearings by Hon’ble Courts:

1. The Court Masters were trained to be techno-savy and act as a bridge between the Courts functioning at the residential offices through Video-Conferencing and the Computer Cell based at the main campus of the Supreme Court of India
2. The Courts Masters were trained to utilize digitized copies of the paperbooks and documents; and track, arrange and place the paperbooks in physical mode wherever required.

3. The Courts Masters were also trained in appropriate arrangement and placement law books and other required material before the Hon’ble Judges.
4. Telephone numbers of all the Court Masters were shared with the Advocates so as to facilitate successful working of the Courts through Video-Conferencing and Tele-Conferencing.
5. The Advocates were given liberty to submit their Appearance slips to the Court Masters through dedicated E-Mail IDs, which E-Mail IDs were also used to submit brief notes before the Hon’ble Judges.
6. For successful working of the Courts on day-to-day basis, the Court Masters were also trained to keep track of documents filed through e-filing or physical mode.

## X. EXTENSION OF TENURE POOL FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF ADDITIONAL REGISTRARS

Tenure Pool (TN) for Registrars & Secretary General, Supreme Court of India for allotment of Government Accommodation has now been extended for the officers of the rank of Additional Registrars (equivalent to the Joint Secretary, Government of India) coming on deputation from various States. Vide Office Memorandum dated 15 June 2021 of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, six accommodations for Additional Registrars of Type-VIA (CII) category have been notified presently.

## XI. PUBLICATION OF “COURTS OF INDIA: PAST TO PRESENT” IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

A coffee table book, “Courts of India: Past to Present” was published in English language in the year 2016 with the help of Publication Division, Government of India. The book highlights the history of Courts and Judicial Institutions in India from ancient times till date. The work showcases the establishment

of justice delivery systems and the task of administration of law in a kaleidoscopic manner, also tracing the growth of institutions in the country. In the year 2019, the Supreme Court had decided to publish “Courts of India: Past to Present” in the Indian languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Accordingly, the book was Published and released in Assamese, Hindi, Marathi, Kannada and Bengali languages. The

Assamese version was released by the then Hon’ble Chief Justice of India Shri Ranjan Gogoi on 10 November 2019 at Guwahati, Assam. The Hindi version was released by the Hon’ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 6 March 2021 at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The Marathi, Kannada and Bengali versions were released by the then Hon’ble Chief Justice of India Shri Sharad Arvind Bobde in April, 2021.



*Release of Hindi Version of Courts of India at High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur*



*Release of Marathi Version of Courts of India at High Court of Bombay, Nagpur*



*Release of Kannada Version of Courts of India at High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru*

# ACCESS TO JUSTICE DURING PANDEMIC: Challenges and Solutions

## I. ONLINE COURT PROCEEDINGS AND HEARINGS

### Introduction

1. The *Coronavirus* (COVID-19) unleashed the first and second wave in full force in 2020-21 causing derailment of normalcy and colossal loss of lives nationally and globally. Never in the history of mankind without firing of a single bullet did human beings find themselves stranded and locked at their physical locations. Such a situation though arose only during the world wars and the same remained confined to warring nations, however the outbreak of pandemic COVID-19 has no parallel in the annals of human history as it brought the entire globe to a grinding halt.
2. Access to justice being a universally recognized human right finds its befitting place as a fundamental right guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India, 1950. Access to justice is a multifaceted right, where, to begin with, one must have a redressal of grievances, layered with the right to seek counsel irrespective of social, financial standings, sex, physical appearances, etc., and lastly, delivery of timely justice.
3. In the above backdrop without losing any time, the Supreme Court championed the cause and bolstered the right to access to justice by convening court proceedings through video conferencing using the VIDYO App in the epic cases - *In Re: Contagion of COVID-19 virus in prisons*<sup>1</sup>; *In Re: Regarding closure of mid-day meal scheme*<sup>2</sup>; *In Re: Cognizance for extension of limitation*<sup>3</sup> and *In Re: Guidelines for court functioning through video conferencing during COVID-19 pandemic*.<sup>4</sup>
4. Today, the Supreme Court Registry may pause for a moment to gauge how far it has come despite all the challenges thrown by the unprecedented pandemic. Since 23 March 2020, a record number of 1,43,626 cases along with the footfall of 12,01,443 participants have been convened through video conferencing. The above figures have been accomplished by convening 6,484 Benches of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, who have disposed of 34,515 cases during this pandemic period.

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1. Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1/2020
2. Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 2/2020
3. Misc. Application No. 665/2021 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 3/2020
4. Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 5/2020

## Challenges

5. The biggest challenge faced by the Supreme Court Registry was to bring in place a time-tested and a stable computer software application to cater to the needs, workload and peculiar workflow of the court proceedings through any mode other than the conventional mode of physical hearings. Further, the Apex Court did not have any precedent to follow during these uncertain times.
6. Apart the logistical issues, another challenge which stared the Supreme Court Registry straight in the face of the right to access to justice was the digital divide. Though the tele-density having reached 86.37% in India, with the rural tele-density at 58.85%<sup>5</sup> the deep cleavage of digital divide of the have and have-nots to be bridged was a Himalayan challenge. It is a known fact that mobile illiteracy is also another drag and a hindrance in full exploitation of mobile phone and data technology. Thus, ensuring that attendees of court proceedings through video conferencing always have seamless and issue-free experience has always remained a concern for the Supreme Court Registry. The access to justice till date also remains fettered for those, who neither have financial capacity to purchase necessary computer hardware, internet connectivity nor are tech-savvy to manage using the computer systems and adopt latest technologies.
7. Another challenge which surfaced during this pandemic period was that despite release orders passed by the Court in bail applications, the prison authorities failed to release the detainees even after expiry of four days from the passing of release order

5. Press Release dated 11 January 2021 by PIB, Ministry of Communications - <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1687591>

citing delay in transmission of orders and judgments. The Hon'ble Court directed the Supreme Court Registry to overcome the challenge of delay in transmission of order(s) passed by the Court and consequential delay in the release of the under trial persons, accused persons, convicts using a technological solution.

## Solutions

8. To overcome the biggest hurdle on its path, the Supreme Court Registry deployed the VIDYO App as a solution for convening the court proceedings through video conferencing. Vidyo, Inc. was the first in the videoconferencing industry to develop and harness scalable video coding for video compression.
9. Though, VIDYO App served as a good warhorse but with passage of time, a policy decision was taken by the Competent Authority to seek development and deployment of a standalone video conferencing app which would be fully integrated with ICMIS and other computer applications, for the exclusive use and purpose of Supreme Court.
10. For secured and quick interaction amongst the Hon'ble Judges during the court proceedings being convened from their respective residential offices or from courtrooms, the Supreme Court Registry deployed Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones enabled with colour camera. Simultaneously, the Registry also upgraded the VC infrastructure of the courtrooms by deploying high definition cameras, VC endpoints, sensitive and advance microphones as effective tools for a complete technological solution.
11. The Hon'ble Supreme Court being cognisant



with the hardships caused to the Advocates, litigants and other stakeholders directed the Registry to create Helpline number and Helpdesks in connection with any query related to e-filing, mentioning of matters for urgent hearing, technical support for video conference, etc. Helpline No. 1881 is a testament to removal of doubts and till date provides vital information to the callers and helping them resolve their issues.

12. Electronic filing of cases or famously known as e-Filing found its calling and got the right nudge with the advent of COVID-19 pandemic. Though e-filing was to be introduced in a gradual manner to accomplish the goal and objective of paperless courts, but the outbreak of pandemic got e-filing wider acceptance amongst the legal fraternity and litigants as during this time 28,326 cases were filed through e-filing in comparison to over the counter-filing of 14,710 cases.
13. The in-house software development team under the aegis, leadership and guidance of the Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, in tandem with National Informatics Centre (NIC) is in the process of developing a technological solution, Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER) to overcome the challenge of delay in transmission of order(s) passed by the Court and delay in release of detainees.
14. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *In Re: Delay in release of convicts after grant of bail - Suo Motu Writ Petition (C) No. 4/2021* by order dated 23 September 2021 has approved FASTER, which shall work on the mechanism of transmission of e-authenticated copies of interim orders, stay orders, bail orders, record of proceedings to the duty-holders for compliance, and execution through a secured electronic communication channel.

## Conclusion

15. Post the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, one can certainly vouch safely that court hearings through video conferencing even though for restrictive purpose is a time-tested alternative to our conventional court system. However, while meeting the challenge of bringing down the pendency figures, the cause of justice must be championed by bringing in transparency, fairness, accountability. It is in this realm, information and computer technology shall play a vital role to strengthen the right to access justice and achieve the true goals and vision of the framers of our Constitution. Free and unhindered justice is not a lofty goal, the same is achievable with the right mix of willingness and a balanced approach on the fulcrum of information technology.

## II. HYBRID PHYSICAL HEARINGS

The Supreme Court Registry was ready and well prepared to open the courtrooms for hybrid hearings with option to the Advocates to appear physically before the Court when the trends of killer virus ebbed towards the zero baseline. The Registry developed and deployed an in-house software to regulate and issue special hearing passes for the Advocates to enter the high security zone of the Supreme Court Complex to appear and attend the hybrid hearings.

**Court Hearings through Video Conferencing & Hybrid Physical Hearing:** The biggest challenge faced by the Supreme Court Registry was resumption of court hearings post suspension of physical hearings on account of the outbreak of pandemic *Coronavirus (COVID-19)*. Regardless of the challenge being unique and first of its kind, the Supreme Court Registry deployed latest computer hardware, web-cameras, Bluetooth enabled microphones and speakers at the residential offices of the Hon'ble Judges



*Court set-up for Video Conferencing & Hybrid Physical Hearing*

for convening court proceedings through video conferencing (VC) using the VIDYO App.

As the pandemic tightened its grip and confined everyone to the precincts of the safety of their homes by onslaught of first and second waves, the Supreme Court Registry simultaneously prepared the courtrooms for the hearings through video conference by deploying high resolution cameras, VC endpoints, highly sensitive microphones with range of 5 meters and other computer peripherals. The Supreme Court Registry further proceeded to develop and deploy a standalone video conference application exclusively for the use of Supreme Court for court proceedings and administrative functions. The SCIVC App is an on-premise solution which shall be fully integrated with ICMIS and have the capabilities of sharing the meeting links automatically with the Advocate-on-Record, Party-in-Person, etc. The state of the art SCIVC App is in its very advance stage of testing and shall be released shortly by the Competent Authority after satisfactory trial runs and testing.

Since March 2020, the Supreme Court Registry has remained alive with deep concern for all the stakeholders for dispensation and administration of justice to which the journey from suspension of hearings to VC hearings and VC hearings coupled with hybrid physical hearings stand testament. The Supreme Court Registry while regulating the entrance and exit

to the high security zone through its software Secure Gate and in-house developed software issued Special Hearing Pass for the Advocates-on-Record, Senior Advocates, Advocates (Arguing Counsels), Court-clerks to attend the court hearings physically. So far, 1,43,626 number of cases along with the total footfall of 12,01,443 participants have been convened through video conferencing by the Supreme Court Registry. Since 23 March 2020, 6,484 Benches of Hon'ble Supreme Court convened court proceedings through video conferencing and disposed of 34,515 cases.

### **III. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Necessary directions were issued in accordance with the advisories/guidelines issued by the Government of India & Govt. of NCT of Delhi from time to time to the staff members for information and compliance thereof. With a view to prevent creation of gathering in the Supreme Court premises, nodal officers were deputed as Observers at key points (Entry Gates and Court Rooms) to regulate entry into Court premises and Courtrooms. The staff members were also directed to submit COVID-19 self-declaration form and undergo thermal screening at the entry gate of the premises regularly. The staff members were exempted from recording their attendance on biometric terminals and were inquired about recent

travel history, and anyone who had recently travelled to affected countries/area, or who had symptoms of fever, sore throat, cough, running nose, or difficulty in breathing, were advised to self-restrain themselves from attending their duties and avail leave, if so advised. Further the staff members were also directed to inform the Office in case they themselves or any member of their family tested positive with COVID-19 infection. Finally, the staff members were advised to avail the facility of COVID-19 rapid testing in the Supreme Court premises.

As the lockdown across the nation was eased, to secure continuing functioning of the Registry, all officers in the ranks of Deputy Registrar and above in the Registry were required to attend office from 4 May 2020 and Assistant Registrars and above from 20 May 2020. Additionally, staggered arrangements were made to ensure that 50 percent of officers and staff attended offices on any given day, though, in order to meet office exigencies, officers/staff were required to attend office apart from the approved roster. Further, all the officers and officials were exempted from wearing coat and tie while on duty till the situation improved. In order to facilitate movement of officers and staff of the Registry residing in areas outside Delhi to offices either at the Court or the residential offices of the Hon'ble Judges, inter-State movement passes were arranged on expedited basis. Pick-and-drop facility was arranged for the officers and staff whenever so required. The movement of files, both by the judicial and administrative branches, was minimized to the extent possible. Automatic hand sanitiser dispensing machines were installed at the entry gates, court corridors, tunnel area, residence of Hon'ble Judges and lawyers chambers block gates to ensure that all gaining entry to the premises sanitised their hands. Also, while entering the premises, all staff members were required to undergo thermal screening and submit self-declaration

forms concerning their health status, contact details and recent travel history etc. Officers and employees were provided with face masks and requested to adhere strictly to respiratory etiquettes at all times. Use of elevator was restricted, but where it was unavoidable to do so, not more than four persons were permitted to use the elevator at a time. Fumigation machines were procured for disinfecting courts, sections, rooms, corridors and open areas. There was regular sanitisation of office rooms and common spaces such as restrooms, stairs, etc., and appropriate arrangements were made for proper disposal of used facemasks and gloves. As a preventive measure to contain the spread of infection, all official vehicles were sanitised at regular intervals and separator sheets were installed in them. With the initial reports indicating that the air circulation mechanism of the air conditioning equipment could be responsible for spread of the COVID-19 infection, the use of central air conditioning was stopped for all Courts and Chambers of Hon'ble Judges and instead the Courtrooms and Chambers were provided with separate air conditioning equipment, together with a strong air-exhaust system. For the Registry offices, as per expert medical advice and with the increasing heat, the central air conditioning system was made operational in some offices to a limited extent by closing the return air vents so as to prevent re-circulation of any contaminated air, and further, to ensure proper cross ventilation, at least one door and one window in each room were required to be kept ajar in all office-rooms. Special testing camps were organized in the Supreme Court premises for rapid testing of COVID 19 of the entire staff of the Court at first, in the first week of July 2020, and thereafter at regular intervals to ensure wellness of the officers and staff and to effectively contain spread of infection. All assistance was extended to any staff member or their family members who were infected. Further, Officers and staff have been deputed

for rendering duty as Observer and entry gate of the Court Building and ABC Complex respectively, in connection with the functioning of Virtual Courts to regulate the entry into the court premises and court rooms to avoid the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and to avoid gathering. Furthermore, Officers and employees were deputed for the matters to be listed on Regular working days (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) to the Hon'ble Court through hybrid mode in order to regulate entry into the Court rooms and also avoid creation of any gathering near the Court rooms. Now, Officers and staff have also been deputed to render duty as Observers at the entry of Hon'ble Court on non-miscellaneous days for the final hearing/regular matters listed on non-miscellaneous days through physical mode (with hybrid option), to regulate entry into the Court rooms and also to avoid any gathering near the Court rooms and to ensure that practice of social distancing, wearing of face mask and other precautions are also followed at each entry point.

In order to facilitate the Justice delivery system and for efficient and speedy transmission of Court's orders for the facility of litigants and other stakeholders Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India has been pleased to direct for constituting a FASTER Cell in the Registry as part of the approved plan for implementation of FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) system exclusively for transmission of e-authenticated copies of the Judgments/Final Orders/Interim Orders to the concerned Courts/Tribunal(s) appealed from and other duty-holders through FASTER System for due compliance and execution thereof. With the implementation of FASTER System, the said job will be undertaken in a centralized manner. The Cell will carry out its activities as per the approved plan and one dedicated Email ID shall be created.

With the approval of the Competent Authority, the Registry has finalized the plan in consultation with National Informatics Centre (NIC) to create a dedicated communication mechanism configured on National Informatics Centre with its own specific domain name encrypted from both ends [senders and sendee], facilitation of the repository of all communications and audit trails with facility of automatic delivery notification.

- **COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Center:** Stepping forward of arranging camps, COVID-19 testing and vaccination center has been established in the Additional Building Complex for the convenience of Hon'ble Judges and their family, the Registry staff and their family members. All those above the age of 45 years were vaccinated, and later on, this facility was also extended to all those above 18 years of age. This facility is still going on and till 13 September, 2021, 8,496 doses had been administered. COVID-19 testing facility was also established in the Main Campus for the convenience of the Lawyers, Staff and other stakeholders. Further, Registry facilitated the infrastructure and logistics for setting up of a Vaccination Camp in the Delhi Government Health Centre by the Bar Association for its members, staff and other stakeholders.



**COVID-19 Vaccination Centre at Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court**

- **Air-conditioned waiting areas to reduce crowding in Court Rooms:** Creation of temporary air-conditioned staging areas (Waiting Halls) has been completed at various places in the Campus including near Plaza Canteen in order to prevent congestion in Court Rooms and to maintain social distancing. These areas/halls are climate controlled and provided with the necessary facilities such as chairs and tables, display boards, drinking water facility, etc.



- **Modifications in the Court Rooms in alignment with the COVID-19 Protocols:** In line with the COVID-19 protocols, suitable modifications were carried out in the Court Rooms by installing transparent sheet partitions between the Dais, Court staff area and the Advocates/Litigants area; tables & chairs for separate sitting of Advocates/Litigants have been placed following the social distancing norm; individual air conditioning units not connected to the central air-conditioning have been set up



and exhaust fans for ensuring continuous air circulation have been installed in all Courtrooms; Automatic touch less sanitizer Dispenser(s) at the entrance to Court Rooms & Chamber Blocks have been installed beside the entry doors of the Court Rooms.

- **Publication of SOP for hybrid physical hearing:** SOP was published for the resumption of hybrid physical hearing with a view to contain the spread of COVID-19 inside the Court Rooms.

During the Covid Pandemic, all medical related items required for containment of Coronavirus were purchased and provided especially Surgical Gloves, Face Shields, Sanitizers and Hand Wash. Moreover, Pangolin Masks for the use of Hon'ble Judges were also provided. Besides the medical related items, furniture furnishing items, such as, Foot Operating Sanitizer Stand, Shoe Sanitizer Mats with Disinfectant, Non-Woven Cloths etc. and electrical items, such as, Ultra Violet Chambers for disinfecting the paper books and Touchfree Sanitizer Machines for sanitizing the hands at the entry points of the premises were also provided. In addition, one Sneeze Guard has been provided for being placed on the table of each Officer from the level of Branch Officer and above.

Due to the Covid Pandemic, functioning of Courts had to shift from Physical hearing to Virtual hearing mode and there was an urgent demand for IT hardwares to enable smooth transition. Web Cameras, LCD/LED Screens, Speakers and other ancillary items were procured for enabling virtual hearings within the shortest possible time so that no inconvenience is caused to Hon'ble Judges in dispensation of Justice.

After the outbreak of COVID-19, the Registry coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Director CGHS as well as Govt. of NCT of Delhi and discussed the measures to prevent the spread

of COVID-19 in the Supreme Court Registry as well as residential offices of the Hon'ble Judges'. After discussion and with the help of Director, CGHS, thermal screening of the visitors visiting the Supreme Court premises as well as the staff was arranged at all the entry gates of the Supreme Court of India. Thermal guns were also provided at the residential offices of the Hon'ble Judges'. After the lockdown was lifted in May, 2020, in co-ordination with the Health Department of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) was arranged for all the staff working in the Registry as well as the Hon'ble Judges and their family members. Thereafter in July, 2020, permanent arrangement for the Rapid Antigen Test as well RT-PCR was arranged in the Additional Building Complex, which arrangement is still going on.

The process of registration of 229 Advocates, who had qualified the Advocates-on-Record Examination, 2019, as Advocates-on-Record was carried out virtually and in a paperless manner on 5 May 2020, when the first wave of COVID-19 was looming large. Requisite arrangements were made to enable the applicants to pay the registration fees through online mode. Further, the applications for

registration of clerks of Advocates-on-Record were sought through e-mail mode, including online submission of fees.

During the COVID-19 first phase i.e. 21 March 2020 to 30 June 2020, an amount of Rs. 1,63,83,729 was contributed by the officials/officers of the Registry (on voluntary basis) and deposited in the PM CARES FUND.

An isolation/quarantine centre was also set-up on the 7th Floor of 'C' Block of the New Additional Building Complex with the technical expertise of M/s. Healthcare at Home (HCAH) wherein all the equipments required for Home Isolation alongwith required trained nursing staff was arranged. Further, 20 Oxygen Concentrators were procured from the Health Department of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

During the Second wave which started from March, 2021, medication was arranged for patients suffering from Corona Virus. Further, hospitalization was arranged wherever required- for the Hon'ble Judges, their family members, relatives as well as the Staff of the Registry and their family members.

# 9 THE BAR

Advocates play a vital role in the administration of justice. They are not only professionals but also officers of the courts. On the recommendation of the Law Commission of India and the All India Bar Committee, the Advocates Act, 1961 was enacted with the aim to amend and consolidate the law relating to the legal practitioners and to provide for the constitution of the Bar Councils and an All India Bar. The most significant contribution of the Advocates Act, 1961 was to integrate the Bar into a single class of legal practitioners known as 'Advocates' and categorization of Advocates into Senior Advocates and other Advocates based on merits.

## ADVOCATES ACT, 1961

The Advocates Act, 1961 provides for two categories of Advocates - Senior Advocates and other advocates, who are entitled to practice law before the Courts. The exercise of powers vested in the Supreme Court and the High Courts to designate an Advocate as a Senior Advocate is circumscribed by the requirement of due satisfaction that the advocate concerned fulfills the qualifications prescribed under the Advocates Act, 1961. In terms of Section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961, an advocate may, with his/her consent, be designated as senior advocate if the Supreme Court or a High Court is of opinion that by virtue of his/her ability,

standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law, he/she is deserving of such distinction.

## BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

The Bar Council of India is a statutory body which regulates and represents the Indian bar. It was established by Parliament under the Advocates Act, 1961, and performs regulatory functions by prescribing standards of professional conduct and etiquette and by exercising disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar. The Bar Council also sets standards for legal education and grants recognition to Universities whose degree in law will serve as qualification for enrolment as an advocate. In addition, it performs certain representative functions by protecting the rights, privileges and interests of advocates and through the creation of funds for providing financial assistance to organise welfare schemes for them.

The Bar Council of India consists of members elected from each State Bar Council, and the Attorney General for India and the Solicitor General of India who are ex-officio members. The members from the State Bar Councils are elected for a period of five years. The Council elects its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman for a period of two years from amongst its members. Eligible persons are admitted as advocates on the rolls of the State Bar Councils.

The Advocates Act, 1961 empowers State Bar Councils to frame their own rules regarding enrolment of advocates.

## BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA RULES, 1975

The Bar Council of India Rules, 1975 were made by the Bar Council of India in exercise of its rule-making powers under the Advocates Act, 1961. Rules on the professional standards that an advocate needs to maintain are mentioned in Chapter II, Part VI of the Bar Council of India Rules. These rules have been placed there under section 49(1)(c) of the Advocates Act, 1961.

## TYPE OF ADVOCATES WHO PRACTICE IN SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

### I. Senior Advocate

'Senior Advocate' means any advocate so designated under sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Advocates Act, 1961, and all such advocates whose names were borne on the roll of the senior advocates of the Court immediately before the commencement of Chapter III of the Advocates Act, 1961.

Order IV Rule 2 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, deals with designation of Advocates as Senior Advocates. Rule 2(a) provides that the Chief Justice and the Judges may, with the consent of the Advocate, designate an Advocate as Senior Advocate, if in their opinion, by virtue of his/her ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law the said Advocate is deserving of such distinction. Apart from the designation of Advocates as Senior Advocates, retired Hon'ble Chief Justices/ Judges of the High Courts are also considered for designation as Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court. A Senior Advocate is not entitled to appear in the Supreme Court without an Advocate-on-Record.

In *Indira Jaising v. Supreme Court of India & Ors.* [Writ Petition (C) No. 454/2015, Writ Petition (C) No. 33/2016 and Writ Petition (C) No. 819/2016], [2017] 9 SCC 766 the Supreme Court emphasized the need of formulating norms/guidelines governing the exercise of designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The Court had directed that a Permanent Committee to be known as "Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates" must be constituted and also issued detailed guidelines for designation of Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court and the High Courts. In compliance with the judgment of the Court, a Permanent Committee has been constituted by the Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India to deal with all matters relating to designation of Senior Advocates in the Supreme Court of India. The composition of the Committee is as under (a) Hon'ble Chief Justice of India- Chairperson (b) Two seniormost Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India- Members (c) Learned Attorney General for India - Member; and (d) A member of the Bar as nominated by the Chairperson and Members of the Committee, as referred to in clauses (a) to (c) above. The Committee has framed detailed Guidelines to regulate conferment of designation of Senior Advocates, which are available on the website of the Court. After the Guidelines to Regulate Conferment of Designation of Senior Advocates were framed, the process for designation of Senior Advocates was initiated and culminated in conferment of designation of Senior Advocates under the these guidelines as per details given below:

Category	Date of Full Court Meeting	Designated
Former Chief Justices/ Judges of High Courts	6 September 2018	25
Advocates- on-Record/ Advocates	27 March 2019	37



## II. Advocate-on-Record

'Advocate-on-Record' means an advocate, who is entitled under the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 to act as well as to plead for a party in the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of India at the time of its inception in 1950 inherited the jurisdiction of the Federal Court and the Privy Council. The Rules prevalent in the Federal Court were continued in the beginning. The Practice and Procedure of the Supreme Court has undergone enormous changes ever since. Originally, the Rules of the Supreme Court (as then adopted) recognized the system of "Agents". The Practice and Procedure was substantially modified in the year 1954 and "Advocates-on-Record" (AOR) replaced the system of "Agents". When introduced in 1954, apart from the then registered "Agents", an Advocate of seven years standing was entitled to get himself/herself registered as an 'Advocate-on-Record', provided he/she fulfilled the conditions prescribed. In 1959, the Rules were amended, introducing the 'Advocate-on-Record' examination conducted by the Supreme Court.

Order IV Rule 5 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, deals with registration as an Advocate-on-Record. No Advocate other than an Advocate-on-Record is entitled to file an appearance or

act for a party in the Court. The Registry of the Supreme Court conducts Advocate-on-Record Examination periodically with approval of the Examination Committee and under the supervision of Secretary, Board of Examiners, appointed by the Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India. The examination maintains high standards to ensure that best of the talent come in as Advocate-on-Record. List of Advocates-on-Record is available on Supreme Court of India website [www.sci.gov.in](http://www.sci.gov.in). Regulation 6(i) pertaining to AOR examination states that no Advocate shall be eligible to appear in the examination unless he/she has received training from an Advocate-on-Record of not less than ten years standing for a continuous period of one year commencing from the end of the fourth year of date of his/her enrolment, ending with the 30 April or 30 November of the year of the examination, as the case may be.

## III. Other Advocates

These are Advocates whose names are entered on the roll of any State Bar Council maintained under the Advocates Act, 1961 and they cannot appear, plead and address the court in any matter on behalf of a party in the Supreme Court unless instructed by an Advocate-on-Record or permitted by the Court (Order IV Rule 1(b) of Supreme Court Rules, 2013).



*A view of the SCBA Library and the adjacent corridor*



*New wing of Judges Library in Additional Building Complex 'A' - Block*

### SUPREME COURT JUDGES' LIBRARY

Supreme Court Judges' Library is one of the largest legal Libraries in Asia. It started functioning as a part of the Federal Court of India (which was established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1937), and is now a part and parcel of the Supreme Court of India.

Supreme Court Judges' Library is an important section of the Apex Court. The collection of the Judges' Library is of more than 3,77,000 legal documents and ranges from Books/Monographs, Encyclopedias of law (both Indian and Foreign), Law Journals, Statutes, Commission/Committee Reports, State Legislations, Parliamentary Debates and other Legislative materials, such as Manuals, Local Acts, Indian Codes, etc. Approximately, 134 journals (107 Indian and 27 Foreign journals), 20 newspapers and 8 magazines are subscribed by the Judges' Library.

The Judges' Library is located in main Supreme Court complex, and its' collection/ books are housed in 3 floors. The library books are also kept in all the 17 courts and in 34 residential offices of the Hon'ble Judges. The Supreme Court Judges' Library is thus a grid of libraries consisting of 17 Bench Libraries and 34 Residential Libraries of the Hon'ble Judges. The residential offices of Hon'ble Judges are provided with a collection of Law Reports/

Legal books/Commentaries on permanent basis in the form of a Residential Library. A complete set of frequently cited Law Reports, in multiple copies, are arranged in Court Rooms in the form of Bench Libraries so that the required Law Report at the time of hearing may be immediately provided to the Hon'ble Judges.

### New wing of Judges' Library in Additional Building Complex 'A' - Block

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the Father of Library Science, conceived five laws of library science. The fifth law states that Library is a growing organism. The collection of Supreme Court Judges' Library is also ever growing and to accommodate the ever-increasing collection, a new Library Wing has been created in the 'A' Block of Additional Building Complex, keeping in mind the present and future space requirements and constraints. The said new wing is spread across 4 floors (ground plus three floors). The shifting of the collections to the new library is in progress. Approximately 2,00,000 books have already been shifted to the new Library Wing.

#### Library Automation

KOHA, an Open-Source Library Automation Software is used for housekeeping Library Operations.



Judges' Library, Supreme Court

▪ **Library Personnel**

The Supreme Court Judges Library is managed by 22 Professional Librarians and 70 support staff.

▪ **Working Hours**

The library is open all through the year except during the three National Holidays from 10 am to 5 pm.

▪ **Legal Databases subscribed in the library**

Nine Commercial Legal databases are subscribed by the library and they are:

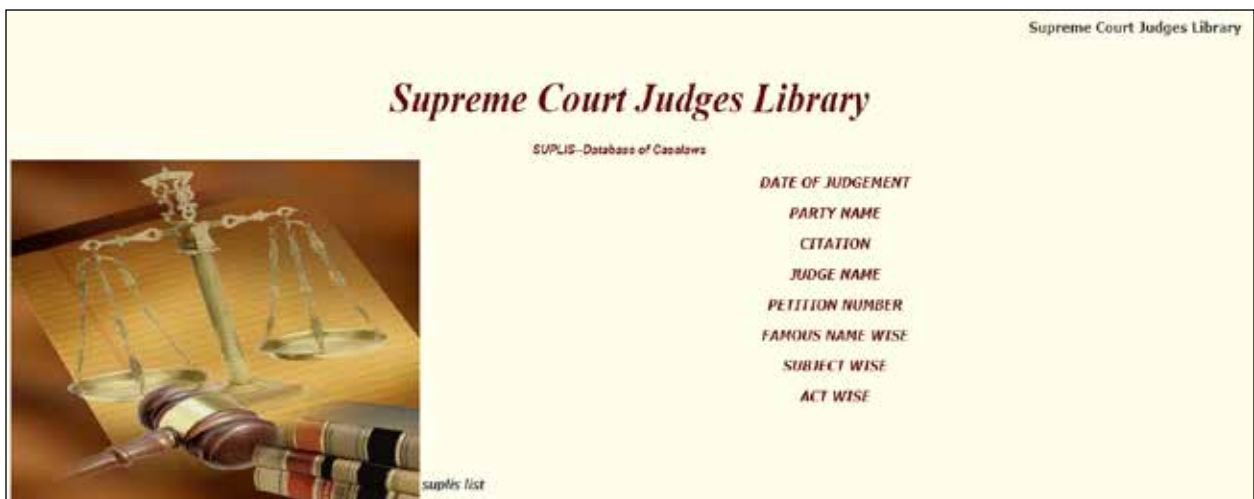
1. ExCus
2. Heinonline
3. ITR Online
4. Lexis Advance India
5. Lexis Red

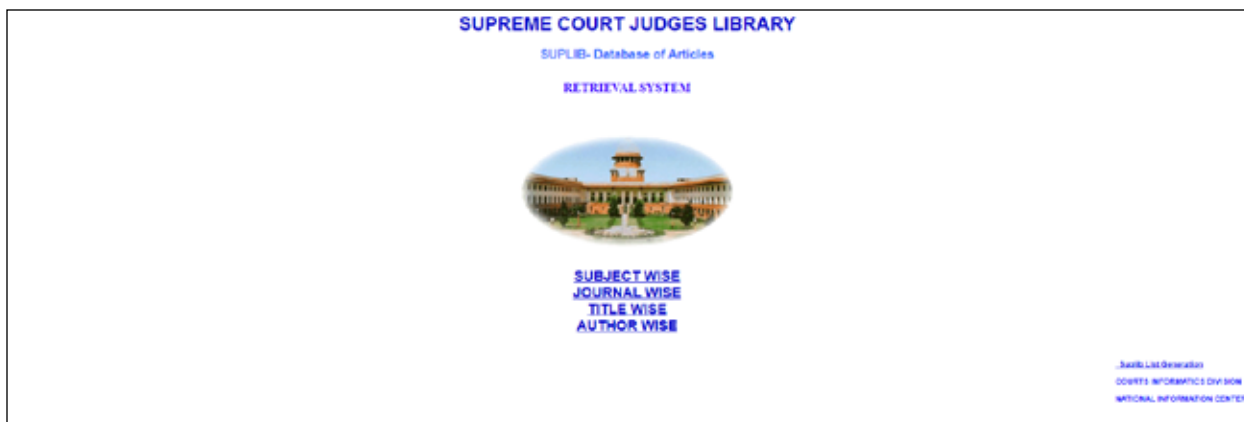
6. Manupatra
7. SCC Online / CD-ROM
8. Taxmann
9. Westlaw India

**Current Awareness Service**

The library compiles the following:

- **Digital Current Content** - recent articles from foreign law journals is compiled monthly and is sent via email to the Honourable Judges.
- **Recent Additions** to the library collection are compiled quarterly.
- **Annual Catalogue** is compiled at the end of the year showing the additions made in that year.





## Online In-house Databases

The following in-house databases developed by the library can be accessed through the library home page:

- **SUPLIS:** Database of Case Laws

SUPLIS is an indexing database of case laws decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. This database consists of case law since 1950 and is very useful in finding out the desired case law. The database also has a unique feature of search by famous case name, for example: "Bhopal Gas Case", "Rajiv Gandhi assassination case," "Mandal Commission Case," etc. As soon as judgments are uploaded to the Supreme Court website, the library personnel enter the data in this database and assign subject headings with famous case name (if any). SUPLIS also provides "equivalent citations" of case laws.

- **SUPLIB:** Database of Legal Articles

SUPLIB is a database of legal articles published in about 185 foreign and Indian Law Journals/Reports subscribed by the library. After the receipt of a journal in the library, important articles are identified, indexed, and entered in this database. Subject headings are given to the articles. This database is useful for the library staff for identifying the articles required by the Hon'ble Judges on a particular subject or topic. This database is very useful for academicians, Jurists and Researchers in the field of Law.

- **LEGIS:** Database of Legislative History of Central Acts

Statutory materials such as Bills, Acts, Joint Committee Reports, Select Committee Reports, Law Commission Reports, Parliamentary and Assembly Debates, Rules, Bye-laws, Schemes, etc., are among the most important and sought-after



library materials in any law library. LEGIS is a database of Central Government Acts including amendments, Rules, Bills, and all subordinate legislations relating to Central Acts. This database is very useful for tracing the complete legislative history of any particular Central Act. All the amendments in Acts, Rules, Schemes and Bye-laws framed under any particular enactment can be readily identified and retrieved with the help of Act Number, Subject and Title of the Act.

### Off-Line In-house Databases

The library has been maintaining some important databases which are presently available off-line but in near future it may be available on the Vidhi Sampada - library home page. The database includes reportable Judgments of the Supreme Court since 1950, Law Commission Reports, various Committee/Commission reports, Standing/Select/Joint Committee Reports, Full Court References published in Supreme Court Reports and index of newspaper articles.

### Projects Initiated in the year 2021

**Vidhi Sampada** - the Legal Information Gateway Project

This project has been approved by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Mr. Justice Sharad A. Bobde and the Hon'ble Judges of the Library Committee Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday U. Lalit, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok Bhushan in March 2021. The work of compilation of information for various modules has been initiated.

Vidhi Sampada is an initiative taken by the Supreme Court Judges' Library and is part of the Knowledge Component Project of the E-Committee. The idea is to provide a gateway to access maximum possible authentic legal information at one place. It will have various modules and some modules will be a collaborative effort with Judges' Libraries of all the High Courts.



## Mission

To ensure excellence in providing legal information to all, through continuous improvement in the quality of the services.

## Vision

To be the one-stop online gateway to maximum possible authentic legal information.

## Vidhi Sampada Home Page

Maximum possible authentic information will be shared in the public domain for the benefit of not only the legal community but also people at large. It will have various modules like Digital Repository, Court Library Network, Court Rules, Legislation, Full Court Reference, etc. and will be a collaborative effort of Judges' Libraries of the Supreme Court and all the High Courts.

On the Vidhi Sampada page, there will also be a link for **Remote Login** for the Hon'ble Judges, Courts, Residential Offices and the officials of the Registry. Some specialized information and research services will also be provided.

The sub-modules of '**Court Rules**' and '**State Legislation**' will be a collaborative effort of Judges' Libraries of the Supreme Court and all the High Courts. The concept is designed for making all the rules of various High Courts and State legislation available at a click of the mouse at one place for usage of the legal professionals and people at large.

'Vidhi Sampada' is a continuous project wherein there will be regular updation of information along with addition of digital contents. Most of the modules will be freely available for the use of legal professionals and people at large except the 'Remote Login' module which will be specialized library services exclusively for the Hon'ble Judges, residential offices of Hon'ble

Judges and the officers of the Registry. This legal gateway is likely to be released soon.

## Judges' Library Legal Research Wing

A new section '**Judges' Library Legal Research Wing**' has been created for specialized legal research like legislative history of Central Acts, in-depth research of the Articles of the Constitution and subject wise research.

## Virtual meet with the High Court Librarians

The Supreme Court Judges Library has initiated Virtual meetings with the High Court Libraries. It is the first step towards networking for resource sharing. In the first half of this year, two such virtual meets with the Librarians of High Court Judges Libraries were arranged. The interaction was fruitful and the librarians and library personnel of all the High Courts readily accepted to collaborate and contribute to the Vidhi Sampada Project.

## Detailed index of judgments with links to Full text

The library has started compiling the chronological index with keywords and citations of the judgments with links to full text of judgments and this is presented on a pen drive to the Hon'ble Judges at their retirement.

## Introduction of RFID technology in the library

The Supreme Court library is working on feasibility of introducing RFID technology to facilitate smooth functioning of the acquisition and circulation of books along with the stock verification.



## SUPREME COURT MUSEUM

Museums are no longer considered to be merely storehouses or agents for the preservation of a country's cultural and natural heritage, but powerful instruments of education in the broadest sense. With the diversity and

variety of subjects which are now coming under the purview of museology, and the modern concepts of the role of museum, the understanding of museum and museology is changing.





The Supreme Court of India has its own Museum having a unique collection of artefacts, objects, documents, etc., which showcase our judicial heritage and the systematic development of the judicial system in the country and gives

meaningful information to the visitors in relation thereto.

The Supreme Court Museum is a single pillared round building located within the premises of the Supreme Court of India on the northern side and has two galleries of 5000 square feet on each floor viz.; “*Development of Justice System in India*” and “*The Supreme Court of India*”. The first gallery is dedicated to the history of Indian Legal & Judicial System since ancient period till British era; and the second gallery portrays the Federal Court of India and the Supreme Court of India. The Museum showcases artefacts / objects relating to the Indian Legal & Judicial System prevailing at different historical time period, which includes Manuscripts, Copper Plates, Maces & Oars, old books on ‘*Dharmashastra*’ & Kautilya’s ‘*Arthashastra*’, Court Furniture, Judges Wigs & Costumes, Landmark Judgments, Photographs of former Chief Justices of India and Judges of the Apex Court, Photographs of oath ceremonies of Hon’ble Presidents of India, etc.

A Mini-Auditorium inside the museum well equipped with modern infrastructures is a point of attraction which provide to the visitors a virtual tour of the Legal & Judicial history of India and its administration through documentary films on various issues like “*50 years of Supreme Court and the evolution of law in India*”, “*Supreme Court of India-Virtual Tour*”, “*Our Constitution*”, “*Truth Alone I Uphold*”, “*Parliament of India*”, “*Witness to our Constitution*”, “*The People of India*” and “*Institution of Democracy*” etc. The visitors get to have a wonderful experience of listening to the original speeches of the eminent members of the Constituent Assembly and Hon’ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad the then President of India through kiosk. The museum also offers souvenirs to the visitors at no-profit and no-loss basis.



*A view of the Museum, Supreme Court*

This museum has so far received more than a lakh visitors from across the globe which includes Hon'ble Chief Justices and Judges, Jurists and law students. The museum also welcomes group of students from different schools and colleges and general public across India & overseas.

Further, to meet the 21st Century demands & challenges in museum functioning, and for satisfying the expectations of local as well as foreign visitors, the Supreme Court Museum is

in the process of upgradation / reorganization to match the international standards with respect to depiction of galleries while incorporating all advanced/ hi-end technologies as interactive exhibits so that the visitors may have pleasant learning memories of the great Indian Judicial History.

Efforts are being made to make the Supreme Court Museum richer in its collection with visitor friendly facilities, especially for young students across the country.

# 11

## TECHNOLOGICAL EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Supreme Court of India has been the torchbearer of the Indian Judiciary when it comes to the use, development, deployment of information and communication technology as an effective tool for administration and dispensation of justice. In the wake of the outbreak of pandemic *Coronavirus (COVID-19)*, the Supreme Court Registry has been extensively using information technology and deploying computer software and applications swiftly, and also making the system robust by continuous enhancement and upgradation.

### 1. Integrated Case Management & Information System (ICMIS)

An intelligent, interactive and dynamic software, Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) is the backbone of the Supreme Court Registry. ICMIS is an ubiquitous software, which manages a streamlined workflow of Supreme Court Registry by automation of cases. ICMIS provides radical transparency from the very inception of any case, be it filing, registration, assignment, listing, generation of cause lists, record of proceedings (RoP) until its culmination by order and/or judgment passed by the Court. An authorised user may access ICMIS through secured intranet of Supreme Court Registry, whereas, the information from ICMIS on real time basis is also accessible by all

stakeholders, public at large on the website of Supreme Court under case status, office report, cause lists, daily orders, judgments, etc. ICMIS has bolstered the Supreme Court Registry to generate reports based upon case categories, sections-wise, year-wise, or any customised report by click of a button.

### 2. Website of Supreme Court of India

The Supreme Court Registry disseminates information on real-time basis to advocates, litigants, other stakeholders and general public, which is accessible by anyone through the state of the art website - <https://main.sci.gov.in> The Supreme Court website is hosted on an efficient hybrid cloud technology on the National Informatics Centre (NIC) cloud, which helps in ensuring 24x7 access to information through range of devices regardless of their physical location. The website of the Supreme Court of India is inclusive and differently-abled friendly.

### 3. Mobile Application of Supreme Court of India

The Supreme Court Registry has designed and deployed mobile application for Android and iOS users base. The mobile application not only empowers the advocates, litigants,

other stakeholders and general public to access information round the clock in English language but also in five Indian languages i.e. Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil and Kannada.

#### 4. e-Filing Software

The electronic filing of cases, documents at Supreme Court since 2007 has made progress with leaps and bounds. The electronic filing of cases has enabled the Supreme Court Registry to integrate its' bouquet of computer applications and software such as ICMIS, SCI Interact, e-Copying module, etc. The e-filing software deployed by the Supreme Court Registry is making steadfast progress towards the penultimate goal of paperless courts and saving environment, expenses and costs upon Public Exchequer. The in-house software development team of Computer Cell, Supreme Court Registry is working on upgradation of integrated online payment gateway for e-Filing software which would make it convenient to electronically file a case, document and also improve the overall user experience. Since 23 March 2020, the number of cases filed through e-filing stands at 28,326 and those filed over the counter stands at 14,710. The said figures speak volumes about the successful launch, adaptation and usage of the e-Filing software.

#### 5. e-Copying Software

The Supreme Court Registry developed the e-Copying software and online portal on the strong foundations of availability of files, documents in electronic and digitized format. The e-Copying software module enables an Advocate-on-Record (AoR), Party-in-Person, Appearing Counsel or any person authenticated by AoR to apply for certified, ordinary copies of orders, judgments, record of proceedings,

petitions, applications, documents, etc. using authenticated login credentials of mobile number and/or email address and proof of identity documents. The e-Copying software module also empowers an applicant to seek delivery either through speed post or over the counter. The e-Copying software module is integrated with India Post to track consignment. An option of delivery of copy through email is available for digital copies only. The payment of copying charges, service charges, etc. can be made by an applicant through online payment gateway - net banking, debit card, credit card and/or unified payments interface (UPI). The copies provided also bear QR Code to maintain the genuineness and authenticity. An applicant can also keep track of the application through the e-Copying software module in addition to receiving short message services (SMS) text messages and email alerts.

#### 6. Digitization & Preservation of Records

With the Supreme Court Registry envisioning data being the new gold, scanning of physical files and electronically filed cases, documents have enriched the digital repository of records. The availability of 1,72,68,362 complete scanned files in digital, electronic format has enabled the officials of Registry to access, read and search optical character recognition (OCR) files maintained as a digital repository on an open source software by Dspace. The Registry staff, on click of a button at any given point of time without having access to physical files, can access complete files or privileged files with restricted access. Such capability of digitization of case files, documents, record, have also enabled the Supreme Court Registry to preserve record without seeking proportionate increase of office space and storage areas.

## 7. SCI Interact

SCI Interact is an in-house developed software, which aligns the digitization of case files, documents, records, etc. and their access in the realm of paperless courts. It enables the user base comprising of Hon'ble Judges, Registrars, Law Clerks, Court Masters, Officials of the Registry to access the case files, bookmark, annotate and even personalise notes with restricted access to the files through the Supreme Court Intranet and the multi-protocol label switching virtual private network (MPLS-VPN) at the residential offices of the Hon'ble Judges. SCI Interact served its purpose during the suspension of work and staggered functioning of the courts on account of the outbreak of pandemic COVID-19.

## 8. Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS)

The diversification of our vast nation intertwined with the threads of different languages and strands of thousands of dialects posed a unique challenge to the access of justice for the non-English speaking litigants, stakeholders and general public. The Supreme Court Registry has resorted to technological advancement for development of an artificial intelligence (AI) translation tool, Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS). SUVAS has empowered the Supreme Court Registry to provide access to the judgments of the Court to the general public in several Indian languages through AI.

## 9. VoIP Telephony

The voice over internet protocol (VoIP) technology enables a user to make and receive phone calls in the same manner as old telephones, however using the internet

protocol (IP) such as wired ethernet or Wi-Fi. On deployment of VoIP telephones through a dedicated server, the Supreme Court Registry has managed to achieve bandwidth efficiency and reduce recurring costs of operation and maintenance of traditional private branch exchange and switches. The entire Supreme Court Complex and the residential offices of the Hon'ble Judges are securely connected through VoIP telephony.

## 10. Data Centre & New Data Centre

Presently, the main building of the Supreme Court Complex and the additional building complex house their own data centres, which are inter-connected. However, the Supreme Court Registry is in the process of creating its' own fully integrated and intelligent data centre which would serve as the backbone of the entire IT infrastructure of the Supreme Court of India. The new data centre would be robust, secure and scalable over a period to future technological developments. The new data centre would be of industrial grade with a strategically located disaster recovery site at the data centre. The establishment of the new data centre is in advance development stage and is likely to be accomplished shortly.

## 11. Court Hearings through Video Conferencing & Hybrid Physical Hearing

The biggest challenge faced by the Supreme Court Registry was resumption of court hearings post suspension of physical hearings on account of the outbreak of pandemic *Coronavirus (COVID-19)*. Regardless of the challenge being unique and first of its kind, the Supreme Court Registry deployed the latest computer hardware, web-cameras, Bluetooth enabled microphones and speakers at the residential offices of the Hon'ble Judges

for convening court proceedings through video conferencing (VC) using the VIDYO App.

As the pandemic tightened its grip and confined everyone to the precincts of the safety of their homes by onslaught of first and second waves, the Supreme Court Registry simultaneously prepared the courtrooms for the hearings through video conference by deploying high resolution cameras, VC endpoint, highly sensitive microphones with range of 5 meters and other computer peripherals. Further, the Supreme Court Registry under the guidance and vision of the Hon'ble Computerisation Committee has proceeded to develop and deploy a standalone video conference application exclusively for the use of Supreme Court for court proceedings and administrative functions. The SCIVC App is an on-premise solution which shall be fully integrated with ICMIS and have the capabilities of sharing the meeting links automatically with the Advocate-on-Record, Party-in-Person, etc. The state of the art SCIVC App is in very advance stage of testing and shall be released shortly after satisfactory trial runs and testing.

Since March 2020, the Supreme Court Registry has remained alive with deep concern for all the stakeholders of dispensation and administration of justice to which the journey from suspension of hearings to VC hearings and VC hearings coupled with hybrid physical hearings stand testament. The Supreme Court Registry while regulating the entrance and exit to the high security zone through its software Secure Gate and in-house developed software issued Special Hearing Pass for the Advocate-on-Record, Senior Advocates, Advocates (Arguing Counsels), Court-clerks to attend the court hearings physically. So

far, 1,43,626 number of cases along with the total footfall of 12,01,443 participants have been convened through video conferencing by the Supreme Court Registry. Since March 23, 2020, 6,484 Benches of Hon'ble Supreme Court convened court proceedings through video conferencing and disposed of 34,515 cases.

## 12. Secure Gate Pass & Attendance Management Systems

The in-house software development team of Computer Cell developed a tailor made software to limit and restrict the access to the Supreme Court Complex and particularly to the high security zone areas. The Supreme Court Registry has also developed and deployed biometric enabled photo attendance system for its staff, which enables to generate daily, weekly, monthly or customised reports and also regulate working hours and inculcate discipline amongst the staff members without human supervision.

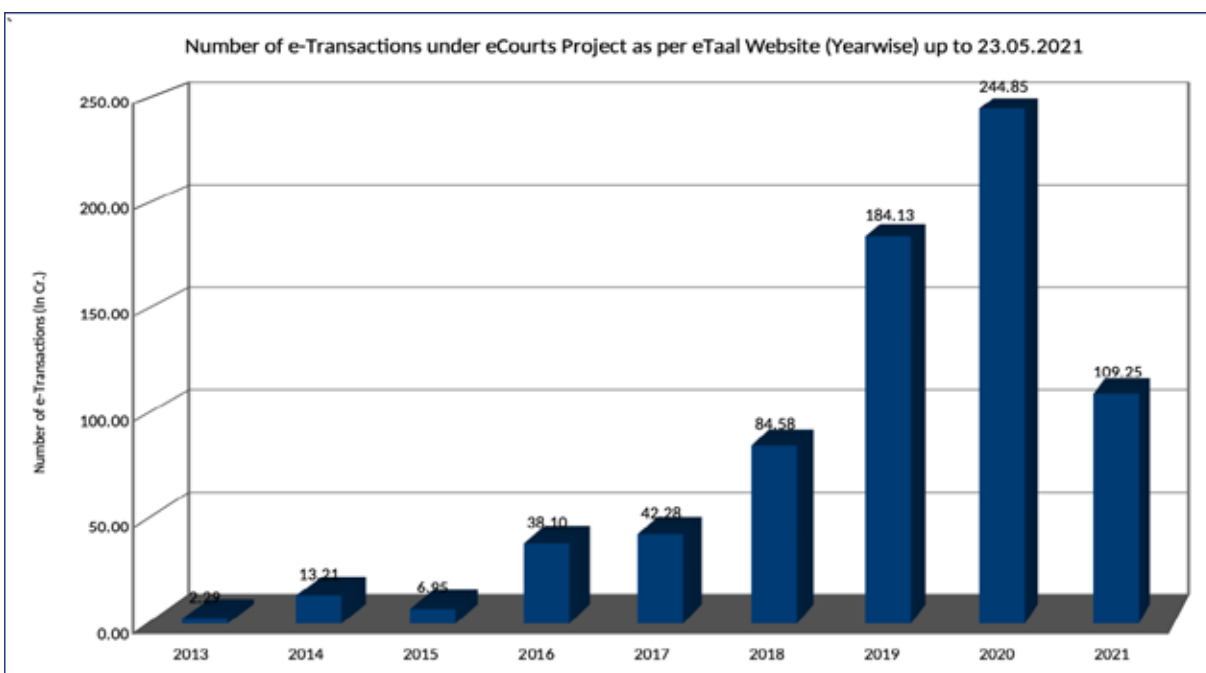
## 13. Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER)

To overcome the challenge of delay in transmission of order(s) passed by the Court and consequential delay in the release of the under trial persons, accused persons, convicts, the Supreme Court in ***In Re: Delay in release of convicts after grant of bail - Suo Moto Writ Petition (C) No. 4/2021*** by order dated 23.09.2021 approved a technological solution, Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER) developed by the Supreme Court Registry with necessary support and assistance provided by National Informatics Centre (NIC). FASTER system shall work on the mechanism of transmission of e-authenticated copies of interim orders, stay orders, bail orders, record of proceedings to the duty-holders

for compliance, execution through a secured electronic communication channel. Over 20 States have already submitted their compliance reports and the Supreme Court Registry in consultation with NIC have started online training programs of nodal officers of States, and officers of prisons, correction facilities for effective implementation of the FASTER project.

### ACTIVITIES OF E-COMMITTEE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

- More than 354.1 crore e-transactions were recorded on e-Taal (<https://etaal.gov.in/>) during the pandemic for e-Courts services:** Electronic Transaction Aggregation & Analysis Layer (e-Taal) Website has recorded 244.85 crore e-transactions in 2020 and 109.25 crore e-transactions from 1 January 2021 to 23 May 2021, which highlights the success and reach of e-Courts services to the common citizens. According to the e-Taal, the e-Courts Project is ranked first under the Mission Mode Projects for providing the highest number of e-transactions.
- Video conferencing licenses:** Due to the sudden outbreak of COVID-19, the e-Committee immediately shared its 375 Vidyo Connect accounts with the Supreme Court for conducting hearings via video conferencing. To enhance the video conferencing capabilities, the e-Committee procured 1000 additional Vidyo Connect licenses and provided them to the Supreme Court. For the use of District Courts and jails, 500 Vidyo Connect licenses were procured under the e-Courts Project and are currently in use.
- Cases dealt through video conferencing:** 1,04,76,548 cases (High Courts - 36,66,095 and District Courts - 68,10,453) were heard by courts through video conferencing using the digital infrastructure provided by the e-Courts Project during the pandemic from 25 March 2020 till 31 May 2021. This makes India a global leader in conducting cases through video conferencing. This was made possible due to the robust digital infrastructure created during Phase I and Phase II of the e-Courts Project.





*Inauguration of Live Streaming of Court Hearings at High Court of Gujarat*

- **Online training conducted between May 2020 to May 2021 reached 2,03,284 stakeholders:** The e-Committee's 30 training programmes have reached 2.03 Lakhs advocates, judges and court staff during the pandemic (May 2020 to May 2021). The training and awareness programmes saw the participation of High Court judges, judges of district judiciary, court staff, master trainers among judges/DSA, technical staff of High Courts and advocates.
- **Advocate Master trainer programme:** As of 28 May 2021, 30,781 Advocates and Advocate Clerks and 4,006 advocate Master trainers were trained by the e-Committee, in coordination with their respective State Judicial Academies. The advocate trainers have, in turn, conducted the e-Courts awareness programme for other advocates and advocate clerks. The said training programme has so far covered the States of Kerala, Punjab & Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and Tamil Nadu. This programme is aimed at digitally enabling and empowering the Bar to pave the way for the digital enhancement of the Indian Judiciary.
- **E-Courts Services Mobile App Manual in 14 languages:** e-Committee, Supreme Court of India released manual for its top citizen-centric service "e-Courts Services Mobile App" in 14 languages (English, Hindi,

Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu). These manuals can be downloaded from the website of the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India at <https://e-Committeesci.gov.in/service/ecourts-services-mobile-application/>

- **e-Committee YouTube channel:** To create greater awareness through social media, a YouTube channel of e-Courts Services was created by the e-Committee [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPMHFB1lou-P\\_YtErFFYjgw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPMHFB1lou-P_YtErFFYjgw)), which hosts video tutorials on e-Filing in various regional languages. e-Courts services' YouTube channel has reached more than thirteen thousand (13K) subscribers and reached more than 1,40,000 views from May 2020 to May 2021.
- **New e-Committee website (<https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/>):** eCommittee has launched its website on SWAAS (Secure, Scalable & Suganya Website as a Service) platform provided by NIC. The website is in compliance with the GIGW (Government of India guidelines for website). It has been developed on Open-Source Technology. It showcases various IT initiatives of e-Committee, and IT initiatives taken by High Courts. There are also individual High Court pages hosting their respective e-initiatives and best practices. The e-Committee website is also available in English, and 9 Indian languages (Hindi, Assamese, Punjabi, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Khasi, Tamil, Telugu). The website has recorded 26,400 (26.4 K) hits, as of May 2021
- **E-Committee newsletter:** The e-Committee's digital newsletter is published and circulated to various stakeholders from May 2020 to May 2021 and is hosted on the e-Committee website (<https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/publication-type/newsletters/>).



- **Model Rules Framed During Pandemic:**
  - **Model rules of video conferencing for courts:** The model rules of video conferencing for courts were framed by the e-Committee and circulated to High Courts for their adoption during April 2021. 16 High Courts and 2 Benches of the Gauhati High Court have implemented the video conference rules.
  - **Model rules of e-Filing for courts:** The model rules on e-Filing were framed and circulated to the High Courts on 24 June 2020. 9 High Courts and 1 Bench of Gauhati High Court have implemented the rules.
  - **Model rules for live-streaming:** Draft model rules on live-streaming were framed and circulated to all the High Courts for their suggestions/inputs. The same was also hosted in the Mygov portal for inputs from the public.
- **Sub-Committee for creating SOP for scanning and digitisation:** A Sub-Committee consisting of judges and domain experts was constituted for preparing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for scanning, storage, retrieval, digitisation and preservation of legacy data of the judicial domain. A working group has been formed including experts of CDAC and NIC to prepare the Digital Preservation SOP and technical implementation plan for all courts. Approximately 2,700 crore documents are proposed to be digitized in the next five years, including legacy records. Draft SOP for Scanning and Digitisation has been prepared and circulated to High Courts for their views and suggestions. This will also be the base for paperless and digital court projects to be implemented in the future.
- **Vision Committee:** A draft Vision Document for Phase-III of the e-Courts project has been prepared and circulated to



*Digitization of Court Records in Odisha*

all stakeholders, including High Courts, IITs, National Law Universities and NITI Aayog for their inputs and suggestions.

- **Sub-Committee for preparing e-Registers:** A Sub-Committee consisting of seven judges of the High Courts has been constituted for preparing Model e-Registers in April 2021.
- **Sub-Committee for marginalized sections:** A Sub Committee for the marginalized sections has been conceptualized and formed to provide the benefits of the e-Courts system to the marginalized sections of the society. The Sub-Committee consists of High Court judges and a domain expert. The Sub-Committee has submitted the report titled “Social Justice Committee Report on Recommended Action For Marginalized Sections of the Society” in March 2021 with recommendations on making the e-Courts services accessible to three identified marginalized sections - women, the LGBTQIA+ community and persons with disabilities.
- **e-Sewa Kendra in all court complexes of the country:** e-Sewa Kendra’s motto is to provide access to justice and litigant centric information. The mission is to overcome the digital divide in accessing services of the e-Committee. Funds to the tune of Rs 12.54 crores was released to the High Courts for setting up e-SewaKendras. As of 28 February 2021, e-Sewa Kendras are functional in 22 High Courts & 249 District courts. Kerala tops with 112 e-SewaKendras. e-Sewa Kendra will serve as a One-Stop Digital Center for the common litigant / advocates for their e-Court related digital needs. It will cut across the digital divide and ensure access to justice to all in the emerging digital legal system.
- **Rs.154.81 crores worth of fine was collected through Virtual Courts:** Virtual Courts enable the public to get their traffic

challans disposed of from the convenience of their home. It eliminates the presence of a litigant or a lawyer in court premises through online adjudication. As of 24 May 2021, 65,83,778 challans were received, and proceedings were completed in 63,69,388 challans. While 79,778 challans were contested, fines were paid in 14,04,489 challans. As of 24 May 2021, a total fine of Rs.154.81 crores was collected.

- **Accessible ecosystem:** The e-Committee has also taken up the mantle of making judicial processes, including digital services, accessible to persons with disabilities by taking steps to make the court website orders and judgements available in accessible formats for persons with visual impairments. All the websites of High Courts are modified to be disabled-friendly. Accessible features like increase/decrease of the contrast and text, screen reader access, accessible calendar, audio captchas and screen reader access are available on the websites of High Courts.
- **Judgment search portal (<https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in>):** The new Judgement search portal was launched on 9 April 2021. The said portal is a repository of judgments and final orders passed by the High Courts. The facility is provided to locate judgments based on several search criteria and parameters. Efforts were made to make the portal accessible for persons with visual disabilities by providing audio captcha and labelling search boxes.
- **e-Filing software:** An e-Filing software application has been developed, enabling electronic filing of legal papers and promoting paperless filing. The web links of e-Filing are <https://efiling.ecourts.gov.in> and <https://filing.ecourts.gov.in/>. From 1 March 2020 to 21 May 2021, 90,190 and 11,810 cases were e-Filed through District Court and High Court e-Filing applications,

respectively. The latest e-Filing software application, version 3.0(<https://filing.ecourts.gov.in/>), which has several novel features, has also been launched by the e-Committee on 9 April 2021.

- **Tutorials on E-Filing 3.0:** The video tutorials on the various features of e-Filing 3.0 have also been uploaded on the e-Courts services Youtube channel [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8yWOGJOLKJVgIKxy\\_kVZzuPK29n\\_Kc](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8yWOGJOLKJVgIKxy_kVZzuPK29n_Kc)
- **Open API:** An Open Application Programming Interface (API) for sharing e-Courts data electronically has been prepared. It is hosted on the Bharat API website. Central and State Government departments can apply for API access of e-Courts data. It can be used for litigation management by government departments, local bodies, insurance companies and banks. At present, open API access has been granted to 43 government departments (19 central departments and 24 state departments).
- **National Judicial Data Grid (“NJDG”) for District and Taluk Courts:** NJDG is a flagship project of e-Committee that tracks the country’s pending cases, ensuring transparency in the functioning of the judicial system by making this information available in the public domain. As of 23 May 2021, data of 3,31,22,502 pending cases is available on NJDG for District and Taluk Courts. It can be accessed through <https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/njdgnew/index.php>.
- **NJDG Status of institution and disposal of cases during the pandemic in District and Taluka Courts:** During the pandemic from 23 March 2020 to 30 May 2021, 1,37,01,916 cases were registered, and 83,41,518 cases were disposed of in District and Taluka courts. The pendency increased from 3,16,86,347 (as of 23 March 2020) to 3,70,46,745 (as of 30 May 2021).
- **Delay Reasons:** The e-Committee has highlighted the importance of entering the reasons for delay, to ensure speedy disposal. As of 29 May 2021, delay reasons have been entered in 97,99,896 cases out of the pending 2,34,97,361 cases which are more than 2 years old throughout the country. The above data is available on the public portal of NJDG. All courts can use it to track, manage and monitor the delays effectively. For instance, as on date, 1,891 cases in the District Judiciary are marked as stayed by the Supreme Court.
- **Integration with Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and land records data:** CIS is integrated with the MCA portal for fetching company-related information as a pilot project in Commercial Courts of Bombay and integrated with land records data in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.
- **WAN connectivity:** 3,332 courts complexes have been provided with a minimum of 10 MBPS bandwidth MPLS connectivity through BSNL.
- **Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (“ICJS”):** Live electronic exchange of data between courts and police through ICJS has been implemented in 21 High Courts. Metadata of FIR and charge sheet details are electronically received in courts through the CIS software system.
- **e-Payments:** Online payment of court fees, fine, penalty and judicial deposits through an e-Payment link-<https://pay.ecourts.gov.in> has been initiated. Citizens can now make payments online using this portal, eliminating the use of stamps, cheques and cash. e-Payments has been enabled at 13 High Courts.
- **Digital India Award (Platinum Award) 2020 for Excellence in Digital e-Governance:** The e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India has been awarded the Digital India

Award (Platinum Award) for Excellence in Digital Governance for the year 2020 by the President of India. The e-Committee, with its citizen-centric services and host

of digital reforms, has played a crucial role in bringing the fundamental right to access justice to life, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## I. NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY

The National Judicial Academy (NJA) was established as a registered society (fully funded by the Government of India) on the initiative of the Supreme Court of India, and is an All India Institute for Judicial Education, Research and Training. NJA was dedicated to the Nation by Hon'ble the President of India on 5 September, 2002 at Bhopal.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India is the Ex-Officio Chairman of the society. The National Judicial Academy is managed by the Governing Council, chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. Two puisne Judges of the Supreme Court of India; the Secretary, Department of Law and Justice, Government of India; the Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India; the Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India; the Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India and the Director of the National Judicial Academy are the members of the Governing Council. The National Judicial Education Strategy was adopted by the National Judicial Academy under the chairmanship of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, which established for the first time a clear framework for National Judicial Education for enhancing timely justice by reducing delays and arrears and improving the quality and responsiveness of justice. NJA

organizes academic programs for judges and Presiding Officers of various Tribunals in every academic year to take forward its mission of Judicial Education and Research.

In the academic year 2020-2021, the NJA organized 28 programs with the participation of 956 Judges between November 2020 to May 2021. During this period, 14 programs for High Courts Justices; 5 workshops for Principal District Judges; 2 workshops for State Judicial Academies; 4 workshops for Presiding Officers of Special Courts and 3 conferences for Additional District Judges were organized and conducted online.

### A. Judicial Conferences for High Court Justices

The National Judicial Academy organized 14 conferences for High Court Judges during 2020-21

- Workshop for High Court Justices on Arbitration including International Arbitration, 5 & 6 December 2020.
- National Workshop for High Court Justices, 12 & 13 December 2020
- Workshop for Newly Elevated High Court Justices, 12 & 13 December 2020
- Workshop for High Court Justices on Direct Taxes, 9 & 10 January 2021

- Workshop for High Court Justices on Goods and Services Tax (GST) 16 & 17 January 2021
- Workshop for Newly Elevated High Court Justices, 6 & 7 February 2021
- National Convention for Senior High Court Justices: Strengthening Fiscal and Administrative Protocols in High Courts, 13 & 14 February 2021.
- Workshop for Senior High Court Justices: Business Process Re-Engineering, 20 & 21 February 2021
- National Workshop for High Court Justices, 13 & 14 March 2021
- Workshop for High Court Justices on Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division, 3 & 4 April 2021
- Workshop for High Court Justices on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), 10 & 11 April 2021.
- Workshop for Senior High Court Justices: Business Process Re-Engineering, 17 & 18 April 2021
- National Convention for Senior High Court Justices: Strengthening Fiscal and Administrative Protocols in High Courts, 25 April & 8 May 2021.
- Workshop for High Court Justices on Goods and Services Tax (GST) 1 & 2 May 2021.

#### **B. Conference for Principal District and Sessions Judges**

The Academy organized 5 conferences for Principal District and Session Judges on the following themes:

- Seminar for Principal District & Sessions Judges on Leadership Skills, 7 & 8 November 2020.
- Workshop on Adjudicating Terrorism

Cases, 23 & 24 January 2021.

- Seminar for Principal District & Sessions Judges and Additional District Judges on Psychosocial Adjustments and Stress Management, 30 & 31 January 2021.
- Seminar for Principal District & Sessions Judges on Leadership Skills, 6 and 7 March 2021
- Seminar for Principal District & Sessions Judges and Additional District Judges on Psychosocial Adjustments and Stress Management, 24 & 25 April 2021.

#### **C. Conferences for Additional District Judges**

The Academy organized 3 conferences for Additional District Judges on the following themes:

- Workshop on Criminal Trials in Serious Offences, 28 & 29 November 2020.
- Workshop on Criminal Trials in Serious Offences, 23 & 24 January 2021.
- Workshop on Criminal Trials in Serious Offences, 3 & 4 April 2021.

#### **D. Conferences for Judicial Officers of Special Courts**

The Academy organized 4 conferences for Judicial Officers of Special Courts on the following themes:

- Refresher Course for Family Courts, 21 & 22 November 2020
- Refresher Course for Commercial Courts, 5 & 6 December 2020
- Refresher Course for Commercial Courts, 17 & 18 April 2021
- Refresher Course for POCSO Courts, 8 & 9 May, 2021

### E. Conference and Calendar Meeting for State Judicial Academies.

- Training of Trainers for Faculty of State Judicial Academies, 15 & 16 May 2021
- Annual Academic Calendar Meeting with SJAs, 16 May 2021.

Apart from the above, at the close of the academic year, a special program to train the faculties at the Academy was held in coordination with the Federal Judicial Center, Washington and CEELI Institute (Central and Eastern European Law Initiative), Prague, from 3 to 17, June 2021

## II. THE INDIAN LAW INSTITUTE

The Indian Law Institute (ILI) is a premier legal research Institute founded on 27 December, 1956. The first President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad formally inaugurated the Institute on 12 December 1957 in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi which was witnessed by the first Prime Minister of India Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.R. Dave, the then Chief Justice of India.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of India is the Ex-officio President of the Institute. The Law Minister of the Union Government is the Ex-officio Vice President. The governance of the Institute is under supervision and guidance of nominated Judges of Supreme Court of India.

The prime objective of the Institute is to promote advanced studies and research in law and to contribute substantially in reforming the administration of Justice, so as to meet the socio-economic aspirations through law and its instrumentalities.

The Indian Law Institute was granted Deemed University status in 2004 vide Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development Notification No.F.9-9/2001-U.3 dated 29.10.2004. The Institute has been

accredited with 'A' Grade (CGPA 3.35 out of 4.00) by NAAC in March 2017. After the visit and review by the UGC Expert Committee, the UGC approved the inclusion of Indian Law Institute u/s 12B of the UGC Act in June 2018. The Indian Law Institute was granted Graded Autonomy (Grade - II) by University Grants Commission during the year 2017.

The Institute is conducting Masters and Ph.D. in Law. It also runs PG Diploma Courses in various areas of law, i.e., Alternative Dispute Resolution, Corporate Laws and Management, Cyber Law and Intellectual Property Rights Laws.

Indian Law Institute Library is one of the leading law libraries in Asia and attracts scholars from all over the world for legal research. The ILI library has computerized all its catalogue to provide access to the computerized information about the availability of books, journals and various other legal resources. It contains around 82,500 volumes and receives about 190 current legal periodicals including serial publications. Digitisation of rare documents and Institute's publications are done on regular basis and placed in the repository for access by public at large. The library of the Institute has recently shared its Institutional repository at the coveted National Digital Library platform (NDL) which is the brain child of the MHRD-NME-ICT.

### Research Publications Released

The following research publications have been released by the ILI during the period of report:

- Journal of the Indian Law Institute (JILI) - Published quarterly containing research articles on contemporary legal issues of National/International Importance.
- ILI Newsletter - Published quarterly referring various activities undertaken by the Institute during the year and forthcoming activities.

- Index to Legal Periodicals - Published yearly and contains indexes, periodicals (including year books and other annual publications) pertaining to law and related fields being received (either by subscription or exchange or complementary) by the ILI Library.
- Annual Survey of Indian Law -Published yearly and is a very prestigious publication of the Institute and contains Annual Survey of Indian Law including latest trends in every branch of law of importance.
- ILI Law Review (Summer) & (Winter)

### Books

- Human Rights of Vulnerable Groups: National and International Perspectives

### Web Series of Lectures/ Conferences/ Talk/ Seminars

- (i) **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Celebration of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence: Conference on commemorating the Indian independence movement on 16 April 2021**

As a part of the initiative of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' with its theme of celebration of the elixir of independence, events have been held across the country and the Indian Law Institute also organised conferences commemorating the Indian independence movement. To mark the launch of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**, the Indian Law Institute in joint collaboration with the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India organised a conference commemorating the Indian independence movement on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 on the theme of Communal Harmony and Mahatma Gandhi.

- (ii) **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Celebration of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence: Talk on 12 March 2021**

As a part of the initiative of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' with its theme of celebration of the elixir of independence, the Indian Law Institute organised a Talk on March 12, 2021.

- (iii) **Webinar on "Constitution Day" on 26 November 2020**

The adoption of the Constitution of India on the 26 November, 1949 marked the culmination of the diverse aspirations of the heterogenous Indian community and the firm resolve to constitute the diversities into one nation state that would be founded upon the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity among all. To commemorate the historic day, each year 26 November is celebrated as National Law Day or the National Constitution Day. To mark this momentous day, the Indian Law Institute organized a webinar on "Constitution Day" on 26 November 2020 which saw the participation from . members of academia as well as the legal fraternity.

- (iv) **Webinar on the occasion of "20th Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325" on 29 October 2020**

The Indian Law Institute organised a national webinar on the occasion of "20th Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325" on 29 October 2020. The resolution as adopted by the UN Security Council on 30 October 2000 had intended to reaffirm the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction.



**(v) Webinar on “National Education Policy, 2020: Right Steps Towards Inclusive Higher Education” on 18 October 2020**

The National Education Policy, 2020 has marked a paradigm shift in the education reforms in the country and it seeks to undertake a massive overhaul of the education sector. To discuss the ramifications of the first ever comprehensive policy to be introduced after the 1986 NEP, the Indian Law Institute, hosted a webinar on 18 October 2020.

**(vi) Webinar on “Environmental Law: National and International perspective” on 4 October 2020**

A National Webinar was organized on “Environmental Law: National and International perspective” with eminent scholars and practitioners in the field of environmental law.

**(vii) Webinar on “International Humanitarian Law: Issues and Challenges” on 2 October 2020**

Narratives about International Humanitarian Law have largely pivoted around the historical development of the laws of conduct of warfare and often is confined to the traditional orthodox methodology of looking at it only through the prism of the historical war-codes and the Geneva Conventions. To initiate the discussion on the contemporary relevance of the subject and the emerging challenges and opportunities that the field presents, the Indian Law Institute, in collaboration with Knowledgesteerz, conducted a National Webinar on “International Humanitarian Law: Issues and Challenges” on 2 October 2020.

**(viii) Webinar on “Legal Education and Challenges in India” on 26 September 2020**

The Indian Law Institute in collaboration with All India Lawyer’s Forum (AILF) organised a webinar on “Legal Education and Challenges in India” on September 26, 2020. The Chief Guest of the programme was Hon’ble Justice Shri Surya Kant, Judge Supreme Court of India.

**(ix) A talk on “Perverse Economies of Intimate and Personal Labour: Resuming Domestic Work in Households after the Lockdown” on 6 July 2020**

A talk was organized followed by an interactive session which delineated how formalities of social distancing and mask-wearing have begun to inflict intimate and personalised relationships in ways that entrenches existing hierarchies enabled by past practices. The talk tried to demonstrate the social phenomenon that the pandemic is thrusting on us.

**(x) Webinar on “Research Metrics : Impact Factor and H-Index” on 22 July 2020**

The Indian Law Institute organised Webinar on Research Metrics. Discussion was made on impact factor and h-Index as a useful index to measure the research output and impact.

**(xi) Webinar on “Changing Dimensions of Authorship in Copyright Law” on 23 July 2020**

The Indian Law Institute organised a webinar on “Changing Dimensions of Authorship in Copyright Law”. The focus of the discussion was: In today’s digital world are we slowly departing from the concept of human authorship to the Artificial Intelligence systems taking its

place as Author/creator of the work? There was discussion about the background of copyright law, and the criteria and basis for copyright protection, authorship and identification of lacunas in the act, Comparison of Indian law with UK and US etc.

**(xii) Online Discussion on “The Impossibility of Love in Meghna Gulzar’s “Raazi” on 24 July 2020**

An online discussion on “The Impossibility of Love in Meghna Gulzar’s “Raazi” was organised on 24 July 2020. Through the landscape of the much celebrated film ‘Raazi’, it was explored how masculine worldviews get couched in terms of (woman’s) valour, agency and sacrifice.

**(xiii) Webinar on “Gender Mainstreaming: Have we learnt the Lesson from the Pandemic?” on 28 July 2020**

A talk was organized on the issue of “Gender Mainstreaming: Have We Learnt the Lesson from the Pandemic?” The talk followed by Q&A discussed the gender dynamics and focused on the lessons that the pandemic offers about shaping the home and work space divide - to move the discourse on gender from binaries to a more holistic approach

**(xiv) Webinar on “Mental Health Matters and Psychological Coping Strategies” on 30 July 2020**

The pandemic brought great uncertainties in our lives and many students as well as employees were dealing with issues of anxiety and stress. A holistic clinical and organisational psychologist was invited to discuss Mental Health Matters and Psychological Coping Strategies on 30 July 2020. The interactive session explored ways

to manage anxiety and mental resilience in these stressful times.

### **III. LEGAL EDUCATION**

The Supreme Court is instrumental in enhancing and maintenance of standard of legal education in the country. The Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India / Hon’ble Judges of the Supreme Court are Chancellors/ Visitors in a number of Universities.

### **IV. LAW CLERKS - CUM - RESEARCH ASSISTANTS AND LAW TRAINEES**

In order to attract young law students into judicial process and to provide assistance in legal research to Hon’ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India, Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants are engaged for a short term contractual assignment by the Supreme Court. They are given assignment on a fixed stipend of Rs. 65,000/- per month. Each Hon’ble Judge is entitled to have four Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants.

Law students are considered for being placed as Law Trainees with the Hon’ble Judges, as per requirement, for a period not exceeding one month from time to time, without any monetary incentive.

As per the Revised Scheme for selection of Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants, all final year Law students/Law Graduates from Law Schools/ Colleges/Universities from all over the country, recognized by the Bar Council of India for enrolment as an Advocate, are eligible for participating in the process of selection. The candidates are subjected to a Written Test and candidates short-listed on the basis of marks secured by them in the written test are called for interview by the Committee of Hon’ble Judges. On the basis of marks secured by the candidates

in the Written Test and Interview, a merit list is drawn wherefrom the Committee of Hon'ble Judges recommend sufficient candidates to be kept on the panel of Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants.

## **V. CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND PLANNING**

In order to strengthen the knowledge infrastructure of the Supreme Court of India and to enhance its capacity to meet its increasing knowledge needs, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India has augmented the Centre for Research and Planning (CRP), as part of the "Secretariat of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India" in Supreme Court by approving the "Scheme/guidelines for restructuring and functioning of Centre

for Research and Planning" and defined its role, aims, objectives and staff strength. It has been established to assist the Court in general and Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India in the field of legal research and planning. The CRP will serve as a bridge between academic research, legal and judicial education and the judicial systems. It is the premier research and policy Centre of the Supreme Court primarily focusing on a number of transformational initiatives and programmes for judicial reforms to improve efficiency and sustainability of the justice delivery system and development of jurisprudence. The CRP will carry out its own research as well as harness research relevant to the judicial system and create a network of leading independent scholars in key domain areas.



'Mother and Child Sculpture' in Supreme Court compound

# 13

## LEGAL SERVICES AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

### 1. NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (NALSA)

**Services During COVID-19 Lockdown:** During March-June 2020, the wrath of COVID-19 pandemic was directly proportional to the vulnerability of individuals in our society. Vulnerable sections of society such as women, children, senior citizens, laborers, daily wage earners, etc. faced unprecedented issues, which required a timely and effective resolution. The lockdown also created a unique vulnerable class i.e., stranded persons, who were stuck away from their native places. A cumulative effect of all the issues was also seen on lakhs of migrant workers, who required help in various forms. During this period, the LSAs were at the fore front, providing assistance in legal and non-legal issues.



The non-legal issues which had the potential to trigger legal issues were addressed. In this

context, Legal Services Authorities had to rethink in terms of its mode of functioning. Many of its activities, imperative for achieving access to justice for all had to be shifted from offline to online mode. Through technological interventions, the Legal Services Authorities offered legal advice and assistance, carried out outreach and legal awareness activities and coordinated with other Govt. departments and NGOs. Teams of panel lawyers and PLVs reached out to the needy in remote areas.

### Role of State Legal Services Authorities during pandemic



Bihar State Legal Services Authority under the aegis of NALSA organized a Webinar on "Role of State Legal Services Authorities during Pandemic" on 22 August 2020 wherein Chief Guest Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, the then Executive Chairman, NALSA, Hon'ble

Mr. Justice Navin Sinha, Judge, Supreme Court of India as guest of honor, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol, The Chief Justice, Patna High Court and Patron-in-Chief, Bihar State Legal Services Authority, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh, Judge, Patna High Court-cum-Executive Chairman, BSLSA, Hon'ble Judges of Patna High Court and other distinguished persons participated.

**Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence:**

There was a rise in number of domestic violence cases during the initial phase of lockdown. Urgent response strategies were accordingly deployed to resolve the existing cases as well as to prevent further rise in number of cases. The Legal Services Authorities provided legal assistance to victims of domestic violence. Grievances were received mainly through the National Legal Aid Helpline No. 15100 and State Legal Aid Helpline Numbers. Due to limited functioning of courts during the lockdown, the primary approach of the LSAs was to resolve the issues through counselling and mediation. However, in aggravated situations, proper recourse was taken in assistance with the concerned authorities.

**Assistance Provided in Getting Reliefs Under DV Act:**

Legal Services Authorities encountered a number of cases, wherein either the aggrieved person specifically demanded or the LSAs identified that application for reliefs under PWDV Act was to be made. The panel lawyers assisted number of aggrieved persons in getting reliefs such as residence order, maintenance order, protection order, etc.

**Assistance Provided to Migrant Workers:** The migrant workers were one of the worst hit groups by the pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns which ensued. With workplaces shut down due to the lockdown imposed in the country, migrant workers had to deal

with loss of income, food shortages and uncertainty about their future. With all these uncertainties, they had no option but to travel back to their native places during the raging pandemic.



The suffering of the migrant workers was noticed by Legal Services Authorities, who stepped in to provide assistance including distribution of COVID prevention kits, food, shelter, payment of wages, travel arrangements, etc. Within three months, the LSAs assisted around 57 lakh migrants across the country in co-ordination with the District Administration. The LSAs displayed great coordination to overcome the jurisdictional challenges and ensured that welfare of migrants was not affected due to territorial boundaries. Total number of cases in which assistance was provided to migrants in terms of transit, food, etc.-57,82,870.

**Assistance Provided to Senior Citizens:**

In order to sensitize senior citizens about the deadly virus, LSAs undertook a various range of activities, in tune with the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. Incidents were also reported regarding domestic violence against senior citizens. Also, in some cases, they were abandoned by their families. In such cases, LSAs promptly intervened and provided counselling to the

families of senior citizens. All steps were taken to ensure food was provided to homeless elderly persons. Moreover, many of them reached old age homes. Total number of 1,04,084 senior citizens were assisted through legal services during April - June, 2020.



**Legal Assistance to Prisoners:** The LSAs assisted High Powered Committees formed in pursuant to the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in *Suo Moto Writ Petition (C) No.1/2020*, in identifying the prisoners who are eligible to be released on parole or interim bail for a period deemed appropriate by the Committee.



The LSAs identified the appropriate cases and during the lockdown, legal assistance was provided to around 22,559 under trials and convicted persons. Around 19,300 persons were provided legal assistance at the remand stage. Preventive steps were taken to ensure

the safety of the inmates and to contain the spread of the virus inside the prisons. Preventive kits were distributed inside the prisons and health check-up camps were organised to identify the specific medical needs of the inmates. To minimise the spread of the virus, proceedings in pending criminal cases were conducted through virtual conferences.

**Assistance Through Legal Aid Helpline Number:** At a time when movement of persons was restricted, LSAs focused on strengthening the Legal Aid Helpline number to address the issues of such persons in distress. Various cases of domestic violence, denial of wages, and forced evictions, etc. were commonly reported on the helpline. The persons managing the helplines were sensitized and trained to address the sensitive issues of the persons in distress. Apart from legal assistance, the helpline was also used to provide psychological and emotional counselling to the persons who were emotionally disturbed due to prolonged stay at home. Assistance was provided to around 6,26,391 people through Legal Aid Helpline.



**E-Lok Adalat - Inculcating Technology and Adaption with Time:** In light of the raging

pandemic, the efforts of Legal Services Institutions were diverted to encapsulate the technological tools in the dispensation of Legal Aid Services. Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, the then Executive Chairman, NALSA, visualised the idea of switching to Technological alternatives and guided the Legal Services Institutions to inculcate the use of such technological tools, and transform the traditional Lok Adalats into E-Lok Adalats.



Due to the E-Lok Adalats, legal help and disputes could be disposed of online. The main objective was to improve people's accessibility to this ADR forum during the pandemic and reduce the burden on courts by settling not only the pending cases but also cases which are at the pre-litigation stage.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, Executive Chairman participated in the launch of e-Lok Adalats in Rajasthan, Karnataka and New Delhi. Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) conducted the first ever E-Lok Adalat in New Delhi on 8 August 2020, amid the restricted judicial functioning owing to COVID-19 outbreak. This unique Lok Adalat was first one in India to be conducted fully digitally on an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Platform.

Sama, an ODR platform, recognized by Ministry

of Law and Justice, Government of India, was the official technical partner for the Lok Adalat, which witnessed over 70 courts from 11 districts across Delhi settling disputes online through Video Conferencing and E-Signatures. A total of 5838 matters were settled, with the total settlement amount crossing 46,28,23,004. (46 +crores). The Accomplishment Ceremony was held to celebrate the success of the E-Lok Adalat & was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, Judge Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairperson, NALSA (as His Lordship then was) who was the Chief Guest for the event.



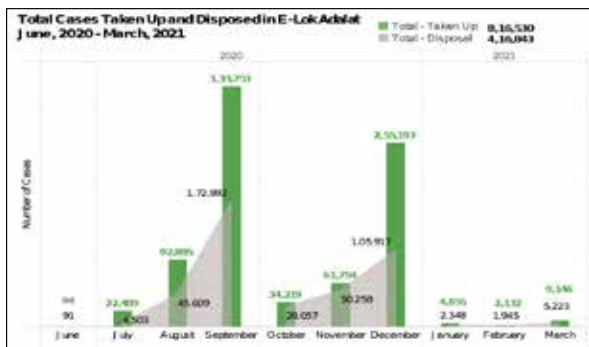
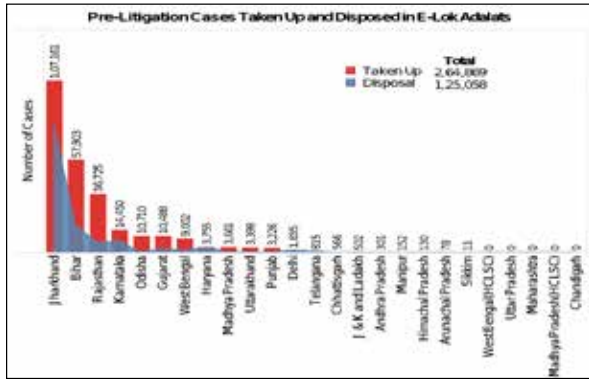
Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) held the State's first online Lok Adalat in August, 2020. It was organised across the State, including in the districts of Barmer, Dhaulpur, Jaisalmer, Karauli, and Sirohi. A Mega E-Lok Adalat was held by Karnataka SLISA.



During the financial year, 56 E-Lok Adalats were organised by the LSIs across the country



and around 4.16 lakh cases have been disposed of through E-Lok Adalats.



## Women Empowerment through Legal Awareness: A Collaborative effort with NCW

A Campaign for empowerment of women had been launched by Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA (as His Lordship then was) on the occasion of 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. It was a Joint initiative of NALSA and National Commission for Women (NCW).

On this occasion, NALSA released a "Handbook on laws relating to Women" which covers laws relating to women in easy-to-understand language. Apart from this, other IEC materials consisting of seven booklets were also released by Justice N.V. Ramana. Under the Project, 675 legal literacy programmes for women were carried out in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra,

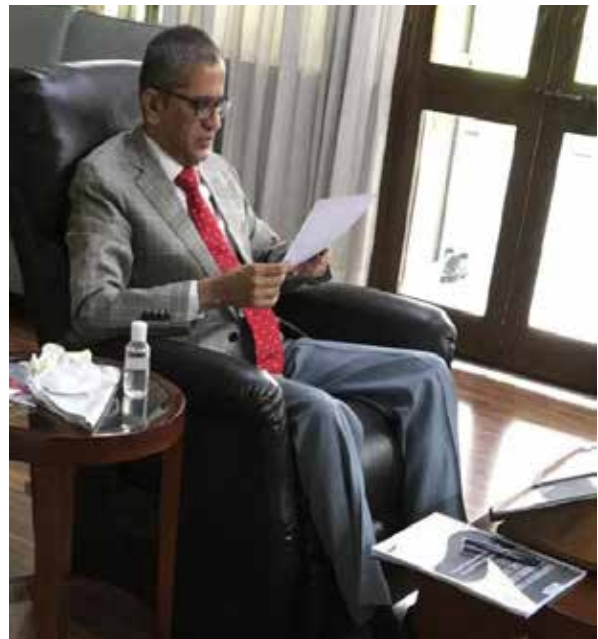


## Pictorial Glimpses

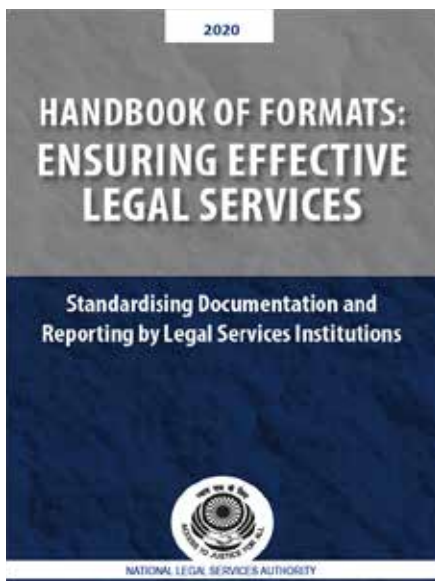


Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal with the objective of making women aware of the rights and protections available to them under various laws. Another objective was to enhance their capacities to actualize their rights by empowering them with the knowledge to approach the appropriate forum for redressal of their grievances. The States were selected keeping in view the NCRB data on crime against women. Around 34,621 women participated in the aforesaid programme.

**Standardisation of reporting: Release of NALSA's 'Handbook of Formats: Ensuring Effective Legal Services':**



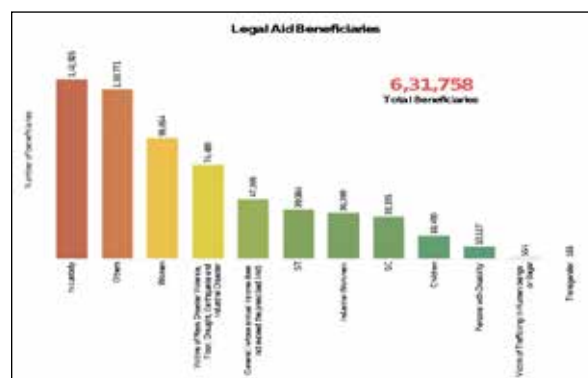
NALSA in collaboration with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative prepared a handbook to standardize and bring in uniformity in the use of formats for appointment/ assignment letters, duty notes etc.



The handbook titled, 'Handbook of Formats: Ensuring Effective Legal Services' was released by Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) (as His Lordship then was) at a webinar. The handbook consists of two sections. The first section contains formats for legal aid providers i.e., panel lawyers, retainer lawyers, remand lawyers, jail visiting lawyers and lawyers attached to police stations and for community and convict paralegal volunteers. The second section includes formats for Legal Services Institutions including registers for the Front Office, attendance registers, clinics and for the Monitoring and Mentoring Committees. The handbook contains formats that will enhance data collection, enabling NALSA to analyse trends and patterns emanating from data, and identification of issues at the very micro level.

**Legal aid and advice- Court based legal services:** Forming the crux of the Legal Services

Authorities, Legal Aid and Advice in court based legal services are among the fundamental functions of NALSA. NALSA successfully along with the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) achieved its goal of providing quality legal aid and advice to the masses. With the onset of the pandemic and multiple lockdowns across the country, innovative techniques and unique methods were introduced to tackle the various challenges faced by the Legal Services Authorities. The role of legal services authorities is very well suited to facilitating access to poverty alleviation measures due to their last mile presence. There are a number of schemes and emancipatory measures with a framework for facilitating access to the intended beneficiaries. Women, Children, persons in custody, victims of disaster, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, and industrial workmen, are eligible for free legal aid irrespective of their income. Apart from this, people having income less than INR.5,00,000/- per annum can avail legal aid in Supreme Court and those having less than INR 3,00,000/- per annum can avail legal aid in District and High Courts. Free and competent legal aid and assistance was provided in the form of legal representation in courts, legal advice, drafting of notices and applications etc. During the financial year 2020-2021, the number of total beneficiaries in all the States / UTs recorded as 6,31,758 lakhs.



**Legal Awareness programmes:** 'Access to justice to all' remains an imperative function of NALSA and providing legal aid and advice encompasses



are held across the country by the Legal Service Institutions.

**Lok Adalats:** Lok Adalats are the most common form of ADR mechanisms and have successfully demonstrated their importance in reducing the burden of the courts. There are three types of Lok Adalats-National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services). Cases settled in National Lok Adalats and State Lok Adalats include pre-litigation and pending matters related to Negotiable Instruments Act, bank recovery cases, labour dispute cases, service matters, criminal compoundable matters, MACT, etc.

only a part of securing this objective. To educate the population on their legal entitlements as well as their duties under the law, legal awareness programmes, campaigns and camps

### PERFORMANCE DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21

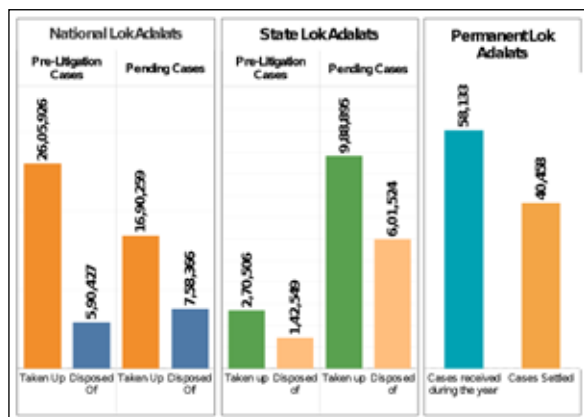
	No. of Lok Adalats held	Disposal of Pre-litigation cases	Disposal of Pending Cases	Total Cases settled	Total Settlement Amount (in Rs)
Lok Adalat (other than National Lok Adalat)	50,451	1,42,549	6,01,524	7,44,073	42,05,69,07,755
National Lok Adalat	1	5,90,427	7,58,366	13,48,793	41,56,88,83,426
Total	50,452	7,32,976	13,59,890	20,92,866	83,62,57,91,181

## Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services)

Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services have been established under Chapter VI-A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, to resolve disputes relating to public utility services at the pre-litigation level.

### Statistical Glimpse

PLAs Functioning	Cases pending at beginning of financial year	Cases received during financial year	Cases settled during financial year
355	1,02,624	58,133	40,458



Total number of cases taken and disposed of in National, State and Permanent Lok Adalats.

**Mediation:** A cost effective and amicable ADR mechanism, mediation offers a mutually acceptable resolution to a dispute between two parties. This dispute resolution mechanism has proved to be effective mainly due to its confidential nature, involvement of a neutral third party and the safe environment provided where parties can discuss and resolve their issues. Mediation being a time saving process, not only fulfils the legal objectives of the litigants but also reduces the burden on the judicial machinery. Over 28,000 cases were

settled through Mediation by Legal Services Authorities across the country. At present there are 393 ADR centers and 576 Mediation Centers across the country.



**Front Offices/One Stop Centres:** Legal Services Authorities provide free and competent legal services to weaker and marginalised sections of society. Front office is one of the units of the entire framework to render such services. With the aim of simplifying the legal aid and assistance process and improving organizational processes, NALSA formulated guidelines whereby Front Offices have been transformed into One Stop Centres. Providing details and status of cases to all legal aid beneficiaries, legal



Hon'ble Justice N.V. Ramana inaugurating Front Office at Rouse Avenue Courts Complex, New Delhi

aid and advice, assistance of panel lawyers in drafting applications, notices, replies etc are some functions carried out by these Front Offices. During the year 2020, around 1,46,358 persons were provided legal assistance through Front Offices.

**Legal Literacy:** Promoting NALSA's aim to spread Legal Literacy in Schools and Colleges, NALSA provided assistance to MAIMS in organizing Justice J S Verma National ADR & Client Counselling Competition on 17 March 2021 at India International Centre, Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice N V Ramana (as His Lordship then was). Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Judge, Supreme Court of India was also present during the event.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice N V Ramana, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA & Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Judge, Supreme Court of India.

**Legal Services Clinics:** Established in jails, Juvenile Justice Boards, villages, observation homes, community centres and universities around the country, Legal Services Clinics promote access for people facing geographical, social or other obstacles in obtaining legal assistance from Legal Service Institutions. These clinics are manned by Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs). Assistance is provided in Legal Services Clinics in the form of legal advice, drafting of notices, replies, applications, etc.

LSCs Functional	13,526
People provided assistance	4,52,863
Jail Legal Services Clinics functional	1,076
Provided assistance in JLSCs	1,43,037

**Victim Compensation – Emancipation Through Justice:** Section 357A Cr.P.C. authorizes the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) or State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) to decide the amount of compensation to be awarded to victims under the scheme, subject to the parameters prescribed by the schemes. In the financial year 2020-21, 12,815 applications for victim compensation were received by the Legal Services Institutions, out of which 9,786 applications were decided. Compensation of Rs. 145.62 crores were awarded to the victims during this period.



**Legal Empowerment Camps:** Legal Empowerment camps provide a fresh outlook towards the goal of legal empowerment of the weak and marginalized sections of society by building the foundation of need based analysis

and focused action. Legal Empowerment Camps connect people to their rights and entitlements under various laws and welfare schemes, helping them overcome personal and structural barriers.



During these Legal Empowerment Camps, the Legal Services Authorities give presentations in vernacular about the relevant welfare schemes and eligibility criteria, among other relevant information. Real time registration of beneficiaries in stalls set up by the Legal Services Authority is also undertaken. The PLVs, Panel Lawyers and other stakeholders at the stalls apprise people about various welfare schemes of the state and central government, fill up their forms, help in attaching necessary documents and submit them to the concerned departments/authorities in order to get them connected with the schemes. Need based assistance of local NGOs is also taken during such camps



This year posed a new challenge and in response, online/digital legal empowerment camps were introduced, helping DLSAs/SLSAs to reach the remotest parts of the country. Camps were also organized in micro form covering specific issues. During the period, around 1,181 legal

empowerment camps were organized which benefited over 27.36 lakh persons.

#### **Legal Aid to suspects & accused-Prison Based Services:**

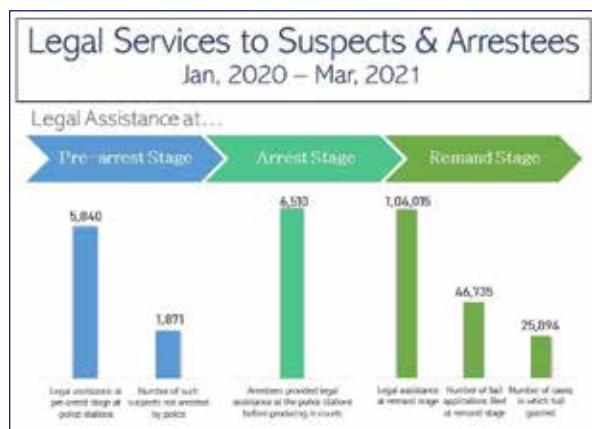
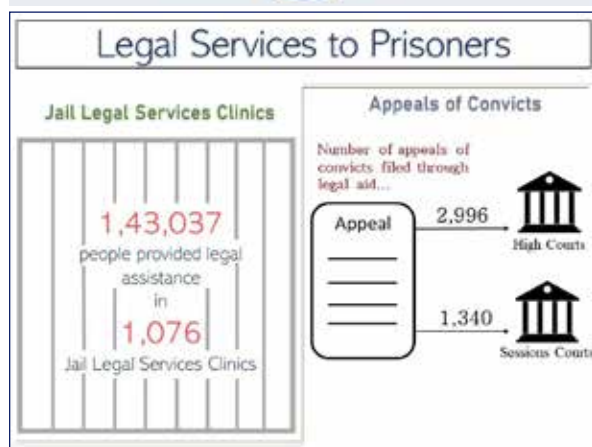
Recognizing the need for early access to justice, the Legal Services Authorities ensured legal representation at all stages of the criminal justice system including at the Pre-arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage. During the year, 2020 suspects were provided legal assistance at the pre-arrest stage at the police station, 4,365 arrestees were provided legal assistance at the police station before producing them in front of courts, and 76,380 persons were provided legal assistance at the remand stage, 36,239 bail applications were filed at the remand stage and bail was granted in 20,762 cases.



Under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, all persons in custody are entitled to legal aid. Several initiatives have already been taken such as setting up of Legal Services Clinics in the Jails across the country, identifying the training PLVs who could communicate with the inmates in the prisons. From the period April 2020 - October 2020 there were 1,057 Legal Services Clinics in Jails functioning across the country, which were visited by 72,739 prisoners and legal assistance was provided to 66,099 prisoners. The Legal Services Authorities have lawyers empaneled who provide representation to under-trial prisoners across the country. From the period January-December 2019, legal representation was provided to 3,96,713 under-trial prisoners (UTPs) before courts and 2,03,655 UTPs were

provided with legal assistance in the form of advice, drafting of application, etc.

### Legal Services to Women Prisoners (2020)



**Legal Aid Defense Counsel System:** Implemented in 2019, the Legal Aid Defence Council (LADC) System improves upon the existing practice of legal assistance provided by panel lawyers in criminal cases. Introduced on a pilot basis in one district each of 17 States, salaried lawyers along with assistants deal exclusively with legal aid cases in criminal matters. From the stage of legal advice to

appeals in session courts and bail applications, the system provides comprehensive legal assistance to the legal aid seeker. In the year 2020, legal assistance was provided in 1595 cases by LADC offices.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V Ramana, the then Executive Chairman, NALSA, presided over the ceremony on occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Delhi State Legal Services Authority & to commemorate the beginning of the Journey of the Delhi SLA on 22 March, 2021. Justice Ramana inaugurated the Front Office established at Rouse Avenue Courts Complex and Legal Aid Defense Counsel System, established in the South West District.



**Unique Initiatives by SLSAs / DLSAs:** The SLSAs and DLSAs in addition to battling the COVID-19 pandemic, assisted in resolving socio-legal issues in the country with their creative programmes and initiatives, with campaigns ranging from Mobile Legal Services Vans to Online ADR Mechanisms.

**'Mobile Legal Services-cum-Lok Adalat Van':** As part of its 'Justice at your Doorsteps' campaign, Arunachal Pradesh SLA introduced a van (Mobile Legal Services-cum-Lok Adalat) that would be ferried at various places and remote areas in every district of Arunachal Pradesh.

With all necessary facilities in the van like court compartment, office stationeries, seating arrangement for lawyers and the team, internal and external Address system, and a generator, among others, the resolution of issues and



challenges of the litigants belonging to remote areas of Arunachal Pradesh are rendered without delay and challenges.



**“Bal Vani” A Radio Show for Children:** Recognizing the unique situation in which children were placed due to the pandemic, Rajasthan SLSA in collaboration with UNICEF and Akashvani Radio launched 'Bal-Vani' - an hour-long radio show to establish a dialogue with children, and make them aware about their rights and duties. The month-long campaign consisted of shows hosted by

children themselves, encouraging them to be aware of their rights and raising a voice for themselves and those around them. Apart from the host children, the panel consisted of educationists, experts, parents, child counsellors, story-tellers, and child heroes. The mode of instruction was made flexible in order to entertain, as well as to inform the kids, and therefore the programmes featured stories, jokes, and poems by children.

**Door to Door Legal Awareness Programmes:** Determined to educate people on their legal rights, the Arunachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (APSLSA) under the Project 'Access to Justice North East and Jammu & Kashmir', conducted 49 Door to Door Legal Awareness Programmes at 10 districts of Arunachal Pradesh.



Around 6,440 persons were benefitted through these legal awareness programmes. Ranging from POCSO Act, Arunachal Pradesh Victim Compensation Scheme' 2011, Marriage Registration Act, Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act., numerous topics were



covered during the campaign.

**E-Mega Camps:** Chhattisgarh SLSA in collaboration and assistance of Government of Chhattisgarh, launched the E Mega Camp series through virtual mode in all of its 23 civil districts and 64 talukas. With the aim of providing economic and social justice to the marginalized sections of the society, CGSLSA successfully assisted more than 8 lakh beneficiaries.



**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav:** Envisaging the ideals of Independent India on the 75th Anniversary of our Independence, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, launched “Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsav” programme on 12 March, 2021.



The Legal Services Authorities also conducted numerous activities during the said Mahotsav. Enumerating upon the issue of the lack of legal awareness amongst the tribal population, 761 awareness programmes including 131 in non-Tribal and 630 in Tribal Areas were conducted across various districts in the country. These programmes focused to make the community aware of their rights and entitlements.



## 2. SUPREME COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (SCLSC)

The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee [SCLSC] is a Statutory Body constituted under Section 3A of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. It came into existence w.e.f. 01.01.1996, on which date a notification in this regard was issued by the Government of India. The functions of the Committee are regulated by the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Regulations, 1996 and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Rules, 2000. It is headed by a sitting Hon'ble Judge of the Supreme Court as its Chairman and has nine other distinguished members in its Executive Body.

- (i) **Eligibility:** The Committee provides legal aid free of cost to eligible litigants whose income does not exceed Rs.5,00,000/- per annum (for general public) as per Rule 7 of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Rules, 2000. There is, however, no income bar for litigants belonging to SC/ST, women, children, handicapped and litigants engaged in matters relating to Industrial Disputes, etc. as defined in the Act. The SCLSC provides legal aid to the persons as mentioned under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The grant of legal aid to the litigants is subject to eligibility and merits of the case.
- (ii) **Procedure:** A person seeking free legal aid through the committee has to apply either by sending requisite documents (mentioned on the website of SCLSC i.e. [www.sclsc.nic.in](http://www.sclsc.nic.in)) through post addressed to its Secretary at 108, Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court Compound, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi or by applying online through the website of SCLSC. However, hard copies of following documents are mandatorily required in case the applicant is applying online in SCLSC:-

1. Vakalatnama,
2. Certificate of imprisonment
3. Certified copy of High Court Judgement
4. Affidavit in support of SLP

For procuring free legal advice one can call on 011-23381257 or visit the front office of SCLSC at 108, Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court Compound, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on a working day and from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Saturday.

- (iii) **Modes of Legal Services:** Regulation 13 of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Regulations, 1996, provides for the modes of legal service, which are:- (i) payment of court-fees, process fees and all other charges payable or incurred in connection with any legal proceedings; (ii) charges for drafting, preparing and filing of any legal proceedings and representation by a legal practitioner in legal proceedings; (iii) cost of obtaining and supply of certified copies of judgment, order and other documents in legal proceedings; and (iv) cost of preparation of paper book (including paper, printing and translation of documents) in legal proceedings and expenses incidental thereto.

### Recent Activities of SCLSC

- (i) **Relaxation in requirement of Affidavit for legal services:** The Committee in pursuance of the Regulation 5 of the National Legal Services Authority (Free and competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 has recently amended the existing practice of accepting notarized copy of affidavit to be submitted in SCLSC for availing services. Now, the legal aid beneficiaries can submit self attested copies of affidavits for legal services

(ii) **Informative poster for prisoners availing legal services:** A poster for steps to file petitions in Supreme Court by Prisoners availing legal services in SCLSC was designed in collaboration with CHRI. It provides detailed methodical procedure in order to facilitate easy and informed access to prisoners languishing in jail who are in need of legal services at Supreme Court Level. The same was forwarded to NALSA as per direction of Hon'ble Chairman for further course of action.

(iii) **Open door Audit by National Law University Delhi**

The second performance audit of the SCLSC as a follow up to the Audit completed in the year 2018 was conducted by National Law University, Delhi. The Audit Report - 2020 submitted by NLU Delhi has been analyzed by the committee and the suggestions made by them as required are being implemented.

The statistical information pertaining to the legal aid applications dealt in the Main Office of the SCLSC is presented in the tabulated form as under:

Month	Diary	New Application	Legal Aid Granted	Rejected	Cases Filed	Cases Disposed
July, 2020	711	216	102	138	58	17
August, 2020	511	110	41	167	67	7
September, 2020	675	154	79	142	69	13
October, 2020	454	96	40	69	57	30
November, 2020	721	180	56	62	28	40
December, 2020	418	100	43	80	55	37
January, 2021	829	203	62	179	36	91
February, 2021	801	217	64	118	74	57
March, 2021	934	286	115	115	72	63
April, 2021	439	138	59	73	59	32
May, 2021	309	105	52	88	22	10
June, 2021	507	172	45	121	65	16

The consolidated statistical information of Front Office of the SCLSC for the period from July 2020 to June 2021 is presented in the tabulated form as under:

S.No.	Particulars	Number
1	Total Matters Assigned	19
2	Legal Advise/counseling provided	305
3	Number of litigants approached	715

### 3. SUPREME COURT MEDIATION CENTRE (SCMC)

Mediation is a voluntary, structured and party centered process where a neutral third party assists the disputing parties in resolving their conflict by using specialized communication and negotiation techniques. The mediation centre has been functioning in Supreme Court Complex since 6 August 2009 at 109-110, lawyers Chambers, R.K. Jain Chamber Block.

The Supreme Court Mediation Centre (SCMC) mediates and resolves only those matters which are pending before Hon'ble Supreme Court and are referred by the Hon'ble Court. Presently, SCMC has a panel of 77 trained mediators (including Senior Advocates). Interested parties can approach the Coordinator, Supreme Court Mediation Centre for assistance and information. The statistical information (since inception) pertaining to the Supreme Court Mediation Centre is presented in the tabulated form as under:

S.No	Particulars	Number
1.	Total number of matters referred by the Hon'ble Supreme Court	3,884
2.	Total number of non-starter matters	613
3.	Total number of settled matters*	1,010
4.	Total number of unsettled matters	2,198
5.	Total number of pending matters	63

\*31 matters were settled from July 2020 to June 2021. Owing to COVID-19 pandemic, SCMC has started conducting online mediations through Cisco Webex platform.

The shifting and beautification of the Supreme Court Mediation Centre at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, B-Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India has since been completed. It has 9 Mediation rooms and a waiting hall to accommodate the parties.

### 4. MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION PROJECT COMMITTEE (MCPC)

The Supreme Court of India constituted the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) on 9 April 2005 with the aim of overseeing the implementation of mediation and conciliation for encouraging amicable resolution of disputes pending in the Courts throughout the country in accordance with Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The MCPC was also mandated to evolve a policy for court annexed /directed mediation in the country. A pilot project in this regard was launched at Tis Hazari District Courts in Delhi in August 2005 with Judicial Officers as Mediators. The MCPC receives grant-in-aid from the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) for implementing its activities.

The MCPC has been conducting the following programmes/activities all over the country.

- 40 hrs Mediation Training Programme (40 hrs MTP)
- 20 hrs Refresher Programme
- Advanced Course (Capsule Course)
- Training of Trainers (TOT)
- Awareness Programme
- Referral Judges Training Programme
- Advanced Training Skills for Potential Trainers Programme
- Course on Developing Advanced Training Skills for Potential Trainers Programme
- 5 Day Intensive Training Programme for Potential Trainers

**Recent Activities of MCPC:** Since the onset of COVID-19 Pandemic, MCPC has successfully conducted 36 Online Training Programmes in various States like Delhi, Manipur, Telangana, Haryana, P&H High Court, Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Sikkim and West Bengal. MCPC has conducted a 5 Days Intensive Training Programme (Physical) for the Potential Trainers at Delhi Judicial Academy, Dwarka, New Delhi

from 9 to 13 March, 2021. A One Day Referral Judges Training Programme (Physical) was held at Odisha Judicial Academy on 20 March, 2021 and a 40hrs Mediation Training Programme (Physical) was held at Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh from 22 to 26 March, 2021 under the aegis of MCPC. MCPC is in the process of launching its Official Website being designed by NIC.

# 14 EVENTS, MEETS AND VISITS

## PARTICIPATION OF HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA AND HON'BLE JUDGES IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND MEETS VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

- The Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Hague, the Netherlands organized Third Permanent Court of Arbitration India Conference through Webinar on 21 November 2020. Hon'ble Shri Sharad Arvind Bobde, the then Chief Justice of India delivered the keynote address and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indu Malhotra, the then Judge, Supreme Court of India also participated in the Conference.
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. Nageswara Rao, Judge, Supreme Court of India participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts

hosted virtually by the Supreme Court of Singapore on 11 March 2021 and delivered closing remarks during the Judicial Round table discussion: Technology in a new world.

- Hon'ble Shri N.V. Ramana, Chief Justice of India along with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore was Joint Guest-of-Honour during the Inaugural India-Singapore Mediation Summit held online on 17 July 2021 and delivered keynote address.
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. Nageswara Rao, Judge, Supreme Court of India participated in the XVI<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States organized online by the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic on 24 September 2021 and delivered speech on



India-Singapore Mediation Summit held online on 17 July 2021

the topic “Experience of the SCO Member States in the Juvenile Justice Development. The practice of creating courts to consider disputes with participation of minors.”

- Hon’ble Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> International Legal Forum of the Asia-Pacific Region (Justice and Economic Integration Development in the Asia-Pacific) organized online by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on 30 September 2021 and delivered speech on the topic “Court Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in the Context of Economic Integration”.

### **DOMESTIC PROGRAMMES/ EVENTS/ MEETS AND VISITS (PHYSICAL AND ONLINE) ATTENDED BY HON’BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA AND HON’BLE JUDGES**

Hon’ble Shri S.A. Bobde, (the then Chief Justice of India) visited (i) Jabalpur for official engagements on 17 October 2020; (ii) Nagpur to inaugurate “Nyay Kaushal” E-Resource Centre & Virtual Court for Transport Department of Maharashtra State at Judicial Officers’ Training Institute, on 31 October 2020; (iii) Guwahati for Valedictory Address at the Conference organised by the World Wide Fund at Assam Administrative Staff college, Khanapur, on 19 December, 2020; and (iv) Mizoram (a) for a meeting on ‘Green Mizoram’ at Assembly Annexe Conference Hall on 21 December, 2020 and (b) Unveiling of plaque and inauguration of ‘Cleanliness Drive’ on 22 December, 2020.

Hon’ble Shri N.V. Ramana, Chief Justice of India (i) launched application for granting access of virtual proceedings of the Hon’ble Supreme Court to media persons on 13 May, 2021; (ii) Presided over the meeting of High Court Judges, In-Charge of Judicial Education and

Directors of State Judicial Academies to discuss the proposed/draft Calendar of Academies for finalization by the National Judicial Academic Council on 16 May, 2021; (iii) Released the Book titled as “Anomalies in Law & Justice”, authored by Hon’ble Mr. Justice R.V. Raveendran (Retd.) on 26 June, 2021; and (iv) delivered 17<sup>th</sup> P.D. Desai Memorial Lecture on “Rule of Law” through virtual mode on 30 June, 2021.

Hon’ble Mr. Justice N. V. Ramana, Judge, Supreme Court of India (as His Lordship then was) visited (i) Jabalpur to attend Inaugural Ceremony of All India State Judicial Academies Director’s Retreat on 6 March, 2021; and (ii) Goa to attend Inaugural Ceremony of New Court Building of High Court of Bombay on 27 March, 2021.

Hon’ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit (i) inaugurated the Comparative Constitutional Law Conversation Series with the Georgetown University Law Center and participated in a conversation on the topic ‘Keeping the Executive in Check - The Role of the Judiciary’ on 21 October, 2020; (ii) visited Bhubaneswar to attend the programme organized by Bar Council of India on 19 February, 2021; (iii) chaired the Regional Consultation Meetings (through video conferencing) of State Legal Services Authorities of Northern Zone, Western Zone, Central Zone, Eastern Zone and Southern Zone from 14 June to 18 June, 2021; and (iv) chaired Webinar in connection with Lok Adalats for sensitizing District Legal Services Authorities 26 June, 2021.

Hon’ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud (i) on virtual platform, chaired the Launch of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for High Courts & Meeting of the e-Committee on 3 July 2020; (ii) delivered a lecture on “A Changing Society and Constitutional Continuity - Experiences in Pursuit of Justice” at the Birth Centenary Celebration of Late HMJ YV Chandrachud,



Former CJI organized by Indian Law Society and ILS Law College, Pune on 12 July 2020; (iii) attended a Webinar on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reforms by NLSIU, UNCCI, PCA, ICCA, Media Partner: Live Law on 18 July 2020; (iv) chaired the Inauguration of E-Governance Centre at Nashik (Bombay High Court) on 25 July 2020; (v) chaired the Inauguration of Nationwide - District Level Awareness Programme for Advocates on e-Courts Services in Regional Languages & release of manuals & brochures on 25 July 2020; (vi) E-Inaugurated an awareness webinar - live on e-Courts services on 25 July 2020; (vii) E-Inaugurated Virtual Courts for Traffic Challans and e-Filing System of Karnataka High Court on 6 August 2020; (viii) Chaired the E-Inauguration of virtual court for traffic challans at High Court of Karnataka on 6 August 2020; (ix) attended the AACC and IV Congress (International Conference) Second Session on "Response of Constitutional Courts to Accelerated Digitisation Post COVID-19: Addressing issues of access and inequity" on 17 August 2020; (x) inaugurated new Website of e-Committee of Supreme Court of India on 28/29 August 2020; (xi) delivered a keynote address on Book "Judiciary, Judges and the Administration of Justice" of HMJ Banumathi on 12 September 2020; (xii) chaired the inauguration of NSTEP & e-Services at Madras High Court on 17 September 2020; (xiii) attended inauguration of India's First e-Resource Center "Nyay Kaushal" at Nagpur & Virtual Court at Katol Maharashtra on 31 October 2020; (xiv) inaugurated First Virtual Court of North East in Assam as Chief Guest on 12 November 2020; (xv) delivered Constitutional Day Lecture on "Constitutionalism, Liberal Democracy and Enlighten Citizenship" organized by Jindal Global Law School on 26 November 2020; (xvi) delivered The Indian Constitution Day lecture on "Visualising the Constitution through artistic prisms - Stories of aspiration and emancipation" organised by Kalakshetra Foundation on 28 November 2020; (xvii) delivered valedictory

address at three day International Summit at ILS College on 3 December 2020; (xxxvi) delivered keynote address at TISS-UNODC International virtual conference on Access to Justice to end violence on "The Price of Liberty - From Principle to Practice: Transforming Institutional Attitudes towards Undertrials and Prison Reforms" on 8 December 2020; (xxviii) participated in PCA -Investment treaty arbitration and State courts (International) as panelist on 12 December 2020; (xix) delivered lecture at Chankaya National Law University on 21 December 2020; (xx) attended NITI Aayog Meet on 29 December 2020; (xxi) delivered address for launch of Book: International Arbitration and the Rule of Law Essays in honour of Mr Fali S Nariman on 23 January 2021; (xxii) attended Session 1 in NJA - National Workshop for senior High Court Justices: Strengthening fiscal and administrative protocols in High Courts on the topic Administrative functions of the Chief Justice - Evolving standard operation procedures on 13 February 2021; (xxiii) participated in Session-3 of NJA - workshop for senior High Court Justices: Business Process Re-engineering on 21 February 2021; (xxiv) Chaired meeting of Sub-Committee for Digitisation -Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on 19 March 2021; (xxv) chaired the Inauguration of Multi-Level eSewa Kendras under High Court of Patna on 23 March 2021; (xxvi) chaired the Meeting of Sub-Committee for Model Rules for Live Streaming on 3 April 2021; (xxvii) chaired the launch of e-filing 3.0 & New Judgement search portal on 9 April 2021; (xxviii) chaired Meeting of Sub-Committee for Model Rules for Live Streaming on 10 April 2021; (xxix) chaired E-Inauguration of Secure Wi-Fi Project, NSTEP Project, Integration of CIS Software with Land Records (High Court of Madhya Pradesh) on 14 June 2021; (xxx) attended Madhya Pradesh High Court e-inauguration of Wi-Fi project, NSTEP application on 14 June 2021; and (xxxii) attended Asia-Pacific Judicial Symposium on best practices in Environmental Courts and

Adjudication, presentation on: Environmental Jurisprudence in India on 17 June 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. Nageswara Rao (i) delivered Online Lecture on National Webinar on "the Paradigm of Hate Speech" organised by Koneru Lakshmiiah Education Foundation, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on 3 April, 2021; (ii) participated in the Launch of SUPACE by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Hon'ble Shri S. A. Bobde at Judges, Conference Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Addl. Building Complex, Supreme Court on 6 April, 2021; and (iii) delivered the Virtual Keynote Address on the subject "Redefining Legal Profession And Legal Education Contextually With Pandemic" at International Webinar organized by Connecting Governed Governing and Governance (CG3), Kochi, Kerala on 26 May, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul visited Agartala to attend Inaugural Session of Annual Judicial Conclave held on the occasion of the Tripura High Court Foundation Day Celebrations on 20 March, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Abdul Nazeer visited (i) Bengaluru to release theme song of the KSLSA at Karnataka Judicial Academy, Crescent Road, Bengaluru on 6 February, 2021; and (ii) Mangaluru (a) for laying the foundation stone of Bar Association Building (Vakeelara Bhavana) at Moodabidri, Dakshina Kannada and (b) for inauguration of the newly constructed court complex at Karkala in the State of Karnataka on 20 February, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navin Sinha (since retired) visited Patna to attend Inaugural Function of newly constructed Centenary Building of the Patna High Court on 27 February, 2021.

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indira Banerjee visited (i) Kolkata to address a physical colloquium on the topic "Judicial Ethics" at the West Bengal Judicial Academy, Rajarhat, New Town, Kolkata

on 6 February, 2021; and (ii) Patna to attend Inauguration of the new Centenary Building of the Patna High Court on 27 February, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hemant Gupta visited Jabalpur to chair the Plenary Session of All-India State Judicial Academies Directors' Retreat on 6 and 7 March, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Subhash Reddy (i) participated as one of the Judges to judge the final round of 30<sup>th</sup> All India Moot Court Competition (by virtual mode) organised by The Kerala Law Academy on 13 February 2021; and (ii) was Chief Guest at the Inaugural Function of the 'Sixth Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon South Asian Mooting Competition, Law Students' Conference & Colloquium, 2020-21' organised by Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy Training (MILAT) in association with Lloyd Law College, Greater NOIDA on 19 March 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. R. Shah (i) attended the 17<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the Gujarat National Law University, held virtually on 17 July, 2020; (ii) attended the Online Short Term Internship Programme, organized by the National Human Rights Commission on 15 October 2020; (iii) attended India's 1<sup>st</sup> Arbitration & Mediation Centre, exclusively focused on Maritime & Shipping Sector, within the Gujarat Maritime Cluster, organized by Gujarat Maritime University & Gujarat Maritime Cluster on 11 December 2020; (iv) visited Ahmedabad (a) to inaugurate Newly Upgraded GCCI Arbitration, Mediation and Alternate Dispute Resolution Center at Ahmedabad on 6 February, 2021; and (b) to attend the function organized by Gujarat State Legal Services Authority on 19 & 20 February, 2021; (v) Kevadia, Narmada District, Gujarat to attend the All India Members' Conference of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) on 27 February, 2021; and (vi) Ahmedabad to attend the Convocation Ceremony of Gujarat University on 13 March, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi (i) was Guest of Honour on the occasion of Rajasthan State Legal Service Authority Online Lok Adalat Workflow under National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi on 22 August, 2020; and (ii) Chief Guest on the Occasion of 6<sup>th</sup> Manipal-Ranka International Moot Court Competition 2020 at Manipal University, Jaipur on 17 December, 2020.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna visited Kevadia, Narmada District, Gujarat to attend a Conference on 'Emerging Litigation Trends, GAAR, Black Money Act, etc., organized by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal on 27 February, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai (i) attended the inaugural session of Webinar by Tax Friends Association, Mumbai on the theme 'Changing Professional Practise - Post COVID-19' as Chief guest and Keynote speaker on 11 July 2020 through video conferencing; (ii) attended the inauguration ceremony of the "e-daakhil" system developed by NIC (National Informatics Centre), for Maharashtra State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission through video conferencing on 18 September 2020; (iii) attended the inauguration of extended Gondia District Court building through video conferencing on 26 September 2020; (iv) was Guest of honour at the inauguration of 'Nyay Kaushal' e-resource centre and virtual court for Transport Department of the Maharashtra State; (v) chaired an International Webinar on global challenges of modern times on 30 and 31 January 2021 organized by Chandigarh University; (vi) was Chief guest at a Law Conference at Mahabaleshwar arranged by Satara District Bar Association, Satara on 13 February 2021; (vii) participated in inauguration of new Court building of High Court of Bombay at Goa on 27 March 2021 and (viii) participated in inauguration of academic building of permanent campus at Waranga, Nagpur on 14 April 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant (i) attended a National Webinar on Access to Justice and Judicial Reforms - Contemporary Perspectives by Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University on 11 July, 2020; (ii) participated in a Webinar on Role and Duties of Government Advocates organised by Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association on 18 July, 2020; (iii) was Chief Guest at the Webinar on "Family Laws in a Pandemic - Challenges and Opportunities" under the aegis of Lecture Series on Law on 25 July, 2020; (iv) was Keynote Speaker in Online Interactive Session held by CAN Foundation on the subject "Environment and Economy: Global Perspectives on Reimagining Key Concepts" on 1 August, 2020; (v) was Chief Speaker in the Webinar Lecture Series on "Legal Education and its Challenges" organised by The Indian Law Institute on 26 September, 2020; (vi) was Chief Guest in 12<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Indian Institute of Management Rohtak on 16 November, 2020; (vii) was panelist on 71<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Day Celebration Lecture on "Fundamental Duties" organised by Panjab University, Chandigarh on 29 November, 2020; (viii) was Speaker in an International Webinar on "Rule of Law and Access to Justice in the age of uncertainty" organised by ICFAI University Dehradun on 12 December, 2020; (ix) delivered valedictory Address on 17 January, 2021 at the 17<sup>th</sup> K.K. Luthra Memorial Moot; and (x) virtually participated in an International Webinar on Global Challenges of Modern Times on 30 & 31 January, 2021 and chaired session on 30 January, 2021 on Socio Legal Ramification - Right to Education in the present times in India.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose visited Kolkata (i) to attend Executive Council Meeting, The West Bengal National University of Judicial Sciences" and General Council Meeting at Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan, Salt Lake on 27 February 2021; and (ii) to attend 73rd Executive Council Meeting of The West Bengal National University of Judicial Sciences" on 14 March, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.S. Bopanna visited Bengaluru to attend the function organized by the High Court of Karnataka, Karnataka Judicial Academy, Karnataka Legal Services Authority and Bengaluru Mediation Centre and to Inaugurate the Justice Clock installed in High Court of Karnataka on 6 February, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat visited Jabalpur to attend the Inauguration of 'All India State Judicial Academies Directors' Retreat organised by High Court of Madhya Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh State Judicial Academy on 6 March, 2021.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian (i) visited Bhubaneswar to attend Bhoomipujan Ceremony and the laying of the foundation stone of the proposed Indian Institute of Law at Bhubaneswar, organized by Bar Council of India on 20 February, 2021; and (ii) attended Web seminar on "Principles of Lis Pendens - Effect of Prohibitory Orders on Transfers Pendente Lite" by the Telangana State Judicial Academy 8 August, 2020.

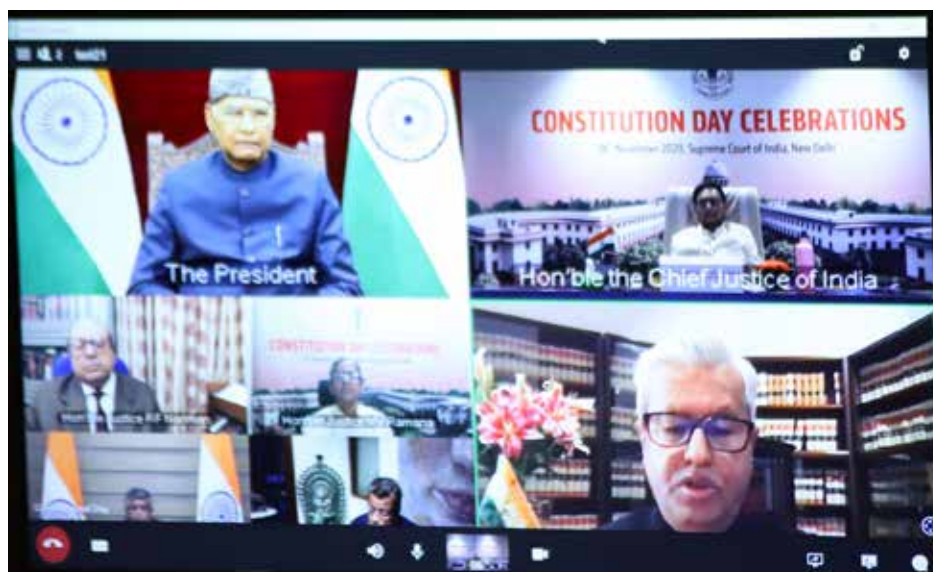
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy visited Guwahati to attend Orientation Programme on Protection of Wildlife organised by Judicial

Academy, Assam in collaboration with World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara on 19 December, 2020.

## CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS-2020

The Supreme Court of India organized a function on 26 November, 2020 to celebrate the Constitution Day. Keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic, the Constitution Day was celebrated in virtual mode. Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble the President of India inaugurated the function. Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, Judge (as His Lordship then was), Supreme Court of India delivered the welcome address. There were addresses by Hon'ble the President of India, Hon'ble Shri S.A. Bobde, the then Chief Justice of India, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, the then Hon'ble Union Minister for Law & Justice and Electronics and Information Technology, Attorney General for India and President, Supreme Court Bar Association.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.F. Nariman, the then Judge, Supreme Court of India presented vote of thanks.



# 15

## LANDMARK DECISIONS

1. **Gurusimran Singh Narula v. Union of India & Anr.** [Writ Petition (C) No. 560 of 2020; 05 November 2020]

The Supreme Court directed respondent No.1 to issue necessary directions in exercise of powers vested in it under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, regarding ban/ regulation on usage of disinfection tunnels involving spraying or fumigation of chemical / organic disinfectants on human beings, which was being done supposedly for protection from the Novel Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The Court observed that the Pandemic being a disaster within the meaning of Disaster Management Act, 2005, “has to be dealt with sternly and effectively”; and “something more was required to be done by respondent No.1 apart from issuing advisory that use of disinfectant on human body is not recommended.” It was held “when public authorities/ organizations were using disinfectants both chemical/ organic on the human body and there are various studies to the effect that it may be harmful to the health and the body”, “some more actions were required to remove the cloud of uncertainty and to regulate the use even if it was to either prevent such use or regulate the use so that health of citizens is amply protected.”

2. **Kush Kalra v. Union of India and Ors.** [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1213 of 2020; 9 December 2020]

The Supreme Court observed that the State Governments and Union Territories can resort to the exercise of pasting posters outside the residence of COVID-19 positive persons only when any such direction is issued by the competent authority under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

3. **Dr. AKB Sadbhavana Mission School of Homoeo Pharmacy v. The Secretary, Ministry of Ayush & Ors.** [Civil Appeal No. 4049 of 2020; 15 December 2020]

The Supreme Court observed that it was clear from the advisory dated 06.03.2020 issued by AYUSH Ministry and the specific stand taken by the Ministry of AYUSH, that Homeopathic medical practitioners are not “only confined to prescribe Homeopathic medicines only as immunity booster.” It held “Homeopathy is contemplated to be used in preventing and mitigating COVID-19 as is reflected by the advisory and guidelines issued by the Ministry of AYUSH” and the High Court did “not fully comprehend the guidelines dated 06.03.2020 and taking a restricted view of the guidelines” “made observations for taking appropriate

actions against the Homeopathic medical practitioners, which cannot be approved.”

**4. Rahna Jalal v. State of Kerala and Another** [Criminal Appeal No.883 of 2020; 17 December 2020]

The Supreme Court held “on a true and harmonious construction of Section 438 of CrPC and Section 7(c) of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019, there is no bar on granting anticipatory bail for an offence committed under the Act, provided that the competent court must hear the married Muslim woman who has made the complaint before granting the anticipatory bail. It would be at the discretion of the court to grant ad-interim relief to the accused during the pendency of the anticipatory bail application, having issued notice to the married Muslim woman.”

In the present case, an offence under the Act was committed by a Muslim man (appellant’s son) who pronounced triple talaq upon his spouse (second respondent), and not the appellant, who was the mother-in-law of second respondent. Though, the State adverted to allegations under Section 498A of CrPC to oppose the grant of bail, the Supreme Court was of the view that having regard to the vague and general nature of allegations in the FIR, the same being bereft of details, the appellant “should not be denied the benefit of the grant of anticipatory bail.”

**5. Deputy General Manager (Appellate Authority) and Others v. Ajai Kumar Srivastava** [ SLP(C) No(s). 32067-32068 of 2018; 5 January, 2021]

The Supreme Court held “the Constitutional Court while exercising its jurisdiction of

judicial review under Article 226 or Article 136 of the Constitution would not interfere with the findings of fact arrived at in the departmental enquiry proceedings except in a case of malafides or perversity, i.e., where there is no evidence to support a finding or where a finding is such that no man acting reasonably and with objectivity could have arrived at that findings and so long as there is some evidence to support the conclusion arrived at by the departmental authority, the same has to be sustained.”

The Court observed “the power of judicial review, of the Constitutional Courts, is an evaluation of the decision-making process and not the merits of the decision itself. It is to ensure fairness in treatment and not to ensure fairness of conclusion.” The Supreme Court emphasized “in banking business absolute devotion, integrity and honesty is a sine qua non for every bank employee”; and in the facts and circumstances of the case, an apparent error had been committed by the High Court while interfering with the order of penalty of dismissal inflicted upon the respondent-bank employee by the disciplinary / appellate authority.

**6. Rajeev Suri v. Delhi Development Authority** [Transferred Case No. 229 of 2020; 5 January 2021]

The petitioners sought a comprehensive and heightened judicial scrutiny regarding the permissibility of the Central Vista Project of the Government of India raising diverse issues concerning the decisions taken by the statutory Authorities including regarding the change in land use, grant of statutory and other permissions, environmental as well as heritage clearances etc. As per the policy documents however, the need for development of the Project was rooted

in the creation of a larger working space for efficient functioning of the highest legislative wing of the country and for integrated administrative block for Ministries/Departments presently spread out at different locations.

The Supreme Court held there was no infirmity in the grant of: (a) “No Objection” by the Central Vista Committee (CVC); (b) “Approval” by the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) as per the DUAC Act, 1973; and (c) “Prior approval” by the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC) under clause 1.12 of the Building Byelaws for Delhi, 2016. It was held “the exercise of power by the Central Government under Section 11A(2) of the DDA Act, 1957 was “just and proper and thus the modifications regarding change in land use of plot Nos. 2 to 8 in the Master Plan of Delhi, 2021/ Zonal Development Plan for Zone-D and Zone-C vide impugned notification dated 20.3.2020” was “confirmed.” It was further held that the “recommendation of Environmental Clearance (EC) by Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and grant thereof by MoEF was “just, proper and in accordance with law including the 2006 Notification.”

7. **High Court of Kerala v. Reshma A.** [Civil Appeal Nos. 3974-3975 of 2020; 11 January 2021]

The Supreme Court held “where the authority which makes a selection advertises a specific number of posts, the process of selection cannot ordinarily exceed the number of posts which have been advertised. While notifying a process for appointment, the authority may take into consideration the actual and anticipated vacancies but not future

vacancies. Anticipated vacancies are the vacancies which can be reasonably contemplated to arise due to the normal exigencies of service such as promotion, resignation or death.” “However, future vacancies conceptually fall in a distinct class or category. Future vacancies which arise during a subsequent recruitment year cannot be treated as anticipated vacancies of a previous selection year.”

The Court observed “to allow the concept of probable number of vacancies” in Rule 7(1) of the Kerala Judicial Service Rules, 1991 (as amended in 2019) “to trench upon future vacancies which will arise in a succeeding year would lead to a serious constitutional infraction. Candidates who become eligible for applying for recruitment during a succeeding year of recruitment would have a real constitutional grievance that vacancies which have arisen during a subsequent year during which they have become eligible have been allocated to an earlier recruitment year.”

8. **Himachal Pradesh Bus Stand Management and Development Authority (HPBSM&DA) v. The Central Empowered Committee** [Civil Appeal Nos. 5231-32 of 2016; 12 January 2021]

The Supreme Court elucidated the role of courts in ensuring environmental protection and observed “environmental rule of law, at a certain level, is a facet of the concept of the rule of law”. While upholding the order of National Green Tribunal (NGT) which directed demolition of a Hotel-cum-Restaurant in a Bus Stand Complex, the Court held “the appellant, on being granted permission to engage in construction for a specified purpose, unlawfully utilised that permission as the

basis to construct a different structure which was not authorized” and it did so “in disregard of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.”

The Court observed “the construction of the Hotel-cum-Restaurant structure in the Bus Stand Complex” was illegal and constituted “a brazen violation of law.” “The permission which was granted by MOEF on 12 November 1997 was only” for construction of a ‘parking place’ and “similarly, the permission granted on 1 March 2001 was granted for constructing a ‘bus stand’ in the same area. At no point was any permission granted for the construction of a hotel or commercial structure. NGT’s finding on this count commends acceptance.” “NGT acted within its mandate in a case of this nature, where the appellant actively allowed the perpetration of a structure in breach of environmental norms.”

9. **Rama Narang v. Ramesh Narang** [Contempt Petition (Civil) No. 92 of 2008; 19 January 2021]

The Supreme Court while dismissing a contempt petition held “for bringing an action for civil contempt, the petitioner has to satisfy the court that there has been a wilful disobedience of any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of the Court”. It said “in a contempt proceeding before a contemnor is held guilty and punished, the Court has to record a finding, that such disobedience was wilful and intentional.”

In the case at hand, the Court observed that the petitioner had “failed to make out a case of wilful, deliberate and intentional disobedience of any of the directions given by this Court or acting in breach of an

undertaking given to this Court” and on the contrary, “the respondents had taken recourse to the legal remedy available to them under the statutory provisions.” The Court held “merely taking recourse to the statutory remedy available to the respondents” would “not amount to contempt”.

10. **X v. State of Jharkhand** [Writ Petition (Civil) No.1352 OF 2019; 20 January 2021]

A rape victim, belonging to a Scheduled Tribe in the State of Jharkhand, filed writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution pleading that, being a rape victim whose identity was disclosed by the media, she was not getting any help from family, friends or society; that she was not being able to give education to her children; and was compelled to lead a life with no security, no job and no shelter.

The Supreme Court observed “the petitioner being a rape victim deserves treatment as rape victim by all the authorities” and directed the Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi - to take measures “to ensure that minor children of the petitioner are provided free education in any of the Government Institutions in District Ranchi where the petitioner is residing till they attain the age of 14 years” and to “also consider the case of the petitioner for providing house under Prime Minister Awas Yojna or any other Central or State Scheme in which petitioner could be provided accommodation.”

11. **State of Andhra Pradesh v. Dinavahi Lakshmi Kameswari** [Civil Appeal No 399 of 2021; 8 February 2021]

The Supreme Court held “there can be no gainsaying the fact” that the State



Government which had “delayed the payment of salaries and pensions should be directed to pay interest at an appropriate rate” however such “payment of interest cannot be used as a means to penalize the State Government.”

The Court observed “the rate of 12% per annum which has been fixed by the High Court should be suitably scaled down” and accordingly, in substitution of such interest rate, the State Government was directed to “pay simple interest computed at the rate of 6% per annum on account of deferred salaries and pensions.”

**12. Vikash Kumar v. Union Public Service Commission** [Civil Appeal No. 273 of 2021; 11 February 2021]

The Supreme Court held “when the government in recognition of its affirmative duties and obligations” under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 “makes provisions for facilitating a scribe during the course of the Civil Services Examination, it cannot be construed to confer a largesse. Nor does it by allowing a scribe confer a privilege on a candidate.”

The Court said “to confine the facility of a scribe only to those who have benchmark disabilities would be to deprive a class of persons of their statutorily recognized entitlements. To do so would be contrary to the plain terms as well as the object of the statute.” The Court held “the principle of reasonable accommodation captures the positive obligation of the State and private parties to provide additional support to persons with disabilities to facilitate their full and effective participation in society.” It said that, “for a person with disability, the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental

rights to equality, the six freedoms and the right to life under Article 21 will ring hollow if they are not given this additional support that helps make these rights real and meaningful for them.”

The Supreme Court also issued a broad direction to the Union Government in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) to frame guidelines for regulating and facilitating the grant of a facility of a scribe to persons with disability within meaning of Section 2(s) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 “in consultation with the public, specifically with persons with disabilities and organisations representing them .”

**13. Union of India v. A. Alagam Perumal Kone** [Civil Appeal No.680 of 2021; 22 February 2021]

The Supreme Court held “whether a particular applicant is entitled for pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme of 1980, is a matter which is required to be considered having regard to facts and documentary evidence produced in each case.” The Court observed that though “it may be true that the 1st Respondent is getting pension as per the scheme, mooted by the State, but, at the same time, to claim pension under the scheme of 1980, the 1st Respondent has to furnish the required proof as contemplated under the scheme. When the claim is under a particular scheme, unless one fulfills the eligibility criteria for grant of pension, as mentioned in the scheme, no applicant can claim such pensions, as a matter of right.”

It was held “as regards the sufficiency of proof, the scheme itself mentions the

documents which are required to be produced along with the application. Whether the claimant fulfills the criteria or not, it is for the competent authority to examine it. Even before the application is considered by the competent authority, in exercise of powers of judicial review, the High Court should not have issued any directions for grant of pension.”

**14. Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v. State Of Maharashtra** [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 980 of 2019; 4 March 2021]

The Supreme Court negated the challenge to the validity of Section 12(2)(c) of the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961. Instead, the provision was “read down to mean that reservation in favour of OBCs in the concerned local bodies can be notified to the extent that it does not exceed aggregate 50 per cent of the total seats reserved in favour of SCs/STs/OBCs taken together.” In other words, it was held “the expression “shall be” preceding 27 per cent occurring in Section 12(2)(c), be construed as “may be” including to mean that reservation for OBCs may be up to 27 per cent but subject to the outer limit of 50 per cent aggregate in favour of SCs/STs/OBCs taken together,” as enunciated by an earlier decision of the Constitution Bench of this Court .

The Court observed that Section 12(2)(c) of the 1961 Act “is an enabling provision and needs to be read down to mean that it may be invoked only upon complying with the triple conditions” as specified by the Constitution Bench, “before notifying the seats as reserved for OBC category in the concerned local bodies.”

**15. Small Scale Industrial Manufactures Association (Regd) v. Union of India and others** [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 476 of 2020; 23 March 2021]

A COVID-19 Regulatory Package was notified by RBI vide notification dated 27.03.2020 whereby the Government provided deferment of the installments due and payable on the term loans during the moratorium period (which was declared from March 1 2020 till August 31 2020).

The Supreme Court directed “there shall not be any charge of interest on interest / compound interest / penal interest for the period during the moratorium from any of the borrowers and whatever the amount is recovered by way of interest on interest / compound interest / penal interest for the period during the moratorium, the same shall be refunded and to be adjusted/given credit in the next instalment of the loan account.” The Court observed that once the payment of installment was deferred as per notification dated 27.03.2020, “non-payment of the installment during the moratorium period cannot be said to be willful and therefore there is no justification to charge the interest on interest/ compound interest/ penal interest for the period during the moratorium.”

However, the Supreme Court declined to grant the relief of total waiver of interest during the moratorium period observing that it “would have a far-reaching financial implication in the economy of the country as well as the lenders/banks.” It said “when a conscious decision has been taken not to waive the interest during the moratorium period and a policy decision has been taken to give relief to the borrowers by deferring the payment of installments and so many

other reliefs are offered by the RBI and thereafter by the bankers independently considering the Report submitted by Kamath Committee consisting of experts, the interference of the court is not called for.”

**16. Lok Prahari through its General Secretary S.N. Shukla IAS (Retd.) v. Union of India & Ors.** [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1236 of 2019; 20 April 2021]

The Supreme Court held that the discretion of the Chief Justice of the High Court under Article 224A of the Constitution (in regard to appointment of retired Judges at sittings of High Courts) is not constrained but “some general guidelines are required to be laid so that power conferred under the said provision is exercised in a transparent manner.”

The Court said “the Trigger Point cannot be singular and there can be more than one eventuality where the it arises” - (a) “If the vacancies are more than 20% of the sanctioned strength”; b) “The cases in a particular category are pending for over five years”; c) “More than 10% of the backlog of pending cases are over five years old”; (d) “The percentage of the rate of disposal is lower than the institution of the cases either in a particular subject matter or generally in the Court.”; e) Even if there are not many old cases pending, but depending on the jurisdiction, a situation of mounting arrears is likely to arise if the rate of disposal is consistently lower than the rate of filing over a period of a year or more. The Court observed “that the recourse to Article 224A is not an alternative to regular appointments.” In order to emphasise this aspect, it was clarified by the Court “that if recommendations have not been made

for more than 20% of the regular vacancies then the trigger for recourse to Article 224A would not arise.”

**17. In Re Distribution of Essential Supplies and Services During Pandemic** [Suo Moto Writ Petition(Civil) No. 3 of 2021; 30 April 2021]

Taking into account the unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the country, following the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court passed various directions, inter alia, with respect to allocation of resources such as oxygen, essential drugs and vaccination, and admission in hospitals, as follows:- (i) The UOI shall ensure “that the deficit in the supply of oxygen to the GNCTD is rectified within 2 days from the date of the hearing” ; (ii) “The Central Government shall, in collaboration with the States, prepare a buffer stock of oxygen for emergency purposes and decentralize the location of the emergency stocks. The emergency stocks shall be created within the next four days and is to be replenished on a day to day basis, in addition to the existing allocation of oxygen supply to the States”; (iii) “The Central Government and State Governments shall notify all Chief Secretaries/Directors General of Police/Commissioners of Police that any clampdown on information on social media or harassment caused to individuals seeking/delivering help on any platform will attract a coercive exercise of jurisdiction by this Court”; (iv) “The Central Government shall, within two weeks, formulate a national policy on admissions to hospitals which shall be followed by all State Governments. Till the formulation of such a policy by the Central Government, no patient shall be denied hospitalization or essential drugs in any State/UT for lack

of local residential proof of that State/UT or even in the absence of identity proof”; (v) “The Central Government shall revisit its initiatives and protocols, including on the availability of oxygen, availability and pricing of vaccines, availability of essential drugs at affordable prices and respond on all the other issues highlighted in this order before the next date of the hearing.”

**18. The Chief Election Commissioner of India v. M.R. Vijayabhaskar & Ors.** [Civil Appeal No. 1767 of 2021; 6 May 2021]

The Supreme Court held "while in camera proceedings may be necessary in certain exceptional circumstances to preserve countervailing interests such as the rights to privacy and fair trial, for instance, in a sexual assault case, public scrutiny of the court process remains a vital principle for the functioning of democracy." It was held "arguments addressed before the court, the response of opposing counsel and issues raised by the court are matters on which citizens have a legitimate right to be informed. An open court proceeding ensures that the judicial process is subject to public scrutiny." "An open court serves an educational purpose as well." The Court observed that within Indian jurisprudence, "the media has full freedom to report on ongoing litigation before the Courts, within certain limitations, bearing on the need to ensure that justice between parties is not derailed."

It was observed "an open court and transparent dispensation of justice in all its modalities, is an end in itself" and several courts across the world "enable public viewership of proceedings through livestreaming or other suitable open access methodology." "In this backdrop, it would

be retrograde for this Court to promote the rule of law and access to justice on one hand, and shield the daily operations of the High Courts and this Court from the media in all its forms, by gagging the reporting of proceedings, on the other".

**19. The State of Kerala and Ors. v. Leesamma Joseph** [Civil Appeal No. 59 of 2021; 28 June 2021]

In a case arising out in the context of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 [which has now been replaced with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016], the Supreme Court inter alia examined the issues as to whether in absence of a provision in the Rules for reservation in promotion for person with disabilities (PwD), promotion can be denied to a PwD; and whether Respondent could be promoted by giving benefit of reservation as she is a PwD, despite the fact that she was not appointed in the PwD quota.

The Court held "the absence of rules to provide for reservation in promotion would not defeat the rights of PwD to a reservation in promotion as it flows from the legislation and "this is the basis of the mandate of this Court in Rajeev Kumar Gupta's and Siddaraju's cases." "The only caveat to the aforesaid would be if the Government is of the view that the posts in the promotional cadre cannot be reserved for PwD category due to functional or other reasons" but "that should not be a ruse to defeat the reservation in promotion." The Court said that in such a situation, the government would be required "to explore methods to address the issue of stagnation of PwD."

On facts, the Court noted that respondent was “capable of discharging functions of the promotional post and thus could not be denied the benefit of reservation (even if Rules do not provide for any reservation in promotion)”. Further, noting that there was “no dispute about the benchmark disability of the respondent”, the Court said “it would be discriminatory and violative of the mandate of the Constitution of India if the respondent is not considered for promotion in the PwD quota”. “Once the respondent has been appointed, she is to be identically placed as others in the PwD cadre.” The Court observed that the “source of recruitment ought not to make any difference but what is material is that the employee is a PwD at the time for consideration for promotion. The 1995 Act does not make a distinction between a person who may have entered service on account of disability and a person who may have acquired disability after having entered the service. Similarly, the same position would be with the person who may have entered service on a claim of a compassionate appointment. The mode of entry in service cannot be a ground to make out a case of discriminatory promotion.”

Further, the Supreme Court issued directions to the State Government to implement the judgments of this Court in Rajeev Kumar Gupta's and Siddaraju's cases and provide for reservation in promotion for persons with disabilities (PwDs) “in all posts after identifying said posts.” This exercise was directed to be completed within a period of three months.

**20. Reepak Kansal v. Union of India and others** [Writ Petition (Civil) No. 554 of 2021; 30 June 2021]

The Supreme Court directed the National Disaster Management Authority “to

recommend guidelines for ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life to the family members of the persons who died due to COVID-19”, as mandated under Section 12(iii) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 “for the minimum standards of relief to be provided to the persons affected by disaster - Covid 19 Pandemic, over and above the guidelines already recommended for the minimum standards of relief to be provided to persons affected by COVID-19.” However, what reasonable amount is to be offered towards ex gratia assistance was “left to the wisdom of National Authority.” It was directed that the aforesaid exercise and appropriate guidelines be recommended within six weeks.

Apart from that, the Supreme Court directed the Appropriate Authority “to issue simplified guidelines for issuance of Death Certificates/ official document stating the exact cause of death, i.e., “Death due to COVID-19”, to the family members of the deceased who died due to COVID-19.” It was directed “such guidelines may also provide the remedy to the family members of the deceased who died due to COVID-19 for correction of the death certificate/ official document issued by the appropriate authority, if they are not satisfied with the cause of death mentioned in the death certificate/official document issued by the appropriate authority.”

**21. Union of India & Anr. v. Onkar Nath Dhar** [Civil Appeal No. 6619 of 2014; 5 August 2021]

Respondent, a Kashmiri migrant, after retiring from Government service, requested the Government to allow him to retain the government accommodation allotted to him on a nominal licence fee till

the circumstances prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir improved and the Government made it possible for him to return to his native place. However, proceedings under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupant) Act, 1971, was initiated against him. Respondent's challenge before the District Court was rejected. The High Court, however, allowed his plea on the ground that it was not possible for him to return to his own State due to which the order of eviction be kept in abeyance.

The Supreme Court held "compassion could be shown for accommodating the displaced persons for one or two months but to allow them to retain the Government accommodation already allotted or to allot an alternative accommodation that too with a nominal licence fee defeats the very purpose of the Government accommodation which is meant for serving officers. The compassion howsoever genuine does not give a right to a retired person from continuing to occupy a government accommodation." It was observed "there is no policy of the Central Government or the State Government to provide accommodation to displaced persons on account of terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir" and "the hardship faced by them does not lead to a corresponding duty of the State to provide them alternative government accommodation."

The Court held that Respondent "and such like persons are not from the poorest section of the migrants but have worked in the higher echelons of the bureaucracy. To say that they are enforcing their right to shelter only till such time the conditions are conducive for their safe return is wholly illusory. No one is sure that at what point of time the condition

will be conducive to the satisfaction of the migrants. Such benevolence and preferential right to section of the citizens is unfair to the serving officers." It was held "the right to shelter does not mean right to government accommodation. The government accommodation is meant for serving officers and officials and not to the retirees as a benevolence and distribution of largesse."

**22. J. Chitra vs. District Collector and Chairman State Level Vigilance Committee, Tamil Nadu & Ors. [Civil Appeal No. 5160 of 2010; 2 September 2021]**

The Supreme Court held "reopening of inquiry into caste certificates can be only in case they are vitiated by fraud or when they were issued without proper inquiry." It was held "the purpose of verification of caste certificates by Scrutiny Committees is to avoid false and bogus claims" and "repeated inquiries for verification of caste certificates would be detrimental to the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

The Court held that in the instant case, "an inquiry was conducted by the District Level Vigilance Committee which has upheld the community certificate in favour of the Appellant. The decision of the District Level Vigilance Committee in the year 1999 has not been challenged in any forum. The recognition of the community certificate issued in favour of the Appellant by the District Vigilance Committee having become final, the State Level Scrutiny Committee did not have jurisdiction to reopen the matter and remand for fresh consideration by the District Level Vigilance Committee." It was observed that the guidelines issued by G.O.108 dated

12.09.2007 “did not permit the State Level Scrutiny Committee to reopen cases which have become final.”

**23. The State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors. v. Pujari Utthan Avam Kalyan Samiti & Anr.**  
[Civil Appeal No. 4850 of 2021; 6 September 2021]

The Supreme Court held “the presiding deity of the temple is the owner of the land attached to the temple. The Pujari is only to perform puja and to maintain the properties of the deity.” On the question whether a priest can be treated as Bhumiswami under the Madhya Bharat Land Revenue and Tenancy Act, Samvat 2007 and as a consequence under the M.P. Land Revenue Code, 1959, the Supreme Court held “the Law is clear on the distinction that the Pujari is not a Kashtkar Mourushi, i.e., tenant in cultivation or a government lessee or an ordinary tenant of the maufi lands but holds such land on behalf of the Aukaf Department for the purpose of management. The Pujari is only a grantee to manage the property of the deity and such grant can be reassumed if the Pujari fails to do the task assigned to him, i.e., to offer prayers and manage the land. He cannot be thus treated as a Bhumiswami.” “The Pujari does not have any right in the land and his status is only that of a manager. Rights of pujari do not stand on the same footing as that of Kashtkar Mourushi in the ordinary sense who are entitled to all rights including the right to sell or mortgage.

An ancillary question was whether the priest is Inamdar or Maufidar within the meaning of Section 158 (1)(b) of the Code, which provision contemplates that the rights of every person in respect of land held by him in the Madhya Bharat region

i.e. area of erstwhile Gwalior and Holkar as a Pakka tenant or as a Muafidar, Inamdar or Concessional holder shall be protected as Bhumiswami. The Supreme Court held “the priest does not fall in any of the clauses as mentioned in Section 158(1)(b) of the Code. The maufi was granted to the property of temples from payment of land revenue. Such maufi was not granted to a manager. Even Inam granted by the Jagirdar or the ruler to a priest is only to manage the property of the temple and not confer ownership right on the priest” Therefore, “the priest cannot be treated to be either a Muafidar or Inamdar” in terms of Madhya Bharat Land Revenue and Tenancy Act, Samvat 2007 (Act No. 66 of 1950) or in terms of Qawaid Muafidaran Jujve Araj, Samvat 1991 (Gwalior Act). “Since the priest cannot be treated to be Bhumiswami, they have no right which could be protected under any of the provisions of the Code.”

Another question was whether the State Government by way of executive instructions can order the deletion of name of Pujari from the revenue record and/or to insert the name of a Collector as manager of the temple. The Court said “In the ownership column, the name of the deity alone is required to be mentioned, as the deity being a juristic person is the owner of the land. The occupation of the land is also by the deity which is carried out by the servant or the managers on behalf of the deity. Therefore, the name of the manager or that of the priest is not required to be mentioned in the column of occupier as well.” It was further held “the name of the Collector as manager cannot be recorded in respect of property vested in the deity as the Collector cannot be a manager of all temples unless it is a temple vested with the State.”

**24. In Re: Cognizance For Extension of Limitation** [Miscellaneous Application No. 665 of 2021 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.3 of 2020; 23 September 2021]

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in March, 2020, the Supreme Court took Suo Motu cognizance of the difficulties that might be faced by the litigants in filing petitions/ applications/ suits/ appeals/ all other proceedings within the period of limitation prescribed under the general law of limitation or under any special laws (both Central and/or State). On 23 March, 2020, the Supreme Court directed extension of the period of limitation in all proceedings before the Courts/Tribunals including the Supreme Court w.e.f. 15 March 2020 till further orders. However, considering the reduction in prevalence of COVID-19 virus and normalcy being restored, vide order dated 8 March 2021 of the Supreme Court, the order dated 23 March 2020 was brought to an end, permitting the relaxation of period of limitation between 15 March 2020 and 14 March 2021; and directing that the period of limitation would start from 15 March, 2021. Thereafter, there was a second surge in COVID-19 cases, on which, on 27 April, 2021, the Supreme Court restored the order dated 23 March, 2020, and extended the limitation period with effect from 14 March, 2021 until further orders.

Pursuant to a “consensus that there is no requirement for continuance of the initial order passed by this Court on 23.03.2020 and relaxation of the period of limitation need not be continued any further”, the Supreme Court, in terms of order dated 23 September, 2021, discontinued the suo motu extension of limitation period w.e.f. 3 October, 2021.

**25. Triyambak S. Hegde v. Sripad** [Criminal Appeal No. 849-850 of 2011; 23 September 2021]

In the case at hand, cheque issued by Respondent in favour of appellant had been dishonoured and Respondent did not dispute the signature on the cheque. The Supreme Court held “a presumption would arise” under Section 139 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 “in favour of the appellant who was the holder of the cheque”. The Court said “insofar as the payment of the amount by the appellant in the context of the cheque having been signed by the respondent, the presumption for passing of the consideration would arise as provided under Section 118(a) of N.I. Act” and “such presumption would remain, until the contrary is proved.”

The Supreme Court observed that the “case put forth by the respondent does not satisfy the requirement of rebuttal even if tested on the touchstone of preponderance of probability”. Accordingly, the Supreme Court, while setting aside the order of High Court, restored the conviction of respondent under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act as ordered by the Magistrate, but modified the sentence of six month SI and fine of Rs.2 lakhs imposed by the Magistrate by limiting it to imposition of enhanced fine of Rs.2.5 Lakhs.

The Court observed that the transaction in question was “not an out and out commercial transaction. The very case of the appellant before the Trial Court was that the respondent was in financial distress and it is in such event, he had offered to sell his house for which the advance payment was made by the appellant. The subject cheque has been issued towards repayment



of a portion of the advance amount since the sale transaction could not be taken forward. In that background, what cannot also be lost sight of is that more than two and half decades have passed from the date on which the transaction had taken place. During this period there would be a lot of social and economic change in the status of the parties.” Further, “the gravity of complaint under N.I. Act cannot be equated with an offence under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 or other criminal offences.” In that view, the Court held that an enhanced fine “would meet the ends of justice.”

**26. National Highways Authority of India & Others v. Madhukar Kumar & Others** [Civil Appeal No.11141 of 2018; 23 September 2021]

The Supreme Court held “every state action must be fair, failing which, it will fall foul of the mandate of Article 14 of the Constitution.” But, “in the absence of the duty to record reasons, the court is not to be clothed with power to strike down administrative action for the mere reason that no reasons are to be found recorded.” “The court may, when there is no duty to record reasons, support an administrative decision, with reference to the pleadings aided by materials.”

**27. Khatema Fibres Ltd. v. New India Assurance Company Ltd. & Anr.** [Civil Appeal No. 9050 of 2018; 28 September 2021]

The Supreme Court held “a Consumer Forum which is primarily concerned with an allegation of deficiency in service cannot subject the insurance surveyor’s report to forensic examination of its anatomy,

just as a civil court could do.” “It is true that even any inadequacy in the quality, nature and manner of performance which is required to be maintained by or under any law or which has been undertaken to be performed pursuant to a contract, will fall within the definition of the expression ‘deficiency’.

The Court held that “once it is found that there was no inadequacy in the quality, nature and manner of performance of the duties and responsibilities of the surveyor, in a manner prescribed by the Regulations as to their code of conduct and once it is found that the report is not based on adhocism or vitiated by arbitrariness, then the jurisdiction of the Consumer Forum to go further would stop.”

**28. Rajendra Narottamdas Sheth & Anr. v. Chandra Prakash Jain & Anr.** [Civil Appeal No.4222 of 2020; 30 September 2021]

The Supreme Court held “the burden of prima facie proving occurrence of the default and that the application filed u/s.7” of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 “is within the period of limitation, is entirely on the financial creditor.” It was held “while the decision to admit an application under Section 7 is typically made on the basis of material furnished by the financial creditor, the Adjudicating Authority is not barred from examining the material that is placed on record by the corporate debtor to determine that such application is not beyond the period of limitation.”

**29. Chandra @ Chanda @ Chandram & Anr. v. Mukesh Kumar Yadav & Ors.** [Civil Appeal No. 6152 of 2021; 1 October 2021]

While considering a compensation claim arising out of an application filed under

Section 166 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the Supreme Court held “in absence of salary certificate, the minimum wage notification can be a yardstick but at the same time cannot be an absolute one to fix the income of the deceased. In absence of documentary evidence on record some amount of guesswork is required to be done. But at the same time the guesswork for assessing the income of the deceased should not be totally detached from reality.” It was held “merely because claimants were unable to produce documentary evidence to show the monthly income” of the deceased, “same does not justify adoption of lowest tier of minimum wage while computing the income.”

**30. The State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. v. Premlata** [Civil Appeal No.6003 of 2021; 5 October 2021]

While considering a case relating to appointment on compassionate grounds, the Supreme Court held “for all the government vacancies equal opportunity should be provided to all aspirants as mandated under Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution. However, appointment on compassionate ground offered to a dependent of a deceased employee is an exception to the said norms. The compassionate ground is a concession and not a right.” The Court held “the whole object of granting compassionate employment” is “to enable the family to tide over the sudden crisis. The object is not to give such family a post much less a post held by the deceased.”

The Court held “the dependent/applicant cannot seek appointment on compassionate ground on the higher post than what was held by the deceased employee as a matter of right, on the ground that he/she is eligible fulfilling the eligibility criteria

of such higher post. The aforesaid shall be contrary to the object and purpose of grant of appointment on compassionate ground” which “is to enable the family to tide over the sudden crisis on the death of the bread earner.”

**31. Geo Varghese v. The State of Rajasthan & Anr.** [Criminal Appeal No. 1164 of 2021; 5 October 2021]

The Supreme Court held that the disciplinary measures adopted by a teacher or other authorities of a school, reprimanding a student for his indiscipline “would not tantamount to provoking a student to commit suicide, unless there are repeated specific allegations of harassment and insult deliberately without any justifiable cause or reason. A simple act of reprimand of a student for his behaviour or indiscipline by a teacher, who is under moral obligations to inculcate the good qualities of a human being in a student would definitely not amount to instigation or intentionally aid to the commission of a suicide by a student.”

**32. Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai v. Ankita Sinha & Ors.** [Civil Appeal Nos. 12122 - 12123 of 2018; 7 October 2021]

The Supreme Court held that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) “is vested with suo motu power in discharge of its functions” under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. It was held that the National Green Tribunal Act, when read as a whole, gives much leeway to the National Green Tribunal “to go beyond a mere adjudicatory role. The Parliament’s intention is clearly discernible to create a multifunctional body, with the capacity to provide redressal for environmental exigencies. Accordingly, the principles of environmental justice and

environmental equity must be explicitly acknowledged as pivotal threads of the NGT's fabric. The NGT must be seen as a sui generis institution and not unus multorum, and its special and exclusive role to foster public interest in the area of environmental domain delineated in the enactment of 2010 must necessarily receive legal recognition of this Court."

The Court observed "the hands-off mode for the NGT, when faced with exigencies requiring immediate and effective response, would debilitate the forum from discharging its responsibility and this must be ruled out in the interest of justice."

**33. Estate Officer v. Colonel H. V. Mankotia (Retired)** [Civil Appeal No. 6223 of 2021; 7 October 2021]

The Supreme Court held that a fair reading of the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 makes it clear "the jurisdiction of the Lok Adalat would be to determine and to arrive at a compromise or a settlement between the parties to a dispute and once the aforesaid settlement/ compromise fails and no compromise or settlement could be arrived at between the parties, the Lok Adalat has to return the case to the Court from which the reference has been received for disposal in accordance with law and in any case, the Lok Adalat has no jurisdiction at all to decide the matter on merits once it is found that compromise or settlement could not be arrived at between the parties."

**34. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Anr. v. Thommandru Hannah Vijayalakshmi @ T.H. Vijayalakshmi and Anr.** [Criminal Appeal No. 1045 of 2021; 8 October 2021]

The Supreme Court held "since the institution of a Preliminary Enquiry in cases of corruption is not made mandatory before the registration of an FIR under the CrPC, PC Act or even the CBI Manual," for this Court to issue a direction to that effect "will be tantamount to stepping into the legislative domain."

It was held "that in case the information received by the CBI, through a complaint or a "source information" under Chapter 8 of the CBI Manual, "discloses the commission of a cognizable offence, it can directly register a Regular Case instead of conducting a Preliminary Enquiry, where the officer is satisfied that the information discloses the commission of a cognizable offence." The Court clarified "the above formulation does not take away from the value of conducting a Preliminary Enquiry in an appropriate case." "The registration of a Regular Case can have disastrous consequences for the career of an officer, if the allegations ultimately turn out to be false. In a Preliminary Enquiry, the CBI is allowed access to documentary records and speak to persons just as they would in an investigation, which entails that information gathered can be used at the investigation stage as well. Hence, conducting a Preliminary Enquiry would not take away from the ultimate goal of prosecuting accused persons in a timely manner." However, it was further clarified "if the CBI chooses not to hold a Preliminary Enquiry, the accused cannot demand it as a matter of right."

**35. Milkhi Ram v. Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board** [Civil Appeal No. 1346 of 2010; 8 October 2021]

The Supreme Court held "the civil court lacks jurisdiction to entertain a suit structured on

the provisions” of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Court observed “the civil courts may have the limited jurisdiction in service matters, but jurisdiction may not be available to Court to adjudicate on orders passed by disciplinary authority. The authorities specified under the ID Act including the appropriate government and the industrial courts perform various functions and the ID Act provides for a wider definition of “termination of service”, the condition precedent of termination of service. The consequence of infringing those, are also provided in the ID Act. When a litigant opts for common law remedy, he may choose either the civil court or the industrial forum.” It was held that in the present matter, the appellant- daily wage employee “clearly founded his claim in the suit, on the provisions of the ID Act and the employer therefore is entitled to raise a jurisdictional objection to the proceedings before the civil court.”

**36. Jalkal Vibhag Nagar Nigam & Ors. v. Pradeshiya Industrial and Investment Corporation & Anr.** [Civil Appeal No 6107 of 2021; 22 October 2021]

The Supreme Court held “the nomenclature that the legislature has ascribed to the tax does not determine either the nature of the levy or its true and essential character. The legislature may choose a label for a tax. The label however will not determine or for that matter clarify the nature of the levy. The nature of the levy has to be deduced from the nature of the tax, the provision which specifies the taxing event” and, as in the case of Section 52 of the Uttar Pradesh Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1975, “the unit upon which the levy is to be imposed. The legislature may choose

a label for the tax based on the nature of the levy. On the other hand, the legislature may choose a label having a relationship with the function of the authority which imposes the tax as in the present case.”

The Court observed that in the instant case, “the tax has been labelled as the water tax or a sewerage tax simply because it is imposed by the Jal Sansthan constituted under the UP Water Supply and Sewerage Act. That does not alter the nature of the levy which in substance is a tax on lands and buildings within the meaning of Entry 49 of List II of the Seventh Schedule” to the Constitution.

**37. N. Jayasree & Ors. v. Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd.** [Civil Appeal No. 6451 of 2021; 25 October 2021]

The Supreme Court held “the term ‘legal representative’ should be “given a wider interpretation” for the purpose of Chapter XII of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and “it should not be confined only to mean the spouse, parents and children of the deceased.” The Court observed that the “MV Act is a benevolent legislation enacted for the object of providing monetary relief to the victims or their families. Therefore, the MV Act calls for a liberal and wider interpretation to serve the real purpose underlying the enactment and fulfil its legislative intent.” The Court was of the view “in order to maintain a claim petition, it is sufficient for the claimant to establish his loss of dependency. Section 166 of the MV Act makes it clear that every legal representative who suffers on account of the death of a person in a motor vehicle accident should have a remedy for realization of compensation.”

In the case at hand, the fourth appellant, mother-in-law of the deceased, was residing with the deceased and his family members; and was dependent on him for her shelter and maintenance. The Court said “it is not uncommon in Indian Society for the mother-in-law to live with her daughter and son-in-law during her old age and be dependent upon her son-in-law for her maintenance” and held “Appellant no.4 may not be a legal heir of the deceased, but she certainly suffered on account of his death” and “therefore, she is a “legal representative” under “Section 166 of the MV Act and is entitled to maintain a claim petition.”

**38. State of Madhya Pradesh v. Mahendra alias Golu** [Criminal Appeal No. 1827 of 2011; 25 October 2021]

The Supreme Court examined the issue as to whether the offence proved to have been committed by respondent amounted to ‘attempt’ to commit rape within meaning of Section 376(2)(f) read with Section 511 IPC or was it a mere ‘preparation’ which led to outraging the modesty of the victims. While so doing, the Court elucidated the distinction between ‘preparation’ and

‘attempt’ to commit an offence. It held that an ‘attempt’ is the “direct movement towards the commission after the preparations are over” and what constitutes an ‘attempt’ is a “mixed question of law and facts.”

The Court observed “the act of the respondent of luring the minor girls, taking them inside the room, closing the doors and taking the victims to a room with the motive of carnal knowledge, was the end of ‘preparation’ to commit the offence. His following action of stripping the prosecutrices and himself, and rubbing his genitals against those of the victims was indeed an endeavour to commit sexual intercourse. These acts of the respondent were deliberately done with manifest intention to commit the offence aimed and were reasonably proximate to the consummation of the offence.” It was held that “since the acts of the respondent exceeded the stage beyond preparation and preceded the actual penetration, the Trial Court rightly held him guilty of attempting to commit rape as punishable within the ambit and scope of Section 511 read with Section 375 IPC as it stood in force at the time of occurrence” which was before the 2013 Amendment.



# 16 PUBLICATIONS

## I. SUPREME COURT REPORTS (SCR)

Supreme Court Reports (SCR) is the official journal of reportable Supreme Court decisions, which is published under the authority of the Supreme Court of India by the Controller of Publications, Govt. of India, Delhi. Each part of SCR contains the full text of reportable decisions with Head Notes, a Subject Index and a Nominal Index. The Head Notes are approved by the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court who delivered the judgment. Further, the important decisions published in each part of SCR are highlighted on the front cover page for the ease and convenience of the users. Besides circulation within the country, SCR is also sent on reciprocal basis to certain Commonwealth and other countries. Process of digitization and scanning of back volumes of SCR from 1950 to 2017 and preservation of same as a digitized soft copy, has been completed. The preservation of these back volumes in digitized format will help in creating a digital repository in the Supreme Court. From the year 2018 onwards, SCRs are being prepared in-house in the Editorial Branch, and stored as digitized soft copies in PDF.

Process is also underway for e-publication of Supreme Court Reports (SCR) in addition to physical publication of printed copies of SCR. Modalities are being worked out for release of e-SCR on the official website as well as the official Mobile App of the Supreme Court of India. Meanwhile, with the approval of the Competent Authority, an e-SCR menu/ module/ navigation tab has been launched on the official Mobile App of the Supreme Court of India on which indicative notes of the latest important/ landmark

reportable judgments delivered by this Hon'ble Court are being regularly uploaded for the benefit of the legal fraternity as also the common man; and such indicative notes are tagged /linked with the judgment concerned for easy reference. The indicative notes are being prepared by Editorial Officers of the Registry.

## II. COURT NEWS

"Court News"- the quarterly newsletter of the Supreme Court of India, is being published since 2006. Apart from statistics regarding the institution, pendency and disposal of cases as well as the vacancy position in the Courts at all levels, each issue of the newsletter also contains the gist of important decisions delivered by the Supreme Court during the relevant quarter for current awareness purpose. Initiatives and important events, if any, during the relevant quarter, are covered in the newsletter. Information relating to appointments and transfers in superior judiciary, and important activities of National Judicial Academy (NJA) and National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) are also incorporated in the newsletter. The printed hard copies of the "Court News" are sent free of cost to all High Courts and to the Bar Associations, Law Colleges and the Government Departments. It is also sent to the Chief Justice / Head of Judiciary in 18 countries - Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, UAE, United Kingdom and USA. The "Court News" is also available on the official website of the Supreme Court of India.







Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. V. Ramana being administered the oath of office as the 48<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India on 24 April 2021, by His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India at a ceremony held in the Rashtrapati Bhavan.





**PART 2**

**HIGH COURTS**





**1**

# High Court of Judicature at **ALLAHABAD**



*Principal seat at Allahabad*

## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD\*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Siddhartha Varma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Bhanot
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pritinker Diwaker	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangeeta Chandra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Neeraj Tiwari
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Naheed Ara Moonis	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Chaudhary	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prakash Padia
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Mathur
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramesh Sinha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Joshi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Bhatia
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sunita Agarwal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rahul Chaturvedi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saurabh Lavania
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Salil Kumar Rai	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Varma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Srivastava	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jayant Banerji	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Prakash Kesarwani	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Singh Chauhan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Piyush Agrawal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Irshad Ali	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saurabh Shyam Shamsbery
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anjani Kumar Mishra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saral Srivastava	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jaspreet Singh
Hon'ble Dr. Justice Kaushal Jayendra Thaker	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jahangir Jamshed Munir	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajeev Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Gupta	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Manju Rani Chauhan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suneet Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Siddharth	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Karunesh Singh Pawar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Kumar Birla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajit Kumar	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Yogendra Kumar Srivastava
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Attau Rahman Masoodi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajnish Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manish Mathur
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abdul Moin	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajan Roy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ram Krishna Gautam
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arvind Kumar Mishra-I	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajeev Misra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Om Prakash-VII	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Kumar Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Kumar - IV

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohd. Faiz Alam Khan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Pathak	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajai Kumar Srivastava-I
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikas Kunvar Srivastav	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manish Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandra Kumar Rai
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suresh Kumar Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Samit Gopal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishan Pahal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Narendra Kumar Johari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar Pachori	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sameer Jain
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raj Beer Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subhash Chandra Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Srivastava
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajit Singh	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Saroj Yadav	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subhash Vidyarthi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Zamin	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohd. Aslam	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brij Raj Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipin Chandra Dixit	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Ojha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shree Prakash Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sadhna Rani (Thakur)	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikas Budhwar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Verma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Naveen Srivastava	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Om Prakash Tripathi
Hon'ble Dr. Justice Gautam Chowdhary	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Aftab Husain Rizvi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram D Chauhan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shamim Ahmed	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajai Tyagi	

\*As on 1 November 2021



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

A Letters Patent was issued under the Indian High Courts Act, 1861 on 17 March 1866 establishing a High Court at Allahabad. As a result, the Courts of Sudder Dewani and Nizamat Adalats ceased to exist. Initially, the High Court functioned from the same premises which housed the Sudder Dewani and Nizamat Adalats at Agra. In 1869, the High Court shifted from Agra to Allahabad in a red, rectangular two-storied building on Queens Road, now called Sarojini Marg. This building presently houses the Board of Revenue of the State of Uttar Pradesh. The High Court shifted to the present building on 27 November 1916. The United Provinces High Courts (Amalgamation) Order, 1948 amalgamated the Allahabad High Court and the Chief Court in Oudh and created a new High Court designated as High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. The new High Court was vested with a jurisdiction running throughout the territories of the State of Uttar Pradesh; and now has a Bench at Lucknow.

The foundation stone of the present building of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad was laid in 1911. Presently, there are 91 courts rooms and 96 chambers besides the court and the chambers of the Chief Justice. A new High Court building equipped with all modern facilities has been constructed at Gomti Nagar, Lucknow on 40 acres land, in which there are 57 court rooms. On 9 January 2021, a museum was inaugurated in a newly constructed building at Allahabad. The Museum has a rich collection of judgments, deeds, photographs, dress, furniture and also the Original Charter of Her Majesty the Queen Victoria of 17 March 1866 by which the High Court was created and established. A convention centre was also inaugurated on 12 April 2021 at Allahabad. There is separate building for digitization of records, known as the Centre for Information Technology which stands out as one of the most impressive and modern state-of-the-art Information Technology Centre building in the country.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

After the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, complete sanitization of the various buildings and entire premises of the High Court and district courts was undertaken on regular basis. A dedicated COVID-19 testing centre with vaccination facility was established for the judges, advocates and officials of High Court and their family members since September, 2020. Adhering to COVID-19 protocols strictly, physical and virtual hearing of cases was conducted.

Only those advocates were permitted to enter in the High Court premises who were vaccinated and whose cases were listed for hearing. To avoid over crowding, not more than ten advocates were permitted at a time in a court room. Sanitizers were made available at each entry point and at prominent places of High Court. During surge of the pandemic in March, 2020, the judicial work was conducted through the video conferencing as well as by physical mode. Dedicated E-mail-Ids were made available for mentioning of the extremely urgent matters. Special Benches were constituted for hearing matters. An online training programme titled as "TOT Awareness Programme for Advocate Master Trainers" was

conducted for advocates on the topic "Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT)".

When the lock down of first phase was imposed, there was severe shortage of hand sanitizers and masks. The Uttar Pradesh State Legal Service Authority (UPSLSA) managed to procure hand sanitizers from distillery/sugar mills and masks from Lucknow Central Jail and distributed the same amongst doctors, para medical staff, sweepers, policemen and other persons deployed on COVID-19 duty. During the same period, men, women, children, students and old aged persons, belonging to the State of Uttar Pradesh, stranded in other States and those belonging to other States, stranded in the State of Uttar Pradesh were assisted to reach their homes by the UPSLSA/DLSAs. Their travelling passes and transport facilities were arranged with the help of local administration. Labourers of Uttar Pradesh who were stranded in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, were assisted to reach their homes. As per request received from Assam State Legal Services Authority, stranded labourers of Assam, travelling on foot from Karnal, Haryana, were traced in district Saharanpur and provided shelter, food and transport facility with the help of the State Government and sent to their respective





***New Building of Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court***

homes in Assam. The food articles, packets of cooked food and food grains were distributed to the needy by the DLSAs and judicial officers of respective districts with their own contribution. The District Legal Services Authority, Saharanpur started a “Food Bank /Community Kitchen” with the help of the judicial officers, employees of civil court, bar association, district administration and various social organizations. This “Food Bank / Community Kitchen” did commendable job by providing cooked food, ration, clothes and other essential items to the poor and needy people. The State Legal Services Authority organized various online legal awareness programmes for the benefit of women, children, workers, the poor and old people. 95 programmes were held in the month of July, 2020 and 3,629 persons attended these programmes through webinar/digital platform. Legal awareness camps were organized by DLSAs, by using digital platform, on different topics such as child rights, POCSO Act, PCPNDT Act and Domestic Violence Act.

The Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority in association with Bachpan Bachao Andolan organized webinar on “POCSO Act and Beti Bachao Beti Pado” in the districts of Mathura,

Moradabad, Varanasi, Lucknow, Hardoi, Lakhimpur Kheri, Raebareli, Sitapur and Unnao. A pilot project was carried out in five districts of U.P. through “RADAR App” to monitor front offices in DLSAs effectively.

In district Banda of Uttar Pradesh, “Legal Aid Defense Counsel System” was launched as pilot project, on the direction of NALSA, to provide legal assistance to prisoners whose cases are exclusively triable by the courts of sessions. 15,495 undertrial prisoners were released on interim bail, 2,256 prisoners were released on parole and 703 juveniles were released on interim bail. Even in outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the object of giving justice to people was served by organizing “Micro Lok Adalat” for settlement of petty criminal cases. 57,964 petty criminal cases were decided and a fine of Rs. 1,11,63,278 was realized.

The Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority organized “E-Lok Adalat” for settlement of cases in the State of Uttar Pradesh, through which 1,757 motor accident claim cases were disposed of and a compensation amount of Rs. 68,03,55,016 was awarded and 1,752 matrimonial cases were



disposed of in which settlement amount was of Rs. 1,45,19,931. As on 12 December 2020, 5,95,270 cases were disposed of in National Lok Adalat.

On the occasion of Women's Day and Mission Shakti Abhiyan, 1,657 women related cases were disposed of through "Mahila Lok Adalats" organized in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh. A training programme was organized by CSIR for making incense sticks and cones from used flowers for the women inmates of District Jail, Ayodhya. A mega literacy camp was organized jointly by UPSLSA and MPSSLSA in the district of Chitrakoot in which Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur provided wheel chairs, calipers, hearing aid, artificial limb etc. to the needy persons. In the mega camp, a programme called "Saarthi" for confidential assistance to distressed women was also launched. "Mandakini Nirmalta Project" was also inaugurated.

Legal aid programmes were held for tribal people in the districts of Sonbhadra, Varanasi, Mahrajganj, Siddharth Nagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mau, Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Balia, Ghazipur, Mirzapur and Lalitpur. The District Legal Service

Authority decided 65 applications under the U.P. Victim Compensation Scheme, 2014 in which compensation amount paid was Rs. 96,99,250. The benefit of Toll Free Telephone number was availed by 4,098 persons. 4,310 cases were disposed of through ADR/Mediation Centre. 1,211 persons were provided legal service through panel advocates. 5,414 availed services through advice/counselling and 3,523 availed other services. 3,815 legal literacy/awareness programmes and camps were held in jails, custodial homes, melas/exhibitions, village/community centres, schools/universities, slum and labour colonies which was attended by 2,03,291 persons. 83,954 were benefited with Tele Law schemes.

Various training programmes were conducted by Judicial Training and Research Institute (JTRI) in online mode through video conferencing. Induction training of newly inducted 47 additional district judges (DHJS) and 610 civil judge (junior division) was organized online. Induction training programmes were also organized for newly appointed assistant prosecution officers (APOs). Two weeks of special training for 73 newly promoted ADJs was organized.



*Panoramic view of the High Court*

A one day seminar/workshop on PCPNDT Act was organized for 72 chief judicial magistrates. Workshop on 'Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013' was conducted for 80 participants of different categories. A one day 'Online Workshop on Expeditious Disposal of Cases pertaining to Section 138, N.I. Act, 1881' was conducted by JTRI for all the judicial officers of the civil judge (senior division)/ACJM/CJM cadre. The Judicial Training and Research Institute provided support to 'one day seminar for 68 principal magistrates of Juvenile Justice Board', organized by the Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court.

Under the directions of the committee for sensitization of family court matters, the second and final round of training programme for around 180 principal and additional principal judges, family courts was organized online. In addition, JTRI also organized one day online sensitization workshop for 184 presiding officers of the POCSO Courts. An online sensitization programme was also conducted for the CJMs/Commissioner of Police/SSPs/SPs of Uttar Pradesh. One day online

sensitization workshop on 'Timely Justice and Protection of Dignity of Women Appearing in the Courts in Different Capacities like Victims, Witnesses, petitioner and Accused' was organized for all ADJs of the State. One day online special training programme on 'Court Management and Case Management for Speedy Dispensation of Justice' was organized for all officers of civil judges (junior and senior division).

The Judicial Training and Research Institute is organizing decentralized training programmes in the nature of "Cluster Training at the district level". Under this modality, the 75 districts are subdivided into 22 clusters. The exercise is conducted in an interactive mode, centred on practical problems. The third round of cluster training was organized, wherein, around 2500 judicial officers had participated. Two special trainings were conducted by JTRI on 'Suit Valuation, Court Fees and Special Laws for Stamp Reporters' of the High Court. Under the 'Judicial Helpline', the JTRI continued the innovative practice of providing legal solutions to the queries raised by the judicial officers of the State.

## Technological Accomplishments

With the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic era in 2020, use of virtual mode for court proceedings became necessary and accordingly to facilitate all the stake-holders, 100 Mbps Internet Leased Line was installed for exclusive use of video conferencing at Allahabad and Lucknow Bench. In view of resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic and urgent need to enhance computational infrastructure, servers along with VM-ware virtualization software, server racks, IP KVM switches and rack mount consoles were installed. Desktop computers and networking equipment installation in court rooms became inevitable for regular court proceedings, especially after the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic which required UPS backup for uninterrupted running of judicial work. One single phase 10 KVA Online Numeric UPS with four hours backup was purchased for replacement of obsolete flawed UPS. With the increase in number of E-Courts, requirement of scanners cum printers for judicial sections arose for scanning/printing of day to day documents. Also, there was a need for replacement of old printers installed in the chambers and residential offices of the judges and offices in the registry. HP202dw laser printers and HP226dw multi function printers were provided in the chambers and offices at the High Court. To strengthen the digitization process, servers and storage were purchased and shifting of data/applications on server/SAN storage with Disaster Recovery Site (DR/DC) under digitization project at Allahabad and Lucknow Bench is under process. Wacom touch panel along with desktop and other accessories were inducted for display of E-filed /digitized cases. Logitech C270 webcams and HP multimedia are made available for providing video conferencing facility.

11,00,476 scanned/digitized files and 6,64,96,340 scanned/digitized pages were verified at High Court during the period. 44,429 cases (25,006 at Allahabad and 19,423 at Lucknow Bench), 47,914 Misc. Applications (25,733 at Allahabad and 22,181 at Lucknow Bench) and 2,804 caveats (1,455 at

Allahabad and 1,349 at Lucknow Bench) were filed through online mode. 20,967 E-gate passes were issued.

71 district courts and 69 jails are equipped with studio based video conferencing (VC) facility. Desktop based video conferencing has also been made functional in 147 court complex and 70 jails, which are instrumental in running virtual courts through video conferencing. During COVID-19 pandemic situation, cases were heard through video conferencing using open source software JITSY (LAN edition) by all the district courts. 1,94,124 cases were disposed virtually through - JITSY and 16,01,453 remands were done regarding undertrial prisoners till 31 July 2021.

The Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts in the State of Uttar Pradesh, 2020 were notified on 27 November 2020. Under the "E-mail Automation" drive and as per the directions of E-Committee, Supreme Court of India, 2,330 e-mail IDs were created for judges and judicial officers in the sub domain name 10.249.33.31/eCommittee & under the main domain "ajg.gov.in". To facilitate better networking operating system, WAN Connectivity was established in almost all the districts courts and outlying courts of U.P.

An advanced software "Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS)", assisted by artificial intelligence, is being developed to translate Supreme Court judgments in nine vernacular languages. An exclusive "Faceless Virtual Court Traffic" at district court was established as a pilot project and further similar virtual court was established for Gautam Budha Nagar on 23 July 2021, to deal with the E-Challan generated by the traffic police via E-Challan application.

Endeavor was made to transform the judicial system of Uttar Pradesh on E-platform. ICJS (Inter-operable Criminal Justice System) was made functional in all the district courts of Uttar Pradesh to facilitate speedy justice through data-exchange between the courts and police.



*A view of the High Court*

Further, E-FIR and E-Chargesheet are made available in downloadable, PDF format in CIS of the district courts of Uttar Pradesh. Online, court fees payment mode is enabled for district courts of Uttar Pradesh on E-Pay Portal - <https://pay.courts.gov.in> and also through Stock Holding portal. The land records are integrated with CIS. More than 1500 land records are mapped with court records in CIS. Use of CIS template and digital signature in orders and judgments is made mandatory.

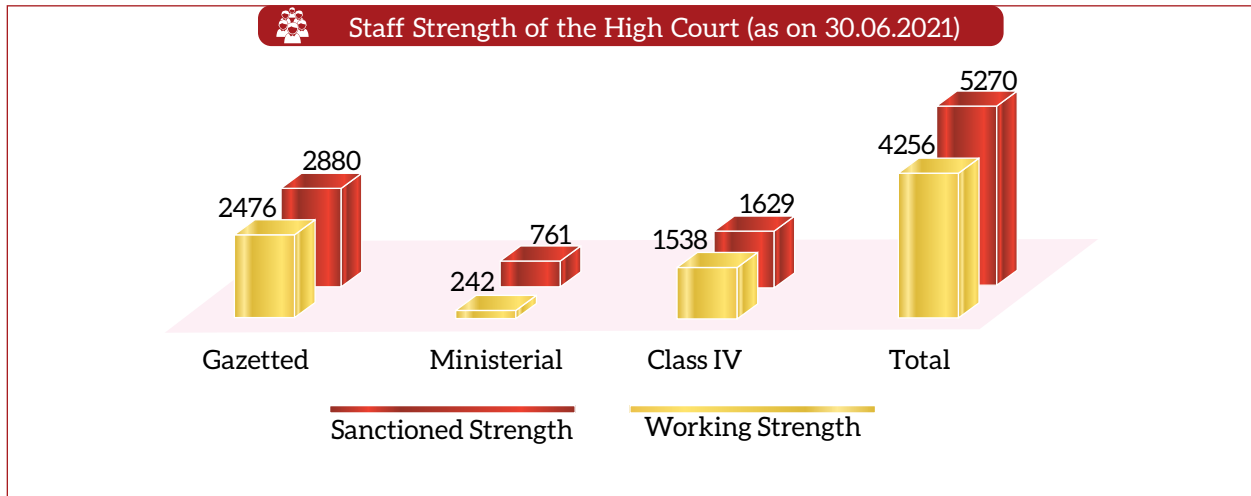
A user friendly web based integrated system/ services with the user tracking facility was developed for the serving judicial officers posted in the State which was made more user friendly by introducing an android application in the E-Services module which facilitates managing and monitoring of the basic service requirements/records of judicial officers such as - Leave, Annual confidential remarks, property statement, and other services.

A comprehensive "District Court Establishment Portal (DCEP)" was developed for maintaining complete service records of all the employees of district courts, family courts and commercial courts. The portal has various data fields like - sanctioned strength, working strength and

vacancies of either category of officials of all district courts, family courts and commercial courts of Uttar Pradesh. DCEP would assist the district judges in facilitating the grant of promotions and ACP etc. to each employee working in the respective establishment. It would also assist the High Court in determination of direct recruitment and promotional vacancies of each cadre of post in each recruitment year commencing from First day of July.

In order to save time and manpower, CIS/ System generated processes were made mandatory for the district courts. In order to facilitate E-Summons, "2157 LG Make smart phones" pre-loaded with android based mobile application "NSTEP module" along with accessories were distributed to each of the bailiff/process servers working in the district courts. For electronic delivery of summons and process, summons and process service tracking application is designed to streamline the processes electronically in civil cases. NSTEP services were initiated and made functional in all the district courts from 23 March 2021. Till date 2,423 process were served by E-Module. Generation of computerized registers through web based application is also made compulsory.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	12,12,79,01,520	8,98,40,88,889	7,92,79,74,100
Total	12,12,79,01,520	8,98,40,88,889	7,92,79,74,100

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Revised by High Court

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges	160
Working Strength of Judges	95

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest	95
Highest	103

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old	4,11,087
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# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

## Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

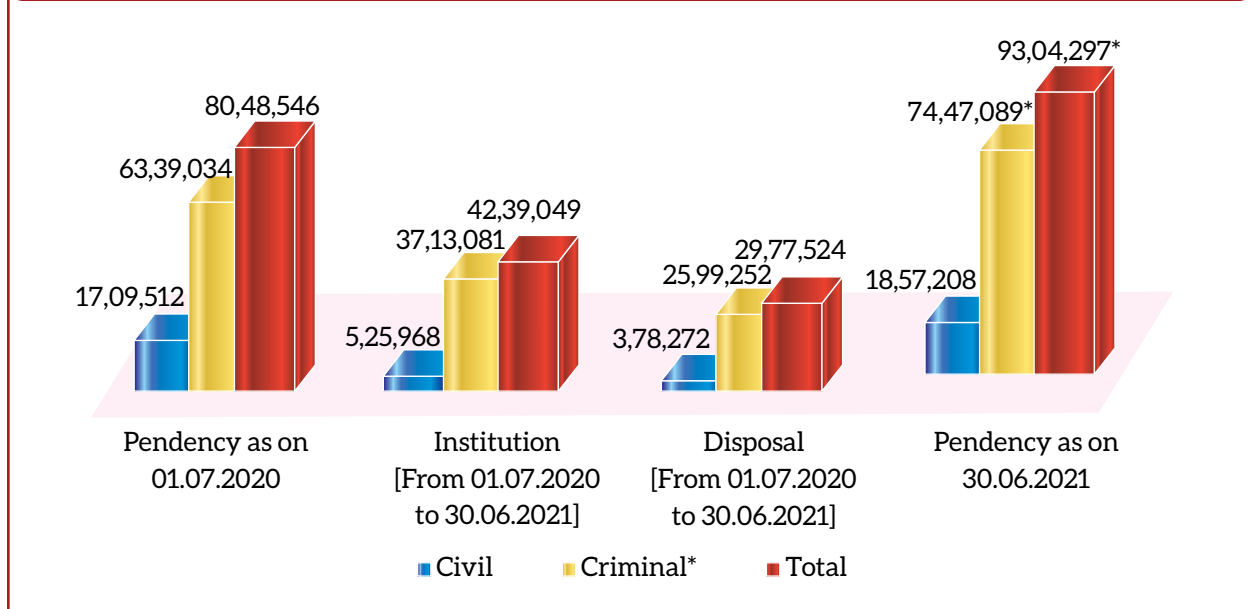
Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	3,41,281	82,086	55,144	3,68,223
Company Matters	137	03	01	139
Contempt (Civil)	27,252	8,090	4,398	30,944
Review (Civil)*	4,347	211	113	4,445
Matrimonial Matters	3,036	546	118	3,464
Arbitration Matters	256	337	256	337
Civil Revisions	3,707	217	107	3,817
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	4,826	369	145	5,050
Civil Appeals**	25,348	818	891	25,275
Land Acquisition Matters	5,779	888	641	6,026
MACT Matters	61,149	1,009	2,606	59,552
Civil Suits (Original Side)	200	81	38	243
Other than above**	57,892	3,121	2,104	58,909
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	18,436	25,225	20,107	23,554
Criminal Revisions	42,295	3,595	1,386	44,504
Bail Applications	19,916	88,911	71,330	37,497
Criminal Appeals	1,94,503	6,673	2,795	1,98,381
Death Sentence Reference	44	15	01	58
Contempt (Criminal)	90	04	01	93
Misc. Criminal Applications	1,41,676	22,678	12,179	1,52,175
Other than above	1,879	112	09	1,982

\* The figure includes both Review Civil and Review Criminal cases

\*\* Opening balance modified by High Court

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



\* Closing balance difference of 5,774 cases as reported by High Court.

### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
3,634



Working Strength  
2,577



Vacancy  
1,057

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
2,99,427	10,43,213	13,42,640



2

# High Court of ANDHRA PRADESH



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH\*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Kongara Vijaya Lakshmi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Donadi Ramesh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Joymalya Bagchi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manthoj Ganga Rao	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ninala Jayasurya
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Cheekati Manavendranath Roy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Boppudi Krishna Mohan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Akula Venkata Sesa Sai	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Matam Venkata Ramana	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kanchireddy Suresh Reddy
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Upmaka Durga Prasad Rao	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Nath Tilhari	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Kanneganti Lalithakumari alias Lalitha
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mallavolu Satyanarayana Murthy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rao Raghunandan Rao	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.V.S.S. Somayajulu	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Battu Devanand	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

As per Order dated 26 December 2018 of the Government of India, the Common High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated and a new High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh was established which started functioning from 1 January 2019. The High Court of Andhra Pradesh is located at Nelapadu in Amaravati, Guntur District.



### INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

#### Administrative Achievements

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country and in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh swiftly took

necessary steps. Instructions were issued from time to time to all the officers and staff in the High Court and subordinate courts to follow the COVID-19 guidelines, such as maintenance of physical distance, use of thermal guns, wearing

of masks etc., to contain and control the virus. Steps were also taken for sanitization of the court buildings and premises and for conducting COVID-19 tests of officers and staff of the High Court and subordinate courts, at frequent intervals. In the second wave of COVID-19, only 50% attendance of certain cadres of employees on turn basis was permitted in High Court and subordinate courts. Necessary steps were taken in coordination with the State medical department, for COVID-19 vaccination to the judges, officers and staff in the High Court and judicial officers and staff in the subordinate courts. For the smooth functioning of courts in consonance with the changed conditions, virtual mode was adopted. In addition to e-filing, physical filing of cases was permitted for three days in a week in subordinate courts with restrictions, with effect from 1 September 2021. Similarly, physical filing of cases was permitted with restriction to submit the cases/pleadings/documents/vakalats etc. from 1 February 2021 in the High Court in cardboard/filing box and hearing of the cases was conducted virtually. In view of the second wave of COVID-19, Notifications were issued, *inter alia* restricting hearing of cases and directing witness action and trial proceedings in subordinate courts to defer. Directions were issued to conduct virtual court proceedings from court halls in High Court and subordinate courts from 2 August 2021.

At the initiative of the High Court proposed in March, 2021, the State Government agreed for construction of a new building (G+3 floors) near the High Court and sanctioned Rs.33.50 crores to accommodate 14 court halls etc. on 24 August 2021.

The legal services authority institutions conducted 460 awareness programmes. 21 legal awareness programmes were organized for women in various districts. The State Legal Services Authority prepared a SOP to organize Lok Adalats, spreading awareness and providing legal aid through different modes in view of outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. The legal services institutions

organized Virtual Lok Adalats and settled 7,590 cases. Various District legal services authorities organized programmes online through webinars and through social media viz., whatsapp, mobile phone etc., to connect with the stakeholders and also with the general public. The State Authority arranged yoga classes in the High Court premises for the judges, officers, staff and others. The State Legal Services Authority in coordination with the Director General of Prisons, Andhra Pradesh, took steps to provide and monitor medical treatment, isolation, counseling etc. to the prisoners affected with COVID-19.

The Legal Aid Defense Counsel System, a pilot project was inaugurated in Anantapuram. As part of commemoration of 75 years of independence under Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav, 23 legal awareness programmes were organized exclusively for the benefit of tribals in the districts of Anantapuram, East Godavari, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nellore, Srikakulam, Visakapatnam and Vizianagaram. 1,952 tribal people participated and explained about the tribal rights and the persons in need were provided legal assistance. A mediation centre was inaugurated at Ongole in Prakasam District and a book was released in vernacular language containing NALSA schemes and the Acts relating to women.

During the judicial year, 4,743 persons were provided legal aid assistance. 1,743 pre-litigation cases and 48,508 pending cases were settled through Lok Adalat. 400 cases were settled through mediation. 1,911 legal literacy camps were conducted in which 1,10,698 persons were benefitted. 63 victims were awarded total compensation of Rs.89,75,000 under the Victim Compensation Scheme.

## Technological Accomplishments

The High Court successfully migrated to HC CIS 1.0 software. Personalized emails were sent to advocates with regard to advocate customized

cause-list generation through HC CIS 1.0. Display boards were provided to each court and also centralized locations of the High Court to display the case hearing status in the court hall. SMS alerts were sent to the advocates informing about case hearing status. The High Court is conducting all the committee meetings paperless. The judges were provided with Apple iPad devices for attending the meetings and using the “slack” web application in which one user cannot see the files uploaded to the other users and scanning, indexing and book-marking of files can be done for convenience. All the subordinate courts successfully migrated to NC CIS 3.2 software. The High Court converted all the VPNoBBs in the subordinate courts to regular MPLS connections and all the court complexes and courts are given BSNL broadband connections with minimum 10 Mbps band width. In case of connectivity issue with BSNL at the locations, the users are uploading the data to NJDG even by using their mobile internet. The High Court developed a web based daily disposal status application where every judicial officer is required to enter the disposals in the application every day. The reports are generated through this web application by the High Court and district courts to supervise the disposal of judicial officers more particularly to supervise the pre-2015 cases.

The High Court developed indigenous ‘e-filing module’ for online filing of the cases in the High Court and subordinate courts, and gave necessary training to the advocates during the COVID-19 pandemic period. As on 27 August 2021, 40,295 main cases and 61,710 interlocutory applications pertaining to High Court and 1,57,215 main cases and 1,45,676 interlocutory applications were filed in the district and subordinate courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh by using this module.

The Ubuntu-cum-CIS master trainers, district system administrators successfully conducted online training on eCourts services “Electronic Case Management Tools” (ECMT) for the advocates and “Updated Features of CIS” to 286 advocates in

the State of Andhra Pradesh. The High Court also took steps to implement necessary parameters required in the official website of High Court of Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of persons with disabilities such as visually challenged persons for easy accessing of the website. The High Court and all the subordinate courts successfully conducted the court proceedings through video conferencing. During the pandemic, 4,71,375 cases were dealt in the High Court and 2,53,989 cases in the district and subordinate courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh were heard and disposed of. Under eCourts Project, the Justice Clock was successfully installed in the premises of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and is providing CIS relating information to the advocates, parties-in-person and clients.

The High Court took steps for providing new laptops and desktop laserjet printers to all the judicial officers working in the district and subordinate courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh for effective implementation of eCourts project by the judicial officers. The High Court provided digital signature tokens to all the officers working in the High Court and all the judicial officers working in the district and subordinate courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh for appending digital signatures on both administrative and judicial documents under the eCourts Project. The High Court provided kiosk machines in the premises of High Court and the subordinate courts to enable advocates, party-in-person and clients to know their case information from CIS application. The High Court took steps for framing e-filing, video conferencing, e-payment and NSTEP Rules for implementing e-filing module of eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and also in the subordinate courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the same is under process. Steps were also taken for providing android mobile phones to the process servers and field assistants working in the district and subordinate courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh for implementing of NSTEP Project in the CIS 3.2 module.

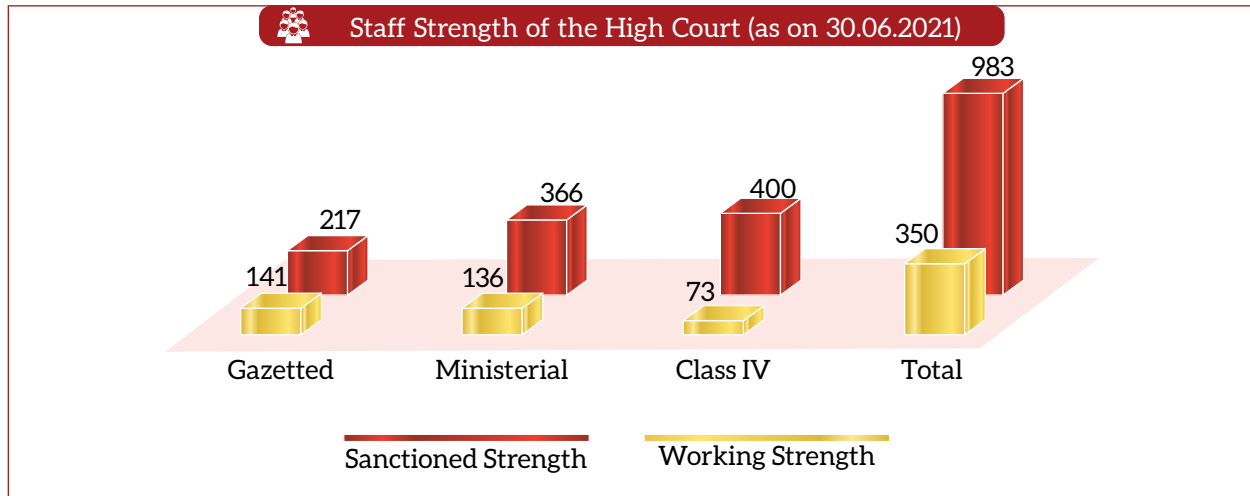


*Lateral view of the High Court*

Further, steps were taken for providing new servers in the place of existing (old) servers to the district and subordinate courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh and also proposing to provide entry level stand-alone servers for single court complexes in the State of Andhra Pradesh for storage and smooth uploading of respective court complex data to NJDG Server for the benefit of advocates, parties-in-person and clients. The High Court took steps for providing dedicated video conferencing equipment with hybrid facility in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh for smooth

conducting of court proceedings through video conferencing. In the Prakasam District of State of Andhra Pradesh, the ICJS project was successfully implemented as pilot project and now the High Court is taking steps to implement the ICJS project in the entire State of Andhra Pradesh. On the eve of 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the High Court successfully live streamed the Independence Day Celebrations from High Court for the advocates and general public. The High Court also took steps for uploading of daily court proceedings in the CIS 1.0 HC for the benefit of advocates and clients.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	70,00,00,000	1,20,00,00,000	52,00,02,000
Non-Plan	44,21,55,000**	47,84,84,000	79,65,87,000
Total	1,14,21,55,000	1,67,84,84,000	1,31,65,89,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges **37**

Working Strength of Judges **19**

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest **19**

Highest **20**

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old **33,879**

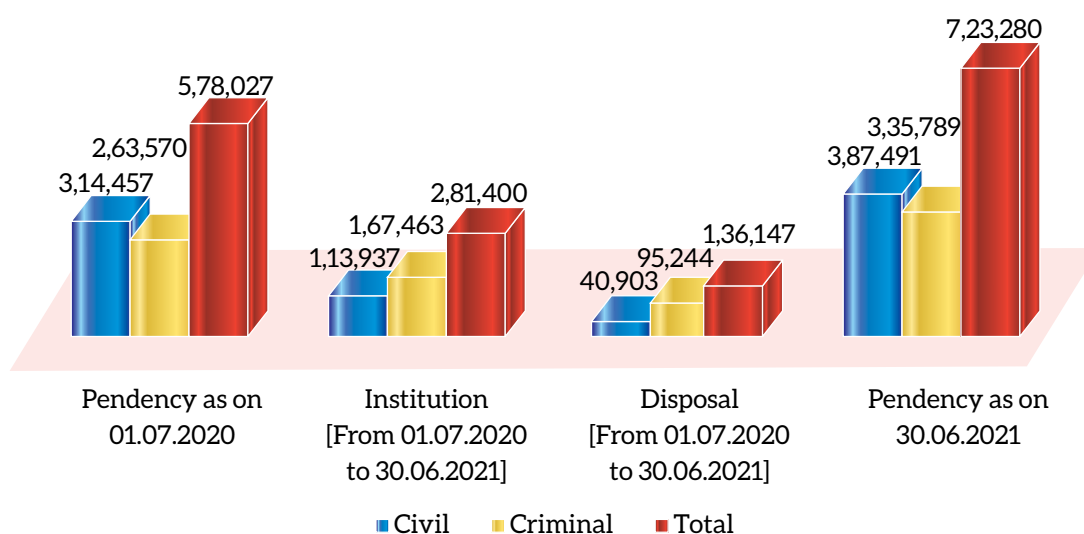
# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

## Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	99,559	28,125	16,286	1,11,398
Company Matters	35	0	0	35
Contempt (Civil)	6,189	1,982	1,108	7,063
Review (Civil)	0	0	0	0
Matrimonial Matters	1,519	53	14	1,558
Arbitration Matters	71	31	10	92
Civil Revisions	11,753	1,072	2,371	10,454
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	1,287	56	86	1,257
Civil Appeals	30,939	1,550	848	31,641
Land Acquisition Matters	2,334	51	01	2,384
MACT Matters	15,418	565	84	15,899
Civil Suits (Original Side)	10	0	0	10
Other than above	606	168	448	326
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal Revisions	10,313	586	356	10,543
Bail Applications	89	2,875	2,814	150
Criminal Appeals	7,649	384	123	7,910
Death Sentence Reference	01	05	0	06
Contempt (Criminal)	0	0	0	0
Misc. Criminal Applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	12,969	4,515	4,757	12,727

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
607



Working Strength  
498



Vacancy  
109

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
6,003	799	6,802



**3**

# High Court of **BOMBAY**



*Principal seat at Mumbai*

## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Vibha Vasant Kankanwadi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shinde Sambhaji Shiwaji	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Girish Sharadchandra Kulkarni	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shriram Madhusudan Modak
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prasanna B. Varale	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Burgess Pesi Colabawalla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jamadar Nijamoddin Jahiroddin
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shahrukh Jimi Kathawalla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Menon	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinay Gajanan Joshi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay V. Gangapurwala	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandrakant Vasant Bhadang	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Avachat Rajendra Govind
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramesh Deokinandan Dhanuka	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vishwas Kashinathrao Jadhav	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Avinash Gunwant Gharote
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anuja Prabhudessai	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nitin Bhagawantrao Suryawanshi
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sadhana Sanjay Jadhav	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prakash Deu Naik	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Satyavijay Kilor
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sunil Balkrishna Shukre	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Makarand Subhash Karnik	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Milind Narendra Jadhav
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shriram Kalpathi Rajendran	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Kashinath Shinde	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mukund Govindrao Sewlikar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gautam Shirish Patel	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rohit Baban Deo	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Virendrasingh Gyansingh Bisht
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Atul Sharachchandra Chandurkar	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bharati Harish Dangre	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Mukulika Shrikant Jawalkar
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Revati Prashant Mohite Dere	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sarang Vijaykumar Kotwal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surendra Pandharinath Tavade
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Riyaz Iqbal Chagla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nitin Rudrasen Borkar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Vithalrao Ghuge	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manish Pitale	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Pushpa Virendra Ganediwala
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinay Manohar Deshpande	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mangesh Shivajirao Patil	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madhav Jayajirao Jamdar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajey Shrikant Gadkari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prithviraj Keshavrao Chavan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amit Bhalchandra Borkar

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shrikant Dattatray Kulkarni	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Ganpatrao Mehare	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil L. Pansare
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhay Ahuja	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Govinda Ananda Sanap	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandipkumar C. More
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Narayandas Laddha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shivkumar Ganpatrao Dige	

\*As on 1 November 2021



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Bombay High Court is one of the three High Courts in India which was established under the Indian High Courts Act, 1861. The High Court has civil original, civil, and criminal appellate jurisdiction over States of Maharashtra and Goa and Union Territories of Daman, Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. It has its Principal Seat at Bombay and Benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad, and Panaji (Goa). The present building of Bombay High Court was designed by a British Engineer Lieutenant-Colonel John Augustus Fuller of the Royal Engineers. The structure is a crucial ensemble of a Gothic revival architecture dating back to the early English style. To the west of the central tower, there are two octagonal towers and statues of 'Justice' and 'Mercy' on the top of this building which serve as a source of inspiration to law abiding citizens. The Bombay High Court building is protected and is listed as a Grade II-A heritage building under the Heritage Regulations enacted by the Government of Maharashtra in 1995.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

In order to control spread of COVID-19 infection, thermal screening, hand wash basins, liquid soap dispensers and hand sanitizers were provided at the entry gate. Infrared temperature gun and sanitizer dispenser arrangement was made at the entry of High Court building. The entry into premises was restricted and only one entry and exit point for all visitors including advocates and staff members was made. Sanitizer dispensers were provided at the entry of the office/chamber of all judges and all departments. The washrooms including foot operated taps, handles and door

knobs were cleaned with disinfectants at regular intervals during the day. Sanitizers, mask, gloves and, face shields were also provided to all the departments of the High Court as per demand. High Court dispensary was equipped with necessary medical facilities and ambulance was available round the clock. Coordination with reputed hospitals for covid related cases was done through medical protocol. The Committee of judges issued Standard Operating Protocols periodically covering staff, registry, personnel and advocates. All government instructions, circulars and guidelines were conveyed to the staff. Other public access points such as information kiosks



**Aurangabad Bench of the High Court of Bombay**

etc. were discontinued until further orders. Arrangements for virtual hearing was made in almost all the court halls. Temporary monsoon shed were installed at the entry and exit gate to ensure social distancing amongst advocates, staff members and litigants. Vaccination drive was carried out periodically for judges, officers, staff including family members, advocates and their clerks.

Four additional court rooms were established in the annexe building of the High Court and proposal is under process for obtaining alternate land so that more court rooms can be setup in the annexe building. Efforts are underway to acquire sufficient land for the new High Court building at Bandra - Kurla Complex. Work is under process for installation of seven new lifts with stretcher facility by replacing the existing lifts in the existing court complex of High Court. The subject of illumination of High Court building as per proposal of the Director of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra is also under process.

The Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority

(MSLSA) organizes various Lok Adalats with the support of High Court Legal Services Committees, Sub-Committees, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluka Legal Services Committees in the entire State at regular intervals. For year 2020-21, a total of 1,091 benches settled 75,818 cases and total beneficiaries were 1,51,636. The National Lok Adalats settled 2,08,247 cases amounting to a settlement amount of Rs. 1,313.34 cores. 82,307 pending cases were disposed of under Special Drive.

A scheme of "Mobile Legal Services-cum-Lok Adalats" was introduced by designing a mobile van with inbuilt infrastructure for holding Lok Adalats as well as legal awareness camps. The scheme is effectively functioning with the assistance of trained and experienced judicial officers and members of Bar. They visit every nook and corner of the remote tribal areas, villages, slum areas to impart legal awareness among the weaker sections of the society and also organize Lok Adalats to resolve their disputes amicably and instantly. At present, four mobile vans are plying in the three regions i.e. Mumbai, Nagpur, Aurangabad, and



*Nagpur Bench of the High Court of Bombay*

Thane District. 848 matters were disposed of in Mobile Lok Adalats between January to July 2021. Permanent Lok Adalats are also established and functioning at four Districts viz. Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, and Aurangabad. During 2020-21, a total of 3,405 legal literacy camps were organized and beneficiaries were 1,72,868. In 6,915 cases, legal assistance of advocates was provided through legal aid.

The MSLSA publishes quarterly Magazine “Jus Aditum” giving information about various activities and legal awareness programmes. 706 legal aid clinics were held in the State of Maharashtra. The Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority has established ‘Pre-litigation Counselling Centres for matrimonial matters’ at Mumbai, Aurangabad, Pune, and Nagpur wherein an attempt is made to resolve disputes at both, the pre and post-litigation stage. A post litigation counselling centre, “Sukoon Counselling Centre” was set up to provide free of cost counselling services to individuals, couples and families during litigation process. The Sukoon Counselling Centre organizes and conducts awareness programmes

for litigants approaching the court for matrimonial disputes on a range of issues including mental health and well-being. Free legal services were provided to women irrespective of their income. The Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority with the help of Action Committee against Unfair Medical Practice (Charitable Society/ NGO), installed sanitary vending machine and Incinerator for disposal of sanitary napkins.

During the year 2020-21, the Maharashtra Judicial Academy (MJA) and Indian Mediation Centre and Training Institute Uttan, Thane organized two (physical) training programmes and 50 online trainings/webinars/workshops. Conferences on various subjects with about 24,000 participants from Maharashtra and Goa and U.T. of Diu, Daman & Dadra & Nagar Haveli at Silvassa were organized for judicial officers, marriage counsellors, public prosecutors, police officers, central and state government probationary officers, CWC members, social-work members, law students, advocates of the Bombay High Court, UBUNTU master trainers, district system administrators,



re-appointed judicial officers and special public prosecutors and judges from Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan. During the period of nationwide lockdown in view of outbreak of COVID-19, MJA arranged online conferences, refresher courses, workshops, orientation programmes for judicial officers, ex-cadre judicial officers, staff members etc. Online yoga sessions were organized by MJA in collaboration with Kaivalya Dhama, Mumbai for judicial officers including members of Bombay High Court Registry, staff members of High Court and subordinate courts and their family members.

### Technological Accomplishments

The Case Information System (CIS) HC 1.0 was implemented and functioning at the Bombay High Court, Principal Seat at Bombay since 26 August 2020. In the High Court of Bombay at Goa, CIS HC 1.0 was implemented since 1 January 2021. The e-Filing Version 2.0 as provided by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India is made ready for the Principal Seat of the Bombay High Court. However, in the meantime, NIC, Pune launched improved version e-Filing 3.0.

Accordingly, steps were taken to implement the e-Filing 3.0 for the High Court of Bombay and its Benches at Nagpur and Aurangabad. Similarly, in the High Court of Bombay Bench at Nagpur, E-Resource/ e-Filing Centre is functioning w.e.f. 31 October 2020. 590 AIO PCs were procured for the Bombay High Court at its principal seat and its Benches. The district and subordinate courts in the State of Maharashtra, Goa, Union Territory at Diu, Daman and Silvassa are equipped with the hardware for the purpose of hearing matters through video conferencing so as to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. 100 Cisco Webex Licenses were procured for conducting cases through video conferencing across the State of Maharashtra.

As per the directions of the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, the Bombay High Court provided 2,184 Samsung A20 Smartphones for the bailiffs of the district and subordinate courts in the State of Maharashtra, Goa, Union Territory at Diu, Daman and Silvassa, so as to beneficially use and implement the services of the NSTEP application. As per the "National Judicial Data Grid" (NJDG), 1,65,213 processes were consumed by the courts and 31,101 processes were served through NSTEP Application till date. The real time updation of



*Goa Bench of the High Court of Bombay*

service of e-process is now available in CIS. Therefore, the information of matters which are ready with actual date of service of process and as to whether service of process of a particular case is made or not, is now easily available.

Training programme was organized for the advocate master trainers with the help of judge master trainers in coordination with MJA. Out of 652 Advocates as per list provided by the e-Committee, 628 advocate master trainers attended the said training programme. During COVID-19 pandemic, in the State of Maharashtra, Goa, Union Territory at Diu, Daman and Silvassa, e-filing facility was provided in more than 600 court establishments. The said e-filing facility was conveniently availed by the advocates, litigants and party in persons. E-inauguration of First E-Governance Center at Nashik was organized on 25 July 2020 by the Computer Committee, Bombay High Court in association with the District Court Nashik and Nashik Bar Association. In Maharashtra, 33 e-Seva kendra were established. The establishment of seven e-Seva Kendras are in progress. Similarly, in entire Maharashtra, 461 court complexes are connected through the MPLS connectivity provided by the DOJ.

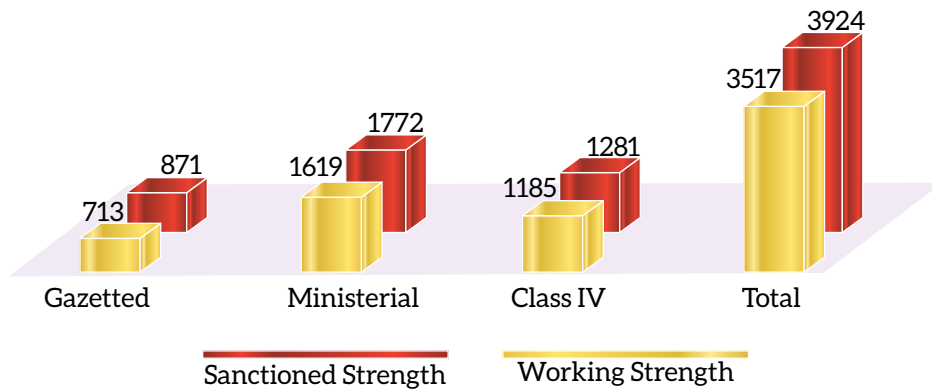
“NYAY KAUSHAL” e-Resource Center and Virtual Court for Transport Department of Maharashtra State was inaugurated. The State Level Virtual Court in the State of Maharashtra for online adjudication of traffic challan cases, started functioning at Katol, District Nagpur from 31 October 2020. The virtual court aims at expeditious disposal of traffic challan cases. The violators can now pay fine online at any time as per their convenience through the virtual court portal at <https://vcourts.gov.in>. Initially, this facility has been made available for traffic challan cases.

The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) integration is completed in 456 court establishments in the State of Maharashtra. The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System enables seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system, like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories, from one platform. With the aid of the ICJS platform, the metadata of FIR and charge sheet can be accessed by all the High Courts and subordinate courts. Documents like FIR, case diary and charge sheet are uploaded by police in PDF format for utilization by the courts.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Staff Strength of the High Court (as on 30.06.2021)



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	4,91,81,65,200	4,03,12,65,000	2,91,55,96,481
Total	4,91,81,65,200	4,03,12,65,000	2,91,55,96,481

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\*Data Revised by High Court



### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges 94

Working Strength of Judges 63

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest 61

Highest 67

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old 1,02,749



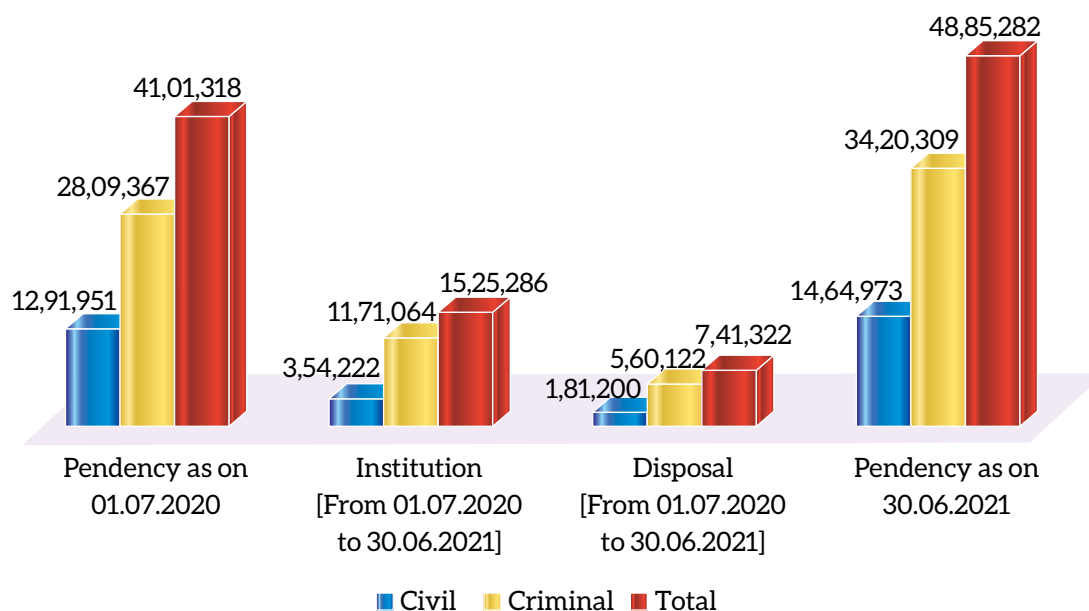
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,19,308	21,825	19,475	1,21,658
Company Matters	963	70	140	893
Contempt (Civil)	6,519	1,066	1,062	6,523
Review (Civil)	86	57	47	96
Matrimonial Matters	1,719	118	234	1,603
Arbitration Matters	2,161	1,437	1,229	2,369
Civil Revisions	3,940	206	423	3,723
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	1,701	91	198	1,594
Civil Appeals	62,731	2,321	7,010	58,042
Land Acquisition Matters	29,637	1,941	858	30,720
MACT Matters	13,489	632	402	13,719
Civil Suits (Original Side)	5,282	366	305	5,343
Other than above	0	0	0	0
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	19,696	7,331	3,013	24,014
Criminal Revisions	6,594	360	374	6,580
Bail Applications	4,135	9,991	6,363	7,763
Criminal Appeals	28,251	1,185	2,435	27,001
Death Sentence Reference	15	03	02	16
Contempt (Criminal)	60	07	03	64
Misc. Criminal Applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	0	0	0	0

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
2,421



Working Strength  
2,210



Vacancy  
211

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
89,448	1,98,771	2,88,219

4

# CALCUTTA High Court



*Principal seat at Kolkata*

## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT\*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shekhar B. Saraf	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Md. Nizamuddin
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tirthankar Ghosh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Shampa Sarkar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Krishan Kapur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subrata Talukdar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arindam Mukherjee	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kaushik Chanda
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswajit Basu	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Roy
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arijit Banerjee	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Amrita Sinha	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Kesang Doma Bhutia
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Debangsu Basak	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rabindranath Samanta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shivakant Prasad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jay Sengupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sugato Majumdar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajasekhar Mantha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bibek Chaudhuri	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bivas Pattanayak
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subhasis Dasgupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ananda Kumar Mukherjee
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Suvra Ghosh	

\*As on 1 November 2021



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The High Court at Calcutta is the oldest High Court in India. It was established on 1 July 1862 under the High Court's Act, 1861. It has jurisdiction over the state of West Bengal and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was included within the jurisdiction of this High Court in 1950 and inauguration as well as functioning of Circuit Bench of this Court at Jalpaiguri in 2019 only glorified and glamourised the treasure of the High Court. Situated on the eastern bank of the river Hooghly and designed by Mr. Walter B. Granville, the grand sandstone edifice is built on the neo-Gothic style of architecture and is said to be a perfect replica of the 'Stadt Haus' or 'Cloth Hall' at Ypres in Belgium.

On 2 April 1977, marking the august occasion of the Court's Centenary, a new building of the High Court (now called the Centenary Building) was declared open. The third building of the High Court, a 10 storied high rise adjacent to the Centenary building, was formally inaugurated on 2 April 2012, and is called the Sesquicentenary Building. This great palladium and 'Temple of Justice' celebrated its hundred years of glory in 1962 and in 1987 it celebrated its Platinum Jubilee. On 14 May 2012, the High Court at Calcutta completed 150 years, paving way for its sesquicentenary celebrations.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

During the COVID-19 pandemic period, wearing of masks and following the distancing norms was made mandatory in the court premises. Liquid soap was kept in dispensers in all washrooms open to the advocates, staff of the court and others. Medical personnel were deployed at the gates of the Court with thermal guns to check temperature of all entering the court premises. Arrangements were made for sanitization of the entire premises including all the court rooms, judges' chambers, chambers of the registrars, different departments on regular intervals. Vaccination drive was conducted in the High Court at Calcutta to inoculate the sitting judges

and their family members, the registry officials, officers and staff members of the Court, and the members of Bar. Steps were also taken for inoculation of the family members of the staff and that of the members of Bar.

Judicial activities were kept functioning uninterrupted in keeping with the pandemic situation but by maintaining the Covid protocol to its letter and spirit. Though in the prevailing circumstances, functioning by video-link was most desirable and convenient, however, since all the advocates were not able to access the video-link facilities, physical courts were resumed but on a very restricted scale so that all have access to the High Court, however upon strictly maintaining

all Covid norms. Hybrid hearings were also introduced and made permissible, in the sense that, one or more parties may be represented by video-link and one or more other parties may be represented in physical manner or vice versa in a simultaneous manner.

During the period April 2020 to March 2021, a total of 20,906 persons received benefits from legal services provided by State Legal Services Authority. 1,632 legal literacy/legal awareness camps/programmes were conducted which benefited 86,123 persons. During the said period, 802 pre-litigation matters and 4,567 post-litigation cases were disposed of through Lok Adalat. 2,779 pre-litigation matters and 14,137 post-litigation cases were disposed of through National Lok Adalat. 1,471 pre-litigation matters and 7,571 post-litigation cases were disposed of through E-Lok Adalat. 1,927 cases were referred to mediation out of which 724 cases were settled. Victims of acid attack, POCSO, trafficking and rape victims and dependents of deceased victims were awarded

compensation under the West Bengal Victim Compensation Scheme, 2017. Total amount of compensation was Rs.1,11,45,000. A total of 714 legal service clinics were held with 4,221 panel advocates. 9,864 persons were provided legal assistance of panel advocates and 10,386 were rendered advice/counselling. 656 persons were provided other services through panel advocates.

During the judicial year, the Calcutta High Court Legal Services Committee (CHCLSC) organized one E-Lok Adalat, one Online Lok Adalat and one National Lok Adalat and settled 252 cases in these three Lok Adalats with a total amount of Rs. 12,17,62,986.50. CHCLSC engaged advocates in 141 cases for filing/conducting/contesting cases before the High Court. In addition, the prisoners/convicts/appellants, unrepresented before the courts in 24 cases relating to CRA or CRR matters were allocated advocates from the panel of the CHCLSC. Further, advocates were engaged by the CHCLSC in 27 matters for restoration of cases. CHCLSC engaged advocates in nine



*Circuit Bench at Port Blair of the Calcutta High Court*



*Chief Justice's Court*

matters, where, litigants approached CHCLSC for availing the benefit of legal aid for filing SLP or contesting SLP or getting their pending cases transferred from another State to State of West Bengal through the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee with the assistance of CHCLSC.

The Mediation and Conciliation Committee finalized the Standard Operating Procedure for the pre-litigation mediation in commercial disputes under section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, which was thereafter notified by the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal. The Committee also finalized the necessary amendments to adapt "Online Mediation" into the Civil Procedure Mediation Rules, 2006 of the High Court, Calcutta. The inserted amendments have received "Full Court" approval. The Committee took resolutions to discourage "Physical Mediation" as far as practicable and encouraged "Online Mediation" to tackle the prevailing Covid pandemic situation. The "Online Mediation" process was inaugurated from the Mediation Centre, High Court, Calcutta. The issue-II of the Mediation Newsletter of the High Court, Calcutta, was formally published and circulated both in

hard copies and in digital format to the various stakeholders. Several resolutions and steps were taken by the Committee for establishment of Motor Accident Mediation Authorities (MAMA) in each of the district and sub-divisional levels of West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands for offering ease of access to the victims and/or their families in any motor accident case within its jurisdiction.

The Committee took several resolutions and steps for establishment of pre-litigation mediation clinics/desks at each of the district and sub-divisional court level of West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Juvenile Justice Secretariat inaugurated child friendly courts in the districts of Howrah, Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman, Nadia, Barasat, North 24 Parganas, Birbhum, Barrackpore, and Hoogly. Training was imparted to the police personnel and to the newly recruited chairperson and members of child welfare committee and social workers of JJBs.

The West Bengal Judicial Academy conducted four long induction level training programmes

for judicial officers of different ranks. Five colloquiums/webinars were conducted on different topics. The Academy also conducted 57 online refresher courses on various subjects for the judicial officers, executive magistrates, chairmen and secretaries of DLSA, staff of district judiciary, advocates, law clerks etc. Training programmes were also conducted under the E-Courts Project. Staff members and advocates of district judiciary were given UBUNTU-cum-CIS training. Judicial officers were given training on electronic evidence and cyber crimes. Various recruitment processes including examination for the promotional posts, were also initiated/conducted.

### Technological Accomplishments

In the High Court of Calcutta, the hearing of the court proceedings continued in the hybrid mode. The IT infrastructure got a further boost by revamping of the existing network infrastructure. At present, the High Court at Calcutta has the capacity to run about 30 courts having hybrid VC

facilities. From 2 January 2021 to 30 June 2021, 1,55,479 SMS were pushed through the system in the High Court at Calcutta. CIS was implemented in all the benches of the High Court at Calcutta. While CIS was made operational in the original side and appellate side of the High Court from 1 September 2020, the facility was extended to the Circuit Bench at Port Blair from 12 May 2021.

All data prior to the implementation of CIS in the High Court at Calcutta were successfully migrated from the Oracle based LOBIS system, which was earlier indigenously developed by the NIC, High Court Unit. Similarly, all backlog entry at the Circuit Bench were made in the system during the implementation. The final testing of E-Pay services stood completed. The e-pay of court fees could now be made through a tie-up mechanism with the State Government portal GRIPS. Shortly, the facility is expected to be launched. The existing facility of V-Court and e-Mentioning was further enhanced. Several changes were made enabling users to use the facility. Till 30 June 2021, a total of 48,793 users accessed the facility



*Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri of the Calcutta High Court*



of V-Court services while 53,576 users used the facility of e-Mentioning. Though e-filing in the High Court is yet to commence, but to give relief to the litigants, cases were allowed to be filed through email during the pandemic period. The website of the dedicated Commercial Courts was launched in April 2021.

A revamped software was developed by the IT Team of the High Court at Calcutta. Various information of the judicial officers were fed enabling systematic analysis of data regarding posting, transfer, ACR grading etc. The already installed Inventory Management software is being used and upgraded to cater new needs of the users. 203 users are using the Inventory Management Software in the High Court at Calcutta.

Steps were taken for revamping of network infrastructure in the High Court at Calcutta, implementation of e-filing system, upgradation of internet facilities to four commercial courts to MPLS connectivity, e-summons generation in the commercial court, land records mapping in the commercial courts and extension of e-pay system to all commercial courts, setting up of e-sewa kendra at Commercial Court, Alipore. The work on revamping Central File Tracking System, generation of Certified copy through on-line mode, E-Gate pass system, hardware resource management, virtual court, establishment of hosting applications and data at State Data Centre, Document Management System for digitized records is also currently going on.

The old rack and desktop servers that were provided at the district and sub divisional courts in the State of West Bengal, under Phase-I of the eCourts Project were replaced by new 79 rack servers and seven tower servers having latest configuration. 92 number of 2 KVA UPSs were procured for the district and sub divisional courts of West Bengal to provide backup to the new servers. Permanent eSewa Kendras have been set



*Corridor of the High Court*

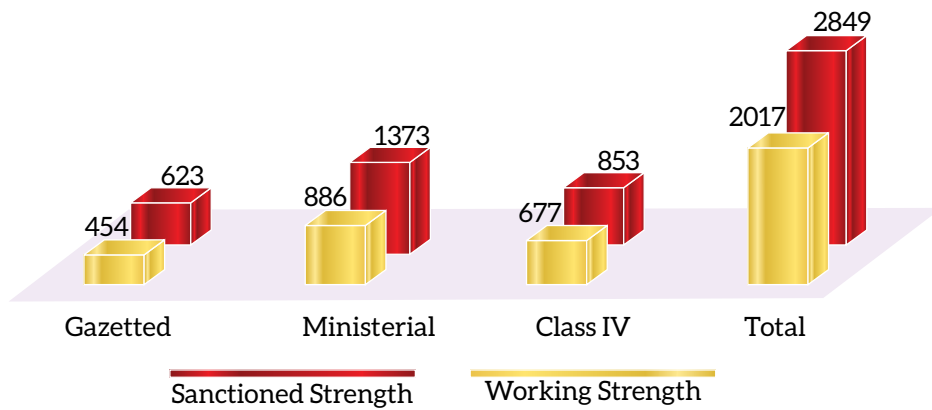
up at the High Court at Calcutta and at the district court complex at North 24 Parganas. The High Court took initiative to set up VC Cabins in the High Court as well as district and sub-divisional Courts in the State of West Bengal.

The ePayment of court fees has been tested at four commercial court complexes namely at Asansol, Rajarhat, Siliguri, and Alipore and at one district court complex namely city civil court, in the State of West Bengal. The High Court is in the process of implementing ePayment of court fee in these court complexes. Digitization of High Court's record is being carried out at the West Bengal Judicial Academy with a dedicated space of 24,000 sq. feet having adequate infrastructure and dedicated logistics. Till March 2020, a total of 71 lakh pages were scanned and processed by the vendor deputed for the work of digitization.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Staff Strength of the High Court (as on 30.06.2021)



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan#			
	1,80,15,46,000	1,95,07,87,000	2,44,58,34,000
Non-Plan#			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,80,15,46,000</b>	<b>1,95,07,87,000</b>	<b>2,44,58,34,000</b>

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

# The State Government has done away with Plan-Non Plan classification

\*\* Data Revised by High Court



### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges **72**

Working Strength of Judges **31**

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest **31**

Highest **38**

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old **1,06,806**

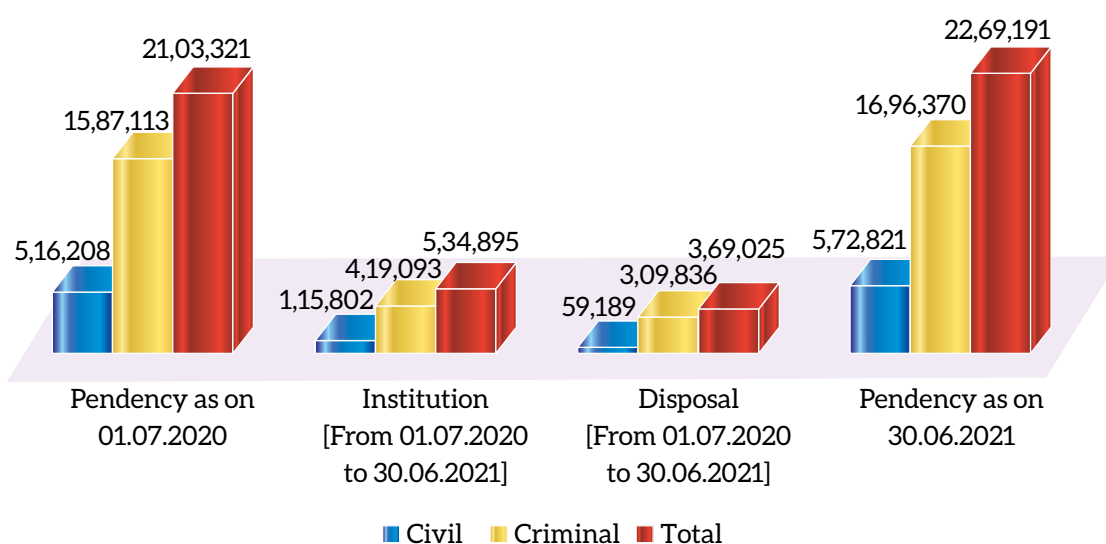
# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

## Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	83,998	19,559	12,269	91,288
Company Matters	654	31	22	663
Contempt (Civil)	33,655	1,287	225	34,717
Review (Civil)	102	430	242	290
Matrimonial Matters	27	142	95	74
Arbitration Matters	1,466	498	381	1,583
Civil Revisions	7,481	1,879	1,545	7,815
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	154	123	89	188
Civil Appeals	53,064	2,069	1,204	53,929
Land Acquisition Matters	01	576	384	193
MACT Matters	37	333	99	271
Civil Suits (Original Side)	3,403	233	138	3,498
Other than above	5,324	676	443	5,557
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal Revisions	21,178	2,254	1,329	22,103
Bail Applications	5,471	11,599	8,180	8,890
Criminal Appeals	12,719	379	127	12,971
Death Sentence Reference	16	04	0	20
Contempt (Criminal)	84	05	03	86
Misc. Criminal Applications	25	29	14	40
Other than above	0	0	0	0

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
1,016\*



Working Strength  
930



Vacancy  
53

\* Sanctioned strength includes Leave Reserve Posts and Deputation Posts.

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
69,075	2,61,550	3,30,625

5

# High Court of CHHATTISGARH



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH\*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Goutam Bhaduri	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arvind Singh Chandel	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Narendra Kumar Vyas
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar Agrawal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Parth Prateem Sahu	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Naresh Kumar Chandravanshi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Puthichira Sam Koshy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gautam Chourdiya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Kumar Tiwari
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Agrawal	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Vimla Singh Kapoor	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Chandra Singh Samant	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rajani Dubey	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The State of Chhattisgarh came into existence on 1 November 2000 by virtue of Madhya Pradesh Re-organization Act, 2000 and the High Court of Chhattisgarh was established having its jurisdiction over the territories of the State of Chhattisgarh with seat at Bilaspur. The new building of High Court of Chhattisgarh is the Asia's largest High Court in terms of area. It is equipped with banking, postal, medical and canteen facilities and having solar power plant installed in the premises, and generating power to meet its own requirements. In addition to the existing 15 courts, construction work of seven more court rooms with all facilities has also started in the High Court of Chhattisgarh.



### INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

#### Administrative Achievements

During the period of pandemic COVID-19, the premises of the High Court was sanitized from time to time. The sanitization and thermal

checking facilities at all the entrances and the hand sanitization facilities in all sections of the High Court were installed. The COVID-19 testing of the High Court officers and employees was carried out as and when required. Vaccination

camps were also organized in the High Court Colony. The functioning of the High Court was conducted through video conferencing with necessary restrictions on physical presence by following the guidelines issued by the central government as well as the state government.

During the COVID-19 period, the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority (CGSLSA) also came up with youtube channel 'Jan Chetna', wherein, more than 150 videos for legal awareness were uploaded, which got more than 1 lakh views and 5,000 plus subscribers in a short span of five months. On the occasion of Constitution Day, CGSLSA launched a short video on fundamental duties drawing attention of people towards the necessity to maintain clean environment. In collaboration with the Atal University, Bilaspur, a joint drive was launched, wherein around 23,000 NSS workers associated with different schools, colleges under Atal University would be spreading legal awareness in the remotest areas of

Chhattisgarh through door to door campaign. 200 webinars on different topics of Indian Constitution were also conducted by the District Legal Services Authorities. During the judicial year, in 182 Lokadalats, 1,205 cases of different categories i.e. NI Act, MACT, Labour, Civil, etc. were disposed of. In the National Lok Adalat held on 12 December 2020, 5,303 cases were disposed of. All 3,203 applications for providing legal services were disposed of. CGSLSA conducted E-lokadalat on 11 July 2020, wherein 2,270 cases were disposed of, and award of Rs. 43,72,86,902 was passed.

E-Mega camp series were conducted through virtual mode in all 23 civil districts and 64 talukas on 31 October 2020, wherein, 8,70,323 beneficiaries were benefited with Rs. 40,473,90,197 worth of benefits. Legal Aid Defence Counsel system was successfully established in Bilaspur sessions court. In a big initiative for ensuring relief to the victims, a sum of Rs. 11,72,19,000 was disbursed in 1,008 cases, decided under victim compensation scheme.



*A view of the High Court*

Campaign 'Umeed' for mentally ill patients, Hamar Angna to curb the menace of Domestic violence, Sadbhavna series for differently abled persons and celebration of all special days with special focus on Constitution Day were amongst the notable activities of CGSLSA.

The Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy organized institutional training for newly recruited Civil Judge (Entry Level), District Judge (Entry Level), promotee Additional District Judges and also organized various workshops/ refresher/orientation courses and other training programmes for Civil Judge Class-I, Class-II, the members of Higher Judicial Services, ministerial staff of High Court and subordinate courts and court managers.

During COVID-19 period, the Academy continued to function in virtual mode. Virtual trainings/ workshops were organized as per the academic calendar in absence of possibility of physical presence of the participants. During the month of June 2020, the Academy conducted one online training organized by UNICEF for Principal Magistrates (Juvenile Justice Board), one online judicial conference, two online workshops and one refresher course, wherein 153 judicial officers benefited. The Academy organized 33 trainings including three refresher course and three judicial divisional seminar of judicial officers, wherein more than 100 judicial officers were benefited. The trainings of staff of subordinate courts were also organized.

Online training on ECT 003-2021 (Third Phase) as per the directions issued by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi was also organized on 20 March 2021 in which 150 trainee advocates benefited. On 19 June 2021, Online Awareness Programme was organized for advocates on "Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT)" wherein about 2,000 trainee advocates benefited. The Academy distributed 39 books on various law subjects to the judicial officers of the State. Eight cases through mediation



were settled. Online mediation training for 60 referral judges (Civil Judge Class-I & Class-II) was organized on 29 December 2020. Newsletter of mediation centre of Chhattisgarh High Court was also launched.

### **Technological Accomplishments**

Due to COVID-19, court proceedings were conducted through video conferencing and for this purpose separate display systems were installed in the High Court of Chhattisgarh. 71,116 cases in the High Court and 26,167 cases in subordinate courts were heard through video



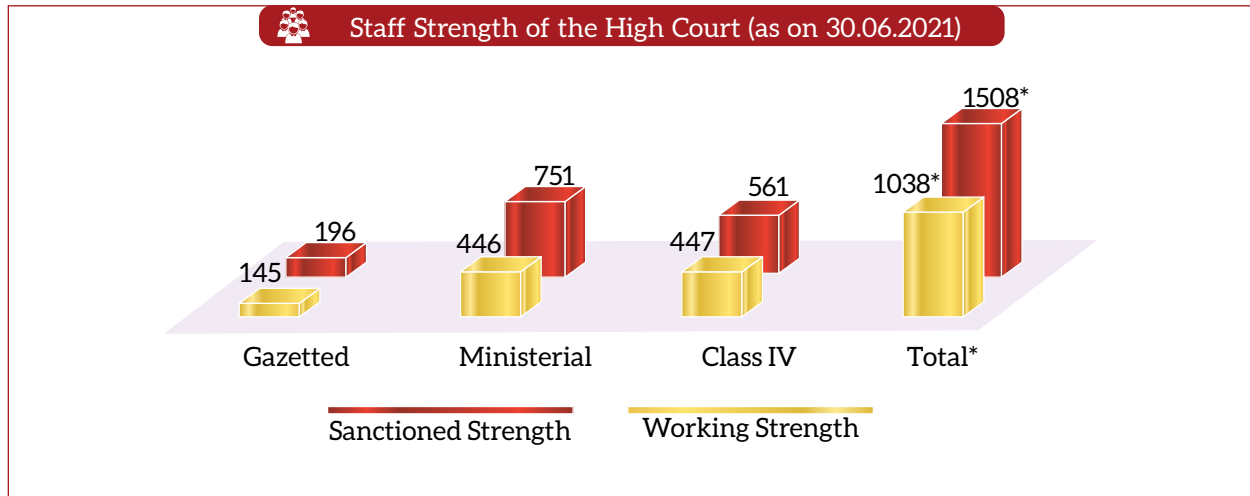


*Chief Justice's Court*

conferencing. Justice Clock was installed in the High Court which displays statistical information such as institution, disposal and pendency of cases and other information for awareness of the advocates. Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) were implemented in all the court complexes of the State. The ICJS is an initiative of e-Committee to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system like courts, police, jails, etc. E-filing facilities have been started in the High Court and also in all the district and sessions courts. E-pay facilities were also started in some of the district and sessions courts of the State.

E-Seva Kendra at High Court of Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur and one pilot location District and Sessions Court Rajnandgaon was established. Virtual Court for hearing traffic cases was inaugurated on 20 March 2021 at District Court, Raipur. Website of the High Court was updated. N-STEP has been implemented in all the courts of the State for serving the summons. Smart Phones were distributed to 250 process servers / bailiffs for effective implementation of N-STEP software. E-Lokadalat was organized with the help of CGSLSA on 11 July 2020.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



\* Excluding Judicial Officers.

### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	81,28,60,000	93,05,60,000	81,88,60,000
Total	81,28,60,000	93,05,60,000	81,88,60,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges 22

Working Strength of Judges 14

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest 14

Highest 16

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old 4,571

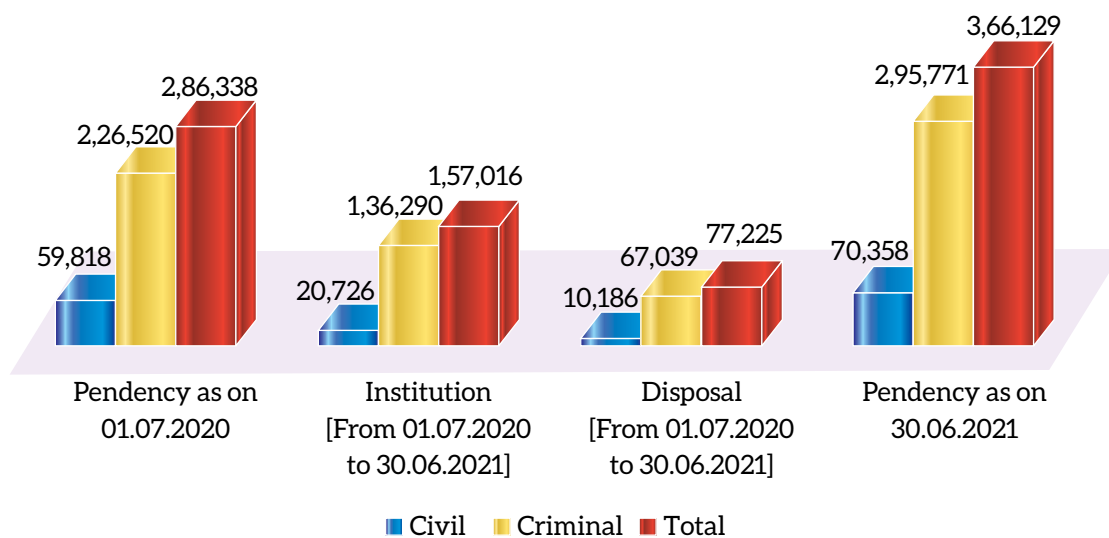
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	20,850	10,995	7,238	24,607
Company Matters	19	0	01	18
Contempt (Civil)	1,159	983	314	1,828
Review (Civil)	141	198	148	191
Matrimonial Matters	789	74	191	672
Arbitration Matters	226	85	19	292
Civil Revisions	283	38	28	293
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	527	178	74	631
Civil Appeals	9,328	741	1,226	8,843
Land Acquisition Matters	1,041	715	375	1,381
MACT Matters	8,121	700	953	7,868
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	661	612	460	813
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,705	796	457	2,044
Criminal Revisions	5,137	624	496	5,265
Bail Applications	1,604	11,711	10,938	2,377
Criminal Appeals	14,534	1,138	992	14,680
Death Sentence Reference	03	0	0	03
Contempt (Criminal)	07	01	02	06
Misc. Criminal Applications	3,382	1,256	898	3,740
Other than above	2,708	174	45	2,837

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
482



Working Strength  
419



Vacancy  
63

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
671	620	1,291

6

# High Court of DELHI



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dhirubhai N. Patel, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipin Sanghi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Valluri Kameswar Rao	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Jyoti Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Siddharth Mridul	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yashwant Varma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prateek Jalan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manmohan	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anu Malhotra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Shakdher	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yogesh Khanna	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Narula
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Palli	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Mukta Gupta	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Prathiba M. Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Talwant Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jayant Nath	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navin Chawla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Najmi Waziri	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Hari Shankar	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Asha Menon
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandra Dhari Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jasmeet Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vibhu Bakhru	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subramonium Prasad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amit Bansal

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The High Court of Delhi was established on 31 October 1966. It was initially housed in a residential bungalow, then shifted to 'Travancore House', Kasturba Gandhi Marg and thereafter to 'Patiala House' in the vicinity of India Gate. The permanent abode was finally acquired by the High Court when it moved to its own building at Sher Shah Road, which was inaugurated on 25 September 1976. Originally, the High Court had three buildings - one main court building ('A' Block) and two adjacent but integrated administrative blocks. The facade of the main court building ('A' Block) has murals made by Sh. Satish Gujral, the renowned painter, sculptor and muralist. Subsequently, two more buildings were constructed - an 'Extension Block', which became operational in December 2005; and an 'Administrative Block', which became operational in March 2012. A state-of-the-art four-storey building

namely 'New Courts Block' was inaugurated on 25 July 2018. The High Court has jurisdiction over the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It is one of the only four High Courts in India with ordinary original civil jurisdiction. By virtue of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division have also been established at the High Court.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

During the judicial year, despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc in Delhi, the Delhi High Court and the District Courts in Delhi strived to ensure that access to justice is not denied to the consumers of justice. The Courts remained functional, though in a restricted mode, by adopting a mix of virtual, physical and hybrid hearings. At the same time, all necessary precautions were taken so as to minimize the risk of spread of COVID-19 virus. Face shields, sanitizers and gloves were made available to all concerned. An oxygen concentrator bank was also created by the High Court. Free Covid testing facilities were extended and Vaccination Centres were set up in the High Court premises as well as in the district court complexes.

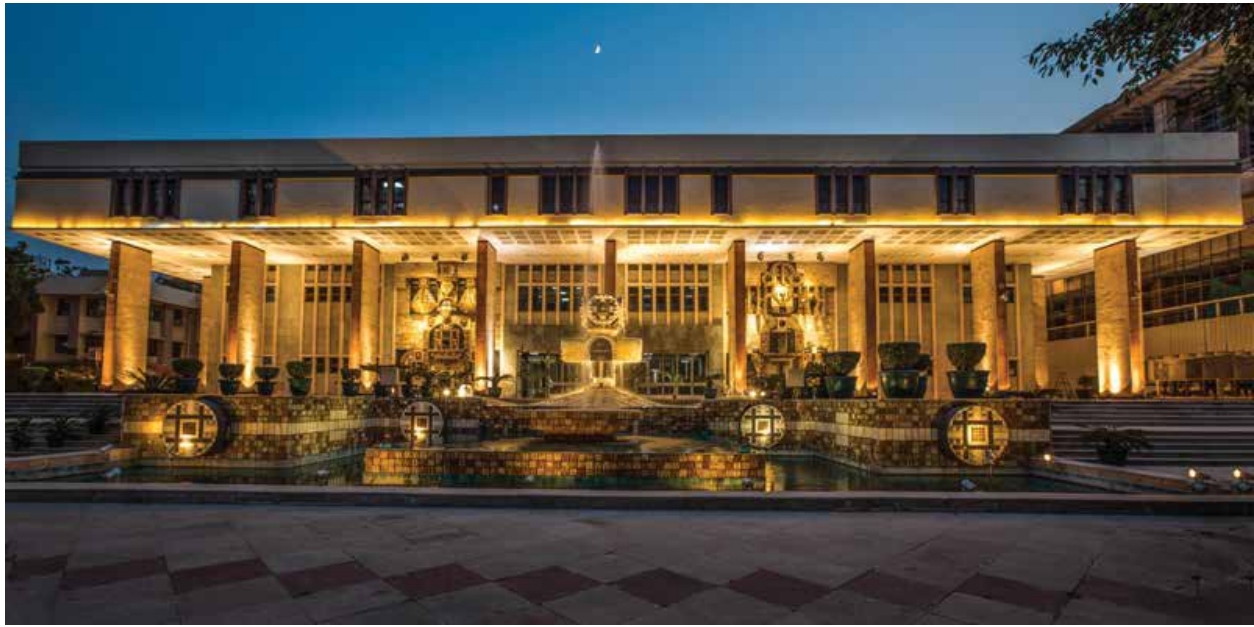
The High Court constantly monitored the progress of construction of an additional block ('S' Block) at the Delhi High Court on land measuring 2.74 acres and also of 140 prefabricated court rooms at Tis Hazari, Saket and Karkardooma Courts. Various initiatives were taken to make the High Court complex more accessible for differently-abled persons, such as setting up of easily accessible counters at e-filing and medical units, making available reserved parking slots, construction of additional ramps, further laying of tactile, etc.

During the COVID-19 pandemic period, the Delhi Judicial Academy took a transformative approach and shifting from the traditional mode

of learning and teaching, the Academy adopted the online methodology for imparting training. All the training programmes were conducted by the Academy during this period through Cisco Webex Platform. 74 academic programmes were conducted by the Delhi Judicial Academy for judges and other stakeholders including induction training for two batches of newly appointed officers of Delhi Judicial Service (consisting of 157 officers), foundation training for the newly appointed officers of Delhi Higher Judicial Service, orientation course for judicial officers



*Mural at High Court*



*Illuminated view of Building of the High Court of Delhi*

on their promotion to Delhi Higher Judicial Service, induction training for newly appointed special metropolitan magistrates (littering) and refresher training for newly appointed additional public prosecutors. Further, fostering collaborative learning and understanding the importance of mental health, the Academy in May 2021 in collaboration with Project 39A, NLU Delhi conducted a sensitization programme for judicial officers and prosecutors focusing on the core issues of mental health. The Academy also conducted special programmes like E-committee Training for master trainers among advocates, training programme for potential trainers by Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee and training of quasi-judicial officers of labour courts. The Academy also conducted sessions for sensitizing the staff on prevention of sexual harassment at work place.

The Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) established the third Permanent Lok Adalat in Delhi for electricity matters which was virtually inaugurated on 26 September 2020. Further, three new legal services clinics were established and

various help desks were set up. A counselling centre for pre-litigation mediation of matrimonial disputes was also set up at Burari Police Station. DSLISA conducted the first-ever E-Lok Adalat in New Delhi on 8 August 2020. This unique Lok Adalat, the first one in India, was conducted digitally on an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Platform. SAMA, an ODR platform, recognized by the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, was the official technical partner for the Lok Adalat, which witnessed over 70 courts from 11 districts across Delhi settling disputes online through video conferencing and E-Signatures. A total of 5,838 matters were settled. This was followed by the second E-Lok Adalat on 20 September 2020, wherein 106 Benches were constituted all across Delhi and 13,491 cases were disposed of. Further, to celebrate the completion of 25 years of service towards providing access to justice for all, DSLISA took the initiative of organizing a “Ghar-Ghar Lok Adalat” - Lok Adalat in the community, for traffic challans (NBT). Under this campaign, approximately 1.7 lakh challans were disposed of by 98 benches across Delhi.





*Chief Justice's Court*

63,242 cases were disposed of in National Lok Adalats, 1,95,360 cases were disposed of in Special Lok Adalats and 16,251 cases were disposed of in Permanent Lok Adalats. 88,517 persons benefitted from the legal services provided by DSLSA and 1,777 persons were the beneficiaries under the Delhi Victim Compensation Scheme administered by the DSLSA. Additionally, 726 pre-institution cases were settled at the CAW Cells and 77 pre-institution commercial matters were settled. The Authority also conducted 4,794 legal literacy and awareness programmes, 137 training programmes for legal services advocates, 68 training programmes for the police, 36 training programmes for JJBs/CWCs, etc., two training programmes for para legal volunteers and in all conducted 1,087 online programs/workshops/webinars. Apart from this, DSLSA also started free tele-counselling for people suffering from mental stress during the COVID-19 pandemic period, to provide them psychological support. DSLSA also conducted an Online Add-on course for students of various colleges.

Samadhan (Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre), with a view to provide mediation services, started online mediation through Cisco Webex platform by holding sessions through video conferencing, both in pending as well as in fresh cases referred by the High Court or filed by the parties for pre-litigation/conciliation and helped the disputants to resolve their disputes without their physical presence at the Centre. 421 cases along with connected cases were successfully settled out of 814 cases referred to Samadhan from various courts/ tribunals. Apart from this, 60 cases were settled out of 373 cases filed by the parties directly with Samadhan as pre-litigation/conciliation matters. Further out of 32 cases filed for pre institution mediation under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, five cases were successfully concluded. Out of 235 references, 59 matters were disposed of under the aegis of Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC). The Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee (DHCLSC) provided legal aid to 1,182 persons and 244 cases were settled by the mediators of DHCLSC.



## Technological Accomplishments

The High Court of Delhi undertook a host of ICT-enabled initiatives, including virtual hearing, Online e-Filing System, Online Urgent Mentioning, etc. to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on its justice delivery system. The High Court and the district courts conducted virtual court proceedings, without any glitches, using the Cisco Webex platform. The Online e-Filing System which enabled e-filing of cases from anywhere through the internet was also used overwhelmingly by the advocates and parties-in-person and till June 2021 around 17,000 users were registered with the system.

With the objective to make virtual hearings open to public, the video conferencing links were offered for public viewing, subject to stability of the system and other rules/regulations of the Court and for this purpose, the High Court started publishing meeting links in the cause lists

available on the website of the Court.

The Telepresence System of the Court was also used to its full potential to organize virtual meetings of the Full Court and various Administrative Committees of the Court, including online interactions with the Principal District and Sessions Judges and judicial officers for administrative work and ACR recordings. Besides, e-Farewells, webinars, online training sessions for advocates, etc. were also organized through the Telepresence System. Live webcast of the Independence Day function, E-farewell references and swearing-in ceremony was conducted.

The High Court of Delhi also conducted physical hearings (as per roster) in addition to virtual hearings for some period. However, during the physical hearings, the willing advocates/litigants were provided the facility to join the physical hearings through video conferencing from the

comfort of their homes and offices, enabled by the 'Hybrid System of hearings' wherein one advocate/ party may join the court proceedings through virtual mode while the other could be present physically in the court.

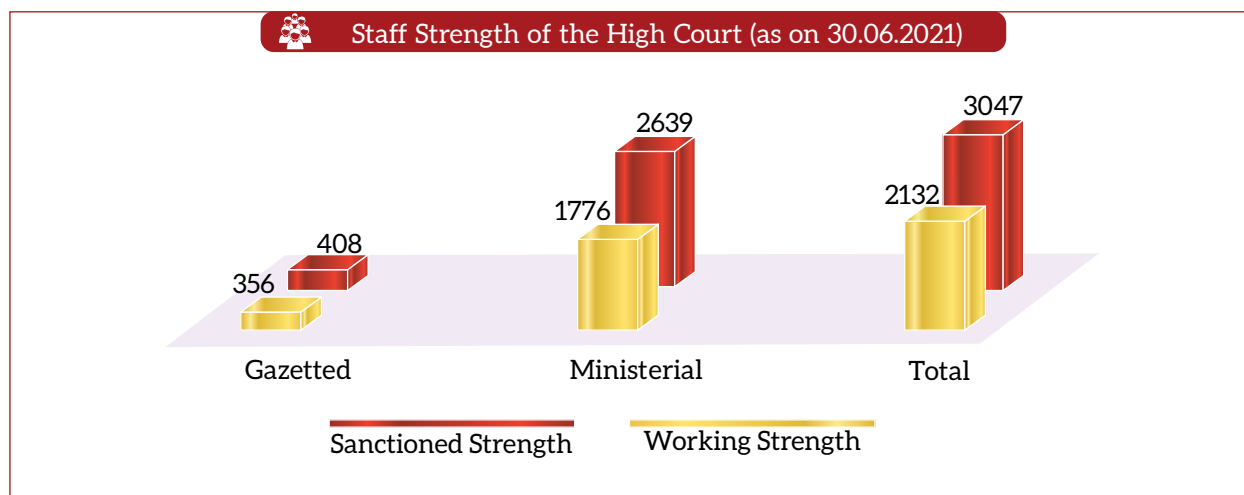
A new QR code based digital entry pass system was introduced to regulate the entry into the court rooms for physical hearings. The system enabled the Court to ensure proper social distancing within the premises to contain the spread of highly contagious COVID-19. About 64 lakh pages of pending and decided cases were scanned and digitized.

A Project for establishment of Digital Negotiable Instruments Act Courts at District Court level was conceived and conceptualized by the State Court Management Systems Committee on the directions of Hon'ble the Chief Justice, with the objective of providing hassle-free environment to the litigants for filing, hearing and disposal of cheque dishonor cases which is aimed at strengthening 'Access to

Justice for all'. Accordingly, 34 Digital NI Act Courts were established under this Project to try all such fresh complaints w.e.f. 17 November 2020 in a totally paperless digital environment where hearings take place by way of video conferencing. The said 34 Digital NI Act Courts are functioning smoothly and successfully.

A software based document management system for the files scanned under the digitization project has been implemented in all the district court complexes. The software has the facility to upload the digitally signed, bookmarked pdf documents and enter the case details and retrieve the same. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) is being used for service and delivery of court processes by bailiffs. A new IT Cell is created at delhi district courts in order to centralize the activity of software conceptualization, software development, software testing, its implementation and maintenance and other technical activities.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



\*No Class IV posts on the establishment of the Registry.

### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	3,21,13,00,000	3,14,17,00,000	3,32,49,00,000
Total	3,21,13,00,000	3,14,17,00,000	3,32,49,00,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges	60
Working Strength of Judges	31

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest	29
Highest	32

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old	11,470
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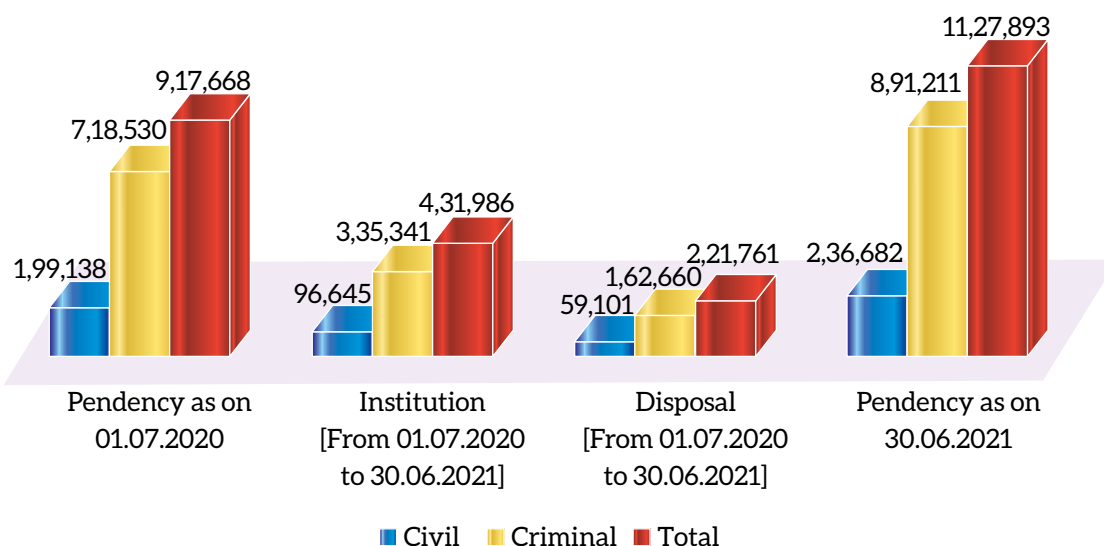
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	25,379	13,467	7,482	31,364
Company Matters	1,458	30	34	1,454
Contempt (Civil)	2,186	1,050	440	2,796
Review (Civil)	0	0	0	0
Matrimonial Matters	491	133	73	551
Arbitration Matters	2,886	2,712	1,724	3,874
Civil Revisions	1,626	268	169	1,725
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	3,101	201	286	3,016
Civil Appeals	10,313	2,347	1,399	11,261
Land Acquisition Matters	2,375	47	12	2,410
MACT Matters	3,795	318	153	3,960
Civil Suits (Original Side)	5,487	1,271	365	6,393
Other than above	1,373	277	124	1,526
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,328	2,375	1,756	1,947
Criminal Revisions	3,173	360	191	3,342
Bail Applications	938	4,935	4,279	1,594
Criminal Appeals	10,652	524	132	11,044
Death Sentence Reference	01	01	0	02
Contempt (Criminal)	23	04	01	26
Misc. Criminal Applications	5,288	2,459	1,609	6,138
Other than above	1,607	166	62	1,711

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021

  
Sanctioned Strength  
836\*

  
Working Strength  
696

  
Vacancy  
140

\*Includes 16 temporary Ex-cadre posts of Special Fast Track Courts and 21 posts of Family Courts.

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
6,654	12,763	19,417

7

# GAUHATI High Court



*Principal seat at Guwahati*

## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prasanta Kumar Deka	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nelson Sailo	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Hukato Swu
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael Zothankhuma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajit Borthakur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Robin Phukan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suman Shyam	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hitesh Kumar Sarma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kakheto Sema
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devashis Baruah
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nani Tagia	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Malasri Nandi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manish Choudhury	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Marli Vankung
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kalyan Rai Surana	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumitra Saikia	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The history of the Gauhati High Court dates back to the resolution of the Assam Legislative Assembly as adopted on 9 September 1947, for the then province of Assam. Accordingly, the High Court of Assam (the old nomenclature of the Gauhati High Court) was established on 5 April 1948. The High Court of Assam was originally functioning in the then capital of Assam, i.e., Shillong but was later shifted to Gauhati on 14 August 1948. With the constitution of the State of Nagaland as on 1 December 1963, the Assam High Court came to be known as the High Court of Assam and Nagaland. Further, by dint of North Eastern Area (Re-organization) Act, 1971, the jurisdiction of the High Court of Assam and Nagaland increased to five North-Eastern states of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura as well as to the two Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. With this expansion of jurisdiction of the Assam High Court, it also got its new name, namely the Gauhati High Court. This High Court got jurisdiction over the seven north-eastern states popularly known as seven sisters, after the attainment of



statehood by Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on 20 February 1987. Later, on 23 March 2013, the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court got curtailed as new High Courts were established in Meghalaya, Manipur, and Tripura. Therefore, the ambit of the jurisdiction of the present Gauhati High Court lies with a Permanent Bench in Gauhati and three Outlying Benches in Kohima, Aizawl, and Itanagar, respectively.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

Due to spread of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, entry in the High Court premises was restricted. The officers and staff were assigned duties at the gate in the old and new building. Antigen COVID-19 tests were performed in the premises of the Gauhati High Court. Glass cabins were also constructed in some sections for restricting direct contact between individuals. Further, safety equipments like masks, sanitizers, face-shields were provided to the employees. A COVID-19

response team was constituted with the officers and staffs including the medical officers to deal with all the Covid related matters. One 108 ambulance was also obtained from the State Health Department, Government of Assam for providing necessary Covid services to the judges, officers and staff of the Registry. The Judges' Guest House situated in Kharghuli, Guwahati and bungalows were used for the purpose of home isolation. Vaccination drive was organized by the Gauhati High Court for all the judges, officers and staff, advocates and their family members.



*Aizawl Bench of the Gauhati High Court*

During the judicial year, the quarters for the Grade III judicial officers were inaugurated in presence of judicial officers of district judiciary, Barpeta. A legal aid clinic was inaugurated under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Golaghat. This clinic caters to the legal needs of the deprived, poor and downtrodden people of Bokakhat sub division. Vulnerable witness deposition centre was inaugurated at Udalguri. This Centre has a court hall attached to the waiting room with pantry, toys and deposition rooms having facility for audio-video transmission between the room and the court hall. The Centre has an exclusive entry to the courtroom for child witnesses or victims to save them from any pressure or influence. An additional court building was inaugurated in Dima Hasao District and at Dibrugarh. A front office and legal aid clinic was inaugurated at DLSA, Dibrugarh. As a part of its mission for creating robust infrastructure for the judiciary, the Gauhati High Court completed another project at Rangia by building the judicial officers' residential complex. The district judiciary of Charaideo was also inaugurated. The court of district & sessions judge and court of chief judicial magistrate were inaugurated at Hojai. Further, there was inauguration of vulnerable witness deposition centre and foundation stone laying ceremony of new additional court building at Goalpara.

A Third Zonal Consultation Programme (Meet) of DLSA Secretaries and PLVs of Zone- III (District: Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Kokrajhar and South Salmara) was held. A valedictory programme was organized for 24 newly appointed judicial officers in Grade-III of Assam Judicial Service. The Judicial Academy, Assam, in collaboration with WWF-India, organized an orientation programme on protection of wildlife at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati. The Academy, in collaboration with the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University, organized a webinar on "Media reporting on Children with Vulnerabilities: Perspectives from JJ Act and POCSO Act and Reporting of Cases under the Mental Healthcare

Act, 2017". 33 in-service training programmes were conducted during August, 2020 to March, 2021 through webinars, team meets and on blended platforms. A three-day pioneering programme was initiated to impart training on relevant aspects of Code of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, for executive magistrates of Assam Civil Service officers. A two day skill development programme was conducted for the staff of subordinate courts of Assam on topics such as reconstruction/custody of records, maintenance of diaries/registers, dress code, punctuality etc. An online session on criminal law and Protection of Woman from Domestic Violence Act for the civil judge (junior division) and judicial magistrate first class induction batch - Goa and Maharashtra session was organized by the Judicial Academy, Assam with Maharashtra Judicial Academy.

A six days programme was organized covering child protection laws, challenges in implementation etc. in collaboration with social welfare department and UNICEF, for non-judicial members of child welfare committee(s), juvenile justice boards and other stake holders for all the States of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. A programme on integrated approaches and methods in child protection, mental health and psychosocial care in collaboration with NIMHANS, social welfare department, Govt. of Assam with support of UNICEF, Assam, was conducted for the counsellors of district child protection unit, children home/observation home of Assam.

Third Phase of advocate master trainers programme on Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) was organized for the nominated advocates of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh. 109 criminal templates and 43 civil templates of important judgments of the Supreme Court of India were circulated amongst all the judicial officers, in an innovative project implemented by the Judicial Academy, Assam. Despite the effect of pandemic, the DLSAs of Assam under the guidance of Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) carried out various activities following the calendar activities of



*Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court*

ASLSA and the directions of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during the financial year 2020-21. Further, the DLSAs performed their activities in digital medium also during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

The Assam State Legal Services Authority, in collaboration with Biodiversity Conservation and Research Organization, Aranyak handed over 500 hand-made face masks to the authority of Assam State zoo and botanical garden for distribution among its staff. With a view to extend its free legal services to the remotest of villages in the State at the intricate phase of the pandemic, ASLSA introduced a bilingual e-poster (assamese and english languages) as well as an e-poster on domestic violence. The activity calendar of the year 2020-21 was composed in an electronic format to transcend the limitations of the recent times. The E-calendar was uploaded on the official website of ASLSA.

The District Legal Services Authority, Dibrugarh organized a legal awareness programme at Namphake Village under the aegis of ASLSA. ASLSA organized a programme, namely, "Xongjug (Connect)" to reach out to the people at grass-root level in five different districts of Assam by creating awareness through display on the mobile utility van. DLSA, Cachar organized sensitization programme on Mental Health Act, 2017 for the

stakeholders. An awareness programme was conducted on jail appeal and rights of undertrial prisoners at district jail, Golaghat. A collaborative interactive session was held with the forest official of forest department of Boroland territorial region organized by ASLSA in collaboration with Aaranyak and in coordination with forest department of the BTC area.

The District Legal Services Authorities organized 1,392 awareness camps/programmes covering the entire State during the period in which, 2,39,413 persons participated and got benefited. 10,027 persons belonging to SC/ST, women, children, persons with disability, industrial workmen and others with annual income below the prescribed limit were provided legal services by the DLSAs under the guidance of ASLSA. 125 cases were settled through mediation at Gauhati High Court Mediation Centre and different district mediation centres in Assam whereas 354 cases were referred for settlement during the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. 81,645 cases were taken up for disposal through National Lok Adalat, out of which 5,996 were disposed of amounting to Rs. 77,53,85,142 as settlement. Barpeta, Dhemaji, Cachar, and Kamrup (M) DLSAs held E-Lok Adalat, where 148 cases were taken up and 60 cases were disposed of amounting to Rs. 2,13,09,523 as settlement. Different DLSAs organized 22 training programme for PLVs,



*Old High Court Building at Guwahati*

where 363 PLVs were provided training. Ten training programmes were held by the DLSAs for 159 panel lawyers. Likewise, 18 other training programmes for Gaonburhas (the village heads), women working with various NGOs and JJB stakeholders, CWC members, police and excise officials were also held by different DLSAs, which 617 persons attended.

1,632 out of 1,705 persons who visited different legal services clinics situated at different villages were provided assistance in solving their problems. Similarly, 252 persons who visited the legal services clinics established at the community centres, 588 persons at the legal services clinics of the courts, 792 persons at the legal services clinics in various jails and 489 persons at various legal services clinics situated at other places including Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) were provided assistance.

An awareness programme was conducted by the DLSAs for empowering women. The DLSAs oriented the participant women on family laws, criminal and civil laws, labour laws, women and their rights, etc. In September, 2020, DLSA at

Barpeta, Cachar, Dhemaji and Kamrup (Metro) respectively held E-Lok Adalat in which 148 cases were taken up, 60 were disposed of with settlement amount of Rs. 2,13,09,523. In December 2020 also the DLSAs held National Lok Adalat in which 81,645 cases were taken up out of which 5,996 were disposed of with settlement amount of Rs. 77,53,85,142. Workshop/training was given to gaonburhas (village heads)/customary courts on basic procedure of laws. DLSA, Bongaigaon, Charaideo, Chirang, Jorhat and Majuli held webinars to make aware the village heads on basic procedure of laws.

Webinars were held by DLSA, Biswanath, Charaideo, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Majuli, and Sonitpur for awareness on Juvenile Justices (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016. Many DLSAs organized online awareness programme by way of Doorsabha, a mode of audio conferencing or through other mode on Adoption Regulation, 2017. The DLSAs at Nagaon, Jorhat and Karimganj held webinar/awareness meeting with senior citizens of their district on "NALSA (Legal Services to the Senior

Citizens) Scheme, 2016”, “PRANAM Act, 2017” & “Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007”. Many DLSAs held awareness programme through webinar on NALSA (Legal Services to Victim of Acid Attack) Scheme, 2016. DLSA, Majuli prepared and presented a video in social media on acid attack and the said scheme.

An awareness programme was organized by DLSA, Nalbari in different places of the district on various laws relating to wildlife in February, 2021. “Targeted Intervention cum Screening Camp on Mental Health at Workplace including Stress Management” was held by DLSA, Bongaigaon in February, 2021. During the year 2020-21, 354 cases were referred for mediation in Assam out of which 125 cases were settled.

The Nagaland State Legal Services Authority (NSLSA) also organized various legal literacy / legal awareness programmes for the benefit of women, children, senior citizens, tribals, persons suffering from mental illness/disabilities and others. 285 prisoners were provided assistance in 11 jail legal services clinics. The Nagaland State Legal Services Authority initiated a programme for sensitizing all the districts in Nagaland on Schemes in education, food security, health and family welfare, social welfare with the primary objective of giving adequate knowledge of the schemes to the general populace of Nagaland.

## Technological Accomplishments

The virtual court for the State of Assam, which is the first virtual court of the North-East India, was inaugurated on 12 November 2020. The online court proceeding services was launched on 31 May 2021.

Participation in the court proceeding by the advocate from their residences/chambers was arranged with the help of vidyo desktop/vidyo mobile application. Gauhati High Court adopted the Model Rules on video conferencing and notified the Gauhati High Court Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts on 18 May 2020. Restrictive court functioning was also resumed with staggered roster by following the norms of social distancing in the district Courts. The benches of High Court at Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh, along with district courts of Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh were also guided to use video conferencing for conducting cases. Even though connectivity remains a challenge for the North-Eastern States in availing online facilities over internet, Gauhati High Court held hearings for number of cases during the Covid pandemic.

Kiosks are provided in all the court complexes for dissemination of case information to the public, litigants and advocates. Data of all the 29 judicial



*Itanagar Bench of the Gauhati High Court*



*Aerial view of the High Court*

district courts comprising of 188 establishments and 478 courts is available at the NJDG. Automated SMS and e-mail services are also made functional for information dissemination. For the State of Nagaland, data of the four judicial district courts comprising of 15 establishments and 12 courts are available at the NJDG. For the State of Mizoram, data of the two judicial district courts comprising of 13 establishments and 29 courts are available at the NJDG.

CIS NC 1.0 is implemented in the High Court, Principal Seat. The data is also replicated to NJDG. Periphery modules viz. consolidated cause-list, various reports, case tracker, etc. developed by the Gauhati High Court are also integrated with the CIS NIC 1.0 for usage. CIS NC 1.0 is also implemented at the Kohima Bench, Aizawl Bench and Itanagar Bench of Gauhati High Court.

Digitization of case records of Gauhati High Court, Principal Seat and 29 district courts of Assam is in progress. Till 31 July 2021, a total of 2,92,17,428 images (4,37,600 files) were scanned for High Court's, Principal Seat, and 15,18,77,424 images (16,62,202 files) were scanned for the 29 district courts.

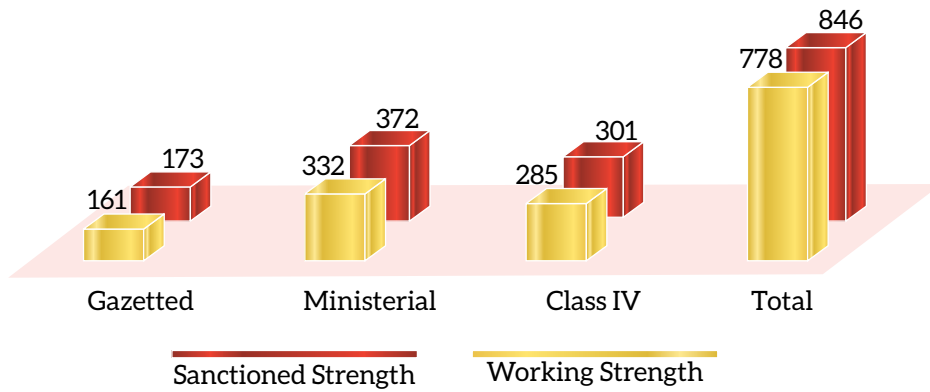
Video conferencing between district courts and jails has started in the State of Assam. The hardware has been made available under the e-Courts Project. All the 31 jails of Assam are

connected to the district courts via the Assam judicial network. Solar energy panels are already installed in 51 district courts of Assam and installation work in 54 court complexes is in process. These solar energy panels will help in backing up the network/server rooms. Installation of solar energy panels is also going on in some court complexes of Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh. The work is carried out under the phase-II of the e-Courts project.

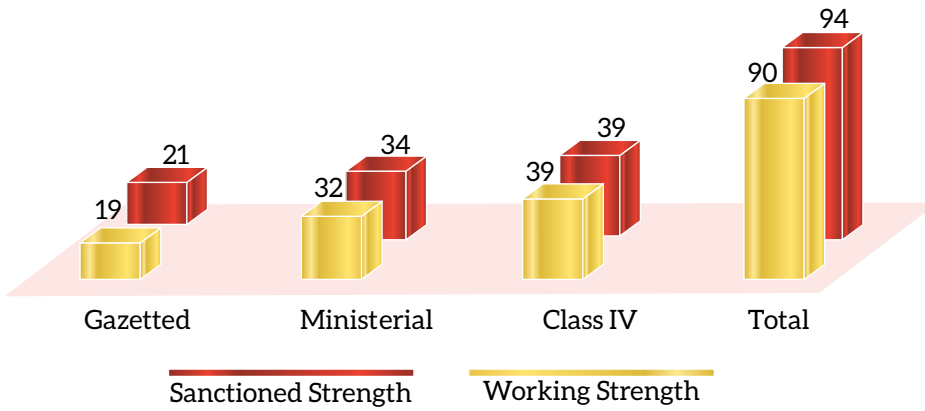
In order to make training programmes more engaging and to facilitate better classroom like experience, the Judicial Academy, Assam equipped itself with the smart teaching tool using Promethean Interactive Display. It is equipped with latest presentation tools that enables display of pictures, videos graphs with ease and makes the classroom lively. The Academy also equipped itself with a smart podium that enables the presenters to write over slides in digital ink, access websites or multimedia platform and a variety of similar works. The podium being compatible with MS word, MS excel and powerpoint, the presentations go beyond the traditional verbal or illustrative manner. The official website of the Academy has been re-developed and re-designed shifting to the dynamic platform. A private member login option has been developed for judicial officers where training materials like webinar, videos, powerpoints etc. are made accessible.

# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

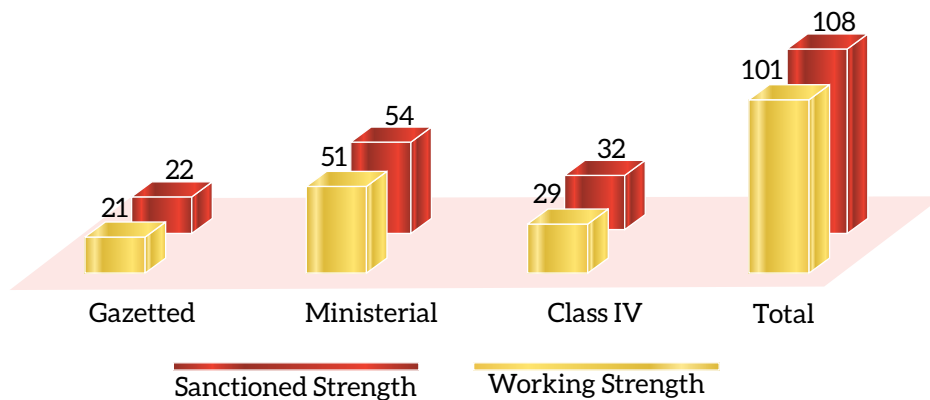
 Staff Strength of the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court (as on 30.06.2021)



 Staff Strength of Kohima Bench (as on 30.06.2021)



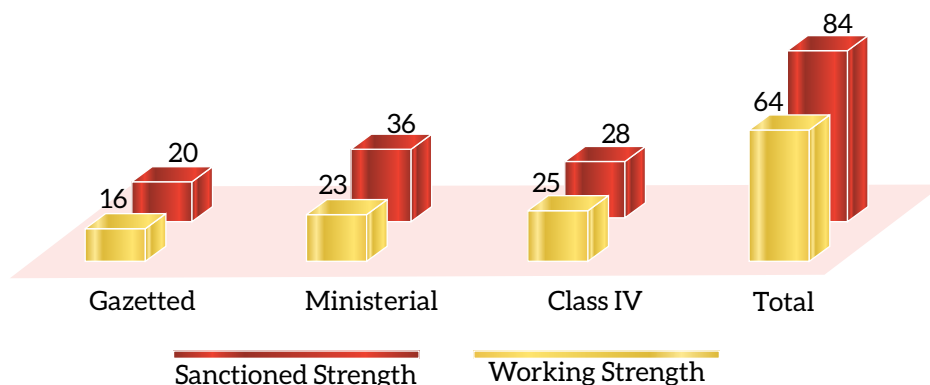
 Staff Strength of Aizawl Bench (as on 30.06.2021)



## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Staff Strength of Itanagar Bench (as on 30.06.2021)



### Budget of the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	76,33,06,000	79,24,16,000	84,44,14,000
Total	76,33,06,000	79,24,16,000	84,44,14,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]



### Budget of the Kohima Bench\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	9,01,83,000	8,57,70,000	4,96,999
Total	9,01,83,000	8,57,70,000	4,96,999

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court



# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

## Budget of the Aizawl Bench\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	10,34,23,000	9,60,60,000	11,05,98,000
Total	10,34,23,000	9,60,60,000	11,05,98,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

## Budget of the Itanagar Bench\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	8,22,06,000	7,36,68,000	10,13,98,000
Total	8,22,06,000	7,36,68,000	10,13,98,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

## Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges 24

Working Strength of Judges 21

### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest 18

Highest 21

### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old 681

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of the Principal Seat of Gauhati High Court from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	18,975	6,187	4,111	21,051
Company Matters	21	02	02	21
Contempt (Civil)	1,275	559	224	1,610
Review (Civil)	221	119	83	257
Matrimonial Matters	82	18	13	87
Arbitration Matters	24	51	30	45
Civil Revisions	1,187	142	212	1,117
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	50	04	14	40
Civil Appeals	3,772	256	58	3,970
Land Acquisition Matters	136	03	09	130
MACT Matters	2,793	252	126	2,919
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above*	6,623	3,578	3,045	7,156
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	38	16	13	41
Criminal Revisions	2,010	236	158	2,088
Bail Applications	131	7,157	6,601	687
Criminal Appeals	2,490	255	128	2,617
Death Sentence Reference	09	03	01	11
Contempt (Criminal)	02	01	0	03
Misc. Criminal Applications	941	532	512	961
Other than above	2,568	641	436	2,773

\* Including Civil Misc Cases.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

**Institution, Disposal and Pendency of the Kohima Bench  
from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021**

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	273	265	144	394
Company Matters	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Civil)	20	35	13	42
Review (Civil)	03	06	05	04
Matrimonial Matters	0	0	0	0
Arbitration Matters	01	01	01	01
Civil Revisions	09	11	02	18
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	0	0	0	0
Civil Appeals	16	05	03	18
Land Acquisition Matters	0	0	0	0
MACT Matters	18	19	10	27
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	213	168	186	195
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	01	29	29	01
Criminal Revisions	09	14	06	17
Bail Applications	04	30	27	07
Criminal Appeals	22	18	08	32
Death Sentence Reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Criminal)	02	03	0	05
Misc. Criminal Applications	13	35	30	18
Other than above	28	11	10	29

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

**Institution, Disposal and Pendency of the Aizawl Bench  
from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021**

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	189	128	118	199
Company Matters	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Civil)	44	15	12	47
Review (Civil)	0	06	04	02
Matrimonial Matters	0	0	0	0
Arbitration Matters	02	01	0	03
Civil Revisions	10	08	08	10
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	0	0	0	0
Civil Appeals	94	41	29	106
Land Acquisition Matters	09	01	05	05
MACT Matters	17	09	12	14
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	77	126	138	65
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	02	10	10	02
Criminal Revisions	09	0	05	04
Bail Applications	04	09	13	0
Criminal Appeals	66	39	20	85
Death Sentence Reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Criminal)	0	0	0	0
Misc. Criminal Applications	03	31	29	05
Other than above	02	04	03	03

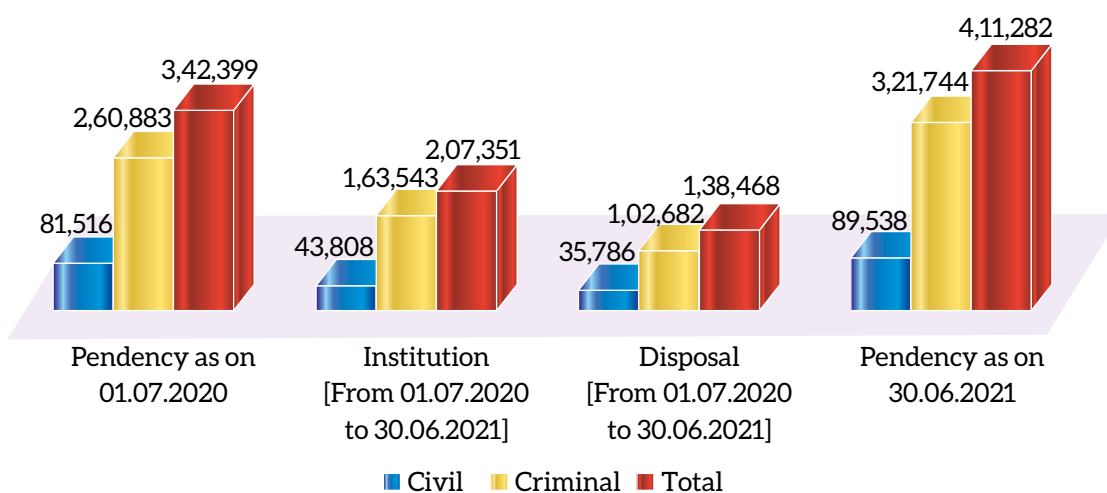
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

**Institution, Disposal and Pendency of the Itanagar Bench  
from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021**

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	718	416	341	793
Company Matters	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Civil)	80	30	40	70
Review (Civil)	09	12	06	15
Matrimonial Matters	01	0	01	0
Arbitration Matters	04	03	01	06
Civil Revisions	87	30	29	88
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	0	0	0	0
Civil Appeals	67	11	08	70
Land Acquisition Matters	01	01	0	02
MACT Matters	19	05	02	22
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	226	197	190	233
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	03	02	04	01
Criminal Revisions	30	16	14	32
Bail Applications	17	286	290	13
Criminal Appeals	69	13	10	72
Death Sentence Reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Criminal)	01	0	0	01
Misc. Criminal Applications	31	32	31	32
Other than above	70	58	65	63

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
605



Working Strength  
510



Vacancy  
95

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
1,720	6,173	7,893

8

# High Court of GUJARAT



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arvindsingh Ishwarsingh Supehia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nirzarkumar Sushilkumar Desai
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bipinkumar Navalchandbhai Karia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nikhil Shreedharan Kariel
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sonia Giridhar Gokani	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Amritlal Trivedi	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Mauna Manish Bhatt
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Ashutosh Pushkerry Thaker	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Samir Jyotindraprasad Dave
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nilay Vipinchandra Anjaria	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhargav Dhirenbbhai Karia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hemant Maheshchandra Prachchhak
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satish Hemchandra Vora	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangeeta Kamalsingh Vishen	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Natvarlal Bhatt
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abdullah Gulamahmed Uraizee	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ilesh Jashvantrai Vora	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Pradyumna Mayee
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Gita Gopi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Niral Rashmikant Mehta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Jayantilal Shastri	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Ashokkumar Chimanlal Joshi	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nisha Mahendrabhai Thakore
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren Aniruddh Vaishnav	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Meghraj Sareen	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alpesh Yeshvant Kogje	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Vaibhavi Devang Nanavati	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### **BRIEF INTRODUCTION**

The High Court of Gujarat was established on 1 May 1960 under the Bombay Re-organization Act, 1960 after the bifurcation of the former erstwhile State of Bombay into two States, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The new court building at Sola, on SG Highway, Ahmedabad became accessible for judicial proceedings on 16 January 1999. It comprises of a main court building and judges facility building. The construction of an additional building in the complex was completed in 2015. The complex now houses 41 court rooms and centrally air-conditioned administrative building, record room building, judges library, chief justice lounge, three common rooms, and government pleader's office. Apart from the customary framework, the court complex also accommodates a dedicated Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre, and facilities for Permanent Lok Adalat and Free Legal Aid.





## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

During COVID-19 pandemic, food packets and medicines were distributed to needy people across the State by PLVs and panel advocates with the help of NGOs. Awareness was created regarding Dos & Don'ts for COVID-19 pandemic by printing and circulating the pamphlets and affixing stickers at prominent places. Mediation and Lok Adalats were conducted through online platform to avoid social gathering. SOP for PIMS Rules for mediation were framed and circulated amongst the DLSAs for implementation. The downtrodden and the needy people who were stuck due to sudden lockdown were assisted by PLVs and panel advocates of various DLSAs to enable them to reach their home. Five meetings of High Power Committee were held to reduce overcrowding in the jails through which more than 6,400 jail inmates were released.

In order to contain spread of COVID-19 infection, the advocates were granted permission to wear

“plain white-shirt/white-salwar-kameez/white saree, with a plain white neck band” during hearings before the High Court and subordinate courts in the State till medical exigencies existed. Regular thermal screening of the judges as well as staff members working at their respective residence was carried out and sanitization of the residence of the judges as well as Antigen Test on request of respective judge were carried out by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation at regular intervals. Thermal screening of every person entering the High Court premises was carried out. Masks, sanitizer, gloves and face shields were distributed amongst all staff members of the registry. Sanitizer bottles were kept for sanitization in the sensitive areas of premises i.e. entry area, washrooms, nearby lift and biometric attendance machine.

COVID-19 vaccination drive was conducted for the sitting judges as well as for the retired judges of the High Court and their family members, officers and staff members of the High Court,



Chief Justice's Court



Advocate General, government pleaders, public prosecutors, advocates, officers and staff members of offices situated in High Court premises.

During the judicial year, two new additional district judge courts were established under the supervision of the High Court. As on date, 32 districts have set up special centers for vulnerable witness. During the judicial year, two centers were set up in district courts of the State of Gujarat. Under the auspices of the High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC), four National Lok Adalats were held wherein 289 cases were disposed of and compensation worth Rs.14 Crores were awarded to 1,688 claimants/beneficiaries. The HCLSC received 1,209 applications, and legal assistance was made available in 739 applications.

Due to the unprecedented situation of COVID-19 pandemic, the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA) organized E-Lok Adalat. During the judicial year, 1,150 benches were constituted in the said e-Lok Adalats in the State, wherein 23,328 cases were disposed of. Continuous Lok Adalats were organized in the State, wherein 15,145 cases were disposed of. Permanent Lok Adalats are functioning in Ahmedabad, Surat,

Vadodara and Rajkot District. 51 matters were settled in Permanent Lok Adalats. As on 1 July 2020, a total of 2,116 matters were pending before ADR/Mediation Centre in the entire State and 2,161 matters were referred to these ADR/Mediation Centres, out of which 239 matters were settled. Under the Victim Compensation Scheme, Rs. 17,84,01,164 were paid as compensation to the victims in the various districts of the State of Gujarat. 6,173 legal literacy camps were held in different parts of the State, to create awareness among the general public in which 6,22,813 persons were benefited.

The Gujarat State Judicial Academy (GSJA) imparted induction, orientation and in-service training to more than 1,041 judicial officers, 253 advocates at District Head Quarters, 228 members of High Court and subordinate judiciary staff, and 20 officials of RERA. Besides imparting physical and Web-Training for the judicial officers of the State and other stakeholders, the Academy compiled various landmark judgments of the Supreme Court of India and the High Court of Gujarat and prepared e-Digest on different subjects and uploaded it on the website of GSJA.



*A view of the High Court*

### **Technological Accomplishments**

Upon adoption of video conferencing and email filing, to facilitate smooth joining to the VC hearing sessions, software based automation to send advance VC links through SMS and email, was developed in integration with the published cause-list. Instant SMS callout facility was developed for use by the court masters, to issue SMS alerts to the advocates for joining VC hearing sessions. From 15 August 2020, e-filing facility as developed by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India was launched for select category of cases, while also establishing contactless physical filing counters. Since the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic till the video conferencing mode of functioning of the High Court of Gujarat upto 11 August 2021, the judicial work undertaken by the High Court yielded Case Clearance Rate (CCR) of 78% with disposal of 79,093 matters against institution of 1,01,311 matters. Video conferencing rules for High Court and subordinate courts of the State were finalised based on the Model Video Conferencing Rules of the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India and published in the Gazette dtd. 22 January 2021.

For facilitating smooth and seamless submission of requests for mentioning of matters, an online mentioning platform was developed. VC links are sent instantly by the system to them, for joining when the request is taken up by the concerned Bench. With gradual enhancements in the mentioning platform, the advocates would be able to submit mentioning requests also for matters listed on the day for adjournment or priority of hearing in the matter. More than 46,000 mentioning requests were received and processed by this platform.

A number of administrative meetings of Full Court and also Full Court References including the one held on the occasion of celebration of 60<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the High Court of Gujarat on 1 May 2020 were held through video conferencing which was streamed live on YouTube on the official channel of the High Court. Automatic transmission of email notifications to advocates and parties in person on events like filing, registration, scrutiny, disposal, uploading of orders and judgments and process issuance were developed and implemented. Digitally signed bail orders were started to be automatically sent to the concerned subordinate court and the advocates

upon launch of eWrit module of the High Court periphery software.

The email based services continue further with implementation of email notifications for filing, registration, next date, disposal and order/ judgment uploading for all the subordinate courts of the State. A unique email facility was implemented for the judicial officers of Gujarat. All judicial officers get automatic email, whenever any order is passed by the High Court of Gujarat, upon any impugned order of the particular judicial officer. For implementing these services, the required email automation software mechanism was developed by High Court team, in consonance with email relay service of the Mail and Messaging Division, NIC, Delhi. A unique path breaking litigant centric service was developed, for all courts of the State; whereby anyone and everyone, can follow any case to get current as well as further updates of the case till its disposal, through automatic emails sent by the system.

Initiatives were taken up with the objective of ensuring alternate platform for instant information dissemination, namely, a new display board telecast live on High Court YouTube Channel; and a Telegram Channel for sharing circulars, miscellaneous notification, cauelists etc. The official telegram channel of the High Court presently has more than 7,000 subscribers getting miscellaneous notification and updates.

An eSewa Kendra is functional at Gate No. 2 of the High Court of Gujarat which provides a wide variety of eServices to advocates, litigants and citizens. Status of any case, not only of the High Court but all the courts of district judiciary of the State, are available through this eSewa Kendra. The eSewa Kendra is equipped with two touch screen kiosks for visitors to check the status of cases by themselves. One eFiling helpdesk is provided to guide and assist visitors in e-filing of cases for the High Court of Gujarat. Facility for legal aid and advice is also included in eSewa



*Another view of Chief Justice's Court*

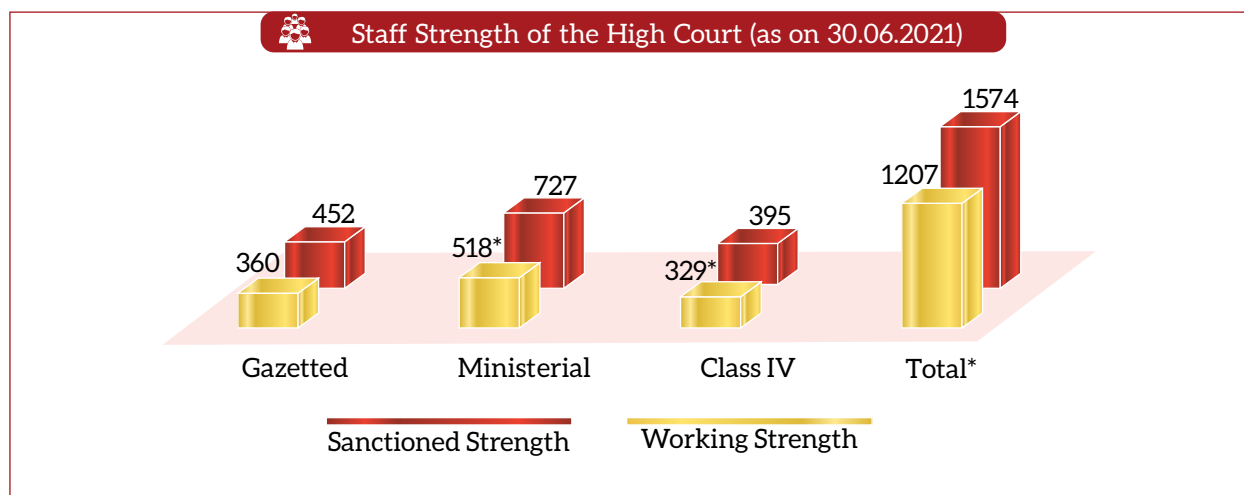
Kendra through two para legal volunteers (PLVs) of the GSLSA.

Live streaming of proceedings of the Chief Justice's Court on YouTube began from 26 October 2020, which was formally launched for other Benches of the High Court on 17 July 2021. On the same day, the High Court of Gujarat (Live Streaming of Court Proceedings) Rules, 2021 were also released and made effective. All the courts of the High Court are now also equipped with microphones and speakers for the Bench as well as the advocates, facilitating easier listening for all present in the Court. The live streaming is being done on the official YouTube Channel of the High Court which is now touching a subscriber base of 75,000 and total cumulative views of 53 lacs. With this implementation, the High Court of Gujarat upheld the realization of the Open Court concept through live streaming also during the physical functioning of the Court. The implementation of e-filing of Bail Applications of inmates of Sabarmati Central Jail, Ahmedabad, has been approved on pilot basis. By way of this initiative of the High Court of Gujarat, applications for bail, parole, furlough etc. will be e-filed through the e-filing portal of the High Court of Gujarat. This will be done by the jail administration with the

assistance of the legal aid cell working in the jail. This service will curtail the delay in the processing of the applications of the jail inmates facilitating early listing of such applications. A unique country first value addition to this service is that, email address and mobile number of the family member / guardian / relative etc. of the jail inmates will also be updated in the e-filing application so that all the updates of case can be automatically emailed till the disposal of such application.

Email My Case Status (EMCS) service of the High Court of Gujarat is a unique country first litigant centric service which provides automatic updates of any case of any court of the State of Gujarat, through automatic emails till the disposal of the case. The benefits of the Email My Case Status (EMCS) service have been extended to all the inmates of the jails through the concerned jail authorities of the State, so as to enable the inmates to follow up their cases pending at the High Court as well as in the subordinate courts. The live streaming of the court proceedings of the High Court cases to the concerned inmates in the jail has been facilitated, whenever their case is listed.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



\* Including those filled by deputation.

### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	1,94,48,46,000	1,82,95,96,000	1,87,54,83,000
Non-Plan			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,94,48,46,000</b>	<b>1,82,95,96,000</b>	<b>1,87,54,83,000</b>

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges **52**

Working Strength of Judges **29**

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest **27**

Highest **30**

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old **15,472**

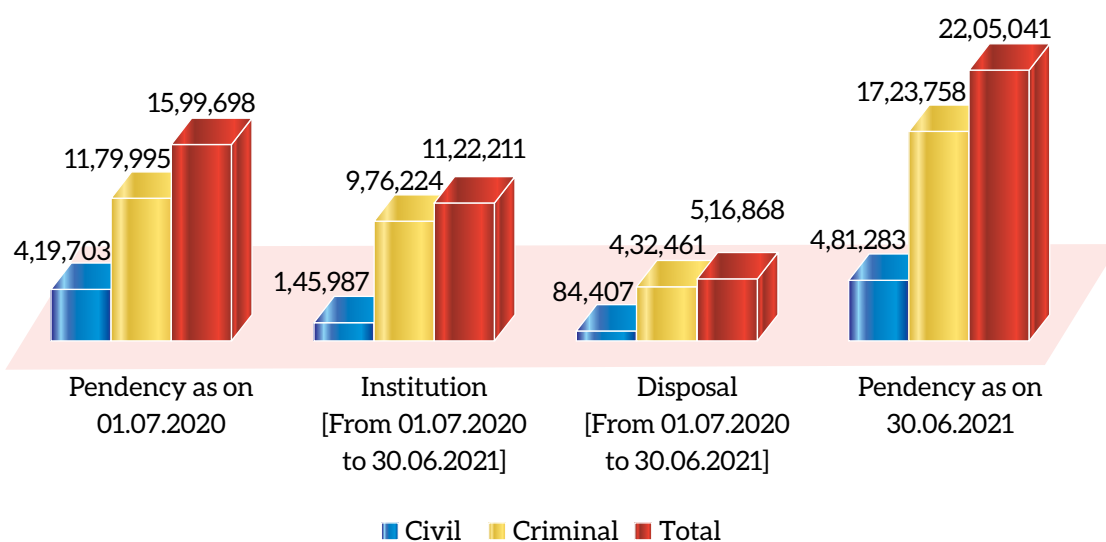
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	46,073	17,030	12,659	50,444
Company Matters	304	213	37	480
Contempt (Civil)	817	836	506	1,147
Review (Civil)	03	01	0	04
Matrimonial Matters	541	119	33	627
Arbitration Matters	448	247	73	622
Civil Revisions	2,012	263	103	2,172
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	5,365	1,361	875	5,851
Civil Appeals	10,701	1,895	1,350	11,246
Land Acquisition Matters	7,655	1,456	420	8,691
MACT Matters	14,566	1,538	561	15,543
Civil Suits (Original Side)	152	46	24	174
Other than above	3,864	2,982	2,788	4,058
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	6,872	12,166	9,953	9,085
Criminal Revisions	5,171	671	266	5,576
Bail Applications	1,718	16,549	15,135	3,132
Criminal Appeals	18,401	1,575	791	19,185
Death Sentence Reference	03	02	01	04
Contempt (Criminal)	57	11	05	63
Misc. Criminal Applications	9,513	5,718	2,650	12,581
Other than above	62	226	203	85

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
1,523



Working Strength  
1,138



Vacancy  
385

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
45,305	1,26,181	1,71,486



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# High Court of HIMACHAL PRADESH



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH\*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammad Rafiq, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sabina	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Mohan Goel	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satyen Vaidya
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Singh Thakur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chander Bhusan Barowalia	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Himachal Pradesh came to be formed as a result of integration of 26 Shimla and four Punjab hill States into a centrally administered area on 15 April 1948. Later, on 1 April 1954, parts of Bilaspur were also merged with Himachal Pradesh having its headquarters at Shimla. The Central Government promulgated the Himachal Pradesh (Courts) Order, 1948 on 15 August 1948. As per Paragraph 3 of this Order, the Court of Judicial Commissioner was established for Himachal Pradesh and such Court was housed at "Harvingtan" (Kelston area, Shimla). It was vested with the powers of a High Court under the Judicial Commissioner's Court Act, 1950. Besides the Court of Judicial Commissioner, two courts of district and sessions judges and 27 Subordinate Courts were also set up. The Punjab High Courts Rules and Orders with suitable amendments were made applicable to the courts in H.P. On 29 April 1967, two more district and sessions judges courts, one for Shimla and other for Kangra were established. However, in 1966, the Delhi High Court Act was enacted by the Government of India and w.e.f. 1 May 1967, the operation of the said Act was extended to the Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh, replacing the Court of Judicial Commissioner by the Himachal Bench of Delhi High Court, at Shimla and it started functioning in old High Court building known as "Ravenswood". The Himachal Pradesh attained statehood in 1971, and established its own High Court with headquarters at "Ravenswood", Shimla.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

In order to combat the impending threat of COVID-19, guidelines/SOPs issued by the Ministry of Health and State Government were strictly complied with. Hand sanitizers were provided at all entry gates, court rooms and office rooms of High Court of Himachal Pradesh. Face masks were issued to all the employees of the Registry. Entry of non essential visitors in court/office premises was strictly prohibited. Gloves and face masks were provided on requirement basis to the staff engaged in disinfection, sweepers and drivers. A nodal officer was appointed to monitor the implementation of guidelines regarding prevention of COVID-19. All the door handles, armrests of chairs and benches, buttons of all lifts (inside and outside), all taps (water dispensers, wash basins etc.), switches and all surfaces in High Court premises, which are commonly touched, were disinfected thrice a day. Thermal scanning of all the persons entering the High Court premises was carried out.

During the judicial year, 91 Lok Adalats were held in which 3,216 cases were settled (including MACT and National Lok Adalat). Ten Permanent Lok Adalats were held in which 20 cases were received out of which 15 cases were settled. 686 cases were referred for mediation out of which 92 cases were settled. At present, 877 lawyers are rendering legal aid to the needy persons at sub divisional courts, district level courts, tribunal/ other forums and High Court respectively. 2,543 persons were benefited through legal aid. In order to provide free legal services to the persons entitled, 45 front offices were established one in High Court and rest in all the district legal services authorities and sub divisional legal services committees. The front offices are manned by the retainer lawyers and para legal volunteers. 168 legal awareness camps were organized in the jails by judicial officers in order to sensitize prisoners about their legal rights.

In all the district jail/sub jails in the State of H.P., legal services clinics were established. These clinics are manned by the PLVs and retainer lawyers and render legal services to jail inmates. Besides, legal aid counsels also visit jails rotation wise on every Saturday. During the judicial year, 578 persons were provided assistance through such legal aid clinics. 911 legal literacy camps (Vidhik Saksharta Shivir) were organized in which 48,539 persons participated. As per the guidelines received from National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), this Authority also organized 43 MNREGs camps in which 617 persons were benefited.

The H.P. State Legal Services Authority is implementing the para legal volunteers scheme introduced by NALSA, New Delhi. At present, 80 gram panchayat/village care and support centres are functional in State of H.P. and are being manned by retainer lawyers and para legal volunteers. 52 radio talks titled as 'Kanoon Ki Baat' were aired from All India Radio Station, Shimla during the judicial year. Judicial officers and senior advocates apprised masses about their legal rights through these talk shows.

Induction training programme were organized for newly appointed civil judges and additional district and sessions judge. Seven orientation/advance courses/judicial colloquium/conferences/workshops/ webinars were conducted for the judicial officers and other stakeholders in which 224 participants were imparted training. A training programme was conducted on "Criminal law and Procedure" for the HPAS officers. 82 advocates participated in the online training of trainers awareness programmes for advocate master trainers on "Electronic Case Management Tools" (ECMT). Webinars were held on topics "Motor Vehicles Act, 1988", "Adjudication of Criminal Appeal and Revision" and on "Adjudication of Civil Appeals" for the additional district and sessions judges.

The judicial officers also organized various camps by digital means and sensitized masses about their legal rights. A special plantation drive of wild fruit bearing trees were organized by DLSA, Shimla and DLSA, Kinnaur under the aegis of Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority.

In view of COVID-19 pandemic, all the district legal services authorities in the State of Himachal Pradesh started YouTube channels in order to have a wider outreach for spreading legal awareness amongst general public. Four e-Lok Adalats were conducted in the State of Himachal Pradesh in which 546 cases were taken up and 303 cases settled with award of total amount of Rs. 58,40,086. A Micro Level Special Lok Adalat was organized by the DLSA for recovery cases of H.P. State Cooperative Bank Ltd. in the six districts of Bilaspur, Chamba, Kinnaur, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmaur by constituting 32 special benches for 2,632 cases identified at pre-litigation and post litigation stage. Out of 2,632 which were taken up, 1733 cases were disposed of and award(s) amounting to Rs. 25,83,51,872 were passed. The DLSAs conducted 56 sensitization programs for police officers/IOs through the digital mode within their jurisdictions in which 996 police officers/IOs were benefited.

38 e-Lok Adalats were conducted in the month of October, November and December, 2020. A total of 2,701 cases were taken up, out of which 774 cases were settled with an award amount of Rs. 2,44,40,801. In January 2021, 14 cases were taken up and settled in e-Lok Adalats. A National Lok Adalat for pre-litigation and pending matters was organized on 10 April 2021. A total of 12,752 cases (6,082 pre-litigation and 6,670 pending matters) were taken up out of which 6,244 cases (2,288 pre-litigation and 3,956 pending matters) were settled/disposed of. A sum of Rs. 52,15,42,759 was recovered/awarded in National Lok Adalat to the claimants. The facility of video conferencing between jail inmates and legal services panel lawyers was provided in the State of Himachal Pradesh. A legal literacy help desk was set up in the International Shivratri Fair Mandi. During this period, para legal volunteers,



*A view of the High Court*

retainer/ panel lawyers along with legal aid staff remained present throughout in the stall under the overall supervision of Secretary, DLSA Mandi. 446 visitors visited the help desk. Books and pamphlets containing information about various laws were distributed amongst the visitors.

The Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority in collaboration with the High Court of Himachal Pradesh and HP Judicial Academy organized a one day workshop on “Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act” in the High Court premises. The district and sessions Judges of 11 civil and sessions divisions in the State of Himachal Pradesh, deputy commissioners, superintendents of police and public prosecutors of districts Shimla, Kangra at Dharamshala, Kullu, Mandi, Una and Chamba participated in the workshop. A 40 hours mediation training programme was held at Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy, Ghandal, Shimla. 17 retired judicial officers attended the training programme. Keeping in view the spike in COVID-19 cases in



the State of Himachal Pradesh, a video regarding awareness on COVID-19 was prepared by HP State Legal Services Authority in collaboration with the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Zonal Hospital Shimla (a dedicated COVID-19 Hospital).

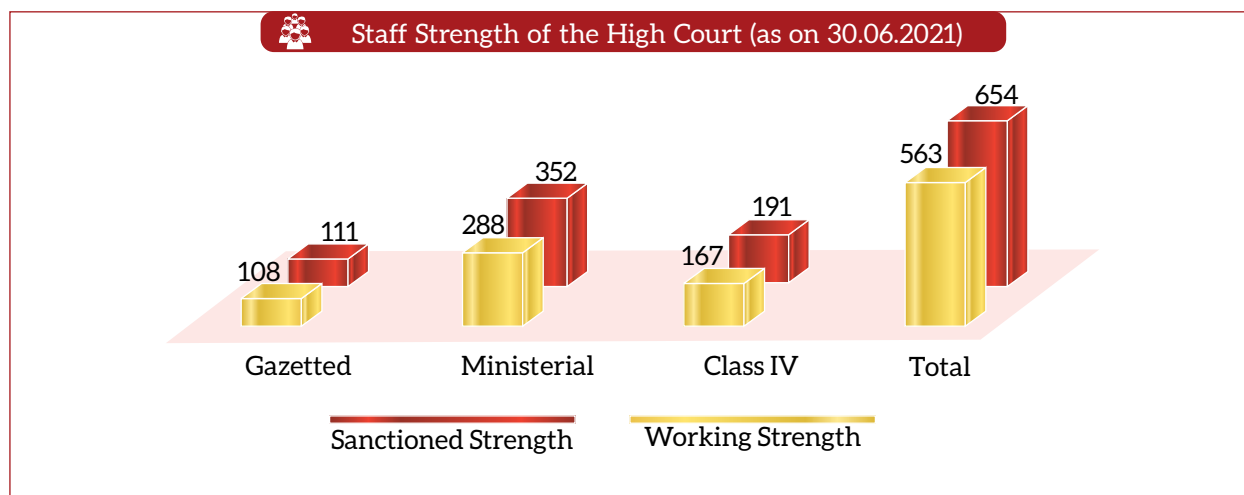
For the purpose of decongesting the prisons, many inmates were released on interim bail/parole. Vaccination programme in all the jails of Himachal Pradesh was conducted by the Health and Family Welfare Department, Himachal Pradesh. All jail staff and the prisoners above the age of 45 and those who are suffering from serious ailments were vaccinated. All newly admitted prisoners were medically examined and put under observation in a separate barrack for 14 days. Adequate hand wash facilities with soap were provided to the prisoners in the jails, as well as, in the lines/office. Covid care centre was constructed in the premises of Model Central Jail, Nahan. During the judicial year, NALSA implemented 692 awareness programmes / activities pertaining to disaster victims, victims

of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, workers in unorganized sector, child friendly legal services, mentally ill and disabled persons, scheme for implementation of poverty alleviation, protection of tribal rights, victims of drug abuse, senior citizens and victims of acid attack. 53,901 persons benefited through these awareness programmes.

### Technological Accomplishments

During pandemic, the courts were made functional through video conferencing. Further, to provide better facilities to advocates, daily updated court wise online link for video conferencing was made available on High Court website. The virtual court software has been successfully tested and is ready for inauguration. The concept of virtual court provides facility to the litigants to pay fine amount under the Motor Vehicles Act through online mode without physical appearance in the courts. Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is an initiative of the eCommittee to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the Criminal Justice System like courts, police, prosecution, jails and forensic science laboratories from one platform. The first step of integrating Police CCTNS data with CIS has been tested successfully and is pending for inauguration. The National Service and Tracking of Electronic Process (NSTEP) Application is a centralized process service tracking application comprising of a web application and a complementary mobile app designed to streamline the process of summons through electronic mode. The application is to be provided to bailiffs and process servers which would enable transparent tracking of service of notices and summons in real-time. The said application has been tested successfully for the State of Himachal Pradesh. The technical team of the High Court had developed a module through which an advocate registered in CIS can apply for obtaining certified copy of the order/judgment etc. The said application has already been made live for the High Court. The application is also being tested for the district judiciary and will soon be inaugurated.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



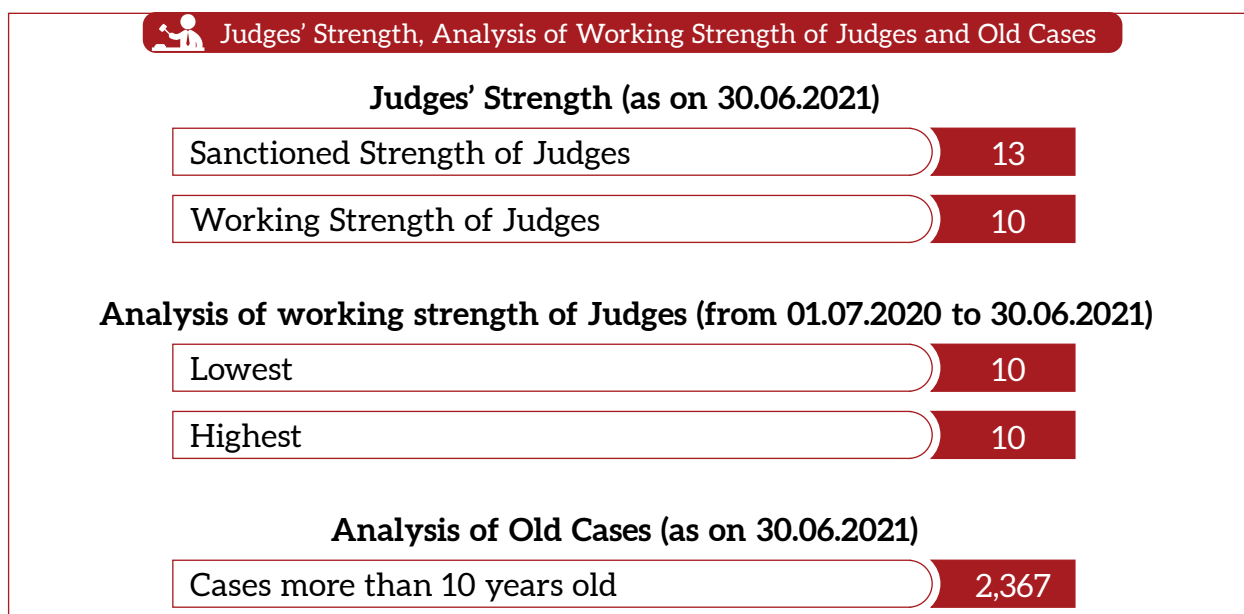
**Budget of the High Court\***

	2019-2020**	2020-2021**	2021-2022***
Plan	7,37,16,000	5,43,97,000	8,04,18,000
Non-Plan	40,61,27,000	48,96,36,000	57,48,72,000
Total	47,98,43,000	54,40,33,000	65,52,90,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

\*\*\* Budget allocated by State upto 30.06.2021.



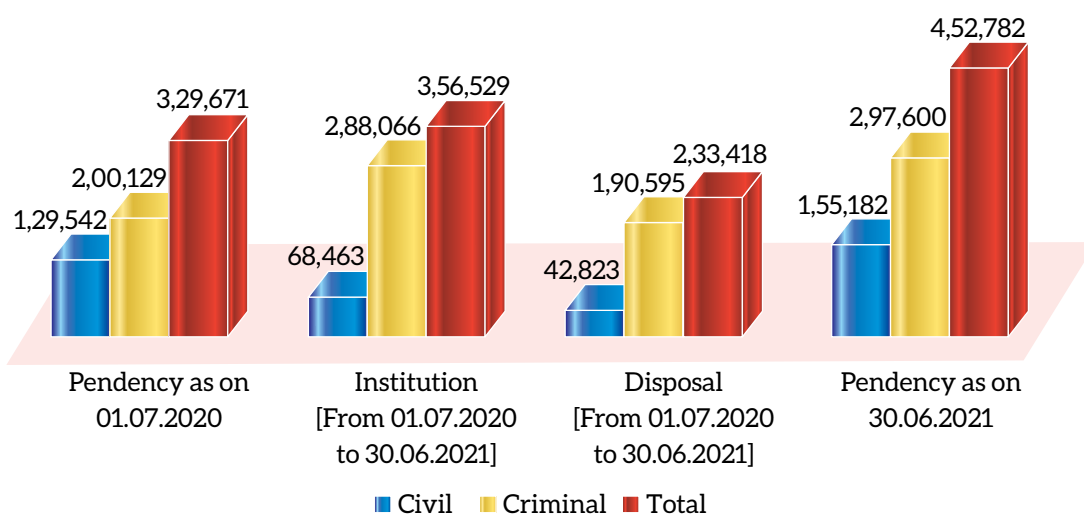
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	24,033	8,819	20,570	12,282
Company Matters	22	0	0	22
Contempt (Civil)	1,156	464	1,193	427
Review (Civil)	121	131	137	115
Matrimonial Matters	315	24	27	312
Arbitration Matters	394	139	11	522
Civil Revisions	636	65	60	641
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	175	23	66	132
Civil Appeals	6,176	375	78	6,473
Land Acquisition Matters	1,966	194	59	2,101
MACT Matters	2,735	224	89	2,870
Civil Suits (Original Side)	769	169	17	921
Other than above	21,644	22,396	1,050	42,990
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	07	13	15	05
Criminal Revisions	1,651	275	101	1,825
Bail Applications	784	2,796	2,684	896
Criminal Appeals	3,948	402	85	4,265
Death Sentence Reference	01	0	0	01
Contempt (Criminal)	03	0	0	03
Misc. Criminal Applications	1,597	2,237	1,434	2,400
Other than above	599	581	381	799

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
175



Working Strength  
161



Vacancy  
14

Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
1,906	1,160	3,066



10

# High Court of JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH



*High Court at Srinagar*

## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Mohd Magrey	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sindhu Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Puneet Gupta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajnesh Oswal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal Wani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tashi Rabstan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Dhar	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The State of Jammu and Kashmir earlier consisted of three different regions/divisions called Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The political and geographical amalgamation of these three regions/divisions took place on 16 March 1846. In 1928, a full fledged High Court of Jammu and Kashmir was established by virtue of Order No.1 dated 26 March 1928 issued by the then Maharaja of the State. By the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution Act, 1939 an independent judicial body with the High Court of Judicature at the top was established. The accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India in October, 1947 was followed by promulgation of the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1950 by the President of India, specifying the provisions of the Constitution of India which were applicable to the State. In 1957, the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir came into force and a provision was made so as to ensure that the High Court established under Order No.1 of 1928 issued by Maharaja of the State could continue to exercise the jurisdiction in relation to the State even after coming into force the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. By Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Amendment Order, 1960, the jurisdiction of Supreme Court of India in its entirety, was extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

With the coming into force of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 on 31 October 2019, the State of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh. By the Constitution (Application to J&K) Order 2019, C.O 271 notified by way of Notification dated 5 August 2019 read with Declaration under Article 370(3) of the Constitution, C.O 273 notified by Notification dated 6 August 2019, provisions of Constitution of India as amended from time to time, without any modifications or exceptions, have been made applicable to the State of J&K.

The name of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir now stands replaced by the name “High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh”; and is the common High Court of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh. The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has two wings, one at Jammu and the other at Srinagar. Both wings of the High Court function throughout the year. The chief justice and officers/staff of the administrative wing of the High Court, which is called as the “Main Wing”, move from Jammu to Srinagar during summers and from Srinagar to Jammu during winters. The headquarter of the chief justice remains at Srinagar during summers i.e. from May to October and shifts to Jammu during winters i.e. from November to April every year. The judicial branches of the High Court remain functional in each wing of the High Court throughout the year.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

The J&K Legal Services Authority organized 17 Lok Adalats including one National Lok Adalats during the financial year 2020-21 in which 14,097 cases were settled and compensation worth Rs. 83.11 crores was awarded/ settled and 6,397 persons were benefited from legal advice through panel lawyers. 2,383 legal awareness camps were also held during the period regarding POCSO/ child rights/cyber crime and water conservation, waste management, women rights and protection of women from domestic violence etc, by all district authorities/tehsil committees in the UT of J&K. Besides this, awareness programmes were held on various central/state government welfare schemes meant for the poor and marginalized

sections of the society. 74 programmes on “Qanoon Ki Baat” were broadcast/telecast on radio and TV in the State. 630 panel lawyers were engaged by the J&K Legal Services Authority at district, tehsil levels and in both wings of the High Court. In addition to 207 legal aid clinics, 302 legal literacy clubs (including 52 model legal literacy clubs) were set up in high and higher secondary schools of the UT. 207 legal aid clinics were opened which included 14 legal service clinics in jails. These clinics were manned by 549 PLVs on rotation basis. The J&K Legal Services Authority made use of films, skits, dramas, *nukkad nataks* and other interactive methods to make common masses aware about the welfare schemes designed for the benefit of the people at large. The Authority in co-ordination with government departments of

UT of J&K organized 52 programmes on POCSO Act, eight programmes on illegal trafficking of human beings and on other issues. For ensuring the protection of existing natural environment and to repair and replenish the damage already caused to the ecology, the Authority has focused on increasing the green cover by undertaking various initiatives. The district legal services authorities organized 12 different programmes on environmental issues.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the J&K LSA extended a helping hand to the people in need including shelter for stranded people from outside the State, food for labourers/daily wagers and outdoor activity for the students, medical issues of senior citizens, grievances of victims of domestic violence and survival of other marginalized sections of society. The Authority created several helplines to redress the grievances of labourers, daily wagers and persons belonging to the other parts of the country who were stranded in the UT of J&K. The helpline received 1,567 calls which were redressed by providing ration, food stuff etc. Another helpline was created to help the students belonging to the UT of J&K who were stranded in other parts of the country. The helpline received 2,378 calls which were redressed.

The J&K Judicial Academy organized various online training programmes besides webinars for the Session 2020-21 concerning various topics including handling of survivors of sexual violence cases, law on dishonor of cheques, and analysis of provisions of Domestic Violence Act with emphasis on drawing of maintenance and grant of shelter. The Academy organized training programmes in physical mode as well after strictly adhering to SOPs issued in this regard. A three day online training session was organized by the Academy in which civil judges (junior division) dealing with Negotiable Instruments Act matters were imparted training as to how cognizance, procedure and jurisdiction in such cases is to be applied so that such cases are fast-tracked for disposal. Besides that, the Academy also organized

online training on "Plea bargaining its effective use" for satisfactory disposal of cases wherein, civil judge senior division officers were given training with beforehand supply of compendium on "Plea Bargain".

A number of webinars were organized wherein, the judicial officers were imparted training on use of "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for efficient docket management". A webinar was held on topic "Court Management with stress on enhancing capacity for delivering justice". The Academy organized a webinar on the topic "Understanding Contours of neglected Juvenile and Juvenile in conflict with Law, a way forward for their care, protection and rehabilitation" wherein judicial officers, principal magistrates, officers of JJBs, CWCs, CPOs of observation homes were sensitized about this subject. The Academy also organized one day physical training programme for public prosecutors, investigation officers on criminal justice system with stress on role of prosecutor and sensitization towards victim of sexual violence.

For purpose of impact assessment, the Judicial Academy is also in the process of drawing out a module for training, evaluation, assessment and quality audit so that micro level training is undertaken at the district level under the supervision of district judge to act as mentor in-charge. Keeping in view the current pandemic, integrated standardized online training modules are also being devised to supplement the traditional methods of physical training. By doing so, officers would be encouraged to undertake course in the areas of their respective work allocation through online mode. Apart from academic curriculum, the training is also made to cover important facets of social justice sensitization.

## Technological Accomplishments

During the judicial year, the High Court as well as subordinate courts mostly functioned on virtual mode. This required a lot of IT interventions in



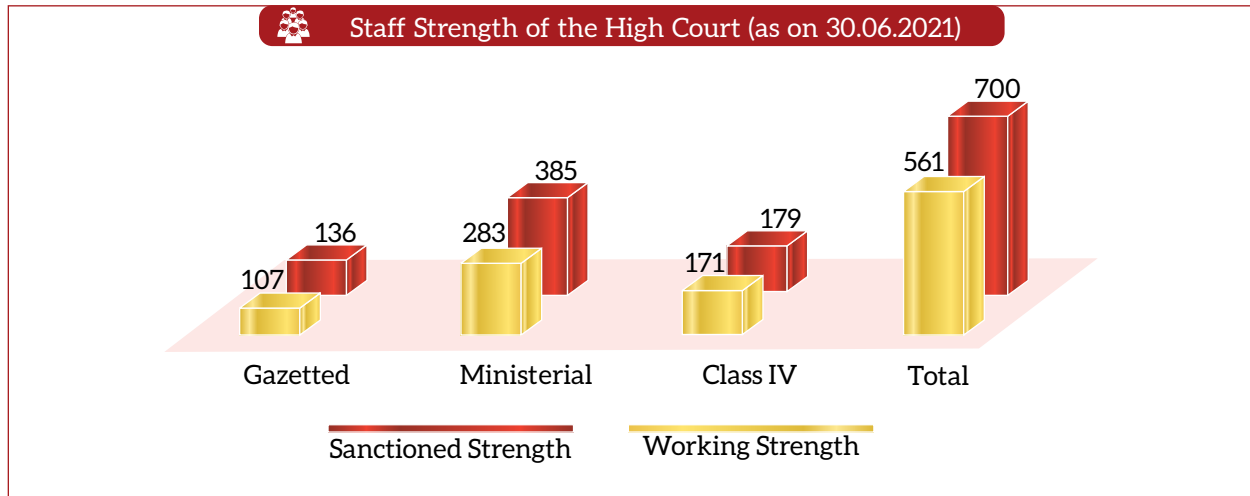
*Chief Justice's Court at Srinagar*

order to ensure the smooth virtual functioning of the High Court and the subordinate courts. For the purpose, the courts initially switched over to free open source video conferencing software. Instead of physical files, the digital data of the files was transmitted through emails to the judges. The digital court files of the both the wings of the High Court were hyperlinked with daily causelist with an advance copy of the same to the bench. The digitally signed daily orders and the judgments were regularly uploaded on the portal. The Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) was implemented in the jurisdiction of High Court of J&K and Ladakh. CCTNS was implemented in 219 police stations and 104 higher offices. CCTNS web services were provided and deployed in State Data Centre. ICJS was implemented in 22 district court complexes across UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

Litigants and advocates were getting SMSs on daily basis at various stages of the case, like filing,

registration, objection, listing of case, disposal of case and for copying. Similar SMS service was operational in the district courts also. The video conferencing of the courts with the jails for conducting the trial of the undertrial prisoners was fully adopted. Almost all the undertrials now appear before the trial courts through video conference. The High Court and most of the subordinate courts have shifted over and fully adopted the e-mode of the receipts and payments like that of JKPAYSYS, PFMS, BEAMS etc. A periphery module was developed for statistical data regarding pendency and disposal of cases in the subordinate courts. Under the module, the statistical data of the cases pending before district courts, like that of nature of the case, age of the case etc. is monitored more effectively. Several trainings regarding e-filing, virtual court, use of different e-Courts services applications, access to NJDG, use of CIS etc. was given to the advocates and other staff.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	23,53,71,300	13,03,02,000	15,31,68,000
Non-Plan	92,39,38,300	91,64,78,000	1,03,03,58,000
Total	1,15,93,09,600	1,04,67,80,000	1,18,35,26,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges **17**

Working Strength of Judges **11**

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest **11**

Highest **13**

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old **8,382**

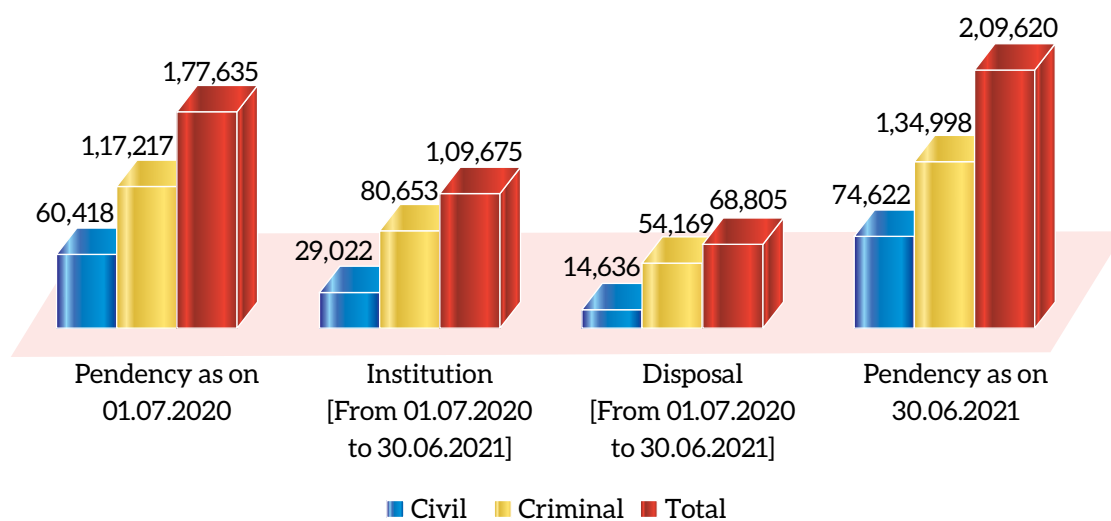
# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	47,235	4,310	19,480	32,065
Company Matters	11	0	0	11
Contempt (Civil)	8,857	840	2,135	7,562
Review (Civil)	388	140	85	443
Matrimonial Matters	128	0	0	128
Arbitration Matters	408	141	192	357
Civil Revisions	445	91	115	421
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	319	335	10	644
Civil Appeals	1,646	88	611	1,123
Land Acquisition Matters	513	530	220	823
MACT Matters	1,715	368	240	1,843
Civil Suits (Original Side)	01	02	02	01
Other than above	1,887	705	529	2,063
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal Revisions	458	60	58	460
Bail Applications	361	463	425	399
Criminal Appeals	1,395	512	123	1,784
Death Sentence Reference	04	0	0	04
Contempt (Criminal)	17	0	02	15
Misc. Criminal Applications	2,702	950	1,175	2,477
Other than above	5,462	1,084	1,799	4,747

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
312



Working Strength  
255



Vacancy  
57

Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
2,641	2,488	5,129



**11**

# High Court of **JHARKHAND**



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND\*

<b>Hon'ble Dr. Justice Ravi Ranjan, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Shankar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shree Chandrashekhar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ambuj Nath
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navneet Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anubha Rawat Choudhary	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Prasad
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ratnaker Bhengra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kailash Prasad Deo	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subhash Chand
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ananda Sen	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi	
Hon'ble Dr. Justice Shiva Nand Pathak	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Roshan	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### **BRIEF INTRODUCTION**

With the formation of the new State of Jharkhand on 15 November 2000, the erstwhile Ranchi Bench of Patna High Court was transformed into the High Court of the new State in terms of the Bihar Re-organization Act, 2000 referred to as the “High Court of Jharkhand” with the initial sanctioned strength of 12 Judges (10 permanent and two additional). Ever since the inception of the High Court of Jharkhand, all its official activities have continued in the building formerly designated as the circuit bench for the Patna High Court. Recognizing the need for space and modern amenities to keep up with the ever-increasing workload and staff, a new High Court building is under construction. The territorial jurisdiction of High Court of Jharkhand extends over the entire State of Jharkhand.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

Series of directions were issued by the High Court of Jharkhand to contain the spread of virus and also to continue the functioning of High Court and district courts to hear urgent matters. A core committee was constituted to monitor the day-to-day activities. All the districts courts were directed to inform the registrar general through official mail regarding the situation of their court on daily basis which also indicated the figures of the urgent matters with nature listed/taken up on the day and production of accused through video conferencing for information to the core committee for necessary directions, if required. During this period, only very urgent matters relating to bail, demolition, eviction, disconnection of electricity, water supply etc. were taken up. To provide speedy justice and facilitate the lawyers and litigants, High Court of Jharkhand introduced E-Filing (via email), E-Notice (via email), E-mentioning, E-Hearing, online certified copy facility, online instant information regarding scrutiny of fresh cases, SMS facility, etc. Further, optional VC facility from the High Court premises was also provided to the advocates. VC room was made functional in the help desk kiosk. Helpline number 14619 is available during the office hours on all working days for issues/problems related to video conferencing. Matters pertaining to each roster were taken up for hearing since 26 May 2020. High Court of Jharkhand started working with full strength of the judges through video conferencing. The Advocate/parties were not given relaxation to appear in person to file the hard copy of affidavit in the High Court while filing bail/anticipatory bail applications. The High Court of Jharkhand Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts, 2020 was notified in the Jharkhand Gazette on 20 July 2020.

During the COVID-19 period, only the bare essential staff of Sections were called to

manage the urgent work on roster basis. Sitting arrangement of the staff was made in such a manner so as to maintain required physical distance between them. One additional district judge was nominated as nodal officer for management of corona matters of High Court and to coordinate with the state medical authorities for providing medical aid to the judges/registry members/officers and staff of the High Court in case of need. With regard to functioning of subordinate courts, direction was given to take up urgent matters. All the principal district and session judges were authorized to depute judicial magistrates at jail premises in case production of accused through videoconferencing was not possible for any technical reasons. Further all functions/elections or any other gatherings were prohibited till further orders. In subordinate courts, the video conferencing facility is available and being used for remands and for hearing of the urgent matters.

The Judicial Academy, Jharkhand had regular training through virtual mode. During the judicial year, 27 workshops were organized including induction training programmes for newly appointed civil judge (Jr. Div.). The Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority (JHALSA) did exemplary work during the judicial year. The India Book of Records and World Records India issued certificates for record disposal of cases and amount disbursed in a single day during the Services Lok Adalat held on 26 November 2020. The web portal of High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC) was launched. Under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), JHALSA also organized the programme “High Court of Jharkhand & JHALSA Initiatives” & “Country’s First Insurance Lok Adalat (Virtual Mode)” on 26 September 2020 in which 10,719 cases (pre litigation and pending matters) were disposed of. The App “Vidhik Sewa Mobile” was launched, which facilitated the beneficiaries to

avail the legal services entitled to them without physically approaching legal services institutions. Four pamphlets prepared by JHALSA on various rights of road accident victims were E- Released.

71<sup>st</sup> Constitution Day was celebrated on 26 November 2020 with initiatives as Services Lok Adalat (virtual mode), inauguration of e-Filing & online certified copy in the High Court of Jharkhand, launch of "Access to Justice for All" Mobile App & web portal of JHALSA, release of legal services manual, release of JHALSA Scheme 2020 on effective intervention for reducing hunger and prevention of starvation deaths, launch of JHALSA Projects viz. Project Tripti (an effective intervention for reducing hunger & preventing starvation deaths), Project Aatmanirbharta (for all-round upliftment of rural/tribal/ forest dwelling women), Project Nirogi Bhawah (for benefit of health schemes to women, children, SC/ST and elderly persons), and Project Chetna (for eradicating the menace of substance abuse / wine/ hadia). In the Services Lok Adalat (virtual), 35,133 cases (including pre-litigation) were disposed of.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, as per the direction of JHALSA, mediation was done by mediators virtually through google meet, whatsapp etc. During the judicial year, 2,968 cases were settled through mediation. On the occasion of Human Rights Day, JHALSA in association with Centre for Human Rights and Subaltern (CHRSS) of National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi organized webinar on protection of human rights through legal aid services on 10 December 2020. The pamphlet prepared by JHALSA on human rights and JHALSA Project Shakti (An effective Intervention for Empowering Widows and Single Women) were also e-released/ launched on the said occasion. A legal services-cum-empowerment camp was organized across the State of Jharkhand by JHALSA and at the district, block and subdivision level by all the DLSAs of Jharkhand on 6 February 2021. The objective was to provide benefits of government

schemes. On the occasion, pamphlets in Braille and legal awareness pamphlets in English, Ho, Nagpuri and Mundari languages were also released. In compliance of the direction of NALSA, Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav was celebrated as a part of commemoration of 75 years of Independence. Legal aid activities were initiated w.e.f. 12 March 2021. DLSAs conducted 218 programmes on the occasion and large number of tribal people were provided legal assistance.

For providing relief activities during the pandemic, S.O.P. was framed. State level control and management cell was set up at the HQ level. It was functional round the clock. The deputed PLVs were given phablets to make/receive audio video calls. A team was reconstituted by DLSA under the NALSA Scheme for legal services to disaster victims through legal services authorities comprising of doctors nominated by IMA, executive magistrate nominated by the DC, representatives of district unit of Red Cross, Lions Club, Art of Living Foundation, reputed NGOs, charity organizations including Gurudwara Prabandh Committees, Ram Krishna Mission etc. A War Room was set up at the DLSA office which was manned by the Doctors (nominated by the Civil Surgeons), paramedicals, retainers, PLVs etc. The stock of basic medicines and pulse oximeters used for treatment of Covid patients was kept at the war room. The medicines were obtained from district administration, charity organizations, Red Cross Society, and NGOs etc. The JHALSA Project "Shishu" for children who had lost parent(s) in the pandemic COVID-19 was e-Launched on 31 May 2021. On 27 June 2021, a state level programme under JHALSA Project "Shishu" for rehabilitation of children orphaned due to COVID-19 was organized. Children identified under Project Shishu were given the benefit of a sponsorship scheme and other government schemes at their residence. In this program, for awareness, booklets on frequently asked questions on child protection, child welfare committee and Juvenile Justice Board and cartoon films on foster care and sponsorship was released online. National Lok

Adalat (virtual) was organized by JHALSA across the State of Jharkhand under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority. During the judicial year, 26,984 pre litigation cases were disposed of and 13,068 pending cases were disposed of through National Lok Adalat.

### Technological Accomplishments

The High Court of Jharkhand started E-filing module provided in the CIS for online filing of cases and other documents. E-payment of the court fee in the High Court of Jharkhand is made live in view of COVID-19 situation, so that advocates/litigants may avoid physical submission of court fee. An online E-Court fee module/link has been provided in the High Court of Jharkhand website in this regard. In order to avoid physical inspection of the defective cases which were pointed out by concerned section of the High Court, a software has been developed and a module for online view of defective filing has been provided in High Court of Jharkhand website to view online the defects of their filed cases. A software regarding further stamp reporting for the second time has also been developed and module of this is available on the High Court of Jharkhand website for online viewing.

e-Sewa Kendra was set up at High Court of Jharkhand. Apart from e-sewa kendra, one studio based video conferencing room is available in the High Court. Further, six video conferencing rooms were also set-up in the High Court premises for use by the advocates/parties who were unable to appear in their cases through video conferencing from their residence/office. e-Sewa Kendra is set up at all the district courts of State of Jharkhand.

Software for instant online application for certified copy of order and judgment and its payment is developed for the High Court. The High Court and district courts of Jharkhand is conducting/hearing the cases through video conferencing applications viz. 'Google Meet', 'Vidyo App', 'Cisco Webex', 'Jitsi Meet' etc. A helpline number 14619 is created and persons having difficulty in audio-visual during video conferencing can report the same on the given helpline number immediately for taking necessary assistance. For proper awareness with regard to functioning of VC apps, information booklet on the use of VC apps is circulated among the judicial officers and members of the bar of the State of Jharkhand.

Menu based system is developed for generating periphery reports (fees and documents, case no. wise disposal, judge wise disposal), nature wise disposal count, order sheet, institution register,



*e-Sewa Kendra at Ramgarh*



case register (nature wise count pendency/disposal), IA No wise disposal, IA register, cause list, daily proceedings, caveat filing, orders and judgments, lower court case search by FIR/Case No., arising cases from main case, defects register, subject wise report) of CIS of High Court.

Two phases of online training on the topic “e-Court Services and CIS 3.2” were conducted for the DSAs (District System Administrators) of State of Jharkhand. These DSAs in turn imparted training to the nominated court staff from all the district and sub-divisional courts of the State of Jharkhand. An online awareness webinar programme for advocates at district level on “e-filing and e-Court services” was conducted on 25 July 2020 by the judicial officer master trainers. After two phases of online training for the judicial officer master trainers on the topic “Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) for advocates and Updated features of CIS”, an online training

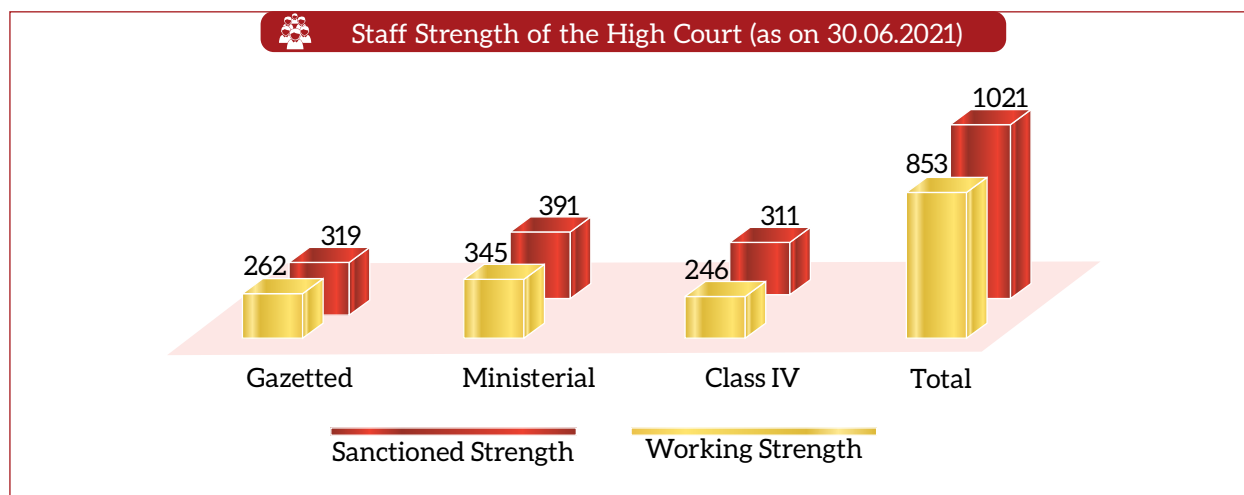
programme for the advocate master trainers was conducted by the judicial officer master trainers on the same topics. For implementation of National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) in the State of Jharkhand, procurement of smartphones is under process. e-Challan, a pre-requisite of virtual court was implemented on pilot basis at Ranchi. For implementation of virtual court, the matter is likely to be placed before the appropriate authority. Inter-operable Criminal justice System (ICJS) was rolled out in all the district courts of State of Jharkhand. Although, data is being shared but mandatory data fields for CIS are coming in Hindi from CCTNS which is not being supported in CIS 3.2 causing difficulty in using ICJS module. For the same, english language entry is desired from all PS in CCTNS System. Recently, nodal officer, CCTNS has directed all the S.S.P./S.P. of all the districts of the State of Jharkhand to ensure entry of mandatory data fields for CIS in English. Addition

has been made at the dashboard of the website of the High Court of Jharkhand with audio captcha, PDF creation, PDF as searchable and readable by screen reader for blind persons. The CPC office developed software for cause list, PDF merge, creating index and bookmark module at the time of cause list merging, data bank, software related to ACR, information related to cases printed in cause list through email. Software was prepared for maintaining the data of judicial officers, virtual case information services (Telegram Chatbot),

vigilance software, e-Court mobile application, and online notice board.

Initiatives were taken by the High Court of Jharkhand for taking the digitization movement ahead by incorporating new age technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and hardware-software integration within the court operations and management under the supervision of JAP-IT, Dhurwa, Ranchi. AI Tool SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuwad Software) is used by the High Court for testing on experimental basis.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



**Budget of the High Court\***

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	97,36,73,000	1,10,66,10,000	1,05,02,89,000
Total	97,36,73,000	1,10,66,10,000	1,05,02,89,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

**Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases**

**Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)**

Sanctioned Strength of Judges	25
Working Strength of Judges	15

**Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)**

Lowest	15
Highest	17

**Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)**

Cases more than 10 years old	18,355
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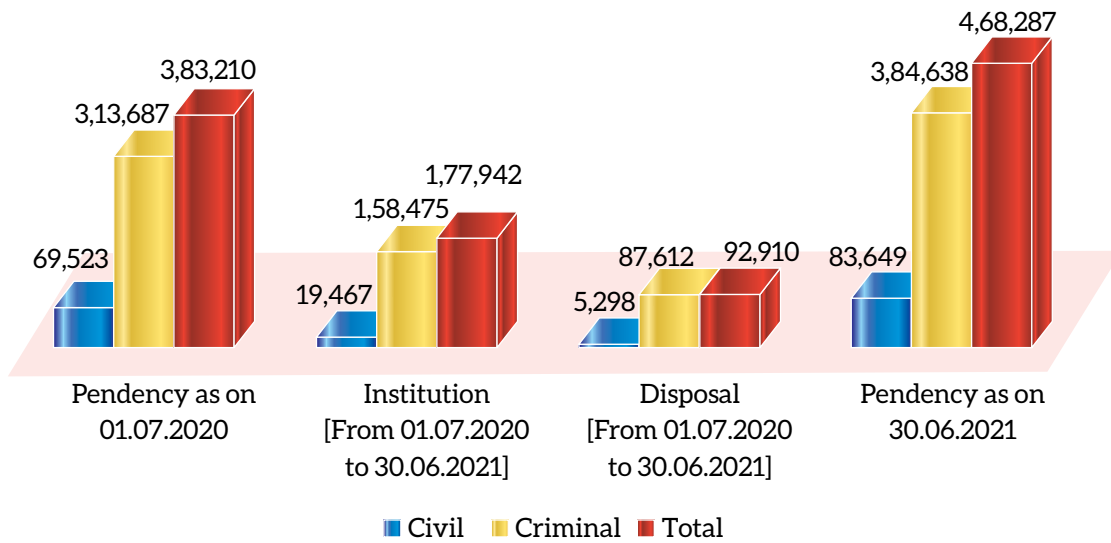
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	24,712	2,133	2,939	23,906
Company Matters	04	09	01	12
Contempt (Civil)	1,673	796	489	1,980
Review (Civil)	196	106	25	277
Matrimonial Matters	07	05	04	08
Arbitration Matters	129	57	12	174
Civil Revisions	177	12	01	188
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	225	25	18	232
Civil Appeals*	4,042	276	113	4,205
Land Acquisition Matters	4,128	450	176	4,402
MACT Matters	3,966	228	309	3,885
Civil Suits (Original Side)	04	01	01	04
Other than above*	892	2,584	1,215	2,261
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,119	425	604	940
Criminal Revisions	6,733	660	685	6,708
Bail Applications	184	26,367	22,815	3,736
Criminal Appeals	22,941	655	638	22,958
Death Sentence Reference	17	01	0	18
Contempt (Criminal)	15	04	04	15
Misc. Criminal Applications	10,252	2,577	2,635	10,194
Other than above	1,869	75	1,418	526

\*Certain category of cases have been removed from "Other than above" category to the "Civil Appeals" category.

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
675



Working Strength  
531



Vacancy  
144

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
6,099	13,131	19,230

12

# High Court of KARNATAKA



*Principal seat at Bengaluru*

## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA\*

### Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Aradhe	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Siddappa Sunil Dutt Yadav	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Maheshan Nagaprasanna
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Shivanna Sujatha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammad Nawaz	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Maralur Indrakumar Arun
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Byrareddy Veerappa	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harekoppa Thimmanna Gowda Narendra Prasad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Engalaguppe Seetharamaiah Indires
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Guhanathan Narendar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hethur Puttaswamygowda Sandesh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Venkappa Hosmani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pratinidhi Srinivasacharya Dinesh Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishnan Natarajan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Savanur Vishwajith Shetty
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kempaiah Somashekar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Singapuram Raghavachar Krishna Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shivashankar Amarannavar
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Kotravva Somappa Mudagal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok Subhashchandra Kinagi	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Makkimane Ganeshaiah Uma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suraj Govindaraj	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vedavyasachar Srishananda
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nangli Krishnarao Sudhindrarao	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar
Hon'ble Dr. Justice H. B. Prabhakara Sastry	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Neranahalli Srinivasan Sanjay Gowda	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Padmaraj Nemachandra Desai
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Jyoti Mulimani	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Panjigadde Krishna Bhat
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shankar Ganapathi Pandit	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rangaswamy Nataraj	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammed Ghouse Shukure Kamal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramakrishna Devdas	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hemant Chandangoudar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Badamkar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. M. Shyam Prasad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pradeep Singh Yerur	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Khazi Jayabunisa Mohiuddin

\*As on 1 November 2021



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Principal Bench of High Court of Karnataka is situated in the heart of the city of Bangalore (now Bengaluru), opposite Vidhana Soudha, which houses the State Legislature, and the Secretariat. The road in between the pillars of democracy is aptly named 'Ambedkar Veedhi' in honour of Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, clearly separating the executive from the judiciary. The High Court of Karnataka has circuit benches at Dharwad and at Gulbarga (now Kalaburagi). These circuit benches were made permanent Benches in 2013.

The building in which the High Court at Bengaluru is functioning, called Attara Kacheri, has its own pristine glory. Literally, Attara Kacheri means "eighteen offices, or departments", which originally comprised the general and the revenue secretariat of the erstwhile Mysore State. The Attara Kacheri is a two-storied building of stone and brick, coloured in an earthy red hue, in Graeco-Roman style of classical form of architecture - a structure of vast expanse with iconic porticos at the centre, and at the two ends of the elevation. It covers an area of 1.95 lakh square feet. The arcaded building contains several spacious rooms and verandas, and has abundant light and ventilation. In early 1990s, a new construction was put up, parallel to, and as a replica of Attara Kacheri, and attached to the Attara Kacheri. The new annexe of the Attara Kacheri was inaugurated in mid 1995, and from early 1996 onwards, courts started functioning therein. In the year 1989, the second floor was refurbished and made ready to be used as the chief justice's court.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

In order to facilitate the advocates/parties-in-person for moving the court for urgent orders, virtual courts were created in the High Court of Karnataka, initially in March 2020. Advocates / party-in-person best utilized the virtual court by digitally appearing to represent their cases listed before the High Court of Karnataka, Principal Bench, Bengaluru and Benches at Dharwad and Kalaburagi. Separate Standard Operating procedure was issued for video conferencing.

In order to give wide range of publicity about virtual courts, virtual court gallery has been created and web-hosted in the official website

of the High Court. The High Court also adopted the Video Conferencing Rules for effective use of video conferencing with legal sanctity.

Bangalore Mediation Centre (BMC), conducts court-annexed mediations, and at present, 117 mediators are working there. During judicial year, 113 cases were disposed of by way of arbitration. 4,898 cases were mediated and 4,477 cases were settled. In addition to the regular mediation, BMC conducted awareness programmes for referral judges. A two day online training programme was conducted for mediators of High Court of Karnataka Dharwad and Kalaburagi Bench in the month of February 2021.

The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) has been conducting Lok Adalats, creating legal awareness through legal literacy programmes for settlement of disputes through amicable settlement, extending legal aid and advice at various levels, such as taluk and district level and at the High Court, the High Court Legal Services Committee is functioning. During the judicial year, 6,69,268 cases pending before the courts were settled and 42,821 pre-litigation cases were settled in the National Lok Adalats. 6,304 cases pending before the courts were settled and 131 pre-litigation cases were settled through Janata Nyayalaya. 2,975 persons were extended legal aid by the Authority. 4,700 legal literacy programmes were organized throughout the State. 21,916 persons were given free legal advice. 3,619 cases were settled before the Permanent Lok Adalats. The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority conducted programmes on NALSA Scheme (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Persons Scheme, 2015), 'Constitutional Duties of Citizens and their implementation during COVID-19 Pandemic', NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme, 2015), NALSA Scheme (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2015, (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2015. A Mega e-Lok Adalat was held by KSLSA. A workshop was held on prevention of child beggary and child hawking. A programme was held on child marriage and anti human trafficking and also on "COVID-19 pandemic, Mental Health and Yoga". Online induction / foundation training / refresher courses were held for civil judges and district judges.

Webinars were organized by the Karnataka Judicial Academy on "Law of Partition with reference to Hindu Succession", "Judicial Stress" and "Relevance of Gandhi to Contemporary India and the World" and on "Judicial Culture-in-Aid of Rule of Law". Training programme was conducted by the Karnataka Judicial Academy, through virtual on "Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015" for judicial members of Juvenile Justice Board working in the State. Trainings were conducted on "POCSO Act" and on "Art of Writing Judgment" through virtual online mode. A training programme on "Electronic Case Management Rules (ECMT) for the Advocates" & "Updated Features of CIS" - ECT-003-2021-(3rd Phase) online TOT programme for advocate master trainers of Karnataka State was conducted by the Karnataka Judicial Academy, through online mode.

### Technological Accomplishments

High Court Case Information System (HCCIS) software has been rolled out in High Court including benches at Dharwad and Kalaburagi. As a part of paperless initiative, point of sale (POS) machines have been deployed, thereby enabling cashless transactions in the High Court.

The High Court has on-boarded its judicial deposits including district courts to Khajane-II application for online receipt and online payment of judicial deposits. The data of 203 court complexes consisting of 1,152 courts is available in NJDG portal and it can be intra-net accessed through



*Lateral view of the High Court*



*Judges' Library*

NICNET for evaluation. Judgments pertaining to High Court of Karnataka are scanned and uploaded to D-space which is now available in public domain with water mark with free text search.

The Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) has been introduced to facilitate speedy justice through data-exchange between the courts, police, prosecution, prison, women and child department and forensic labs.

The High Court of Karnataka launched a portal for issuance of digitally signed e-Certified copies of orders and judgments of benches at Bengaluru, Dharwad and Kalaburagi. During the pandemic, to avoid footfall in the court premises and in order to enable the litigants and advocates to comply the office objections in scrutiny branch, a time slot was fixed and time slot advance booking facility was made available in web portal of the High Court. In order to facilitate the advocates/parties-in-person for moving the court for urgent orders, virtual courts have been created in the High Court.

To give wide range of publicity about virtual courts, a gallery of virtual court was created and web

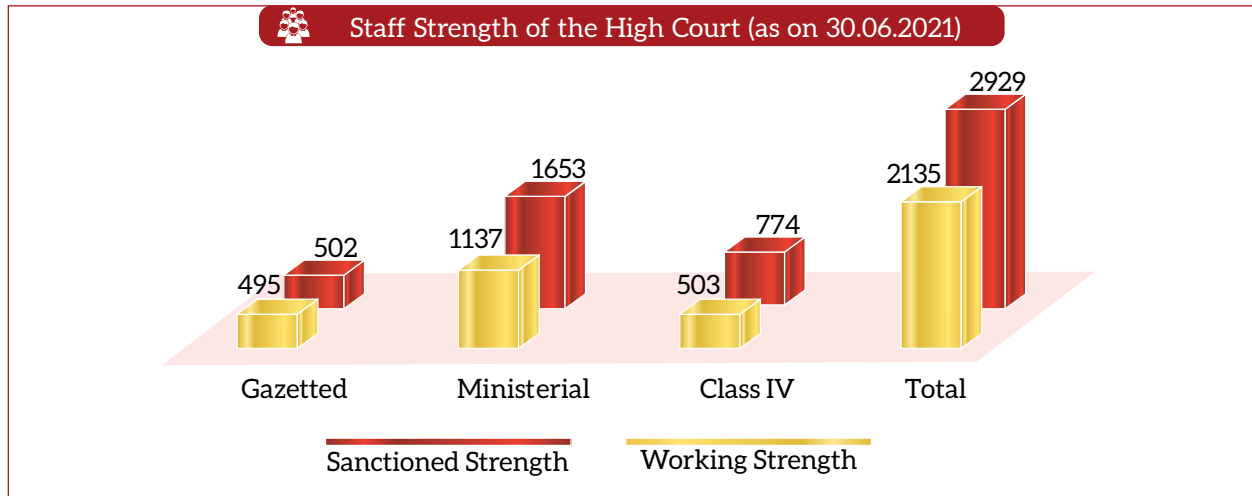
hosted in the official website of the High Court. Hybrid video conference technology was created in the court hall to share advocates appearing physically with existing video conference.

The High Court of Karnataka started virtual court for traffic challan in Bengaluru City to enable the traffic violators/offenders to pay fine anytime and from anywhere without being physically present in the court. The High Court launched an official telegram channel of the High Court and for district judiciary in 30 districts of the State of Karnataka. A Telegram Chatbot was also designed and developed for the High Court.

The High Court of Karnataka started live streaming of court proceedings on pilot basis since June 2021. So far, 15 Division Bench sittings on selected cases of public importance, were live telecasted through YouTube Channel.

Bhoomi Integration with CIS has been rolled out in two talukas i.e., Devanahalli Taluk at Bengaluru Rural District and Gudibande Taluk at Chikballapur District wherein suit schedule form in CIS invoke Bhoomi API to get relevant land details. The High Court of Karnataka has also developed a web application to make ILR online.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	2,54,23,04,000	2,61,85,95,000	2,70,09,47,000
Total	2,54,23,04,000	2,61,85,95,000	2,70,09,47,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges	62
Working Strength of Judges	48

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest	46
Highest	49

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old	10,294
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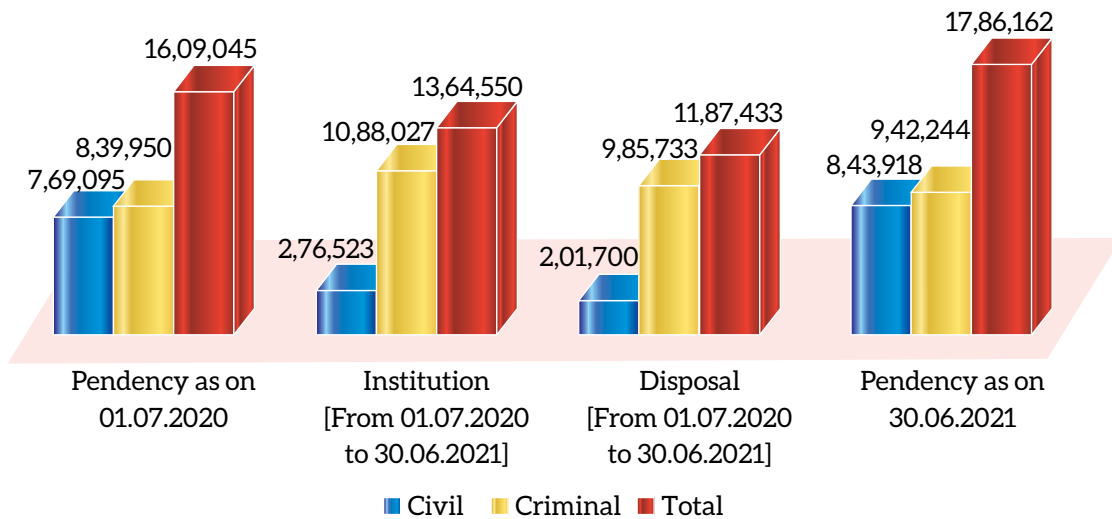
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,36,343	28,306	89,593	75,056
Company Matters	1,337	651	489	1,499
Contempt (Civil)	947	1,344	1,330	961
Review (Civil)	2,672	1,666	2,150	2,188
Matrimonial Matters	3,212	273	434	3,051
Arbitration Matters	01	05	05	01
Civil Revisions	3,875	816	1,472	3,219
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	2,310	659	1,301	1,668
Civil Appeals	61,102	12,151	10,611	62,642
Land Acquisition Matters	3,070	1,311	2,841	1,540
MACT Matters	59,653	5,274	11,199	53,728
Civil Suits (Original Side)	12	05	01	16
Other than above	3,999	1,653	2,819	2,833
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal Revisions	7,875	1,670	1,279	8,266
Bail Applications	824	7,238	6,983	1,079
Criminal Appeals	15,297	4,499	3,965	15,831
Death Sentence Reference	21	04	04	21
Contempt (Criminal)	26	13	05	34
Misc. Criminal Applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	11,254	7,021	6,137	12,138

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
1,358



Working Strength  
1,059



Vacancy  
299

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
22,422	15,040	37,462

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# High Court of KERALA



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Mani Kumar, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devan Ramachandran	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Murali Purushothaman
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sarasa Venkatanarayana Bhatti	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Somarajan P.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ziyad Rahman A. A.
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alexander Thomas	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Shircy V.	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Karunakaran Babu
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhamed Mustaque Ayumantakath	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Narayana Pisharadi R.	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Kauser Edappagath
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ala Kunnil Jayasankaran Nambiar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.G. Arun	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abdul Rahim Musaliar Badharudeen
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kalavampara Narendran	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Nagaresh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Viju Abraham
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Padmaraj Balakrishnannair Suresh Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Anil Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammed Nias C. P.
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amit Rawal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Conrad Stansilaus Dias	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Basant Balaji
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sunil Thomas	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pulleri Vadhyarillath Kunhikrishnan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Jayachandran
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shaji Paul Chaly	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Thirumuppath Raghavan Ravi	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sophy Thomas
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anu Sivaraman	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. G. Ajithkumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan Valsala	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gopinath Puzhankara	Hon'ble Ms. Justice C. S. Sudha
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Mary Joseph	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Mudalikulam Raman Anitha	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sathish Ninan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Karunakaran Nair Haripal	

\*As on 1 November 2021

### Administrative Achievements



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The High Court of Kerala came into existence on 1 November 1956 with its seat at Ernakulam. The territorial jurisdiction of the High Court of Kerala extends to the entire State of Kerala and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The High Court of Kerala has many unprecedented features to its credit. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anna Chandy was the first woman in the history of the country to adorn the office of a High Court Judge at Kerala. Hon'ble Ms. Justice M. Fathima Beevi of Kerala High Court was the first woman who was elevated to the Supreme Court of India.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

To deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, various steps were taken by the Registry to contain its spread. In the wake of the increasing Covid cases and as a measure to further control spread of the pandemic, a Covid Task force consisting of the representatives of the service organisations in the High Court was formed to support the Covid affected employees of the High Court.

e-Filing was introduced in the High Court, Commercial Courts in the State, Munsiff Magistrate Court, Kolenchery and Rent Control Court, Ernakulam. The Electronic Filing Rules for Courts (Kerala), 2021 issued by High Court came into force on 12 May 2021. Issuance of certified copies in both High Court and Subordinate Courts and presentation of all pleadings before High Court in A4 size paper with printing on both

sides have been introduced. Sound system has been installed in all the Court Halls in the High Court. Digitisation centre was set up in the four storied building in the High Court premises. CCTV cameras were installed at all gates of the High Court. Virtual inspections of Juvenile Justice Homes were conducted by High Court Juvenile Justice Committee during December 2020 to March 2021 to overview effective implementation of JJ Act. Child Protection Management Information System (CPMIS), a data monitoring system was launched by the Government of Kerala, taking inputs from High Court Juvenile Justice Committee and district level functionaries. The High Court of Kerala took steps for publicizing the Balanidhi Portal launched by the Women and Child Development Department, with the objective to raise public funds for the Juvenile Justice homes in the State. One MACT, five Fast Track Special Courts (for the trial of Rape and POCSO Act cases) and one Additional Special Court started functioning in the State.

A five storied Court Complex building at Punalur was inaugurated on 15 February 2021. The Phase-III of the Modernisation of Subordinate Courts Scheme was implemented in the year 2020-21 and sufficient furniture items were supplied to 72 Civil courts and 42 Criminal Courts in the State as





a part of this Scheme. Site survey and engineering design for Solar power plants (150 KWt Grid) has been completed in eight court complexes of Subordinate Judiciary and the project was commissioned at Thodupuzha, Thalassery and Kasargod and installation was completed in Kasaragod, Thiruvanthapuram and Kottarakara Court Complexes.

During the judicial year, periodical Lok Adalats (including National Lok Adalat) were conducted under the auspices of Kerala State Legal Services Authority, where 17,653 cases were settled. Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KeLSA) provided legal aid to 12,166 people during the period under consideration. 1,504 Legal Awareness Programmes / classes were conducted. 1,93,192 persons participated in those classes. KeLSA in

co-ordination with various DLSAs also conducted outreach legal services / activities like- Jan Antholan Campaign on Covid in Kottayam District, launching of the 'Mother's Meal' food grain distribution project programme in Wayanad District, Online Orientation programme for Civil Services aspirants from Tribal community all over Kerala, library for the residents of COVID First Line Treatment Center at Kalamassery, initiated a project named *Swapna Veedu* to identify and shelter abandoned and homeless mentally ill and senior citizens, Virtual Vidhya- an initiative of DLSA Kottayam in connection with virtual academic year 2020 to ensure the enrolment of students in their respective classes, formation of youth force called 'Disaster Warriors' in collaboration with Ernakulam District Legal



*A view of the High Court*

Services Authority and the Scout and Guide Fellowship Ernakulam Unit to deal with emergencies. Open Adalat was organised on 13 August 2020 for differently abled. District Legal Services Authority Kozhikode and Wayanad Districts distributed wheelchairs, hearing aids and crutches etc. to people with disabilities, conducted state level quiz competition as an attempt to spread legal awareness to the school students. Under KeLSA's "Gadget Challenge" programme, District Judicial fraternity sponsored 134 mobile phones and one TV to the eligible students for attending online classes. Kozhikode District Legal Services Authority, along with Department of Social Justice, conducted a psychiatric program on 19 June 2021 and 3 July 2021 for the inmates of social welfare institutions in the district. DLSA

Ernakulam conducted a free coaching program for LLB aspirants in the District.

The Kerala Judicial Academy conducted induction training for 37 Munsiff Magistrate trainees of 2020-21 batch, Knowledge Enhancement and Skill Enhancement Programmes for Judicial Officers, Knowledge Enhancement Training Programmes for Principal Magistrates, members of Juvenile Justice Board and child line workers. Skill Enhancement Training was also conducted for Principal Counsellors of Family Court and staff of the District Judiciary. Apart from that, Training Programme for Public Prosecutors attached to FTSCs and POCSO Courts, Learning Experience Programmes for IAS Officers (2019 batch) of Kerala cadre, district level Online Awareness Programmes for advocates on e-Filing and e-Court services in regional language, Refresher Training Programmes for judicial officers on CIS 3.1 and e-filing, Online training for staff of District Judiciary on e-Courts services on CIS 3.2 in five phases. Judicial Officer's e-Learning Programme (JOEL), Online TOT Awareness Programmes on Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) for Master Trainers (Judicial Officers), Advocate Master Trainers, Advocates and Clerks in Kerala and Lakshadweep were also conducted.

### **Technological Accomplishments**

e-Filing of cases was started in the High Court of Kerala which facilitated e-Service of copies to respondents online, Integrated e-Payment system, dashboard facility for Judges, Court staff, advocates, Advocate General, Central Government Counsel, Standing Counsel etc., SMS alerts at all stages of case, and delivery of digitally signed order / judgment. Case Management System (CMS), an in-house Case Management Software was developed and is used for the registration of cases (both offline and e-filed cases), case allocation, cause list publishing, court proceedings, interim order processing, issue of notices to parties, issue of final judgments etc. Further,



*Chief Justice's Court*

Online Urgent Memo filing facility for Advocates was introduced. About 33,00,000 files are now preserved as records as part of digitisation of case records. As a pilot project, trial scan of four lakhs pages is completed. The digitisation process of disposed cases commenced on 17 February 2021. High Court Case Display Board, a mobile application of the High Court of Kerala was introduced which mainly focuses on displaying cases taken up in various courts of the High Court on real time basis and also provides cause list search, cause list notices as well as information about benches sitting on the particular date. A revamped GIGW compliant dynamic website of the High Court was launched on 2 November 2020. With the intention of providing services and communications through electronic media, High Court introduced a Dash Board for all the Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary and Staff of the High Court and Subordinate Courts. This dashboard is integrated with the web portal of the High Court. Interim Order Web Application has been developed to integrate the complete work flow of generating and uploading interim orders into a single module. Using this application, interim orders can be easily uploaded on the

website and the users will be free from the existing method of scanning physical orders and uploading them to the server.

Court proceedings are done through Video Conference thereby reducing the footfalls in the courts by eliminating the physical presence of litigants or advocates in the court but at the same time ensuring speedy and efficient justice delivery. Free Wi-Fi Project was implemented by the High Court of Kerala with the support of the State Government and Kerala and State IT Mission that provides Free Internet for e-Filing, Video Conference Court Proceedings, Online Copy Application and other internet services. The network system in the High Court is being upgraded to meet the requirements of high quality internet services by the VC Courts. The existing infrastructure is replaced by high end servers, firewall, core switches, access switches. Migration to CIS 3.2 completed in 465 establishments in Kerala and Lakshadweep. Installation of 1021 LAN ports at 106 Courts in the Subordinate Judiciary in Kerala as part of the e-Courts Project has been completed. e-Filing started at all Commercial Courts throughout the State with effect from 20



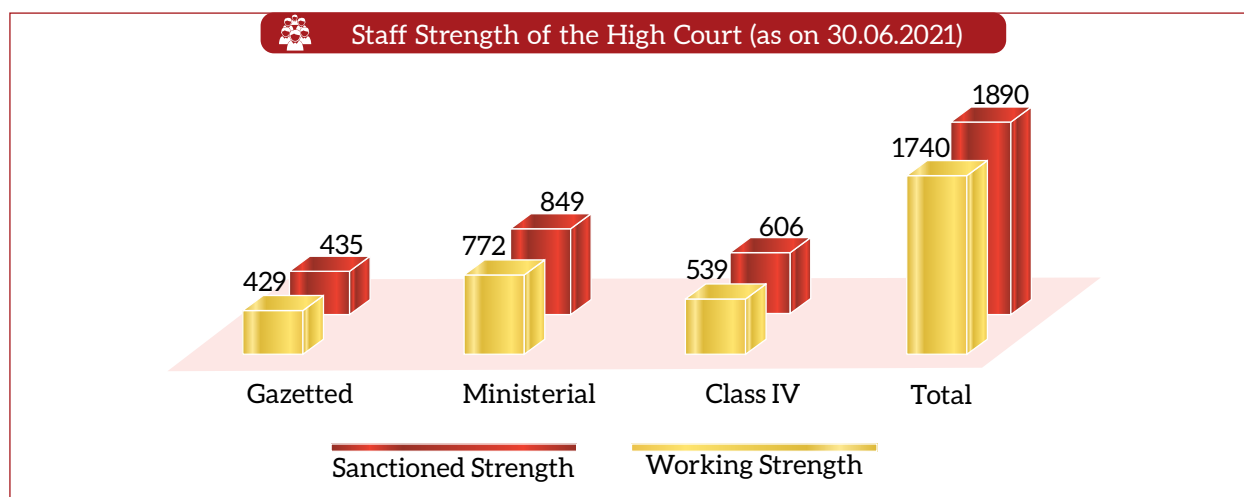
January 2021. As per G.O(Rt)No.1350/2021/Home dated 7 May 2021, State Government has approved the Electronic Filing Rules for Courts (Kerala) 2021. Further, a copying application software for the subordinate courts for filing and issuing certified copies online has been developed by the NIC unit, High Court which facilitates delivery of certified copies of the documents requested in a speedy and secured manner, which is now tested in the Courts where e-Filing has already started. Video Conferencing facility connecting Courts and Jails have been installed in 488 locations (402 Courts & 86 Studios in 52 Jails) throughout the State for the remand extension of prisoners. e-Sewa Kendra has started functioning at High Court and District Court Complex, Ernakulam with effect from 14 May 2020 for helping the general public in accessing the fruits of e Courts projects

in a hassle free manner and to make justice and availability of Case related information more litigant friendly. As of now, e-Sewa Kendra has been established at 116 court complexes out of 160 court complexes. Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) that enables live electronic exchange of data between Courts and Police in collaboration of e-Court, CCTNS, e-Prisons, e-Prosecution, e-Forensic etc. has been installed and operationalized in all the criminal courts in the State of Kerala. High Court of Kerala has selected District Court Complex, Ernakulam for carrying out scanning, digitization and digital preservation of judicial and administrative records on a pilot basis. Sanction has been accorded for commencing pre-scan activities at District Courts, Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode. Steps have been initiated for implementation of the same.



*Judges' Corridor*

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	4,56,00,000	3,07,00,000	3,65,00,000
Non-Plan	1,40,85,67,000	1,34,64,93,000	1,81,84,90,000
Total	1,45,41,67,000	1,37,71,93,000	1,85,49,90,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges **47**

Working Strength of Judges **37**

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest **36**

Highest **40**

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old **21,878**

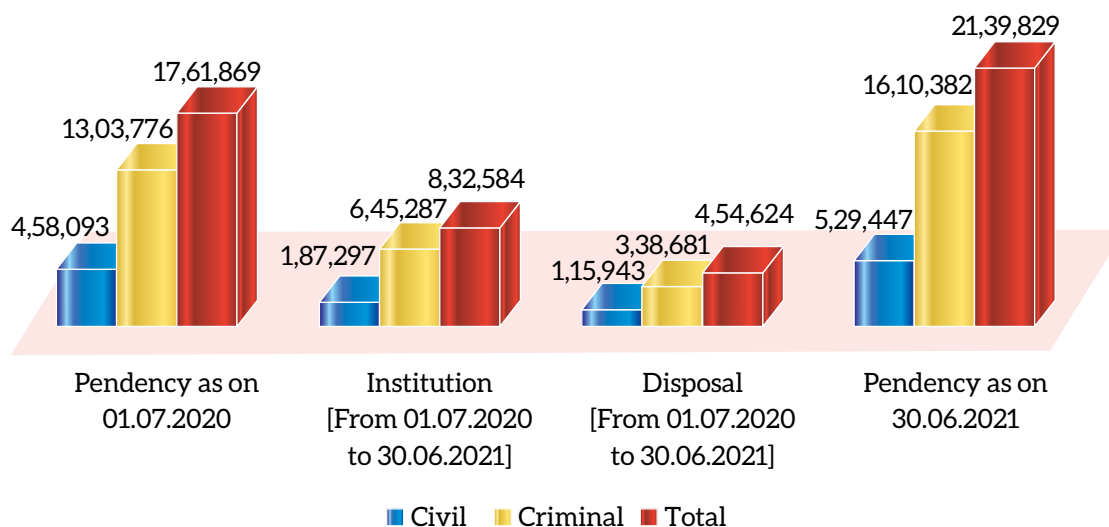
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	79,466	32,938	24,401	88,003
Company Matters	5,098	2,066	106	7,058
Contempt (Civil)	3,965	2,258	2,032	4,191
Review (Civil)	1,847	1,003	943	1,907
Matrimonial Matters	5,814	921	344	6,391
Arbitration Matters	577	168	75	670
Civil Revisions	5,041	939	416	5,564
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	606	59	130	535
Civil Appeals	24,534	3,388	1,938	25,984
Land Acquisition Matters	1,774	293	56	2,011
MACT Matters	23,847	4,839	1,037	27,649
Civil Suits (Original Side)	35	07	16	26
Other than above	3,189	1,153	703	3,639
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	764	764	674	854
Criminal Revisions	14,288	1,090	1,005	14,373
Bail Applications	1,142	10,394	9,900	1,636
Criminal Appeals	18,124	917	1,515	17,526
Death Sentence Reference	12	01	01	12
Contempt (Criminal)	08	02	0	10
Misc. Criminal Applications	10,913	5,818	4,765	11,966
Other than above	257	289	236	310

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
572



Working Strength  
498



Vacancy  
74

Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
5,665	3,824	9,489

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# High Court of MADHYA PRADESH



*Principal seat at Jabalpur*

## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sheel Nagu	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anjuli Palo	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vishal Mishra
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujoy Paul	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Virender Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Verma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rohit Arya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijay Kumar Shukla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Sharma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Atul Sreedharan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurpal Singh Ahluwalia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satyendra Kumar Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subodh Abhyankar	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sunita Yadav
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Rusia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Dwivedi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Kumar Agarwal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anand Pathak	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Kumar Srivastava	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Kumar (Verma)
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Agarwal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajeev Kumar Shrivastava	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pranay Verma
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nandita Dubey	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shailendra Shukla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Purushendra Kaurav
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajeev Kumar Dubey	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vishal Dhagat	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The State of Madhya Pradesh which came into existence on 1 November 1956 under the State Reorganization Act, 1956, earlier formed part of "Central Province and Berar" and was within the jurisdiction of Nagpur. The Nagpur High Court was established for Central Province and Berar by virtue of the Letters Patent dated 2 January 1936, issued under Section 108 of the Government of India Act, 1915, by King Emperor, George the Fifth. The said Letters Patent continued in force even after adoption of the Constitution of India on 26 January 1950 by virtue of Articles 225 and 372 thereof.

After creation of the State of Madhya Pradesh, the Nagpur High Court was shifted to Jabalpur with effect from 1 November 1956 and rechristened as “High Court of Madhya Pradesh” with its Principal Seat at Jabalpur. The Chief Justice, vide order of the same date, issued in the exercise of powers under Sub-Section 3 of the States Reorganization Act, constituted temporary benches of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Indore and Gwalior. Later, by virtue of Presidential Notification dated 18 November 1968, the President of India, after consultation with the Governor of Madhya Pradesh and the Chief Justice of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, established permanent Benches of the Madhya Pradesh High Court at Indore and Gwalior.

The High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur is functional in the building which was constructed by Raja Gokul Das, grandfather of late Seth Govind Das, former Member of Parliament in the year 1899. This building was designed by Henry Irwin, CIE, PWD in 1886 and completed in 1889 at cost of Rs.3 lacs. The building is constructed in brick-lime with ornamental towers and cornices. The architecture of the building is mixed baroque and oriental. This building was selected and approved for the Principal Seat of the High Court by late Hon’ble Mr. Justice M. Hidayatullaha, the first Chief Justice of the new High Court of Madhya Pradesh.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

In order to contain the spread of Covid infection, special care was taken for cleaning and sanitization of the buildings of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at main seat Jabalpur and Benches at Indore and Gwalior on regular intervals. The entry of public at large including advocates was restricted. Covid Care Centres were established with the team of doctors. Vaccination camps were organized on regular intervals for the vaccination of Judges, Registry Officers and employees and their family members. Till 7 August 2021, 100% Registry Officers were vaccinated with 1<sup>st</sup> dose, whereas 71% Registry Officers were vaccinated with 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. Similarly, 94% of the employees of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh were vaccinated with 1<sup>st</sup> dose, whereas 57% employees were vaccinated with 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. To maintain the norms of social distancing, attendance of the

employees in the Sections was restricted as per the guidelines issued by the Central Government and State Government from time to time. Apart from that, instructions were issued regularly by the Principal Seat Jabalpur for the Officers and employees of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Main Seat Jabalpur and Benches at Indore / Gwalior to follow the Covid protocol / guidelines. Thermal scanning of Officers and employees was done at the entry gate of the premises / building so as to prevent the entry of Covid suspected person. Hearing of the cases was being done virtually to avoid any possibility of spread of infection amongst the Judges, Registry Officers and employees as well as stakeholders.

Under the aegis of M.P. State Legal Services Authority (MPSLSA), numerous Legal Aid, Lok Adalats and awareness activities were held. During the judicial year, 16,860 cases were



*Gwalior Bench of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh*

referred for mediation, out of which 3,164 cases stand successfully settled. 1,023 Awareness camps at District and Tehsil level were conducted. Three (40 hrs.) Mediation Training for 68 participants and 11 (20 hrs.) Community Mediation Training for 157 participants were conducted. 67,788 cases were settled through Lok Adalats, benefitting 1,08,423 stakeholders. Legal Aid was given in 11,020 cases and legal advice was given to 87,548 litigants. 1,206 Legal Aid Clinics are successfully functioning in the State. Juvenile Justice Board organized specialized Camps for children in which 95,945 children were benefited. Under the M.P. Crime Victim Compensation Scheme, 2015, an amount of Rs. 8,93,28,280 was awarded. Special camps were organized for senior citizens, transgender, jail inmates, industrial workers, school / college students etc. 7,542 Legal Literacy Camps were organized in the State through which 3,67,108 people were directly benefited. 1,479 Programmes were held inside the jail campus, through which 1,07,756 jail inmates were benefited.

The M.P. State Judicial Academy (MPSJA) conducted 70 programmes from July 2020 to

June 2021. From January, 2021, the new Training Scheme for Judicial Education and Training came into effect and the programmes were being conducted according to the said Scheme. A Governing Council was constituted to guide and monitor the activities of the MPSJA vide order dated 22 January 2021. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Academy resorted to online methods. The Academy conducted 67 programmes online and three programmes in physical mode. The Academy also conducted Special Institutional Training Course for Civil Judges (Entry Level) in two groups in the Academy. Further, online/virtual programme for sensitizing Judicial Magistrates and Police Officers was conducted by MPSJA in collaboration with the M.P. Police Academy on the basis of Action Plan prepared jointly by both the Academies. In all 1,062 Judicial Officers and 1,609 Police Officers participated in the programme. To mark the culmination of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the existence of Madhya Pradesh State Judicial Academy, the All India State Judicial Academies Directors' Retreat was organized by the Academy on 6 and 7 March 2021 for the Directors and Judges In-charge of



different State Judicial Academies. In the 70 programmes conducted by the MPSJA, 3,705 Judges of the District Judiciary and 4,962 other stakeholders of the justice dispensation system were the beneficiaries.

## Technological Accomplishments

The High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur has taken initiatives for live streaming of court proceedings of the High Court. On pilot basis, live streaming was started from 21 June 2021 in the Court of the Chief Justice. From 28 June 2021 onwards the final live streaming of court proceedings of the High Court has been started. The live streaming of court proceedings are available through website of the High Court using the digital platform “YouTube” and giving benefits to all respective stake holders. As on 30 July 2021, court proceedings of all the Courts are live streamed at High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur and Benches at Indore and Gwalior. e-Sewa Kendra is functional at High Court of M.P., Jabalpur and at Indore Bench and very shortly it will start functioning at Gwalior Bench also. In order to meet the ever increasing demand for listing of cases for hearing, considering the available working judges strength, streamlining the listing procedure, better court case management, ensuring timely disposal, transparency, accountability, consistency, making the process litigant and lawyers friendly and to sub serve the aspirations of the stakeholders, scheme for rationalization of listing of cases before the Benches of the High Court of M.P was conceptualized and introduced at High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur. The principal object of the scheme is to strengthen the Court functioning and make it transparent, rational, responsive and also for enhancing efficiency in docket management especially of Motion Hearing matters for dispensing quality justice to the litigants. Auto generated computer software system ensures listing of cases chronologically and in order of specified priorities coupled with equal distribution of work load amongst the Judges available on day to day basis.

Digitization of approximately 41.39 Lakh files comprising of 16.32 Crore pages has been completed, which is a prelude to paper-less Courts (e-Courts). 1,920 advocates and 136 litigants in person registered for e-filing process from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. 49,533 cases were filed at the High Court of Madhya Pradesh through e-Filing during lockdown. 43,360 cases were filed at the High Court of Madhya Pradesh through e-Filing from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. At District Courts in the State of Madhya Pradesh, e-Filing of 400 cases done as on 30 June 2021.

Facility of sundry deposit and other receipts has been started online in the State of Madhya Pradesh through portal of State Finance Department / Cyber Treasury. e-Payment of Court Fees in the High Court has already commenced. Also, the online payment of various deposits, court fees is made through M.P. Online KIOSK Centres. The facility for making online payment pertaining to court fees, RTI application, copying and other deposits is available with the website of the High Court and State Treasury Department. Integration of Land Records database with CIS software was done under “ease of doing business” project. On 1 March 2021, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur launched “Mobile app” and “pagination software” for all the respective stake holders. The mobile app is compatible with both android and IOS operating system. Virtual hearing and functioning in paper less mode was successfully carried out at High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur and Benches at Indore & Gwalior. Internet Lease Line Connectivity of 500 Mbps was installed which is being used mainly for Video Conferencing (VC) and internet sharing in High Court premises. Recently, an additional 100Mbps Internet Leased Line provided by Railtel for failover and load balancing purposes was also installed. In case of failure of primary internet line, the load is automatically shifted to Railtel line and the functioning of the Courts would not get affected. Document Management System Software was developed for file tracking and compliance of orders.



**Indore Bench of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh**

e-Copying Module is being used for making available the information pertaining to Copying Section of the High Court. SMS services regarding registration of cases, case status, registration of copying and its status are also available for litigants and advocates. Also, the facility to download the scanned paper book is provided to the advocates. There is real time transmission of scanned data/e-Paper book to the office of Advocate General and all Government Departments. Litigants and advocates can access case status including judgments / orders case wise on their mobile sets. An android and apple IOS application is provided on the official website, which can be downloaded and used for viewing of case status. Similar facility has been provided on Digital Display Boards and Kiosks installed in the Court premises. In the judicial year 3,46,882 digitally signed judgments/orders of the High Court were uploaded on the website of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur.

The usage of bulk digital signature was implemented in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh for digital signing of the files / scanned documents and judgments / orders. The digital signing of the documents by the Registry Officers and Section Officers of the High Court has commenced. Also,

the digital signing of Judgments / Orders by the respective PA / PS / Steno of the Court rooms is in practice. Bilingual Official Website of the High Court, District Courts has been developed. The website of Family Courts and State Judicial Academy has also been developed by the High Court team. These dynamic websites with real-time data has been deployed at Madhya Pradesh State Data Center, Bhopal on high end servers. The High Court of Madhya Pradesh purchased 4 state of the art servers for hosting and running the website of the High Court, District Courts, Family Courts & Madhya Pradesh State Judicial Academy, Jabalpur. GPS based digital clocks were installed at High Court of M.P. Information related to service record of all the employees of the High Court including posting details, leave details etc. is available online with the help of the software, Employees Information System (EIS). In-house software has been developed for publication of bi-monthly Journal of State Judicial Academy (JOTI). This is also available online through login-ID to all the Judicial Officers of the State. IT Centre infrastructure has been enhanced in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur to take care of issues related to data replication, data security and mirroring of data. Proper power back-up is

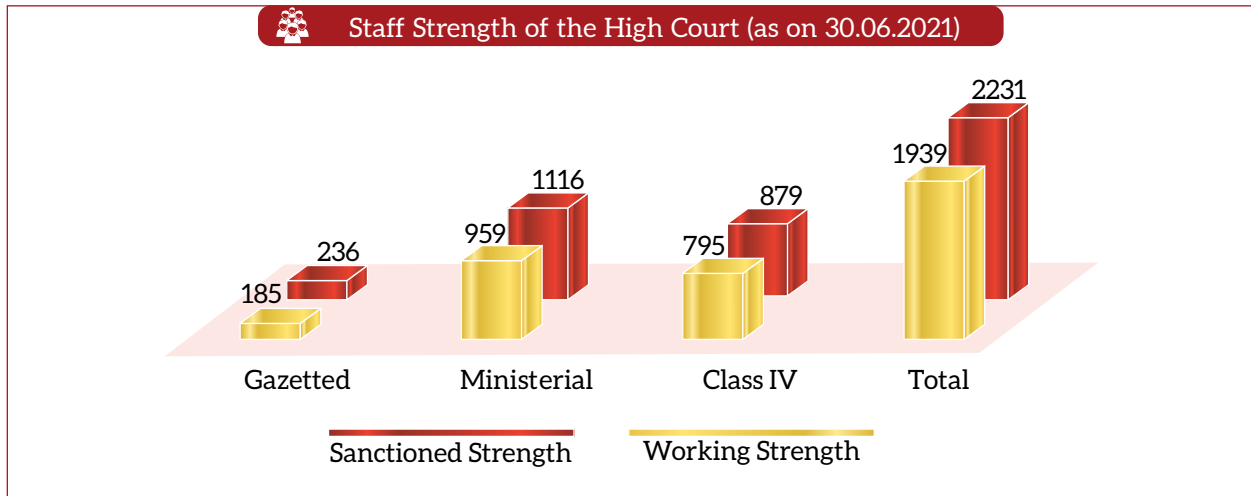
available round the clock bases for running of servers to support online software applications round the clock. High capacity Servers and Storage Devices (SAN & NAS) has been procured by the High Court in order to take care of digitized records of High Court and Subordinate Courts in the State of M.P. and the same has been installed in the Server Room of the High Court. Mirroring of database has been done at State Data Centre, Bhopal, High Court of M.P, Benches at Indore and Gwalior for proper upkeep of database. Dedicated MPLS Network was installed for judiciary which connects all the Districts Courts of Madhya Pradesh with high speed dedicated network.

The facility of dedicated fiber optical connectivity has been provided at the Office of District and Sessions Judge of District Courts and office of Principal Judge, Family Courts in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Implementation of NSTEP with the help of Smart phones at District Courts and Tehsil Courts in the State of Madhya Pradesh has been completed. A Facilitation Counter was developed. Integration of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) (FIR details) is completed at District Courts in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Auto-generated SMS / e-mail services are sent to the registered mobile numbers / email addresses of the advocates and / or litigants intimating default if any, in filing and listing of the cases. The monthly statement of the District Courts is available on the website of the High Court. Case Information System NC 3.2 has been implemented for case management in the Subordinate Courts of Madhya Pradesh (Court Complexes 210/210). The usages of bulk Digital Signature has been implemented at the District Courts also. Approximately 2,543 LAN points have been installed in the judicial year for District Judiciary. On the basis of model rules for Video Conferencing for Courts forwarded by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, "The High Court of Madhya Pradesh Video Conferencing and Audio-Visual Electronic Linkage Rules, 2020" for the High Court of Madhya Pradesh were prepared and notified. Further, for the Subordinate Courts

of the Madhya Pradesh, vide gazette notification dated 20 November 2020 "The District Courts of Madhya Pradesh Video Conferencing and Audio-Visual Electronic Linkage Rules, 2020" were also notified in the official gazette of the Madhya Pradesh. The High Court of Madhya Pradesh is first in the country to extend the Video conferencing facility to all District Hospitals, Juvenile Justice Boards, Railway Courts and Family Courts. Till 30 June 2021 from the funds of the State Government and e-Committee, 1,865 VC systems have been purchased and installed at Districts, Tehsil Courts, Central Jails / District Jails / Sub Jails, District Hospitals, Railway Courts & Juvenile Justice Boards. All the District Court complexes are having VC facility with Central Jails / District Jails / Sub-Jails facilitating transaction of judicial business as regards recording of evidence, judicial remand and to speed-up the trial. Also, the VC is made available with District Hospitals for recording evidence of Doctors from District Hospital itself. 3,40,399 VCs were conducted by High Court of Madhya Pradesh from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. The District Judiciary conducted 4,62,511 number of VCs from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. e-Sewa Kendra have started functioning at District Courts of Bhopal, Dewas, Gwalior, Hoshangabad, Neemuch, Rajgarh, Shajapur, Shivpuri, Sagar, Tikamgarh, Jabalpur, Satna, Damoh, Dindori, Katni, Barwani and Betul. e-Cause List, e-Case Status, e-Judgment and Orders are available on the KIOSK machine installed in the District Courts and on the official website of the District Court. Employees Information System of District Court has been implemented.

e-Mail delivery system has been implemented at District courts for effective communication between High Court and District Courts of Madhya Pradesh. The installation of "AADHAR based Biometrics Attendance Monitoring and Management System" has been done at all the Subordinate Courts in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



**Budget of the High Court\***

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	50,86,76,000	36,84,50,000	28,50,00,000
Non-Plan	1,88,01,90,000	1,75,61,31,000	1,92,38,90,000
Total	2,38,88,66,000	2,12,45,81,000	2,20,88,90,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

**Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases**

**Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)**

Sanctioned Strength of Judges	53
Working Strength of Judges	30

**Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)**

Lowest	24
Highest	31

**Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)**

Cases more than 10 years old	95,696
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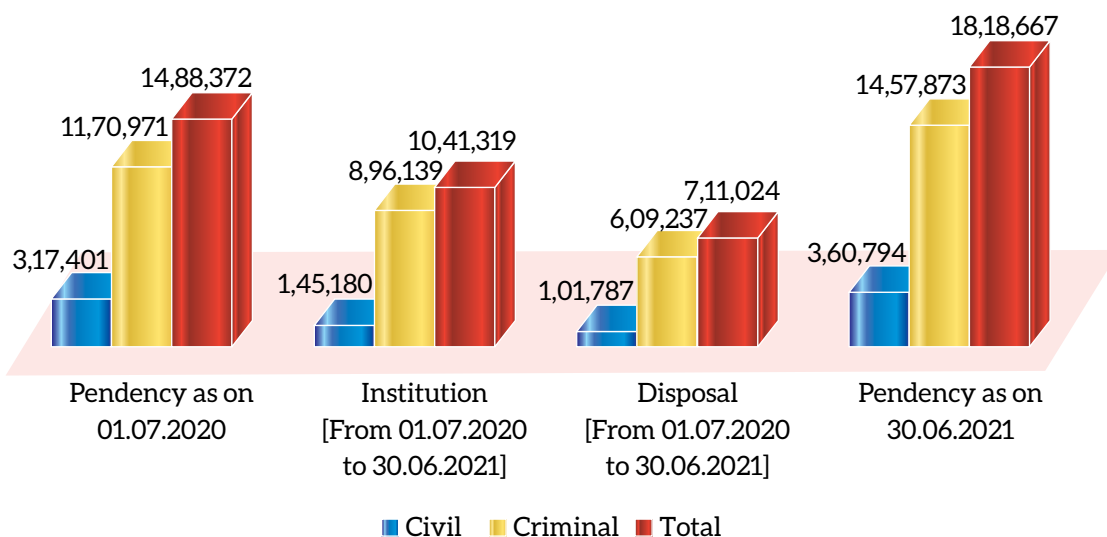
# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

## Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,00,614	25,477	14,362	1,11,729
Company Matters	203	04	01	206
Contempt (Civil)	8,665	2,373	1,024	10,014
Review (Civil)	1,267	1,149	796	1,620
Matrimonial Matters*	3,790	215	80	3,925
Arbitration Matters	797	172	60	909
Civil Revisions	3,625	329	115	3,839
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	2,036	149	150	2,035
Civil Appeals*	52,671	2,056	404	54,323
Land Acquisition Matters	6,422	1,306	404	7,324
MACT Matters	40,421	2,157	1,563	41,015
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	6,961	2,450	1,517	7,894
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,568	1,116	711	1,973
Criminal Revisions	30,626	2,194	737	32,083
Bail Applications	7,884	64,189	61,648	10,425
Criminal Appeals	83,524	2,465	348	85,641
Death Sentence Reference	12	04	0	16
Contempt (Criminal)	33	05	02	36
Misc. Criminal Applications	19,821	7,242	4,098	22,965
Other than above	02	0	0	02

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
2,021



Working Strength  
1,586



Vacancy  
435

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
8,882	18,284	27,166

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# MADRAS High Court



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE MADRAS HIGH COURT\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Duraiswamy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Suresh Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pondicherry Daivasigamani Audikesavalu
Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Raja	Hon'ble Ms. Justice J. Nisha Banu	Hon'ble Ms. Justice R. Tharani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Paresh Ravishanker Upadhyay	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.S. Ramesh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Pongiappan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pazhayanur Narayanan Prakash	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.M. Subramaniam	Hon'ble Ms. Justice R. Hemalatha
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Anita Sumanth	Hon'ble Ms. Justice P.T. Asha
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kandasamy Kalyanasundaram	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Velmurugan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Nirmal Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Vaidyanathan	Hon'ble Dr. Justice G. Jayachandran	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Anand Venkatesh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Mahadevan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.V. Karthikeyan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan
Hon'ble Ms. Justice V.M. Velumani	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.M.T. Teekaa Raman	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishnan Ramasmy
Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Bharathidasan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Sathish Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Saravanan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. Krishnakumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Seshasayee	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Pugalendhi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.S. Sundar	Hon'ble Ms. Justice V. Bhavani Subbaroyan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy
Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Parthiban	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.D. Jagadish Chandira	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. Chandrasekharan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Subramanian	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.R. Swaminathan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.A. Nakkiran
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Govindaraj	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abdul Quddhose	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Veerasamy Sivagnanam
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Sundar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Dhandapani	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ganesan Ilangovan



Hon'ble Ms. Justice Ananthi Subramanian	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Manjula Ramaraju Nalliah	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Vijayakumar
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Kannammal Shanmuga Sundaram	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Thamilselvi T. Valayapalayam	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammed Shaffiq
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sathi Kumar Sukumara Kurup	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sundaram Srimathi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. Sathya Narayana Prasad
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Murali Shankar Kuppuraju	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy	

\*As on 1 November 2021



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The High Court of Judicature at Madras is one of the three chartered High Courts in India and was established by virtue of the Letters Patent dated 26 June 1862, for the Presidency of Madras. In 1953, the erstwhile State of Madras was bifurcated and a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh was established. Subsequently, the jurisdiction of the High Court got extended to Pondicherry with effect from 6 November 1962. The High Court of Madras has its Principal seat at Chennai and a Permanent Bench in Madurai. The High Court of Madras is exercising original jurisdiction over the city of Madras and appellate jurisdiction over the entire State. It has extra-ordinary original jurisdiction, civil and criminal, under the Letters Patent and special original jurisdiction for the issue of writs. The High Court of Madras also has admiralty jurisdiction. The High Court of Madras at Chennai is housed in the heritage building, built in 1892 in Indo-Saracenic architectural style.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

In view of the pandemic, the High Court undertook several measures to ensure overall safety and wellness of all the stakeholders. Special arrangements were made to ensure smooth functioning of the courts. Staff members were directed to attend office on rotation basis with barest minimum strength, not exceeding 50% during the month of April, May and June 2021. Chartered Bus Transportation arrangements were made for the Officers and Staff Members of the

High Court from various parts of the Chennai City and Suburbs. Siddha Medicine “Kabasura Kudineer Powder” was distributed twice in a month to all the Judges, Officers, staff members and to their family members, with the help of Health Department. Homeopathy medicines were distributed twice in a month to all the Judges, Officers, staff members and CISF personnel. Apart from that, vitamin C and zinc tablets were also distributed twice in a month to all the Judges, Officers and staff members. Siddha herbal concoction viz., Kabasura Kudineer, Nilavembu

Kudineer and Adhimathuram Herbal Tea were distributed to the Officers and staff members on daily basis. The staff members were advised to stay at home if they or any of their family members had symptoms of cough, cold, fever or any co-morbidities. Pregnant women staff was also advised to stay at home. Staff members were required to submit online self-certification to the effect that they or any of their family members were not suffering from any Covid symptoms, they were not coming from containment zone, not having co-morbidities, not a pregnant woman or were awaiting result of Covid test. Infected Officers / staff members were taken care of by the High Court through the Nodal Officer, for providing better treatment. 41 Officers and 337 Staff Members of the Registry (including Principal Seat at Madras and Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, Madurai) tested positive for COVID-19. 1 Officer and 7 Staff Members lost their lives due to COVID-19. Arrangements were made by the Registry to have all the Officers and staff members tested for COVID-19, on daily basis. On 10 May 2021, vaccination camp was inaugurated in the Principal Seat at Madras. Vaccination camps were

thus, arranged in the Principal Seat at Madras and Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, Madurai also from time to time for the benefit of advocates, their clerks, Officers, staff members and their family members. 1,315 persons were vaccinated while, 1,304 persons were screened for COVID-19. All the law chambers remained closed from 8 March 2021. From 22 March 2021, odd number law chambers opened on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and even number law chambers opened on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. From 16 April 2021, hearing of cases was done only through virtual mode. Lawyers' chambers and the libraries in all the Bar Associations remained closed.

Further, for effective prevention of Coronavirus in the Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T. of Puducherry, the Chief Justice interacted with the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, the Health Secretary and requested them to issue necessary directions to all District Collectors in the State of Tamil Nadu to coordinate with Principal District Judges for extending necessary support. Screening of all the entrants



in the court campus with thermal scanners was done to identify and isolate the suspected cases as per Covid Protocol. The advocate associations, advocate's chambers, staff and advocate canteens in the court campus were closed. Entry of litigants and general public was restricted in the court premises in order to avoid congestion. All Standard Operating Procedures relating to COVID-19, announced by the Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu from time to time were followed. From 1 May 2021, 50% staff members were permitted on rotation basis and 75% of staff was permitted to work on rotation basis from 28 June 2021. From 17 May 2021 to 31 May 2021, except for remand purposes and other unavoidable matters, all judicial work in the Subordinate Courts had been suspended. Only extremely urgent cases were taken up in the Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T. Puducherry from 1 June 2021. CCTV footage of all the Subordinate Courts were personally monitored by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for giving appropriate directions then and there. Around 6,500 persons have been vaccinated during the vaccination camp conducted inside

the Court premises viz., Judicial Officers, staff, advocates and their family members.

Construction of Conference Hall at the fourth floor in the Judges' Chambers Block has been completed and was inaugurated on 10 March 2021. Buildings accommodating 33 Courts, 17 Judicial Officers Quarters and one Vulnerable and Child Witnesses Court were inaugurated. Foundation stone was laid for construction of 12 Courts, 32 Judicial Officer Quarters and 5 Vulnerable and Child witnesses Court Halls.

Various recruitments of Judicial Officers for district judiciary and staff for the High Court were made. For the posts falling within the Special rules for Tamil Nadu Basic Service (outside the purview of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission) in the Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu, two separate Notifications were issued in each Judicial District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The Principal District Judges were directed to increase the number of sittings of the Juvenile Justice Boards to reduce the pending cases.



*Madurai Bench of the High Court of Madras*

Stern measures were taken to create Child Friendly Rooms for trial of cases under POCSO Act. Further, all the Judicial Magistrates / Metropolitan Magistrates in the State of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry were directed to prepare number tags for the suspects in prisons with no Identification Parade Rooms, so that the victim could avoid physical touch and identify the suspect by referring to the number from a reasonable distance.

During the judicial year 2020-21, the Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authorities / Taluk Legal Services Committees organised 1,632 Lok Adalats including National Lok Adalat. Out of 1,53,909 pending cases taken up, 74,356 cases were settled. In Pre-Litigation 38,732 cases were taken up, out of which 7,445 cases were settled. The Authority and its subordinate committees also organized 11 Prison Adalats wherein 34 prisoners were released.



*Judges' Library*

2,137 Legal Literacy and Awareness Camps were organized on various schemes launched by NALSA for the benefit of around 1.70 lakh villagers / general public. Furthermore, across the State, 141 training programmes for the panel lawyers and 86 Training Programmes for Para Legal Volunteers were conducted. 72 Workshops were conducted for Judicial Officers and Government Officials. 7,451 participants were trained in the above said programmes. 913 old cases (five year and above) were disposed in National Lok Adalats. The Authority also rendered legal assistance to 36,068 needy people. The Union Territory of Puducherry Legal Services Authority and Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Puducherry launched a Pilot Programme for Creation of "Litigation Free village through ADR Mechanism". As Part of this project, UTPLSA conducted a Training Programme for about 50 students of the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Kalapet describing the concept and objectives of the Project. Awareness was created among the law students about their duties / obligations to serve the masses who are ignorant about their rights and remedies under the law. Students conducted door to door campaign in the Kalapet Region in order to publicize / create awareness among the villagers / public about the Legal Services Authority's activities and functions. As part of commemoration of 75<sup>th</sup> years of independence, the Government of India is Celebrating "Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav" in the year 2021. In view of the same, Legal Services Authorities are carrying out various activities during the celebration of Amrut Mahotsav which began from 12 March 2021. UTPLSA organized 159 Legal Awareness Camps/ Legal Literacy Camps. 12,720 persons benefited from these programmes. In Lok Adalats, UTPLSA disposed 3,544 cases and the settled amount is Rs. 24,06,82,622. In mediation, 17 cases were settled during the period under consideration.

During COVID-19 pandemic, the trainers who participated in the Online Orientation Programme conducted 12 Hours Online Mediation Training Programme for 202 Mediators of Tamil Nadu



*Aerial view of Madurai Bench of the High Court*

and Puducherry from 23 to 25 August 2020. In October 2020, Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India issued Accreditation Certificates to 194 Mediators of Tamil Nadu Mediation And Conciliation Centre (TNMCC) on completion of 10 successful mediations. An exclusive website (tnmcc.tn.gov.in) was launched for TNMCC on 15 December 2020. In January, 2021 a newly constructed ADR Building at Madurai Bench of Madras High Court was inaugurated. On 9 April 2021, on the occasion of 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Centre, VII<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Newsletter was released. Out of 8,561 cases referred for mediation, 1,238 cases were settled (both physically as well as online). In the Madras High Court Arbitration Centre, during the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, 12 cases were instituted with a closing pendency of 39 cases. Rental charges and administrative cost were collected for a sum of Rs. 13,38,500. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy conducted all the training programmes virtually. 1 Training Programme was conducted for the Judges of the High Court, 78 Training Programmes were conducted for Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary and 13 Refresher Training Programmes were conducted for staff of

High Court and District Judiciary in virtual mode. 1,540 advocates were imparted refresher training and training in e-courts. 101 Webinar Sessions were conducted at the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy wherein 22,317 participants benefited.

### **Technological Accomplishments**

During the pandemic, the advocates / parties-in-person could select mode of filing cases either through email or physically in the High Court premises. Apart from the fresh admissions, Registry has started listing old cases before the Courts, as per Roster. Court proceedings in the Principal Seat and Madurai Bench of Madras High Court were conducted via Video Conferencing through "Microsoft Teams App". A combination of physical court hearing with virtual court hearing started with effect from 7 September 2020. Physical hearing with an option of virtual / hybrid mode of hearing was allowed from 8 February 2021. Law Officers of Central and State Governments and Standing Counsel for Public Sector Undertakings were allowed to appear through physical mode by strictly following the COVID-19 Protocols and all other advocates / parties-in-person were to appear only through Video Conferencing. During the judicial year, several projects were inaugurated



*Illuminated view of Principal Seat of the High Court*

virtually through Video Conferencing like, Biometric System in District Judiciary, National Service Tracking of Electronic Processes (2906 Nos. of Android phones and SIM card for Process Servers), e-Way Finder to navigate to the required physical location in the Madras High Court, e-Seva Kendra. The in-house Software Team of the Madras High Court developed Norms Software for auto calculation of work done by the Subordinate Judicial Officers from the CIS Software database. The Software was successfully launched initially for the Judicial Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrate (Civil Judge Division) cadre from the month of October 2020. Through this software module the registry can view the Report along with Unit Head Remarks and the same could be placed before the Judges for appraising the Officer's performance. The Registry of the High Court developed web services for implementing the integration of Madras High Court's Case information System (HC-CIS) with Court Cases Monitoring System (CCMS) for the purpose of sharing of court data and documents pertaining to State Government. The pilot testing towards

integration of CIS-CCMS software was completed and tested successfully. "Madras High Court e-filing Rules 2020" was framed and published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette on 18 November 2020.

The Computer Committee conducted several training programmes between January 2021 to April 2021. The Training Programmes included-1<sup>st</sup> Phase (National level TOT Training), 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase (State Level TOT Training) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase (Training the TOT Advocate Master Trainers) for core master trainers (Judicial Officers), Master Trainers and Advocate Master Trainers respectively. 4<sup>th</sup> Phase (Online Advocate Master Training Programme) on "e-Courts Services" was also conducted by 237 Advocate Masters, for advocates, in coordination with the Master Trainer (Judicial Officers). The Programme was live streamed through the YouTube channel on 31 May 2021, the online training programme was viewed by 17,485 viewers. e-Filing facility was implemented initially for bail matters, wherein 246 cases were filed from July

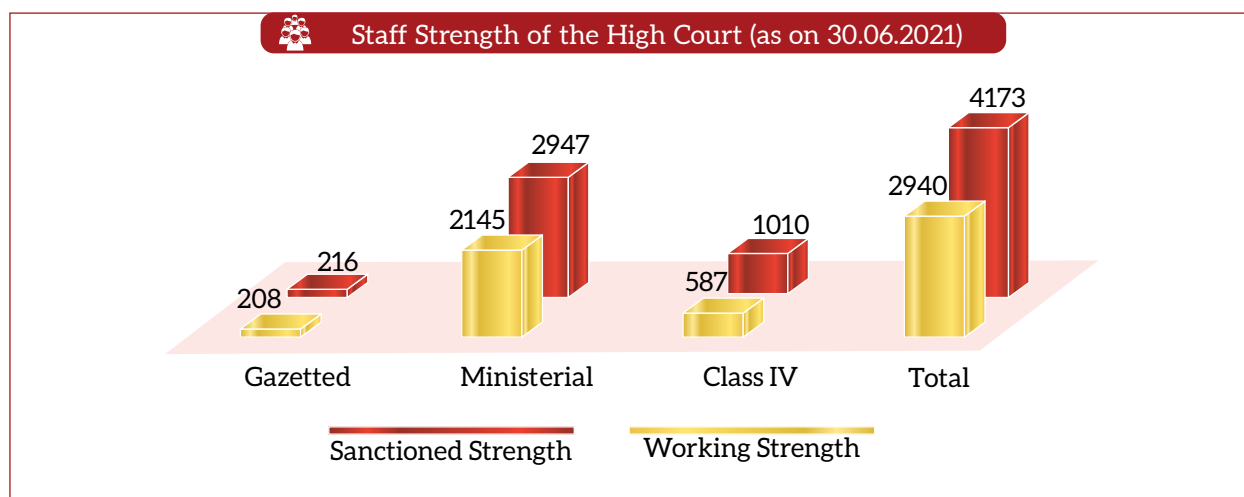


*Chief Justice's Court*

2020 to June 2021 in the Madras High Court and 9,035 cases were filed in the District Courts. All the Judicial Officers in the State Judiciary were directed to use Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS) Mobile application for sharing official communication quickly. As of now, 1,056 Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary have been on-boarded in the GIMS platform (Portal) and verified by the Nodal Officer at High Court. So far as digitization is concerned, 92,26,424 pages have been digitized. As one of the select five High Courts in India to run the pilot project for Digital Preservation of Judicial Records by the Hon'ble Apex Court, the digitization wing aspires to come up with an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) to codify the best practices, procedures and processes for guiding the future course of State Judiciary to claim a firm foothold in digital environment.

As far as the Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T. Puducherry are concerned, with respect to their functioning the Chief Justice periodically interacted with the Principal District Judges regarding limited functioning of Subordinate Courts through Video Conferencing. The advocates and litigants, who did not have access to internet were requested to utilize the services of the e-Seva Centres, run by the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency. These Centres provided assistance to the litigants in relation to Video Conferencing, information about their case status, obtaining orders / judgment copies and case related information. To extend the facility of Hybrid mode of hearing, 1200 Microsoft Team licenses were purchased and provided to all the Judicial Officers in the State of Tamil Nadu.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	2,64,35,29,000	2,80,50,81,000	2,90,92,75,000
Total	2,64,35,29,000	2,80,50,81,000	2,90,92,75,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges **75**

Working Strength of Judges **58**

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest **53**

Highest **63**

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old **34,041**



## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

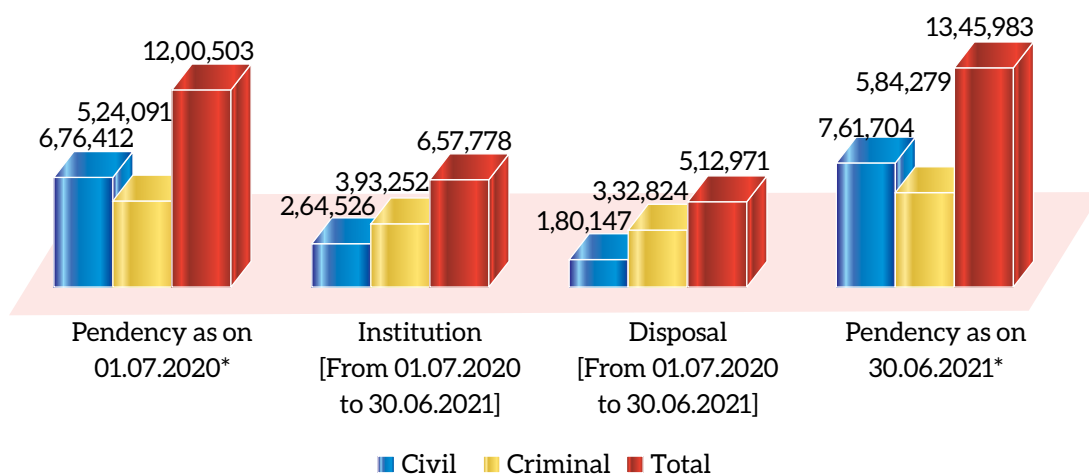
### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,26,654	46,015	44,223	1,28,446
Company Matters	915	0	38	877
Contempt (Civil)	6,456	3,149	3,553	6,052
Review (Civil)	3,637	451	291	3,797
Matrimonial Matters	01	0	0	01
Arbitration Matters*	567	455	552	833
Civil Revisions	17,482	3,873	7,072	14,283
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	6,182	684	1,794	5,072
Civil Appeals	6,488	2,550	1,916	7,122
Land Acquisition Matters	6,994	2,246	1,972	7,268
MACT Matters	8,537	1,988	3,689	6,836
Civil Suits (Original Side)	5,226	470	1,781	3,915
Other than above	52,636	8,138	7,715	53,059
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,670	4,098	3,738	2,030
Criminal Revisions	4,894	1,963	1,875	4,982
Bail Applications	1,805	16,168	14,594	3,379
Criminal Appeals	4,725	1,077	619	5,183
Death Sentence Reference	07	05	05	07
Contempt (Criminal)	0	0	0	0
Misc. Criminal Applications	52,413	20,255	20,314	52,354
Other than above	14,671	26,292	28,674	12,289

\*Arbitration Applications u/s 9 are being numbered separately from June 2021 and physical verification is underway

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



\* Pendency as on 01.07.2020 and Closing balance as on 30.06.2021 modified by the High Court after physical verification

### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
1,338



Working Strength  
1,052



Vacancy  
286

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
25,186	20,450	45,636

**16**

High Court of  
**MANIPUR**



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR\*

### Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. V. Sanjay Kumar, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lanusungkum Jamir

Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.V. Muralidaran

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Khwairakpam Nobin Singh

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Manipur was the last of the independent States to be incorporated into British India, when in 1891, it became a princely State under British rule. It merged with the Union of India in the year 1949 and became a Part C State. It was made a Union Territory in 1956. The Manipur Courts Act, 1955, was enacted by the Parliament and the Court of Judicial Commissioner, the precursor to the High Court, came to be established along with other Courts. After Manipur attained Statehood, the Court of Judicial Commissioner was abolished. Manipur was included within the territorial jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court and the Imphal Bench of the Gauhati High Court was established on 21 January 1972. A permanent Bench of the High Court became functional from the year 1992. On 23 March 2013, with the establishment of the High Court of Manipur, the State came to have its own separate High Court.



### INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

#### Administrative Achievements

As was the case in the rest of the country, normal life and activities in the State of Manipur were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-21. Consistent with the policy and measures adopted by the State Government to contain the spread of the pandemic, the High Court of Manipur has been issuing notifications from time to time since March 2020, restricting and regulating Court functioning and also the

listing and hearing of court cases. The beginning of July 2020, saw a gradual improvement in the COVID-19 situation and by 8 July 2020, the working hours of all Courts, which were restricted till 1 p.m. were lengthened up to 4.00 p.m. Courts were instructed to conduct the cases through Video-Conferencing (VC) as far as practicable and resort to physical hearing, by maintaining strict Covid-19 protocols only if VC was not possible. The High Court and the District Courts briefly resumed physical hearing of court cases from 20

March 2021 but could continue with the same only till the end of April 2021. All through, cases were permitted to be filed through email both in the High Court and the District Courts. Earlier, from 5 April 2021 onwards, as the situation appeared to have improved, the High Court started listing cases that were lying dormant with the objective of bringing back on track all such undated cases. However, with the onslaught of the second wave and the gradually worsening situation, the State Government imposed new restrictions from 29 April 2021 on the free movement of people, except for permitted activities. Incidentally, Manipur was amongst the States afflicted with high positivity rates during the second wave. The High Court also, following the Government's orders, issued notifications suspending the normal functioning of the High Court and District Courts and the hearing of cases. Urgent cases and cases involving life and liberty issues were however taken up and heard on request by the parties / counsel. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the High Court and Subordinate Courts conducted proceedings mostly through VC. Between 15 April 2020 and 31 July 2021, a total of 13,329 cases in the High Court and 5,214 cases in the District Courts respectively were conducted through VC. Till 30 June 2021, the High Court had disposed of 899 cases, mostly after hearings through VC, while the District Courts disposed of 1483 cases. On the request of the High Court, the State Health Society (NHM) Manipur, earmarked the RD Wing, Medical Directorate, Lamphelpat, for vaccination of High Court Officers and Staff on working days starting from 1 June 2021. Moreover, Disaster Management Committees, at the levels of the High Court and the Subordinate Courts, were constituted on 31 May 2021 and a draft Disaster Management Plan of the High Court of Manipur was prepared and shared with the Department of Justice on 1 July 2021. Unfortunately, the High Court did suffer some casualties. While as many as eighteen employees got infected and recovered, three of the staff members succumbed to the complications of COVID-19.

During the judicial year, various rules like, The High Court of Manipur (Appointment, Duties & Conditions of Service of Law Assistants) Rules, 2020; Retired Chief Justices and Retired Judges of the High Court of Manipur (Assistance and Facilities) Rules, 2020; High Court of Manipur Officers and Employees Recruitment and Condition of Service (Classification, Control, Appeal and Conduct) Rules, 2020; The High Court of Manipur Employees (Annual Confidential Report) Rules, 2020; Manipur State Mediation Rules, 2021; Rules for Discretionary Grant by the Chief Justice, 2021 and Manipur Judicial Service (Confidential Reports) Rules, 2021 were notified. Recruitment to the posts of MJS Grade - I & III Officers and Law Assistants (Contract) was made. Recruitment of Court Attendants and Private Secretaries is under way. Several promotions, re-employment, regularisation of officiating appointees / promotees were also done during the period under consideration. The induction training for MJS Grade - I (Direct Recruit) officers was concluded on 15 April 2021 and the induction training for MJS Grade - III officers, started on 22 February 2021 and is still in progress. The High Court of Manipur has been making proposals to the State Government to provide court buildings and residential units in the districts. In pursuance of the same, the State Government allocated funds for constructions of District Court buildings at Senapati, Kakching and Noney. Rs. 9 crore was allocated in the Revised Estimate of 2020-21 and Rs. 21 crore was allocated in the Budget Estimate of 2021-22. For the construction of Manipur Judicial Academy at Pangei, the Government allocated Rs. 5 crore in the Revised Estimate of 2020-21 and Rs. 10 crore in the Budget Estimate of 2021-22. The construction of the District Judge's residence at Churachandpur was completed under the CSS fund. The construction of Canteen for staff, lawyers and litigants at Lamphel Court Complexes was completed under the 14th Finance Commission fund. Apart from that, renovation of two court halls and other rooms for the two Fast Track Special Courts for Rape and POCSO cases at Cheirap Court Complex and Lamphel

Court Complex was also completed. Temporary infrastructure arrangement of court halls, staff rooms, Judge's residence and staff quarters for the District Judge and the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Tamenglong was initiated. The designs and estimates submitted by the State Planning and Development Authority for the construction of District Court Complexes at Senapati, Kakching and Noney; a single Court building and Judge's residence at Mao were approved by the High Court. The design and estimate submitted by State PWD for construction of the Compound Wall and the Main Gate of Manipur Judicial Academy at Pangei were also approved by the High Court and the tender is in process. The State Government also allocated land for construction of Court Complexes at Kakching, Senapati and Mao. The Annual Plan (2021-22) under the scheme and guidelines of CSS and the Five Year Plan (2021-26) for District and Subordinate Courts Infrastructure Development and requirements have been submitted to the State Government.

Adapting to the unprecedented situation during this period, the Manipur Legal Services Authority (MASLSA) evolved ways and means to meet the challenges in rendering its institutional services inspite of the restrictions of COVID-19 protocols.

A total of 184 legal aid seekers were provided panel lawyers. 4,717 legal aid seekers were provided legal advice / counselling and 20, 279 persons were provided other services, such as help / assistance provided to the beneficiaries for availing the benefits of Central / State Government Schemes such as Aadhar Card / MNREGA / Widow Pension and distribution of essential materials due to COVID-19 pandemic etc., reaching to a total number of 25,180 direct beneficiaries. Overall, 45,774 persons attended Legal Awareness Programmes and around 17,32,099 persons were reached out through 383 physical as well as virtual mode Legal Awareness Programmes. (Virtual mode included awareness programmes through TV, Radio, Webinars through meeting apps such as Jitsi Meet and social media platforms like Youtube and Facebook). Focus areas of the awareness programmes included observation of important days, Jan Andolan Campaign; One Year-long Constitution Day Campaign focusing on fundamental rights and duties of citizens; Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsav, focusing on legal aid and literacy for tribal population; Early access to justice at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stages; Legal services to prisoners; Right to food as per PMGKY; NFSA Act, 2013; COVID-19 appropriate behaviours and responses; Issues of drug addiction



*Aerial view of the High Court*



*ADR Centre in Manipur*

and rehabilitation; Manipur Victim Compensation Scheme; Cyber Safety; Legal rights of women and children and others.

During July 2020 to June 2021, 2 Special Lok Adalats were held on 2 and 29 September 2020. Two National Lok Adalats were held on 12 December 2020 and 10 April 2021. Due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, these two Lok Adalats were held online. In total, 33 pending cases and 375 pre-litigation cases were settled amicably with the settlement amount of Rs. 6,70,76,469 only. Certain legal services for prisoners were enhanced- Development of Prisoner Database Management Portal, constitution of a High-powered Committee, as per the direction from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, resulting in decongestion of jails; introduction of video conferencing facilities, upgradation of medical inspection room & distribution of Medi-kits reaching out to 582 inmates in the two jails of Manipur, as per the directives of Hon'ble Executive Chairman of the Manipur SLSA. During the period under consideration, a total of 71 suspects were provided legal assistance at pre-arrest stage at police stations and after intervention, 22 suspects

were not arrested by the police. 123 arrestees were provided legal assistance at the police stations, before their production in the Courts and 331 arrestees were provided legal assistance at remand stage. 79 bail applications were filed at the remand stage, out of which, in 69 cases bail was granted. Further, as a part of the Campaign to prevent unnecessary arrest & detention in the State, Manipur SLSA in collaboration with Manipur Police Department, Government of Manipur and the District Legal Services Authorities installed hoardings enumerating the rights of persons at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stages, at conspicuous places in all the Police Stations as well as Court Complexes of Manipur for generating awareness of the NALSA's Early Access to Justice Protocol. Webinars, TV talk shows, capacity building programmes on the theme were also organised for all stakeholders, such as Police Officers, Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), general public etc. 3 legal aid and legal services camps were organised, directly benefiting 429 persons. 1,175 persons participated in the said camps wherein legal advice was given to them. India's first online refresher course on

mediation was successfully conducted. 5 new ADR Centres were inaugurated in 5 new districts to strengthen & encourage institutional mediation in the State. Online mediation was introduced and Manipur's first online mediation was also held successfully. 22 cases were disposed of out of the 77 cases referred for mediation. 29 online capacity building programmes for stakeholders, such as Judicial Officers, Police personnel, Legal Services functionaries, Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) members, District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), Child Welfare Committee (CWCs) members and Counsellors for Child Care Institutions (CCIs) were held.

During the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the role of legal services institutions has become more

important and all the Legal Services functionaries in the State were constantly striving to ensure that justice is made accessible in these unprecedented times. In order to ameliorate the situation, a broad range of legal services are being provided by the legal services institutions to the needy, including victims of domestic violence, daily wagers, tenants, under-trials, convicts, migrants and other marginalized sections of the society. Few of the steps taken included strengthening of the functioning of legal helpline nos., wide dissemination of legal aid helpline nos. as well as strengthening of the functioning of front offices in order to provide effective legal aid & assistance for vulnerable women and children amidst the pandemic. Project Hope & Care in times of COVID-19 pandemic: Introduction of





legal awareness, capacity building programmes, webinars, painting, essay & debate competitions through digital modes, development of posters & videos for legal awareness through social media & TV platforms for outreach purposes. There has been complete paradigm shift in the functioning of the Manipur SLSA. Optimum use of electronic as well as social media platforms for legal awareness programmes, legal aid / assistance was made. Further, for the first time in Manipur, online pre-litigation mediation was also introduced by the Manipur SLSA. In direct assistance to COVID-19 pandemic affected poor and needy persons, tribals, migrant workers, around 8,361 persons were assisted by distribution of essential items by the Legal Services Functionaries in collaboration with stakeholders, such as District Administration,

local Clubs, NGOs etc. Awareness-cum-interactive programmes at children's homes were organized, reaching out to 290 children, housed at CCIs, on the topic 'Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Coping with challenges posed by COVID-19 etc'. Panel lawyers are deputed to each One Stop Centre in all the districts of Manipur in order to provide legal aid and assistance to vulnerable women, especially women victims of domestic violence. Jan Andolan Campaign was held for COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

As part of Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav, a total of 8 legal awareness programmes were organised through webinars as well as TV channels especially for tribal population of the State, reaching out to around 15,000 tribal population.



*Panoramic view of the High Court*

Broad topics included NALSA's (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme 2015; Right to Education of Children and Free and Competent Legal Aid for SCs/STs; The Manipur Village Authorities in Hill Areas Act, 1956; Laws relating to women and wildlife protection, Environment Protection Act, 1986, Legal Rights of Women and Crime Against Women & Children, Right to Education of Children, Free and competent legal aid for SCs/STs. An outreach project to empower Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) was initiated by the Manipur State Legal Services Authority. The objective was to build the capacities of child care providers in the State for effective responses to CNCP & CCL. The project was initiated in collaboration with SAMVAD-Support Advocacy & Mental Health Interventions for Children in Vulnerable Circumstances & Distress- A National Initiative & Integrated Resources for Child Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Care, situated in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, located in the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore (NIMHANS). As a part of the project, a 63 hours online capacity building programme was successfully completed for 20 JJB members of Manipur on Mental Health and Psychosocial considerations in Juvenile Justice. Further, a 4-day residential capacity building programme for 50 Counsellors of CCIs and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) from various districts across Manipur on the topic 'Child Psychosocial & Mental Health Care' was also successfully organised in collaboration with Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Manipur, and SAMVAD. Capacity programmes for 39 PLVs were also conducted on the POCSO Act as well as interceptive steps to be taken by the PLVs in the event of apprehension of a CCL. A Project for empowering widows was initiated by Manipur SLSA. 736 widows were identified, of whom 450 widows attended the awareness-cum-interaction program organised by MASLSA, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders such as MSRLM, PRDA, CSDO etc, for their livelihood

support. Further, 120 widows showed willingness to join SHG/JLG under the relevant stakeholders for their livelihood support. As a new initiative, the MSLSA launched a new project titled 'Break the Silence', a project to empower women on the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March 2021. On the said day, the Manipur SLSA supported ETA: Northeast Women's Network as one of the event-partners in organizing a historic event to honour 'Women of Substance' of Manipur, where 30 women achievers from different walks of life in Manipur were honoured at the historic Ima Market. Further, a Legal Aid and Healthcard Enrolment Camp, especially for women, was also organised with the participation of more than 800 women, directly benefiting 127 women by enrolling healthcards. Awareness on 'Free Legal Aid and Services' was also provided with distribution of posters and pamphlets. For differently-abled persons, DLSA, Churachandpur started a Project- Helping Hands. This initiated intensive support and generated awareness for differently-abled persons in accessing welfare schemes. DLSA, Churachandpur also initiated the first ever literature fest for students, reaching out to students of Churachandpur district in the month of November 2020.

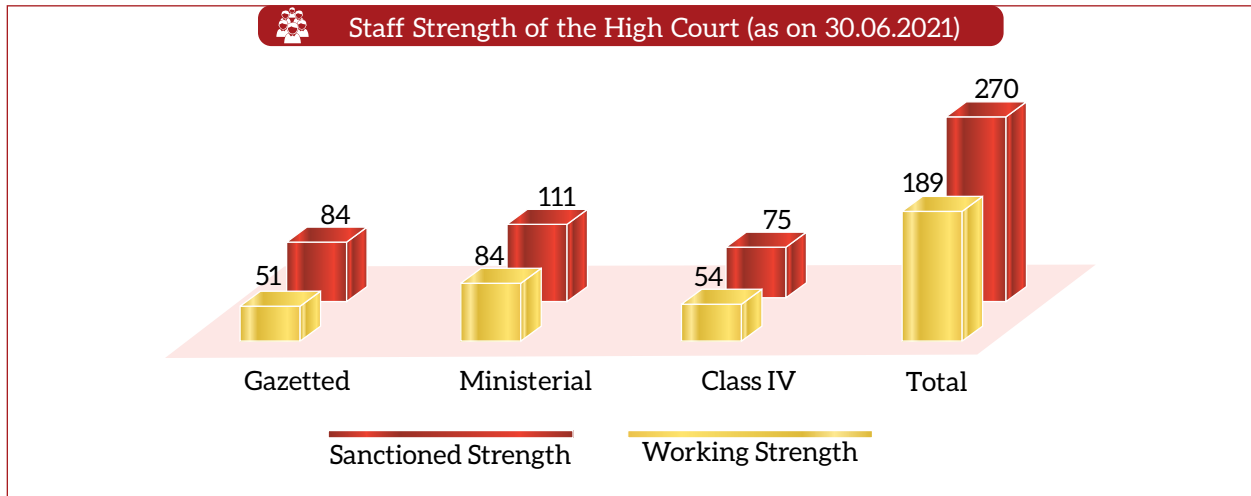
Manipur SLSA, in collaboration with Cyber Crime Police Station/ CID (CB), Manipur Police Department, Govt. of Manipur, initiated a yearlong Cyber Safety Campaign- Manipur Chapter, starting from the month of June 2021. As a part of the campaign, animated videos were developed in-house on topics, such as cybercrime (Web Phishing) & Revenge Porn, Victim Shaming and Cyber bullying and widely shared through social media platforms. Webinars for students, community leaders, local clubs, legal services functionaries were also organised. During this period, the Manipur Judicial Academy (MJA) conducted 20 training programmes, which included online training during COVID-19 pandemic, for stakeholders such as Judicial Officers, Public Prosecutors, Advocates, Police, Law Graduates and members of JJBs.

## Technological Accomplishments

BSNL MPLS WAN connectivity under e-Courts Project Phase-II has reached all the 15 Court Complexes in the State. Under the Scanning and Digitization Project, as on 28 April 2021, a total number of 36,72,802 pages of case records of the High Court and District Courts have been scanned and verified. During the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively, 927 kg and 171.6 kg of e-Waste were disposed of by the High Court, as per the e-Waste (Management) Rules 2016. Digital Signature Certificates (DSC) with tokens were procured for all the 15 Private Secretaries to the Judges of the High Court for appending Digital

Signatures in the Judgments and Orders of the Court. Similarly, DSC with tokens for 43 Judicial Officers have been procured for appending Digital Signatures to the Judgments and Orders of the Subordinate Courts. Under Phase-II of the e-Courts Project, the following procurements were completed: 46 laptops for Judicial Officers, 17 external hard disks for District Courts, 15 Diesel Generator sets for the District Courts and one for the Manipur Judicial Academy. Eight Rack Servers and 10 Pedestal Servers were also procured. Further, the installation of LAN for Manipur Judicial Academy, DLSAs and District Courts was also completed.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



**Budget of the High Court\***

	2019-2020**	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	23,85,36,000	54,51,40,000	58,51,40,000
Total	23,85,36,000	54,51,40,000	58,51,40,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

**Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases**

**Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)**

Sanctioned Strength of Judges	5
Working Strength of Judges	5

**Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)**

Lowest	5
Highest	5

**Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)**

Cases more than 10 years old	64
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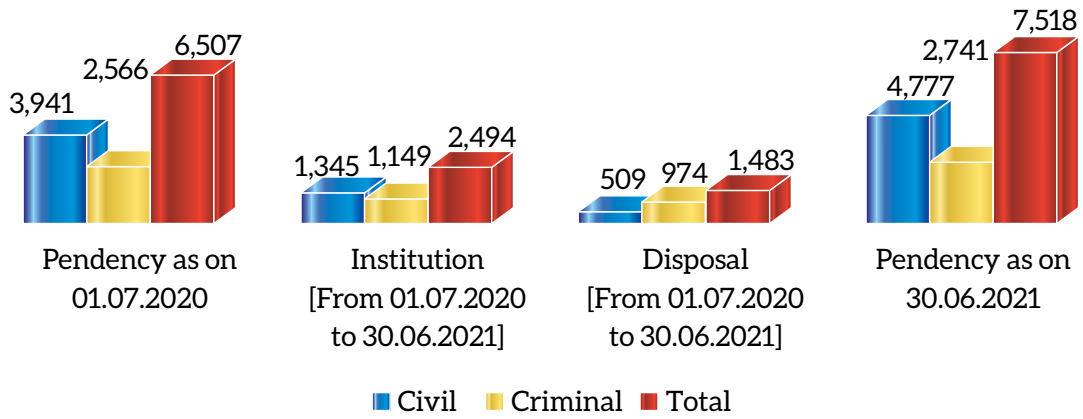
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,666	874	507	2,033
Company Matters	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Civil)	263	103	69	297
Review (Civil)	24	23	20	27
Matrimonial Matters	21	03	01	23
Arbitration Matters	03	05	03	05
Civil Revisions	20	0	0	20
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	0	0	0	0
Civil Appeals	106	05	06	105
Land Acquisition Matters	04	0	0	04
MACT Matters	06	0	0	06
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	285	142	115	312
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	10	11	11	10
Criminal Revisions	29	19	07	41
Bail Applications	15	32	16	31
Criminal Appeals	73	27	06	94
Death Sentence Reference	02	01	0	03
Contempt (Criminal)	04	04	01	07
Misc. Criminal Applications	178	131	105	204
Other than above	75	52	22	105

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
59



Working Strength  
42



Vacancy  
17

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
168	119	287

17

# High Court of MEGHALAYA



# HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA\*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjit Vasantryo More, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hamarsan Singh Thangkiew

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Wanlura Diengdoh

\*As on 1 November 2021



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The High Court of Meghalaya was established as separate High Court on 23 March 2013 with its seat at Shillong. Earlier, as a bench of the Gauhati High Court it had jurisdiction over the State of Meghalaya. Despite the fact that the High Court of Meghalaya is still in a nascent stage, it has successfully separated the Judiciary from the Executive in all the 11 districts of the State. The High Court of Meghalaya vide its notification on 4 May 2016 also established the State Judicial Academy which is very efficiently training the newly inducted Judicial Officers and providing refreshers course to other Judicial Officers. Furthermore, it is also providing continuous education to other professionals associated with the court and undertaking research projects.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the High Court of Meghalaya undertook measures to ensure overall safety and wellness of stakeholders and duty holders. Special arrangements were made to ensure smooth functioning of the court and create awareness about spread of infection and for strict compliance of covid appropriate behaviors among the staff and the Judges. In this connection precautionary measures were taken which included regular thermal screening, keeping of sanitizer dispensers at the entrance and different locations of the building. In addition, the High Court of Meghalaya building and its premises was sanitized weekly and the court rooms were also sanitized. The other measures taken by the High

Court included screening of High Risk contact by RAT and RTPCR testing wherever applicable. A vaccination drive was also conducted at the High Court premises.

The judicial year 2020-21 saw the completion of the process of separation of the Executive from the Judiciary resulting in the creation of 11 judgeships in all the 11 districts with 3 judgeships inaugurated during the period under consideration. Separation of Judiciary from the Executive and inauguration of the Court of District and Sessions Judge at East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat was effected on 12 August 2020. The said Court at Khliehriat will function from the temporary Court complex until completion of the permanent court building. Total area of the permanent court complex is about





3.13 acres (approx.). An additional land of about 3 acres meant for construction of Judicial Officers quarters has been allotted recently. Further, inauguration of the Courts of District and Sessions Judge at North Garo Hills District, Resubelpara and District and Sessions Judge at South Garo Hills District, Baghmara was effected on 2 September 2020 and on 17 December 2020, respectively. Both the Courts will be functioning from the temporary court complexes until completion of the permanent court buildings. Construction of permanent court building and residential quarters for the Judicial Officers of the Court of District and Sessions Judge at North Garo Hills District, Resubelpara is under progress in a land with an area of 7.32 acres allotted for the said purpose. 5.49 acres of land has also been allotted for construction of a permanent court complex and residential quarters for the Judicial Officers of the Court of District and Sessions Judge at South Garo Hills District, Baghmara and the work has

started. On 16 October 2020, foundation stones for the permanent buildings of Sub-Divisional Court at Dadenggre and Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre at Dakopgre, West Garo Hills District, Tura were laid. On 4 November 2020, foundation stone for the permanent building of Observation Home (Boys and Girls) at Tebronggre, West Garo Hills District was laid. Construction of the Permanent Court Buildings and Residential Quarters in the Subordinate Courts is going on in Jowai, Ampati, Mawkyrwat, Khliehriat, Baghmara, Resubelpara, Amlarem Sub-Division, Dadenggre Sub-Division, Sohra Sub-Division and Mairang Sub-Division. At present, the construction work of the annexe building of the High Court of Meghalaya is also under progress in a land covering 1.22 acres.

Although the onset of pandemic brought many things to a standstill however, the State Legal Services Authority under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority and in coordination with the District Legal Services Authorities, the High Court Legal Services Committee has been working continuously towards ensuring that legal aid / services is accessible to all. During the year 2020-21, numerous awareness programmes and trainings were carried out. Chief among these included- Awareness Programmes on Mental Health and Psycho Social Support, accessing Justice to convicts in Prisons, Sensitization Programme to the Police Department, Poverty Alleviation Scheme and Para Legal Volunteer Scheme, Fundamental Duties & Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Sensitization Programme against discrimination to HIV patients, Advocacy Meeting on Human Right, Health Rights, Legal Issue & Social Protection Scheme for PL HIV, Awareness in Child Friendly Services to children and their protection. Apart from this, the State Legal Services Authority also organized vaccination drive for all its staffs, panel lawyers, Para Legal Volunteer (PLVs) and to all the members at the level of the District Court. In addition to this, avenues such as the Social Media and F.M. Radio were utilised in order to ensure that there is widespread awareness regarding the services provided by the Legal Services Authorities. Further, in the backdrop of the COVID-19

pandemic, online training was conducted in almost all the training programmes except those programmes requiring practical approach like the e-Court Services, which were done by taking all necessary care and precautionary steps to ensure safety of all the participants. The Meghalaya State Judicial Academy has a training capacity of 20-25 trainees. The number of courses conducted during the year 2021 were 21 of which 4 programmes were conducted physically in the Academy. In all there were 826 participants of which 26 attended physically in the Academy.

## Technological Accomplishments

Information & Communication Technology (ICT) plays an important role in the Judiciary in enhancing judicial productivity both qualitatively and quantitatively and also make the justice delivery system affordable, accessible, cost effective, transparent and accountable. The process of knowledge sharing is significantly being enhanced through the integrated approach of ICT. For its effective implementation in the Courts, ICT infrastructure have been provided under e-Courts as well as by the State Government. Software applications such as Unified Core Case Information System, Payroll, Koha, Online Recruitment Application, Online Certified Application are also being implemented. Other applications such as File Tracking System, e-Directory, TechNoPaper (paperless court) and Digital Signature module were also developed.

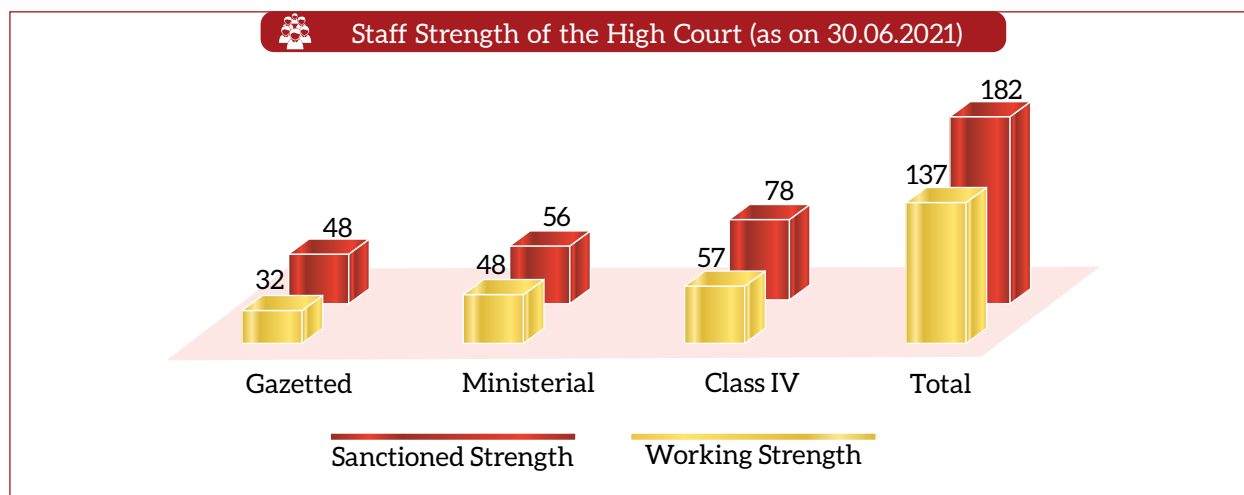
With the use of Information Technology (IT) for case management, the efficiency of judicial functions is also being enhanced. Now, with the implementation of CIS, the data of High Court and District Courts (except Mawkyrwat, Khliehriat, Resubelpara) are being replicated and updated on a daily basis to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). Lawyers and litigants can access the causelist, case status, next date of listing, orders, judgments, on-going cases in the court rooms electronically. The status of cases is also being

pushed via SMS update. Further, information on the status of certified copies application to the lawyers is also being pushed through SMS and Email. The mobile application of the High Court of Meghalaya was e-launched through Video Conferencing on the 10 February 2021. Mobile Application for High Court disseminates information such as Causelist, Display Board for court proceedings, Filing / Defect Status, Certified Copy Application, Judgments / Orders, Free Text Search. The mobile app is now available in App Store and Play Store. For management and maintenance of ICT tools, a dedicated team of technical manpower is available in High Court and Subordinate Courts. To ensure that infrastructure, hardware and day-to-day issues relating to computerization are taken care of, Computer Committees are in place at the High Court level as well as also at the Subordinate level. At the district level, it performs the overall monitoring of the project implementation in the district and also work in close co-ordination with the Central Project Coordinator. For imparting ICT training, services of the District System Administrator (DSA's), System Administrators (SA's), Technical Officers, Staffs, Ubuntu-cum-CIS Master Trainers, CIS Master Trainers, VC Master Trainer, Project management are being utilized on a regular basis by the Meghalaya State Judicial Academy. The training on e-filing and e-Courts Services have also been extended to the Bar and Master Trainers from among the advocates have been nominated who will in turn train the others. The services of the Technical Officers / Staff in the High Court have also been utilized in developing/ customizing in-house software applications for use in office. State Judicial Academy conducts regular training and interaction sessions among the Judicial Officers & staff to enhance the knowledge on Information and Communication Technology. E-Sewa Kendra is also set up at High Court and Court Complexes at Shillong, Nongpoh and Sohra which functions as a one stop center for accessing all e-Courts project related services and utilities for the benefit of the litigants and members of the Bar.

As part of e-Courts Project, all Court Complexes except for Mawkyrwat, Resubelpara, Baghmara, Khliehriat were provided with hardware for Video Conferencing (VC) including Lease Circuit Connectivity and for District Jails connectivity. The High Court of Meghalaya (Video Conferencing) Rules 2020 were notified on 30 September 2020 which shall be applicable to such court proceedings or classes of courts or proceedings. All Judicial Officers have been provided with a Vidyo connect account so as to enable them to use the software for conducting cases proceedings through Video Conferencing.

ICJS (Interoperable Criminal Justice System) is in the process of implementation in District Court, Shillong. ICJS provides courts with the ability to exchange data in real time with the police authorities. With the implementation of ICJS, District Courts can fetch the data of FIRs and Chargesheet from CCTNS software used by the police authorities of the State which significantly reduces the data entry required for filing and registration of criminal cases as information is directly pulled from the records of police authorities.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	15,63,34,000	24,42,30,000	17,07,00,000
Total	15,63,34,000	24,42,30,000	17,07,00,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges 4

Working Strength of Judges 4

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest 4

Highest 4

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old 1

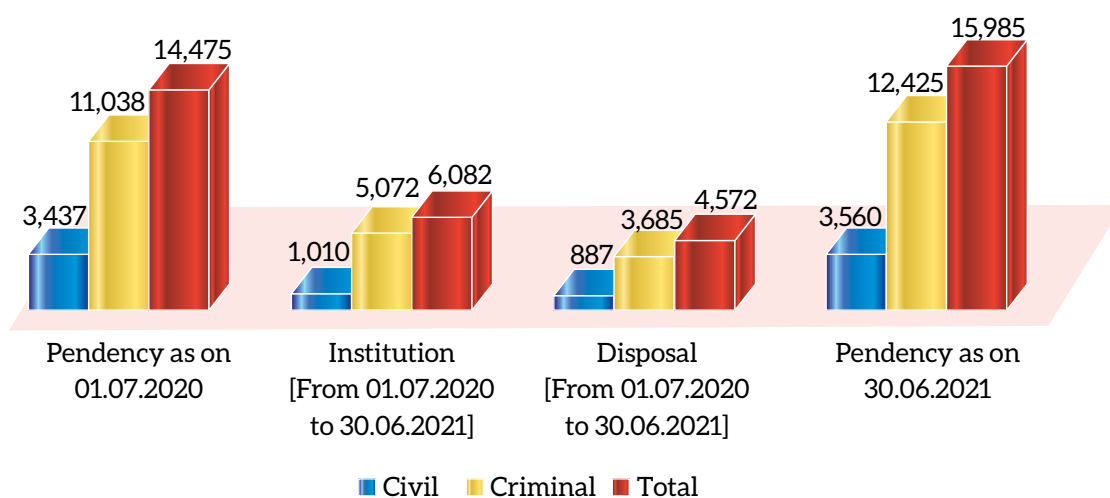
# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

## Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	555	476	364	667
Company Matters	02	0	0	02
Contempt (Civil)	32	36	43	25
Review (Civil)	04	0	0	04
Matrimonial Matters	01	0	0	01
Arbitration Matters	01	0	01	0
Civil Revisions	46	39	44	41
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	0	0	0	0
Civil Appeals	104	34	38	100
Land Acquisition Matters	25	11	08	28
MACT Matters	02	02	0	04
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	35	18	28	25
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	01	07	06	02
Criminal Revisions	06	09	06	09
Bail Applications	05	61	66	0
Criminal Appeals	37	15	12	40
Death Sentence Reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Criminal)	01	0	0	01
Misc. Criminal Applications	16	25	15	26
Other than above	25	47	25	47

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
99



Working Strength  
51



Vacancy  
48

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
440	1,321	1,761

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# High Court of ORISSA



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA\*

Hon'ble Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jaswant Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Saturghana Pujahari	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Savitri Ratho
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chitta Ranjan Dash	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswanath Rath	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswajit Mohanty	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Radha Krishna Pattanaik
Hon'ble Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sashikanta Mishra
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arindam Sinha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Debabrata Dash	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

In exercise of the powers under Section 113 of the Government of India Act, 1915, the King of England issued Letters Patent constituting High Court of Patna, and Orissa was placed under its jurisdiction. It was not until 1 April 1936 that the new province of Orissa came into existence, but no separate High Court was created for the State. Orissa High Court was inaugurated on 26 July 1948. Constructed in 1914. The old building of the High Court flaunts an idiosyncratic old school architectural design housing ten Court Halls and Chambers of the Judges. Prior to the establishment of High Court, the Circuit Court of High Court of Patna was functioning in the same building. The Tower along with Conference Hall in the Central Wing of the building was constructed in 1967-68, surrounded by the fountains, lush green lawns and flower gardens present a picturesque panorama. Subsequently, the need for expansion of the building led to the construction of first extension building followed by another. Due to paucity of space, a multi storied building was erected in 2014 with provisions for 25 Court Halls with Chambers of Judges, Conference Hall, Judges' Lounge etc. 2018 witnessed the completion of a new Block that accommodates the Administrative Sections, a Bank, Dispensaries and a Post Office.





## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

Several preventive measures were taken by the Orissa High Court to fight COVID-19 pandemic. Face masks, hand wash kits and sanitizers were supplied to the Judges, Officers and staff of the Court. Automated hand sanitizer machines were installed at various places in the Court premises considering the vulnerable points of entry to Courts and Offices. Liquid sanitizer / soaps were kept on each wash basin located at different points of Court as well as Bar Association area. The High Court building along with the court rooms, meeting rooms, conference halls / open areas available / verandah / entrance gates, equipments, lifts, walls, other surfaces, all furniture, vehicles in the High Court premises were disinfected with user friendly disinfectant. Mopping of the floor / surfaces with disinfectants was also done frequently. Mandatory thermal scanning of everyone entering and exiting the High Court premises was being done. No one was allowed to enter the Court premises without wearing mask / face cover. Covered dustbins were provided. Circular were issued for prohibition of spitting of pan, gutkha, tambakhu etc. inside Court premises. All concerned were advised and sensitized to maintain social distancing and to wear face masks as per guidelines of the Government. Advocates were allowed to appear before the Courts through Hybrid arrangement (physical / virtual mode) specified by the Registry. Only advocates were allowed to enter into the High Court premises. Issue of entry passes to the clients was denied. Security personnel were deployed at each vital entry points. Glass partition was made in all Court halls for the purpose of physical hearing. Provision of such partition was also made in chambers of Officers of the Court. Ultra Violet (UV) machines were provided to the office for neutralising the virus in files/ records. Three Covid Care Centre (CCCs) were established

for Judges, Judicial Officers, staffs and their family members. Out of 844 staff members of the High Court, 798 (94.55%) were administered with 1<sup>st</sup> dose of COVID-19 vaccination, while 3/4<sup>th</sup> (37.20%) have been administered with 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

During the judicial year, 21 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) were established. After abolition of Odisha Administrative Tribunal, the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and a portion of the ground floor of the Tribunal Building, Cuttack is now being used as record room and Digitization Centre of the Court. Annex Building (G+5) in the premises of High Court of Orissa has also been constructed to provide accommodation to the Legal Assistants, Counsels of different departments of the State and Central Govt. Construction of 54 Court Halls and 19 Residential Quarters for the Sub-ordinate Judiciary has been completed.

A mass Plantation Drive was undertaken by 30 District Legal Services Authorities (DSLAs) during observation of Van Mohatsava Week from 1 July 2020 to 7 July 2020 throughout the State. Around 10,000 saplings were planted by involving students of School Legal Literacy Club. Two District Level Micro e-Lok Adalats, one for MACT cases only and another for MACT cases, matters related to financial institutions, criminal compoundable cases including N.I Act cases and Family Court matters (except divorce) etc. were organized on 11 July 2020 and 12 September 2020 respectively. In the said e-Lok Adalats, 171 Pre-litigation disputes and 2619 pending cases were disposed of wherein the total amount settled was Rs. 78,79,21,189. On 19 December 2020 and 10 April 2021, two National Lok Adalats were also organized by Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA) involving Orissa High Court Legal Services Committee, 30 District Legal Services Authorities and 105 Taluk Legal Services Committees. In the aforesaid National Lok Adalats,

2,649 Pre-litigation disputes and 10,892 pending cases were disposed of, and the total amount settled was Rs. 1,49,76,99,287. 22 permanent Lok Adalats were held with 644 sittings wherein 1,527 disputes were settled. During the judicial year, 16 ADR Centres were established. Out of total 30 Districts, ADR Centres are functioning in 16 Districts and in the districts where ADR Centre have not been constructed / made functional, mediation and other ADR activities are being conducted in District Mediation Centres. 1371 Awareness Camps / Programmes were organized by DLSAs and Taluk Legal Services Committees through physical and digital modes in different parts of the State on different legal themes / welfare schemes which was attended by 74,446 persons. 1,424 victim compensation applications were received by DLSAs. 1,443 applications were decided including the previous pending applications. Rs. 16,53,42,897 was disbursed to the beneficiaries as compensation amount.

On 9 November 2020 (National Legal Services Day), State level competitions on e-Essay, e-Acting and e-Painting were organized by OSLSA amongst the Best Performers of Student Literacy Clubs of 5 Zones wherein around 4,324 students participated. The winners were felicitated through video conferencing. 27 training programmes for Panel Lawyers were organized by the field units of OSLSA in which 810 Panel Advocates were imparted training. 10 induction/refresher training programmes for Para-legal Volunteers (PLVs) were also organized wherein 418 PLVs were trained. During the period under consideration, 632 persons had approached / contacted the Legal Assistance Establishment (Nyaya Sanjog) and were provided the required legal aid / assistance / consultation. In the State, 127 Front Offices are functioning in the DLSAs and TLSCs. 664 persons were provided assistance in the aforesaid Front Offices. 86 Jail Legal Services Clinics are functioning in different jails while 158 Village Legal Aid Care & Support Centres are functioning in the State. 185 cases of domestic violence were received by Legal Services

Institutions out of which legal aid / assistance was provided in 151 cases while 27 petitions were filed in courts through legal aid under DV Act. 36 cases of grievances related to denial of wages / salaries were also received wherein legal assistance was provided in 31 cases. Apart from that, 3,671 persons were provided legal representation at remand stage. Out of 2,756 bail applications of such persons filed at the remand stage, 400 bail applications were allowed. 164 under trials were represented during trial through legal assistance and 135 bail applications were filed for them. In 2,865 cases assistance was provided to migrants in coordination with District Administration in terms of transit, food etc. 1,957 people were assisted with regard to shelter problem. 2,528 persons were helped in travelling to home States. 111 senior citizens were helped in family dispute resolutions through conciliation. The Help Desks for Migrant Labourers are also functional since June 2020 in all the 30 districts of the State to attend the issues of Stranded Labourers / Legal Aid Seekers and to take immediate steps to solve the problems in coordination with the District Administration. During the month of June to December 2020, 961 Legal Aid Seekers approached the Help Desks and all of them were given assistance.

OSLSA's News Letter "The Awakening" was inaugurated. On the eve of the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the National Flag was hoisted in the premises of OSLSA and Covid warriors were felicitated. The Odisha State Legal Services Authority launched a campaign in the name of "Bring Children Back To School" (BCBS) in the districts of Balangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur and Nuapada. For providing legal aid & services at grass root level the Authority established two Village Care & Support Centre at Baliguali and Brahmagiri of Puri District on 22 July 2020. Apart from that various DLSAs of the State were involved in settlement of conjugal rights, assistance to / rehabilitation of destitute / deserted women / mentally retarded persons, rescuing a sexually harassed college girl. In



*A view of High Court*

addition, the PLVs also provided / assisted poor labourers with legal services during the pandemic in getting their pending wages and also in their rescue and repatriation. OSLSA ensured proper cremation of covid victims. Various persons were assisted by DLSAs to get Victim Compensation. Dry ration was distributed to transgender persons during COVID-19.

During the judicial year, Online Training Sessions / Field Training were organized by Odisha Judicial Academy for Civil Judges on probation (2018 Batch). On 21 November 2020, Annual Refresher Training Programme 2020-21 on virtual mode was inaugurated at OJA for all Cadres of Judicial Officers in two batches (on Criminal & Civil Side). A webinar through both virtual and physical mode was also organized on “Challenges faced by the Court during the Pandemic”. Apart from that, Refresher Programmes for Sr. Civil Judges and of Secretaries, DLSA were also held. Practical Trainings of District Judges (appointed through UP

& LCE) were held at ROTI & SFSL. Refresher Training Programmes were organized at the Academy for Sr. Civil Judges, Civil Judges, Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Boards, Referral Judges, SDJM & JMFC. An online TOT Awareness Programme was also held on “Electronic case Management Tools (ECMS)” for Advocate Master Trainers. On 16 and 17 January 2021, a 2-days Webinar was hosted by OJA on “Challenges faced by the Court during the Pandemic”.

### **Technological Accomplishments**

In view of the difficulties faced by advocates in using video conferencing to take part in virtual hearing, the system of Hybrid Hearing was introduced in the High Court wherein the choice of appearing either physically or through VC was extended to lawyers. Under the Hybrid Hearing System, every functional courtroom was equipped with state of the art Video Conferencing technology



connecting the Bench, the lawyers present in the Court and the lawyers present at home in one virtual room for interaction in real time. In order to enable stakeholders to access case statistics of District Courts and essential e-Courts related information from any remote location through internet, the web version of Justice Clock (digital replica of the physical Justice Clock) was launched on 10 February 2021. Further, the Orissa High Court Video Conferencing for Courts Rules, 2020 were notified to enable smooth conduct of judicial proceedings through video conferencing. As on 30 June 2021, total number of cases dealt through video conferencing in High Court was 1,69,556 and 1,47,075 in District Courts cases. A customized Software Module called the Order Communication Portal (OCP) was launched to facilitate secure and instantaneous communication of orders and judgments to Subordinate Courts in a paperless environment. The facility of e-Payment of court fees was launched in the High Court of Orissa

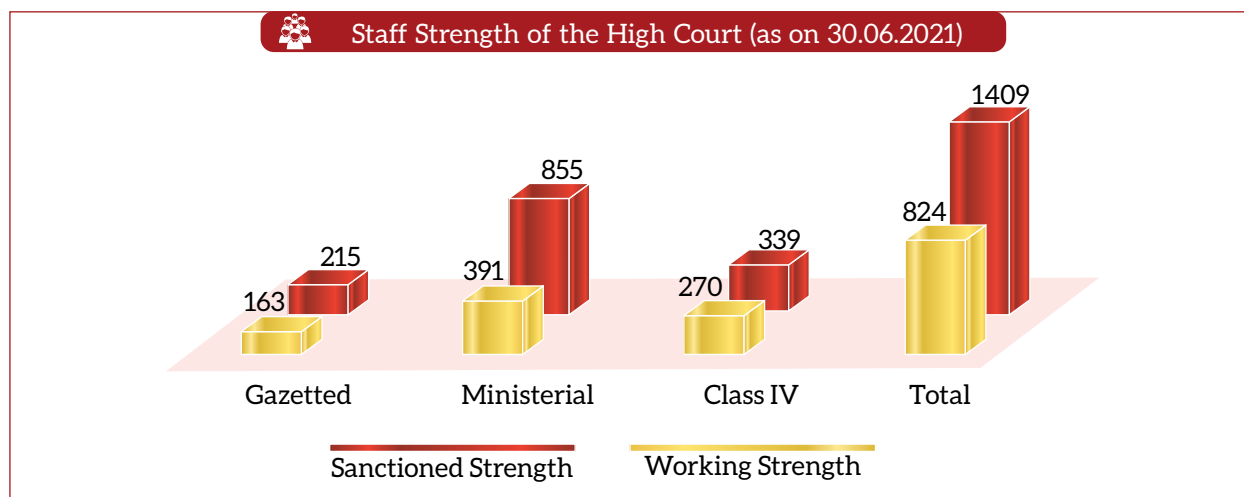
and every District Court of the State in addition to the launch of the e-Filing system in 244 Court establishments in Odisha. A Facilitation Centre for online payment of court fees in the High Court of Orissa, Video Conferencing Cabins in every District Court complex (to assist lawyers in virtual hearing) and e-Sewa Kendras in 78 Taluka Court Complexes (to provide essential e-Courts related services through use of technology to lawyers and litigants) were also inaugurated. A total of 109 e-Sewa Kendras were established during December, 2020 to April 2021 at various Court Complexes of all 30 Districts. District Court Digitization Centres in four major District Courts of Cuttack, Ganjam, Sambalpur and Balasore were inaugurated on 30

April 2021. These four District Court Digitization Centres have been established to carry out scanning and digitization of case records in disposed of matters in the District Courts. As on 30 June 2021, a total of 662 case records comprising of 69,294 pages have been scanned and digitized in these four District Court Digitization Centres. Video Conferencing Cabins were established in the office of Odisha State Bar Council, Cuttack adjoining the High Court building in order to facilitate virtual appearance of advocates before various Benches of the Court. Online Training Programme for advocates and their Clerks was conducted on e-Courts related services. The new revamped website of the High Court was equipped with enhanced accessibility for visually challenged users. New features such as e-Services, Event Calendar were added for easy and improved information sharing with stakeholders. The Busbar Trunking System (BTS) which replaced the old electrical system in the Court's Heritage Building

was inaugurated on 12 April 2021. The Busbar Trunking System is a state of the art mechanism to ensure optimized utility of electricity with provision for real time web based monitoring of the Court's electrical structure. With the adoption of BTS, the humongous mesh of old and outdated electrical cables covering the Heritage Building stood substituted with sophisticated, cutting edge infrastructure of power distribution. Using ICT to overcome restrictions due to pandemic, a total of 17 Courts, Judicial Court Complexes, Court Buildings, Extension Buildings, Women's Courts were inaugurated remotely through Video Conferencing. Social Media Tools were used for conducting webinars. 1122 Legal Awareness

Camps were organised on varied issues like Fundamental Duties, Social Welfare Schemes of Central and State Government, Awareness on COVID-19, for legal services to Victims of Acid Attacks, mentally ill / disabled persons and for observation of International Day for Older Persons, World Mental Health Day, Vigilance Awareness Week. Two programmes were conducted through Radio including Community Radios and one was conducted through the medium of TV. 120 Awareness Programmes were conducted through other social media tools like Google Meet JITSI Meet, You Tube etc. OSLSA prepared 12 micro films, keeping in mind the need for creating awareness amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	33,51,72,000	13,71,74,000	1,14,80,56,000
Non-Plan	1,11,94,64,000	1,17,72,32,000	1,25,52,89,000
Total	1,45,46,36,000	1,31,44,06,000	2,40,33,45,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges 27

Working Strength of Judges 14

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest 14

Highest 16

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old 34,913

# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

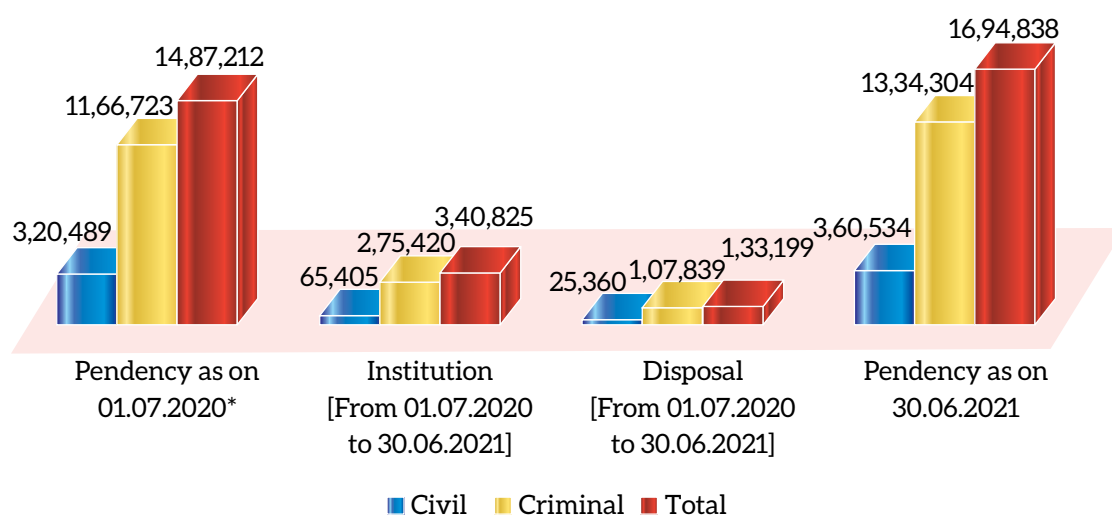
## Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020*	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	68,666	43,440	36,885	75,221
Company Matters	233	0	0	233
Contempt (Civil)	5,139	7,977	7,105	6,011
Review (Civil)	1,905	212	60	2,057
Matrimonial Matters	922	88	73	937
Arbitration Matters	481	79	162	398
Civil Revisions	201	10	16	195
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	2,347	108	72	2,383
Civil Appeals	15,805	477	349	15,933
Land Acquisition Matters	962	35	02	995
MACT Matters	6,515	570	437	6,648
Civil Suits (Original Side)	01	0	0	01
Other than above	9,030	3,236	1,117	11,149
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,179	2,295	2,373	1,101
Criminal Revisions	9,247	415	299	9,363
Bail Applications	12,691	27,852	23,818	16,725
Criminal Appeals	12,220	625	566	12,279
Death Sentence Reference	05	0	02	03
Contempt (Criminal)	56	72	43	85
Misc. Criminal Applications	12,226	2,170	953	13,443
Other than above	942	88	31	999

\* Data Revised by High Court

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



\* Data Revised by High Court

### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
957



Working Strength  
749



Vacancy  
208

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
41,362	2,08,612	2,49,974



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# High Court of Judicature at PATNA



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA\*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajan Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arvind Srivastava	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Partha Sarthy
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Upadhyay	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nawneet Kumar Pandey
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikash Jain	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajeev Ranjan Prasad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sunil Kumar Panwar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ananta Manohar Badar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madhuresh Prasad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Purnendu Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohit Kumar Shah	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satyavrat Verma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anjani Kumar Sharan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Kumar Verma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhir Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Sinha	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Birendra Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prabhat Kumar Singh	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The High Court of Judicature at Patna has sat in dignity now for more than a century, administering justice with an equal hand. The foundation stone of the High Court building was laid on 1 December 1913. On the 9 February 1916, the Patna High Court was ushered into existence. The Patna High Court is housed in a sprawling campus of 30.89 acres. The main building was designed by the renowned architect Munnings and assisted by AM Millwood and constructed by Martin & Co. The building is a fine illustration of the neoclassical style and is based on the Palladian concept of a country house. The roll of honour of Judges and advocates of this Court contains names of great eminence and fame. The Central Record Room is a repository of priceless records dating back to the year 1793, the records of Sadar Dewani and Sadar Nizamat Adalat.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

Patna High Court took prompt and emergent measures to deal with the pandemic situation from the very onset. A “High-powered Committee” was constituted in view of order of the Supreme Court to facilitate release of prisoners during the pandemic. A team of Officers and staff of the registry was constituted to supervise the preparedness to combat the pandemic, with directions to upload the daily reports on the official website of the Court. Masks and sanitizers were distributed and automatic sanitizer dispensers were installed at various vantage points in the High Court premises. Covid testing camps for antigen test and RT PCR Test were organized in the High Court for the Judges, Registry Officers, staff and their family members. A special link was created on the website of the High Court where a regular daily update of tests conducted along with the result obtained subsequently, could be accessed. Daily video conferencing was conducted with all the Judges to obtain feedback with regard to functioning of District Courts in the pandemic. Intensive sanitization of the court rooms, chambers, offices and the High Court premises was carried out regularly.

During the pandemic, the Patna High Court was functioning at full strength through video conference seamlessly and 8,207 civil cases and 33,713 criminal cases were disposed of by the High Court from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. On 8 October 2020, “Studio Courts” were made functional in the Patna High Court. The facility was extended to District Courts as well, with two “studio courts” in each District and one in each sub-division. Physical hearing of cases commenced from 4 January 2021 on an experimental basis. However, the Court again reverted to complete virtual mode of functioning with the onset of the second wave of COVID-19. Mentioning matters

regarding urgent hearing of pending cases were being taken up through a specially created email for the purpose and the outcome therein was published on a daily basis on the website of the Court. This information was made accessible to lawyers and litigants along with information about status of stamp reporting in order to ensure a robust information system for the purpose of maintaining transparency.

During the judicial year, the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Committee (JJMC) of the Patna High Court in collaboration with Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BSLSA), arranged a Special Sitting in all 38 Juvenile Justice Boards of Bihar on 14 August 2021 wherein, 1,416 pending cases, including petty (620), serious (701) and heinous (95) nature cases were disposed in strict adherence with the objects of JJ Act, 2015 and Bihar JJ Rules, 2017. BSLSA with 37 District Legal Services Authorities and 529 Legal Aid Clinics with 2,182 Panel Lawyers and 4,258 Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) under its aegis, is engaged in ensuring implementation of policies mandated by NALSA and working with full efficacy in giving legal aid to the poor and needy. During the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, Rs. 7,86,22,000 was given as compensation to 240 victims under the Victim Compensation Scheme. BSLSA has been organizing Lok Adalats from time to time by way of National Lok Adalat and Mobile Lok Adalats. 19,683 cases were disposed of in National Lok Adalat held on 12 December 2020. Apart from this, 9 Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) have been established and process has been initiated for establishment of Permanent Lok Adalat in the remaining 28 districts as well. A total of 1,298 cases were referred for mediation, out of which, 229 were successfully settled. 419 Legal Literacy Clubs are running successfully in various Government Schools of Bihar. 31,503 persons benefitted from the Tele Law Scheme



established to provide legal advice and counselling to people living in remote areas through video conferencing / telephonic conversation. On 22 August 2020, a webinar was organised by BSLSA on “Role of State Legal Services Authorities during Pandemic”. BSLSA also organized a Sensitization Programme through virtual mode for observing the “International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” on 26 June 2021.

From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, a total of 277 persons were provided Legal Aid. 2,42,092 persons benefited under the NALSA Scheme for Disaster Victims. 20,095 persons were assisted in making of their Ration Cards. Medical help was provided to 13,796 persons. Apart from this, assistance with regard to food was provided to 78,752 persons, and with regard to travelling (within State as well as inter state) assistance was provided to 1,870 persons in coordination with District Administration during the pandemic period. DLSA Secretaries through PLVs, coordinated with district administration for ensuring regular supply of food, clean drinking water and medicine for leprosy patients during the pandemic.

The Bihar Judicial Academy functioned exclusively through virtual mode for judicial education of newly inducted judges as well as of serving judges for improving their knowledge and

enhancing delivery of timely justice. An Online lecture series on a plethora of legal topics by Sitting / Former Judges of Supreme Court of India, Other High Courts and Patna High Court was conducted for newly inducted Judicial Officers of the 30th batch of Bihar Judicial Services. Foundation Training was conducted for newly inducted District Judges and Refresher Courses were conducted for serving Officers of all ranks. A webinar was held on 29 November 2020 on Children’s Rights and their Enforcement.

The new annexe building of the High Court- “Centenary Building ” was formally inaugurated on 28 February 2021. The Court Building of the Civil Court of Kahalgaon and the residential complex for the judicial officers was also inaugurated on 13 March 2021. 10 “Child Friendly Courts” were inaugurated, taking the total number to 35. Between June 2020 to September 2020, 1469 vacancies were created for Patna High Court establishment, 15 vacancies were created / upgraded for Judicial Officers and 188 other vacancies were created for District Courts.

### **Technological Accomplishments**

The Patna High Court constantly strived to ensure that no aspect of the justice delivery system lags behind in terms of application of new technology.



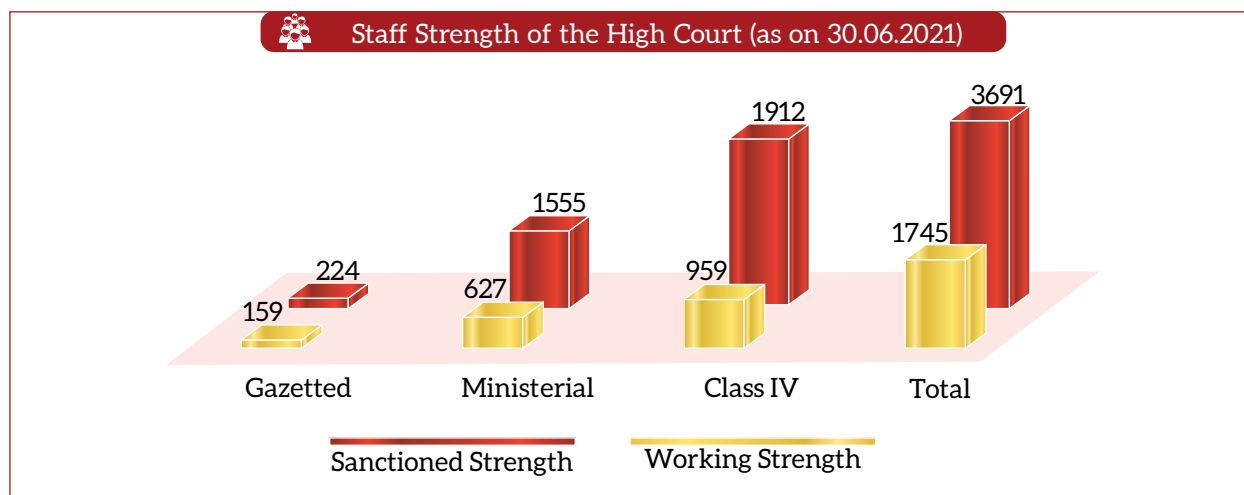
*Panoramic view of the High Court*

e-Payment facility was started on 2 June 2021 for Court fee payments. The e-Payment facility is made available for High Court as well as for District Courts. e-Payment for penalty and fine was also tested successfully. There have been a total of 1886 e-Pay Successful transactions till 19 August 2021. Further, each court room in the High Court is equipped with a Studio Based VC system. This setup was established in April-July 2020 for facilitating virtual hearing of cases. Studio based VC system with codec has been established in District Courts as well as Sub-Divisional Courts. Two pairs / sets of VC systems for each of the 37 District headquarters and one pair of VC system for each of the 42 Sub-Divisional Courts has been provided. The VC Facility is point-to-point and multi-point and has access to SWAN, BSWAN and NICNET Network. SecLan Network 2.0 along with a control room and required number of wi-fi connectivity inside the campus of the Patna High Court was developed in 2020. Additionally, high speed internet service with a shared speed of 2.1 Gbps was made available. MPLS connectivity with speed of 8Mbps to 34 Mbps was provided to each court of the District.

e-Filing for the Patna High Court started on 29 May 2020 on test server, and after that

was migrated to live instance of e-filing on 15 September 2020. Total number of 1,02,290 cases were filed till 19 August 2021 on e-Filing portal of the Patna High Court including both Test and Live Server. The total number of advocates registered on e-Filing portal are 3,219. A self help video tutorial was also put on the Patna High Court website in order to familiarize the advocates and litigants with this new mode of filing cases. ICJS (Interoperable Criminal Justice System) was rolled out in all the courts of Bihar. The Court System was able to integrate FIR and Charge Sheet data in CIS application of all 894 police Stations through the CCTNS application of the Police Department. Till date the Court has integrated more than 67,000 FIRs and 9,531 Charge Sheets in CIS. Further, all the 59 prisons and 3 FSLs have also been integrated with ICJS. Serving of Summons and Notices through NSTEP has been started at Begusarai, Bettiah, Buxar, Darbhanga, Jamui, Kaminur at Bhabhua, Madhubani, Motihari, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnea, Sasaram, Saharsa, Samastipur, Saran at Chapra, Sheikhpura and Sheohar District Courts. The Microsoft Teams Licences for 1400 plus Judicial Officers for conducting virtual hearing were renewed.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	1,77,28,35,000	1,82,27,63,500	1,96,02,83,000
Total	1,77,28,35,000	1,82,27,63,500	1,96,02,83,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges **53**

Working Strength of Judges **20**

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest **20**

Highest **24**

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old **28,294**

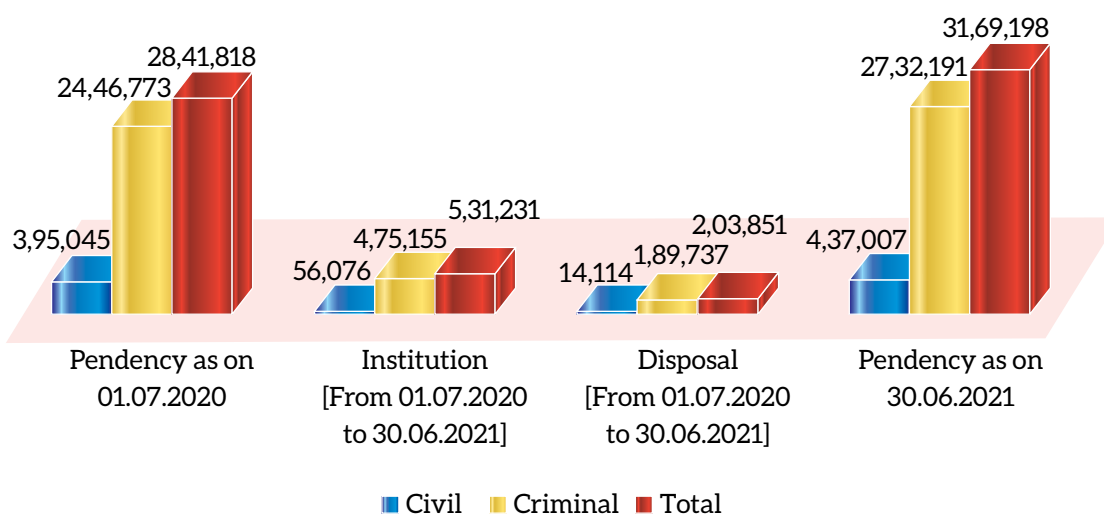
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	57,855	15,474	7,285	66,044
Company Matters	80	01	0	81
Contempt (Civil)	3,088	448	36	3,500
Review (Civil)	619	145	16	748
Matrimonial Matters	0	0	0	0
Arbitration Matters	22	12	01	33
Civil Revisions	680	40	06	714
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	04	0	02	02
Civil Appeals	11,558	428	08	11,978
Land Acquisition Matters	2,538	353	56	2,835
MACT Matters	0	0	0	0
Civil Suits (Original Side)	37	0	0	37
Other than above	20,772	2,635	797	22,610
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	3,665	843	115	4,393
Criminal Revisions	4,642	490	187	4,945
Bail Applications	1,687	53,975	29,888	25,774
Criminal Appeals	33,629	4,177	2,218	35,588
Death Sentence Reference	09	08	06	11
Contempt (Criminal)	0	0	0	0
Misc. Criminal Applications	23,892	1,781	375	25,298
Other than above	8,991	1,274	924	9,341

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
1,936



Working Strength  
1,403



Vacancy  
533

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
55,456	3,31,895	3,87,351



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High Court of  
**PUNJAB & HARYANA**



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Shanker Jha, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Tewari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Alka Sarin
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Augustine George Masih	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harminder Singh Madaan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jasgurpreet Singh Puri
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Ritu Bahri	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurvinder Singh Gill	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok Kumar Verma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tajinder Singh Dhindsa	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sant Parkash
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajbir Sehrawat	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Meenakshi I. Mehta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. S. Sri Ramachandra Rao	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kshetarpal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Karamjit Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amol Rattan Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Avneesh Jhingan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Puri
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Fateh Deep Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahabir Singh Sindhu	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Archana Puri
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudip Ahluwalia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhir Mittal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bhardwaj
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harinder Singh Sidhu	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Manjari Nehru Kaul	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikas Bahl
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Palli	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harsimran Singh Sethi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikas Suri
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Lisa Gill	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Monga	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Moudgil
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sureshwar Thakur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Bajaj	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Sharma (Bhardwaj)
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bawa Singh Walia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lalit Batra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Jain
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raj Mohan Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harnaresh Singh Gill	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jasjit Singh Bedi
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Jaishree Thakur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anoop Chitkara	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Sibal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suvir Sehgal	

\*As on 1 November 2021



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Crown by Letters Patent dated 20 March 1919 established the High Court of Judicature at Lahore for the provinces of Punjab and Delhi. After independence of India, the province of Punjab was divided into West Punjab (Pakistan) and East Punjab (India). The High Court of Lahore (being in Pakistan) ceased to have jurisdiction over Delhi and East Punjab. A new High Court of Judicature for the territory of East Punjab (India) was created on 15 August 1947 at Amritsar and was later shifted to Shimla. After the Constitution of India came into force, the State of East Punjab was renamed as Punjab and the seat of High Court was shifted from Shimla to Chandigarh. Thereafter, with the merger of Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) into the State of Punjab, and a separate High Court being subsequently constituted for the Union Territory of Delhi; and the State of Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh also coming into existence, the High Court of Punjab was renamed as the 'High Court of Punjab and Haryana'. The Punjab and Haryana High Court is one of the most beautiful High Courts in India and the main High Court building is also a World Heritage Site.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

For the safe operation of the High Court during COVID-19 pandemic, two Nodal Officers were appointed who regularly monitored the health of the employees attending the office. Polycarbonate Sheets were installed on the dais of the Judges as well as on the Advocates' dais in court rooms. Sufficient numbers of exhaust fans / fresh air fans were installed for proper air circulation. Face shields, one time re-usable / washable hand gloves, masks, sanitizers were provided to the Judges, officers & officials of the Court. Sanitizer / Sanitizer dispensers were provided in court rooms as well as entry points of the High Court premises. Minimal sitting arrangements were made in Court rooms, waiting areas outside court rooms were earmarked keeping in view proper social distancing. Sanitization in the High Court building was being done regularly. Necessary

instructions in relation to Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) for physical hearing were pasted in the entire Court premises. Further, COVID Vaccination Camps were organized from time to time for vaccination of the Judges, their family member and also of the employees and their family members. 13 Judges, 8 Judicial Officers and 362 officers / officials of the High Court were found positive, totaling the figure to 383, which includes the death of two officials of the Court.

E-filing portal was highly encouraged to avoid physical contact as much as possible. The Advocate Form, e-filing instructions and e-filing user manual were uploaded under the heading Standard Procedure for e-filing on the website of the High Court for the convenience of advocates and litigants. In order to curtail the gathering of crowd at the ordinary filing counter, new web portal, 'Ordinary Filing Token Request' was made



***Open Hand Monument at the High Court***

operational. For filing ordinary cases, the advocates, party-in-person were requested to generate token number by filing particulars on the web portal. Fixed number of tokens were assigned per day to maintain social distancing norms. Helpline numbers were created for advocates, party in person and all concerned in connection with any query regarding the procedure for mentioning of the matters of urgent hearing and procedure for e-filing. Court fee was allowed to be paid through e-filing module. Advance copy was also permitted to be delivered through email for the convenience of advocates and litigants. For mentioning, only cases of utmost urgency were being dealt with and when the request for mentioning these cases was made, a specific email id was made operational for the same. Later on, a mentioning portal was made available on the official website of the High Court which was successfully implemented. It made mentioning of the case through online mode convenient for the advocates as well as litigants before the Judge nominated for the purpose without coming in physical contact of the Court Staff. The mode of hearing of the cases changed from time to time and on the basis of opinion of medical and administrative experts and with a view to ensure the safety of the Judges, advocates,

staff and litigants, the cases are being heard through video conferencing from 28 June 2021. To further ensure over all safety and wellness of the staff, online mediation was started to maintain physical distancing in the Mediation Centre. Two sanitization dispensers were installed in both the Mediation Centres and wearing masks was made mandatory for the staff as well as the litigants / clerks of advocates visiting to enquire the status of their cases. Pamphlets in this regard were also pasted in both the Centres. Proper sanitization of the Mediation Centres was also done from time to time.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Standard Operating Procedure for advocates / party in person for hearing of court proceeding through video conferencing was uploaded on the website of the High Court and instructions were given to all the subordinate courts with regard to using of secure online applications for the purpose of Video Conferencing i.e. Vidyo, WebEx, Lifesize etc. Further, they were informed that in unforeseen circumstances, proceedings be conducted through Voice Call Conference / Tele-Conference facility after establishing the identity of the lawyer / litigant to that effect. Around 3,74,627 cases were

heard through Video Conferencing in the period of lockdown till June, 2021 in the subordinate courts in the States of Punjab, Haryana and UT Chandigarh. Similarly, 2,79,131 cases were heard through Video Conferencing, till the month of June 2021 in Punjab and Haryana High Court.

During the judicial year 2020-21, a total of 26 cases were disposed of in the National Lok Adalats held on 12 December 2020 and 10 April 2021 (through virtual mode). Further, in Bi-monthly Lok Adalat held on 13 March 2021 through virtual mode, five cases were disposed of. Further, for Pre-Litigation Mediation, the Mediation & Conciliation Centre received 70 applications from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, out of which 7 resulted in successful mediation. Out of 534 cases referred for mediation, 83 cases were successfully settled (including 12 connected cases).

A Potential Trainer was deputed by Mediation and Conciliation Centre of the Court to participate in an online 20 hrs. Refresher Programme for 21 Advocate Mediators of Manipur held between 1 to 7 October 2020. 2 Potential Trainers also participated in an online 20 hrs Refresher Programme for Advocate-Mediators of Haryana from 24 to 28 November 2020. Both the online training programmes were conducted through Cisco WebEx platform. From 30 May to 6 June 2021, an online 40 hrs MTP was held for 25 Advocates of West Bengal in which also a Potential Trainer participated. Several Webinars were organized by the Chandigarh Judicial Academy on various subjects like General Aspects of Execution & Challenges, Challenges, appreciation of electronic evidence and recording of evidence through videoconferencing, Sanction for Prosecution under PC Act, Interpreting Jamabandi Entries, Specific Relief Act Part I & II, Lockdown and Surge in cases of Domestic Violence in India- The Roadmap etc.. Three Advocates Master Training Programmes were also organized on 6, 13 and 20 March 2021. Online Training Programmes of HCS (EB) Officers were conducted by the Judicial Academy in the month of December 2020 and

March 2021. A one year Online Induction Training Programme for PCS and HCS (JB) was also organized by the Judicial Academy starting with effect from 10 August 2020 wherein 49 Officers successfully completed the training.

The Judges' Library of the High Court implemented RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology integrated with KOHA Library management Software which facilitates auto issue and return of books. A scanner- Book Eye 4 (Basic) for scanning of Books/Gazettes etc. was installed in the Judges' Library and is used for scanning of rare/old books available with Judges' Library. Home page of the Judges' Library of the High Court was prepared on the pattern of the Judges' Library of the Supreme Court of India, and is available on the official website of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh.

## Technological Accomplishments

A YouTube Channel of the Punjab and Haryana High Court was created under the name "High Court of Punjab and Haryana- Official". Informatory videos such as paperless courts, steps to access case information from websites of the High Court and subordinate courts of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh were uploaded on the said channel. For enabling the High Court to access the monthly statements data of Subordinate Courts, e-Statement Software was launched and is now operational at 19 District and Sessions Divisions to be implemented completely in a phased manner. The development of this software resulted in saving of huge amount of paper by providing immediate access to data and has reduced the burden of the Court Staff. Websites of High Court are being converted into disabled friendly websites, as per Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW Guidelines) of the Supreme Court of India. The process of migration from Integrated Software for High Court (ISHiCo) to C.I.S. 1.0 was initiated and partially implemented. e-filing in C.I.S. 1.0 was started in the Punjab and



*Panoramic view of the Auditorium in the High Court*

Haryana High Court and 2,334 cases were e-filed from July 2020 till June 2021. Video Conferencing (VC) facility is being used extensively in the High Court as well as in the Subordinate Courts in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh. 2,79,131 VCs were conducted from July 2020 to June 2021 in the High Court. During the judicial year, 2,75,307 undertrials were produced through video conferencing. 3,012 video conferences took place for evidence of doctors. VC equipments were procured and supplied to some of the Subordinate Courts and Observation Homes in the States of Punjab and Haryana. The work of installation of the VC equipments at the court sites and at some of the Observation homes is complete. Few Observation homes sites are remaining for which the work is being carried out. The e-Tender for providing Additional LAN points for installation of VC equipments and Display Boards in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh was concluded. The concerned vendor has already completed the work of installation of 1,262 LAN points in the State of Punjab and U.T. Chandigarh and the work of installation of the LAN points in the State of Haryana is likely to be completed in near future. In terms of directions received from e-Committee, Supreme Court of

India, training on e-Court Services was conducted for Judicial Officers Master Trainers, District System Administrators, Court Staff in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh from June 2020 to April 2021 through Video Conferencing. Basic computer training, training with regard to video conferencing and related queries were provided to the officials of the Court. Nominated Judicial Officers from the State of Haryana participated in different Cyber Crime and Cyber Law Program held at Chandigarh, Jaipur and Karnal (Madhuban). The guidelines regarding supply of Certified Copy of Electronic Record as well as Preservation of Electronic Record were prepared and circulated amongst the branches of the Court and in all the District and Session Divisions in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh.

Under the project of Scanning and Digitization of judicial records in Subordinate Courts in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh, retiree officials were also appointed in the Subordinate Courts for weeding of record and assisting the scanning company during the process of scanning and digitization. For storage and back up of scanned records, 43 high-end

and 43 low-end servers were also purchased and delivered at all locations. Quality Teams were also assigned by all the Session Divisions and digital signatures were provided for the same. Till 30 June 2021, 9,09,529 files containing 6,08,60,117 pages were scanned and further process of quality checking of these pages is underway. Further, a total of 21.56 crore pages have been scanned till 2021 under the Digitization Project of High Court Records which includes judicial pages, paper-books, orders etc. To ensure proper monitoring and compliance by Process Serving Agency in Subordinate Courts, a GPRS based Processing Serving System- National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) is being implemented. Process Servers would be equipped with GPRS based devices which would track the movement of Process Servers. 1819 units of Android based Mobile Phones for Bailiffs and Process Servers in the Subordinate Courts in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh were supplied. An initiative, the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) was taken by the e-Committee to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system, like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories, from one platform. ICJS was tested successfully in 2 pilot sites of Subordinate Courts of Punjab, Moga and Kapurthala. Apart from that, a Judicial Malkhana Software in which processes of Judicial Malkhana can be automated and linked with CIS 3.2 was developed and successfully tested on two pilot sites, Mohali (Punjab) and Ambala (Haryana). Script for consuming land records details in CIS on survey number sent by e-Committee, Supreme Court of India was successfully tested in all the Subordinate Courts in the State of Haryana. Now, the same will be replicated in the States of Punjab and Chandigarh as well. E-filing was implemented

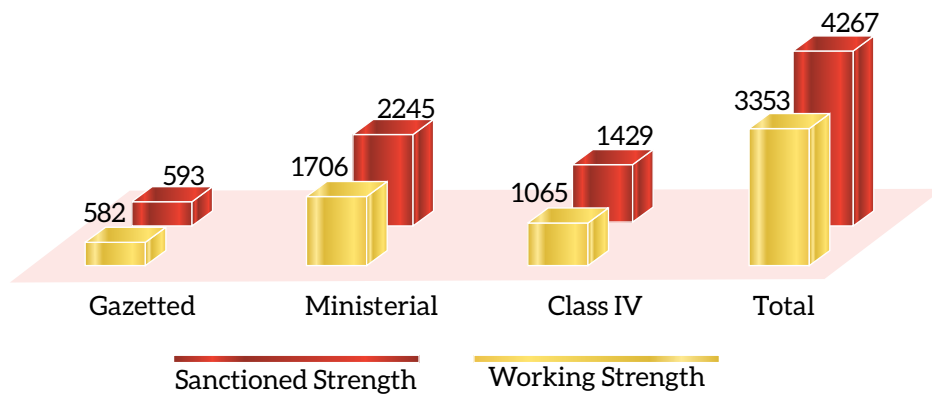
in all the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh and advocates were given training to use the e-filing system more effectively. Testing of e-filing 3.0 is under process in all the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh. Total number of advocates registered in e-filing till 31 July 2021 are 340 in Punjab, 304 in Haryana and 14 in Chandigarh. Total number of cases e-filed till 31 July 2021 are 83 in Punjab, 40 in Haryana and 2 in Chandigarh. 1.04 crore SMS were sent from District Courts till June 2021.

In July 2020, the lease line was updated from 100 MBPS to 300 MBPS in Punjab and Haryana High Court. 52 Cisco WebEx Licenses were purchased for Punjab and Haryana High Court for hearing of cases during lockdown in July 2020 and January 2021. 16 Wacom Machines, 32 All-in-One Computers with Touch Screen, 16 Ultra Small Form Factor CPU and 48 UPS of 1 KVA were purchased for the paperless court mechanism. 12 mics and a controller unit for court of the Chief Justice, 60 licenses of Microsoft Office compatible with IOS for the use of the Judges of the Court were also purchased. Further, 60 laserjet printers for the use of the Court, 6 High End Rack Servers, 100 MFP printers and 50 All-in-one Computers with latest configuration for the use of Video Conferencing for the Judges were also purchased. Justice Clock for the Court is under the process of being installed. New VC System was also installed for Recruitment and Promotion Committee (Subordinate Judicial Services) of the Court in September 2020. Hardwares such as Duplex Laser Printers for the use of judicial officers, Multi Functional Printers, 2KVA online UPS and Android based Mobile Phones for Bailiffs and Process Server were supplied in the subordinate courts of the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh under e-Courts project.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Staff Strength of the High Court (as on 30.06.2021)



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	7,26,00,000	18,29,00,000	22,23,75,000
Non-Plan	3,52,02,26,000	3,54,16,88,000	3,99,22,00,000
Total	3,59,28,26,000	3,72,45,88,000	4,21,45,75,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court



### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges 85

Working Strength of Judges 46

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest 46

Highest 55

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old 97,874



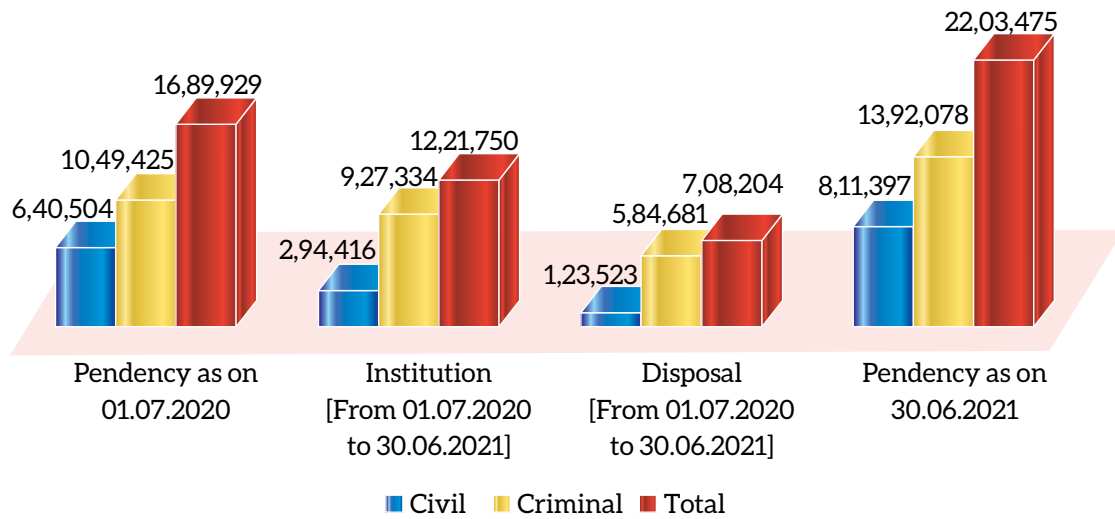
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	72,458	24,989	14,437	83,010
Company Matters	284	01	01	284
Contempt (Civil)	4,005	2,957	1,522	5,440
Review (Civil)	549	266	291	524
Matrimonial Matters	1,908	55	47	1,916
Arbitration Matters	401	486	166	721
Civil Revisions	13,991	1,976	1,099	14,868
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	1,797	29	100	1,726
Civil Appeals	59,366	1,274	552	60,088
Land Acquisition Matters	28,918	675	177	29,416
MACT Matters	45,111	212	830	44,493
Civil Suits (Original Side)	01	0	0	01
Other than above	6,320	1,918	599	7,639
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,269	12,719	11,547	2,441
Criminal Revisions	17,153	1,259	544	17,868
Bail Applications	0	0	0	0
Criminal Appeals	61,472	1,445	152	62,765
Death Sentence Reference	08	03	01	10
Contempt (Criminal)	119	07	04	122
Misc. Criminal Applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	48,390	53,036	35,764	65,662

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
1,494



Working Strength  
1,104



Vacancy  
390

Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
2,061	2,094	4,155

21

# RAJASTHAN

## High Court



*Principal seat at Jodhpur*

## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok Kumar Gaur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Farjand Ali
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Garg	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudesh Bansal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijay Bishnoi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Inderjeet Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anoop Kumar Dhand
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Narendra Singh Dhaddha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Kumar Bharwani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prakash Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahendar Kumar Goyal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan Gopal Vyas
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Bhandari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kachhawaha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uma Shanker Vyas
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satish Kumar Sharma	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Borana
Hon'ble Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Vyas	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sameer Jain
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Mehta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rameshwar Vyas	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinit Kumar Mathur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandra Kumar Songara	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### **BRIEF INTRODUCTION**

After independence, the erstwhile princely States of Rajputana were integrated into the State of Rajasthan. These princely States had their own High Courts and Subordinate Judicial setup. State of Rajasthan was inaugurated on 30 March 1949. At that time the five High Courts functioning at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Udaipur and Alwar were abolished by the Rajasthan High Court Ordinance, 1949 and High Court of Judicature for Rajasthan was inaugurated at Jodhpur on 29 August 1949. Initially, the High Court also sat at Jaipur, Udaipur, Bikaner and Kota. Benches at Bikaner, Kota and Udaipur were abolished from 22 May 1950

but Jaipur Bench continued to function. Subsequently, under Section 49 of States Reorganization Act, 1956, a new High Court came into being as the High Court of Rajasthan with Principal Seat at Jodhpur. The Jaipur Bench was abolished in 1958. By the High Court of Rajasthan (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Jaipur) Order, 1976, the Bench of Rajasthan High Court was again established at Jaipur and started functioning from 30 January 1977. The magnificent new building of Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India on 7 December 2019. The new building has 22 court rooms. The Bench at Jaipur is presently working in building constructed in the year 2006 which is adjacent to old heritage building. Both the court buildings at Jodhpur and Jaipur have total 46 court rooms.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Rajasthan High Court adopted and implemented measures to not only ensure continuous functioning of Courts but also safety of all stakeholders. These measures included starting of Video Conferencing (VC), e-Filing, e-Payment of courtfees and preventive steps like proper sanitisation, screening, large scale testing and vaccination of all stakeholders. Steps were taken to limit gathering in courts like calling of staff on rotational basis, limiting hearing of urgent matters and other safety measures. With the imposition of lockdown and restrictions on physical movement, alternative methods were worked out to ensure uninterrupted court functioning. Apart from the steps taken for virtual hearing and other safety measures in order to contain spread of coronavirus, arrangements were made for regular visit of District Medical & Health Officers at court premises in coordination with the District Judges. Testing camps were setup in the court premises in all the Districts which are still functional. In these camps, testing of 49,804 stakeholders has been done. Vaccination camps were setup at High Courts and District Courts exclusively for Judges, advocates, staff and their

family members. Till now, 54,118 stakeholders have been given first dose and 38,822 have got both the doses.

During summer vacations, previously a single Vacation Court used to function only for urgent matters but taking an unprecedented step, the Rajasthan High Court constituted several Special Benches during Summer Vacations in the month of June 2021 for hearing of bail matters. 18 Judges of Rajasthan High Court held court through Special Benches during these vacations resulting in disposal of 2,321 bail applications. To protect the rights of prisoners, Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority provided them legal aid for filing bail applications in High Court and subordinate courts. Till 30 June 2021, 4,291 bail applications were filed through legal aid out of which 1,321 were allowed and 2,848 were rejected. The Judges, Judicial Officers and court staff voluntarily came forward and contributed a sum of Rs. 58,12,016 in CMRF Covid Vaccination Account of the State Government in the year 2021.

During the judicial year, Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) along with DLSAs began an extensive campaign against COVID-19



wherein need based programmes for children, migrant laborers, domestic workers, victims, jail inmates, Covid patients, common man and for other needy persons were initiated offering meals, medicines, ration and essential commodities. 24x7 Helpline in each District was established to extend help and assistance to Covid affected persons. RLSA by resorting to “On-line Dispute Resolution” (ODR) mode, organised first ever “Online Lok Adalat” on 22 August 2020 and amicably settled 33,546 cases, which included 29,092 cases pending in the Courts and 4,384 pre-litigation cases. A plantation drive was carried out from 15 August 2020 to 23 August 2020. The Campaign set new value proposition as 1,92,632 saplings were planted and 1,34,971 saplings were distributed among masses. In October 2020, 36 Legal Services Camps with tag line “Mahari Yojna Maharo Aadhikar” were organised benefiting

2,51,635 persons under various welfare schemes. RLSA along with RHCLSCs, DLSAs and TLSCs provided free legal aid to 11,994 persons. 5,71,087 Legal Awareness Programmes and 97 Trainings for concerned stake holders were carried out through virtual / physical mode. A variety of campaigns i.e. Child Rights Week, Prohibition of Child Marriage, Constitution Week along with celebration of special days were commenced to raise legal awareness. Webinars, Virtual Legal Awareness Camps, Telephonic Counselings were also carried out.

During the judicial year, Rajasthan State Judicial Academy (RSJA) organized more than 25 webinars on a variety of topics. These were attended by various stakeholders including Principal District Judges, Secretaries of District Legal Services Authority, Additional District Judges, Additional



*Panoramic view of Principal Seat of the High Court*

Chief Judicial Magistrates, Presiding Officers of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act Cases, Judicial Officers of Additional District Judges & SR. CJ-cum-CJMs Cadre, Judicial Officers posted in ACD Courts and CBI Courts etc. RSJA was handed over a batch of about 190 candidates, appointed as Civil Judges to impart One Year Induction Training during the time of pandemic COVID-19 in the month of October 2020. All the trainee officers were placed directly in different Districts by dividing them in small groups for their Field cum Virtual Institutional Training. Novel teaching methodologies like daily online group discussions, presentations, case studies on practical problems and legal topics were arranged by RSJA to improve the skills and acumen of trainee Civil Judges. First & Second Phases of Reflective Training of 189 Trainee Civil Judges of Batch 2020-21 was conducted physically at RSJA

campus Jodhpur. During institutional trainings, all the norms and protocols related to pandemic COVID-19 were followed.

### **Technological Accomplishments**

Various major technological initiatives were taken during the year in addition to successful implementation of e-Filing, e-Pay and Hybrid Video Conferencing during COVID-19. For management of gathering in court premises and to ensure social distancing, a computer programme has been developed and hosted on official website of Rajasthan High Court for automated generation of e-Gate Passes for senior advocates, advocates, litigants and parties-in-person. Automated permissions can be generated and SMS are received by applicants. Detailed guidelines and help videos in this regard were



*Jaipur Bench of the High Court of Rajasthan*

made available. Taking a big stride towards digitalization and paperless functioning of Courts, four courts of Rajasthan High Court; two each at Jodhpur and Jaipur, hearing bail matters started functioning in paperless mode from 2 November 2020. An in-house Peripheral Paperless Module has been developed by Computer Cell wherein different sub-modules / logins are provided for the Judges, Court Masters, Registry Officers, Section In-charge, dealing clerks, Scanning Agency etc. with facilities and functionalities according to individual requirements for management and use of paperless module. All the newly filed bail matters and documents are scanned and digitized at the filing counter itself and before uploading of PDF files in DMS a detailed and exhaustive bookmarking is done. Registry Officers, Section in-charges and Scanning Agency can supervise and manage entire process through specialized sub-modules / logins. Cause-List Programme has been linked with the paperless module and the files are automatically arranged as per cause list.

The Judges can access soft copy of files listed in cause list through their dedicated logins from anywhere including court room, residence office, and chambers. Facilities to save encrypted notes is also provided for the Judges. Facility for viewing all the connected / tagged matters alongside the main file is also available. Similarly, Court Masters are also provided access to soft copy of files from their logins. Dealing Clerks, through their logins, can insert, append and bookmark the newly filed documents or newly generated pages and automatically place them according to index and pagination. They can also perform task of tagging of similar files. Soon the paperless module will be extended for other case types. The official website of Rajasthan High Court has been provided with advanced features and dedicated e-Services. On the home page, a new tab / link for various types of e-Services is provided where all the e-Services viz., e-Filing, e-Pay, e-Pass, e-Directory, advocates' details and e-Services help videos are available under one umbrella. Further, the website has





*Museum at the High Court*

also been made fully compliant for specially abled users. Judgments / orders passed by High Court are required to be communicated to concerned trial court for necessary compliance and information and for this purpose their copies were earlier sent through post to the concerned subordinate court. To encourage swift, automated and paperless communication, a Computer Programme has been developed and made live from January 2021 to automatically send copies of judgments / orders of Rajasthan High Court through system generated email to the concerned court for compliance. Two Justice Clocks, the LED Video Walls, for information dissemination and creating awareness about disposal of cases and various other services provided by court complexes to public were made functional in the premises of Rajasthan High Court, Principal Seat at Jodhpur and Bench at Jaipur from 18 March 2021. A special software has been developed to display the approved information and live data from National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on the

Justice Clocks viz. age wise and category wise pendency of High Court and District Courts etc. Besides this, live information awareness about various e-Court services, legal aid services etc. is also displayed on Justice Clocks.

Simultaneous to Video Conferencing, institutionalised e-filing facility, electronic payment of court fees and fine were also started. For assistance of lawyers and litigants e-Sewa Kendra and dedicated VC Helpline numbers were setup. As the situation eased, provisions of dedicated VC platform (Cisco Webex for High Court and Microsoft Teams for subordinate courts), stable connectivity and requisite VC hardware for all courts were also made. Relevant guidelines for VC and e-filing were also notified. To minimize physical contact with the files, the paperless courts are now being extended for other case types in phased manner.

Scanning and digitization of disposed of case



*Chief Justice's Court at Jaipur*

records of Rajasthan High Court is in progress since October 2018 both at Jodhpur and Jaipur. Approximately seven crore pages are to be scanned. As on 30 June 2021, total 1,70,68,066 images (pages) have been scanned of which quality check has been done by the High Court Staff. In an endeavor to provide e-services at the door steps and to facilitate round the clock access to filing in courts, the facility of e-Filing was started across all 36 Judgeships and for all case types in Rajasthan from 4 August 2020 on the e-Filing portal of the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India. On the lines of e-Filing Guidelines for Rajasthan High Court, the Guidelines for e-filing in Subordinate Courts were also issued on 23 July 2020. Now any litigant or advocate can e-file any type of case in all the courts of Rajasthan. For assistance of advocates and litigants help video in vernacular have also been provided. The e-Filing facility through e-Filing portal has been customized according to the local requirements and filing procedure followed in Rajasthan with unique facility of filing stay applications

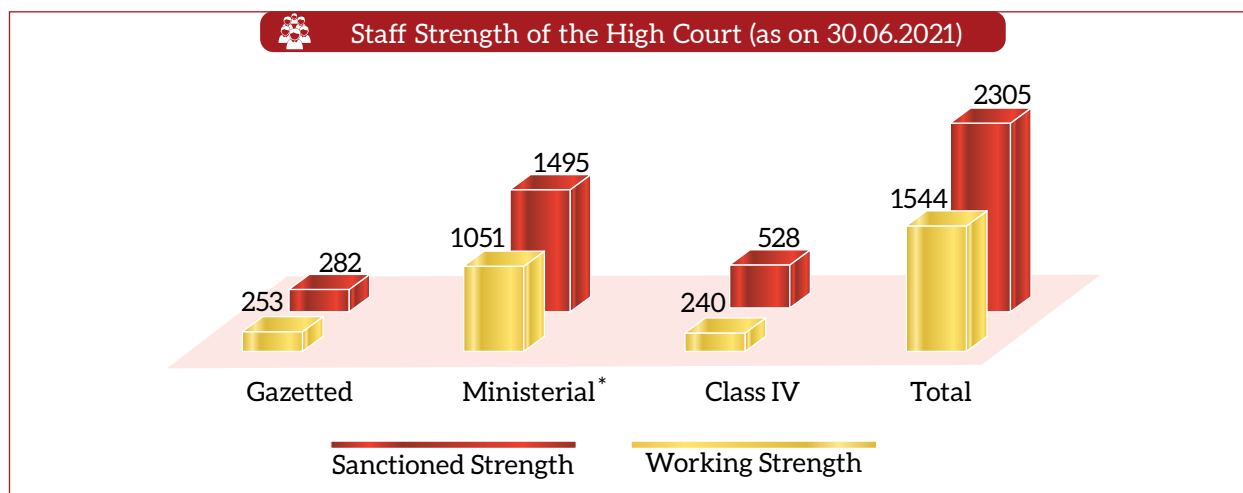
/ miscellaneous applications. An exclusive webpage for Commercial Courts of Rajasthan has been made live from month of February 2021. This webpage displays live statistical data of all Commercial Courts and Commercial Appellate Division functional in Rajasthan. Links for e-Filing, e-Pay, Court Orders, Case status, Cause lists are also available on this webpage and user can avail all e-Services pertaining to Commercial Courts on a single page. Digitally signed pdf copies of judgments/orders are also made available. Visitors can access all statistical information as required under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and the Commercial Courts (Statistical Data) Rules 2018 (as amended in year 2020). Electronic service of summons through NSTEP and electronic payment of court fees and fine has been made functional in all the courts across the State. To further streamline these processes, the Rules of business for District Courts in Rajasthan i.e. General Rules (Civil & Criminal) were amended and notified on 18 September 2020. Provisions were incorporated to facilitate electronic service

of summons through mobile devices. Similarly, enabling provision has been incorporated for any online payment mode or portal. In order to equip all the District & Subordinate Courts of Rajasthan to efficiently conduct court proceedings through Video Conferencing amidst prevailing pandemic situation, dedicated Microsoft Teams Office 365 licences were procured and provided to 1,242 Courts in the month of April 2021. Further, in order to ensure optimum and seamless utilisation of Video Conferencing setup, dedicated internet-broadband connectivity was also provided in each court room. Requisite hardware for conducting VC viz. camera-mic, document visualizers, display etc. were also procured and setup. Online Training of System Officers and System Assistants regarding usage of VC software was also conducted during month of April 2021. Dedicated Video Conferencing links for every court have been uploaded on the official website of every district, wherefrom the advocates, litigants, jails and other government officials / departments can easily participate in court proceedings through a single click. User manuals with relevant pictures

depicting simple steps to join VC have also been uploaded on district court websites.

Various Online Webinars, Trainings and Awareness Programmes for Judicial Officers, advocates, clerks, court staff on topic “CIS and e-Court Services” were conducted and also simultaneously streamed live on You-Tube to ensure maximum participation. In awareness programme organized by Rajasthan High Court and Rajasthan State Judicial Academy on 21 May 2021, more than 8,000 advocates participated virtually. For spreading awareness, various video tutorials and brochures have also been prepared in Hindi Language and are made available on You-Tube Channel of Rajasthan High Court. Foreseeing the fact that e-Learning and virtual mode of training are going to be the new normal, Rajasthan State Judicial Academy (RSJA) has procured IT infrastructure like Web-Ex Virtual Training Software, 100 MBPS Lease Line for Internet Connectivity, Interactive Panel, Laptop, All in One PCs, and also got fabricated a state of the art Video Conferencing Hall.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



\* Including Technical Posts

### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	3,50,22,81,000	2,99,33,00,000	3,28,35,85,000
Non-Plan	11,16,28,32,000	10,87,62,64,000	12,09,67,33,000
Total	14,66,51,13,000	13,86,95,64,000	15,38,03,18,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges 50

Working Strength of Judges 23

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest 23

Highest 25

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old 1,03,065

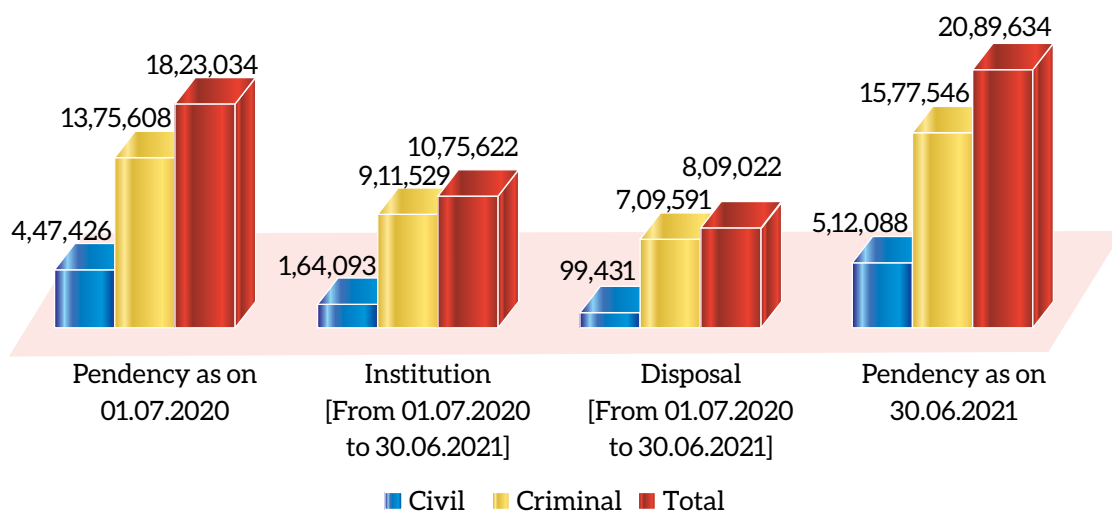
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,37,383	30,607	17,225	1,50,765
Company Matters	292	36	43	285
Contempt (Civil)	7,308	1,800	691	8,417
Review (Civil)	822	127	85	864
Matrimonial Matters	2,279	315	212	2,382
Arbitration Matters	199	160	67	292
Civil Revisions	1,276	200	143	1,333
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	2,915	422	110	3,227
Civil Appeals	44,387	3,920	1,900	46,407
Land Acquisition Matters	3,419	322	112	3,629
MACT Matters	47,922	2,909	1,139	49,692
Civil Suits (Original Side)	07	03	02	08
Other than above	1,15,306	41,275	19,250	1,37,331
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,595	2,716	1,809	2,502
Criminal Revisions	20,024	2,232	1,169	21,087
Bail Applications	3,845	36,665	36,653	3,857
Criminal Appeals	45,396	3,713	2,013	47,096
Death Sentence Reference	13	03	07	09
Contempt (Criminal)	22	02	02	22
Misc. Criminal Applications	21,304	13,614	8,409	26,509
Other than above	33,098	16,007	9,906	39,199

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
1,537



Working Strength  
1,286



Vacancy  
251

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
28,020	63,345	91,365

22

High Court of  
**SIKKIM**



# HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM\*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswanath Somadder, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan

\*As on 1 November 2021



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Prior to its merger with the Union of India, Sikkim was under a monarchy. In 1955, the then Maharaja of Sikkim issued the High Court of Judicature (Jurisdiction and Powers) Proclamation, by which the High Court in Sikkim was established. The High Court was made the final Court in all judicial matters, civil or criminal, subject to the exercise of prerogative by the Maharaja to grant mercy, pardon, remission, commutation or reduction of sentence in case of conviction. The Maharaja also retained his prerogative to set up a Special Tribunal for the review of any case, civil or criminal. On its merger with India in 1975, Sikkim became the 22nd State of India and the High Court functioning immediately prior to the date of merger became the High Court for the State of Sikkim under the Constitution of India. In 1978, Sikkim Civil Courts Act was passed with a view to consolidate the laws relating to the constitution of Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court and other relevant matters.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic, the High Court of Sikkim and all the Subordinate Courts of the State functioned with the object of keeping the doors of justice open for all. At the same time, being mindful of the potency of corona virus, the welfare of the stakeholders/duty-holders was not compromised. By Circular dated 18 July 2020, all the Subordinate Courts were reminded of the safety precautions required to be taken at all times. On the same day, by

another Circular the officers and staff members of the High Court, Subordinate Courts and all the Judicial Officers were directed not to attend the office in case they were having symptoms of COVID-19. This was necessitated to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19. Even during complete lock down of the entire State due to rapid rise in corona-virus cases, the High Court of Sikkim and all the Subordinate Courts conducted proceedings for urgent cases. Taking into consideration, the difficulties being faced by the litigants and advocates due to the travel



restrictions imposed, the High Court of Sikkim on 3 August 2020 launched e-filing module and e-payment system for the High Court and all the Subordinate Courts of the State. It was notified on the same day and incorporated in the website of the High Court.

Earlier in the year, looking at the overall improvement in COVID-19 situation in the State, by Circular dated 25 March 2021 the High Court of Sikkim and all the Subordinate Courts of the State began hearing the cases through physical as well as hybrid mode. However, this could not continue for long due to the onset of second wave of coronavirus in late April 2021 when the hearing of cases reverted back to the virtual mode. In pursuance to online meeting held on 2 June 2021 between Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India with Hon'ble Chief Justices of the High Courts, corona-virus vaccination drive was conducted in coordination with the State Health Department. All the officers and staff members of the High Court, Judicial Officers, ministerial staff and advocates between age group of 18-44 years were vaccinated. The under-trial prisoners and convicts lodged in the Central State Prison, Rongyek, East Sikkim and District Prison, Namchi, South Sikkim were also vaccinated.

During the judicial year 2020-21, in view of the inconvenience caused to the litigants in filing cases in legal papers, the High Court of Sikkim replaced the existing practice of filing of cases on legal size papers to the widely available A4 size papers. For all administrative purposes also, A4 size papers will be used in the High Court of Sikkim and all the Subordinate Courts of the State. Further, a land was identified at Chongrang, Upper Luing, East Sikkim for establishment of a new complex of the High Court of Sikkim. The same was approved by the Full Court subject to receipt of stability report of the land, a survey for which is underway. Further, the establishment and functioning of the Sikkim National Law University had also commenced. The State Government agreed to begin the academic session

of the University from a temporary infrastructure until a land is identified for construction of a permanent complex.

South District Legal Services Authority, Namchi conducted online Refresher Training Programme for Remand Advocates of South District on the role and functions of remand lawyers on 23 September 2020. Further, in compliance with the instructions received from Hon'ble Chairperson, e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, an online "Training Programme for Lawyers on e-Courts Services" was conducted on 10 October 2020 for all the panel lawyers. An online training programme was also conducted in the month of October 2020 for all remand advocates and retainer lawyers on pre-arrest, custody, remand and their duties. Sensitization programme on tribal rights under NALSA (Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights) Scheme, 2015 on the occasion of the launching of "Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav" was conducted on 12 March 2021. Similar sensitization programmes were also conducted by District Legal Service Authority (DLSAs) in the respective Districts. Apart from that, online training programme for lawyers on "Cross Examination of Witness" was conducted on 1 June 2021. Online training programme for panel advocates upto 12 years of practice is being conducted every fortnight from 7 August 2021 and will continue till the end of this year. Further, pamphlets on 'emergency contact numbers for women in distress in Sikkim' and 'mental health and the COVID-19 pandemic' are being published by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and disseminated through push e-mails and WhatsApp.

Sikkim Judicial Academy (SJA) was able to provide and successfully complete the induction training course to the newly recruited Judicial Magistrate-cum-Civil Judge by online mode. The trainee Judicial Officer completed one year training on 30 April 2021 and joined her place of posting. Twenty-four online training programmes were conducted by SJA not only for Judicial Officers but



*Panoramic view of the High Court*

for other stakeholders, such as Public Prosecutors, Members of Juvenile Justice Board, District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee, Police Officers, Law Clerks, Officers and staff members of the High Court and Subordinate Courts. Training of Advocate Master Trainers under e-Courts project was conducted in coordination with the Central Project Coordinator of the High Court of Sikkim. A programme on “Mental Health during COVID-19 pandemic” was conducted for Judicial Officers, Officers and Staff of the High Court, Sikkim SLISA, all Subordinate Courts and SJA. A session was also held for the advocates. SJA held meeting with the State Government for expediting the construction of Phase-II infrastructure of SJA. In the budget of the present financial year, an estimated portion has been sanctioned by the State Government for commencing the construction of Phase-II infrastructure.

### **Technological Accomplishments**

To ensure that the Courts continue to function even during the lockdown and travel restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic, virtual court hearing was implemented in the High Court and all the Subordinate Courts of the State. Video

conferencing facilitation centres were established in the High Court and all the Subordinate Courts of Sikkim. Advocates and litigants were provided with these facilities. Standard Operating Procedure for Video Conferencing and Rules for Video Conferencing, 2020 were put into place. Any assistance required with regard to video conferencing is provided by the technical manpower appointed in all the Courts of the State. The High Court launched e-Filing module and e-Payment system for the High Court and all the Subordinate Courts of the State on 3 August 2020. This greatly benefited the advocates and litigants. e-Sewa Kendras were set up in the High Court and all the Subordinate Courts of Sikkim as per the directions received from the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India. This serves as a one stop center for all court related information and e-Services.

All the Subordinate Courts continued the work of scanning and digitization of judicial records. The files scanned are uploaded into the digital repository of the concerned court. This is an ongoing process. The website of the High Court of Sikkim was enhanced to include features such as keyboard (tab) navigation, contrast (black and white), font increase and decrease, labeling of



*Aerial view of the High Court*

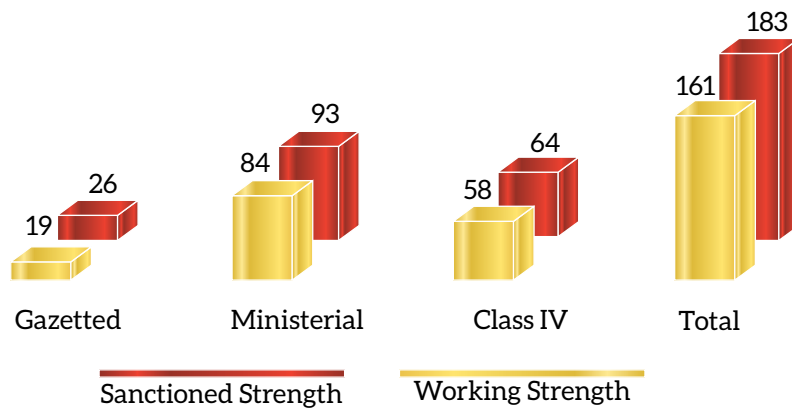
image and text, screen reader option placed at front page of the website, calendar for display of final Orders/Judgments, uploading of final Order and Judgments in pdf as well as HTML format etc. in order to ensure better accessibility. Apart from the above, High Court of Sikkim implemented 'One Stop Solution' wherein a single application is tailored to deliver different content and functionalities to users. It can be personalized based on the role and function of the user. Various other application softwares were also developed and implemented inter alia like the websites of the High Court of Sikkim, SJA and Museum of

the High Court of Sikkim. File tracking system, copy-room software, android mobile app., screen sharing application etc. were also developed by the technical team of the High Court. Justice Clock was installed in the High Court premises. Installation of solar power plant was completed in District Courts Complex, Gangtok, East Sikkim and is under progress for the other Subordinate Courts. The procurement of computers and its peripherals was conducted in a timely manner. The majority of procurement is from Government e-Marketplace (GeM) national portal.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Staff Strength of the High Court (as on 30.06.2021)



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	-	-	-
Non-Plan	17,91,93,000	21,49,84,000	18,11,76,000
Total	17,91,93,000	21,49,84,000	18,11,76,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]



### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges 3

Working Strength of Judges 3

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest 3

Highest 3

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old 1

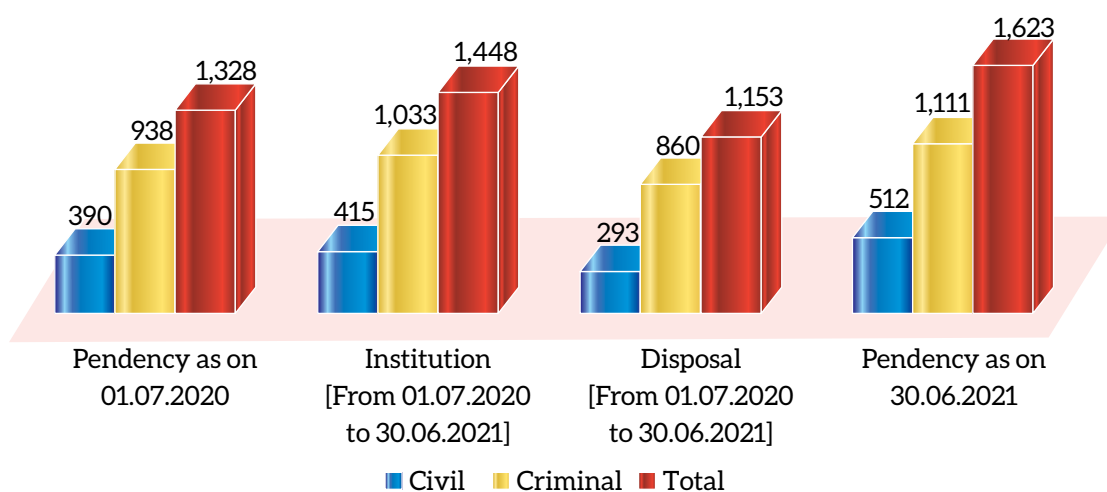
# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

## Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	100	70	54	116
Company Matters	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Civil)	01	02	02	01
Review (Civil)	0	02	02	0
Matrimonial Matters	01	0	01	0
Arbitration Matters	03	06	04	05
Civil Revisions	07	03	06	04
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	02	02	02	02
Civil Appeals	58	17	22	53
Land Acquisition Matters	04	02	0	06
MACT Matters	08	14	06	16
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	02	01	0	03
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	0	02	0	02
Criminal Revisions	09	02	03	08
Bail Applications	0	16	16	0
Criminal Appeals	33	13	21	25
Death Sentence Reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (Criminal)	0	0	0	0
Misc. Criminal Applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	07	06	10	03

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
25



Working Strength  
20



Vacancy  
5

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
01	04	05

**23**

# High Court for the State of **TELANGANA**



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA\*

<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Chief Justice</b>		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tadakamalla Vinod Kumar	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Gurijala Radha Rani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Adavalli Rajasheker Reddy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Annireddy Abhishek Reddy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Munnuri Laxman
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ponugoti Naveen Rao	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kunuru Lakshman	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Noonsavath Tukaramji
Hon'ble Dr. Justice Shameem Akther	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bollampally Vijaysen Reddy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Addula Venkateshwara Reddy
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Perugu Sree Sudha	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Patlolla Madhavi Devi
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Ghandikota Sri Devi	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Chillakur Sumalatha	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The magnificent city of Hyderabad ruled by the Nizams was the seat of the State of Hyderabad, the largest native State in India. On 17 September 1948, the State of Hyderabad acceded to the Indian Union. On 1 October 1953, the State of Andhra was formed under the Andhra Pradesh State Act 1953, by carving out 11 districts from the then State of Madras. It was on 5 July 1954 that the High Court for Andhra State was established at Guntur. In 1956, a new State of Andhra Pradesh was created on linguistic basis by merging the Andhra State with parts of Hyderabad State. On 5 November 1956, the High Court for the new State of Andhra Pradesh was established at the existing High Court building at Hyderabad.

Under the Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act, 2014, the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated into the State of Telangana and the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh, with effect from 2 June 2014. Consequently, the Andhra Pradesh High Court was renamed as the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh. The said High Court remained a common High Court for both the two States till 31 December 2018. Consequent to the Presidential Notification dated 26 December 2018 with effect from 1 January 2019, a separate High Court was established for the State of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravathi and the existing High Court was renamed as High Court for the State of Telangana.





## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

During COVID-19 pandemic, steps were taken for RTPCR and Rapid testing of the employees in the High Court and district courts. Regular medical camp for Covid test was established in the High Court premises. Periodic sanitization of the chambers, court halls and various sections were carried out in the entire High Court premises. Sanitizer dispensers were provided at the entrance of each Chamber, Court Halls and all the Sections, along with sanitizers for daily use. Face shields, masks were also provided to the entire staff of the High Court. Thermal Screening Thermometers were used at the Security Entry to check the temperature of the staff / visitors while entering into the High Court premises. Sanitization / fog machines were used for sanitization of Chambers / Court Halls, on daily basis. Hot Air Hand dryers

were set up in all the toilets located in the entire premises of the High Court. Pulse Oximeters were provided to the Judges and Judicial Officers / Registrars. Transparent plastic sheets with table cover frame were installed on the dais of each Court Hall for the protection of the Judges. For outsourcing, Contract and Contingent employees vaccination amount Rs. 850 was reimbursed by spending more than Rs. 1 lakh. The High Court also commenced the COVID-19 vaccination drive for the officers, staff of the High Court and all the Unit Heads in the State.

In the judicial year, first batch of 51 Junior Civil Judges from Telangana State Judicial Academy after one year basic training were posted in the Courts on successful completion of one year training on 20 January 2021. 35 Courts were inaugurated virtually/physically including 2



*Panoramic view of the High Court*

Commercial Courts, Fast Track Special Courts under POCSO Act, Senior Civil Judges Courts, and Junior Civil Judges Courts. In order to support the family members of the deceased staff who passed away due to COVID-19, 7 compassionate appointments were made in the High Court. Likewise, compassionate appointments were made in the subordinate courts also. Steps were taken to carve-out Judicial Districts co-terminus with Revenue Districts. The High Court provided 1.5 ton split air conditioners for home offices of all the Judicial Officers in the State. Similarly, cell phones were also provided to all the Judicial Officers in the State. Each court hall in the subordinate courts in the State was provided with 2 ton air conditioners.

Foundation stone was laid for construction of Law Chambers, Crèche and High Court medical dispensary in the High Court premises. Ground breaking ceremony for 10 court complexes with residential quarters at Kukatpally was held. The extended building of City Criminal Courts for

CBI Courts was inaugurated. Video Conferencing Rules and e-Filing Rules were framed by the High Court and implemented throughout the State.

## Technological Accomplishments

The official website of the Telangana State Judicial Academy was virtually launched on 25 February 2021. The website is developed by the in-house NIC team, High Court for the State of Telangana and will be hosting all the latest news, details of training programs and events of the Judicial Academy. The High Court and the Telangana State Judicial Academy intends to make this into an online platform where the Judicial Officers and visitors can enlighten themselves on various aspects of law and judicial administration. An android application “Virtual Court Webcasting” was launched for live webcasting of Virtual Court hearings of the High Court, enabling the journalists and media personnel to access the virtual benches without joining the virtual court



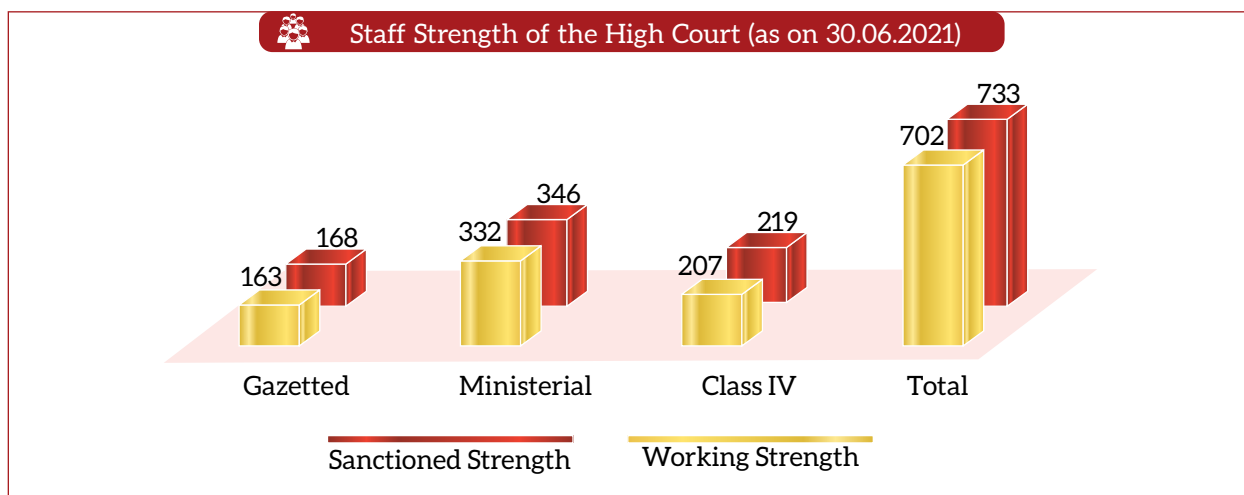
*Digital Inauguration of Mobile Video Conferencing Facility*

hearings. This will enable them to report the orders and Judgments on important and public interest matters in the print / electronic/web media. With a view to implement the NSTEP Mobile Application, the Civil Rules of Practice, 1990 were amended, inserting Rule 82-A in Chapter VII, enabling the electronic service of the processes.

During the judicial year, the High Court provided smartphone devices to the Bailiffs / Process Servers working in the subordinate courts in the State of Telangana. The High Court also prepared user manuals and a demo video on how to use the NSTEP Mobile Application in both English and Telugu Languages, to help the Bailiffs / Process Servers understand the nuances of using the app. The district and subordinate courts were asked to conduct training programs for the Bailiffs and Process Servers on the usage of the smartphones, NSTEP Mobile Application etc. The High Court for the State of Telangana reintroduced the “Daily Disposal Statistics” portal, used by the High Court to monitor the daily disposals of the Judicial Officers working in the State, especially the old pending matters. The portal is now integrated with Undated Cases information, so that the Judicial Officers can take cognizance of the undated cases and initiate steps to bring them down to zero or minimum possible level. The official website of the High Court for the State of Telangana was updated to make it more accessible for the differently-abled persons. High Contrast Mode, Audio Captchas, Alternative Texts, etc. were added to the website for easy access. The Judges of the High Court, Registrars, Judicial Officers working across the State were provided with various IT devices like Laptops, Desktop Computers, Tablets, Mobile Phones, Printers, etc. The High Court came out with a device policy defining the rules as to the prescribed shelf life of these devices after which these need to be replaced, also the retention policy under which the Judges of the High Court and the Judicial Officers can retain the devices

by paying the depreciation value prescribed according to the age of the device. The first of its kind innovative idea of providing Mobile Video Conference facility to the advocates lacking technical know-how and internet connectivity, with a theme of “Access to Justice at Door Step”, mobile vans with internet facility were made available in the districts. The advocates can utilize the vans to attend the Virtual Courts through video conferencing, these were particularly helpful during the Pandemic of COVID-19. The High Court conducted online Training (ECT) / awareness programmes for the advocates during the pandemic period from January 2021 to June 2021. The training programmes were conducted to equip the advocates with using the e-Filing Modules and other e-Courts Services. The High Court has now entered into hybrid mode where Benches are being conducted in combination of virtual and physical mode, with few of the Judges conducting physical courts on turn basis while other Judges conducting benches via virtual mode. The district and subordinate judiciary is also conducting hearings using Video Conferencing. The High Court permitted all the Judicial Officers in the State to get separate internet connections at their offices and home offices exclusively for the purpose of virtual courts. They were requested to go with the ISP which provided the best connectivity in their region. The High Court is also continuing the practice of providing Control Rooms for advocates, with all requisite amenities for the advocates to attend the virtual courts, especially for those advocates who do not have internet connectivity or for those who lack the technical know-how to attend these virtual courts. The High Court for the State of Telangana is in the process of developing a portal for Judicial Officers’ Services through which they can submit various applications and forms, like leave applications, Annual Confidential Reports, Annual Property Statements, and various other service-related applications.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020**	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	39,93,77,000	63,44,10,000	2,09,53,64,000
Non-Plan	1,93,46,91,000	1,95,53,23,000	2,69,60,40,000
Total	2,33,40,68,000	2,58,97,33,000	4,79,14,04,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges	42
Working Strength of Judges	14

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest	14
Highest	14

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old	33,034
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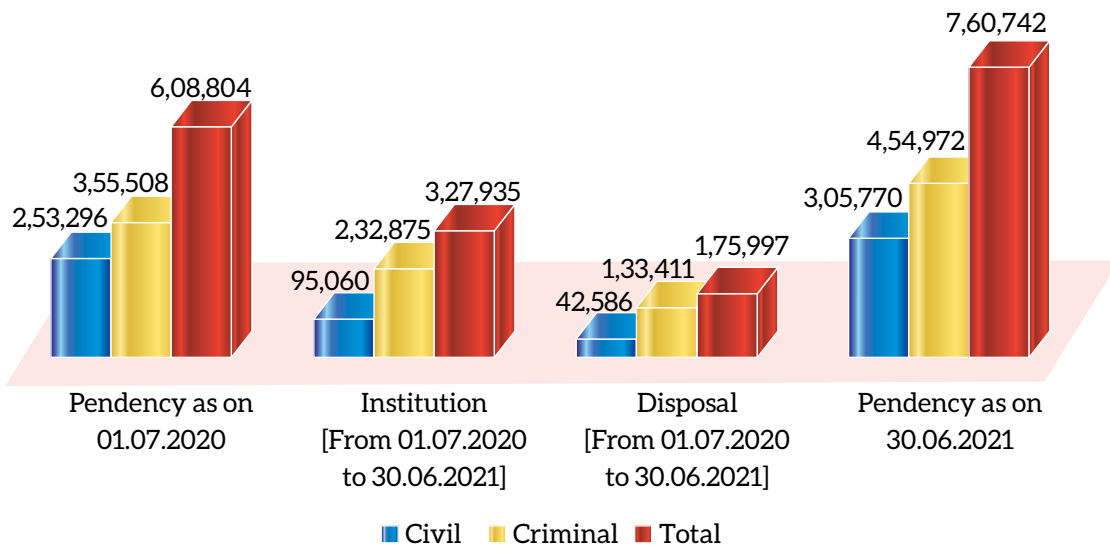
# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

## Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,09,975	30,067	16,432	1,23,610
Company Matters	773	49	44	778
Contempt (Civil)	6,374	1,393	578	7,189
Review (Civil)	0	0	0	0
Matrimonial Matters	2,006	123	166	1,963
Arbitration Matters	151	136	100	187
Civil Revisions	9,321	1,584	1,411	9,494
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	4,042	90	105	4,027
Civil Appeals	24,245	1,879	1,461	24,663
Land Acquisition Matters	1,512	54	01	1,565
MACT Matters	20,901	827	499	21,229
Civil Suits (Original Side)	08	0	03	05
Other than above	684	237	132	789
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal Revisions	8,925	615	206	9,334
Bail Applications	61	2,793	2,670	184
Criminal Appeals	8,408	453	104	8,757
Death Sentence Reference	06	02	0	08
Contempt (Criminal)	0	0	0	0
Misc. Criminal Applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	13,836	6,697	3,986	16,547

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
474



Working Strength  
367



Vacancy  
107

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
7,221	2,315	9,536

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# High Court of TRIPURA



# HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA\*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Indrajit Mahanty, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subhasis Talapatra

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arindam Lodh

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Todupunuri Amarnath Goud

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satya Gopal Chattopadhyay

\*As on 1 November 2021



## BRIEF INTRODUCTION

In the year 1972, after the enactment of the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) Act, 1971, the State of Tripura came under the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court which continued until 2012. Thereafter, by way of amendment under Section 28A(c) of the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971, a separate High Court for the State of Tripura was established on 23 March 2013, with the seat at Agartala. The High Court of Tripura is functioning from its own spacious and beautiful three storied building covering an area of about 10 acres, situated on a high land in a serene atmosphere in the capital city, Agartala.



## INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

### Administrative Achievements

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the High Court of Tripura came up with different mechanisms to ensure its support to the litigants, lawyers and the justice delivery system. With restrictions imposed on its functioning and also of the courts of the district judiciary only for hearing urgent cases, the High Court of Tripura shifted from its conventional approach to virtual courts and online filings. The restrictive functioning of the High Court and the District Courts was eased in November 2020 when the Registry of the High Court and the District Courts of Tripura including the Family Courts were directed to

resume functioning with full staff strength. The High Court started hearing all categories of cases, including special drive to hear cases pending for more than 5 years. The matters were heard in hybrid manner i.e both physical hearing and virtual hearing. District Courts were also directed to resume physical hearing of all categories of cases from 21 November 2020.

However, from the month of April 2021, due to the rise of Coronavirus cases, the High Court of Tripura decided to take up all cases- urgent as well as non-urgent- for motion and hearing through virtual mode only. All District Courts and Family Courts were directed to hear only urgent





*Front view of the High Court*

cases such as bail, anticipatory bail, production of accused and application for police remand, injunction applications, applications for vacating injunction, interim maintenance petitions etc. In view of further rise in spread of Coronavirus, it was ordered that only Part-I urgent cases be notified in the High Court for hearing. The High Court reviewed the arrangement of its working as well as of the District Courts and vide Order dated 3 July 2021 decided that the High Court shall take up hearing of all urgent as well as non urgent cases of Part-I as well as Part-II matters through virtual mode.

The High Court of Tripura in association with the Tripura Judicial Academy celebrated 8<sup>th</sup> High Court Day and organised the '7<sup>th</sup> Annual Judicial Conclave' on 20 and 21 March 2021. A Vaccination Camp was organised at High Court of Tripura on 9 April 2021 for administering first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and on 21 May 2021 for administering second dose. Further, a Special Vaccination Camp was organised on 15 May 2021 for the persons between 18-45 years in the High Court premises for administering first dose and on 22 June 2021 for administering second dose.

On 9 May 2021, the Foundation Stone of the proposed Court of the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate and Civil Judge (Jr. Div.) at Mohanpur was laid. On 22 May 2021, the newly constructed Court Building of Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate and Civil Judge (Jr. Division) at Sabroom under South Tripura Judicial District was inaugurated through video conference.

On 27 February 2021, two workshops were conducted by the Tripura Judicial Academy on "Role of Sessions Judges, Public Prosecutors, Doctors and Investigators in the Justice Delivery System" and "Ethics and Responsibility of Advocates in the Justice Delivery System" wherein Sessions Judges, Public Prosecutors, Doctors, Police Officers from several parts of the State of Tripura and the advocates participated. The Academy made arrangements for participation of Judicial Officers of Tripura Judicial Service in an online session on "Securing Justice" conducted by Maharashtra Judicial Academy on 24 and 25 April 2021 and one day Online Special Training Programme on "Court Management & Case Management for Speedy Dispensation of Justice" conducted by Judicial Training & Research Institute, Lucknow, UP on 27 June 2021.

The Tripura Judicial Academy also conducted “ECT 004-2021-4th Phase of Advocate Master Trainer Programme” to impart online training to the advocates & their clerks in the District and Taluk Level Bar Association on 25 April 2021.

During the judicial year, Tripura State Legal Services Authority (TSLSA) organized National Lok Adalats and Special Lok Adalats in the High Court as well as in the Districts and Sub-divisional Courts of the State. Special Lok Adalats were organized at Kailashahar and Agartala where cases under Motor Vehicles Act and Tripura Police Act were taken up and more than half of those cases were disposed of. TSLSA also organized various awareness programmes and Legal Services Camps on Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Civil Rights Act. Besides awareness camps, street shows and dramas were also organized showcasing the evils of casteism and untouchability. A Webinar was organized by TSLSA in collaboration with the MBB University on 27 November 2020 on the topic “Fundamental Duties are the citizen charter for leveraging a humane republic”. 17 Legal Awareness Camps

were held throughout the State which were attended by 1,197 persons. 189 beneficiaries were given legal aid in court cases. All over the State, six Mediation Centres are working. Further, six Permanent Lok Adalats have been functioning in six Judicial Districts and one Continuous Lok Adalat has been functioning in TSLSA, Agartala regularly. To ensure that the benefit of legal service reaches to common people, a legal Assistance Establishment (Nyaya Sanyog), consisting of advocates and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) has been opened in the premises of TSLSA with toll free no.1516 to make legal help quicker.

### Technological Accomplishments

During the judicial year 2020-21, the High Court of Tripura took numerous initiatives under the Phase-II of the e-Courts Project which primarily concentrated on replacement of old hardware and procurement of additional hardware for the High Court and District Courts, CIS Periphery development and augmentation of video conferencing infrastructure of the Courts across the State. In 10 court complexes (Udaipur,



*Aerial view of the High Court*

Amarpur, Sonamura, Bishalgarh, Ambassa, Kamalpur, Gandacherra, Longtarai Valley, Kanchanpur, Kailashahar) the laying of OFC (Optical Fiber Cable) was completed to get the stable connectivity of NIC-SWAN.

Considering the need for holding Virtual Courts at the District Judiciary on account of the unprecedented disruption caused by COVID-19 pandemic, the High Court took special initiative to upgrade and augment the video conferencing infrastructure of the District & Sub-divisional Courts of Tripura by replacement of old hardware and procurement of additional hardware. On 23 December 2020, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India inaugurated e-Sewa Kendra at the Registry of the High Court. Construction work of e-Sewa Kendra in the court complex of District & Sessions Judge, Sepahijala Judicial District, Sonamura has been completed on pilot basis.

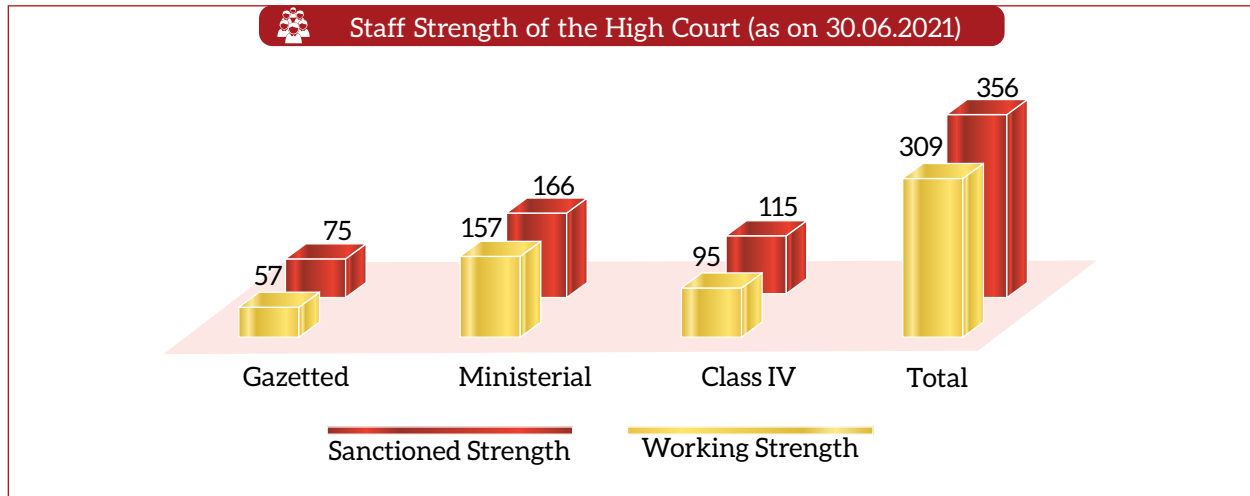
On and from 1 December 2020 as per the direction of the High Court, all the District & Sessions Judges of Tripura are digitally signing the judgments, final orders, notifications, letters etc. by using the DSC Tokens and uploading the same on the website. A dedicated Scanning & Digitization Room has been constructed in the High Court.

Some process re-engineering steps were taken by the High Court like generation of e-Cause List (maintained by respective courts on regular basis) by using the data of CIS NC 3.2, discontinuation of maintaining manual Trial Registers.

In a first move to go paperless in the recruitment process, last year in September, the High Court of Tripura introduced a software application- Online Application System with e-Payment facility for online deposit of application fees by the candidates. The examination process, to a certain extent was also made paperless with an aim to go completely paperless in future by introducing OMR system. On 16 September 2020, the High Court of Tripura launched a dedicated email id for Virtual Courts to enable the advocates/parties-in-person to electronically send the list of authorities or copies of judgments relied on by them or any other document not forming part of the case record to the Registry in advance prior to the date of hearing of the case by the concerned Virtual Court. This has reduced the usage of papers by the advocates.

On 21 December 2020, the High Court of Tripura launched a Software Application namely, "Performance Evaluation System of the Judicial Officers (PESJO)" to evaluate the quarterly performance of disposal of cases by the Judicial Officers. The Application 'PESJO' is accessible by the Judicial Officers through Court-NIC Network only; and is being used by all the Judicial Officers holding courts with effect from 1 January 2021 for submission of their quarterly performance reports by dispensing with the submission of hard copy statement. A video tutorial of this Software Application is also available on the official YouTube Channel of the High Court. Testing of the e-Filing software was also successfully completed at the High Court.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Plan	21,13,77,000	21,53,20,000	23,72,60,000
Non-Plan	-	-	-
Total	21,13,77,000	21,53,20,000	23,72,60,000

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges **5**

Working Strength of Judges **4**

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest **4**

Highest **4**

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old **0**

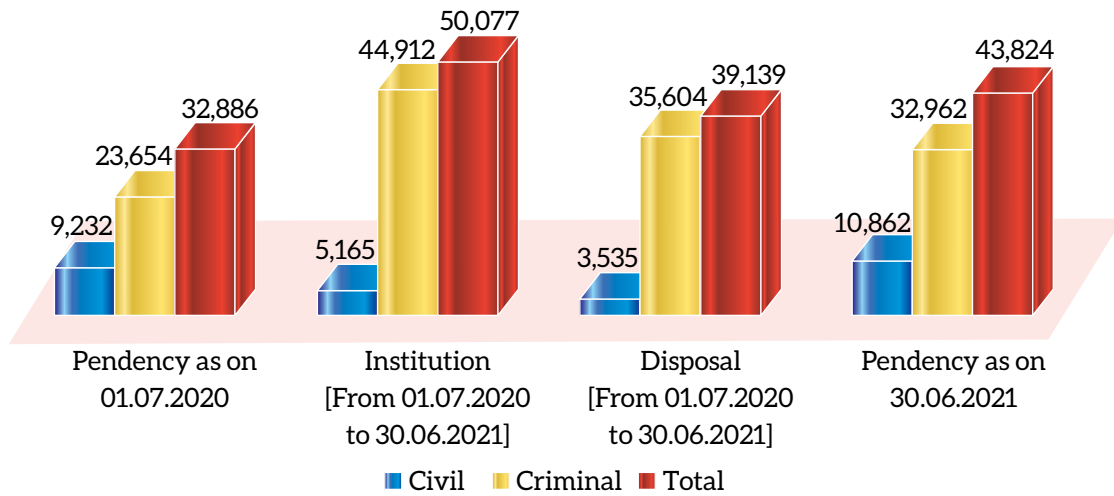
# HIGH COURT STATISTICS

## Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	850	885	1,157	578
Company Matters	01	0	0	01
Contempt (Civil)	37	80	90	27
Review (Civil)	12	27	32	07
Matrimonial Matters	72	08	20	60
Arbitration Matters	13	14	19	08
Civil Revisions	65	58	87	36
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	0	01	01	0
Civil Appeals	209	28	92	145
Land Acquisition Matters	82	67	58	91
MACT Matters	64	44	69	39
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	309	540	615	234
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	05	14	12	07
Criminal Revisions	123	37	92	68
Bail Applications	18	177	188	07
Criminal Appeals	177	49	104	122
Death Sentence Reference	01	01	0	02
Contempt (Criminal)	0	01	0	01
Misc. Criminal Applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	18	65	71	12

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
121



Working Strength  
97



Vacancy  
24

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
41	1,411	1,452

25

# High Court of UTTARAKHAND



## HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND\*

### Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Narayan Singh Dhanik	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Kumar Verma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramesh Chandra Khulbe	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sharad Kumar Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Maithani	

\*As on 1 November 2021



### BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The State of Uttarakhand was carved out from the erstwhile State of Uttar Pradesh on 9 November 2000. On the same date, the High Court of Uttarakhand was also established at Nainital. The jurisdiction of the High Court extends over 13 Districts, namely, Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar and Uttarkashi. The High Court of Uttarakhand is housed in a magnificent building constructed in the year 1900 A.D., known as old Secretariat. This building was built in Gothic style. In the beginning, five Court halls were constructed but, later on more Court halls were added. A Chief Justice Court Block and two more Court buildings were constructed in the year 2007. Thereupon, in view of the increasing demand of space, Glenthorn building which earlier belonged to Forest Department, and adjacent to the High Court was also taken over. A separate ADR complex was also constructed in the High Court premises, in which the office of the Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority is situated.



### INITIATIVES FOR THE JUDICIAL YEAR 2020-21

#### Administrative Achievements

In view of COVID-19 pandemic, various directions were issued to conduct judicial work in the High Court and Subordinate Courts as well, while ensuring overall safety of all the stakeholders and duty holders. Directions were issued to hear the matters through video-conferencing. Various

steps were taken to concentrate on the disposal of old cases like previous years. Some old cases were allocated Bench wise, which gave fruitful result. Like-wise, directions were issued for the Subordinate Courts also. Monitoring process was strengthened and Arrears Committees were mobilized to mitigate the retarding effects of the pandemic on the judicial works and targets.



During the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, directions were issued to the Subordinate Courts to ensure complete sanitization and cleaning of entire Court campus every day and to take up urgent matters, the category of which was defined. It was directed that only bare essential Judicial Officers on rotational basis be deputed and rest of them remained available at home during office hours. Similarly, rotation system for the staff was also implemented. Various other directions were also issued in consonance with the directions/guidelines issued by the Government of India and the State Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

During the judicial year 2020-21, High Court took concrete steps to fill-up the vacant posts of support staff in the High Court and the Subordinate Courts as well.

As per the directions of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and under the guidance of Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority (UKSLSA), 1<sup>st</sup> e-Lok Adalat was organized on 12 September 2020 from Tehsil Level to the High Court Level in all Courts and Quasi-Judicial Authorities. In this, out of 5,465 cases, 2004 cases were settled amicably and the amount of settlement remained Rs. 25,29,42,228.50. Two Board Meetings of UKSLSA were organized on 25 September 2020 and 15 December 2020. A scheme, namely "Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority (Legal Services for Victims of Female Foeticide, Female Infanticide, Child Trafficking, Forced Marriages and Eradication of Forest Fire and Saving the Girl Child) Scheme 2020" was being implemented in District Bageshwar, as a Pilot Project. As per the scheme, sensitization programmes were conducted on 28 and 29 November, 2020 at Block Office, District Bageshwar. A web based application (open source) namely, Legal Aid Information System (LAIS) was launched to access services of legal aid, for providing free legal aid to the weaker sections and other concerned stakeholders. The said application was handled & monitored by the

High Court. A YouTube Channel was also created by UKSLSA for sharing the best practices of UKSLSA and the Legal Services Institutions of the State. Documentaries as developed by UKSLSA & NALSA including other legal aid activities / programme videos are uploaded from time to time. Live streaming of the programmes is also telecasted on the channel.

In compliance of order dated 23 March 2020 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in *Suo Moto Writ Petition (C) No. 1/2020, In Re: Contagion of COVID-19 Virus in Prisons*, a High Powered Committee was constituted to determine the class of prisoners who can be released on parole or on interim bail for such period as may be thought appropriate. An online meeting of the Committee was held on 9 July 2020 and on the basis of the Committee's recommendations, 105 prisoners (94 under-trials and 11 convicts) were released from different jails of the State on interim bail or parole. Similarly, in compliance of order dated 7 May 2021 in the aforesaid Writ Petition and order dated 6 May 2021 in Writ Petition (PIL) No. 58 of 2021 (*Omveer Singh Vs. State of Uttarakhand and others*) passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and as per directions of Hon'ble Executive Chairman, UKSLSA, High Powered Committee meeting was convened on 17 May 2021. On the recommendation of the Committee, 106 convicted prisoners and 685 under-trial prisoners were released on parole/interim bail for 90 days. Another meeting of the Committee was convened on 23 June 2021 whereby on its recommendation, 24 convicted prisoners and 79 under-trial prisoners were released on parole/interim bail for 60 days. During the ongoing pandemic, a video conference session was held on 5 July 2020 wherein all the District Legal Service Authorities (DLSAs) were directed to take necessary steps so as to provide help in the form of food, shelter, health check-up, sanitization etc. to the needy persons. The DLSAs provided necessary help to the needy persons. Secretaries, DLSA, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar and Dehradun inspected the quarantine centers



in compliance of the order dated 28 May 2020 passed by the High Court of Uttarakhand in W.P. No. 58/2020 (Sachidanand Dabral Vs. UOI & Ors.).

A Multi-Purpose Legal Awareness camp was organized by UKSLSA and DLSA, Nainital in March 2021 wherein various certificates and services viz. widow pension, BPL certificates, Job Cards, Ration Cards, medicines etc. were provided by which 696 persons benefited. Similar Multi-purpose Legal Awareness Camps were also organized at various places in Bageshwar and Udham Singh Nagar districts. Legal Literacy campaign drives were also conducted in the remotest 24 villages and urban areas of Pithoragarh District through Mobile Van / Vidhik Seva Rath. Various national days and programmes were celebrated and organized with full fervor by UKSLSA and all the DLSAs like, National Youth Day- the birthday of Swami Vivekanand on 12 January, World Day of Social Justice on 20 February, International Women's

Day on 8 March and the Central Government sponsored programmes such as "Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav". Further, under the Citizens Duties Awareness Programme (CDAP) of Government of India, various programmes / webinars were organized, thereby imparting awareness in the masses by connecting through social media platforms and video conferencing facilities such as Facebook Live, Google Meet etc. A helpline number was created for the legal assistance of the victims of the unfortunate natural disaster that occurred in village Raini, District Chamoli on 7 February 2021. Retainer and Panel Lawyers were also appointed for the said purpose. Apart from that, the stakeholders were also sensitized about the easy and amicable settlement of cases related to banking and financial matters. Various training programmes were also conducted from time to time for Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), members of Permanent Lok Adalats etc. Total 15,422 cases were disposed of out of 46,114 cases



*Panoramic view of the High Court*

that were taken up in various Lok Adalats / Legal Programmes organized in the State during July 2020 to June 2021. The compensation / settlement amount remained at Rs. 68,27,68,642 while the fine realized was Rs. 28,83,172. Total 86,729 persons were benefited in 1,759 camps that were organized during the said period. 2,771 persons were benefited through Legal Aid and Advice.

The Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy (UJALA) conducted 26 training programmes from 1 July 2020 onwards following the DoPT guidelines regarding training. Out of this, eight training programmes were conducted in physical mode, in which the trainee participants arrived in the Academy from various districts. To ensure the prevention of any spread of COVID infection, they were quarantined and went through COVID test before sitting in the class sessions physically. Further, every trainee participant was provided separate hostel room to maintain social distancing

and the remaining 18 training programmes were conducted through virtual mode.

### **Technological Accomplishments**

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, all the Courts were hearing cases through Video Conferencing since 15 April 2020. A total of 53,770 cases have been heard/taken up through Video Conferencing in the High Court and 27,024 in the Subordinate Courts from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. Google meet application was notified as designated software for Video Conferencing. Along with this, JITSI Meet and Vidyo Desktop Software are also being used for case hearing through Video Conferencing. High Court of Uttarakhand Video Conferencing Rules, 2020 were notified on 10 December 2020 for the High Court and Subordinate Courts. Online facilities for submission of Court fee were also launched



*Chief Justice's Court*

for High Court and Subordinate Courts. Laptops with Printers were also provided to Judicial Officers of the State for smooth hearing of cases through Video Conferencing. Justice Clock, a large video wall was installed in the High Court Premises for displaying the current status of institution, pendency and disposal of cases in the State. E-Sewa Kendra, a centralized facility for all ICT enabled services including e-Filing is being constructed in the High Court and District Court Almora, a pilot District for advocates and litigants.

Digital Signatures were provided to all the Judicial Officers of the State. Facilities such as Online Daily and Weekly Cause Lists in PDF format, Judgments and orders in PDF format, Online Display Board, Online Case Status using website / National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) / Android Application, Enquiry of cases by kiosk were also provided to stakeholders. LFD based Physical Screens (22) was installed in the premises of Hon'ble Court for Live

Case Running Status. Case Categorization, Full Bench Judgments, Jurisdiction of Judicial Courts in Uttarakhand, Circular Letters, Notifications, Results/Recruitments, RTI Manual, Tenders etc. are available for all stakeholders on the official website of High Court. The facilities available under the e-Tender Portal and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal of India are being utilized.

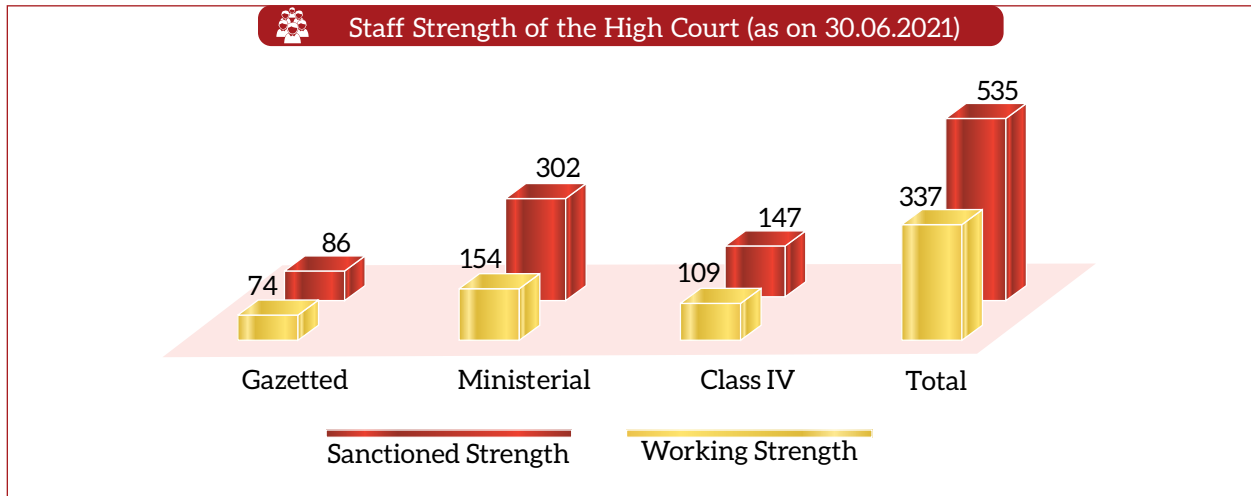
e-Granthalaya, KOHA, and online legal libraries are being used by the Judges of the High Court. Studio / desktop video conferencing facility is available at High Court. Dual Internet Connectivity i.e. 34 MBPS NICNET & 50 MBPS MPLS, are available throughout the High Court on leased line including the residences of the Judges. All the Districts have been directed to ensure / procure two dedicated Internet connections (either new or increase the already available internet connectivity bandwidth) for the Courts. Under digitization of old court

records, approximately 1.32 Crore documents have already been scanned and digitized. DSPACE software was used to manage and retrieve the said digitized documents. Inventory Management System for Stationery and Management Section, Leave Management Software for two Districts as a pilot project, District Court Pendency Monitoring Tool (DCPMT), Online Updation of Pendency/ Arrear, Pendency System, Budget Monitoring, Recruitment Monitoring etc., were developed and are being used by the Sections of the Court. Legal Aid Information system (LAIS) to provide online free legal aid to weaker sections of society was

developed and launched.

Case Information System (CIS 3.2) has been installed and data of cases are being entered in CIS 3.2 for further uploading on NJDG. SMS and e-mail service is functioning at 51 Court complexes, eight Family Courts and one Commercial Court through CIS 3.2. Video Conferencing facility has been installed at 23 Court complexes and 10 Jails. The remand work and recording of evidence is being done through Video Conferencing. The websites of all the District Courts are available in DRUPAL 7.0 and are up to date. Various activities of the State Judiciary are being monitored with the help of Video Conferencing.

## HIGH COURT STATISTICS



### Budget of the High Court\*

	2019-2020	2020-2021**	2021-2022
Plan	8,00,00,000	0	0
Non-Plan	47,26,62,760	52,57,60,000	54,25,81,292
Total	55,26,62,760	52,57,60,000	54,25,81,292

\* For financial year (Amount in Rupees) [1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March]

\*\* Data Revised by High Court

### Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges and Old Cases

#### Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2021)

Sanctioned Strength of Judges **11**

Working Strength of Judges **7**

#### Analysis of working strength of Judges (from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021)

Lowest **7**

Highest **10**

#### Analysis of Old Cases (as on 30.06.2021)

Cases more than 10 years old **1,192**

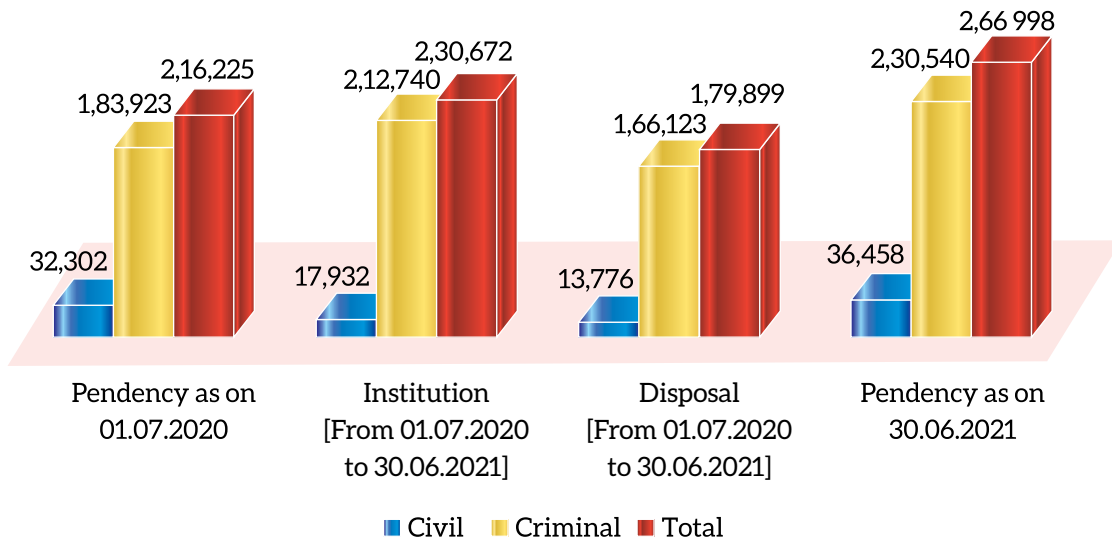
## HIGH COURT STATISTICS

**Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021**

Category	Pendency	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
	As on 01.07.2020	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021	As on 30.06.2021
<b>CIVIL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	12,489	5,487	4,662	13,314
Company Matters	12	03	02	13
Contempt (Civil)	1,716	634	918	1,432
Review (Civil)	963	763	554	1,172
Matrimonial Matters	308	10	283	35
Arbitration Matters	111	36	106	41
Civil Revisions	399	87	98	388
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	460	57	152	365
Civil Appeals	2,759	768	431	3,096
Land Acquisition Matters	1,177	50	80	1,147
MACT Matters	2,844	139	132	2,851
Civil Suits (Original Side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	51	49	22	78
<b>CRIMINAL</b>				
Writ Petition (Articles 226 & 227)	1,406	2,433	1,796	2,043
Criminal Revisions	2,363	262	346	2,279
Bail Applications	722	3,534	3,217	1,039
Criminal Appeals	4,898	545	290	5,153
Death Sentence Reference	06	01	0	07
Contempt (Criminal)	04	01	01	04
Misc. Criminal Applications	4,233	1,337	782	4,788
Other than above	686	385	330	741

## SUBORDINATE COURTS STATISTICS

### Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021



### Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2021



Sanctioned Strength  
298



Working Strength  
254



Vacancy  
44

### Analysis of more than 10 year old Cases as on 30.06.2021

Civil	Criminal	Total
1,265	5,765	7,030



**HON'BLE SHRI N. V. RAMANA, CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA  
WITH THE EDITORIAL TEAM FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**



Standing L to R :

Smt. Uma Narayan, Additional Registrar; Shri Bibhuti Bhushan Bose, Editor, SCR;  
Shri Virender Kumar Bansal, Secretary General; Shri Deepak Jain, Registrar;  
Shri Ajay Agrawal, Additional Registrar; Shri Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara, Registrar.

