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2015-2016





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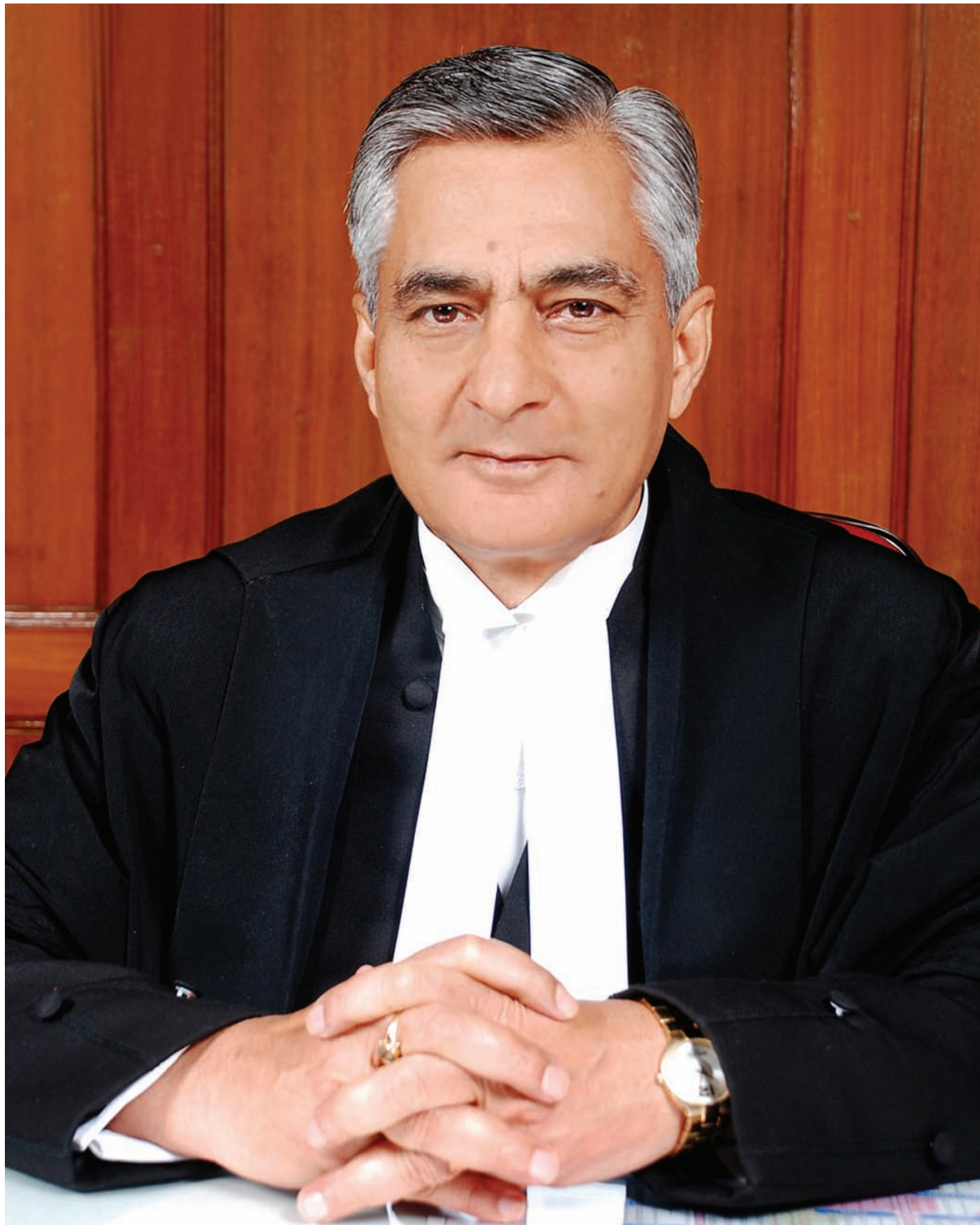
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CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

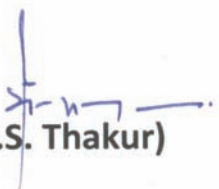


Looking to the interest and curiosity among the people in general and stakeholders in particular, about the performance of the judiciary in this country different High Courts publish their annual reports to place the relevant information in public domain. No consolidated report is, however, published for the entire judiciary. This report aims to do that for the benefit of all those who want to access the information for research and other purposes.

The unique feature of this report is that it gives a snapshot of the jurisdiction of the courts, their administrative set-up, judicial overview and recent reforms. The report also chronicles work done and the efforts made by the courts and allied institutions like National Legal Services Authority, Supreme Court Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee in the field of resolving disputes using ADR mechanisms.

To enable a litigant friendly environment with an enhanced ease of filing cases, depositing court fee and collecting copies of judgments, digital initiatives across the country have started under the e-Courts project scheme, which steps alongwith the efforts of the e-Committee have also been highlighted in the report. An endeavour has also been made to present a fuller picture of the administrative and technological accomplishments of the High Courts including the work of State Legal Services Authorities and State Judicial Academies. Data regarding institution, pendency and disposal of cases in subordinate courts as well as in the High Courts has also been suitably highlighted.

I express my deep gratitude to all my Brother and Sister Judges in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts for giving their very best. The commendable service rendered by the members of the Supreme Court Registry and those in the Registries of the High Courts is also worthy of appreciation. I am grateful to the members of the Bar for their valuable assistance and cooperation. I congratulate the Chief Justices and their companion Judges of the High Courts and the members of the judicial fraternity for their sincere efforts in living upto the hopes and expectations of the people and for making access to speedy and affordable justice a reality.


(T.S. Thakur)

INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court of India highlights its work and achievements, through Annual Report published each year.

This report makes a departure in as much as the work of the Court is taken from the period starting July 2015 till June 2016. This time frame has been deliberately chosen considering most of the Courts re-open after summer recess during this time of the year. The duration from July to June next year, for which this report has been prepared would be referred to as the 'Judicial Year' henceforth.

The Supreme Court, under the guidance of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, is for the first time publishing the first report of entire Indian Judiciary for one year. The report is divided into two parts. Part- I is dedicated to the work of Supreme Court and emphasizes the work of the Court towards clearing its backlog and reduce the pendency of cases to provide speedy justice to all. The report starts with a brief overview of the Supreme Court; its establishment, constitution, infrastructure, jurisdiction, Court administration, judicial overview followed by recent reforms and digital initiatives undertaken by the Supreme Court of India. It further highlights the landmark judgments passed during the year, the publications of the Supreme Court and the improvements in the functioning undertaken to tone up the functioning of the Registry. It also presents the role of Supreme Court in education, training and research; apart from the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism by the Court and reflections on library, museum and the bar.

Part- II of the report has been introduced this year and efforts have been made to compile the data

of Indian Judiciary as a compendium by presenting the work of the High Courts in all States of the Indian Union. This part of the report reserves a place for each High Court where the first section of the write-up of a High Court, reflects upon its rich legal history including, establishment and jurisdiction. This is followed by the second section which focuses on the administrative achievements of the Court during the judicial year. This section highlights the role of State Legal Services Authorities in providing legal aid and adopting ADR mechanism; and activities of the State Judicial Academy. The narrative section of the report also provides a snapshot of the technological accomplishments of the High Courts including the work in progress in making the Courts paperless and also making the Courts litigant-friendly by ensuring easy access to information. The report of each High Court concludes with the statistical information about the Judges strength, the institution, disposal and pendency of cases during the judicial year. The statistics providing the above information has been collected in the various categories of civil and criminal matters. This includes civil writ petitions, company matters, civil contempts, civil reviews, matrimonial matters, arbitration matters, civil reference, tax matters, civil appeals, land acquisition matters, MACT matters and other civil suits under the civil category. The statistics of criminal matters has been included under the heads of criminal reference, bail applications, criminal appeals, death sentence reference, criminal contempts, miscellaneous criminal applications and other matters under the criminal category.

The data was collected from the High Courts through questionnaire and is presented in a standardized format in the report for easy comparison and ready reference. Different High Courts have varied number of case types and are using different nomenclature, for example, Manipur High Court has 212 number of case types whereas Patna has 36 case types and Sikkim has only 20 case types. However, for easy comprehension, for the first time

the nomenclatures have been standardized in this report. Besides, the diversity in nomenclature of case types followed by the various High Courts is being reviewed by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court to arrive at a common set of nomenclatures.

The report attempts to provide a snapshot into the functioning of the entire Indian Judiciary along with their activities and achievements during the judicial year.

PART

1

SUPREME COURT

1

PROFILE OF JUDGES

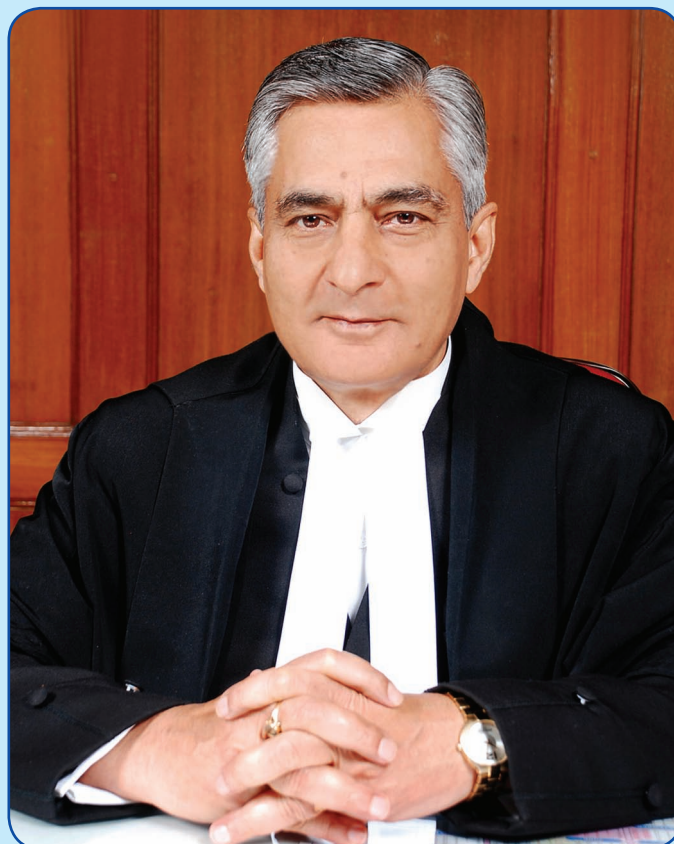
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

Justice T. S. Thakur

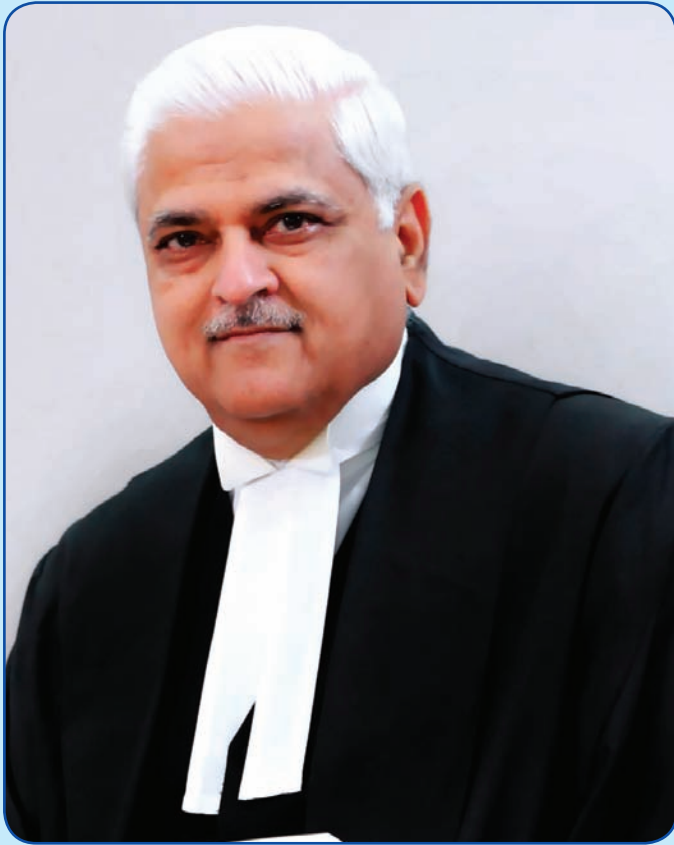
Born on 4 January 1952. Enrolled as a Pleader in October 1972 and joined the Chamber of his father Late Shri D. D. Thakur, a leading Advocate and later, a Judge of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir. Practised in Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Taxation and Service matters in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir. Elected as President of the Bar Association in 1986. Was designated as Senior Advocate in the year 1990. Was appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir on 16 February 1994 and transferred as Judge of the High Court of Karnataka in March 1994. Appointed as a permanent Judge in September 1995. Was transferred as a Judge of the High Court of Delhi in July 2004. Was appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on 9 April 2008 and took over as Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana on 11 August 2008. Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court and assumed charge on 17 November 2009. Took over as Executive Chairman, National Legal Service Authority in October 2014. Took oath as Chief Justice of India on 3 December 2015.

Was conferred degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, on 31 October 2015. Was conferred degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) by University of Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir on 2 April 2016. Was also conferred degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) by Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla on 20 August 2016.

Due to retire on 3 January 2017



Justice Anil R. Dave



Born on 19 November 1951. Did B.Com., LL.M., A.C.A (Chartered Accountant). Recipient of National Scholarship for LL.M. studies. Enrolled as an Advocate on 25 July 1976. Appointed as Solicitor to the Government of Gujarat and Additional Government Pleader, Gujarat High Court from April 1986 to August 1994 for conducting its matters arising under Labour Laws and Service matters.

Appeared before the High Court for several statutory bodies like Gujarat Public Service Commission, GEER and for several District Panchayats. Was part-time Lecturer in Sir L.A. Shah Law College from 1976 to September 1995. Also taught LL.M. students.

Elevated to the Bench of Gujarat High Court as Additional Judge on 18 September 1995 and confirmed as Permanent Judge on 18 June 1997. Appointed as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court on 7 January 2008. Assumed the office of Chief Justice of Bombay High Court on 11 February 2010. Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 30 April 2010.

Was Patron and Chairman of the Advisory Council of International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR), Regional Centre, Hyderabad; Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad; Visitor, Gujarat National Law University; Visitor of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, Punjab and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority.

Fond of Himalayan Trekking and has trekked extensively to several remote places of Himalayas like Kailash Mansarovar, Adi Kailash, Manimahesh Kailash, Milam Glacier, Kafni Glacier, Tapovan, Rupkund and many other places. Loves nature and likes to meet people with different culture.

Due to retire on 18 November 2016

Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar

Born on 28 August 1952. Enrolled as an Advocate in 1979. Practiced mainly in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Himachal Pradesh High Court and the Supreme Court of India.

Appointed as Additional Advocate General, Punjab, in January 1992, and then as Senior Standing Counsel, Union Territory, Chandigarh. Designated as Senior Advocate in February, 1995.

Remained Standing Counsel for Universities of the area, Corporate Bodies and a large number of Companies and Cooperative Organizations.

Elevated to the Bench of High Court of Punjab and Haryana, at Chandigarh, on 8 February 1999. Appointed as Acting Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh twice i.e., w.e.f. 2 August 2008, and again, w.e.f. 17 November 2009.

Elevated as Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital, on 29 November 2009. Transferred as Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka, and assumed charge of the office on 8 August 2010.

Appointed as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 13 September 2011.

Due to retire on 27 August 2017.



Justice Dipak Misra



Born on 3 October 1953 in the family of Late Pandit Godavarish Misra, who was a Prolific Writer, both in Poetry and Prose, a great statesman and educationist. His grand-father had a great role in the establishment of Uttakal University at Bhubaneswar and S.C.B. Medical College at Cuttack. His father Late Pandit Raghunath Misra was also a great Sanskrit Scholar, Writer and Translator.

Done his schooling in Gowdawari's Vedyapeth at Bantar. After the school, joined Revenshaw Shah College, Cuttack and obtained M.A. Degree in English from the said college. Did law from M.S. College, Cuttack.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 14 February 1977. Practiced in Constitutional, Civil, Criminal, Revenue, Service and Sales Tax matters in the Orissa High Court and the Service Tribunal.

Appointed as an Additional Judge of the Orissa High Court on 17 January 1996 and transferred to the Madhya Pradesh High Court on 3 March 1997. Became permanent Judge on 19 December 1997.

Assumed charge of the office of Chief Justice, Patna High Court on 23 December 2009 and took charge of the office of Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on 24 May 2010. Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 10 October 2011.

Due to retire on 2 October 2018.



Justice Jasti Chelameswar

Born on 23 June 1953 at Pedda Muttevi, Movya Mandal in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.

Had his earlier education upto Class XII at Hindu High School at Machilipatnam in Krishna District and Graduated in Science (Physics) at Madras Loyola College. Graduated in Law from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, in 1976.

Designated as Senior Counsel in the year 1995. Appointed as Additional Advocate General on 13 October 1995.

Elevated as Additional Judge of High Court of Andhra Pradesh on 23 June 1997 and as Judge w.e.f. 17 May 1999. Elevated as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court on 3 May 2007. Transferred to Kerala High Court and assumed charge as Chief Justice of Kerala on 17 March 2010.

Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 10 October 2011.

Due to retire on 22 June 2018



Justice Fakkir Mohamed Ibrahim Kalifulla



Born on 23 July 1951 in Karaikudi. Is the son of Late Mr. Justice M. Fakkir Md., former Judge of the Madras High Court and grandson of Khan Bahadur P. Kalifulla Sahib, a former Diwan of Pudukkottai.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 20 August 1975. Became a permanent Judge of the Madras High Court on 2 March 2000. Assumed the office as Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir on 18 September 2011.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 2 April 2012.

In the Madras High Court, he pronounced the landmark judgment relating to introduction of Vedic Astrology as a course of scientific study in Indian Universities, and the same was approved by the Supreme Court. Rendered very many landmark decisions on issues of national importance at the Supreme Court, some notable ones being *Maharshi Mahesh Yogi Vedic Vishwavidyalaya vs. State of M.P. (Education)*, *Rai Sandeep vs. State of NCT (Sterling Witness)*, *Ashok Shankarrao Chavan vs. Dr. Madhavrao Kinhalakar & Ors. (Election)* and the like.

Due to retire on 22 July 2016.



Justice Ranjan Gogoi

Born on 18 November 1954.

Alumni of St. Stephen's College, Delhi. Did his LL.B. from the Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi. Joined the Bar in 1978.

Practised mainly in the Gauhati High Court.

Appointed as Permanent Judge of Gauhati High Court on 28 February 2001. Transferred to Punjab and Haryana High Court on 9 September 2010.

Appointed as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court on 12 February 2011.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court on 23 April 2012.

Due to retire on 17 November 2019.



Justice Madan B. Lokur



Born on 31 December 1953. Did B.A. History (Hons.) from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University in 1974. LL.B. from Faculty of Law, Delhi University in 1977.

Was Additional Solicitor General of India from 14 July 1998.

Elevated as Additional Judge of Delhi High Court from 19 February 1999 and permanent Judge from 5 July 1999. Appointed as Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court on 13 February 2010. Appointed as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court from 24 June 2010 and of High Court of Andhra Pradesh from 15 November 2011.

Elevated as a Judge, Supreme Court of India from 4 June 2012.

Has interest in Judicial Reforms, Computerization of Courts, Judicial Education, Legal Aid and Services, Juvenile Justice and ADR. Is Member, Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee of the Supreme Court of India from 2005 and Judge in charge of the E-Committee of the Supreme Court from 2012. Is one man Committee on effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 from 2013.

Due to retire on 30 December 2018.



Justice V. Gopala Gowda

Born on 6 October 1951 at Peddur, Chikkaballapur District in Karnataka as son of late Shri D. Venkate Gowda and Smt. Subbamma. Did B.Sc., LL.B.

Enrolled as an Advocate on 14 November 1975 and started practice from 1979 at Bangalore. Was Part-time Assistant Professor in V.V. Puram Law College from 1983-1991 and University Law College, Bangalore in 1986-1987. Standing Counsel for Bangalore Mahanagara Palike from 1983 to 1993, 1995-1997 and Karnataka Public Service Commission from 1995 to 11 June 1997. Member of the Karnataka State Bar Council and Chairman of Enrolment Committee from 1995 to 11 June 1997.

Elevated as an Additional Judge of Karnataka High Court on 11 June 1997 and became permanent Judge on 3 June 1999. Was Executive Chairman of Karnataka State Legal Services Authority from 23 June 2006 to 23 March 2010 and Member of the NALSA, New Delhi from 7 January 2009 to 6 January 2011. Appointed as Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court on 25 March 2010.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court on 24 December 2012.

Due to retire on 5 October 2016.



Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose



Born on 28 May 1952 at Kolkata in a lawyers' family. Graduated in Commerce from St. Xavier's College, Calcutta.

Obtained LL.B. degree from University of Calcutta and Attorney-at-Law from Calcutta High Court.

Enrolled himself with Bar Council of West Bengal on 30 November 1976. Practised in Civil, Commercial, Arbitration, Constitutional and Company matters, both in Original and Appellate Side of the Calcutta High Court.

Elevated as a permanent Judge of Calcutta High Court on 17 July 1997. Transferred to Andhra Pradesh High Court. Assumed charge as Acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court on 25 June 2012. Appointed as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court on 12 December 2012.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 8 March 2013.

Due to retire on 27 May 2017.



Justice Kurian Joseph

Born on 30 November 1953. Educated at St. Joseph's U.P. School, Chengal, Kalady, St. Sebastin's High School, Kanjoor, Bharatha Matha College, Thrikkakara, Sree Sankara College, Kalady and the Kerala Law Academy Law College, Thiruvananthapuram. Member of the Academic Council, Kerala University (1977-78), General Secretary Kerala University Union (1978), Senate member of Cochin University (1983-85).

Began legal practice in 1979 in the High Court of Kerala. Appointed as Government Pleader (1987), Additional Advocate General (1994-96) and designated Senior Advocate in 1996.

Elevated as Judge, High Court of Kerala on 12 July 2000.

Was President, Kerala Judicial Academy (2006-08); Chairman of Lakshadweep Legal Services Authority (2008); Chairman, Kerala High Court Legal Services Committee (2006-09); Executive Chairman, Kerala State Legal Services Authority (2009-10); Executive Committee Member, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi (2009-10).

Served twice as Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala. Appointed as Chief Justice of High Court of Himachal Pradesh from 8 February 2010 to 7 March 2013. Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 8 March 2013.

Due to retire on 29 November 2018.



Justice A. K. Sikri



Born on 7 March 1954. Had brilliant academic record. Stood third in Higher Secondary. Gold Medalist in LL.B. and LL.M. Was President of CLC, Delhi University and Member of Academic Council. Received scholarships from 9th Standard till LL.M. Joined Bar in July, 1977.

Specialized in Constitutional, Labour-Service, and Arbitration Matters. Was counsel for numerous Public Sector Undertakings, Educational Institutions, Banks etc. Was part-time lecturer in Law Faculty. Was Vice-President, Delhi High Court Bar Association. Designated as Senior Advocate in 1997.

Appointed as Judge of Delhi High Court in July 1999 and Acting Chief Justice in October, 2011. Elevated as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court in September 2012. Elevated as a Judge to the Supreme Court on 12 April 2013.

Has attended/chaired various National and International Conferences and presented papers therein. Many published articles in magazines/journals. Was chosen as one of the 50 most influential persons in Intellectual Property in the world by Managing Intellectual Property Association (2007). Conferred Doctorate of Laws, Honoris Causa, by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow.

Due to retire on 6 March 2019.



Justice S. A. Bobde

Born on 24 April 1956 at Nagpur, Maharashtra, son of Shri Arvind Shriniwas Bobde. Took B.A. and LL.B. Degrees from Nagpur University.

Enrolled on the Roll of the Bar Council of Maharashtra in 1978. Practiced Law at the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court with appearances at Bombay before the Principal Seat and before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for over 21 years.

Designated as Senior Advocate in 1998.

Elevated to the Bench of the Bombay High Court on 29 March 2000, as Additional Judge. Sworn in as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court on 16 October 2012.

Elevated as a Judge of Supreme Court of India on 12 April 2013.

Due to retire on 23 April 2021.



Justice Shiva Kirti Singh



Born on 13 November 1951. Grandfather Late Krishna Kumar Singh of Village Narendrapur, P. S. Ander, District Saran (now Siwan), Bihar had a modest Zamindari. Father Late Shambhu Prasad Singh, retired as a senior most Judge of Patna High Court in January 1979. Uncle, Late Uma Kant Pd. Singh became a martyr in front of Patna Secretariat during Quit India Movement in August 1942. Maternal grandfather Late B. P. Sinha was Chief Justice of India from 1959 to 1964. Completed schooling from Sainik School Tilaiya, Graduation in Political Science from Patna College, Post Graduation from Patna University and LL.B. from Patna Law College, all in First Division. Enrolled as an Advocate on 17 March 1977 and designated Senior Advocate on 17 January 1990. Practised in Patna High Court in Civil, Criminal, Service and Constitutional matters. Served as counsel for Bihar State Electricity Board for several years.

Elevated as permanent Judge of Patna High Court on 29 December 1998. Also served as Executive Chairman of Bihar State Legal Services Authority from 7 March 2006 to 16 October 2012.

Appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court in May 2009 for about four months, again in September 2009 for about same period and for the third time in May 2010 for a lesser period.

Transferred to Allahabad High Court and took oath on 17 October 2012. Appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court on 20 November 2012 and as Chief Justice on 4 February 2013. Elevated to Supreme Court on 19 September 2013.

Due to retire on 12 November 2016.

Justice Chockalingam Nagappan

Born on 4 October 1951. Hails from Karur and had his school education at Karur. Did his Pre-University Course in St. Joseph's College, Trichy and completed his B.Sc. Degree in Chemistry at Madura College, Madurai.

Studied Law Course in Madras Law College and secured Third Rank in the Final University Examination in April 1974. Did his M.L. Course in Criminal Law and secured First Rank in 1977.

Practiced as Junior Advocate under Sri K. Parasaran, Former Attorney General of India. Was a Part-Time Professor in Madras Law College for 7 years.

Directly recruited as District and Sessions Judge in 1987 and worked as District and Sessions Judge at Cuddalore, Salem and Coimbatore. Worked as the Special Officer, Vigilance Cell, Madras High Court.

Elevated as a Judge of Madras High Court on 27 September 2000. Appointed as a permanent Judge on 20 September 2002. Appointed as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court on 27 February 2013.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 19 September 2013.

Due to retire on 3 October 2016.



Justice R. K. Agrawal



Born on 5 May 1953. Hails from Uttar Pradesh. Did his Graduation in Law from Allahabad University. Enrolled as Advocate on 14 August 1976.

Joined the chamber of his father Sri Raja Ram Agrawal, Senior Advocate and former Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh on Civil side and dealt with Constitutional, Company, Service, Educational and Taxation matters.

Worked as Standing Counsel of the Income Tax Department of the Government of India. Served a number of Corporations and Institutions as their Standing Counsel. Was Joint Editor of U.P. Tax Cases.

Elevated as permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 5 February 1999. Assumed office as Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Madras on 7 February 2013. Assumed office as Chief Justice, High Court of Madras on 24 October 2013.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India and sworn in on 17 February 2014.

Due to retire on 4 May 2018.



Justice N. V. Ramana

Born on 27 August 1957 in an agricultural family in Ponnabaram Village, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. Did B.Sc., 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 Panel Counsel for various Government Organizations and as 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 Andhra Pradesh High Court on 27 June 2000. Functioned as Acting Chief Justice from 10 March 2013 to 20 May 2013. Participated in several National and International Conferences held in India and abroad and submitted papers on various topics of legal importance. Elevated as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on 2 September 2013.

Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 17 February 2014.

Due to retire on 26 August 2022.



Justice Arun Mishra



Born on 3 September 1955. Did his B.Sc., M.A., LL.B. Son of Justice H. G. Mishra, Judge, M.P. High Court. Called to the Bar in 1978. Practised in Constitutional, Civil, Industrial, Service and Criminal matters. Elected as youngest Chairman of Bar Council of India (1998-99). Also Vice-Chairman of BCI and M.P. State Bar Council. Elected to Bar Council of M.P. in 1989 and 1995. In the Bar Council, worked for improvement of legal education. Appointed as Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on 25 October 1999. Was Administrative Judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court, and Chairman, State Legal Services Authority of Madhya Pradesh. Appointed as the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court on 26 November 2010. Appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court at Calcutta on 14 December 2012. Decided approx. 97,000 cases as Judge of High Courts of M.P./Rajasthan/Calcutta. Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 7 July 2014.

Co-chaired All India Meet of Development of Law curriculum which introduced 3 and 5 year courses of LL.B. in the year 1998-1999 in order

to improve the quality of legal education. During his Chairmanship, Bar Council of India decided to close the evening Law Colleges and also decided that 5 years Law Course should be started instead of 3 years Course in all the colleges. More than two hundred sub-standard Law Colleges were closed by BCI, and to maintain dignity of profession, a large number of disciplinary cases were decided. Also, amount of medical aid to lawyers was enhanced. Drafted and implemented Foreign Law Degree Recognition Rules of 1997 under Advocates' Act, 1961; Bar Council of India Employees' Service Rules, 1996 and Rules pertaining to Foreign Lawyers Conditions of Practice in India. Remained Chairman of General Council of National Law School of India University, Bangalore, 15 May 1998 to 24 October 1999 and continues to be a Member. Led Indian Bar delegation to the Commonwealth Law Conference of "Commonwealth Countries" held at 'Malaysia' in September 1999 and chaired one Session there.

Due to retire on 2 September 2020.

Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel

Born on 7 July 1953. Did B.A. (Hons.), LL.B. Enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana on 16 July 1974.

Practised before the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court. Designated as a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court on 11 February 1999.

Was Additional Advocate General for the State of Uttar Pradesh at the Supreme Court and Standing Counsel (Civil), NCT of Delhi, in Delhi High Court.

Appointed as a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 2 July 2001. Was the Acting Chief Justice (Acting) of the Punjab and Haryana High Court from 2 May 2011. Joined as the Senior most Judge of the Gauhati High Court on 12 September 2011 and as Chief Justice of that High Court on 20 December 2011. Sworn in as Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court on 12 October 2013, on transfer.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 7 July 2014.

Due to retire on 6 July 2018.



Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman



Born on 13 August 1956. Did schooling from Cathedral School, Mumbai (High 1st Division, ISC). Did B.Com from Shri Ram College of Commerce, LL.B. (1st Class-2nd in the University) from Faculty of Law, Delhi, and LL.M. from Harvard Law School (Thesis on affirmative action: a comparison between India and US Constitutional Law). Practiced Maritime Law in New York at Haight, Gardener, Poor and Havens for 1 year. Was Solicitor General of India from 27 July 2011 to 4 February 2013. Was made Senior Counsel by the Chief Justice of India. Justice Venkatachaliah amended the Rules in order to make him a Senior Counsel at the young age of 37 against the mandatory 45. Has practiced law for the last 35 years. Has over 500 Reported Supreme Court Judgments to his credit. Has expertise in Comparative Constitutional Law and Civil Law. Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 7 July 2014.

He is in the Governing Board Gujarat Law School, Ahmedabad. Is a Member of Mediation Committee, Supreme Court of India. Has given a talk at IIC Delhi 2007 on Beethoven. Is a Member

of the Delegation from the Supreme Court of India to the Supreme Court of the United States of America, 2002. Gave the keynote address at the K.L. Misra Lecture on SPIRITUALITY AND LAW along with the Chief Justice of India and other Supreme Court Judges in Allahabad in 2004. Lectured at the Bar Council of India at the Supreme Court of India and University of Delhi.

Has Specialized in Comparative Religious Studies: Zoroastrianism in other faiths on 11 November 2006. Delivered the Annual K.R. Cama Lecture at K.R. Cama Institute, Mumbai on "Through the Looking Glass". Held fortnightly Gatha classes for two years in Delhi. Lectured in New York to the Zoroastrian Federation. Gave two lectures in Ahmedabad at the invitation of the Ahmedabad Parsi Panchayat in 2003. Gave religious talks at Philadelphia in 2005. Gave the SEARCH lecture at the IIC, Delhi in 2000. Ordained Priest from Bandra Agiary.

Has passion for and deep knowledge about western classical music. Great interest in and avid reader of history, philosophy, literature and science. Enjoys nature walks-is a committed daily walker.

Due to retire on 12 August 2021.

Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre

Born on 28 August 1954.

Enrolled as Advocate on 21 January 1978. Practised on Civil, Constitutional and Labour sides in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur.

Appointed as Additional Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on 25 October 1999 and Permanent Judge on 24 October 2001. Transferred to Rajasthan High Court and assumed charge at Principal Seat Jodhpur on 11 February 2010. Transferred to Chhattisgarh High Court and assumed charge on 23 April 2012.

Was transferred to the High Court of Manipur as Chief Justice and assumed the charge as the First Chief Justice of High Court of Manipur on 23 March 2013.

Transferred as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Guwahati, and assumed charge on 19 October 2013.

Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court and assumed charge on 13 August 2014.

Due to retire on 27 August 2019.



Justice R. Banumathi



Born on 20 July 1955. Enrolled on 7 January 1981. Practised in Mofussil Courts at Tirupattur, Krishnagiri, and Harur in State of Tamil Nadu.

Entered Tamil Nadu Higher Judicial Service as a direct recruit District Judge in 1988.

Elevated as Judge of the High Court of Madras on 3 April 2003. Appointed as the Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court on 16 November 2013.

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

As President and Member of Board of Governors in State Judicial Academy, played a key role in organizing systematic Training Programmes for Judicial Officers and Staff Members. As Executive Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Legal Services with effect from 15 July 2013, actively involved in Legal Services and organizing Lok Adalats. Was instrumental in recruitment of Judicial Officers and staff and improving the infrastructure of the Courts.

Authored the Book “Hand Book of Civil and Criminal Courts Management and Use of Computers”. Involved with the publication of Hand Books for the guidance of Judicial Officers and staff both in the State of Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.

Due to retire on 19 July 2020.



Justice Prafulla C. Pant

Born on 30 August 1952 at Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).

Obtained degree of law from Lucknow University. Joined Bar at Allahabad in 1973.

Entered into U.P. Judicial Service through U.P. Munsif Examination, 1973. Held different Judicial posts at Ghaziabad, Pilibhit, Ranikhet, Bareilly and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

Promoted to U.P. Higher Judicial Service in 1990 and Joined as Additional District Judge at Bahraich. Worked as Joint Registrar with Allahabad High Court. Wrote a commentary on “Marriage, Divorce and Other Matrimonial Disputes”. His commentary in Hindi on ‘Code of Civil Procedure’ won the first prize for the year 2000 from Government of India. After division of Uttar Pradesh, appointed as Secretary, Judicial, Uttarakhand. Held the post of District and Sessions Judge, Nainital before being posted as Registrar General of Uttarakhand High Court.

Took oath of Office of Additional Judge, High Court of Uttarakhand on 29 June 2004. Confirmed on 19 February 2008 as Judge of said High Court. Assumed charge of Office of Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court on 20 September 2013.

Took oath of Office of Judge, Supreme Court of India on 13 August 2014.

Due to retire on 29 August 2017.



Justice U. U. Lalit



Born on 9 November 1957.

Enrolled as an Advocate in June, 1983.

Practised 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. Appeared as Amicus Curiae in many matters.

Appointed Special Public Prosecutor for CBI to conduct trial in all 2G matters under the orders of the Supreme Court.

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

Due to retire on 8 November 2022.



Justice Amitava Roy

Born on 1 March 1953 at Kolkata, West Bengal. Did Post Graduation in Physics and LL.B. (1976) from the Dibrugarh University. Belongs to a family of lawyers. His father Late Anadi Bhushan Roy was a practicing Senior Advocate of repute at Dibrugarh in the State of Assam. His Father-in-Law, Late Salil Kumar Dutta had been a Judge of the Calcutta High Court. His brother-in-law, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Dutta is a sitting Judge of the Kolkata High Court.

Enrolled with the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh on 20 February 1976. Extensively practiced before the District Courts in the Districts of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia from 1976 to 1981. Shifted his practice before the Gauhati High Court in 1981 and also appeared before Central Administrative Tribunal, Gauhati and District Subordinate Courts at Gauhati. Practiced mainly on the Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Labour and Revenue side. Had also been the Senior Government Advocate of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh in the Gauhati High Court from 1991 to 1996. Was a Member of Assam Law Commission till his elevation. Designated Senior Advocate by the High Court on 3 June 1999.

Elevated as a Judge of the Gauhati High Court on 4 February 2002 and was appointed as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court and took oath as such on 2 January 2013. Transferred and Appointed as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court on 6 August 2014. Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 27 February 2015.

Due to retire on 28 February 2018.



Justice A. M. Khanwilkar



Born on 30 July 1957, Pune. 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, he was appointed as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court on 24 November 2013.

Elevated as Judge of Supreme Court of India and assumed charge on 13 May 2016.

Due to retire on 29 July 2022.



Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

Born on 11 November 1959.

Did B.A. with Honours in Economics from St. Stephen's College, New Delhi. LL.B. from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University. Obtained LL.M. degree and a Doctorate in Juridical Sciences (SJD) from Harvard Law School, USA. Practised law at the Supreme Court of India and the Bombay High Court. Designated as Senior Advocate by the Bombay High Court in June 1998. Appointed as Additional Solicitor General of India in 1998.

Appointed Judge of the Bombay High Court from 29 March 2000. Appointed as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court from 31 October 2013. Remained Director of Maharashtra Judicial Academy.

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

Visiting Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Mumbai. Visiting Professor at Oklahoma University School of Law, USA.

Delivered lectures at the Australian National University, Harvard Law School, Yale Law School and the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Speaker at Conferences organised by bodies of the United Nations including United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, International Labour Organisation and United Nations Environmental Program, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Due to retire on 10 November 2024.



Justice Ashok Bhushan



Born on 5 July 1956 in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh to Late Shri Chandrama Prasad Srivastava and Smt. Kalavathi Srivastava. Graduated in Arts in the year 1975, obtained Law Degree in Ist Division from the Allahabad University in the year 1979.

Enrolled as an Advocate with the U.P. Bar Council on 6 April 1979. Practiced on Civil and Original side at Allahabad High Court till elevation to the Bench.

Worked as Standing Counsel of Allahabad University, UPSMDC Ltd. and several Municipal Boards, Banks & Education Institutions. Elected as Senior Vice-President of the Allahabad High Court Bar Association. Elevated as Permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 24 April 2001.

Transferred to Kerala High Court, sworn in as Judge on 10 July 2014, took charge as Acting Chief Justice on 1 August 2014 and as Chief Justice on 26 March 2015.

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

Due to retire on 4 July 2021.



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.

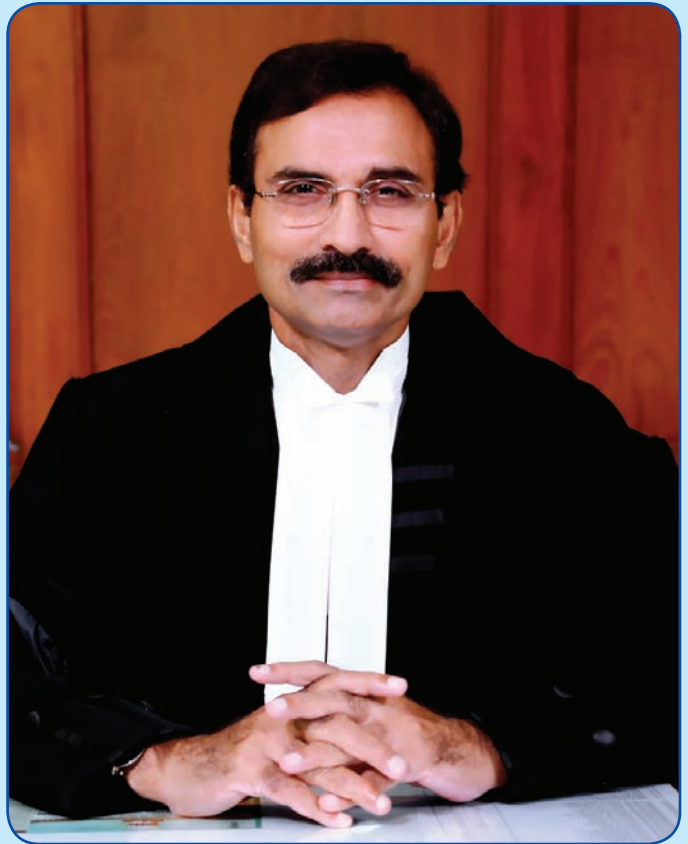
Practiced at the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad from January, 1985 to December, 1994. Practiced at the Supreme Court of India from January, 1995 to May, 2016.

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 a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 13 May 2016.

Due to retire on 7 June 2022.



Hon'ble Chief Justice Retired
from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2016



Justice H.L.Dattu

Former Chief Justice of India

Date of Appointment: 17 December 2008

Date of Appointment as CJI: 28 September 2014

Held Office Till: 2 December 2015

Hon'ble Judges Retired
from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2016



Justice S. J. Mukhopadhaya

Date of Appointment: 13 September 2011
Held Office Till: 14 March 2015



Justice M.Y. Eqbal

Date of Appointment: 24 December 2012
Held Office Till: 12 February 2016



Justice Vikramajit Sen

Date of Appointment: 24 December 2012
Held Office Till: 30 December 2015





Entryway leading to the Chief Justice's Court

2

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Constitution of India in 1950, established the Supreme Court of India, replacing the Federal Court. The makers of the Constitution conceived of this Court as a pillar of democracy and guardian of rights of the people. On 28 January 1950, two days after India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic, the Supreme Court of India came into existence. 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.

Chief Justice Harilal J. Kania observed in the inaugural session that "The Supreme Court, an all India Court, will stand firm and aloof from party politics and political theories. It is unconcerned with the changes in the Government. The Court stands to administer the law for the time being in force, has goodwill and sympathy for all, but is allied to none."

Strength of Judges

The Supreme Court of India has sanctioned strength of 30 Judges apart from the Chief Justice of India. 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:-

Constitution/ Acts	Strength of Judges	Bill No.
Constitution – Article 124	1 + 7 = 8	
Act No. 55/1956	1 + 10 = 11	Lok.Sabha Bill No.44/1956
Act No. 17/1960	1 + 13 = 14	Lok.Sabha Bill No.V/1960
Act No. 48/1977	1 + 17 = 18	Lok.Sabha Bill No.135/1977
Act No. 22/1986	1 + 25 = 26	Lok.Sabha Bill No.157/1985
Act No. 11/2009	1 + 30 = 31	Lok. Sabha Bill No.41/2008

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India is the highest Court in judicial hierarchy of the country. It has original, appellate and advisory jurisdictions to safeguard the fundamental rights of the citizens, and to act as a final adjudicatory forum between the States and the Centre.

The structure of Union Judiciary is provided in Chapter IV of the Constitution of India. Article 124 deals with establishment and constitution of the

Supreme Court, *inter alia*, prescribing its composition and qualifications for appointment as a Judge.

Articles 129 to 145 of the Constitution of India, confers extensive powers on the Supreme Court which stands out as a forum for redressal of grievances and as the guardian of rights and liberties of people and as the final arbiter in most of disputes not only between individuals, but also between States or between the Union and State or between individual and State. As an appellate Court, it can hear appeals from the High Courts on civil, criminal and constitutional matters. It possesses a special appellate power to permit appeal from any Tribunal, Court or High Court. The Court can review its own judgments. In its advisory capacity, it answers references by the President of India on any questions of law or fact of public importance, which may have arisen or be likely to arise.

All authorities, civil and judicial, within the territory of India are mandated by Article 144 of the Constitution of India to act in aid of the Supreme Court. The Court has the authority to pass any decree and order as is necessary for doing “complete justice”.

The Supreme Court till date has been adorned by 42 Hon’ble Chief Justices and 154 Hon’ble Judges. As on 30 June 2016, Supreme Court has 28 Judges besides Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India. The Supreme Court has carved for itself a place of distinction not just in the annals of our judicial history but in the Indian public life as well. While making singular contributions to our constitutional jurisprudence, it has enriched our nation’s social, educational and political domains through its Judges and lawyers who have given their best in moulding the foundations of this great secular and democratic nation.

3

JURISDICTION

The Supreme Court of India has **Original, Appellate** and **Advisory Jurisdiction**. Its exclusive original jurisdiction extends to any legal 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 States on the other; or between two or more States.

The Supreme Court also has an appellate jurisdiction over all Courts and Tribunals in India. It has 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.

The Supreme Court has special advisory jurisdiction in matters which may specifically be referred to it by the President of India under Article 143 of the Constitution.

I. Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

In addition to Original, Appellate and Advisory Jurisdiction, other types of cases adjudicated by the Supreme Court are:

A. Public Interest Litigation

Any individual or group of individuals either by filing a Writ Petition at the Filing Counter of the Court or by addressing a letter to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India highlighting the question of public importance

can move the Court. This concept is popular as Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

B. Review

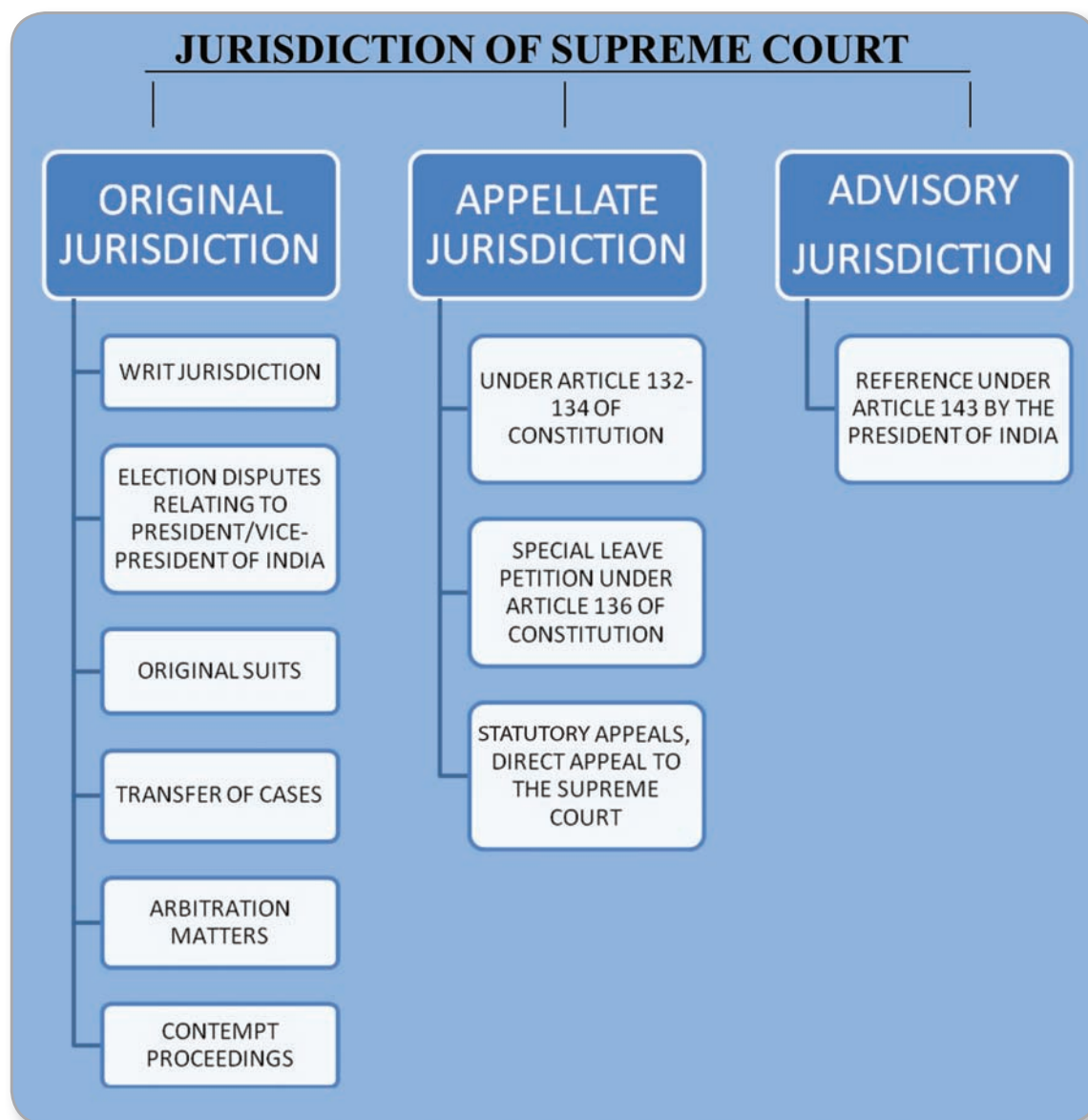
The Supreme Court, under **Article 137**, has the power to review any of its judgments or orders made by it. Review Petitions are disposed of by circulation as per listing procedures prescribed under Order XLVII of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. However in death sentence cases, open Court hearing has been envisaged as per the verdict in *Sonu Sardar vs. Union of India* (2014(9) SCC 797) with an outer limit of 30 minutes earmarked for hearing.

C. Curative Petitions

According to the provisions as contained in Order XLVIII of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, the Court can reconsider the final Judgment/Order on a Curative Petition only on the ground which has been taken in the Review Petition, which was dismissed by circulation.

D. Reference to Supreme Court

Reference to the Supreme Court can also be made under Article 317 of the Constitution of India; Sections 14 and 17 of the Right to Information Act, 2005; Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2002; Section 257 of Income Tax Act, 1961 and Section 27(3)(A) of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957.



II. Statutory Appeals

A number of special statutes provide for an appeal to the Supreme Court. Such provisions for statutory appeals include the following:-

- (i) Section 35L of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944);
- (ii) Section 116A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951);
- (iii) Section 38 of the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961);
- (iv) Section 261 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) before the establishment of National Tax Tribunal from 28.12.2005;
- (v) Section 130E of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962);
- (vi) Section 19(1)(b) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 (70 of 1971);
- (vii) Sections 374 and 379 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) read with Section 2 of the Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, 1970 (28 of 1970);

- (viii) Section 23 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986);
- (ix) Section 19 of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 (28 of 1987);
- (x) Section 10 of the Special Courts (Trial of Offences relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992 (27 of 1992);
- (xi) Section 15Z of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992);
- (xii) Section 18 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997);
- (xiii) Section 125 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003);
- (xiv) Section 24 of National Tax Tribunal Act, 2005 (49 of 2005);
- (xv) Section 30 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 (55 of 2007);
- (xvi) Section 37 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 (19 of 2006).
- (xvii) Section 53T of the Competition Act, 2002 (12 of 2003);
- (xviii) Section 31 of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 (27 of 2008);
- (xix) Section 22 of the National Tax Tribunal Act, 2010 (19 of 2010);
- (xx) Section 423 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013);
- (xxi) Section 38 of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013 (23 of 2013);
- (xxii) Section 21 of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 (22 of 2015);
- (xxiii) Sections 62 and 182 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (31 of 2016);

III. Important Acts and Rules relating to Supreme Court

- (i) Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 (51 of 1968);
- (ii) Judges (Protection) Act, 1985 (59 of 1985);
- (iii) Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, 1970 (28 of 1970) [amended by Act No. 37 of 1972];
- (iv) Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 (55 of 1956)[amended by Act Nos. 17 of 1960, 48 of 1977, 22 of 1986 and 11 of 2009];
- (v) 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 and 13 of 2016];

IV. Subordinate Legislations

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

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	24,716	105	2
1986	25,419	286	10
1987	18,411	119	19
1988	16,271	71	25
1989	17,769	76	22
1990	17,971	92	26
1991	17,474	61	28
1992	16,961	62	16
1993	15,749	96	38
1994	16,466	83	20
1995	15,094	109	44
1996	19,180	185	36
1997	15,503	180	35
1998	13,087	160	17
1999	15,339	137	21
2000	17,764	161	22
2001	17,198	159	23
2002	15,518	186	13
2003	14,293	156	21
2004	15,653	171	22
2005	14,261	215	12
2006	19,840	226	17
2007	18,200	232	26(3)*
2008	24,666	193(1)*	33(1)*
2009	21,180	153 (1)*	12
2010	24,611	115	14
2011	35,026	135	20(1)*
2012	41,314	126	23
2013	45,588	214(3)*	45(2)*
2014	30,404	332	48(2)*
2015	51,203	264(2)*	39(1)*
2016 (Till 31/7/2016)	31,395	137	23

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

4

SUPREME COURT BUILDING

The Supreme Court of India continued to function from the Chamber of Princes in the Parliament Building from where Federal Court of India was operating, till the magnificent new building of the Supreme Court was inaugurated by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India on **4 August 1958**.

The building of Supreme Court of India was designed in an **Indo-British Architectural Style** on a triangular plot of 17 acres by Ganesh Bikhaji Deolalikar. The construction was started in 1954 and completed in 1958. The Court reshifted from Chamber of Princes in Parliament building in the present building on 4 August 1958.

The building, majestic in size and rich in ornamentation serves home to the Court and manifests importance of this institution which is co-equal, independent branch of the State.

The design of the building itself is in the shape of a balance with a pair of scale of justice. This noble edifice has been conceived in line with Indian concept of justice. Traditionally justice is looked upon as a pair of scale, two pans of which have to be held evenly without allowing the beam from which they hanged to incline to one side or the other. As such two wings on both sides depict this notion. At the end of each wing is a semi circular structure. They

Chief Justice's Court



represent the pans which are attached to the beam at the top. This beam accommodates the Court rooms wherein the Hon'ble Judges sit and dispense justice without inking either to the right or to the left.

The Central beam from the ends of which the scales hang, comprises 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 room, the offices of the Attorney General and other Law officers and the library of the Court. The left wing consists of offices of the Court and Centre for Research and Planning.

I. Logo of the Supreme Court



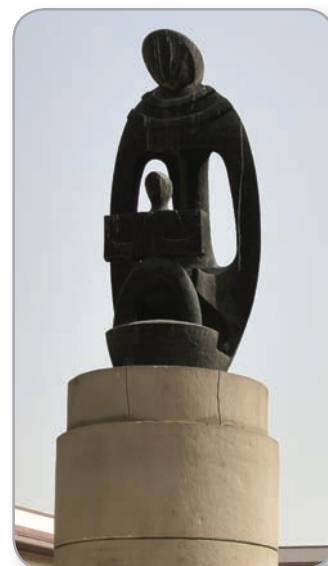
On ascending the stairs of the massive and sprawling platform to the Supreme Court Building, the emblem of the Supreme Court appears on the front wall just above the entrance of the Chief Justice's Court. The supreme norm "*Yatodharmastato jayati*" is inscribed on the semi-circular strip on the Supreme Court's emblem.

This logo has been designed by reproducing the wheel with 32 spokes that appear on the Abacus of the lion capital of Ashoka Pillars at Sarnath. The inscription in Sanskrit (*Yatodharmastato jayati*) means – "Where there is Dharma, there is victory". It is also referred to – as the wheel of righteousness, encompassing truth, goodness and equity.

II. Mother and Child Sculpture

A black bronze sculpture of 210 centimeter height was installed in the lawns of the Supreme Court on 20 February 1978. It portrays Mother India in the form

of the figure of a lady. The lady is sheltering the young Republic of India represented by the symbol of a child, who is upholding the laws of land symbolically shown in the form of an open book. On the book, a balance is shown, which represents dispensation of equal justice to all. The sculpture was made by the renowned artist Shri Chintamani Kar.



III. Statue of Mahatma Gandhi

A Statue of Mahatma Gandhi was installed in the lawns of the Supreme Court facing the main entrance of Chief Justice's Court on 1 August 1996. This statue was sculpted by the renowned artist Fredda Brilliant Marshall.



IV. Mural in the Judges Gallery

In the Judges Wing, there is a beautiful mural of coloured Porcelain tiles between the entrances of the Chief Justice's Court, with the Goddess of Justice and Mahatma Gandhi on each side and a wheel of Dharma in between. The eyes of the Goddess of Justice in this mural are not blind-folded.

The Goddess of Justice on the right side of the rectangle is in white robes and is wearing a crown, holding a balance with scales in one hand and a book in the other.



Mural in the Judge's gallery

Between the Mahatma on the left and the Goddess on the right, there is a rectangle showing a **Dharma Chakra (Wheel of Justice)** with an inscription below in Sanskrit which reads '*Satyamevodbharamyabam*' and means "Truth alone I uphold".

On the left side of the central rectangle, there is a picture of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, who won freedom for our country through his unabiding faith in truth, non-violence and peace. The two chakras below his figure symbolize the spirit of self-reliance.

V. Within the Precints

The Supreme Court building also houses a branch of UCO bank with e-lobby and ATM facility. The premises has a Dispensary, Post office, Railway reservation counter and Canteen facilities for all Employees, Advocates and Visitors. A new counter has also been allotted recently to the Department of Publication, Government of India for selling copies of Supreme Court Reports (SCR) and other related Journals and Publications of Government of India.



Supreme Court - A night view

5

COURT ADMINISTRATION

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 the Chief Justice, either directly or through some other Hon'ble Judge or a Committee of the Hon'ble Judges or Officer(s) of the Court subordinate to him authorized for the purpose.

The Secretary General, who is of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, is the senior most administrative officer of the Supreme Court. The post of the Secretary General is exclusively meant for a Judicial Officer of the rank and status of a District and Sessions Judge. Mostly, for positions of Registrars, Judicial Officers from the cadre of District and Sessions Judge are drawn on deputation. Since 1987, twelve officers (excluding the present Secretary General) belonging to Higher Judicial Service of different States have adorned the post of Secretary General (earlier called as Court Administrator-cum-Registrar General). Sixty officers have held the Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court. The Secretary General is assisted by eight Registrars and twenty five Additional Registrars who are assigned work of specific branches in which they, in turn, are assisted by Deputy Registrars, officers of other lower ranks and subordinate staff. There are 2271 posts on the establishment of the Supreme Court Registry, which includes 1743 permanent posts. The break-up of sanctioned staff strength is 293 Gazetted Officers, 1126 Non-Gazetted officials and 852 non-clerical staff.

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 have been well defined.

The Supreme Court Registry has been divided into 55 Sections/Units. The total matters on the judicial side, i.e. SLPs, Writ Petitions, Original Cases, References and other appeals etc. are mainly handled in 22 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), Paper Books Sections [Sections preparing Paper Books (I, I-A and I-A Annexe)], Sections relating to Computerization (DEU-I, DEU-II, DEU-III), Sections dealing with maintenance of Original Record and Translation work (Sections V and VI), Record Room and Scanning Cell, Decree Sections (XIII and XIII-B), Copying, Editorial, PIL (English), Receipt and Issue and Information and 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. There also exists a Centre for Research and Planning to assist the Court in general and Hon'ble Chief Justice of India in the field of Legal Research. Two Courts of Registrars have also been functional, one since 3 April



Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India addressing the Registry

2006 and the other from 1 September 2006 for dealing with matters referred to in the Supreme Court Rules.

There are 13 Sections dealing with the matters pertaining to the establishment, which includes Admn. I, Admn.II, Admn.III, Admn.Materials (Purchase and Stores), Admn. Materials(Maintenance), Admn. General, Cash and Accounts-I and II, Admn.J, Protocol, Medical, Transport and Caretaking. Admn.I Section deals with recruitment, promotions 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. Admn. Materials (Purchase and Stores) Section deals with purchase and issue of all items including Stationary, 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. Admn. Judges Section looks after the provision of necessary amenities to the Hon'ble Judges and overall house-keeping job, including the work connected with maintenance of the Judges' Chambers in the Supreme Court and their official residences. Protocol Section

which too is in existence 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, officers and staff of the Supreme Court Cash and Accounts Sections deals with preparation of pay bills and budget estimates etc. 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 of the judicial side of the Registry are regulated by the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 and Manual of Office Procedure on Judicial Side, 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 the 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. The Manual also contains the nature of duties and responsibilities of the officers and employees.

Secretary General



Ravindra Maithani

Registrars



Chirag Bhanu Singh



M. V. Ramesh

Registrars



Rajesh Goel



Pawan Dev Kotwal



Sanjay Parihar

Registrars



R. N. Nijhawan



Nisha Bhardwaj



Deepak Jain



Secretary General, Supreme Court of India and Registrar Generals/Registrars of High Courts in the Chief Justices' Conference 2016

6

JUDICIAL OVERVIEW 2015–2016

The mounting arrears of the cases have been a cause of concern for all Courts in the country, including the Supreme Court of India. A sustained effort to clear the backlog has resulted in reducing the pendency of this Court below the 60,000 mark by the end of the year 2015. With the advent of the Year 2016, the Chief Justice of India started a path breaking exercise by constituting six three-Judge Benches, which were to sit exclusively to decide the matters referred to a larger Bench, post lunch on miscellaneous days i.e. Mondays and Fridays. Substantial number of such matters have been disposed of till 30 August 2016, indicating that considerable success had been achieved on this front.

The Chief Justice while laying special emphasis on the Constitution Benches, constituted two such Benches of five Judges each to sit on every miscellaneous day. 10 such cases have been decided till August 2016.

Likewise, Special Benches were constituted for disposal of Tax Matters and matters relating to Bails. Consequently, 112 tax matters had been disposed of by 30 August 2016 and 119 bail matters have also been disposed of.

After the year 2000, there has been an enormous increase in the institution of fresh cases. Consistent efforts have been made to ensure that the disposal is higher than the institution. In fact, in the last three years, 2013–2015, the rate of disposal has been consistently higher than the rate of institution.

In the year 2014, 81,583 matters came to be instituted in this Court and 83,013 matters had come to be disposed of during the said interregnum. Even in the year 2013, the disposal was around 77,085 while the institution was 76,742.

The foresight of the Chief Justice of India led to quick measures being taken to arrest the arrears. The notable steps recently taken in this behalf may be summarised as under.

I. Recent Steps for Expediting Hearing And Disposal

- 1) Two Five-Judges Constitution Benches have been constituted to hear matters on Mondays and Fridays post lunch every week. 10 Constitution Bench matters eventually came to be decided till 30 August 2016. This exercise has been conducted for the first time in this Court.
- 2) Six Special Benches were constituted on Miscellaneous Days i.e. Mondays and Fridays for deciding important matters post lunch. 100 Three -Judge Bench matters have been disposed of between January and August 2016.
- 3) A special drive was initiated to hear after-notice matters which had literally clogged the entire system. About 5,000 after-notice matters had accumulated and were decided. All the five thousand after notice matters were listed before the Hon'ble Courts and brought into circulation.

In fact, around 666 such matters came to be disposed of till 30 August 2016 and all the remaining after notice matters have now been rotated between January and August 2016. Each Tuesday had been earmarked for hearing for after notice matters.

Two Special Benches had been constituted to hear Bail matters which used to sit post lunch on Mondays

and Fridays. As a result about 104 bail matters had come to be disposed of by 30 August 2016.

Likewise one special tax Bench also used to sit on Mondays and Fridays post lunch which also resulted in disposal of around 112 cases till 30 August 2016.

II. Old and Urgent Matters

With a view to expedite disposal of old cases, the Chief Justice of India had constituted special Benches for hearing regular matters during the Summer Vacation commencing from 16 May 2016 to 28 June 2016. It resulted in 301 old regular matters being listed before the Vacation Bench and out of them a total of 123 were disposed of. About 250 miscellaneous hearing matters were also decided during this period. As such about 370 cases came to be disposed of during the summer vacation itself.

III. Highlights for the Year

After almost two decades, a Nine Judge Bench came to be constituted for hearing the Entry Tax Matters numbering around 1240. The decision rendered by the Nine Judges Bench will not only liquidate around 1240 matters in this Court but also pave way for disposing of thousands of cases across the country.

IV. Other Steps

Certain steps were initiated to streamline the working of this Registry, with the avowed objective of combating huge arrears.

Some of the initiatives in this behalf may be summarised as follows-

- For the first time Special Benches were constituted during the Winter Vacations.
- In chamber, Matters are being listed before Hon'ble Judges whenever free. Earlier, only designated Hon'ble Judges took up such matters.
- Two new sections have been carved out, one in the Criminal Section and other relating to tax matters. Both the categories had more than Ten thousand cases in their docket and as such two

new sections have been carved out with a view to usher in efficiency and timeliness.

- To eliminate delay of service on the parties, a special tracking system of notices has been worked out in tandem with the postal authorities. It will help in ensuring service of notice promptly.
- The procedure for sending formal orders has been simplified. The practice of preparing and drawing formal orders at the SLP/ Admission/notice stage or at stage prior to the pronouncement of judgment has been discontinued. In such proceedings, a Certified copy of the order is now being sent to the concerned quarters. It has helped in hastening the processes and simplifying the same.
- The unnecessary delay in shifting the Record of Proceedings at the time of consignment has now been simplified. It has now been mandated that Record of Proceedings which was placed in Part II of the File shall be placed in the beginning of Part I file, right from the inception. It has done away with the cumbersome exercise of placing the Record of Proceedings at the time of consignment, resulting in great reprieve to the staff and simultaneously expediting the completion of records.
- To save the precious time of the Court, a novel and effective mechanism was conceptualized and started whereby remarks relating to incomplete matters were highlighted in the Cause-List itself, which certainly helped the Court to dispose of incomplete matters expeditiously.
- A major part of the old records already stands digitized and even the digitization of current records has started in right earnest.

Though the steps enumerated above are small in nature but they have certainly gone a long way in short-circuiting timelines and hastening the processes of the administration of justice.

Despite heavy institution of cases, the Court has been able to arrest the arrears successfully. In the last three years, precipitable increase in the disposal rate is evident. As against 7730 institution, about 79,684 matters have been disposed of between September 2015 and August 2016.

V. Statement of Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in the Supreme Court of India (1950 to September 2016)

Year	Institution			Disposal			Pendency		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
1950	1,037	178	1,215	491	34	525	546	144	690
1951	1,324	600	1,924	1,560	227	1,787	310	517	827
1952	1,127	330	1,457	1,145	527	1,672	292	320	612
1953	1,354	360	1,714	1,163	252	1,415	483	428	911
1954	1,743	410	2,153	1,522	427	1,949	704	411	1,115
1955	1,580	512	2,092	1,669	200	1,869	615	723	1,338
1956	1,732	630	2,362	1,720	258	1,978	627	1,095	1,722
1957	1,490	999	2,489	1,517	411	1,928	600	1,683	2,283
1958	1,698	784	2,482	1,694	623	2,317	604	1,844	2,448
1959	1,870	783	2,653	1,829	682	2,511	645	1,945	2,590
1960	1,971	1,276	3,247	1,910	1,271	3,181	706	1,950	2,656
1961	2,000	1,214	3,214	1,899	1,654	3,553	807	1,510	2,317
1962	2,214	1,345	3,559	2,291	1,542	3,833	730	1,313	2,043
1963	2,189	1,561	3,750	2,152	1,131	3,283	767	1,743	2,510
1964	2,544	1,520	4,064	2,463	1,605	4,068	848	1,658	2,506
1965	2,366	1,535	3,901	2,444	1,341	3,785	770	1,852	2,622
1966	2,639	3,012	5,651	2,429	1,412	3,841	980	3,452	4,432
1967	2,826	2,493	5,319	2,515	1,566	4,081	1,291	4,379	5,670
1968	3,489	3,317	6,806	3,138	3,032	6,170	1,642	4,664	6,306
1969	4,185	3,512	7,697	3,731	2,737	6,468	2,096	5,439	7,535
1970	4,273	3,203	7,476	3,779	2,569	6,348	2,590	6,073	8,663
1971	5,338	2,641	7,979	4,588	1,903	6,491	3,340	6,811	10,151
1972	4,853	4,223	9,076	5,053	1,769	6,822	3,140	9,265	12,405
1973	6,298	3,876	10,174	6,112	2,063	8,175	3,326	11,078	14,404
1974	5,423	2,780	8,203	5,103	3,158	8,261	3,646	10,700	14,346
1975	6,192	3,336	9,528	5,749	2,978	8,727	4,089	11,058	15,147
1976	5,549	2,705	8,254	4,904	2,830	7,734	4,734	10,933	15,667
1977	9,251	5,250	14,501	8,714	1,681	10,395	5,271	14,502	19,773
1978	13,723	7,117	20,840	10,624	6,471	17,095	8,370	15,148	23,518

Year	Institution			Disposal			Pendency		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
1979	16,088	4,666	20,754	11,988	3,845	15,833	12,470	15,969	28,439
1980	21,749	4,616	26,365	14,520	2,433	16,953	19,699	18,152	37,851
1981	24,474	6,566	31,040	16,528	2,162	18,690	27,645	22,556	50,201
1982	29,706	13,804	43,510	26,593	2,519	29,112	30,758	33,841	64,599
1983	37,602	18,300	55,902	35,745	10,079	45,824	32,615	42,062	74,677
1984	37,799	11,275	49,074	28,813	6,734	35,547	41,601	46,603	88,204
1985	36,243	15,349	51,592	36,004	15,074	51,078	41,840	46,878	88,718
1986	22,334	5,547	27,881	17,881	12,819	30,700	46,293	39,606	85,899
1987	22,234	5,806	28,040	15,476	6,331	21,807	53,051	39,081	92,132
1988	21,950	5,771	27,721	15,714	4,181	19,895	59,287	40,671	99,958
1989	21,213	6,256	27,469	17,389	4,011	21,400	63,111	42,916	106,027
1990	22,265	6,223	28,488	20,890	4,348	25,238	64,486	44,791	109,277
1991	26,283	6,218	32,501	28,679	6,662	35,341	62,090	44,347	106,437
1992	20,435	6,251	26,686	20,234	15,613	35,847	62,291	34,985	97,476*
1993	18,778	2,870	21,648	17,166	3,718	20,884	37,549	21,245† (98,240)	58,794†
1994	29,271	12,775	42,046	35,853	12,037	47,890	30,967	21,983	52,950
1995	35,689	15,754	51,443	51,547	16,790	68,337	15,109	20,947	36,056
1996	26,778	6,628	33,406	35,227	10,989	46,216	6,660	16,586	23,246
1997	27,771	4,584	32,355	29,130	7,439	36,569	5,301	13,731	19,032
1998	32,769	3,790	36,559	31,054	4,179	35,233	7,016	13,342	20,358
1999	30,795	3,888	34,683	30,847	3,860	34,707	6,964	13,370	20,334
2000	32,604	4,507	37,111	30,980	4,320	35,300	8,588	13,557	22,145
2001	32,954	6,465	39,419	32,686	6,156	38,842	8,856	13,866	22,722
2002	37,781	6,271	44,052	36,903	5,536	42,439	9,734	14,601	24,335
2003	42,823	7,571	50,394	41,074	6,905	47,979	11,483	15,267	26,750
2004	51,362	7,569	58,931	47,850	7,680	55,530	14,995	15,156	30,151
2005	45,342	5,198	50,540	41,794	4,416	46,210	18,543	15,938	34,481
2006	55,402	6,437	61,839	51,584	4,956	56,540	22,361	17,419	39,780
2007	62,281	6,822	69,103	56,682	5,275	61,957	27,960	18,966	46,926
2008	63,346	7,006	70,352	61,219	6,240	67,459	30,087	19,732	49,819

Year	Institution			Disposal			Pendency		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
2009	69,171	7,980	77,151	64,282	6,897	71,179	34,976	20,815	55,791
2010	69,456	8,824	78,280	71,867	7,642	79,509	32,565	21,997	54,562
2011	68,020	9,070	77,090	67,131	6,002	73,133	33,454	25,065	58,519
2012	68,887	8,030	76,917	64,682	4,062	68,744	37,659	29,033	66,692
2013	68,478	8,264	76,742	70,385	6,700	77,085	35,752	30,597	66,349
2014	74,730	14,434	89,164	75,980	16,742	92,722	34,421	28,370	62,791
2015	69,485	8,959	78,444	70,763	11,329	82,092	33,263	26,009	59,272
2016 (Jan-Sept)	53,253	6,133	59,386	52,520	5,200	57,720	33,996	26,942	60,938

*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 on files.

VI. Monthly statement of Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in the Supreme Court (January 2016 to September 2016)

Month, Year	Institution			Disposal			Pendency (at the end of month)		
	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total	Admission	Regular	Total
Jan 2016	5,624	964	6,588	5,654	965	6,619	33,233	26,008	59,241
Feb 2016	6,450	816	7,266	6,490	736	7,226	33,193	26,088	59,281
Mar 2016	5,829	553	6,382	5,646	422	6,068	33,376	26,219	59,595
Apr 2016	7,665	750	8,415	7,183	353	7,536	33,858	26,616	60,474
May 2016	5,655	437	6,092	4,410	538	4,948	35,103	26,515	61,618
Jun 2016	1,760	111	1,871	601	242	843	36,262	26,384	62,646
Jul 2016	6,779	960	7,739	8,939	683	9,622	34,102	26,661	60,763
Aug 2016	6,315	576	6,891	6,667	431	7,098	33,750	26,806	60,556
Sep 2016	7,176	966	8,142	6,930	830	7,760	33,996	26,942	60,938

VII. Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in the Supreme Court (01.01.2016 to 30.09.2016): Cumulative Statistics

						Pendency (At the end of 31.12.2015)		
						Admission Matters	Regular Matters	Total Matters
						33,263	26,009	59,272
Institution (01.01.2016 to 30.09.2016)			Disposal (01.01.2016 to 30.09.2016)			Pendency (At the End of 30.09.2016)		
Admission matters	Regular matters	Total matters	Admission matters	Regular matters	Total matters	Admission matters	Regular matters	Total matters
53,253	6,133	59,386	52,520	5,200	57,720	33,996	26,942	60,938

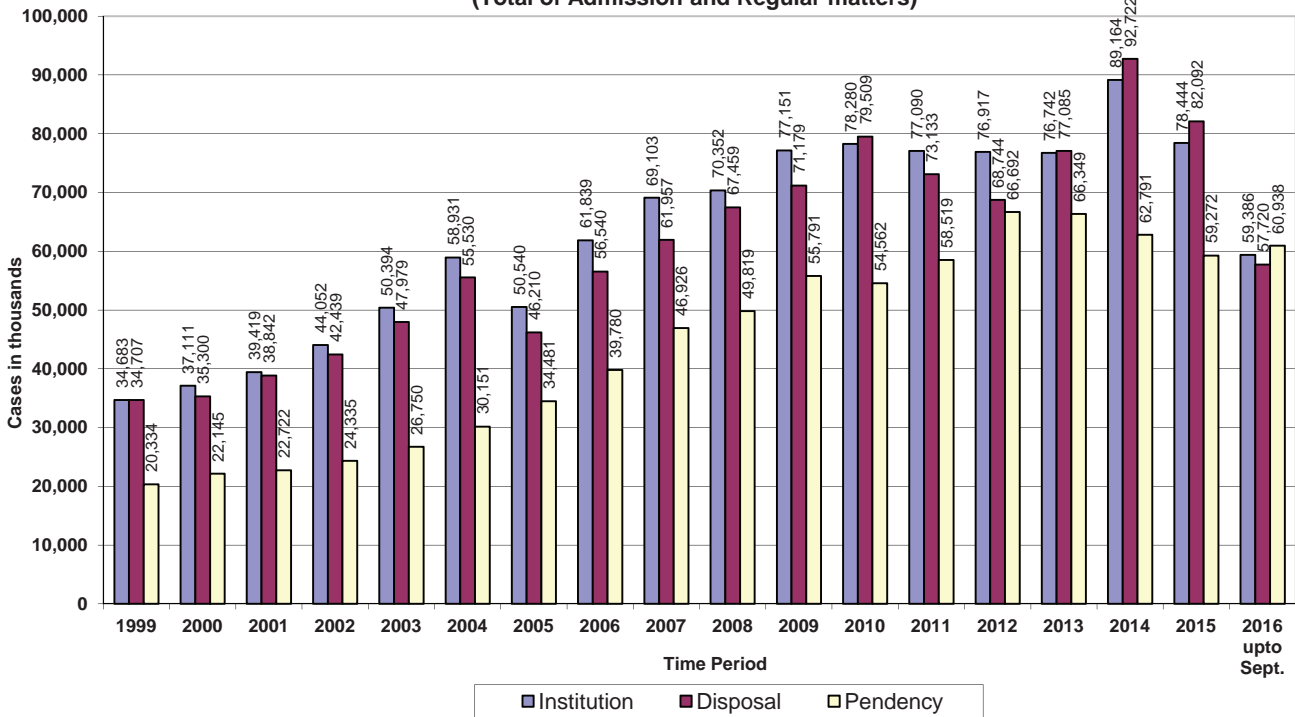
Note:

1. Out of the 60,938 pending matters as on 30.09.2016, if connected matters are excluded, the pendency is only of 35,678 matters as on 30.09.2016.
2. Out of the said 60,938 pending matters as on 30.09.2016, 16,326 matters are up to 1-year old and thus arrears (i.e., cases pending more than a year) are only of 44,612 matters as on 30.09.2016.

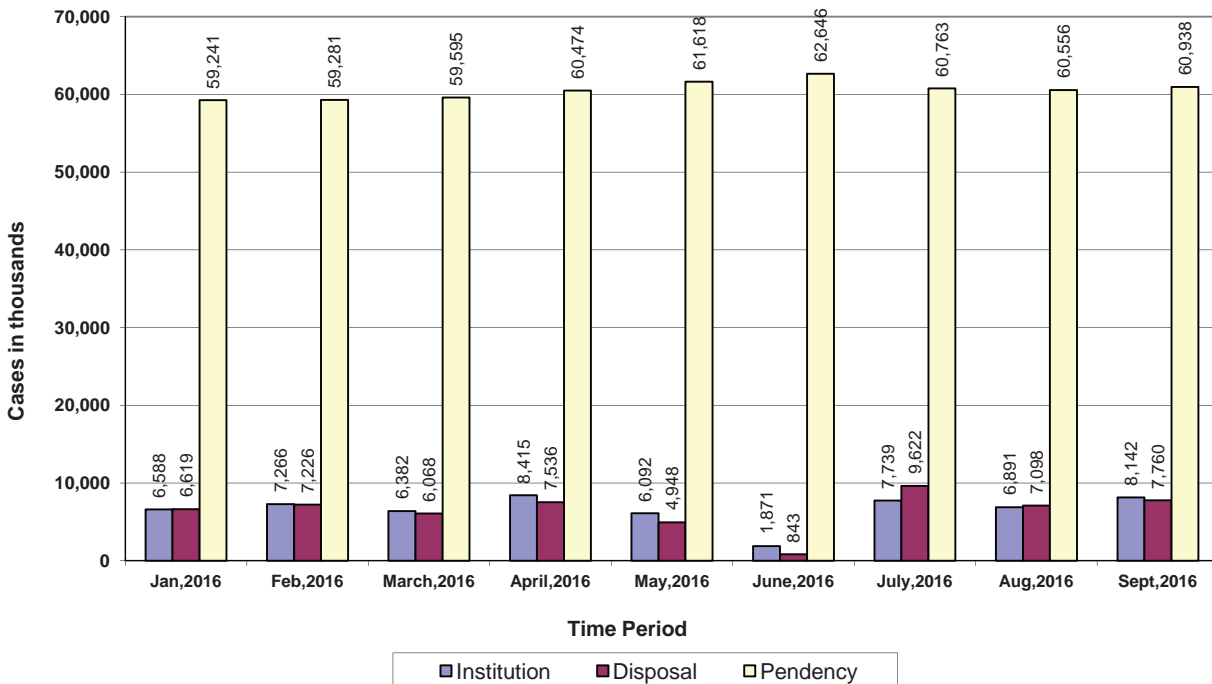
VIII. Institution, Disposal and Pendency, of Cases in the Supreme Court (01.01.2016 to 30.09.2016): Civil and Criminal

	Opening Balance as on 01.01.16	Institution from 01.01.16 to 30.09.16	Disposal from 01.01.16 to 30.09.16	Pendency at the end of 30.09.2016
Civil cases	48,181	45,415	43,390	50,205
Criminal cases	11,091	13,973	14,332	10,733
All cases (total)	59,272	59,388	57,722	60,938

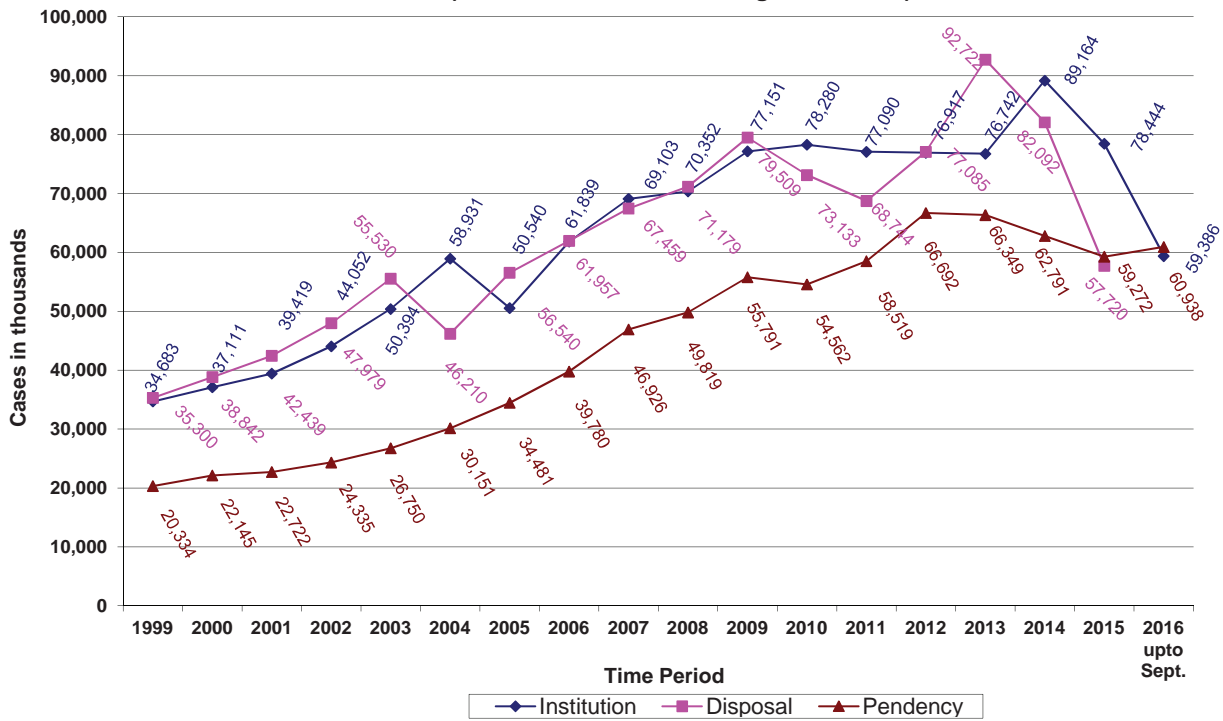
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY
 From Year 1999 to September, 2016
 (Total of Admission and Regular matters)



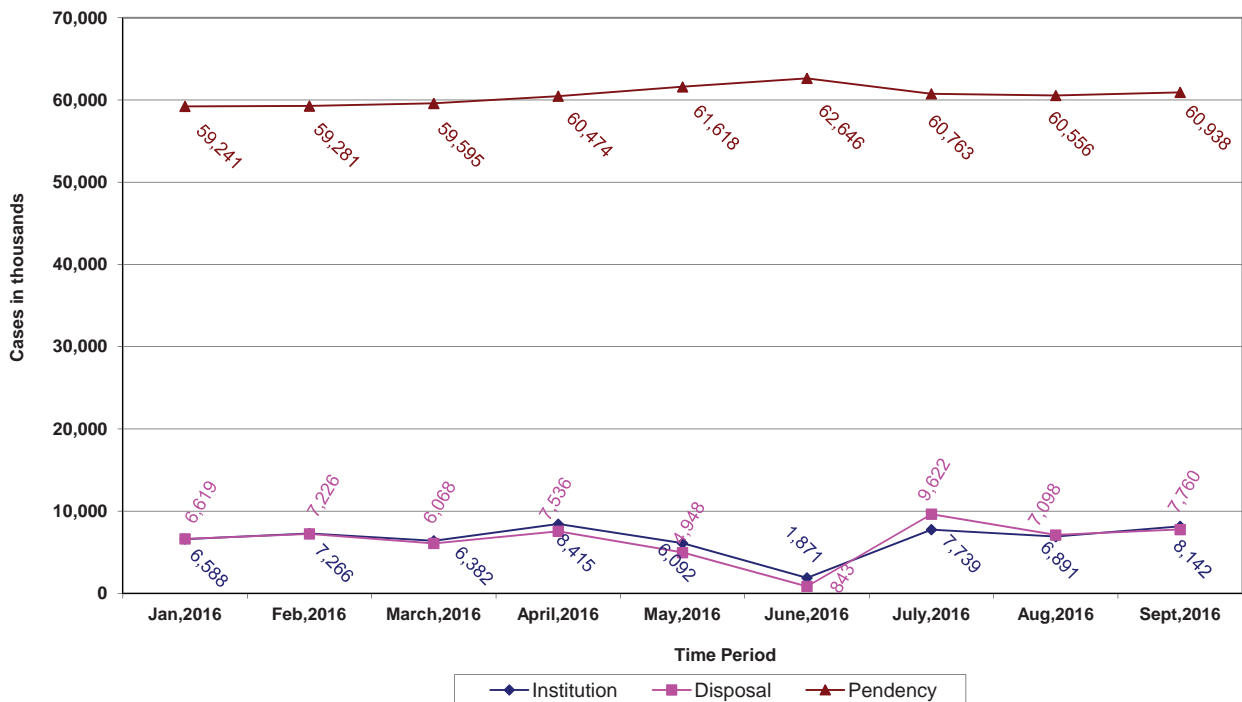
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY
 From Jan. 2016 to September, 2016
 (Total of Admission and Regular matters)



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY
 From Year 1999 to September, 2016
 (Total of Admission and Regular matters)



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
INSTITUTION, DISPOSAL & PENDENCY
 From Jan. 2016 to Sept. 2016
 (Total of Admission and Regular matters)



7

RECENT REFORMS: MARCHING TOWARDS EXCELLENCE

In order to tone up the functioning of the Registry many innovative measures have been introduced in Administrative and Judicial wings of the Registry during the period 2015-2016.

I. Reforms in Judicial Wing

To cope up with the problem of pendency of cases, many new initiatives have been taken in the recent past for speedy disposal of cases. Important initiatives taken for reducing the pendency and enhancing the disposal of cases are:

- Special dedicated Benches were set up to dispose of old criminal appeals, taxation matters and commercial matters.
- Paucity of space has been a serious impediment in the smooth functioning of the Registry. Old original records requisitioned in Civil Appeals and SLPs and Civil and Tax matters were returned to the concerned Courts this year resulting in additional space required by the Registry for efficient functioning.
- Simplification of the procedures which tended to clog the administration of justice has been effected viz. changing the procedure for preparing formal orders, the procedure dispensing with notice of motion in applications for bringing on record the legal representatives of the deceased parties.
- All miscellaneous matters are now being listed chronologically and in relative proportion of cases pending under different subject categories.
- The terminal list has been converted into a running list.
- In order to provide access to all the information updated by the Supreme Court at the click of a mouse, a new webpage “Live work done report” has been designed to inculcate more transparency.
- The practice of publishing of cause list has been done away with. Now the information relating to the listing is available on the website and is also sent to the Advocates through e-mail and SMS.
- Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India has directed for simplification of procedure relating to parties-in-person for oral mentioning seeking urgent directions.
- The time limit for preservation of paper-books of disposed of/dismissed matters reduced to one month in case of Transfer Petition and two months in other matters from three months.
- Filing Counter was revamped by uplifting the face and changing the ambience completely thereby increasing the sitting capacity for the personnel.
- New Case Information System has been introduced in filing counters to gear up the process of registration of fresh matters.
- 100% notification of defects in the fresh matters has been ensured on the website of the Registry for the benefit of Advocates.
- In the copying section, one new counter exclusively for the Advocates has been opened and one kiosk has been installed in order to enable the Advocates to know the status of case.

- Bar code readers have also been provided in the copying section for cancellation of E-Stamp by the users.
- Defects are additionally being notified through e-mail/SMS of the AOR/Petitioner-in-Person.
- Subject categories have been introduced/modified to streamline listing of the matters.
- Two Counters have been provided for registration of urgent matters on the basis of the request of the Members of the Bar/litigants for timely registration of those matters.
- Two counters for women have been provided for making photo entry passes.
- Construction of New Extension Block near Museum has been completed and made operational on 4 November 2015.
- Work Relating to Additional Building Complex on the land abutting Pragati Maidan have been expedited. Phase-1 of the under pass has been completed.
- Renovation of Judges Library and Supreme Court Museum has been done during the period under report.

II. Basic Amenities

- In order to cope with the acute space problem being faced by some sections, additional space has been provided to such sections in the New Annexe building.
- Supreme Court Staff Canteen has been renovated and additional space has been provided for more sitting space to staff.
- Energy Audit has been done in the Registry in order to save the consumption of electricity and new LED light fittings have been fixed in the sections, wherever required for adequate lighting.
- A new state-of-the-art Bar Room has been provided to the lawyers despite an acute scarcity of space.
- Additional space has been carved out in the Bar Room for the lady lawyers and has been refurbished and renovated afresh.

III. Infrastructural Improvements

In order to improve infrastructure facilities in the Court Rooms, Sections, CGHS Dispensary and other parts of the Registry, following steps have been taken by the Registry in recent past:

- Wooden Flooring have been placed in all the Courts.
- Renovation of Plaza Canteen and both canteens in MC Setalvad and CK Daftari Lawyers Chamber have been completed.

IV. Technological Initiatives in 2015–2016

Application of Information, Communication and Technology for providing efficient services to the Advocates and litigants has always been a thrust area for the Registry. Following new initiatives, during the period under Report have been taken by the Registry for the benefit of litigants and the Advocates:

1. New Terminal List:

- a) Terminal List Programme revised to make purely chronological based list
- b) Terminal List Programme to cover cases of Subject Categories as per their weightage in the pendency

2. Instant statistics through Live Reports in the Registry

a) Pendency Reports

- i. Section wise Pendency
- ii. Subject Category wise Pendency
- iii. Year wise Pendency
- iv. Pendency segregated into Main & Connected cases
- v. AOR wise Pendency
- vi. Two Dimensional (Matrix) Pendency Reports
 - A. Case Type wise Yearly Pendency
 - B. Case Type wise Section Pendency
 - C. Case Type wise Category Pendency
 - D. Subject Category wise Section Pendency
 - E. Section wise Case Type Pendency
 - F. Year wise Subject Category Pendency

- vii. Section wise Pendency of Ready, Not Ready, Complete, Incomplete, Admission/Miscellaneous, Recalled Matters, 1N Matters, FD Matters, I.A.s in Live/Pending/Disposed matters and Contempt/Review/Curative and Unregistered Matters
- b) Institution Reports**
- i. Daily Institution
 - ii. Case type wise and Subject Category wise Institution for a given duration,
- c) Disposal Reports**
- i. Case type wise and Subject Category wise Institution for a given duration
 - ii. Disposal of cases during a given period segregated into age wise breakup of cases disposed
- d) Institution and Disposal Reports**
- i. Daily Institution and Disposal
 - ii. Case type wise and Subject Category wise Institution and Disposal for a given duration
- e) Dynamic Reports:**
- i. A multi-criterion based report generation tool to generate reports of Institution, Pendency and Disposal is provided through a link 'Dynamic Reports'. The various parameters covered are:
 - A. Filing Date
 - B. Registration Date
 - C. Case type
 - D. Cause title
 - E. Subject Category
 - F. Judicial Section
 - G. Case Flag like Jail Matters, FD Matter, Legal Aid Matter, Specific Date Matter
 - H. Matter Code like Death Case, Habeas Corpus, etc.
 - I. Agency/High Court
 - J. Listing Date
 - K. Coram
 - ii. The Report generated through this tool contains columns like Diary No., Case No., Cause Title, Filing & Registration Date, Listing Date, Section, State, Subject Category, Status of the Case.
- 3. Case Search for Individual Cases:** Case Search tool is useful to view detailed multiparameter information of an individual case including the full history of the case as available in the CIS Database.
- 4. Other Sections Reports:** Reports of sections like Filing Counter, Misc. Dak Counter, Caveat Court, Court Master Cell, Listing Cell, Copying Cell, Record Room, R & I Branch and PIL English section also have been prepared and made available as part of the same mechanism.
- 5. Listing Reports for Sections and Dealing Assistants:**
- a) Reports of all Lists generated by Listing Cell released instantly on intranet
 - b) Information about whether Office Report uploaded, Record of Proceedings uploaded in the Report
 - c) Scheduler for Section and Dealing Assistant as per various Lists generated
- 6. Monitoring Reports for Work-Efficiency and Output:**
- a) Judicial Section wise Daily Work Done
 - b) Dealing Assistant wise Daily Work Done
 - c) Court Master wise Daily Work Done
- 7. Wi-Fi Zone implementation at Supreme Court**
- 8. Kiosk Module for Museum:**
- (a) Four Touch Screen Kiosks installed in the Supreme Court Museum
 - (b) Kiosk Module developed by Computer Cell showing legal and jurisprudential material and history of the Supreme Court through web based module
 - (c) Multimedia enabled module with audio video facility
- 9. Drive for Updation of I. A. Disposal in CIS:**
- (a) Drive for updation of disposal status of I. A.s undertaken
 - (b) Number of pending I. A.s reduced from 47000 to 41000
- 10. List of Defective Matters Not Refiled on Daily Basis uploaded on website:**
- (a) List of Defective Matter which have not been refiled after defects notification are uploaded everyday on SCI website

- (b) The list is segregated on the basis of number of days since the defects have been notified i.e. upto 28 days, from 28 to 60 days, from 60 to 90 days and more than 90 days

11. IT Help Desk – In person, On Phone and Email

- (a) Help Desk established at Computer (IT) Cell for AORs, Advocate Clerks
- (b) Queries about access of case information, orders, judgments resolved instantly through the Helpdesk
- (c) Email address itcell@sci.nic.in created for Helpdesk

V. Scanning of Old Records

With a view to scan and digitize Court record including pending and decided case files in order to activate Document Management System and to strengthen immediate accessibility with more impetus on transparency, a new assembly line capable of producing 50,000 scanned pages per day, in end to end processing, was created in February 2016. As on date all civil appeals pertaining to period 1938 to 2002 have completely been scanned and are available on the Supreme Court's D-Space which may be accessed on internal network. A total of 1 crore 5 lakh pages have been digitized which are available just a click away. A process to enhance the output of digitized paper to one lakh per day is under way.

VI. Supreme Court Reports (SCR)

- **“Supreme Court Reports”** has been made more informative and useful with more precise and informative **“Head Notes”, improved indexes, attractive cover page and “International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)”** to facilitate its international usage.
- For ensuring quality control in the printing and publication of SCR **“PageMaker Software”** is now used by Editorial Branch.
- In order to enhance the **use of SCR** in the Indian Judiciary, the High Courts were requested

to subscribe the SCR and which resulted in substantial increase in subscription.

- **Norms for Accreditation of Legal Correspondents** in the Supreme Court of India are comprehensively revised.

VII. Centre for Research and Planning

The **“Centre for Research and Planning”** was established in the Registry to assist the Hon'ble Judges and the Courts on the issues involving legal research. The Centre has shifted to its new premises on 31 August 2016. The major objective of the Centre is to carry out the academic and judicial research work as assigned by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and other Hon'ble Judges and to carry out a study for improvements in the Court Management System for enhancing speedy justice. It also co-ordinates with the Registry in preparation of material for the purpose of Conferences, Seminars and Legal Forum Meetings.

VIII. National Judicial Academic Council (NJAC)

Recognizing the need for integrating the work of the National Judicial Academy (NJA) and State Judicial Academies (SJAs) and towards realizing the benefit of synergy between the institutions at the National level and the Academies in the State, it was resolved in Chief Justices' Conference, 2016 that integration of the work of networking and close cooperation between NJA and the SJAs should be pursued to optimize the utilization of existing infrastructure facilities across the country.

In implementation of the resolution adopted in Chief Justices' Conference, 2016, a National Judicial Academic Council (NJAC) was setup. The Constitution of the NJAC is as under :

1. Chief Justice of India –Chairperson
2. Two senior most Judges of the Supreme Court –Members
3. President of the Governing Body/Chairman of the Committee/Judges In-charge of State Judicial Academies –Members



Hon'ble Chief Justice of India with Hon'ble Judges visiting the newly established Centre for Research and Planning in Supreme Court

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>4. Secretary, Department of Justice, Government of India
—Members</p> <p>5. Any other Judge/Jurist/Academician/Person (Nominee of the Chief Justice of India)
—Members</p> <p>6. Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal
—Member-Secretary</p> | <p>(v) Coordinate and monitor the functioning of NJA and SJAs</p> <p>(vi) Suggest methods for improving judicial education facilities and co-operation among NJA and SJAs.</p> |
|---|--|

The Council shall oversee the Academic program of the NJA and SJA and will devise uniform and integrated training program on Judicial Education.

The functions of the NJAC as per the resolution in the Chief Justices' Conference, 2016 are to:

- (i) Promote the cause of judicial education
- (ii) Devise the academic calendar for NJA
- (iii) Prescribe and approve academic calendars for SJAs
- (iv) Promote the growth and availability of resources required for judicial training and education

NJA and SJAs will submit annual academic calendars of their respective academies to the NJAC for finalization. The first meeting of the NJAC was held on 9 July 2016.

IX. Conference Secretariat

The Supreme Court of India hosts Conferences where Chief Justices of all the High Courts discuss vital policy matters with the senior most Judges of this Court for two days. Such Chief Justices' Conferences although are not held annually but are organized as

and when deemed fit by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India for two days and are generally followed by a Joint Conference of the Chief Justices and the Chief Ministers of all the States to reflect on the identified issues in the agenda set for the Conference highlighting matters relating to justice delivery to poor, downtrodden and neglected sections of the society.

On 22–23 April 2016, a Chief Justices' Conference was held in the Conference Hall within the premises of this Court. The task of identifying agenda items was set in motion well in advance after collecting data on various aspects from the High Courts with respect to infrastructure in Subordinate Courts, filling up of vacancies in the High Courts, performance of morning/evening Courts, monitoring mechanism for tracking the progress of cases of under-trial prisoners, implementation of Information and Communication Technology etc. The paperless data collection was accomplished on an online portal created for the first time in this Court which was made operational in February – March 2016 and thereafter agenda notes were made on the basis of comprehensive research which was effected with a view to project the data in terms of quantifiable deliverables while keeping in view the statutory provisions, judgments, previous resolutions and international trends.

After receiving the online feedback and synthesis of data coupled with graphical representation, agenda wise power point presentation were made during the Conference comprising of analysis on all deliverables whereupon resolutions were adopted at the conclusion of the Conference.

Subsequently, in order to monitor the progress of High Courts on issues as detailed in resolutions, Conference Secretariat was constituted in this Court

and feedback questionnaires were prepared in shape of dedicated online portal with a request to all High Courts to constitute a dedicated cell for monitoring Conference related resolutions and to send their progress report to this Court. The process of analyzing and monitoring feedback of High Courts is under way with a view to realize the vision outlined during the Chief Justices' Conference.

Grievance Management System

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India on 31 August 2016 in the presence of Hon'ble Judges of this Court launched Grievance Management System Web Portal which has been conceptualized to enable public at large to know status of their communications which are received by this Court in all matters except judicial.

Apart from queries on judicial matters, the registry daily receives around 150 to 200 communications from general public. These are in the nature of complaints against Advocates/Judges, complaints regarding listing of matters in the Supreme Court and High Courts, applications regarding Legal Aid and Public Interest Litigations, applications with regard to matters pending before various public authorities in this country, general queries, views, suggestions etc.

These matters are processed in the Registry and actions are taken according to the approved guidelines. As on date the action taken is conveyed to applicant by hard copy although not in all matters due to which numerous RTI applications are received. By inducting this module, action taken on all the communications will be available on the online portal. Now there will be a considerable decrease in RTI applications received by this Court apart from achieving transparency and uniformity.

8

THE BAR

The Advocates Act, 1961 was enacted by the Parliament of India to integrate the Bar into a single class of legal practitioners known as Advocate.

The Advocates Act, 1961 enabled the creation of autonomous Bar Councils, one for the whole of India and one for each State. The Bar Council of India lays down the standards of professional conduct and etiquettes for Advocates and also lays down the standard of legal education in consultation with the Universities in India imparting Legal education.

The Bar Council safeguards the rights, privileges and interests of the Advocates. Its primary functions include - to admit a person as an Advocate on their roll; to prepare and maintain such roll; to entertain and determine the cases of misconduct against an Advocate; to safeguard the rights, privileges and interests of the Advocates; to promote and support law reforms and to visit and inspect universities imparting legal education.

There are three categories of Advocates who are entitled to practice law before the Supreme Court as per the provisions of Supreme Court Rules, 2013

I. Senior Advocates

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 that Advocate as Senior Advocate, if in their opinion, by virtue of his

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.

II. Advocates-On-Record

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. The Rules of the Supreme Court as then adopted recognized the system of “Agents”.

The Practice and Procedure were substantially modified in the year 1954 and “Advocates-on-Record” (AOR) replaced the system of “Agents”. Originally when introduced in the 1954, apart from the then registered “Agents”, an Advocate of 7 years standing was entitled to get himself registered as an ‘Advocates-on-Record’, provided he fulfilled the conditions prescribed. In 1959, the Rules were amended, introducing the ‘Advocates-on-Record’ examination conducted by the Supreme Court.

Order IV Rule 5 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, deals with the registration as an Advocates-on-Record. No Advocate other than an Advocates-on-

Record shall be entitled to file an appearance or act for a party in the Court.

The Registry of the Supreme Court conducts Advocates-on-Record Examination periodically with approval of the Examination Committee and under the supervision of Secretary, Board of Examiners, appointed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. The examination maintains high standards to ensure that best talent come in as Advocates-on-Record. List of Advocates-on-Record is available on Supreme Court of India website www.supremecourtfindia.nic.in. Regulation 6 (i) pertaining to AOR examination states that no Advocate shall be eligible to appear at the examination unless he has received training from an Advocates-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 enrollment ending with the 30 April or 30 November, of the year of the examination, as the case may be.

III. Advocates

The persons, whose names are entered on the roll of any State Bar Council maintained under the Advocates Act, 1961, are entitled to practice as an 'Advocate' in a Court of Law. They cannot appear and plead in any matter on behalf of a party in the Supreme Court unless instructed by an Advocates-on-Record (Order IV Rule 1(b) of Supreme Court Rules, 2013).

Awareness programme on gender sensitization in the new Bar Room, Supreme Court building



9

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

I. Supreme Court Judges Library

The Supreme Court Judges Library is “**Learning Resource Centre**” of the Apex Court. It contains significant legal literature to support the need of the Hon’ble Judges and the Courts. It is a grid of libraries. It maintains workable collection in 15 Bench Libraries and 31 Residential Libraries of Hon’ble Judges. The Library Staff is also deputed in each Court during Court Proceedings to provide the cited books and other materials to Hon’ble Judges at the time of hearing in the Courts.

The Supreme Court Judges Library was established in 1937, then known as Federal Court Library. It contains significant legal literature to support the need of Hon’ble Courts and Judges and has a collection of about three hundred thousand legal documents which include books, monographs, Commission/Committee Reports, State Legislations, other legislative materials and e-Resources in the form of On-line and CD-ROM Legal Databases. It subscribes to about 160 Indian and Foreign Journals both academic and reporting. The Library has staff strength of 84 including 18 professional librarians. The users of the library are Hon’ble Judges of the Supreme Court. On an average 800-900 books and other materials are being issued every day to different Courts and to the Hon’ble Judges for their use in the residential libraries. If a desired book is not available in the library, it is procured from different libraries on “Inter-Library Loan”.

Application of Information Technology for providing expeditious and efficient information

services has been a thrust area of Judges Library. Besides providing desired information to the Hon’ble Judges through Internet and CD-ROM Databases subscribed in the Library, the library has developed many “**In-House Databases**” for providing the pinpointed information to the Hon’ble Judges.

1. Library Collection

Library contains **approximately 3,00,000 Documents** including Books, Bound Volumes of Journals, Committee/Commission Reports, Bare Acts, Central and State Gazettes, Parliamentary Debates, Manuals of Central and State Acts, Reference Books and Legal Databases.

2. Library and Information Services

Library offers following services:

- Lending Service
- Current Awareness Services
- Reference Service
- Legal Write-ups on desired topics
- Legal Research
- Newspaper Clipping
- Inter Library Loan
- Reprographic Service

3. Publications

Library is regularly bringing out the following publications for the purpose of Current Awareness-

- Accession List (Quarterly)



Inside view of Judges' Library

- Current Contents (Monthly)
- Library Catalogue Supplement (Annual)
- Newsletter (Monthly)

4. Retrieval Tools Developed by the Library

Library has developed the following useful tools to find expeditiously the information frequently required by the Hon'ble Judges and Courts:-

- Equivalent Citation Table.
- Index to Central Acts with amendments status.
- Index to State Acts with amendments status for each State.
- Journal Holdings.

- Union Catalogue of Current Periodicals subscribed in Supreme Court and High Court Libraries.

5. E-Resources

In order to provide free access to digital resources of the library, a link to the “**Home page**” of the Judges library has been provided on the main website of the Supreme Court (www.sci.nic.in). In addition to the **In-house databases** of the library, it provides access to open source websites of the foreign jurisdictions to retrieve the legislations and case laws of foreign countries. Access to more than 60 “**Free Online Law Journals**” has also been provided on the home page of the Judges Library.

(i) “Homepage” On Website

Contents of the Homepage can be accessed through the links as under:



● JUDIS (JUDGMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM)

The acronym JUDIS stands for Judgment Information System. This is a database of Case Laws developed by NIC which contains all reportable judgments of the Supreme Court of India from 1950 till date. Besides judgments of Supreme Court, judgments of High Courts are also available in the database. This database consists of full text of all reportable and non-reportable judgments of the Supreme Court and it can be accessed without any charge.

Both reportable and non-reportable judgments of the Court are uploaded on the JUDIS within 24 hours after the pronouncement of the Judgment.

Judgments of the Courts can be searched through this database by various search options such as Petitioner/Respondent, Judge Name, Case No., Act, Date of Judgment. Two new search options namely “**Constitutional Bench Decision**” and “**Free Text Search**” have been introduced in the JUDIS recently. “**Constitutional Bench Decision**” helps in finding out all the Constitutional Bench Decision of the Court since 1950. “**Free Text Search**” facilitates advance legal research for finding the case law. The subject wise search can be limited to a specific range

of period and can be narrowed down by filtering the search result by giving two additional search terms in the search box given below the search result.

● SUPLIS (Database of Case Laws)

SUPLIS is an indexing database of case laws decided by the Supreme Court. This database consists of more than 45,000 case laws since 1950.

This database is very useful in finding out the desired case laws. As soon as a copy of any judgment is received in the library, it is immediately entered in this database after assigning subject headings and a famous case name, if any. This database is unique, as it contains some important features that are not available in other legal databases developed by commercial vendors. Besides retrieval of case laws by subject and case title, it also provides search capability by a “**famous case name,**” if any assigned at the time of the entry – for example: “**Bhopal Gas Case**”, “**Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case,**” “**Mandal Commission Case,**” etc. SUPLIS also provides “**equivalent citations**” of case laws so that, in the event that a particular journal is unavailable, that case law could be made available from another journal with the help of this facility.

● SUPLIB (Database of Legal Articles)

Research articles published in various law reports and academic journals contain valuable information as they are written after comprehensive research on the aspect they deal with. SUPLIB is a database of legal articles published in about 200 foreign and Indian law reports subscribed to by the library. Presently, this database consists of bibliographic references of more than 20,657 articles. Immediately after the receipt of a journal in the library, important articles are identified, indexed, and entered in this database under all possible subject headings. This database is very useful for the library staff for identifying the articles needed by the Honorable Judges on a particular aspect and is one of the most used databases in the Supreme Court Judges Library.

● 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, by-laws, schemes, etc, are among the most important and sought-after library materials in any law library. The Legislative Database is a database for 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 by-laws framed under any particular enactment could be readily identified and retrieved with the help of their citations/source given in this database. If the text of any particular central Act is desired, a link for “**India Code**,” which is a database of the Ministry of Law, is also provided to access the full text of the desired central Act.

In addition to the above mentioned databases other important In-house databases are as follows:

- OPAC(Online Catalogue)
- Database of Reportable Judgments Since 1950
- Index to Law Commission Reports
- Database of Committee/Commission Reports
- Databases of Standing/Select/ Joint Committee Reports
- Databases of “References” published in the Supreme Court Report
- Database of Newspaper Articles

6. National Legal Information System (NLIS)

National Legal Information System is a portal for a single window search for Legal Information. It is intended to serve as **National Gateway of Legal Information** in the country. It consists of **Unified Catalogue of the Supreme Court Judges Library** and all the **High Court Libraries** in the country so as to ascertain availability of any particular book in any of these law libraries at the time of need. It will also provide access to all the **In-house databases** developed by the Supreme Court Judges Library and the other High Court Libraries.

7. Digital Law Library

One of the significant features of NLIS portal is to provide access to “Digital Law Library” developed

by the Supreme Court Judges Library. It presently provides access to more than 3500 full text documents by a click of the mouse. All the public domain legal information available on the web can be accessed through databases such as Legal Articles, Committee/ Commission Reports, Consultation Papers, Policies and UN Documents including Charter, Covenants etc. The intended purpose of this Digital Library is to provide free access to something on everything related to the field of law by a click of the mouse.

II. Supreme Court Museum

It was in the year 1994 when a need was felt to set up a Museum of the Supreme Court of India, to preserve, protect and display for general public, the rare objects, artifacts, manuscripts, old documents, files and photographs etc. depicting legal heritage and growth of our Justice Delivery System. The Supreme Court Museum was inaugurated on 6 April 2004 for general public as a unique *Center of Informal Learning of our Judicial Heritage*.

A single pillared round building housing the Museum is located within the premises of the Supreme Court of India on northern side and, has two galleries of 5000 square feet built up area on each floor.

The Museum is divided into two permanent galleries viz.; “*Development of Justice System in India*” and gallery of “*The Supreme Court of India*”. The first gallery deals with the history of Indian Legal and Judicial System from ancient period to British time; whereas second gallery portrays the Federal Court of India and the Supreme Court of India.

The Museum showcases all the artifacts/ objects relating to Indian Legal and Judicial System of different historical time period, which includes Manuscripts, Copper Plates, Maces & Oars, old books on ‘*Dharmashastra*’ and Kautilya’s ‘*Arthashastra*’, Court furniture, Judges Wigs and Costumes, Land-mark Judgments and Photographs of former Chief Justices of India and Judges of the Apex Court etc.

To enhance the collection of the Museum, hundreds of new artifacts and objects of legal and judicial matters were collected last year. As a part of its upgradation, the Museum was facilitated with new *Mini Auditorium, LED lights, Tea and Coffee Centre,*



Supreme Court Museum

Kiosk and Smart LED TV (for projection of different subject and information) and few souvenirs on sale.

Museum projects the documentary films on different issues like “50 years of Supreme Court and the evolution of law in India”, “Supreme Court of India”, “Our Constitution”, “Truth Alone I Uphold”, “Parliament of

India”, “Witness to our Constitution”, “The People of India” and “Institution of Democracy” etc.

The Supreme Court Museum provides glimpses of the Legal and Judicial Heritage of India with all necessary facilities to its visitors under one roof.



Side view of the new extension block of Supreme Court

10

DIGITAL INITIATIVES

As a part of ongoing initiatives to streamline and improvise the use of Information and Communication Technology in the Registry of the Supreme Court of India, a number of software tools have been developed by Computer (IT) Cell during the year 2015-2016. All these tools and applications have been developed in-house using Open Source Technology. The details of the same are as follows:

I. New Case Search Module for Kiosks

This new mechanism has the look and feel of the present form of SCI website and is based on technology identical to what is being used in the Supreme Court Registry for Case Information System. This would facilitate search of the following:

- i. Case Status
- ii. Daily Orders
- iii. Office Reports
- iv. Judgments

This module is presently being used for the seven Information Kiosks installed in the Supreme Court premises. The moment status of a case is updated the same is instantly reflected in the Case Search Module.

II. New Mobile Application for Supreme Court

A new Mobile Application to deliver case information on Android mobiles has been developed. This mobile

application would provide the facility of searching Case Status, Cause Lists, Office Reports, Daily Orders and Judgments. The Cause Lists would also be available AOR wise.

III. New Display Board

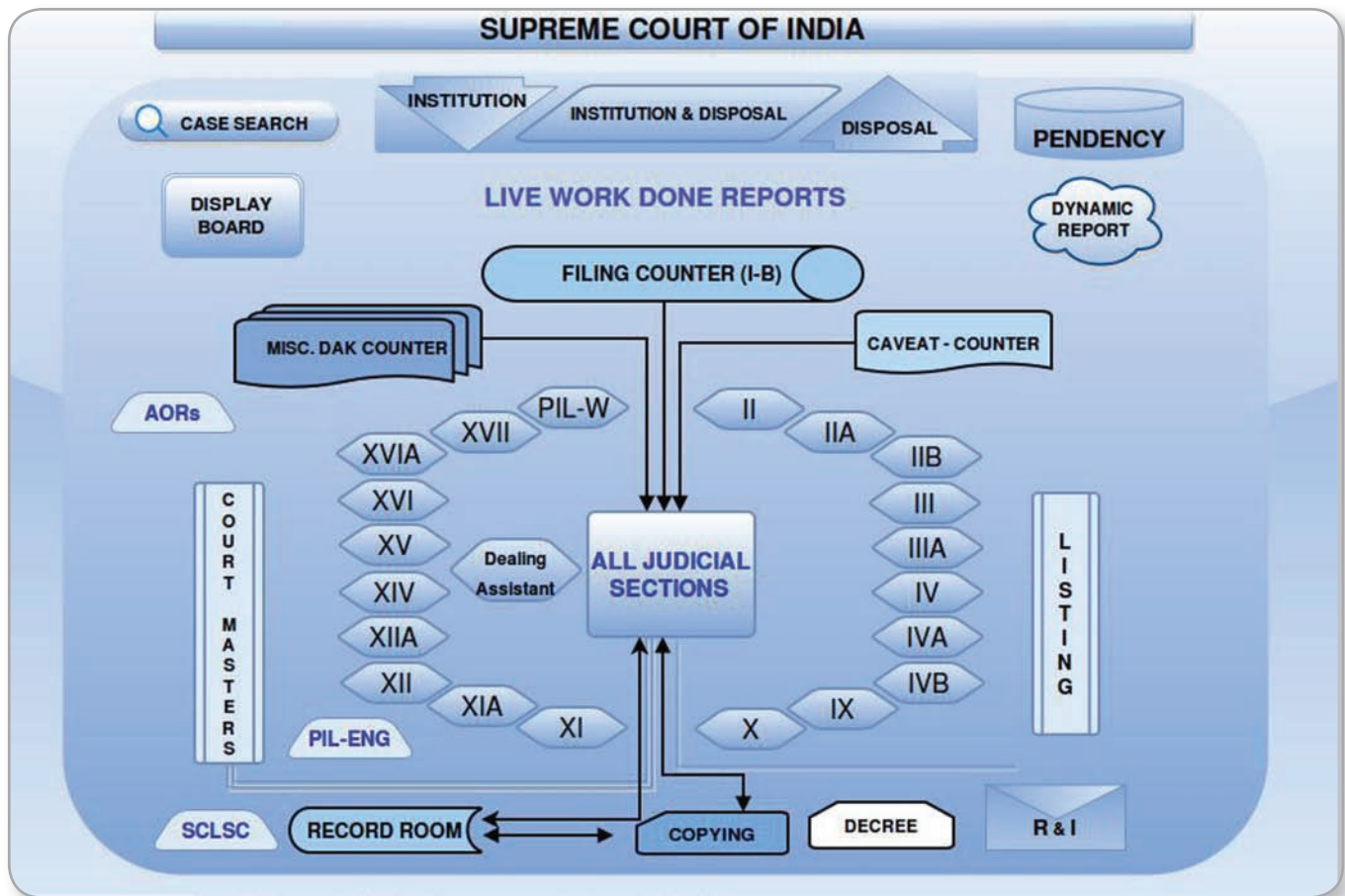
Software application for new Display Board has been developed which is in a technology compatible with Mobile and Tablet screens of varying sizes. This application has been deployed on all display boards installed in the Supreme Court. It also displays the Cause-Title and Case Number of the items.

IV. Automation of Data Uploading

A recurring data migration software tool has been developed, as a result of which Case Status, Office Reports, Daily Orders and Judgments are automatically uploaded on the website by the said tool.

V. Realtime SMS and e-Mail on Cause Lists Updation

New software mechanism has been implemented from November 2015 whereby the moment a new Cause List is updated in the system by the Listing Section, all the SMSs and e-mails are instantly sent by the computer system itself.



VI. Live Work Done Reports

The Live Work Done Reports have been very helpful for various sections of the Registry by providing various reports as per the requirements of the user. This tool contains reports based on sections requirement wherein all information of that particular section can be retrieved. This tool provides the user with all the information instantly.

(a) **Sectionwise Work Done Report:** The data of all the cases of the Supreme Court has been maintained in a manner wherein each of the cases are allocated to a particular judicial section of the Registry. Based on this segregation, live instant reports have been developed which show the amount of work done by a particular section during the day and the cases, I.A.s and other tasks pending with them. An instant live scheduler of case being listed for that particular judicial section has also been provided.

(b) **Dealing Assistant wise Work Done Report:** In addition to the feature of segregating cases section-wise, a new feature has been implemented whereby all cases are mapped to a Dealing Assistant working in the section. Based on this, reports of work done and pending cases are generated for each of the Dealing Assistant. An instant live scheduler of cases to be listed for the particular Dealing Assistant has also been provided.

(c) **Dynamic Report of Cases:** A Dynamic Report generation tool has been developed which can take care of a number of permutations and combinations of a large number of criterion based on which any report of filed or registered, pending or disposed cases can be generated.

Overall usage of various reports of Live Work Done Reports Tool has proved it to be an effective and efficient **Judicial Management Information System** for the Registry of the Supreme Court of India.

VII. Decree Section Computerisation

Earlier, the cases for which Decree has been generated was not updated in the system. A new module has been developed which keeps track of the progress of Decree generation providing functionality of updating various stages of the process of preparation of a Decree. Live reports based on the Decrees under preparation and Decrees already prepared are provided for the users and Officers of the Decree Section for effective monitoring and follow-up.

VIII. R & I (Receipt & Issue Section) Computerisation

A large number of communication are received and dispatched by the R & I Section every day. In order to streamline the work and for tracking the movement and updation of action taken on the communications received by various sections from R & I, a comprehensive R & I module has been developed in the CIS to facilitate updation of inward as well as outward communication movement through the section. This receipt functionality will help each and every communication to be acknowledged and action taken records will be maintained.

IX. Record Room Computerisation

A module to facilitate the updation of cases consigned and to record the requisitions received for consignment of the records has been developed. This module helps in keeping track of the matters which were finally consigned. This functionality helps other judicial sections also to know the matters which have been consigned to Record Room.

X. Court Master Live Reporting Functionality

A live reporting functionality has been developed which facilitates the Court Master to update the summary of the proceeding of the day in the matters taken up, while in the Court. This has helped in early generation of Cause Lists thereby avoiding unnecessary delays.

XI. Full Fledged Software Application for SCLSC

A full-fledged and exhaustive software application has been developed and implemented by the e-Committee for the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC). All the applications received by the SCLSC for seeking legal aid are now entered in this application including all the developments in the said application like document requirements, AOR appointment, case filing in Supreme Court etc. Statistics of all the applications received and the applications wherein legal aid has been provided, is exhaustively available through this application. The application has intelligent features of following certain stages during the life cycle of the application based on the type of cases being sought to be filed through the same. All the data of the pending applications in SCLSC has been updated in this software.

XII. e-Books and On-line Updation Module for CJ Conference Secretariat

- i. Computer (IT) Cell had actively participated in all the Information Technology related tasks involved in holding of Chief Justices' Conference in the month of April 2016. User-friendly e-books with interactive links were prepared by the Computer (IT) Cell running into thousands of pages which paved the way for saving of more than a lakh pages. e-books were actively used by Hon'ble Chief Justices participating in the Conference.
- ii. On-line Web-based Modules were developed by Computer (IT) Cell for data collection during the Chief Justices' Conference 2016 in the form of a number of questionnaires. Similar online module has been redeveloped with revised questionnaires for quarterly updation of feedback by the Conference Secretariats of various High Courts and also monthly pendency statistics of High Courts and Subordinate Courts onto the internal server of the Supreme Court Registry.

XIII eCommittee — Initiatives and Activities

In order to devise a National Policy and Action Plan with appropriate spread and phasing to implement Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Courts across the country and their web-based interlinking, the eCommittee was constituted by a decision of the Union Cabinet.

Phase-I of the eCourts Project ended on 31 March 2015. About 95% of the target set in Phase-I has been achieved.

The present phase i.e., Phase-II of the eCourts Project is contained in a detailed document called “Policy Action Plan Document Phase-II” which was approved in a meeting of the eCommittee chaired by Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India on 8 January 2014. The Phase-II of the Project has got the approval of the Central Government for Rs.1670 Crores on 4 August 2015.

The salient features of the Phase-II of the eCourts Project are :

- i. Decentralised Implementation - the implementation of the Project has been decentralised to the High Courts for Courts falling under the jurisdiction of the particular High Court.
- ii. Cloud Architecture - The Case Information Software for District Courts is mandated to be shifted to Cloud based architecture with adequate connectivity.
- iii. Litigants’ Charter - 30 different services on seven different eplatforms are aimed to be delivered by way of implementation of the Phase-II of the eCourts Project.
- iv. Horizontal and Vertical Integration through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) - Uniquely identifying each and every case of Courts of all level through a CNR (Case Number Record), it is planned to establish horizontal and vertical integration of data of all the Courts so that in case of inter se transfer of cases and filing of cases at higher level of Courts against the orders/ judgments of Courts under those Courts, the data can be drawn and the status of the case is reflected both horizontally and vertically.

More than 200 Crores have so far been released by Government of India to various High Courts for procurement of computers and establishment of LAN

additionally in the already computerized Courts and in newly established Courts.

The funds were transferred during the period of January to March 2016. The process of selection of vendor for procurement of hardware and installation of LAN is underway at all the High Courts.

The following headways have been made under this project:-

1. Video Conferencing: During Phase-II of the eCourts Project 3000 Court Complexes and 1300 Central, District and Women Jails are intended to be covered through video conferencing in addition to 840 Court Complexes and Jails covered so far.
2. Process Re-engineering Exercise: High Courts have been requested to go ahead with implementation of the process re-engineering reports prepared by them to standardize and ICT enablement of rules of procedure.
3. New Version of Case Information Software CIS ver. 2.0: New version of CIS i.e., National Core CIS ver. 2.0 has been developed through NIC Pune team and is under final testing phase. Migration of data from CIS version 1.1 to version 2.0 is underway at most of the Courts in the country.
4. Case Information Software for High Courts: A case information software for the use of the High Courts has been initiated to be developed as part of the eCourts Project with pilot project in five States.
5. SMS Based Case Information Services: SMS services have been launched at majority of the Court Complexes having leased line connectivity given in the eCourts Project.
6. Uniformity of Nomenclature: Unification of Case Types is likely to be materialized for all States along with the implementation of CIS for High Courts.
7. More than 2852 Districts and Taluka Courts Complexes have secured their presence on the NJDG portal ecourts.gov.in and are providing Case Status, Cause Lists online with many of them also uploading orders/judgments. The data of more than 7 crore pending and disposed of cases and 3.3 crore orders/ judgments of District Courts in India is available on NJDG at present.
8. With dynamic real time data generated and updated continuously, the NJDG is serving as

a source of information of judicial delivery system for all the stakeholders. It is regularly analyzed for meaningful assistance in policy formation and decision making. The NJDG is working as National Data Warehouse for case data including the orders/judgments for Courts across the country with full coverage of District Courts.

9. The Online Analytical Processing, and Business Intelligence Tools will help in the summation of multiple databases into tables with summarized

reports for preparation of informative management system and dashboards for effective Court and Case Management. The Judicial Management Information System will be helpful in litigations and adjudication pattern analysis and also the impact analysis of any variation in governing factors relating to law, amendments, jurisdiction, recruitment etc. It will also serve as judicial performance enhancing measure for policy makers to be used for decision support system.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India inaugurating new Grievance Management System Webportal in the august presence of Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court

11

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

A. National Judicial Academy, Bhopal

The National Judicial Academy (NJA) was established as a registered society fully funded by the Government of India. NJA is an autonomous institution under the Department of Justice.

The Chief Justice of India is the *Ex-officio* Chairman of the NJA.

Each year about 5000 Judges from India and abroad visit the NJA to participate in training programmes. The NJA has conducted 68 academic programmes, five special events and published 3709 copies of reading materials in the year 2015. In this period, 1118 Judges from District Judiciary, 327 special Court Judges, 109 Registrars from 24 High Courts, 272 Justices from 24 High Courts have participated in various Conferences conducted by NJA.

National Judicial Academy, Bhopal



I. Academic Programmes for High Court Judges

National Judicial Academy has organized 15 academic programmes for High Court Judges on different Legal Aspects during 2015 mentioned as under. 195 High Court Judges participated in these academic programmes:

Programmes	
Law and Technology (IPR and Cyber Law)	Public Trust and Confidence in Justice System
Orientation for newly elevated Justices	Economic Crimes
Commercial and Economic Matters	Development in the Area of Constitutional Law
Developments in Constitutional Law and Administrative Law in the year 2014	Judicial Ethics and Accountability
Developments in Criminal Law and Human Rights in the year 2014	Judging and Judicial Methods
Judicial Administration	Meeting of Judges heading the State Court Management System Committee and member Judges of the NCMS Committee
Commercial Matters	Role of Guardian Justices
The Court Room Technology	Stress Management
Commercial Matters	Sentencing in Criminal Cases
Cyber Crimes	Judicial Review
Resolve cleavage in Judicial Pronouncement	

II. Conferences organized for Registrar Generals/Registrars (2015–2016)

During the year 2015, six Conferences were organised for Registrars of 24 High Courts on management and organizational behaviour to re-orient their administrative skills. 109 Registrars from different High Courts have attended these re-orientation programmes. In the year 2016, two Conferences for Registrar Generals were organized by NJA in which 28 Registrar Generals from different High Courts have participated and 4 Conferences for Registrars of High Courts have also been organized by NJA in which 74 Registrars of different High Courts participated.

III. Programs for State Judicial Academies (SJAs)

The task of developing a national framework on judicial education lies with the NJA and therefore, the NJA holds minimum four meetings of the faculty members and administration of the SJAs in a year at the NJA Bhopal on specific agenda. In the year 2015–2016, the following programs were organised:-

Programmes	
Review of Research Activities and Refresher Programmes at the SJAs	Impact Assessment: Methods Available
Training for Trainers	Development of Innovative Pedagogies for Delivery of Training
Workshop on Development of Specific Modules for the SJAs	Workshop on Need to Revisit Curriculum Developed in 2003

IV. Academic Programmes for Principal District Judges (PDJs)

During the year 2015–2016, nine academic programmes for PDJs were organized by the Academy. A total

number of 146 principal District Judges from different parts of the country participated in these programmes.

Programmes	
Court Administration and Management	Access to Justice
Use of ADR System	Discharge of Legal Aid Functions
Seminar on Sentencing Ethics	Management of Resources
Court Administration	Court Governance
ICT Tools and Usages	

V. Courses for Presiding Officers of Special Courts (2015–2016)

During the year 2015, Presiding Officers of Family Courts, SC/ST (POA) Courts, and CBI Courts, NDPS Courts, Labour Courts/Tribunals, POCSO Courts and JJBs were imparted training to enhance their capacities to deal with special statutes under which their Courts are established. 356 Presiding Officers from different special Courts attended these programmes. In 2016, four seminars for Judges presiding over Special Court were organized by the NJA. 154 Judges of Special Courts attended the seminar.

VI. Academic Programmes for District Judges other than PDJs and Special Courts

About seven academic programmes were delivered for Judges from District Judiciary other than those holding the positions as PDJs or as presiding officers of special Courts. Details about issues focused are:

Programmes	
Access to Justice	Criminal Law and Human Rights
Commercial and Economic Dispute	Just Sentencing: Policy and Practice
Laws relating to Women and Children	IPR and Cyber Laws

VII. Orientation Programmes for Additional District Judges

Orientation Programmes for ADJs were designed to enhance their judging skills relevant to the adjudication process. Issues related to appellate powers under the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code, Court administration issues, new emerging fields of legal practice before the District Judiciary, use of courtroom technology to increase the judicial output were discussed. 99 Additional District Judges from different Courts participated in these programmes.

VIII. Academic Programme for CJMs/ Civil Judges (Senior Division)

In 2015, a programme P-886 was organized from 9 -11 January 2015 for 39 Chief Judicial Magistrates and Senior Civil Judges to reflect on the working of these Courts and to provide tools and techniques to overcome challenges faced in providing timely and responsive justice to litigants.

IX. Orientation Programs for Newly Appointed Civil Judges (Junior Division) [CJJDs]

During the period, about three orientation programs were organized on building a national outlook for

strengthening administration of justice and instilling a sense of national judicial fraternity amongst CJJDs. Individual sessions covered various aspects relating to judging with a special focus on the role of Judges in a constitutional democracy. In all 169 Civil Judges (Junior Division) from different parts of the country participated in these orientation programmes.

X. Programme for Developing Model

Judicial Districts [PMJD]

PMJD series was designed to provide a platform to duty holders of 10 participating District Courts to discuss and debate issues and voice their concerns to enhance fairness and efficiency in the functioning of their respective Courts and prepare a Model Court Plan. Each set of programme received a PDJ, a Civil Judge (SD), Civil Judge (JD), one employee of the judicial ministerial service and one staff from the District Legal Services Authority/ Taluk Legal Service Authority. The 10th and the final programme in this series worked to collate and finalize all the vision plans prepared during the nine previous Conferences. Plans related to management of (i) Physical Infrastructure; (ii) Human Resources; (iii) Intellectual Resources; (iv) Judicial Initiatives; and (v) Fiscal Resources were completed.

XI. Special Events

In addition to regular academic programmes and courses, National Judicial Academy organized some special events during the 2015–2016 such as:

- Programme for Members of the State Consumer Forums, 3–4 January 2015.
- Juvenile Justice Conference in collaboration with NCPCR, 27–28 May 2015.
- Programme for Judges from Sri Lanka, 1–5 June 2015.
- Programme for Judges from Sri Lanka 6–10 December 2015.
- Training Programme for Labour Tribunal Presidents of Sri Lanka.
- Training of Trainers Workshop to Build Master Trainers on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, 27–28 January 2016.
- Workshop for Judges from SAARC Countries, February 2016.
- Training Course for Prosecutors of CBI Along with Under Secretaries, Dy. Secretaries, Directors of Department of Personnel & Training, 26–30 March 2016.
- Workshop on PC & PNDT Act (Special Event), 29 April–1 May 2016.
- Training Programme for Judicial Officers from Sri Lanka, 20–24 August 2016

B. 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 Government of India and the Attorney General for India are its *ex officio* Vice Presidents. The Institute's regular work is performed by various Committees which are headed by the Senior Judges/ eminent jurists.

The prime objective of the ILI 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 and needs of the people through law and its instrumentalities.

The Indian Law Institute is having the status of Deemed University since the year 2004, vide Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development Notification No. F9-9/2001–U3 dated 29 October 2004.

The Institute is conducting Masters in Law and Doctoral Courses as well as PG Diploma Courses in various areas of law, that is, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Corporate Laws and Management, Cyber Law and Intellectual Property Rights Laws.

The ILI Library, which was established in 1956, is one of the leading law libraries in Asia and attracts scholars from all over world for legal research and

contains around 79,000 volumes. It receives about 260 current legal periodicals including serial publications.

The Indian Law Institute has signed Memorandum of Understanding with the following national and foreign Institutions:

- **Korea Legislation Research Institute - South Korea**
- **Dean Rusk Centre, University of Georgia - USA**
- **Harvard University, USA**
- **University of Houston, USA**
- **National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi**

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

- ***Journal of the Indian Law Institute (JILI), Quarterly***
- ***ILI Newsletter, Quarterly***
- ***Index to Legal Periodicals, Yearly***
- ***Annual Survey of Indian Law, Yearly***

Activities During 2015–2016

- **Summer Course**
The Indian Law Institute and the Human Rights and Business Academy (HURBA) organised a summer course on “Business and Human Rights” from 20 June–1 July 2016. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivered the inaugural address. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave, Judge, Supreme Court of India delivered the valedictory address along with Dr. Surya Devanand and Dr. Erika R. George. The two week intensive course was attended by 60 participants.
- **Workshop for Nodal Officers**
The Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs and Indian Law Institute conducted a two-day workshop for Nodal Officers on, “Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) on 28–29 June 2016 at the Institute.
- **Visit of Nepal Delegation**
The Indian Law Institute conducted a study visit for the Members and Officials of

Legislative Committee, Legislature-Nepal from 21 August 2016 to 30 August 2016 for study of Code of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure Code and Penal Code. The study visit was designed to cover wider aspects relating to Indian experience on the said subjects with law makers of legislative and Justice Committee of the Parliament and Judges, lawyers and Scholars working in the related field.

- **Convocation 2016**
The Indian Law Institute organized its 4th Convocation on **15 March 2016** in the Vigyan Bhawan. Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur who is also the President, ILI presided over the function. Hon’ble Minister of Law and Justice, Mr. D. V. Sadanand Gowda, was the Chief Guest and delivered the Convocation Address. Hon’ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave, Hon’ble Mr. Justice J. S. Kheher, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Hon’ble Judges, Supreme Court of India and other dignitaries graced the occasion.

C. LEGAL EDUCATION

The Supreme Court is instrumental in enhancing standards of legal education in the country. Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India/Nominee of Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India is the Chancellor, or Visitor, of several reputed institutions like National Law University-Jodhpur, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences-Kolkata, National Law University, Delhi, National Law School of India University-Bangalore, National Law Institute University-Bhopal, Hidayatullah National Law University-Raipur, Gujarat National Law University-Gandhi Nagar, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow, National University of Advanced Legal Studies-Kochi, National Law University, Odisha, National Law University, Aurangabad, National Law University, Mumbai, National Law University, Nagpur, Rajiv Gandhi National Law University, Patiala and National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi.

D. LAW CLERK-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. Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants are given assignment on a fixed stipend of Rs. 30,000/- per month.
- Law students are considered for being placed as Law Trainees with the Hon'ble Judges, for a period not exceeding one month from time to time, without any monetary incentives.
- As per the revised scheme for selection of Law Clerks, 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.
- During the year 2015–2016, 88 Law Graduates have been engaged as Law Clerks-cum Research Assistants and 72 Law Students have been placed as Law Trainees up to 31 December 2015. A total of 42 Law Graduates have been engaged as Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants and 26 Law students have been placed as Law Trainees during the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 August 2016.

12

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee

In order to ensure the effective implementation of Mediation and Conciliation in the country, a “**Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee [MCPC]**” was constituted by the Supreme Court of India in the year 2005 for encouraging amicable resolution of disputes pending in the Courts in accordance with Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The MCPC is responsible for evolving policy matters relating to mediation in the country. The Committee was sanctioned a grant-in-aid during the current financial year to the tune of Rs. 75 Lakhs by National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) for implementation of the activities of the MCPC in various States in the Financial Year 2015-2016.

At present, the MCPC is conducting the following programmes all over the country:

- a) **ARCM Programme** (Awareness, Refresher, Critiquing and Mentoring Programmes). 26 such programmes were organized during the period under report.
- b) **Mediation Training Programme** for Judicial Officers, lawyers, etc. (40 hours). 23 training programmes were organized during the period under report.
- c) **Refresher Course/Advanced Training Programme** for Mediators. Five such courses were organized during the period under report.
- d) **Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme.**
- e) **One Day Referral Judges Training Programme.** 47 such programmes were organized during the period.

- f) **Capsule Course** (20 hours). Three Capsule Courses were organized during this period.

National Legal Service Authority (NALSA)

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to monitor and evaluate the implementation of legal services programmes and to lay down policies and principles for making legal services available under the Act. In every State, a State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and in every High Court, a High Court Legal Services Committee has been constituted. District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees have been constituted in the Districts and most of the Taluks to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA and to provide free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State.

Lok Adalats

Lok Adalat is a forum where the disputes/cases pending in the Court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. The Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

There are two broad kinds of Lok Adalats established under the Act:

One is organized by the Legal Services Institutions under Section 19 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the other is permanent

Lok Adalat. A Lok Adalat organized under Section 19 has jurisdiction to determine and to arrive at a compromise or settlement between the parties to a dispute in respect of any case.

A Permanent Lok Adalat is organized under Section 22-B of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Permanent Lok Adalats have been set up as permanent bodies with a Chairman and two Members for providing compulsory pre-litigative mechanism for conciliation and settlement of cases relating to public utility services like Transport, Postal, Telegraph etc. Here even if the parties fail to reach at settlement/agreement, the Permanent Lok Adalat gets jurisdiction to decide the dispute, provided the dispute does not relate to any offence. Further, the Award of the Permanent Lok Adalat is final and binding on all the parties.

The functioning of Lok Adalats under Section 19 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 is governed by the NALSA (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009.

As on 31 December 2015, more than 15.57 lacs

Lok Adalats have been organized in the country since inception. More than 9.38 crores cases including cases pending in the Courts as well as those at the pre-litigation stage have been settled in these Lok Adalats. Since there is no appeal against the award of the Lok Adalat, therefore, these many cases have been permanently removed from the formal Court system.

National Lok Adalats

A National Lok Adalat for settlement of cases in all the Courts from the Supreme Court of India to the Taluk Courts was held on 23 November 2013 throughout the country. The Lok Adalat Benches from the Supreme Court to the Taluk Courts have had successful sittings and 72.10 lacs cases have been disposed of.

From February 2015, National Lok Adalats are being held on a specific subject matter every month.

In the year 2015-2016, the following National Lok Adalats were held on various subject matters:

S.No	Date	Subject	No. of Disposal of cases/ matters(Both Pre-litigative and Post litigative stages)
1	11.04.2015	Labour and Family	531872
2	09.05.2015 and 13.06.2015	MACT and Insurance Claims	318724
3	11.07.2015	Electricity/Water/Telephone/ Public Utility dispute	868254
4	08.08.2015	Banking matters, u/s 138, NI Act and Recovery suits etc.	353167
5	12.09.2015	Criminal Compoundable matters	571741
6	10.10.2015	Traffic, Petty matters, Municipal matters	1639229
7	12.12.2015	All types of cases	13456127
8	13.02.2016	Banking matters, u/s 138, NI Act and Recovery suits etc.	363565
9	12.03.2016	Civil and Revenue Matters	1296663
		Total	19399342



Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India addressing NALSA All India meet

Activities during 2015–2016

During the year 2015-2016, the National Legal Services Authority has organized the following activities:

- A two day Colloquium on “Workers in Unorganized Sector” was organized by the State Legal Services Authority of UT of Chandigarh on 11–12 April 2015 which was attended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Goel, Judge, Supreme Court of India.
- A Regional Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA) of North Eastern States was organized by the Sikkim SLSA under the aegis of NALSA on 2–3 May 2015 at Gangtok to identify the problems faced by the State Authorities in providing effective legal services to the marginalized communities in these States. The meet was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S.Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA.
- Himachal Pradesh SLSA under the aegis of NALSA organized a Regional Conference on “Menace of Drugs in India: Overview, Challenges and Way Forward” at Manali from 11-13 June 2015. The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Virbhadra Singh, in the august presence of Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Sh. J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority, Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.A. Bobde, Judges, Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir, Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh.
- Pursuant to the decision of the Central Authority meeting held on 21 March 2015 at Ranchi, the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Manju Goel (Retd.) conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for Advancing Lawyering Skills in three batches from 11–13 July 2015, 25–27 July 2015, and 22–24 August 2015. The training programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.L.Dattu, Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA. Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S.Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA delivered valedictory addresses and distributed certificates to the participants.
- NALSA has organized celebration of Legal



Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India & Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India at a NALSA event

Services Day from 7-9 November 2015 launching of Legal Services Schemes of NALSA and Workshop on Actualization of NALSA's Schemes, Review of Legal Services Activities and Commendation of best Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and best District Legal Service Authorities (DLSAs). The Workshop was inaugurated by Shri D.V.Sadananda Gowda, Hon'ble Union Law Minister in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S.Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

- To commend the work of the best para legal volunteer and best District Legal Services Authority, the aforesaid Meet was organized on 9 November 2015 the day of Legal Services Day. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Chief Guest, addressed the gathering and distributed the awards to the best para legal volunteer and best District Legal Services Authorities in the presence of

Shri D.V.Sadananda Gowda, Hon'ble Union Law Minister, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S.Thakur, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R.Dave, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee .

- The 14th All India Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities was organized at Hyderabad, Telangana, on 9–10 April 2016. The Meet was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur Chief Justice of India and Patron-in-Chief, NALSA in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman,
- The Regional Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities of Southern States under the aegis of NALSA on “Effective Implementation of Legal Services Programmes: Challenges and Way Forward” was organized on 23–24 July 2016 at Puducherry. The Regional Meet was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R.Dave, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA.

C. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee

Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) has been constituted in the year 1996 under Section 3A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide easy and inexpensive access to justice in the Supreme Court and to give legal advice when notification in this regard was issued by the Government of India on 1 January 1996. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Regulations, 1996, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee Rules, 2000 and National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 regulate the functions of the Committee. 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.

Supreme Court Legal Service Committee provides free legal aid to litigants whose annual income does

not exceed Rs.1,25,000/- per annum. It also provides free legal assistance to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, women, children, disabled persons, victims of trafficking in human beings, mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocities, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster etc., persons in custody and industrial workmen, irrespective of their financial means. However, no legal aid is given in proceedings wholly or partly in respect of defamation, malicious prosecution, persons charged with Contempt of Court proceedings, perjury, elections, economic offences and offences against social laws such as Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 unless in such cases the aid is sought by the victim.

A person seeking free legal aid through the Committee has to apply to its Secretary at 108, Lawyers' Chambers, Supreme Court Compound, New Delhi in the prescribed form, available free of



cost in its office or through its website namely www.sclsc.nic.in.

Supreme Court Mediation Centre

Mediation is a voluntary, structured and party centred negotiation process where a neutral third party assists the disputing parties in resolving their conflict by

using specialized communication and negotiation techniques. In Supreme Court, a Mediation Centre has been functioning since 6 August 2009 at 109-110, Lawyers Chambers, R.K. Jain Chamber Block. It has a panel of 39 trained mediators to settle cases referred to the Centre by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. 2119 cases were referred to the Supreme Court Mediation Centre were from 6 August 2009 to 31 March 2016, and out of these, 547 cases were settled.

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CONFERENCES

During the period under report, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and other Hon'ble Judges of this Court attended various National and International Conferences and Meets. The details of Conferences/Legal Forums are given hereunder:

I. Chief Justices' Conference

The Chief Justices' Conference is convened normally every year by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India at the Supreme Court of India, wherein all the Chief Justices of the High Courts participate.

Chief Justices' Conference – 2015

The Chief Justices' Conference, 2015 was held on 3–4 April 2015. The resolutions adopted at the said Conference pertain to-morning/evening Courts; Arrears Committee and preparation of an Action Plan to clear backlog of cases pending for more than five years; salaries and emoluments of the serving Chief Justices/ Judges of the High Courts; augmenting of post-retiral benefits of High Court Chief Justices/Judges; granting financial autonomy to the High Courts; computerization of Courts; implementation of National Court Management System (NCMS); Strengthening of Judicial Academies; filling up of vacancies in all the High Courts; uniform procedure for appointment of District Judges; strengthening of Juvenile Justice System; fast tracking of matters relating to offences

against women, children, differently-abled persons, senior citizens, marginalised sections of society and Prevention of Corruption Act cases; strengthening of Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) system; funds from the Central Government for proper infrastructure; National Vision and Mission – Justice for All: 2015-2020; Rules, directions/ guidelines for electronic evidence to be followed by all the Courts etc.

Chief Justices' Conference – 2016

The Chief Justices' Conference, 2016 was held on 22–23 April 2016. The resolutions that were adopted include infrastructure and filling up of vacancies in Subordinate Courts; filling up of vacancies in the High Courts; performance of morning/evening Courts; Monitoring Mechanism for tracking the progress of cases of under-trial prisoners; Electronic Evidence: Rules, Directions/ Guidelines – A Review; Arrears Committee and preparation of an Action Plan to clear backlog of cases pending for more than five years; Effective integration of National Court Management System (NCMS) and State Court Management System; strengthening of Juvenile Justice System; fast tracking of matters relating to offences against women, children, differently-abled persons, senior citizens, marginalised sections of society and Prevention of Corruption Act cases and Progress made on National Vision and Mission – Justice for All: 2015-2020.



Chief Justices' Conference 2016 in session

II. Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of the High Courts

Joint Conference – 2015

The Joint Conference was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 5 April 2015. The Conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the presence of Hon'ble Shri H.L. Dattu, Chief Justice of India and Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda, Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India chaired the Working Session of the Conference, for which 18 agenda items were circulated for discussion. The Conference emphasized need for strengthening legal aid services, judicial academies, juvenile system, alternative disputes resolution mechanisms and service conditions of sitting and retired Chief Justices/Judges.

Joint Conference -2016

The Joint Conference of Chief Minister of States and Chief Justice of High Courts, 2016, was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 24 April 2016. Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Conference in the august presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India and Shri Sadananda Gowda, Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice. The Working Session after the Inaugural Session was chaired by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India.

Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar were also present on the dais for conduct of the Session along with Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. The Conference emphasized on the urgent need for filling up of vacancies in the Subordinate Courts and the High Court; Effective inauguration of National Court Management System; strengthening of Juvenile Justice System; Fast Tracking of Matters related to offences against

women, differently abled person, senior citizens, marginalized sections of society; and the Prevention of Corruption Act cases.

III. Supreme Court Judges' Retreat 2016

Judges' Retreat provides an opportunity to Hon'ble Judges to reflect on the progress of the nation towards the vision and goals set by the Constitution of India in the context of contemporary challenges, both National and Global. It also provides an opportunity to Hon'ble Judges to interact as a group with leading National and Global thinkers and activists on cutting edge issues affecting our country.

Supreme Court Judges' Retreat, 2016 was held on 15–17 April 2016 at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

The Retreat 2016 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee and other dignitaries, included Sh. Shivaraj Singh Chauhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Hon'ble

Mr. Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, the then Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court and Sh. Sadanada Gowda, Union Law Minister.

The President emphasized that the Retreat be institutionalized and held regularly in future. The Hon'ble President pointed out that the Judiciary is an important pillar of our Democracy, being the final interpreter of the Constitution and the laws and added that since 1950 Indian Judiciary continued to respond to needs of the hour and had immensely contributed towards nation's development.

The discussions during the retreat centered around issues like Strengthening Democratic Institutions, Accountability and Corruption, Human Rights, National Security issues with regard to Global Terrorism, Climate Change, Emerging challenges for Science and Society, Advances in scientific investigation, Poverty eradication and Role of the Judiciary in Advancing Constitutional Goals and Vision in the Current and Emerging Context.

Eminent resource persons from diverse fields made presentations and interacted with the Hon'ble Judges.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India, at the Judges' Retreat 2016 in Bhopal





A view of proceedings at the Judges' Retreat 2016

IV. Legal Forum Meets

- **Indo-Australian Legal Forum-** Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. L. Dattu, the then Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, the Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.J. Mukhopadhaya, Judges, Supreme Court of India and Mr. Mukul Rohtagi, Attorney-General for India visited Australia to participate in the 4th Indo-Australian Legal Forum Meet Held at Canberra on 2-3 March 2015.
- **St. Petersburg International Legal Forum-** Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. L. Dattu, the then Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, the Chief Justice of India visited St. Petersburg(Russia) to participate in the Vth St. Petersburg International Legal Forum Meet from 27-30 May 2015.

V. Other International Conferences

1. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India:**
 - (a) His Lordship delivered a lecture on "Public Interest Litigation: Emerging Trends and Challenges" at the Cornell University Law School on 19 October 2015 held at Ithaca, New York (US)
 - (b) His Lordship participated in a Roundtable at Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on "The Role of India's Judicial System in the Economy" held at Washington DC on 21 October 2015 and
 - (c) His Lordship interacted with the Indian delegation at the Law Department of Columbia University, New York (US) on 23 October 2015.

2. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar:**
 - (a) His Lordship participated in the Justices Forum of BRICS countries held at Sanya, Hainan Province of China from 27-28 March 2015 and
 - (b) His Lordship participated in the Environmental Judicial Sub-Forum of Boao Forum for Asia held at Boao on 29 March 2015.
3. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur:**
 - (a) Attended the 18th Annual International Judicial Conference (IJC) at Antalya, Turkey from 20-22 May 2015.
 - (b) Participated in the 29th LAWASIA Conference organized by the LAWASIA and the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific from 12-14 August 2016 at Colombo, Sri Lanka and presented a paper on the subject "Case Management through Court- annexed mediation and other developments". He represented Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India at the Roundtable Meeting of Chief Justices of the Asia Pacific Region as part of the 29th LAWASIA Golden Jubilee Conference on 13 August 2016 at Colombo.
4. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikramajit Sen:**
 - (a) Attended the "52nd Annual Conference on Children in the Courts System: Different Doors, Different Responses and Different Outcomes" organized by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts held at Hilton New Orleans Riverside from 27-30 May 2015.
 - (b) Attended the "Commonwealth and Common Law International Family Justice Conference" held at Coogee, New South Wales, Sydney, Australia from 16-19 November 2015.
5. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikramajit Sen and Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Sikri:**
 Attended Asia Pacific Symposium on the subject "Towards the Well Being of the Child Through the Hague Child Abduction and Protection of Children Conventions" held at Macau, SAR, China from 25-26 June 2015.
6. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Sikri:**
 - (a) Participated in the Conference of "Doing Business Across Asia: Legal Convergence in an Asian Century" organized by Singapore Academy of Law from 21-22 January 2016.
 - (b) Participated as a Speaker in the 2nd International Convention on the Economy of Innovation organised by the International Association for the Protection of the Intellectual Property at **Tel-Aviv, Israel** from 21-22 March 2016.
7. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India (Head of Delegation) with Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. Chelameswar, Prof. Krishan Mahajan, Additional Registrar, Supreme Court of India and Shri O. P. Nagpal, Deputy Registrar cum Principal Private Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India** attended the 10th SAARC Chief Justices' Conference in Nepal in tandem with the 13th SAARCLAW Conference on the theme "Connecting SAARC through Law, Justice, Good Governance and Development", from 5-6 March 2016.
8. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. A. Bobde:** Participated in the Open Briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on "The Effective Adjudication of Terrorism Cases", in particular in the panel on "The Judiciaries of South Asia" held at United Nations Headquarters, New York on 10 March 2016 and participated in other events at New York University School of Law for the South Asian Judges organised by the Counter-Terrorism Committee on 11 March 2016.
9. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India (Head of Delegation) with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave, Hon'ble Mr. Justice F. M. Ibrahim Kalifulla and Shri O. P. Nagpal, Deputy Registrar cum Principal Private Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice**



Hon'ble Chief Justice of India at Strasbourg, France

of India, participated in a Judicial Dialogue with the President and Companion Judges of the European Court of Human Rights held at **Strasbourg, France** from 22-24 March 2016. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India had meetings with Dr. Gianne Buquicchio, President of Venice Commission, Dr. Andrew Drzemczewski, Head of the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Department, Mr. Stephane Leyenberger, Secretary of the CEPEJ, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Guido Raimondi, President of European Court of Human Rights and Mr. Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Executive Secretary of Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

10. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra:** Participated in the International Conference on "Modern Constitutional Justice: Challenges and prospects" organized by the Constitutional Court of Russian Federation on 17 May 2016. He also participated in VI St. Petersburg International Legal Forum from 18–20 May 2016 at **St. Petersburg, Russia**.
11. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph:** Participated in the 19th International Judicial Conference sponsored by the Furth Family Foundation, co-sponsored by the University

of Michigan Law School and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems from 18-21 May 2016 in Washington D. C.

12. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India (Head of Delegation) with Hon'ble Mr Justice Anil R. Dave, Hon'ble Mr Justice N. V. Ramana,** and Shri Ravindra Maithani, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India: Attended "The 2016 Incheon Trade Law Forum" organized by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea from 16-18 May 2016 and was the First Speaker at the Judicial Session on "Judicial Glocalization of International Trade Law" on 16 May, 2016. During this visit, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India had meetings with Mr. Hyun-Woong KIM, Minister of Justice, Republic of Korea, Mr. Joao Ribeiro, Head of UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific and Hon'ble Mr. Yang Sung-Tae, Chief Justice of Korea.
13. **Hon'ble Mr Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India (Head of Delegation) with Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. V. Ramana** and Shri Ravindra Maithani, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India: Attended a seminar on "Intellectual Property Rights and Indian Judicial Systems" organized by Japan External Trade Organization held in Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima from 18-23 May 2016, respectively. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India along with other members of delegation had a meeting with the Chief Justice of Japan.
14. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India, (Head of Delegation) with Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Sikri** and Shri O. P. Nagpal, Deputy Registrar cum Principal Private Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India participated in a Round Table Discussion at Chatham House, The Royal Institute of International Affairs at **London** from 10-11 June 2016.



Judicial Colloquium held at Supreme Court of Hawaii

15. **Hon’ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India, (Head of Delegation) with Hon’ble Mr. Justice A. K. Sikri** and Shri O. P. Nagpal, Deputy Registrar cum Principal Private Secretary to Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India participated in the Judicial Colloquium held at Supreme Court of Hawaii from 13-17 June 2016 at Hawaii.

programme: “End to End Court Technology: A Compendious Survey” organized by Singapore Judicial College (SJC), Supreme Court of Singapore for Judges and Judicial Officers in Singapore from 6-10 July 2015.

2. **Shri Chirag Bhanu Singh, Registrar, Supreme Court of India** participated in the International Conference on Court Excellence organised by the State Courts of **Singapore** from 28-29 January 2016.

Conferences/Seminars attended by Secretary General/Registrars

1. **Mr. V.S.R. Avadhani, the then Secretary General:** Participated in the five day



Hon'ble the President of India & Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India at the Judges' Retreat 2016 at NJA Bhopal

14

LANDMARK JUDGMENTS (2015–2016)

1. Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and Another v. Union of India (NJAC Case) (2016) 5 SCC 1 [Date of Judgment: 16 October 2015]

In a momentous judgment, a Constitutional Bench of Supreme Court by majority (4:1) declared the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act (The NJAC Act) unconstitutional on the ground that it violates concept of judicial independence which is one of the essential features of the Constitution. The Bench observed that it is difficult to hold that the wisdom of appointment of Judges can be shared with the political-executive. In India, the organic development of civil society, has not yet sufficiently evolved. The expectation from the Judiciary, to safeguard the rights of the citizens of this country, can only be ensured, by keeping it absolutely insulated and independent, from the other organs of governance. But fascinatingly, the Bench admitted that all is not well even with the Collegium System and this is the time to improve it. The Supreme Court invited the Government to help the Judiciary to improve and better the system.

2. Union of India v. Sriharan Alias Murugan and others (2016) 7 SCC 1 [Date of Judgment: 2 December 2015]

A Constitution Bench of Supreme Court in a case concerning to the seven life convicts in the Rajiv

Gandhi assassination examined an important question whether creating a special category of sentence for a life term exceeding 14 years and putting that category beyond the application of remission was good in law. The question assumed significance because in many cases the Supreme Court commuted the death sentence imposed by the lower Courts to a life sentence and held that a life sentence in such cases would mean the rest of the convict's lifespan and the Court could hold a certain period of a life sentence exceeding 14 years as ineligible for remission, considering the gravity of the crime. The Supreme Court ruled that the Tamil Nadu Government could not have unilaterally granted remission to these seven life convicts. The statutory power of remission exercised under Section 432(1) of Cr.P.C. could not be exercised by the appropriate Government suo-motu and could only be initiated on an application from the convict and that the ultimate order of suspension or remission should be guided by the opinion to be rendered by the Presiding Officer of the Court concerned.

3. Anita Kushwaha v. Pushap Sudan, (2016) 8 SCC 509 [Date of Judgment: 19 July 2016]

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held access to Justice as a fundamental right guaranteed to citizens by Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Bench also observed that

if “life” implies not only life in the physical sense but a bundle of rights that makes life worth living, there is no juristic or other basis for holding that denial of “access to justice” will not affect the quality of human life so as to take access to justice out of the purview of right to life guaranteed under Article 21. The Citizen’s inability to access Courts or any other adjudicatory mechanism provided for determination of rights and obligations is bound to result in denial of the guarantee contained in Article 14 both in relation to equality before law as well as equal protection of laws. The Court explicated four main facets that constitute the essence of access to justice:

1. The State must provide an effective adjudicatory mechanism;
2. The mechanism so provided, must be reasonably accessible in terms of distance;
3. The process of adjudication must be speedy; and
4. The litigant’s access to the adjudicatory process must be affordable.

4. Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker and Others (2016) 8 SCC 1
[Date of Judgment: 13 July 2016]

The Supreme Court in a historic judgment on 13 July 2016, first time restored the Congress-led NabamTuki Government which was dismissed by President in exercise of his powers under Article 356 of the Constitution. In December 2015, a rebellion in Congress precipitated a political crisis in the State, after 21 of its 47 MLAs up in arms against the then Chief Minister; NabamTuki and joined hands with 11 BJP members and two Independents to ‘impeach’ the then Assembly Speaker NabamRebia at a makeshift venue. Rebia had termed the move “illegal and unconstitutional”. The Union Cabinet then recommended President’s Rule in February 2016 and the President soon gave his assent to the proposal. After a brief period of President’s Rule in the State, dissident leader Kalikho Pul was formally sworn-in as the Chief Minister with the support of the BJP. In a unanimous judgment, the five-Judge Bench, turned the clock back to 15 December 2015 just before the

present Government was formed and held all the actions of the Governor violative of Article 163 of the Constitution. Citing the *S R Bommai v. Union of India* [(1994)3 SCC 1] case ruling on the scope of judicial review of a decision taken by the President or the Governor, the Bench said it had “all the powers to put the clock back”.

5. Youth Bar Association of India v. Union of India and Others, (2016) 9 SCC 473
[Date of Judgment: 07 September 2016]

In a path-breaking judgment, the Apex Court directed that the copies of the FIRs, unless the offence is sensitive in nature, like sexual offences, offences pertaining to insurgency, terrorism and of that category, offences under POCSO Act and such other offences, should be uploaded on the police website and if there is no such website, on the official website of the State Government, within twenty-four hours of the registration of the First Information Report so that the accused or any person connected with the same can download the FIR and file appropriate application before the Court as per law for redressal of his grievances. The Bench clarified that in case there are connectivity problems due to geographical location or there is some other unavoidable difficulty, the time can be extended up to forty-eight hours. The said 48 hours can be extended maximum up to 72 hours if it is only relatable to connectivity problems due to geographical location. The Supreme Court also issued 10 important Guidelines on First Information Report.

6. Hiral P. Harsora and Ors. v. Kusum Narottamdas Harsora and Ors MANU/SC/1269/2016
[Date of Judgment: 6 October 2016]

The Supreme Court in a landmark judgment struck down the two words “male adult” from Section 2(q) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, which deals with respondents who can be sued and prosecuted under the Act for harassing a married woman in her matrimonial home.

Referring to earlier verdicts, the Apex Court observed *“the microscopic difference between male and female, adult and non- adult, regard being had to the object sought to be achieved by the 2005 Act, is neither real or substantial, nor does it have any rational relation to the object of the legislation.”*

In the present arrangement, it is not just a wife who could be a victim of domestic violence. A mother or sister could also be subject to domestic violence. Women can harass another woman living under the same roof. If a single daughter is living with her brother and sister-in-law, she could be harassed. The judgment of Supreme Court by deleting word “male adult” surfaced the way for prosecution of women members sharing household and even non-adults for subjecting a woman to violence and harassment.

7. Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India, (2015) 5 SCC 1 [Date of Judgment: 24 March 2015]

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court while upholding freedom of speech and expression, struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2008. Section 66A defined the punishment for sending “offensive” messages through a computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone or tablet and a conviction of it can fetch a maximum three years of jail and a fine. Over the last couple of years there have been many cases in which police has arrested the broadcasting of any information through a computer resource or a communication device, which was “grossly offensive” or “menacing” in character, or which, among other things as much as cause “annoyance,” “inconvenience,” or “obstruction.” The Court has now declared that Section 66A is not only vague and arbitrary, but disproportionately invades the right of free speech.

8. Common Cause v. Union of India, (2015) 7 SCC 1 [Date of Judgment: 13 May 2015]

A Supreme Court Bench delivered a landmark judgment that restrained ruling parties from publishing photographs of political leaders or prominent persons in Government-funded advertisements. Common

Cause and Centre for Public Interest Litigation, had approached Apex Court under Article 32 of the Constitution seeking an appropriate writ to restrain the Union of India and all State Governments from using public funds on Government advertisements which are primarily intended to project individual functionaries of the Government or a political party. The writ petitioners have also prayed for laying down of appropriate guidelines by this Court to regulate Government action in the matter to prevent misuse/wastage of public funds on such advertisements. The Supreme Court judgment laid down guidelines for publicly funded Government advertisements misused ostensibly to promote political leaders and parties in power.

9. Yakub Abdul Razak Memon v. State of Maharashtra through the Secretary Home Department and Ors (2015) 9 SCC 552 [Date of Judgment: 29 July 2015]

The year 2015 perceived a rare event when Apex Court opened its gates at mid night for hearing an urgent writ petition of Mumbai terror blasts (1993) convict Yakub Memon. The Mercy Petition of Yakub Memon was rejected by the President and this news was reported at around 10.45 pm in the night. Around 1:00 am, four lawyers representing Yakub Memon, knocked the doors of CJI and prayed that Courts have made technical errors in awarding death sentence and as per a Supreme Court precedent, the hanging cannot take place for at least 14 days after a mercy petition is rejected. In an unparalleled move, the Chief Justice of India decided that Three-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court would once again hear the matter. Memon’s lawyers and the Attorney General reached the Supreme Court at around 3:00 AM and the hearing began at around 3:25 AM. In an unprecedented 90-minutes hearing that started at 3.25 AM and ended a little before dawn, the Three-Judge Bench gave the verdict and held that Execution warrant was communicated to Yakub Menon on 13 July 2015. On 11 April 2014, a mercy petition by Yakub Menon’s brother was rejected. The review petition for Yakub Menon was heard for ten days

when the law mandates that only half an hour must be given. He has been given ample opportunities, and in a case of this nature, granting further time is not necessary. For the first time in history, the doors of

Supreme Court were unlocked post-midnight for a plea to decide the fate of a convict set to face his execution in five hours' time.

Other Significant Judgments

Besides aforementioned landmark judgments, the Supreme Court delivered various other significant verdicts during 2015-2016. For instance, in **Rajbala v. State of Haryana (2016) 2 SCC 445**, a two Judge Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the validity of Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Act 8 of 2015), which introduced the minimum educational qualification for candidates to contest the panchayat elections. The Supreme Court in **Parivartan Kendra v. Union of India (2016) 3 SCC 571**, directed all the States and Union Territories to consider the plight of acid attack victims and take appropriate steps regarding inclusion of their names under the disability list. In **Shreya Vidyarthi v. Ashok Vidyarthi (2015) 13 SCALE 643**, this Court held that women can also be manager of a Joint Family. In **Devidas v. State of Maharashtra 2015(6) SCC 1**, popularly known as the Gandhi Judgement, Supreme Court held that in the name of artistic freedom or critical thinking or generating the idea of creativity, a poet or a writer cannot put into the voice or image of a "historically respected personality" like Mahatma Gandhi, such language, which may be obscene. **Ram Singh v.**

Union of India 2015(4) SCC 697 was another significant verdict where Apex Court Bench while declaring the Jat reservation unconstitutional, held that self-proclamation and claim of a community of backwardness based on perception of advancement of other classes to seek protection as less fortunate is not constitutionally permissible. **ABC v. State (NCT of Delhi) 2015 10 SCC 1** was additional milestone when a Supreme Court Bench held that an unwed mother in India can apply to become the sole guardian of a child, without giving notice to the father of the child and without disclosing his identity. The Court also directed that if a single parent/unwed mother applies for the issuance of a Birth Certificate for a child born from her womb, the Authorities concerned may only require her to furnish an affidavit to this effect, and must thereupon issue the Birth Certificate, unless there is a Court direction to the contrary. A Division Bench of Supreme Court in **Krishnamoorthy v. Sivakumar 2015 (3) SCC 467** observed that non-disclosure of criminal antecedents; amounts to corrupt practice by the candidates and shall be sufficient ground to set aside his election.

15

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

I. Supreme Court Reports

Supreme Court Reports (SCR) is the official Reporter of the Supreme Court judgments. The work relating to Supreme Court Reports is governed by the Supreme Court (Council of Law Reporting) Rules, 1964. The headnotes of the judgments are prepared by Editorial Officers and are approved by the Hon'ble Judges. The Supreme Court Reports is published under the supervision of the Supreme Court Council of Law Reporting consisting of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, two Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court nominated by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Attorney General for India and an Advocate nominated by the Executive Council of the Supreme Court Bar Association. From 2007 onwards, SCR has been made weekly publication and is published in running volumes, each consisting of four parts of about 300 pages each and a Volume Index. Besides circulation within the country, it is sent on reciprocal basis to many Commonwealth and other countries. Publication of yearly Digests of the Supreme Court Reports has also been started.

II. Court News

To promote transparency, accountability and to provide free flow of information, Supreme Court of India started publication of its quarterly newsletter – 'Court News' in the year 2006; and since then quarterly issues of 'Court News' are being regularly published. Besides figures of institution, pendency and disposal of cases as well as vacancy position in Courts at all levels, 'Court News' also contains a gist of judgments of public importance delivered by the Supreme Court of India in the last quarter. It is sent free of cost to all High Courts, and to Bar Associations, Law Colleges and Government Departments etc. 'Court News' 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. It is also available on www.supremecourtindia.nic.in, the official website of the Supreme Court.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil R. Dave, Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. S. Khehar,



Judges, Supreme Court with Hon'ble Chief Justices /Acting Chief Justices of High Courts In Chief Justices' Conference 2016



Illuminated fountain at Supreme Court

PART

2

HIGH COURTS



16

**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT
ALLAHABAD**



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Judicature Allahabad*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vimlesh Kumar Shukla, Acting Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Tandon	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhinava Upadhya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aditya Nath Mittal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarun Agarwal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahendra Dayal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dilip Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Arora	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bharat Bhushan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishna Murari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bachchoo Lal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. P. Sahi	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Naheed Ara Moonis	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Srivastava
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. P. Kesarwani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satyendra Singh Chauhan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. M. Thipsay	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipin Sinha
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhir Agarwal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. V. S. Rathore	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. N. Bajpayee
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bharati Sapru	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhir Kumar Saxena	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Narayan Shukla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pradeep Kumar Singh Baghel	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anjani Kumar Mishra
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajai Lamba	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ram Surat Ram	Hon'ble Dr. Justice K. J. Thaker
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ran Vijai Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Amit Sthalekar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. C. Tripathi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Mithal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Naqvi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suneet Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arvind Kumar Tripathi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Misra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Kumar Birla
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shashi Kant Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramesh Sinha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Attau Rahman Masoodi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bala Krishna Narayana	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sunita Agarwal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Dayal Khare	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajan Roy
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shabihul Hasnain	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohd. Tahir	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Ranjana Pandya

*As on 30 June 2016.

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Vijay Lakshmi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amar Singh Chauhan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Srivastava-II
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arvind Kumar Mishra-I	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shamsher Bahadur Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Nath Kakkar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anant Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Kumar Misra	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Vijay Laxmi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harsh Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pramod Kumar Srivastava-I	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shashi Kant	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raghvendra Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Nath Misra-II
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Om Prakash-VII	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pratyush Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prabhat Chandra Tripathi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yashwant Varma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abhai Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Kumar Srivastava-III
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mukhtar Ahmad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Kumar Mukherjee	

Brief Introduction

In 1861, the Indian High Courts Act was passed, by which the High Courts of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras were established in 1862. The Act also reserved power to Her Majesty, the Queen of England, to constitute similar High Courts in other territories. Consequently, by "Letters Patent" dated 17 March 1866, the Sadar Adalats were replaced by High Court of Judicature for North Western Provinces to be established at Allahabad and later its nomenclature was changed to "The High Court of Judicature at Allahabad".

In the year 1925, the Chief Court for Oudh was established under U.P. Act IV of 1925 (Oudh Courts Act) with five Judges (one Chief Judge and four puisne Judges). The Chief Court of Oudh was amalgamated with the Allahabad High Court by the United Provinces High Court (Amalgamation) Order 1948.

The High Court of Judicature at Allahabad originally started functioning with six Judges. At present, it has a sanctioned strength of 160 Judges, but the working strength is of only 78 Judges.

In 1866, the High Court Bar consisted of only six Advocates but its membership today is of about 15,000 Advocates. The High Court of Judicature for North Western provinces originally began its work

from a building in Agra on 18 June 1866, and was later shifted to Allahabad in 1869. The Court was shifted to the present building on 27 November 1916. The opening ceremony was performed by Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy, and Governor General of India.

Besides the Court and the chamber of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, the old Court building of the High Court houses 48 courtrooms and 44 chambers, whereas the new Court building, which is an extension of the old Court building, houses 15 courtrooms and 30 chambers. In total, there are 63 courtrooms and 74 chambers besides the Court and the chamber of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice. There are four buildings housing Advocates' chambers. Two four-storey buildings, namely the New Extension Building, which also houses the Mediation and Conciliation Centre of the High Court, and the Extension Building accommodates various offices of the High Court. A total of 30 courtrooms, including the courtroom of Hon'ble the Chief Justice, are built at the existing building of High Court Lucknow Bench. Besides, a new High Court building has been constructed at Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, on 40 acres of land, in which the



Inauguration ceremony of the New Building of High Court of Allahabad at Lucknow

total number of courtrooms is 57 including one courtroom of Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

The High Court centenary celebrations were held in November 1966. On this occasion, a museum was

established on a permanent basis, making it the first High Court to have its own museum. In the year 2016, the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

Under the directions and guidance of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Executive Chairman, Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (UPSLSA), the third National Lok Adalat (NLA) was held on 12 December 2015. Through compromise and settlement, a total of 2,409,189 cases were settled in the third NLA in comparison to 946,066 and 21,010,371 cases settled in the first and the second NLAs, respectively. Besides, Rs. 761,084,844/- was awarded as compensation in Motor Accident Claim (MAC) cases during the third NLA. From 2010 to June 2016, 21,352,772 cases have been decided in pre-litigation Lok Adalat (LA) and a huge amount to the tune of Rs.1,432,556,775,100 has

been settled.

In the year 2015–2016, a total number of 905 LAs in jails were organized, by which 4201 cases were settled and legal aid was provided to 2573 under-trial prisoners. A total of 23 Permanent LAs have been established for resolving the dispute relating to Public Utility Services (PUS) such as transport, telephone, insurance, power, light and water etc.

Two mediation centres, one at Allahabad High Court and the other at Lucknow Bench, have been started. In addition, 71 Mediation Centres are working in the districts of the State. During the year 2015–2016, 34,318 cases were referred to Mediation Centres, out of which 4,878 cases have been settled. A Permanent LA has also been established in the High



Landscape view of the New Building of High Court of Allahabad at Lucknow

Court which is being monitored by a sitting Judge of the High Court.

During 2015–2016, the Institute of Judicial Training and Research (the Institute), Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) has been actively involved in providing induction and refresher training to Judicial Officers, prosecuting officers and other stakeholders. Refresher computer training was also imparted to the master trainers (Judges) of 8 States of Northern India. During this year, the institute has organised 77 training programmes on various subjects including Ubuntu Training (14.04 version) for 1753 Judicial Officers. Symposia/workshops have also been organised on gender sensitization, law and justice, juvenile justice, speedy justice and prevention of cruelty against animals etc.

To foster the spirit of research, the Institute has been publishing “JTRI Journal”. The Institute also publishes “Quarterly Digest”, containing notes on the reported judgments of Hon’ble Supreme Court and Hon’ble High Court. The Institute has a “Judicial Helpline” on which Judicial Officers convey their legal problems and required judicial help within the earliest possible time.

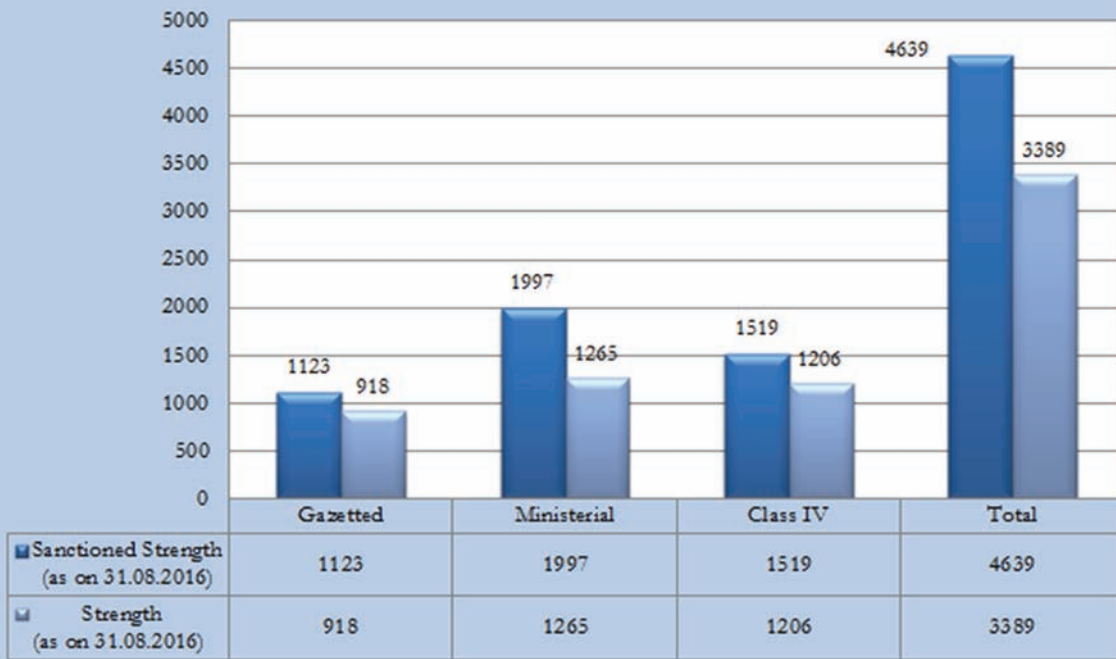
Technological Accomplishments

The Allahabad High Court and its Bench at Lucknow are connected by MPLS VPN of 6 MBPs link.

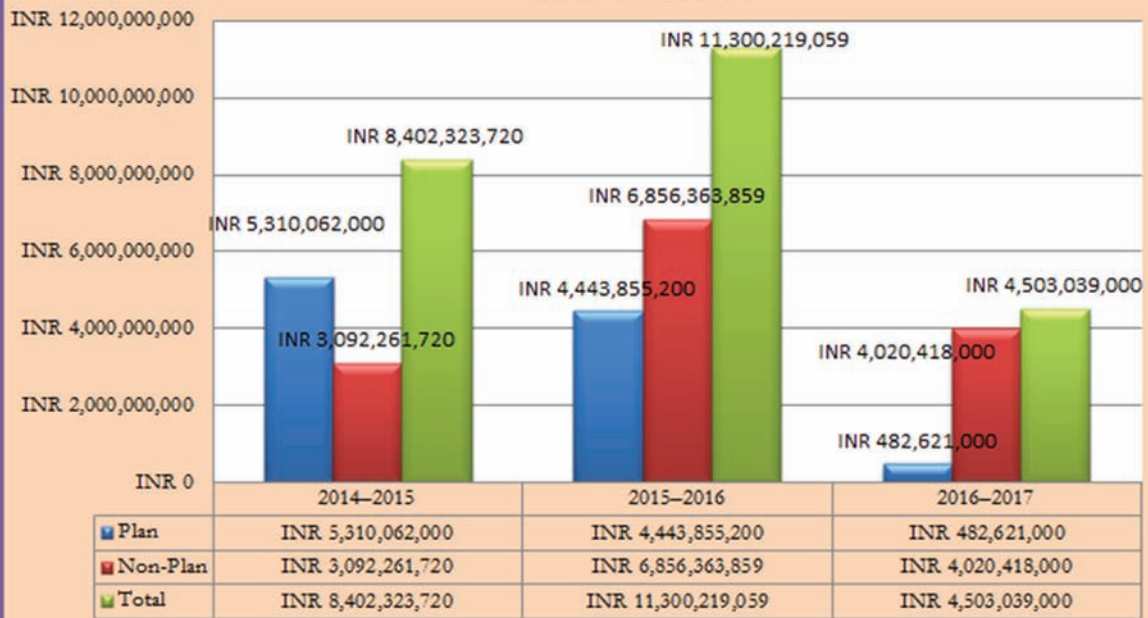
Moving ahead with the times, a separate building for digitization of records, known as the Centre for Information Technology, was inaugurated in March 2016 and stands out as one of the most impressive and modern, state-of-the-art Information Technology Centre building in the country. Constantly improved online systems include online availability of Fresh and daily Cause List of cases, Online Judgment and Copying System, Court-wise Case Running Information System, Case Information Kiosk, Online Case Status Enquiry System, Computerized Case Information Counter, Digitization of Court records. One crore decided case files containing approximately 50 crore pages, are to be digitized in one year. Centre for Information Technology (in an area of 794,344 m²) has been established for the scanning and digitization work, Data Centre, e-Court/e-filing/ e-stamping and Wi-Fi. Requisite steps have been initiated to make the entire campus of Allahabad High Court Wi-Fi enabled.

In this year, 1,613 newly appointed Court staff are being trained in the Institute in CIS (14.04 version). Some other recent initiatives under progress include automation at filing stage with bulk SMS facility, customized cause-list and real-time information on case status to lawyers and litigants on an individual basis, development of Android/Windows/iOS based applications for live case status, more number of kiosks at vantage points for easy access of information to lawyers/litigants.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad



Budget of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	345,752	95,059	96,396	344,415
Company matters	375	130	116	389
Contempt (civil)	25,204	9,888	5,100	29,992
Review (civil)	0	0	0	0
Matrimonial matters	1,811	1,103	694	2,220
Arbitration matters	279	200	121	358
Civil revisions	5,868	902	1,346	5,424
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	10,119	1,425	2,856	8,688
Civil appeals	38,207	1,658	3,666	36,199
Land acquisition matters	5,398	2,430	2,381	5,447
MACT matters	14,840	1,750	927	15,663
Civil suits (original side)	131	24	27	128
Other than above	106,326	7,620	7,724	106,222
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	26,072	38,421	43,573	20,920
Criminal revisions	43,992	5,900	11,659	38,233
Bail applications	19,749	56,492	54,635	21,606
Criminal appeals	170,143	8,224	4,493	173,874
Death sentence reference	43	20	25	38
Contempt (criminal)	119	42	68	93
Miscellaneous criminal applications	103,215	48,073	43,043	108,245
Other than above	1,435	210	204	1,441
Review petition*	4,793	338	288	4,843

*The figures mentioned against Review Petitions are consolidated as the bifurcation of these cases as civil/criminal are not available in computer record.

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	160
Working strength of Judges	78
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	70 as on 21.03.2016
Highest	80 as on 19.05.2016
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	309,634

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	1,448,449	612,196	546,072	1,514,573
Criminal	4,195,258	3,115,879	2,937,146	4,373,991
Total	5,643,707	3,728,075	3,483,218	5,888,564

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

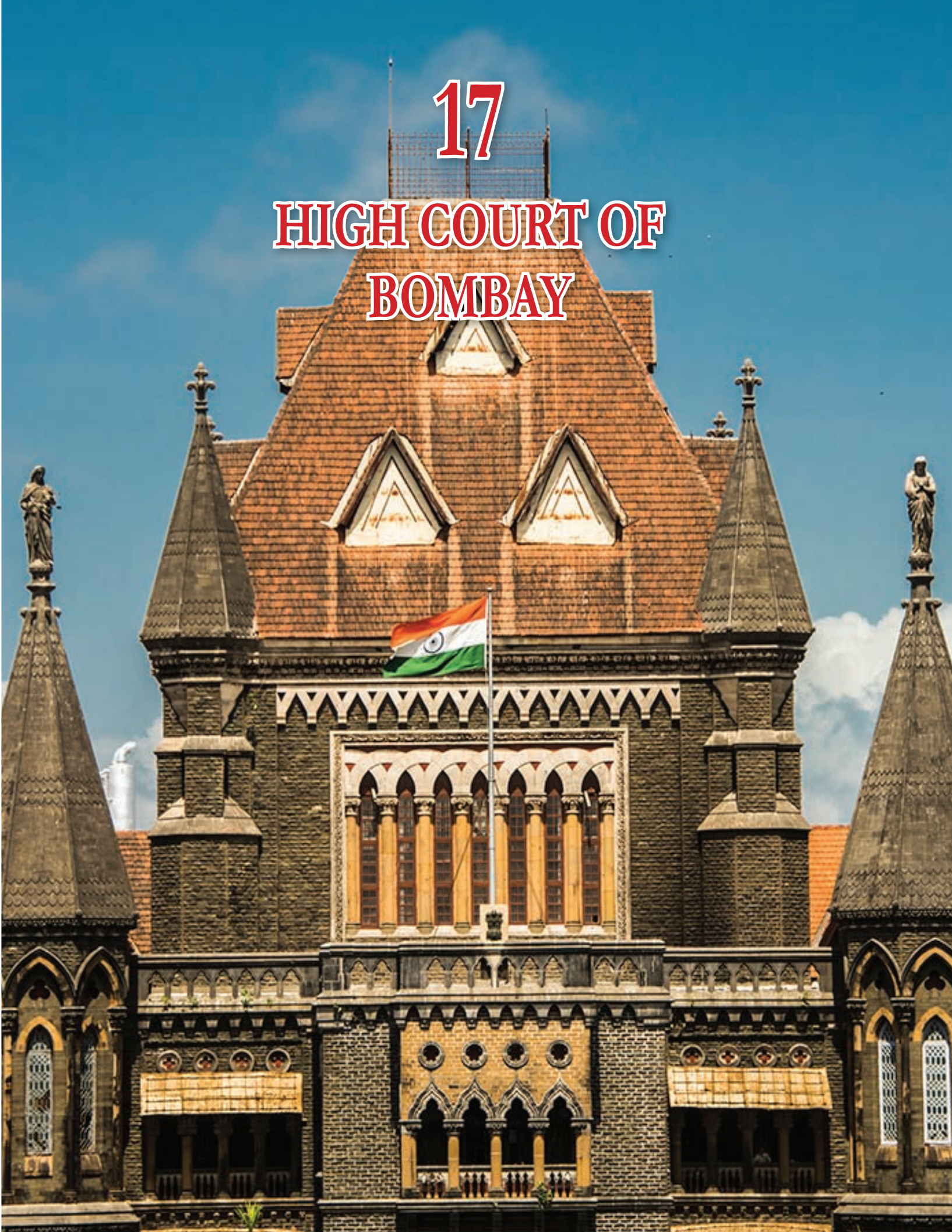
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
2,394	1,770	624

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	217,688
Criminal	463,038
Total	680,726

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HIGH COURT OF
BOMBAY



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Bombay*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. H. Waghela, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Ms. Justice V. K. Tahilramani	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. B. Varale	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. R. Shriram
Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. M. Kanade	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. J. Kathawalla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gautam Shirish Patel
Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. H. Patil	Hon'ble Ms. Justice M. R. Bhatkar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. S. Chandurkar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. S. Kemkar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice F. M. Reis	Hon'ble Ms. Justice R. P. Mohite-Dere
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. S. Oka	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. G. Ketkar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. S. Sonak
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. V. Mohta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. K. Deshpande	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. V. Ghuge
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. C. Dharmadhikari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. V. Gangapurwala	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. L. Achliya
Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. R. Gavai	Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. V. Nalawade	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinay Manohar Deshpande
Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. P. Dharmadhikari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manoj Shivilal Sanklecha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajey Shrikant Gadkari
Hon'ble Ms. Justice V. A. Naik	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramesh Deokinandan Dhanuka	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Manohar Borde	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sunil Prabhakar Rao Deshmukh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Girish Sharadchandra Kulkarni
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjit Vasantrya More	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Burgess Pesi Colabawalla
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Manohar Savant	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sadhana Sanjay Jadhav	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil K. Menon
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. N. Deshmukh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. V. Bhadang
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. S. Shinde	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. I. S. Cheema	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. K. Jadhav
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anand Vasant Nirgude	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. B. Shukre	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. M. Badar
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Prakash Baldota	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. C. Gupte	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. R. Bora
Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. K. Tated	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Zaka Azizul Haq	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anuja Prabhudessai
*As on 30 June 2016		

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kalidas Laxmanrao Wadane	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prakash Deu Naik	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. K. Sonawane
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Indira Kanahaiyalal Jain	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Makarand Subhash Karnik	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sangitrao S. Patil
Hon'ble Dr. Justice Shalini Shashank Phansalkar-Joshi	Hon'ble Ms. Justice S. S. Joshi	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nutan Dattaram Sardessai

Brief Introduction

The history of Bombay High Court begins with the advent of the British in Bombay. In 1823, a Supreme Court of Judicature was established at Bombay. It was to be a Court of Record, and consisted of a Chief Justice and two puisne Judges, who were to be barristers of England or Ireland of not less than five years' standing. An appeal from the decision of the Supreme Court of Judicature was preferred to Her Majesty in Council in all suits where amount in dispute was of the value of Rs. 10,000/-.

A notable feature of the Indian Judicial System before 1862 was the existence of two parallel systems of Courts-Supreme Court in the Presidency Towns and Sadar Adalat System in the *Mofussil*. The Indian High Courts Act, 1861 authorized by Letters Patent led to the creation of High Courts at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay unifying the disparate judicial systems existing in the Presidency towns and the Mofussil, which were the precursor of the modern system of law and justice in India. The Letters Patent of the Bombay High



Front view of Nagpur Bench, the High Court of Bombay

Court authorized 15 Judges, but it started with only seven Judges. There were 12 British Chief Justices, the last of them was Sir Leonard Stone, who unfurled the Indian Tricolour at midnight on 14 August 1947 in full ceremonial Court dress and saluted the Indian flag in the Central Hall of the High Court. The first Indian Chief Justice of Bombay High Court was Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahomedali Currim Chagla from 15 August 1947. The Bombay High Court celebrated its sesquicentenary in August 2012.

Until now, 24 Judges from the Bombay High Court have been elevated to the Supreme Court of India, and seven of them have become the Chief Justice of India. The first Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. J. Kania, was a Judge of Bombay High Court, and the longest serving Chief Justice of India Hon'ble Mr. Justice Y. V. Chandrachud was also from Bombay High Court (February 1978 to July 1985). The sanctioned strength of Judges in Bombay High Court is 94, but on an average the actual strength varies between 60 and 65.

The High Court started functioning in a building on Apollo Street called the Admiralty House after its establishment in 1862. The High Court building is situated between the University Building and the Public Works Secretariat and is 562 feet in length by 187 feet in breadth. The central courtroom (Court no. 46) is a historic Court. Many famous trials have taken place in this Court. One of these was of Lokmanya Tilak, one of our great freedom fighters. The inscription of his last words on the verdict of the jury at the end of his second trial in 1908 is mentioned on a plaque on the outer wall of the High Court.

Under the Act of 1861, the High Court at Bombay was established with a plenary and comprehensive jurisdiction, embracing suits and matters of every description, civil, criminal, admiralty, ecclesiastical, testamentary, matrimony and insolvency. The High Court had an Original and Appellate jurisdiction, the former derived from the Supreme Court, and the latter from the *Sadar Divani* and *Sadar Foujdari* Adalats, which were merged in the High Court. Bombay High



The High Court of Bombay — Aurangabad Bench



The High Court of Bombay at Goa

Court is a Court of Record and it has Civil Original and Civil and Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction. It is the High Court for the State of Maharashtra, State of Goa and Union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman. The Principal Seat of

the Bombay High Court is at Bombay (now called Mumbai), with Benches of the Bombay High Court in Maharashtra at Nagpur (for Vidarbha region) and Aurangabad (for Marathwada region), and another Bench at Goa.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority organizes various Lok Adalats in the entire State at regular intervals with the support of various local legal services Committees. Lok Adalats have been very successful in settlement of motor accident claim cases, matrimonial/family disputes, labour disputes, etc. Permanent Lok Adalats have been started in four districts, viz. Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, and Aurangabad.

The scheme of 'Mobile Legal Services-cum-Lok Adalats' has been introduced by designing a mobile van with inbuilt infrastructure for holding Lok

Adalats as well as legal awareness camps. As part of this scheme, presently four mobile vans are plying in three regions, i.e., Mumbai, Nagpur and Aurangabad along with one van in Thane district.

A total of 682 Legal Aid Clinics have been established and more than 9,927 persons have been benefited through legal aid clinics. Training programme for Para-Legal Volunteers was organized and total 10,020 persons have been trained according to the old scheme of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). A total of 3,523 number of para-legal volunteers have been deployed in various police stations all over the State to keep watch over



Judges' entrance, High Court of Bombay at Mumbai

the manner in which the complaints regarding missing children and other offences against the children are dealt with.

Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority has successfully implemented a project titled 'Programme to combat exploitation of children'. The Maharashtra Judicial Academy and Indian Mediation Centre and Training Institute Uttan, Thane has organized 35 training programmes for newly recruited and existing Judicial Officers, Court managers, marriage counsellors, law students, public prosecutors, Advocates, central and State Government probationary officers, assistant charity commissioner, deputy charity commissioner during the year 2015–2016. The Judicial Officers Training Institute (JOTI), Nagpur, has also organized 39 training programmes for assistant/additional public prosecutors, and UBUNTU training programme for Court staff during the year 2015–2016.

Technological Accomplishments

Under the e-Courts project, various digital initiatives have been taken viz. facilities such as case status, orders and judgments, caveat query, certified copy query, cause list; Display boards are available on the Bombay High Court website; e-filing and e-payment of Court fees are also introduced at Bombay High Court; e-mail and SMS on filing objections, registration, listing and disposal of cases and certified copy applications are being sent to the Advocates; the Bombay High Court is providing digital signatures to the private secretary/personal assistants to the Hon'ble Judges for digitally signed copy of the judgment/orders; information is provided in Marathi and English in the District Court website <http://court.mah.nic.in/courtweb/index.php>; Case Information System (CIS) and National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) used for case management through dash board and query builder functionality; and SMS alert services at all District and Taluka Courts for the litigants/Advocates who provide mobile number.

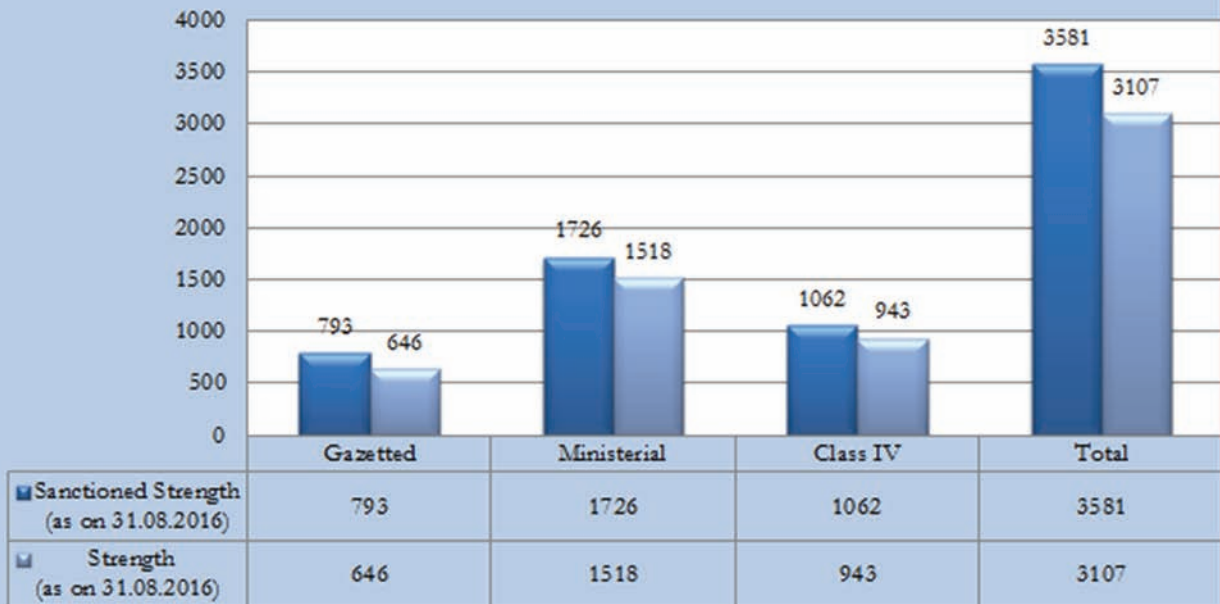
The Judges' Library has procured the Bookeye 4 publication scanner and has begun a pilot digitization project of scanning of original judgments, judgments from the old law reports like the Bombay High Court reports, Bombay Law Reporter, ILR Bombay, etc. As part of a pilot project, some old judgments have been uploaded in the 'Archives' webpage of the Bombay High Court e-Library. Capacity building measures

for Judicial Officers and Court staff are undertaken through trainer module. 43 Judicial Officers are qualified as master trainers in Ubuntu 14.04 OS and CIS. 31 district system administrators are qualified as master trainers and 167 system administrators as trainers for the Court staff in CIS. The training in CIS was given to 2000 Judicial Officers and 2000 Court staff.

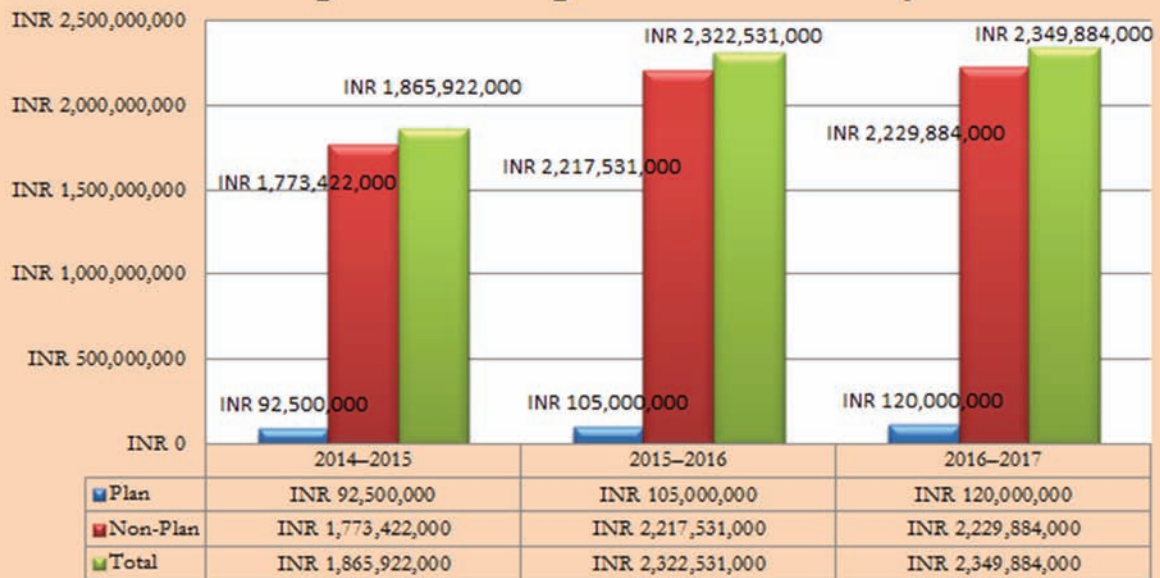
Chief Justice's Court, High Court of Bombay at Mumbai



Staff Strength of the High Court of Bombay



Budget of the High Court of Bombay



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	82,911	38,632	30,954	90,589
Company matters	3,408	4,094	3,773	3,729
Contempt (civil)	4,316	1,919	1,378	4,857
Review (civil)	1,728	2,043	2,053	1,718
Matrimonial matters	929	292	190	1,031
Arbitration matters	1,509	2,625	2,551	1,583
Civil revisions	3,258	1,209	1,325	3,142
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	43,389	2,970	3,107	13,749
Civil appeals	41,053	6,607	6,107	41,553
Land acquisition matters	27,635	5,677	4,058	29,254
MACT matters	12,010	3,075	1,817	13,268
Civil suits (original side)	5,824	1,396	925	6,295
Other than above	37,465	21,633	22,383	36,715
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	10,971	7,105	5,290	12,786
Criminal revisions	4,519	1,248	802	4,965
Bail applications	1,586	7,246	6,882	1,950
Criminal appeals	23,632	2,326	1,852	24,106
Death sentence reference	6	10	9	7
Contempt (criminal)	48	27	20	55
Miscellaneous criminal applications	3,872	6,041	4,863	5,050
Other than above	1,894	3,723	3,756	1,861

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	94
Working strength of Judges	64
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	59 as on 21.12.2015
Highest	66 as on 28.03.2016 & 16.04.2016
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	53,511

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	1,088,490	393,316	340,849	1,140,957
Criminal	1,906,137	2,024,375	1,890,584	2,039,928
Total	2,994,627	2,417,691	2,231,433	3,180,885

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

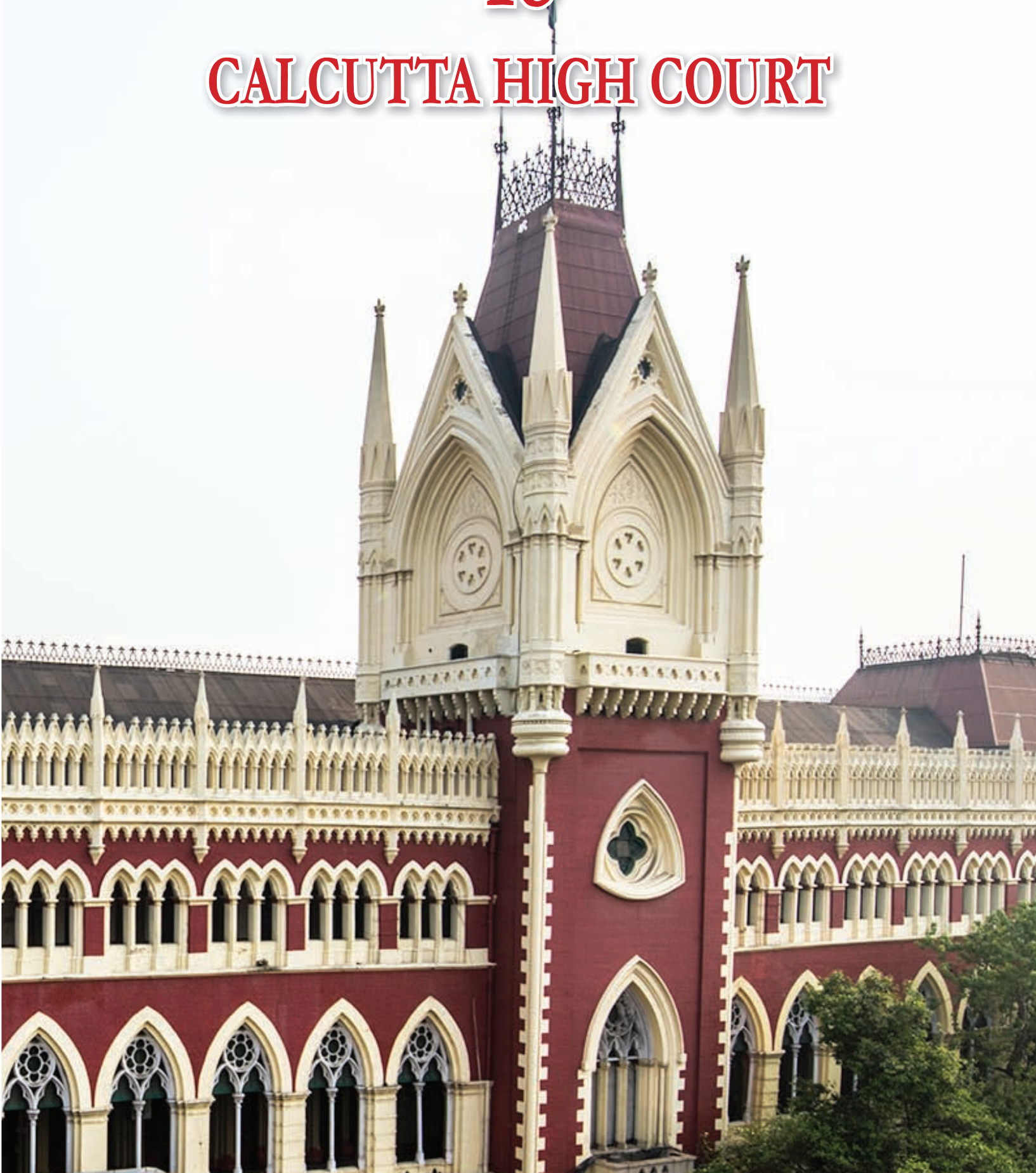
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
2321	2081	240

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	70,356
Criminal	152,840
Total	223,196

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CALCUTTA HIGH COURT



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the Calcutta High Court*

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Manjula Chellur, Chief Justice	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. C. Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Indrajit Chatterjee
Hon'ble Ms. Justice N. N. Mhatre	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tapash Mookherjee
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indira Banerjee	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjit Kumar Bag
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Tiwari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ishan Chandra Das
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Samapti Chatterjee
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumitra Pal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sahidullah Munshi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aniruddha Bose	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subrata Talukdar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty
Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. K. Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arindam Sinha
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nadira Patherya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arijit Banerjee
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashim Kumar Roy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Debangsu Basak
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswanath Somadder	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashis Kumar Chakraborty
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Malay Marut Banerjee
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Md. Mumtaz Khan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. S. Karnan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sankar Acharyya
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mir Dara Sheko
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Debi Prosad Dey
Hon'ble Dr. Justice Sambuddha Chakraborti	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Asha Arora
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Siddhartha Chattopadhyay
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Joymalya Bagchi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shivakant Prasad
*As on 30 June 2016	

Brief Introduction

The British Empire in India was established through commercial ventures of the East India Company. Judiciary in Calcutta from the very outset started functioning as Judiciary of territorial sovereign. Separation of Judiciary from the Revenue Courts and withdrawal of judicial powers from the Collector took place in the last decade of the 18th century.

Under Regulation of 1793 for the Presidency of Calcutta, the Provincial Court of Appeal and that of Circuit was established with three presiding Judges. On 24 September 1726, the King issued a Charter establishing Mayor's Court in Calcutta with a Mayor and nine Aldermen constituting the Court to try all civil suits arising within the town and its subordinate

factories. In the Presidency Towns, criminal justice was mainly administered by the Governor and five senior members of the council. All of them were individually Justices of Peace. Next important event was the establishment of the Supreme Court at Calcutta by the Charter issued pursuant to the Act of 1773. Consequently, the Mayor's Court was abolished. The Supreme Court is remembered for the trial of Raja Nandkumar, a very influential man of that time, for the charges of forgery in 1775.

Later in the year 1861, the Indian High Courts Act was passed by which the High Courts of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras were established in 1862. Consequently, the Letters Patent of 1862 ordained that the High Court shall consist of the Chief Justice and 13 Judges. Government of India (Consolidating) Act, 1915 raised the strength of Judges to 20. On the date of commencement of the Constitution this was the High Court that Calcutta inherited. The first Indian Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Phani Bhusan Chakravarti assumed office on 13 June 1951. The sanctioned strength of Judges is 72 but only 41 Judges are presently occupying the office.

The High Court building was erected in 1872 in the Gothic revival style inspired by the 13th century Cloth Hall at Ypres, Belgium. It is said that after World War II, when Belgium was devastated by bombing,

an architect had come down to Calcutta to create a replica of the High Court building. The High Court is in possession of a wealth of oil paintings too, and that includes Zoffany's portrait of Elijah Impey, the first Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Calcutta, in scarlet robes.

Originally the said building was three storied consisting of eight courtrooms apart from several other rooms meant for use by the Advocates as well as many departments of the High Court. Subsequently, another floor has been constructed which allows accommodation for seven courtrooms and one room meant for use by the lady Advocates. The High Court building complex was further extended and the foundation stone was laid for construction of a multistoried structure on land measuring about 3500 sq. metres adjacent to the Centenary Building. Presently, this new 10 storied building stands completed and has been aptly named 'Sesquicentenary Building' in memoriam to the completion of 150 glorious years of the High Court. The building is an imposing structure comprising of 24 courtrooms, a big

conference room on the eighth floor and a state-of-the-art auditorium on the ninth floor which can accommodate about 300 people. It stands as a sentinel of justice overlooking the Hooghly on the western



Ornamental columns adorning corridor in Calcutta High Court



Chief Justice's Court, Calcutta High Court

side and the Calcutta skyline on the other. The Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court, both Division and

Single Bench, has been functioning in Andaman and Nicobar Islands since 1991 on regular basis.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

The High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC) regularly organises Lok Adalat and National Lok Adalat. Legal aid is provided regularly to the eligible litigants. Recently, during 2015–2016, total of six Lok Adalats were organised in which 651 cases were placed, 189 cases were settled and Rs. 31,044,478/- was the quantum of amount settled.

Besides, 1191 number of legal aid applicants attended the HCLSC front office; 437 number of Advocates were engaged for entitled applicants; 63 number of Advocates engaged by various Courts have been regularized; number of visits by higher Judicial Officers, to correctional home(s) was 61; number of mediation held at the High Court premises was 38 and number of Advocates provided to persons, entitled thereto, who sought to move the Hon'ble Supreme Court for relief, routing the applications through Supreme Court Legal Services Committee

(SCLSC) was 55.

Eighteen Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centres have been established and are functioning. One ADR centre for the district of Howrah is under construction. Front offices of Legal Services Institutions, Village Care and Support Centres and Community Centre have been established. Legal Aid Clinics have also been established to provide legal services in jails/correctional homes, Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Commission (JJBs/CWCs) and schools, colleges and universities. Training programme for Legal Services Panel Lawyers as per National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Module and Training Programme of Para-Legal Volunteers is regularly organised. Besides, Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) have been deployed in 439 police stations in West Bengal.

Technological Accomplishments

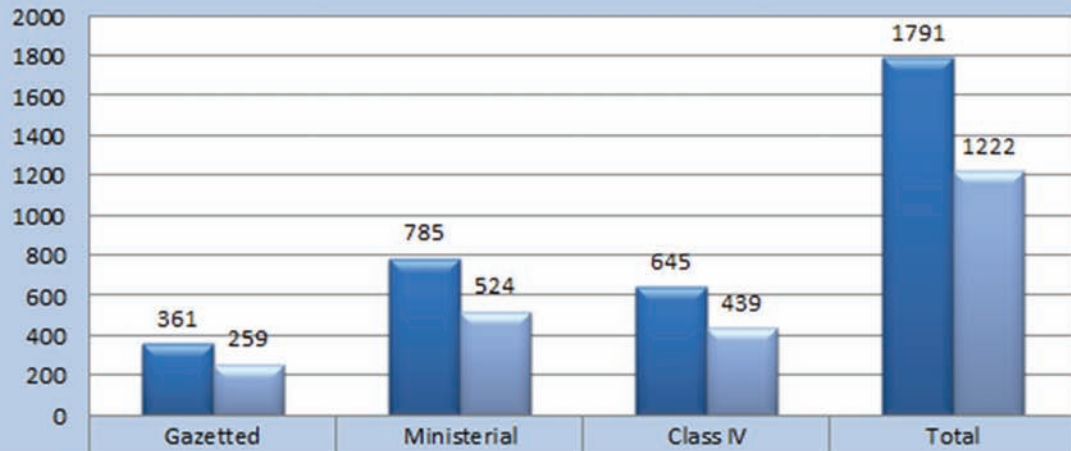
In the Calcutta High Court, the first phase of digitization of disposed of records took place between 2001 and 2008. More than 90,000 documents were digitized at that time. Second phase of digitization is in active contemplation. Digitization of estimated

50 crore pages of Court records in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) with the necessary technical assistance of the Department of Information Technology, Government of West Bengal is in progress.



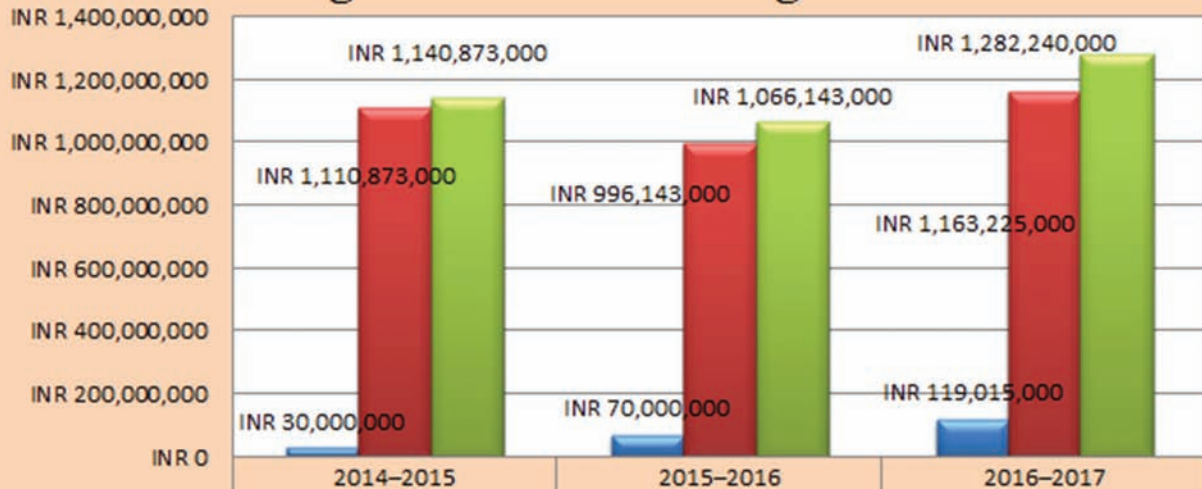
Illuminated passage of the Calcutta High Court

Staff Strength of the Calcutta High Court



Sanctioned Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	361	785	645	1791
Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	259	524	439	1222

Budget of the Calcutta High Court



Plan	INR 30,000,000	INR 70,000,000	INR 119,015,000
Non-Plan	INR 1,110,873,000	INR 996,143,000	INR 1,163,225,000
Total	INR 1,140,873,000	INR 1,066,143,000	INR 1,282,240,000

High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	82,351	30,793	35,208	77,936
Company matters	946	1,558	1,381	1,123
Contempt (civil)	5,288	676	568	5,396
Review (civil)	1,405	371	140	1,636
Matrimonial matters	25	0	0	25
Arbitration matters	2,759	1,100	1,290	2,569
Civil revisions	12,453	5,392	9,109	8,736
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	229	488	512	205
Civil appeals	39,241	6,450	3,416	42,275
Land acquisition matters	0	0	0	0
MACT matters	0	0	0	0
Civil suits (original side)	4,270	345	165	4,450
Other than above	30,972	2,290	1,620	31,642
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal revisions	24,440	4,498	6,484	22,454
Bail applications	3,950	11,409	11,335	4,024
Criminal appeals	10,591	918	575	10,934
Death sentence reference	8	12	12	8
Contempt (criminal)	76	40	15	101
Miscellaneous criminal applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	0	0	0	0

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	72
Working strength of Judges	41
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	41 (from 01.04.2016 to 30.06.2016)
Highest	43 (from 01.07.2015 to 31.03.2016)
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	54,850

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	569,013	138,958	148,897	559,074
Criminal	2,023,110	1,034,266	920,981	2,136,395
Total	2,592,123	1,173,224	1,069,878	2,695,469

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1,013	889	74

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	41,718
Criminal	86,947
Total	128,665

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HIGH COURT OF
CHHATTISGARH



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Chhattisgarh*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pritinkar Diwaker

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Goutam Bhaduri

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay K. Agrawal

Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sam Koshy

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandra Bhushan Bajpai

*As on 30 June 2016

Brief Introduction

Prior to independence of the country, the Court of Judicial Commissioner at Nagpur used to exercise jurisdiction over the territories of Chhattisgarh, Raigarh, and one of the princely states which had its Court, known as Eastern State Agency, having a Bench at Khairagarh. This Court functioned from 1922 till independence. The High Court at Nagpur was established for Central Provinces and Berar in the year 1936 and it exercised the jurisdiction over the territories of Chhattisgarh till 1956. On 1 November 1956, the new State of Madhya Pradesh was constituted under States Reorganization Act. Thereafter, the Nagpur High Court was not abolished but by a legal fiction it became High Court for the new state of Madhya Pradesh with its seat at Jabalpur. Later, the High Court of Chhattisgarh was established on 1 November 2000.

At the time of the establishment of the High Court of Chhattisgarh, the sanctioned strength of the Judges was six, which has now increased to 22.

Initially, the High Court of Chhattisgarh was housed in the building of Old Normal School, in the heart of Bilaspur. The old building had limitations to cope up with the space and functional convenience. It was felt that a new building should be constructed with all modern amenities to cater to the need of expansion of the High Court. Sixty-one acres of land was allotted by the Government of Chhattisgarh in the year 2005. The new High Court building has

been constructed in a total area of 44,500 sq. meters consisting of ground and three floors. There are 15 courtrooms and over 300 rooms/chambers in the new High Court building. The other buildings situated in the premises are office of Advocate General and Advocate Chambers and the new building for Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy (CSJA) is under construction. The new High Court Building at Bodri, Bilaspur is Asia's largest High Court (spread in an area of 61 acres). All the courtrooms are installed with CCTV. One bank, a post office, and a canteen are functioning in the High Court complex. Medical dispensary is also available in the High Court premises.

One of the most eminent personalities belonging to Chhattisgarh who adorned high posts was Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Hidayatullah. He had his initial education in Raipur, which is now the capital of Chhattisgarh, and he later became the Judge of Nagpur High Court. Thereafter, he was appointed as the first Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court. He was elevated as a Judge to the Supreme Court on 1 December 1958, and thereafter, he became the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 25 February 1968. He was also the Vice President of India from 31 August 1979 to 30 August 1984. He, being the leading legal luminary from this part of the country, the National Law University in the State of Chhattisgarh was named after him and is called as Hidayatullah National Law University.



Chief Justice's Court, High Court of Chhattisgarh

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority (CSLSA) has been constituted under the State Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. A total number of 378 Legal Aid Clinics/Village Legal Care and Support Centres have been established in the State of Chhattisgarh as on 31 July 2016. Lok Adalats are held on a regular basis. Permanent Lok Adalats have also been established in the State and are functioning smoothly. During the year 2015, total 999 Lok Adalats were held, 16,54,196 cases were listed, 15,23,541 cases were settled, Rs. 1,23,27,94,063/- were awarded in claims settlement, and a total of 15,42,507 persons were benefited.

Mediation started in the State of Chhattisgarh from 12 January 2008 with the inauguration of Mediation Centre in the premises of High Court of Chhattisgarh. At present, mediation centres have been established in 21 districts of the State. During the year 2015, at the High Court level, 56 cases were referred to mediation centres out of which seven cases were settled and 37 cases remained unsettled and the rest are pending. During the year 2015, at the District Court level, 1075 cases were referred to mediation centres out of which 364 cases were settled, 563 cases remained unsettled and rest are pending.

The Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy which was established on 18 December 2003 has been organizing regional workshops concerning all Judicial Officers in different district headquarters. The

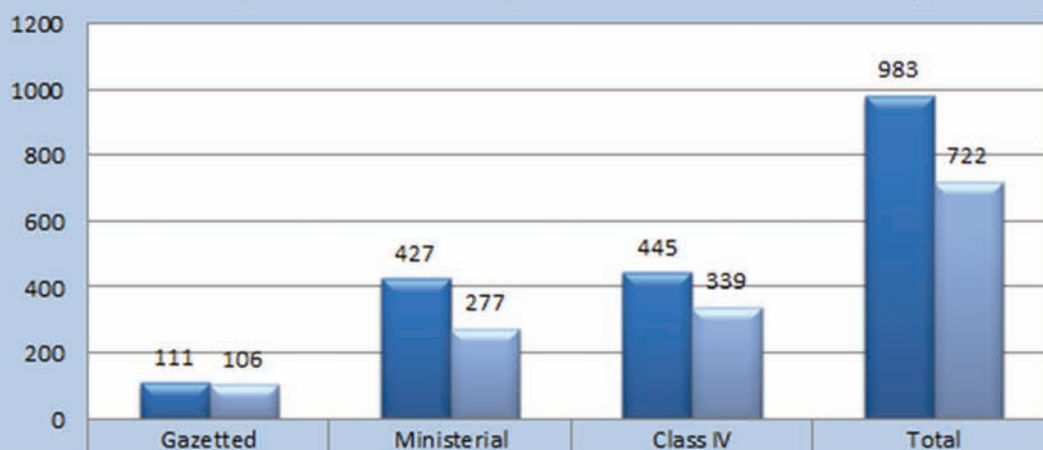
academy is also using video conferencing facility for imparting training to the Judicial Officers. Regular workshops are being conducted to train the Judicial Officers and ministerial staff.

Technological Accomplishments

A bare minimum number of copies of cause list are printed by the High Court for use of Courts only. The High Court is at an advanced stage of implementing the scheme for digitization of old records. E-Court fee collection system in the premises of the High Court has been started. Steps are being taken to extend it to the District Courts also. The nation's second e-Court fee system was made operational at High Court of Chhattisgarh. High Court at Bilaspur, in a bid to make justice delivery hassle-free, paperless, and reduce delay in filing cases, has signed a MoU with Stockholding Corporation of India Ltd. in Mumbai last year. Chhattisgarh is second after Delhi to launch the scheme after a MoU was signed.

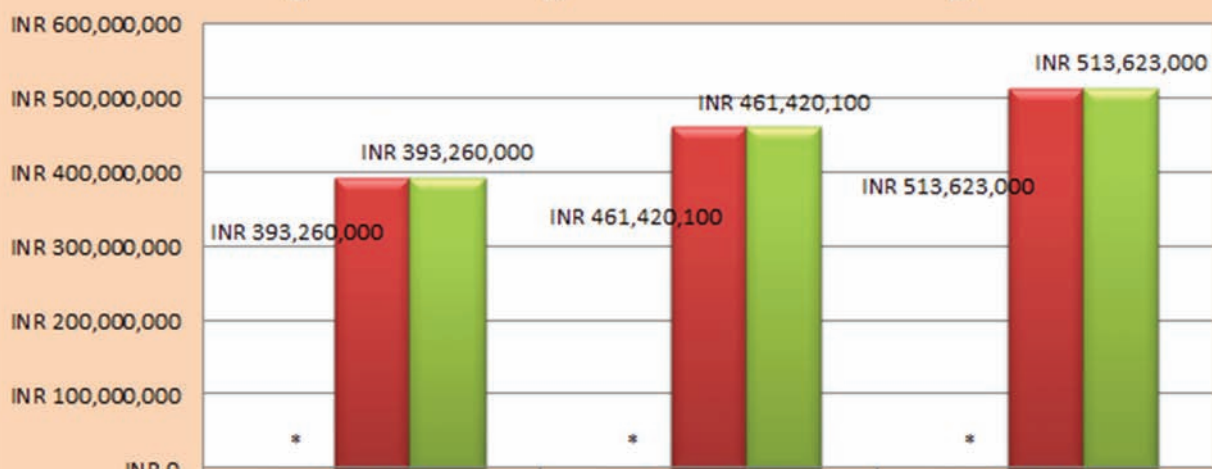
All final judgments and important interim orders are now uploaded on the Website and SMS messages are also sent on the mobile phones of the counsel about listing of their cases. The Courts, Bar Association, Advocate General's Office are fitted with new display boards which display the cases going on in different Courts. Video conferencing facility in the existing Courts system is also in progress.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Chhattisgarh



Sanctioned Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	111	427	445	983
Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	106	277	339	722

Budget of the High Court of Chhattisgarh



Plan	0*	0*	0*
Non-Plan	INR 393,260,000	INR 461,420,100	INR 513,623,000
Total	INR 393,260,000	INR 461,420,100	INR 513,623,000

*Budget under the plan head is not available.

High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	15,157	10,597	8,621	17,133
Company matters	68	31	29	70
Contempt (civil)	322	546	527	341
Review (civil)	124	191	227	88
Matrimonial matters	223	267	81	409
Arbitration matters	103	112	67	148
Civil revisions	179	221	138	262
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	443	272	152	563
Civil appeals	7,167	1,636	686	8,117
Land acquisition matters	385	253	132	506
MACT matters	3,784	1,891	510	5,165
Civil suits (original side)	2	0	0	2
Other than above	562	1,724	1,761	525
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	303	324	244	383
Criminal revisions	3,334	1,361	635	4,060
Bail applications	673	10,002	9,567	1,108
Criminal appeals	10,950	2,156	721	12,385
Death sentence reference	3	1	0	4
Contempt (criminal)	5	0	1	4
Miscellaneous criminal applications	1,212	1,380	990	1,602
Other than above	1,115	209	105	1,219

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judge's Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	22
Working strength of Judges	8
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	8
Highest	9
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	8,942

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	65,388	30,220	30,689	64,919
Criminal	219,124	172,837	173,958	218,003
Total	284,512	203,057	204,647	282,922

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
395	340	55

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	4,897
Criminal	14,439
Total	19,336

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HIGH COURT OF DELHI



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Delhi*

Hon'ble Ms. Justice G. Rohini, Chief Justice	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. D. Ahmed	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pradeep Nandrajog	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Pathak
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Geeta Mittal	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Mukta Gupta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Pratibha Rani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sat Paul Garg
Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. S. Sistani	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jayant Nath
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Muralidhar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Najmi Waziri
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipin Sanghi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vibhu Bakhru
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudershan Kumar Misra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Kameswar Rao
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Siddharth Mridul	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sunita Gupta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manmohan	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Deepa Sharma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Man Mohan Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Parkash Singh Teji
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jag Jivan Ram Midha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Inder Singh Mehta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sunil Gaur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravinder Kumar Gauba
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Valmiki J. Mehta	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal
*As on 30 June 2016	

Brief Introduction

The High Court of Delhi came into existence on 31 October 1966 upon enactment by Parliament of the Delhi High Court Act, 1966, and on 31 October 2016, the High Court of Delhi completes half a century of its existence. The sanctioned strength of Judges has since increased six times to 60 Judges (45 permanent Judges and 15 additional Judges). At present, the working strength of the Judges of the Court is 35. The High Court of Delhi has had the privilege of contributing 27 Judges to the Supreme Court, three of whom became Chief Justices of India and one was elected to the International Court of Justice, at The Hague.

Initially, the High Court of Delhi began functioning from a residential bungalow at 4, Maulana Azad Road.

In 1967, it shifted to Travancore House on Kasturba Gandhi Marg and then to Patiala House, New Delhi. Originally, there were three buildings in the present premises—one main Court building (block 'A') and two adjacent but integrated administrative blocks ('B' and 'C') on each side of block 'A'. The main Court building (block 'A') has 24 courtrooms. The facade of the main building has murals by Satish Gujral, the renowned painter, sculptor, and muralist. The buildings were completed in 1976 and were inaugurated by the then President, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on 25 September 1976.

With the increased need of infrastructure, more buildings have been constructed: (i) The extension



Chief Justice's Court, High Court of Delhi

block comprising 12 courtrooms became operational in December 2005; (ii) An administrative block comprising seven stories and two basements which became functional in March 2012; (iii) A state-of-the-art building in place of the original block 'C' comprising of 16 courtrooms, Judges' chambers, etc. is in the final stages of completion. Apart from this, there are three blocks of Lawyers' Chambers consisting over 500 chambers. These are within the High Court compound.

The Delhi High Court exercises jurisdiction over the Union Territory of Delhi (now, National Capital Territory of Delhi). There are about 15,500 members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association. As one of the only four High Courts in India with ordinary original civil jurisdiction, it has been in the forefront of the development of the law of civil procedure in order to devise methods and mechanisms of providing speedy justice.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

The Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) and its 11 district authorities provide free legal aid services in all the District Court complexes besides various Tribunals and Quasi-Judicial Authorities including Child Welfare Committees (CWC), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB), etc. The DSLISA organized 144 training and orientation programmes to sensitize the panel lawyers. DSLISA has a dedicated panel of lawyers who are paid Rs. 1,750/- per day to help juvenile accused and mandated to visit Observation Homes and care institutions to interact with juvenile inmates for providing free legal aid and services. 377 visits were made by LSAs to JJBs and 164 visits to Children Homes during the period January 2016

to June 2016. A senior lawyer has been appointed as Ombudsman to supervise and report on the quality and regularity of work and visits by the lawyers dedicated to the juvenile justice system. There were 1198 legal aid beneficiaries at JJBs and 2461 at CWCs.

The DSLISA's panel during this period made visits to 11 jails. The DSLISA administered statutory victim compensation programme which resulted in benefit to 502 victims of crime and payment of Rs. 11,40,35,000/-. The DSLISA's pre-litigation Lok Adalat schemes resulted in settlement of 2628 (out of 2869 cases referred); of the other pending cases, 1,51,808 cases were resolved out of the 1,66,029 cases referred. These included compounded criminal

offences, cheque bouncing, matrimonial, and other civil claims.

DSLISA undertook 994 legal literacy camps in schools across Delhi. It organized 72 Court visits for school children to spread awareness about justice dispensation. A total of 65 legal awareness camps were also held in jails for the benefit of inmates and 24 such camps were conducted for slum dwellers and labourers. A total of 20 radio and three television programs were conducted by the members of DSLISA to spread legal awareness and legal aid awareness.

In 2006, the High Court of Delhi set up its own Mediation and Conciliation Centre called the 'Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre' which is also known as 'Samadhan' a name given to it in 2008. Since 2006, it has resolved 6,707 cases out of 20,222 referrals. The settlement of these 6,707 cases has also additionally resulted in the resolution of 4,671 cases which were not referred to mediation. Many cases are settled even at the pre-litigation stage, thereby avoiding litigation altogether.

The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) is another institution developed by the High Court of Delhi. It is the first Court annexed arbitration centre in India which came into existence on 25 November 2009. The centre has a panel of 260 arbitrators. Since its inception in 2009, a total number of 1,275 disputes have been referred to the centre and in 585 out of them arbitration awards have been made.

The Delhi High Court Library is fully computerized and subscribes to about 112 Indian and foreign journals, both academic and those reporting judgments of various Courts. For rapid retrieval of information, the library has subscribed to many electronic databases on law specific matters, such as SCC online, Lawpack (DHC), ITR online, STC online, PTC online, JT online, DLT online, AIR (SC), Criminal Law Journal, Raj online, AD online (DHC and SC), manupatra.com and lexis.com.

The Delhi Judicial Academy employs a unique, participative methodology for calendar setting as well as securing feedback. The Academy organized 73 programmes during the period covered by the report, during which the total participants of the Delhi

Higher Judicial service (including repeat participants for different courses) were 992 and of the Delhi Judicial service were 1039. The training programmes included the scheduled courses for newly recruited officers; besides 13 three day programmes were conducted to train prosecutors (numbering 224). Also, the academy conducted training programmes for i) Special magistrates (ii) newly inducted Court staff and promoted staff members in Courts (iii) Mediation centre staff (iv) Judges posted to hold positions of administrative responsibility; (v) Judges in referrals to mediation etc. Special training and refresher courses for Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards and staff in the care institutions and observation homes were conducted.

During the period, the Academy invited eminent resource persons not only from the legal field (Judges of Supreme Court and retired as well as serving Judges of other High Courts besides Delhi High Court) but also doctors, child rights experts, counsellors, psychiatrists, senior administrators, forensic and cyber law and cyber forensic experts etc. 11 Judges from Bangladesh and 30 Judges from Sri Lanka also visited the academy and attended special sessions.

The Academy organizes environment awareness and Stress Management Retreats for all Judicial Officers every year. During this period the officers had visited destinations like Manali–Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh, Dehradun, Mussorie, and Rajaji Park, Rishikesh in Uttarakhand under this programme. It fosters camaraderie and collegiality amongst members of the service.

Technological Accomplishments

The High Court of Delhi has been a pioneer in the field of computerisation and adoption of digital processes. It has 11 Courts that function as e-Courts. In three jurisdictions (Company, Taxation and Arbitration), the entire process, from filing to judgment, is completely paperless. Even the Court fee is electronically payable. The e-Court and e-filing software has been developed in-house by the Court's computer cell. So far there have been 45,430 e-filings

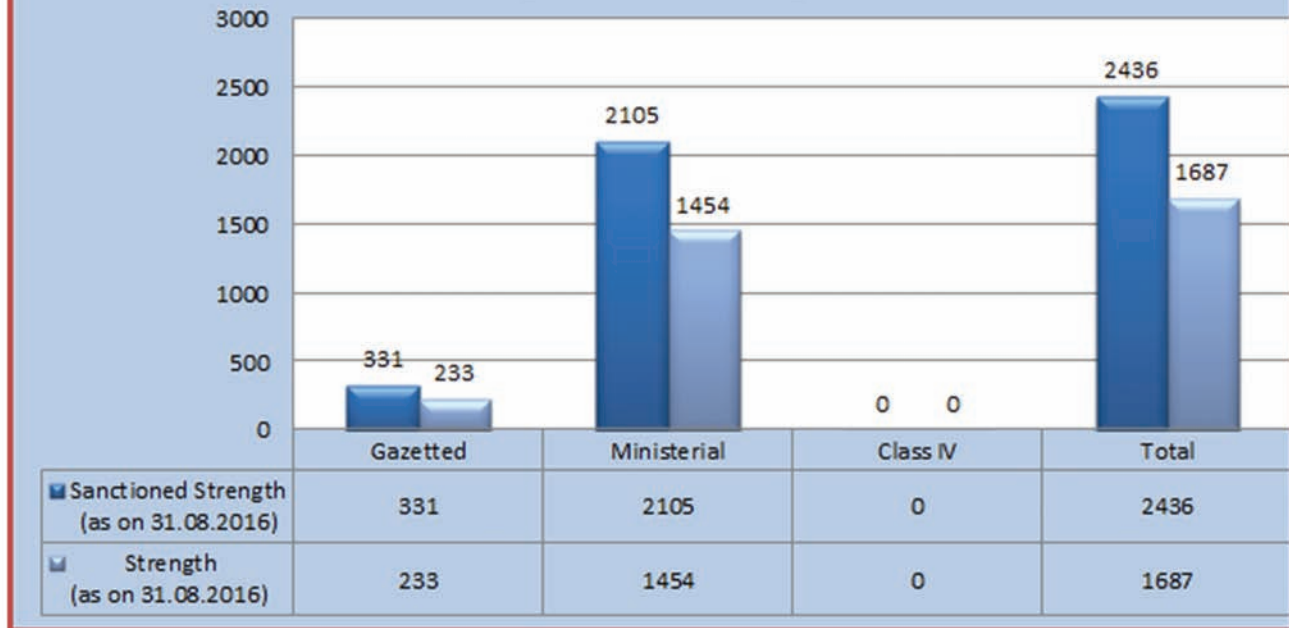
in the three jurisdictions (Company – 20,626, Taxation – 10,434, and Arbitration – 14,370). In the e-Courts, Judges access the case files on the monitors placed before them. Since, the monitors are pen-enabled, Judges can annotate the digital case files and also make notes of the arguments using digital pens. These annotations and notes can be saved and tagged with the Judge's copy of the electronic case file for later reference without changing the original digital case file, which resides in the High Court's servers.

The High Court has already digitized, indexed, and key-worded approximately 13.80 crore pages covering all decided cases up to 2014. This has enabled the weeding

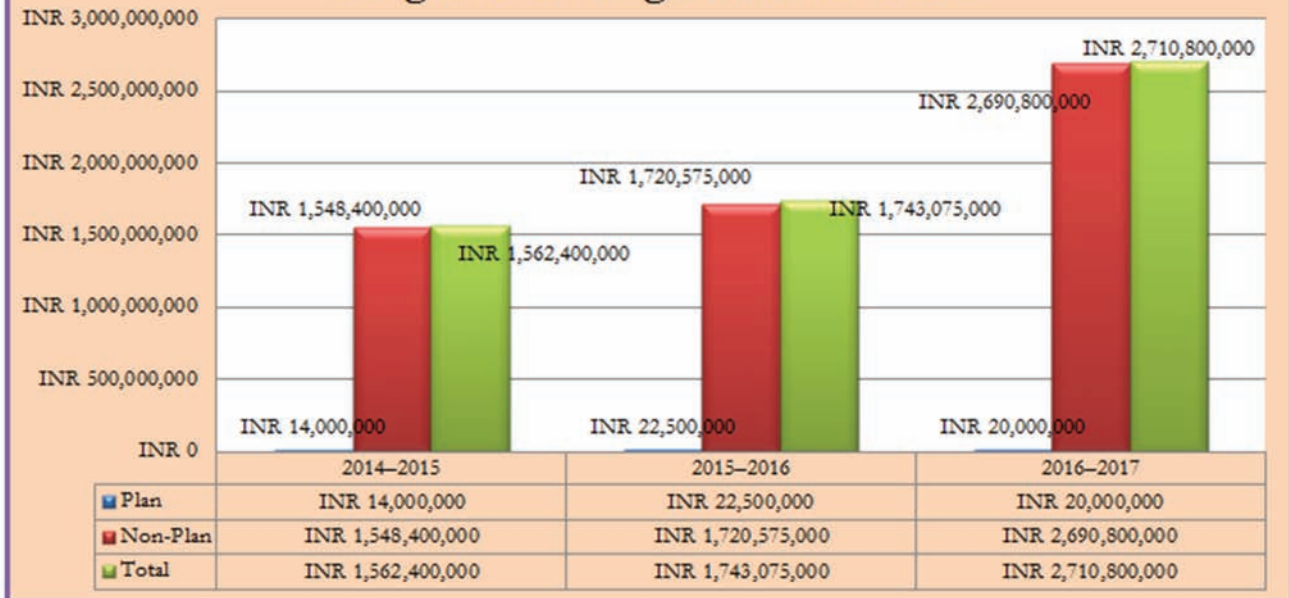
out of approximately 5.5 lakh paper files comprising of approximately 6.5 crore pages and thereby saving about 35,000 to 40,000 square feet of floor space.

Besides, the printing of paper cause lists has been done away with and lawyers are informed through e-mail (about 3,500 emails are sent everyday) as well as through the website. Visitors to the Court can make applications for gate passes online. Litigants and lawyers have access to the complete case history of any case through the website. Several e-kiosks have been provided at different places in the High Court complex so that lawyers and litigants can access information about their cases. Daily orders and final judgments are available on the website.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Delhi



Budget of the High Court of Delhi



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	14,876	12,135	10,255	16,756
Company matters	1,838	1,390	835	2,393
Contempt (civil)	1,368	1,496	1,185	1,679
Review (civil)	0	0	0	0
Matrimonial matters	320	168	159	329
Arbitration matters	300	775	658	417
Civil revisions	487	926	650	763
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	3,598	1,237	2,099	2,736
Civil appeals	6,608	5,148	4,786	6,970
Land acquisition matters	1,477	393	195	1,675
MACT matters	3,544	1,101	1,099	3,546
Civil suits (original side)	15,332	2,968	11,928*	6,372
Other than above [‡]	4,456	2,732	2,792 [†]	4,396
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	747	3,785	3,403	1,129
Criminal revisions	1,427	936	618	1,745
Bail applications	752	2,897	2,820	829
Criminal appeals	8,531	1,235	1,223	8,543
Death sentence reference	3	0	3	0
Contempt (criminal)	20	10	10	20
Miscellaneous criminal applications	3,182	5,093	4,501	3,774
Other than above	761	697	365	1,093

Note: Review Applications are not treated as Main Cases in this Court.

* The figure of 11,928 includes 1,851 civil suits disposed during this period and 10,077 civil suits transferred to District Courts on account of change of pecuniary jurisdiction.

[†]The figure of 2,792 includes 1,983 other matters disposed during this period and 809 other matters transferred to District Courts on account of change of pecuniary jurisdiction.

[‡]Other than above matters including OMP, Transfer Petitions, Indigent Person Applications, Probate, Counter Claim, Election Petitions, Civil Reference, etc.

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	60
Working strength of Judges	35
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	35
Highest	41
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	5,091

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	150,741	122,404	107,349	165,796
Criminal	396,761	573,559	537,981	432,339
Total	547,502	695,963	645,330	598,135

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
793	486	307

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	6,526
Criminal	15,190
Total	21,716

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GAUHATI HIGH COURT



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the Gauhati High Court*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajit Singh, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hrishikesh Roy

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arup Kumar Goswami

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Indira Shah

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nishitendu Chaudhury

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lanusungkum Jamir

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Manojit Bhuyan

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael Zothankhuma

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suman Shyam

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Paran Kumar Phukan

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

The declaration for establishment of the Gauhati High Court was made in March 1948 under the Government of India Act, 1935. Originally called the High Court of Assam, it was renamed in 1971 after the re-organization of the North-Eastern region. Soon to complete nearly seven decades of functioning, the Gauhati High Court has evolved into its present stature after years of deliberate restructuring. Nevertheless, it is an unprecedented example of a single institution initially assigned with jurisdiction over seven North-Eastern States until the year 2013. Thereafter, in three of the States, namely Meghalaya, Manipur, and Tripura, separate High Courts were created under the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971 and Other Related Laws Amendment Act, 2012.

The Principal Seat situated in Gauhati, Assam, is supported by three outlying Permanent Benches

in Kohima, Aizwal, and Itanagar established in the years 1972, 1990 and 2000 respectively. To cope up with the increasing volume of cases, the old block of the Gauhati High Court, functional since 1957 was enlarged with the addition of the new blocks which is in use since December 2013. Recently, the Government of Assam earmarked a plot adjacent to the Gauhati High Court, New Block that belongs to the Rotary club to continue the expansion of the High Court Complex.

The subordinate Judiciary is dispersed over 61 locations across Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh under the jurisdiction of the Principal Bench. Governing an ethnically varied population, Gauhati High Court is successfully handling divergent challenges unique to the North-Eastern region.



Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

District Legal Service Authorities (DLSAs) have a firm presence in 22 districts of Assam that function in close co-ordination with the State Legal Services Authority to promote legal awareness and reinforce the importance of mediation as a cost-effective alternative for resolution of disputes. To provide a permanent venue for organizing Lok Adalats and all activities related to mediation, five Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) centres across different districts have been completed while land has been allotted for the construction of 11 others. In 2015, 185 legal awareness camps were organized pertaining to a range of issues. Funds worth Rs. 1,61,00,000/- were allocated among the 22 DLSAs for various legal activities and 28 Lok Adalats sessions helped resolve 61,690 cases.

To amplify the impact of ADR, the Assam State Legal Services Authority arranged a 40-hour training program for 162 Advocate mediators to hone their awareness, referral, coaching and mentoring skills. A sensitization program for referral Judges of Kamrup

district was also arranged as a pilot project. The Judicial Academy of Assam is in charge of organizing conferences, skill development, and induction programs. Curriculum is devised annually to impart training in judicial functions and IT skills. It is ensured that Judicial Officers are thoroughly acquainted with the use of the operating system, UBUNTU, and content management system, CIS 2.0.

Major infrastructural projects approved by the High Court are in motion since the past year under centrally sponsored scheme. Construction of several multistoried concrete frame structured Court buildings and residential quarters are in process across districts in Assam, Mizoram, and Nagaland. Yet, another undertaking by the State Government helped install a 50-KW Solar Power Plant at the Gauhati High Court.

Considerable measures were undertaken to increase manpower commensurate with a standardized staff pattern particularly for the District Judiciary and a proposal was sent to the Government of Assam for creation of new posts, many of which have been approved. District Courts Employees' Service Rules,



Itanagar Bench of the Gauhati High Court

2015 was framed with regard to the same. Selection of staff for the Foreigners Tribunal was completed which will have the infrastructural support of the State Government. Preparatory training was organized for the newly appointed members of the Foreigners Tribunals and the Advocate Commissioners who were selected for the purpose of recording cross-examination of witnesses in Civil Courts.

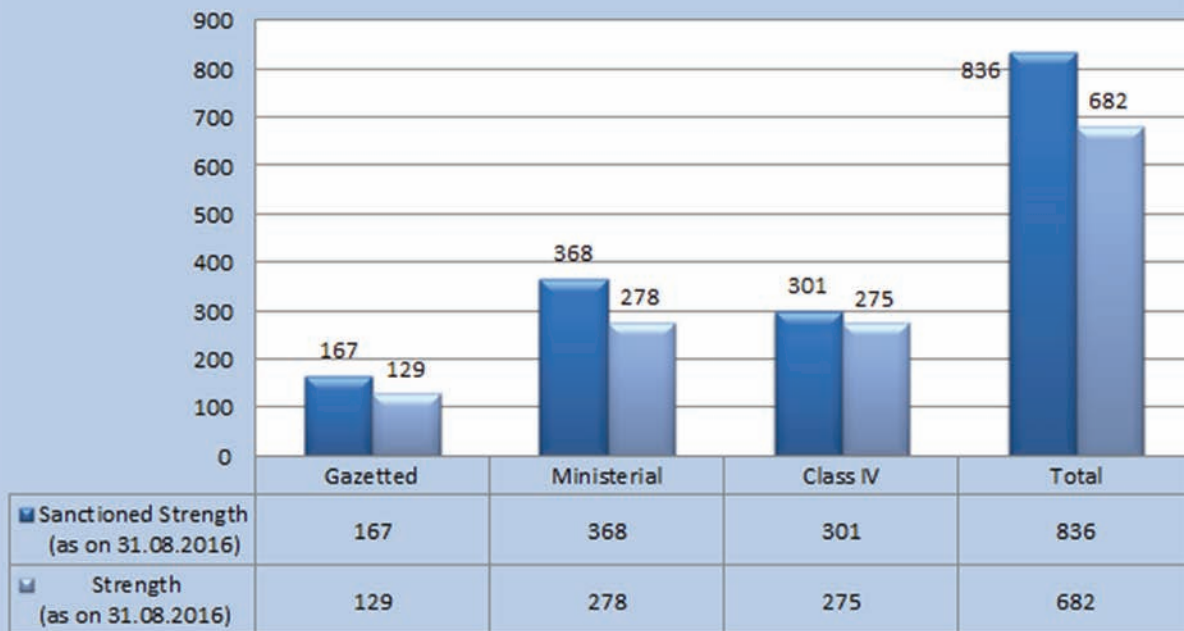
Technological Accomplishments

A separate Committee of Judges monitors the information and communication technology (ICT) development in all the Courts of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh. They assure no Court is without sufficient IT hardware and broadband connectivity as per the e-Courts project. At present,

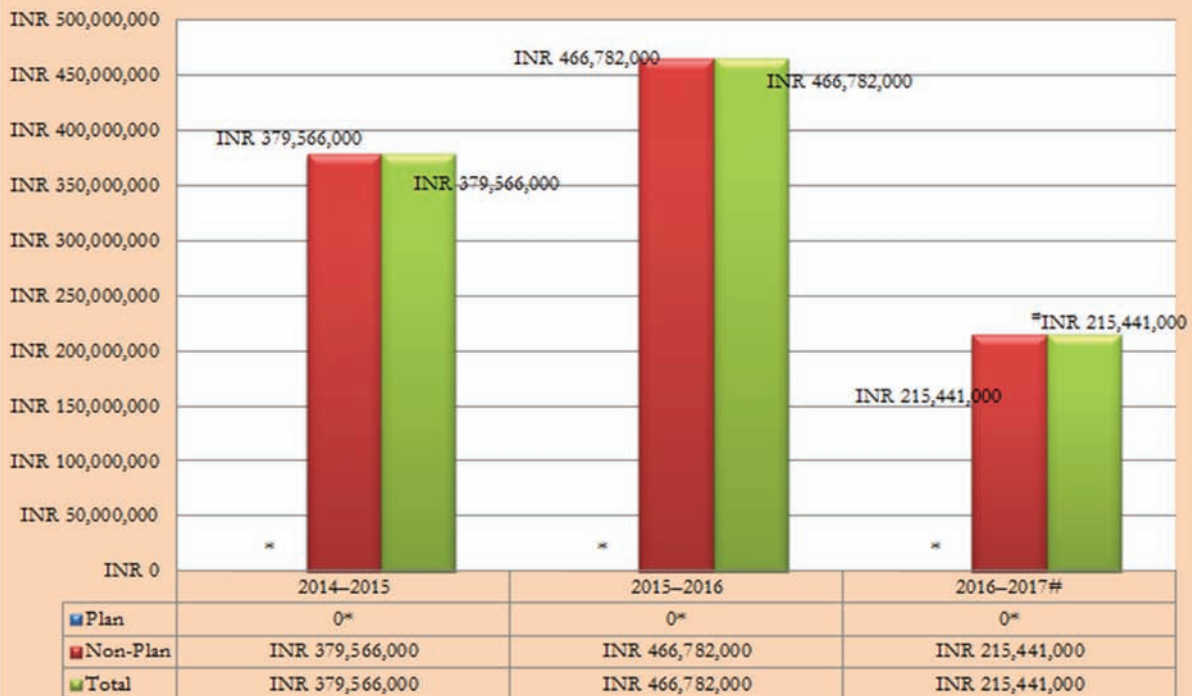
Case Information System (CIS) 2.0 developed by National Informatics Centre, Pune, is running at District Courts. New recruits are promptly trained in its various applications by old staff authorized to provide training. Websites of the Gauhati High Court, its Benches and District Courts are running smoothly which enable convenient tracking of case records. SMS service for the litigants was introduced in 20 Court complexes of 18 districts.

Video conferencing facility was secured between the District Courts and Judicial Academy, Assam, and the same feature is set to be launched between all the Courts and jails of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh. Keeping in mind the compounding framework of IT support systems, posts for technical staff are increased or created whenever required.

Staff Strength of the Gauhati High Court



Budget of the Gauhati High Court



*Budget under the plan head is not available.

#For the year 2016-2017, data shown is of the first 6 months.

High Court Statistics

Principal Bench

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Principal Bench from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	12,887	8,157	7,057	13,987
Company matters	48	32	17	63
Contempt (civil)	595	840	366	1,069
Review (civil)	240	153	173	220
Matrimonial matters	60	39	22	77
Arbitration matters	118	50	44	124
Civil revisions	771	679	548	902
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	14	21	13	22
Civil appeals	2,624	532	618	2,538
Land acquisition matters	63	5	10	58
MACT matters	1,053	301	246	1,108
Civil suits (original side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	*16,167	*7,342	*5,244	*18,265
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	15	20	8	27
Criminal revisions	2,740	1,442	1,073	3,109
Bail applications	875	4,271	4,456	690
Criminal appeals	1,638	467	273	1,832
Death sentence reference	2	0	1	1
Contempt (criminal)	0	2	2	0
Miscellaneous criminal applications	1,618	226	670	1,174
Other than above	58	30	36	52

*Including civil miscellaneous cases.

Kohima Bench

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Kohima Bench from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	196	246	223	219
Company matters	0	0	0	0
Contempt (civil)	18	25	18	25
Review (civil)	4	7	8	3
Matrimonial matters	0	1	0	1
Arbitration matters	0	0	0	0
Civil revisions	9	9	5	13
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	0	0	0	0
Civil appeals	12	7	8	11
Land acquisition matters	0	0	0	0
MACT matters	14	9	14	9
Civil suits (original side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	129*	206*	191*	144*
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	5	20	18	7
Criminal revisions	8	17	14	11
Bail applications	0	47	45	2
Criminal appeals	11	2	3	10
Death sentence reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (criminal)	0	2	0	2
Miscellaneous criminal applications	6	5	6	5
Other than above	0	0	0	0

*Including civil miscellaneous cases.

Aizawl Bench

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Aizawl Bench from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	165	178	217	126
Company matters	0	0	0	0
Contempt (civil)	21	38	33	26
Review (civil)	3	3	4	2
Matrimonial matters	0	0	0	0
Arbitration matters	1	0	1	0
Civil revisions	15	13	22	6
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	0	0	0	0
Civil appeals	125	31	43	113
Land acquisition matters	0	1	0	1
MACT matters	9	16	16	9
Civil suits (original side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	85*	143*	174*	54*
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	1	2	2	1
Criminal revisions	4	8	11	1
Bail applications	0	28	28	0
Criminal appeals	38	38	51	25
Death sentence reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (criminal)	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous criminal applications	2	7	9	0
Other than above	0	0	0	0
*Including civil miscellaneous cases.				

Itanagar Bench

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Itanagar Bench from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	468	678	535	611
Company matters	0	0	0	0
Contempt (civil)	27	45	32	40
Review (civil)	5	8	8	5
Matrimonial matters	0	0	0	0
Arbitration matters	1	3	3	1
Civil revisions	52	42	35	59
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	0	0	0	0
Civil appeals	11	17	8	20
Land acquisition matters	2	0	2	0
MACT matters	3	1	2	2
Civil suits (original side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	148*	102*	133*	117*
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	7	3	4	6
Criminal revisions	47	83	78	52
Bail applications	8	275	272	11
Criminal appeals	9	9	4	14
Death sentence reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (criminal)	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous criminal applications	2	5	5	2
Other than above	3	1	3	1

*Including civil miscellaneous cases.

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	24
Working strength of Judges	13
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	13
Highest	17
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	368

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	73,944	52,813	54,770	71,987
Criminal	206,501	246,670	251,363	201,808
Total	280,445	299,483	306,133	273,795

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
537	389	148

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	598
Criminal	2,736
Total	3,334

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HIGH COURT OF
GUJARAT



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Gujarat*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. S. Reddy, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. R. Shah	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rashmin M. Chhaya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. H. Vora
Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. S. Jhaveri	Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. B. Pardiwala	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. R. Udhvani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. A. Kureshi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. B. Shah	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. G. Uraizee
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. S. Dave	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. P. Dholaria
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. R. Brahmbhatt	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. P. Bhatt	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi
Hon'ble Ms. Justice H. N. Devani	Hon'ble Ms. Justice S. G. Gokani	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Jayantilal Shastri
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Abhilasha Kumari	Hon'ble Mr. Chandrakant L. Soni	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biren Aniruddh Vaishnav
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohinder Pal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashish J. Desai	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alpesh Yeshvant Kogje
Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Madhusudan Thaker	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. V. Anjaria	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arvindsingh Ishwarsingh Supehia
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Z. K. Saiyed	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Paresh R. Upadhyay	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. N. Karia
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Harivadan Shukla	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. G. Shah	
*As on 30 June 2016.		

Brief Introduction

The High Court of Gujarat was established on 1 May 1960 as a result of bifurcation of the former State of Bombay into two States of Maharashtra and Gujarat. The High Court started functioning near Akashvani, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad, under the stewardship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sunderlal Trikamlal Desai as the first Chief Justice along with four puisne Judges.

The present sanctioned Bench strength stands at 52, of which 33 positions are occupied. Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Subhash Reddy was elevated to the post of Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, on 13 February 2016.

The new Court complex became accessible for judicial proceedings on 16 January 1999 at Sola, on S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad. It is built over a total area of 59,945 m². The main Court building stretches across 24,068 m². An additional building constructed on the premises was inaugurated in 2015 which increased the total number of courtrooms from 33 to 41. Apart from the customary framework, the Court complex also accommodates a dedicated Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) centre, facilities for Permanent Lok Adalat and free legal aid centre.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India inaugurating the Auditorium of High Court of Gujarat

There are 33 revenue districts in the State of Gujarat, 26 of which are judicial districts. Other than Ahmedabad, the territorial jurisdiction extends over Amreli, Anand, Banaskantha, Bharuch, Bhavnagar,

Dahod, Dang, Gandhinagar, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Kheda, Kutch, Mehsana, Narmada, Navsari, Panchmahals, Patan, Porbandar, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, Surendranagar, Tapi, Vadodra, and Valsad.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

Gujarat State Legal Services Authority is running 19 legal aid clinics in various colleges and universities and 36 legal aid clinics in jails. On the whole, 915 legal aid clinics are established in villages, community centres, Juvenile Justice Boards, and Court premises in the entire State of Gujarat.

In 2016, 6198 people were provided legal aid through Legal Services Institutes. In the year 2015,

13,128 Lok Adalats, including general and permanent sessions, were held in Courts across the State of Gujarat. A total number of 172,363 civil, criminal, and pre-litigation cases were disposed of and an amount of Rs 8,723,645,818/- was settled. In the first six months of 2016, 7,639 Lok Adalats were held in various Courts of Gujarat State. An amount of Rs. 2,939,470,426/- was settled after resolution of 55,781 cases.

For creating legal awareness at large, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority organizes talk shows and broadcasts on the radio and television where various legal matters are discussed in simple regional language. Mobile Legal Services Unit was started to provide justice at doorsteps for the benefit of people living in remote areas of the State. Eighty-five legal literacy camps on various subjects were organized in remote rural areas of various districts of the State, during the year 2015 with the help of three mobile van units.

At present, there are 12 mediation centres and 12 ADR centres functioning in the State of Gujarat. Mediation Awareness programmes and Referral Judges' Training programmes were held during the period from 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2016 across 11 districts in the State of Gujarat.

The Gujarat Judicial Academy prepares an annual academic calendar from July to June. Thirty-seven in-service training programs were arranged for combined participating staff of 2012 in the last 1 year. Five induction training programs were conducted for 28 participants. A legal workshop was also organized to examine bottlenecks in old criminal and civil cases and remedies thereof.

Initiatives in infrastructure reform continue to make headway with the completion of the new building of the judicial academy. Construction of a new office for Gujarat State Legal Services Authority has commenced. Possession of new fire safety control building was taken by the High Court to accommodate police and fire-fighting personnel on the first floor and ground floor, respectively. Development of a new library building in the High Court is set to begin in the near future.

Technological Accomplishments

An online bail application system is running successfully which has curtailed unnecessary delays

in grant of bail to prisoners. Event-wise push SMS alert services for stakeholders up to taluka level were implemented by the High Court of Gujarat. Computerized Court case tracking and monitoring services are provided to Government pleader and District Government pleader offices. Advocates may now apply for sick leave online. Acknowledgement is sent by SMS.

Case status information is made available through kiosks in the High Court premises. Updated legal data of orders and judgments is digitally provided to all Judges of the High Court and Judicial Officers of the Gujarat District Judiciary.

An application was developed to keep a track of inter-departmental movement of physical case files. Another application in use digitalizes agenda and minutes of various committee meetings to easily retrieve the information whenever required.

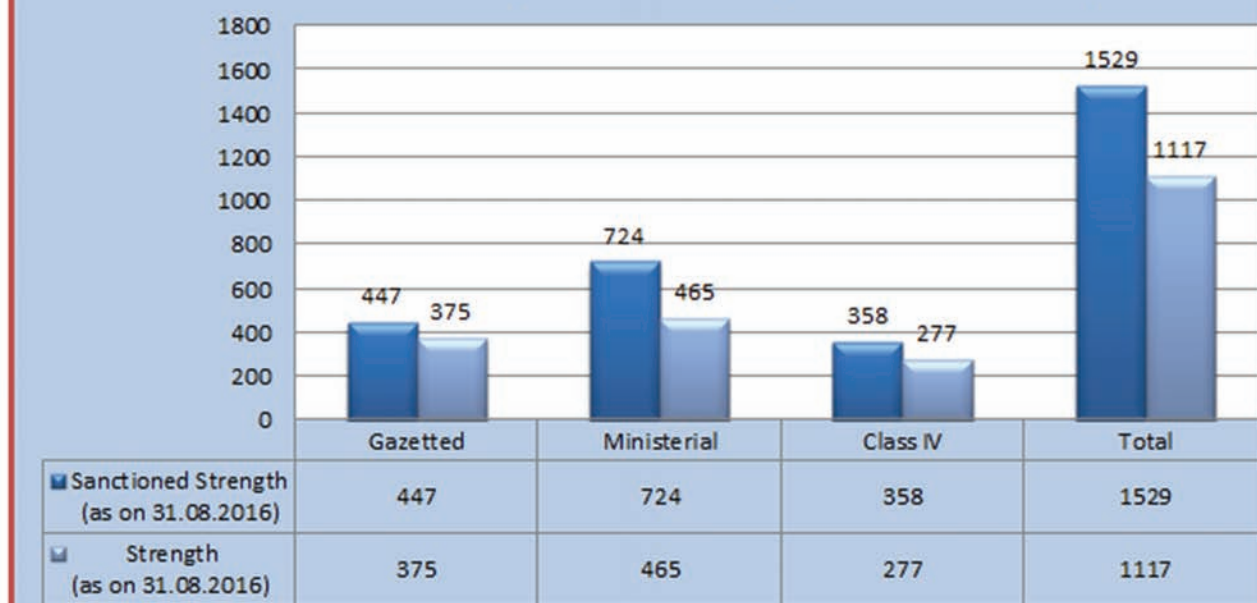
Notices/writs are being uploaded on daily basis on the website of Gujarat High Court. The dispatch details, and copy of notice/writs can be viewed and downloaded in PDF document. Search can also be filtered according to case, litigant, order date, or dispatch date. Wi-Fi facility is active within the High Court complex for the benefit of litigants and Advocates.

Visitors Management System (e-gatepass) adopted by the High Court of Gujarat is an efficient and convenient mechanism to keep track of all visitors without creating any inconvenience. Multi-point video conferencing apparatus is installed and synced between Courts and jails. The Government of Gujarat, has provided the apparatus and connectivity for video conferencing along with technical manpower at both ends.

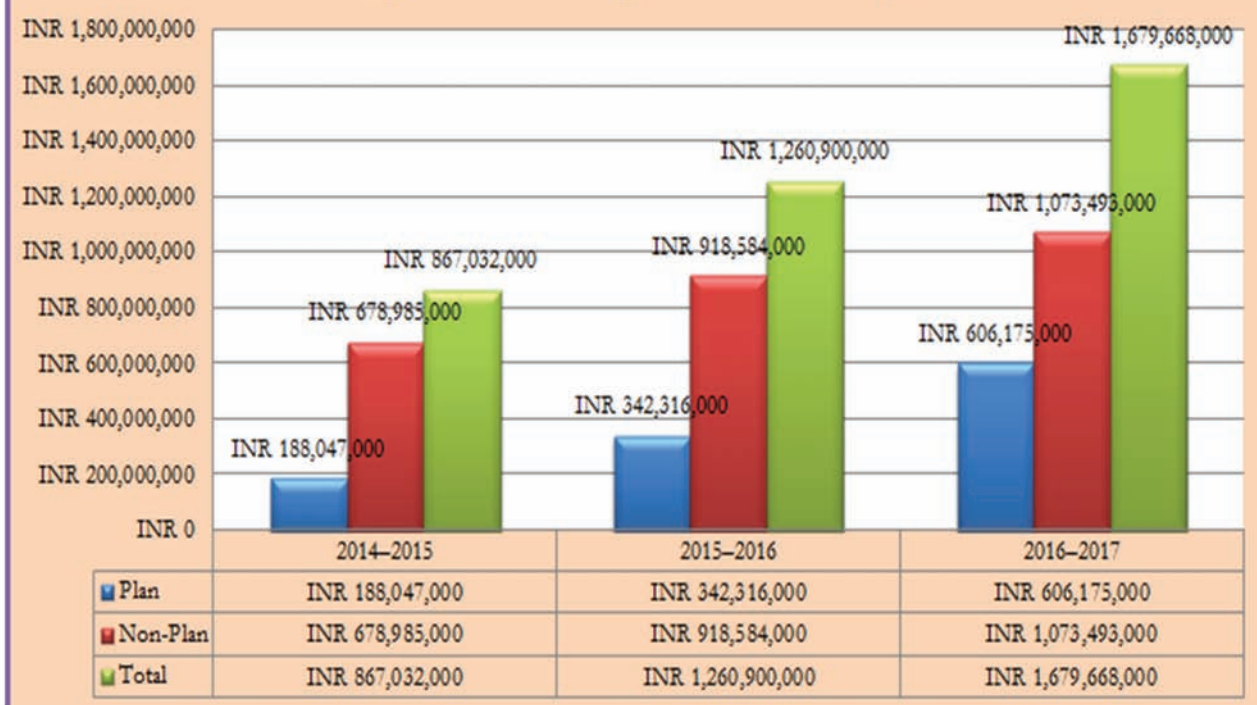


Chief Justice's Court, High Court of Gujarat

Staff Strength of the High Court of Gujarat



Budget of the High Court of Gujarat



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	37,878	20,928	21,976	36,830
Company matters	678	995	888	785
Contempt (civil)	71	338	362	47
Review (civil)	0	0	0	0
Matrimonial matters	0	0	0	0
Arbitration matters	0	0	0	0
Civil revisions	557	707	528	736
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	5,945	1,121	2,298	4,768
Civil appeals	12,294	3,968	5,518	10,744
Land acquisition matters	0	0	0	0
MACT matters	0	0	0	0
Civil suits (original side)	24	9	1	32
Other than above	5,232	17,372	18,001	4,603
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal revisions	2,829	960	876	2,913
Bail applications	0	0	0	0
Criminal appeals	17,423	1,566	2,897	16,092
Death sentence reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (criminal)	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous criminal applications	9,462	28,553	27,862	10,153
Other than above	4,191	8,610	8,108	4,693

Note

Civil: Review (Civil) Cases are included in Other than above category. Matrimonial matters are included in Other than above category. Arbitration matters are included in Other than above category. Land acquisition matters are included in civil appeals category. MACT matters are included in Civil Appeals category.

Criminal: Writ petition (Articles 226 & 227) are included in Miscellaneous criminal application. Bail application are included in Miscellaneous criminal application. Application death sentence reference cases are included in Criminal appeals. Contempt (Criminal) cases are included in Miscellaneous criminal application.

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	52
Working strength of Judges	33
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	28
Highest	35
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	13,765*

*This report is generated as per the data entered by the Judicial Department and available in the server as on 12.09.2016

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	664,806	185,568	275,781	574,593
Criminal	1,527,511	914,169	960,042	1,481,638
Total	2,192,317	1,099,737	1,235,823	2,056,231

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1,953	1,159	794

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	115,819
Criminal	265,006
Total	380,825

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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 Mansoor Ahmad Mir, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajeev Sharma

Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. C. Chaudhary

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Piar Singh Rana

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sureshwar Thakur

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Singh Thakur

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Mohan Goel

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Sharma

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chander Bhusan

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

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 it was housed at “Harvingtan” (Kelston area, Shimla). It was vested with the powers of a High Court under the Judicial Commissioners’ Court Act, 1950. The Court of Judicial Commissioner started functioning on 15 August 1948. The Punjab High Court Rules and Orders with suitable amendments were made applicable to the Courts in Himachal Pradesh. However, in the year 1966, the Delhi High Court Act was enacted by the Government of India with effect from 1 May 1967. The Government of India extended the operation of the said Act to the Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh, replacing the Court of Judicial Commissioner by the Himachal Bench of Delhi High Court, at Shimla.

The Himachal Pradesh attained Statehood in the year 1971, and established its own High Court with

headquarters at “Ravenswood”, Shimla, having one Hon'ble Chief Justice and two Hon'ble Judges. The first Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh was Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. H. Beg and the other two Judges were Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. B. Lal and Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. R. Thakur. Amongst the Chief Justices of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. H. Beg and Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. S. Pathak had the distinction of becoming the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of India. Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. S. Pathak also remained a Judge of International Court of Justice at Hague. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lokeshwar Singh Panta had a privilege of elevation to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, directly from a Judge of Himachal Pradesh High Court.

The sanctioned strength of the Judges of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh is 13 including the Chief Justice, whereas 11 are the sitting Judges, including Hon'ble the Chief Justice. The High Court building, which is known as “Ravenswood”, consists of three



A view of the Auditorium, High Court of Himachal Pradesh

blocks, i.e., main High Court building, old High Court block, and administrative block. There is a proposal for construction of a new block of the High Court (Phase-II) in place of old block and a litigant shed.

As per Section 23 of the State of Himachal Pradesh Act, 1970, the High Court of Himachal Pradesh shall have, in respect of any part of the territories

comprised in the State of Himachal Pradesh, all such jurisdiction, powers and authority as, under the law in force and under Article 225 to 228 of the Constitution of India. The High Court of Himachal Pradesh has also the pecuniary jurisdiction in all original civil suits, the value of which exceeds Rs. 3,000,000.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

In the State of Himachal Pradesh, the legal aid beneficiaries, from April 2015 to March 2016, are 1,611. At present, 956 lawyers have been appointed under Regulation 21 of H.P. State Legal Services Authority Regulations 1996, who are rendering legal aid to the needy persons and being paid Rs. 4,000/-, 6,000/-, and 10,000/- per case at sub-divisional Courts, district level Courts, and High Court, respectively. To provide free legal services, 42 front offices have been established: one in the High Court and rest in all the District Legal Services Authorities and Sub Divisional Legal Services Committees. From 1 April

2015 to 30 March 2016, a total of 1,815 applications were received for legal aid in the front offices and these people were provided free and competent legal services.

To provide easy access to legal services, Legal Aid Clinics, now renamed as Village Legal Care and Support Centres (VLCSCs) have been opened in 2628 Gram Panchayats in the Panchayat Bhawans. In Himachal Pradesh till March 2016, 6,367 para legal volunteers have been identified and trained for manning VLCSCs, front offices, legal literacy camps and for other schemes and are being deputed wherever their assistance is required. As many as

20,351 persons were benefited from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

Legal Services Clinics in jails have been established in all the district/sub jails in the State of Himachal Pradesh. From April 2015 to March 2016, the total number of Legal Literacy Camps organised were 1,055 with 69,442 participants. Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (HPSLSA) has also organized 1989 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) camps from April 2015 to March 2016 through para legal volunteers (PLVs). Till March 2016, 5349 schools were covered in the State of Himachal Pradesh for teaching 'Lessons in law/Kanooni Path' by Judicial Officers and Advocates. A total number of 996 books have been distributed from 2015 to March 2016, benefiting total 62,005 students. A total of 11,242 teachers were trained by the HPSLSA as resource persons to teach fundamental duties to the students in their respective schools. A total of

550 camps have been organized in the schools so far. Eighty-three legal awareness camps have been organized exclusively for workers of unorganized sector from April 2015 to March 2016. The HPSLSA organized one day State-level meet for para legal volunteers and trained Mediators at New Auditorium High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 19 September 2015.

A total of 12 Mediation Centres, one in High Court of H.P. and 11 in the Sessions Division, are functional in the State of Himachal Pradesh. Twelve mobile Lok Adalats by deputing mobile vans have been organized in the State from April 2015 to March 2016 in which 253 cases were taken up out of which 167 cases were settled. From April 2015 to March 2016, a total number of 1,501 cases were referred for mediation, out of which 390 cases were settled.

To bring excellence in judicial education and training, the Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy has organized various orientation/advance courses/workshops/conferences for the Judicial Officers, officers and officials of the Registry of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, ministerial staff of the State Judiciary, and also for the officers/officials of the State Government discharging judicial and quasi-judicial functions.

Technological Accomplishments

E-Court fee system has been started in High Court of Himachal Pradesh which was inaugurated by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India on 19 August 2016. The SMS service for case status has been launched in High Court of Himachal Pradesh and 10 headquarters of Civil and Sessions Divisions. In the High Court, e-mail alerts are also being sent to the Advocates and parties. Digital signature certificates have been issued to the 7 Judges of the High Court, most of the Judicial Officers and 115 officers of Registry of the High Court.

As a pre-cursor to converting the High Court library into e-library, KOHA software has been implemented and the process shall be started for converting the District Court libraries into e-libraries on receipt of hardware



Logo of High Court of Himachal Pradesh

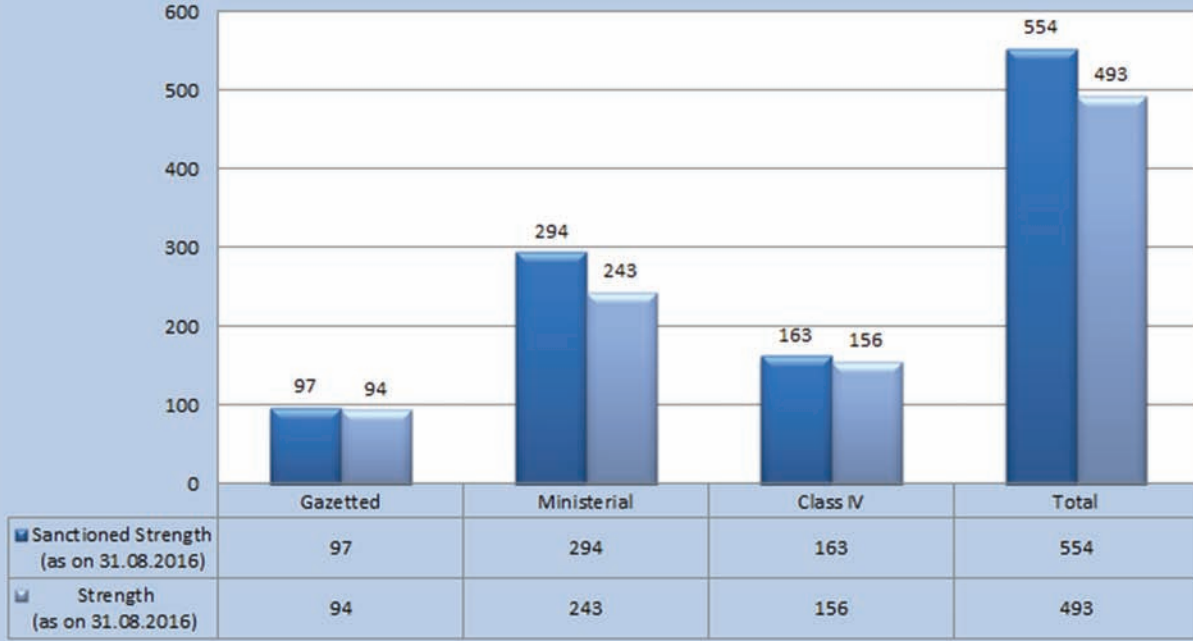
required for this purpose. A total of 152 licenses of Law Suit software, which has a facility of automatic online updation, have been provided to the Chief Justice, High Court Judges, and the Judicial Officers in the State of Himachal Pradesh. Video Conferencing Units have

been set up at the High Court, at the 11 headquarters of Civil and Sessions Divisions, and 16 Sub-Divisional/ Tehsil Level Courts, which are more than 50 kms away from the jails concerned.

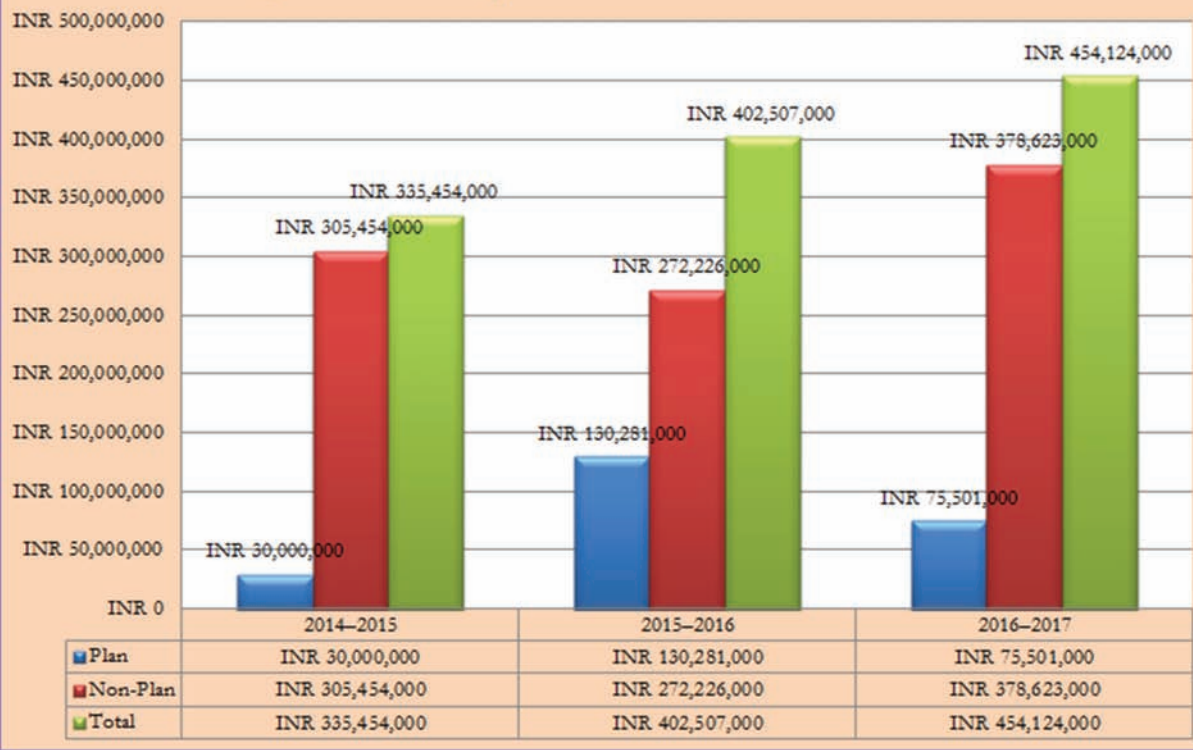
A view of High Court of Himachal Pradesh at Shimla



Staff Strength of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh



Budget of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	6,128	3,599	4,831	4,896
Company matters	57	19	10	66
Contempt (civil)	216	721	711	226
Review (civil)	32	135	117	50
Matrimonial matters	182	45	80	147
Arbitration matters	203	114	65	252
Civil revisions	585	222	239	568
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	167	91	66	192
Civil appeals	5,382	658	500	5,540
Land acquisition matters	3,852	477	653	3,676
MACT matters	2,412	520	797	2,135
Civil suits (original side)	410	94	51	453
Other than above	2,454	2,516	3,001	1,969
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	10	23	22	11
Criminal revisions	1,312	308	134	1,486
Bail applications	198	1,216	966	448
Criminal appeals	3,219	436	500	3,155
Death sentence reference	1	0	1	0
Contempt (criminal)	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous criminal applications	50	835	797	88
Other than above	360	277	212	425

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	13
Working strength of Judges	11
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	7
Highest	11
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	1,103

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	93,869	68,434	63,071	99,232
Criminal	153,479	257,355	272,039	138,795
Total	247,348	325,789	335,110	238,027

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
155	139	17

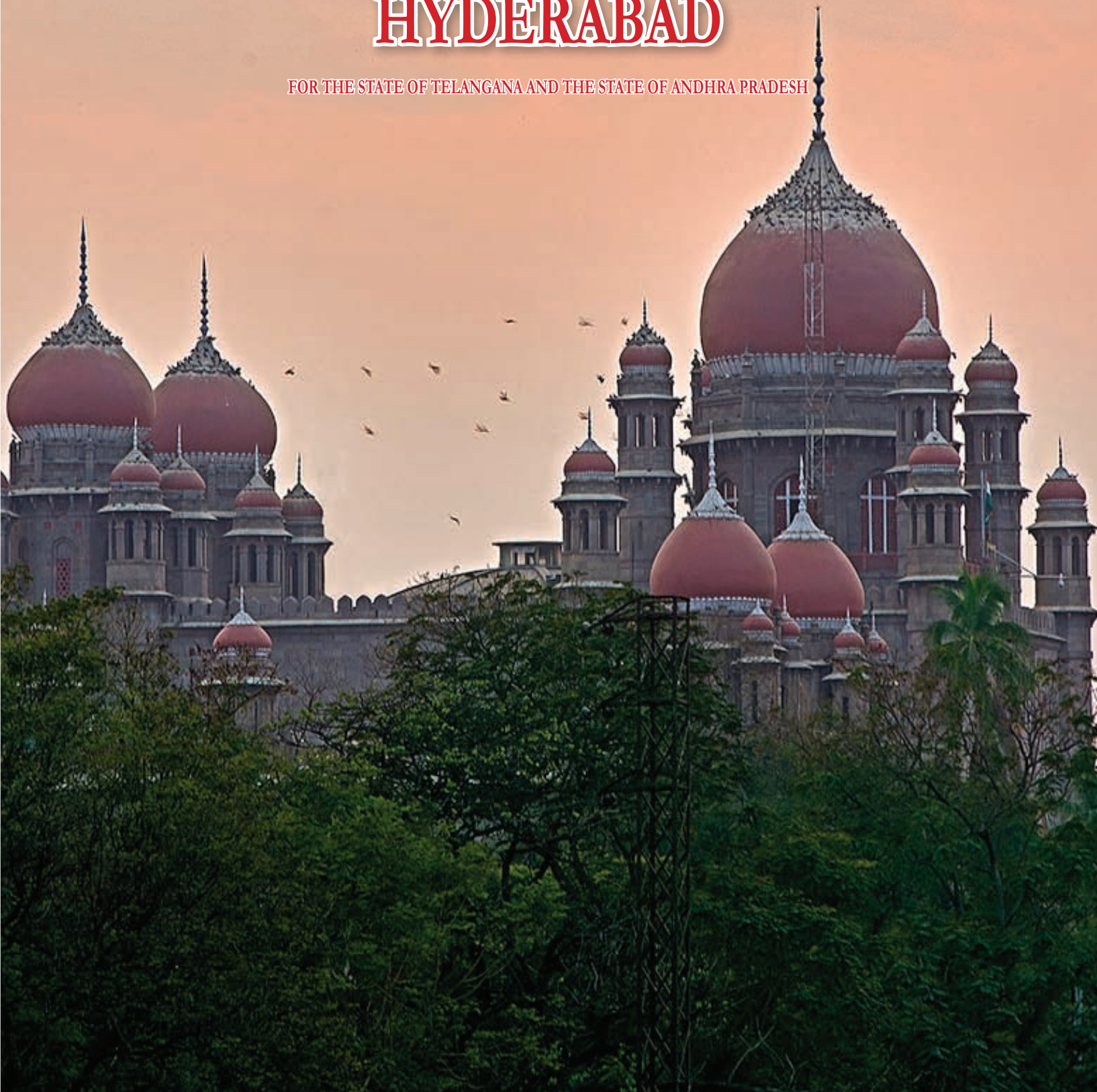
Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	456
Criminal	329
Total	785

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HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT HYDERABAD

FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AND THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. B. Bhosale, Acting Chief Justice	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramesh Ranganathan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Challa Kondaram Chowdary
Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Ramalingeswara Rao
Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. V. Nagarjuna Reddy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Siva Sankara Rao
Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. V. Sanjay Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Seetharama Murthi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Ravi Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raja Elango	Hon'ble Mr. Justice U. Durga Prasada Rao
Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Praveen Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Sunil Chowdary
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. S. Ramachandra Rao	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Satyanarayana Murthy
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Rajashekar Reddy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. S. K. Jaiswal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ponugoti Naveen Rao	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Shankar Narayana
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anis
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. V. Sesha Sai	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. Shyam Prasad

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

A regular and efficient judicial system was introduced in the Hyderabad State by Sir Salar Jung, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad State (1853-1883). Before that, the chief judicial power in civil matters vested in the Subhedar, while the Kotwal was the head of criminal justice administration.

Hyderabad State acceded to the Indian Union on 17 September 1948. Appeals against the decisions of the High Court pending before the Judicial Committee stood transferred to the Indian Supreme Court under Article 374(4) of the Constitution of India. The State of Andhra was formed on 1 October 1953 under the Andhra State Act, 1953, by carving out 11 districts from the then State of Madras. The High Court for Andhra State was established at Guntur on 5 July 1954 with just three Judges. Four more Judges were appointed shortly thereafter.

The new State of Andhra Pradesh came into existence under the States Reorganization Act, 1956. The erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated into the State of Telangana and the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, 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, being the common High Court for the two States till the formation of a separate High Court for the present State of Andhra Pradesh.

The sanctioned strength of puisne Judges at the High Court is 61, whereas the present strength is only 25 Judges. After the formation of the new State in 1956, the Andhra Pradesh High Court was established in the existing High Court building at



Side view of High Court of Hyderabad

Hyderabad on the auspicious day of Deepavali and Ramzan, on 5 November 1956. The High Court stands on the southern bank of the River Musi. This is one of the finest buildings in the city, built in red and white stones in Saracenic style, by Nizam VII, Mir Osman Ali Khan the ruler of the princely State of Hyderabad. After its construction, a silver model of the High Court with a silver key was presented to Nizam VII, by the Judiciary in 1937. The High

Court building is situated in an area of 9.20 acres. Additional land of 9.50 acres was handed over by the Government, where an old maternity hospital existed, and the total land presently available is 18.70 acres. The built up area of the High Court and the extended premises, as on today, is 2.91 acres and 1.37 acres, respectively. There are 47 Court Halls and Chambers in the High Court building.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

The High Court Legal Services Committee was constituted by Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority and a permanent High Court Lok Adalat Bench was constituted for settlement of cases pending on the files of the High Court and also for pre-litigation cases. National Lok Adalats on specialized subjects are being conducted every month. The Andhra Pradesh High Court Legal Services Committee selected 13 retainers, from a panel of legal practitioners. The Telangana State Legal Services Authority is functioning with effect from 2 June 2014, after bifurcation from the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority. The Telangana State Legal Services Authority consists of 11 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and 78 Mandal Legal Services Committees (MLSCs) (75 functioning), six Permanent Lok Adalats for Public Utility Services (PLAPUS) (two functioning), and 11 mediation centres. The Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority is functioning with 13 DLSAs and 13 mediation centres, namely one for each district, and with 138 MLSCs and nine Permanent Lok Adalats for public utility services.

Recently, the High Court Mediation and Arbitration Centre was established in the High Court premises in Hyderabad, and was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India, on 21 November 2015.

The Juvenile Justice Committee has been constituted to oversee the implementation of all aspects of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and enforcement of child rights. Another Committee is constituted for family Court matters at the High Court level on the lines of the Supreme Court 'Committee for Sensitization of Family Court Matters'.

The Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy is a nodal training institute declared as Category-I Training Institute of the State of Andhra Pradesh. The academy is successfully conducting regular training courses 1-year basic course for newly recruited Civil Judges and 6-month foundation course for newly appointed direct recruit District Judges (entry level). It is also conducting seminars, symposia, lectures, workshops, etc., inviting Judges (present and former) from the Supreme Court and High Court and other distinguished personalities from various walks of life and legal luminaries, from various parts of the country and abroad.

The Academy conducted 26 training courses for about 1582 participant officers of all cadres during the year 2015–2016. The High Court also organizes workshops in all the districts at regular intervals.

Technological Accomplishments

The High Court took up the initiative of establishing paperless e-Courts. In this regard, the High Court purchased the required hardware like Wacom machines, etc., and started digitizing case records to start a pilot-based paperless Court in the High Court. The first paperless Court was inaugurated on 17 July 2016. The High Court also hosts the cause-list on its official website. Digital display panels are also installed at each Court hall and at conspicuous places. The High Court purchased eight kiosk machines and installed the same in the High Court premises at different locations, to make case status and judgment information available to the Advocates and litigants. During the year 2015–2016, an Android-based mobile application for disseminating the High Court case status information and cause lists was inaugurated. The High Court developed mobile applications for Apple iOS platform and Windows mobile platform. The personalized cause list is being

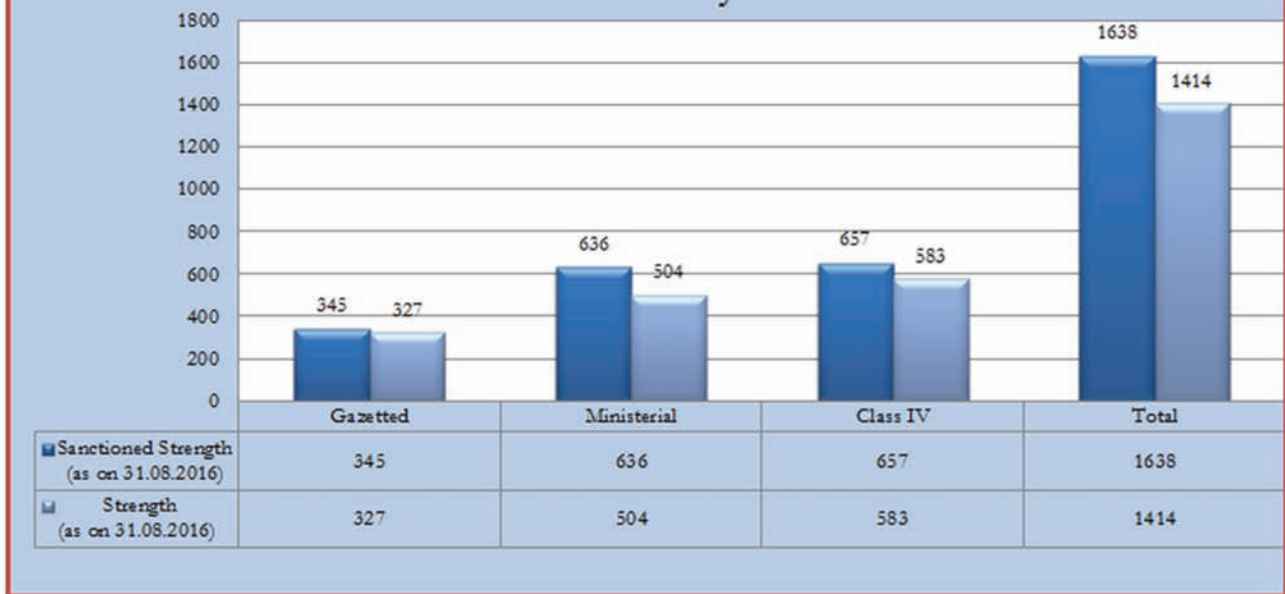
generated automatically and pushed through e-mail to the registered Advocates. The High Court published a tender notification for digitizing its administrative and judicial records.

Video conferencing linkage was also started between special sub jails and connected Court complexes so as to minimize the transit time in bringing the prisoners to the Court.

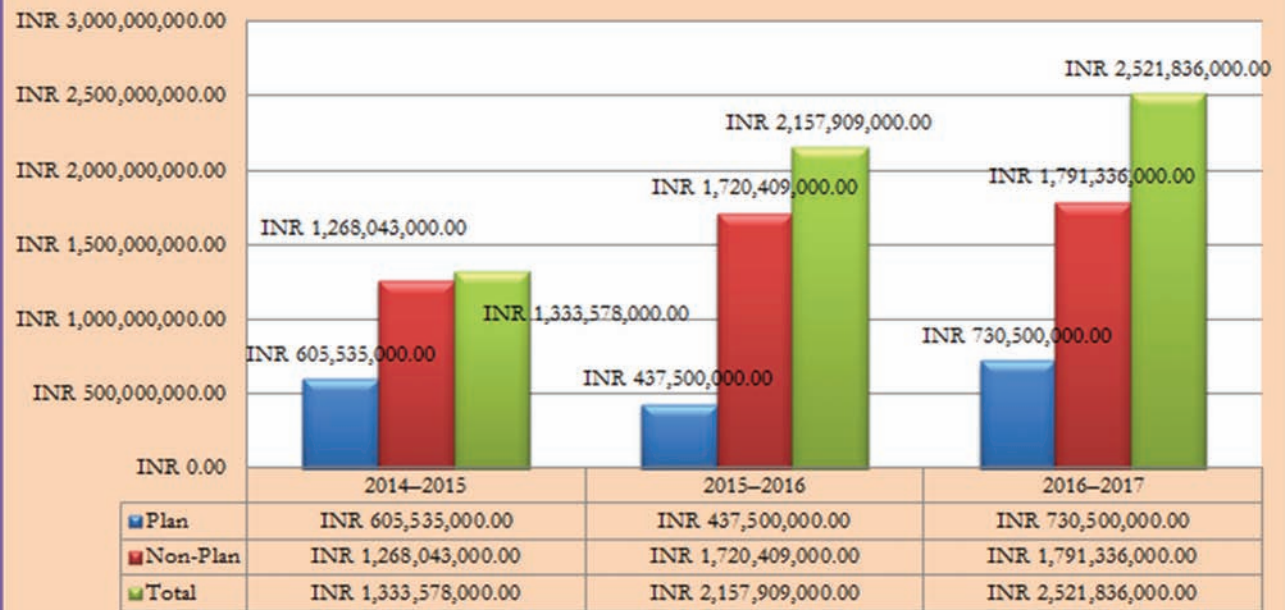


Judges' lounge at High Court of Hyderabad

Staff Strength of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad



Budget of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	133,097	45,156	37,726	140,527
Company matters	1,131	1,251	1,065	1,317
Contempt (civil)	4,919	2,554	1,437	6,036
Review (civil)	0	0	0	0
Matrimonial matters	3,141	390	133	3,398
Arbitration matters	310	149	61	398
Civil revisions	11,329	6,612	4,668	13,273
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	4,455	900	1,427	3,928
Civil appeals	36,774	4,395	3,618	37,551
Land acquisition matters	2,898	377	636	2,639
MACT matters	27,754	3,707	1,904	29,557
Civil suits (original side)	21	4	11	14
Other than above	330	876	924	282
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal revisions	11,534	3,890	2,487	12,937
Bail applications	0	0	0	0
Criminal appeals	8,533	1,163	199	9,497
Death sentence reference	1	0	0	1
Contempt (criminal)	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous criminal applications	15,921	18,084	16,665	17,340
Other than above	0	0	0	0

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	61
Working strength of Judges	25
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	24 (10.05.2016 to 19.05.2016)
Highest	28 (01.07.2015 to 14.07.2015)
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	24,606

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	500,624	253,032	250,914	502,742
Criminal	547,987	411,454	406,012	553,429
Total	1,048,611	664,486	656,926	1,056,171

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
975	806	169

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	8226
Criminal	7633
Total	15859

25

HIGH COURT OF
JAMMU AND KASHMIR

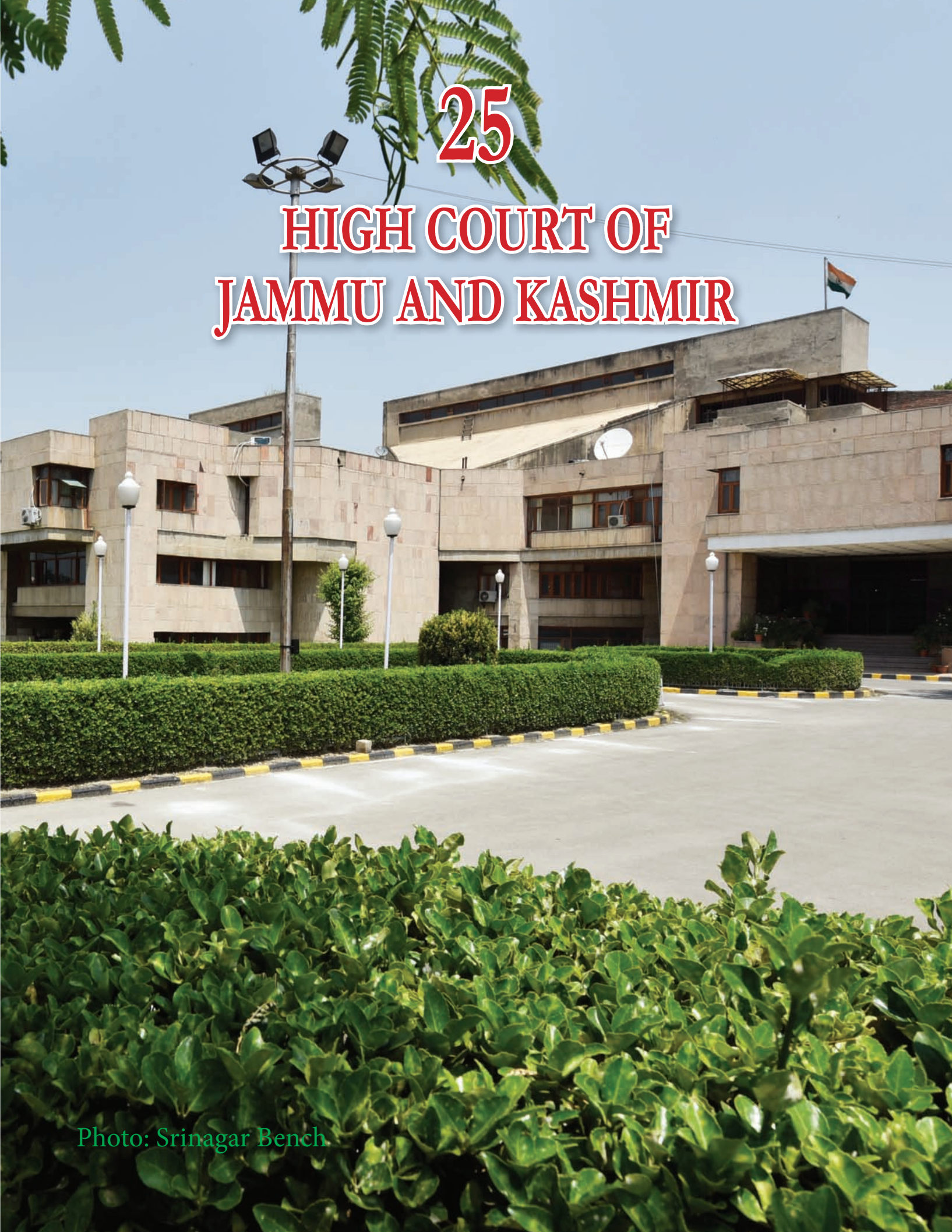


Photo: Srinagar Bench

Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. N. Paul Vasanthakumar, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar

Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Y. Mir

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muzaffar Hussain Attar

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Mohd. Magrey

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tashi Rabstan

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Janak Raj Kotwal

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bawa Singh Walia

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

The State of Jammu and Kashmir comprises of three different divisions Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. All the three divisions have been unified into a single political and geographical entity following the treaty of Amritsar between British Government and Maharaja Gulab Singh, which was signed on 16 March 1846.

The year 1928 marked an important change in the Department of Administration of Justice. A full-fledged High Court, consisting of the Chief Justice and two or more Judges, was established by Maharaja Hari Singh. One of the Judges was assigned revenue work and was styled as Judge of the High Court-cum-Revenue Commissioner. By virtue of another order, Lala Kanwar Sain was appointed as the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir. Rai Bahadur Lala Bodh Raj Sawhney and Khan Sahib Agaha Sayed Hussain were appointed as puisne Judges of the High Court.

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir had the power of superintendence and control over its Subordinate Courts, and all the Courts of the State, except those of Poonch and Chenani Jagirs, were within the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court. This was followed by the Constitution Act of 1939

promulgated by the ruler and judicial advisory board akin to Privy Council in British India. The Jagirs of Poonch and Chenani were brought within the purview of the High Court by virtue of a royal proclamation issued on 19 July 1940. Letters Patent was granted to High Court of Judicature similar to those of High Courts in British India. At present, there are two Benches, one in Jammu and the other in Srinagar. The Chief Justice's Secretariat, along with the office of Registrar General, moves to Jammu in winter and back to Srinagar in summer. The sanctioned strength of the Judges of the High Court at present is 17, whereas working strength is only nine.

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir has two buildings, one at each wing of the High Court at Srinagar and Jammu. In the Jammu building of the High Court, there are eight Court halls, 10 chambers of Judges, 1 administrative block, one Court block, four halls for Jammu Bar, canteen, and library, as well as facilities such as J&K Bank, dispensary, post-office and BSNL collection. In the Srinagar wing, there are nine Court halls, nine chambers of Judges, conference hall, one administrative block and one Court block, and three halls for lawyers. Facilities of J&K Bank,



Chief Justice's Court at Jammu

dispensary, post office, BSNL collection counter, and canteen is also available in the building.

In 1954, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was extended to the State through Constitution Application Order. On 17 November 1956, Part V, VI and VII of the Constitution of India were adopted by the State, and thereafter, the State High Court was given powers to issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights so far as they are applicable to the State in terms of Article 32 and 32-A of the Constitution of India. In 1957, the position of Judiciary was well defined when the elected representatives of the people gave the Constitution to the subjects of the State. The board of judicial advisors was abolished and 17 appeals were pending before the Board at the time of its abolition. On the request of the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir State, the Government of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India constituted a Special Bench headed

by the then Chief Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan, Justice S. R. Das, and Justice Ghulam Hassan, who decided all the 17 appeals and upheld the judgments of the High Court. Thus, there was an assimilation of the justice delivery system in State of Jammu and Kashmir after independence in 1954 with the rest of India, and thereafter, the justice delivery system in the State came at par with the rest of the country.

Part VII of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir provides that the High Court is a Court of Record. It shall have civil original jurisdiction to hear and determine any original civil suit or other proceedings without limit, and it shall have jurisdiction to entertain and dispose of such appeals, revisions, and other cases — civil, criminal, or revenue — as it may be empowered to do under any enactment in force in the State. The High Court shall have superintendence and control of Subordinate Courts in the State and it shall have power to issue any writ.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

The State Legal Services Authority is concentrating in pre-litigation matters as well as pending cases. Apart from regular Lok Adalats being organized throughout the State by District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs), National Lok Adalats are being held in respect of various cases such as matrimonial disputes, motor accidents claim cases, bank recovery matters, and compoundable criminal cases. Six Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centres have been inaugurated in the State and the construction work in 9 ADR centres is in progress. Besides these, 16 mediation centres are working at district headquarters. In mediation centres, 164 mediators have been trained by Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC). During the year 2015, 1356 cases were referred for Mediation and 97 cases were settled. Up to August 2016, 90 cases have been referred for mediation, out of which 15 have been settled.

In the year 2015, 538 Lok Adalats were held. In the year 2016, up to July, 309 Lok Adalats have been held. In the year 2015, 306 legal awareness camps were organized in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and till July 2016, 301 camps have already been organized.

Jammu and Kashmir State Judicial Academy holds the rare distinction of being one of the oldest judicial academies in India which first started functioning in the year 1973 as Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Officers' Training Institute, under the leadership of great visionary, Hon'ble the then Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, Sh. Murtaza Fazal Ali. Apart from 'induction training' courses, workshops and refresher courses are organised by the academy from time to time. Jammu and Kashmir State Judicial Academy is functioning in two capital cities of the State, that is, at Jammu and at Srinagar, as it moves with the main wing of the High Court.

In the year 2015, State Judicial Academy organized as many as 46 training programmes both at Jammu and Srinagar. The Judicial Officers, public prosecutors, police officers, labour officers, and staff of the High Court and the Subordinate Courts were imparted training on various subjects. The academy has conducted as many as 17 programmes in the year 2016 and refresher courses were organized particularly for Civil Judges (Senior and Junior Divisions) and staff of Subordinate Courts on various subjects of law. Two province level conferences of Judicial Officers were also conducted in 2016 at Jammu and Srinagar, respectively. The academy has prepared a calendar for 2016 by virtue of which 23 training programmes on various subjects are proposed to be organized not only for Judicial Officers of the State, but also, for the High Court staff, staff of the Subordinate Courts, police officers, public prosecutors, and Advocates as was also resolved in the Chief Justice's Conference.

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir has taken a number of judicial reforms of far reaching consequences which are mainly aimed at cutting delays, improving delivery of judicial services, and strengthening infrastructure. The measures include giving additional incentives to Judicial Officers for disposal of cases older than five years within three months; categorisation of cases into different tracks with each track assigned a particular time period for disposal of the case falling in the track, mechanism for Court management put in place; and weekly work done statements called from Subordinate Courts to ensure speedy reduction of old cases and to effectively monitor the working of these Courts.

Technological Accomplishments

At present, List of Business Information System (LOBIS) is running at both wings of the High Court



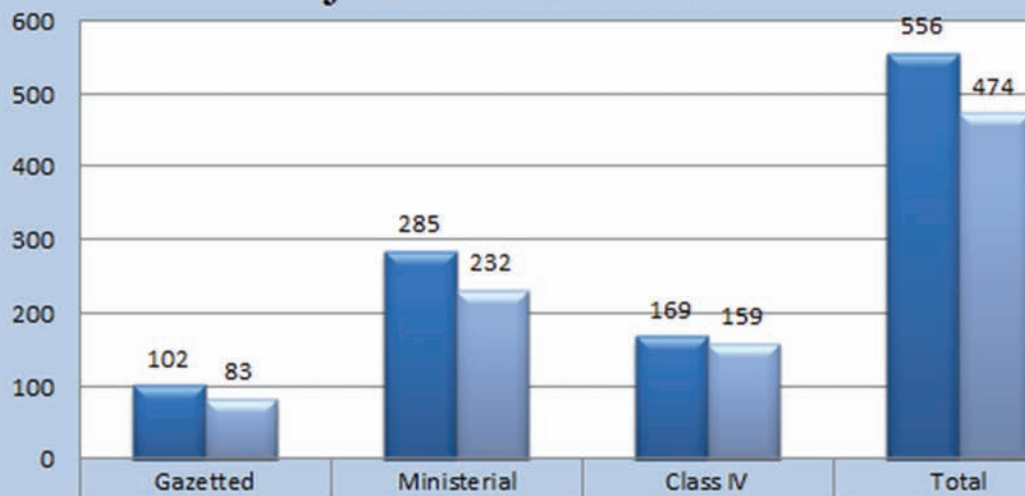
Chief Justice's Court at Srinagar

of Jammu and Kashmir. Case Information System (CIS) Core 1.0 which has been developed by the NIC Pune and rolled out by the e-Committee Supreme Court of India will be implemented in the High Court shortly.

The computer applications/modules that have been developed by the technical team of the

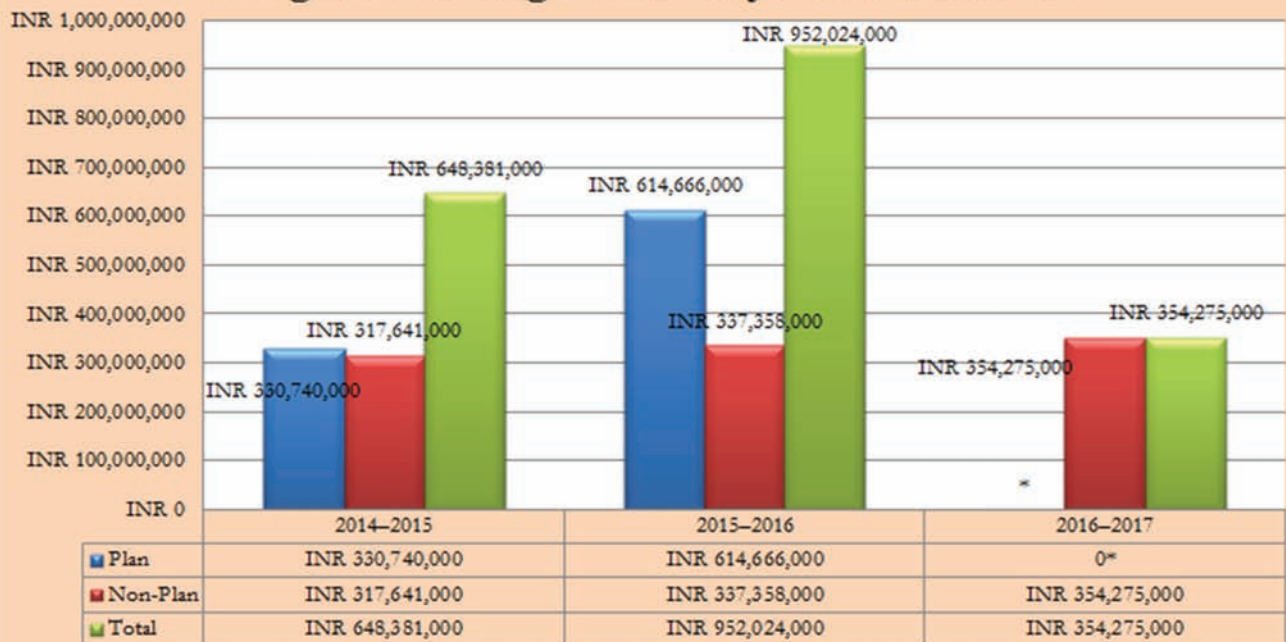
High Court include accounting module; personal information system module; collection and collation of statistical data module; certified copy management module, and statement module whereby monthly statements from District Courts are uploaded online. Video Conference equipment has been successfully installed at both the wings of the High Court.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir



Sanctioned Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	102	285	169	556
Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	83	232	159	474

Budget of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir



*Till date no budget was received in the High Court under the plan head.

High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	38,089	8,931	8,711	38,309
Company matters	10	7	1	16
Contempt (civil)	5,620	1,552	818	6,354
Review (civil)	309	108	160	257
Matrimonial matters	88	70	138	20
Arbitration matters	271	70	30	311
Civil revisions	332	81	121	292
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	794	111	182	723
Civil appeals	2,055	657	836	1,876
Land acquisition matters	483	20	55	448
MACT matters	3,230	384	356	3,258
Civil suits (original side)	1	0	0	1
Other than above	62,275	14,608	12,872	64,011
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal revisions	313	137	62	388
Bail applications	163	215	177	201
Criminal appeals	1,172	126	55	1,243
Death sentence reference	69	11	26	54
Contempt (criminal)	20	4	5	19
Miscellaneous criminal applications	2,669	1,149	653	3,165
Other than above	5,783	2,337	990	7,130

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	17
Working strength of Judges	9
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	9 (02.01.2016 to 30.06.2016)
Highest	10 (01.07.2015 to 01.01.2016)
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	3,782

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	44,661	34,466	31,047	48,080
Criminal	76,605	122,661	105,436	93,830
Total	121,266	157,127	136,483	141,910

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

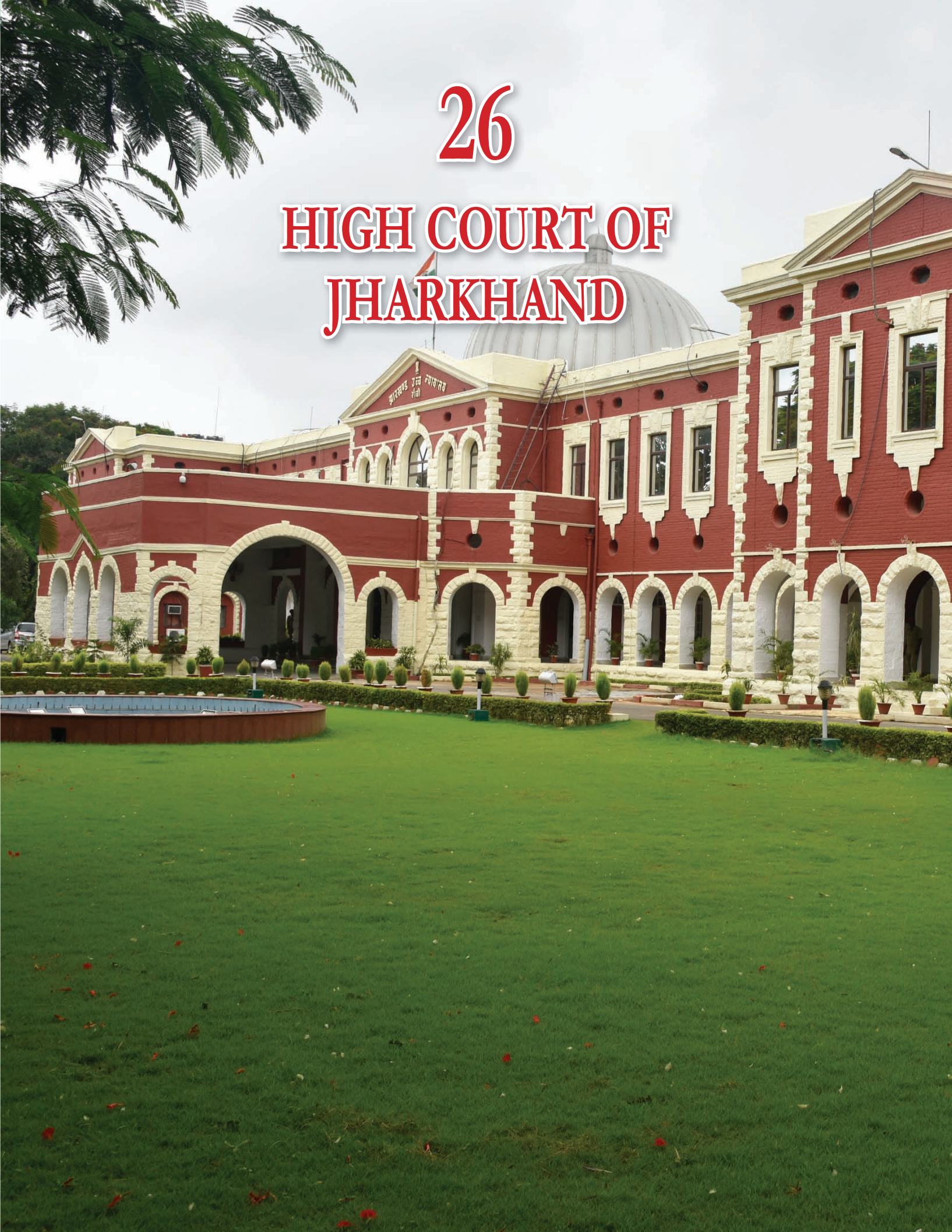
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
245	219	26

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	1,959
Criminal	2,538
Total	4,497

26

HIGH COURT OF
JHARKHAND



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Jharkhand*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Virender Singh, Chief Justice	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. K. Mohanty	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pramath Patnaik
Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. N. Patel	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Chandra Mishra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Nath Verma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dhruv Narayan Upadhyay	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ratnaker Bhengra
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aparesk Kumar Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ananda Sen
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandrashekhar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anant Bijay Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amitav Kumar Gupta	
*As on 30 June 2016.	

Brief Introduction

A Circuit Bench of the Patna High Court was established at Ranchi on 6 March 1972 in terms of Clause 36 of the Letters Patent of the High Court of Judicature at Patna. Since the functioning of the Circuit Bench was causing considerable difficulties besides incurring heavy expenditures, and as the reasons for the establishment of a Bench at Ranchi continued to exist, the Government of Bihar was very keen that the Bench should be made permanent.

By dint of promulgation of the Bihar Re-organization Act, 2000, a new State was formed on and from the appointed day of 15 November 2000 to be known as the State of Jharkhand, and therefore, a separate High Court for the State of Jharkhand, referred to as the "High Court of Jharkhand", came into being.

With an initial sanctioned strength of 12 Judges (10 permanent and two additional), Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Kumar Gupta was appointed as the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Jharkhand. The strength of Presiding Judges was last increased to 25 (19 permanent and six additional) in 2014. However, the current working strength is still 14 including the Chief Justice.

Ever since the inception of the High Court of Jharkhand in the year 2000, all the official activities continued in the modest building formerly designated as the Circuit Bench for Patna High Court. Recognizing the need for space and modern amenities to keep up with the ever-increasing workload and staff, construction of a new High Court building is in process. The estimated cost of the project is approximately 460 crores and covers a total site area of 165 acres, which will comprise of an eco-friendly Court complex stretching across 69 acres. The rest of the area is reserved for a residential campus, green belt zone, and allied infrastructure.

The territorial jurisdiction of High Court of Jharkhand extends over Bokaro, Chatra, Deogarh, Dhanbad, Dumka, Garhwa, Giridih, Godda, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Koderma, Lohardaga, Pakur, Palamau, Ranchi, Sahebganj, Singhbhum (East), and Singhbhum (West) districts which are legally administered with the aid of 24 District Courts and five sub-divisional Courts. The disputes are adjudicated with the additional help of special Courts such as Exclusive Vigilance Courts, CBI Courts, Juvenile Justice Boards, Negotiable Instrument Courts, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Courts, etc.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

Jharkhand Legal Services Authority (JHALSA) and District Legal Services Authorities are playing a tremendous, multidimensional role towards access to justice. A total of 901 mobile Lok Adalats and 1021 mobile awareness camps were organized from 2013 to 2016 to resolve as many disputes as possible through mediation. Increasing awareness has hiked the success rate of mediation from 31% in 2013 to 49% in 2016 largely reducing fresh filing of cases in the Courts as well as lessening the burden of pending cases.

The Judicial Academy of Jharkhand was established in January 2002, and was set up in a part of the building of Administrative Training Institute, Ranchi. A new campus with widespread facilities constituting an elaborate administrative and academic block became operational on 10 October 2015 which empowered the academy to accommodate numerous induction, refresher, and foundation training programs while upholding its initiatives in research. The academy is presently conducting a “*Study on major bottlenecks on procedural laws affecting expeditious conclusions of criminal trials and measures needed to remove such bottlenecks*” sponsored by the Ministry of Justice, Government of India, in collaboration with a research team of National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi.

In alliance with India Post, a special speed-post service was launched for the delivery of notices/summons issued by the High Court of Jharkhand. The documents of the High Court are tracked and filed separately for greater procedural ease.

Process re-engineering was enforced in the domains of electronic evidence, life cycle of cases, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system and Information and Communication Technology.

Technological Accomplishments

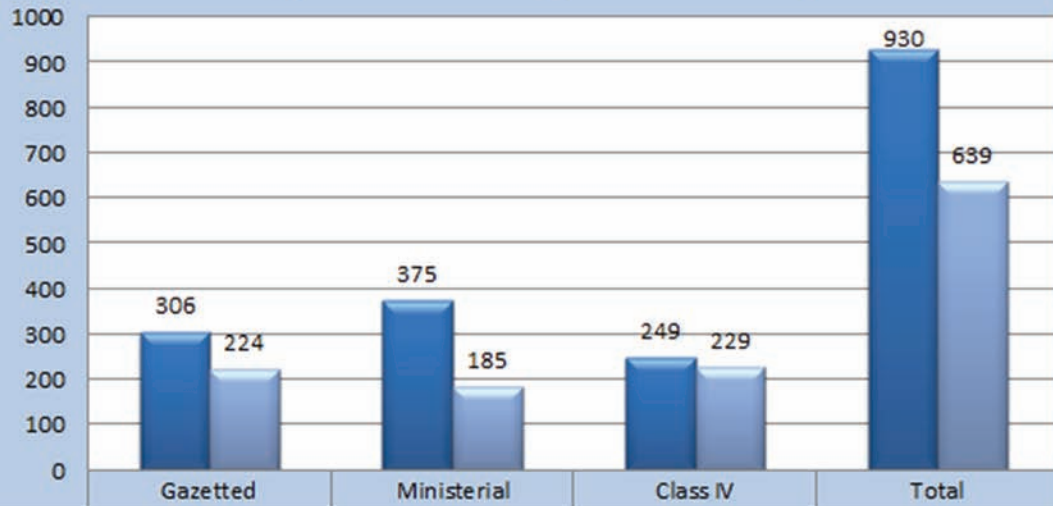
The set-up of essential infrastructure to facilitate networking, data centre, and e-Court rooms concluded during the past year in accordance with the e-Courts project. The computer hardware supplied to the High Court of Jharkhand under the “ICT Upgradation of the High Court” was installed, through which LAN connectivity has been established in various sections, courtrooms, and Registry of the High Court for accomplishing the judicial tasks of Court proceedings of the Court. For providing high speed internet connectivity, leased line connection of 4 Mbps has been provided by the National Information Centre (NIC) through optical fibre.

The computer hardware items are being maintained through annual maintenance contract from the fund received to sustain the e-Courts Project from the State Government. It has been provisioned to provide connectivity to various sections and offices of the High Court and the IP addresses are maintained by the National Informatics Center, Ranchi.

The new CIS application software was also implemented for centralised filing, cause list preparation and releasing certified copies of orders and judgments made by the High Court. Scanning, digitising, storage, integrated retrieval of case files maintained at the High Court consisting of approximately 3.60 crore pages of A4/Legal size is on-going, and at present, approximately 1.46 crore pages of total 78,617 case records have been digitized by M/s ICONMA.

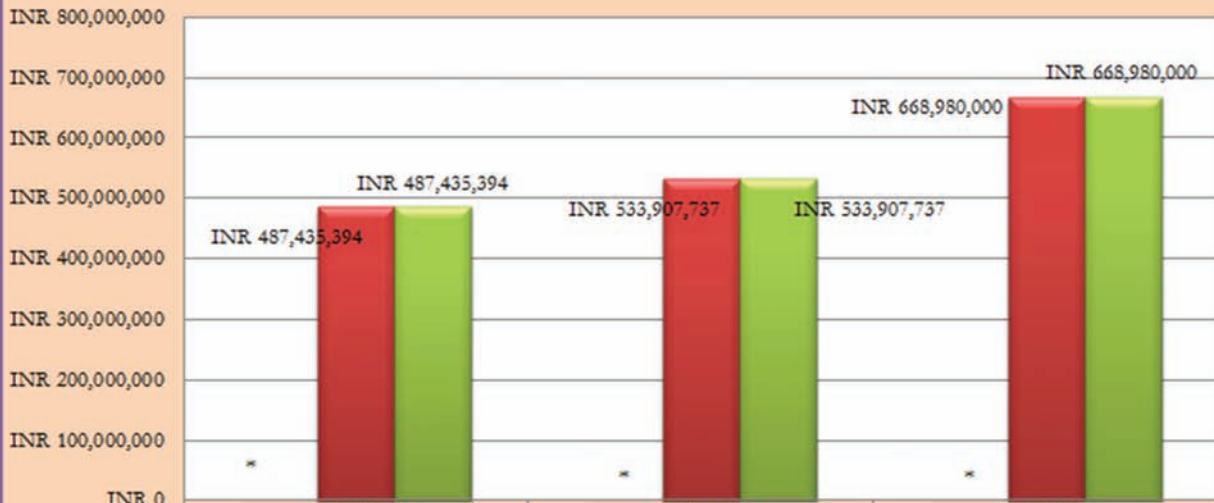
Three help desks are functioning in the High Court premises to provide printed copies of orders/judgments to the litigants and Advocates. The SMS services and online display board to provide information regarding cases presently being presided upon in the High Court is also running successfully.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Jharkhand



Sanctioned Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	306	375	249	930
Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	224	185	229	639

Budget of the High Court of Jharkhand



Plan	INR 0	INR 0	INR 0
Non-Plan	INR 487,435,394	INR 533,907,737	INR 668,980,000
Total	INR 487,435,394	INR 533,907,737	INR 668,980,000

*Budget under the plan head is not available.

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	28,680	6,981	6,589	29,072
Company matters	14	6	2	18
Contempt (civil)	2,123	924	1,760	1,287
Review (civil)	347	76	149	274
Matrimonial matters	0	0	0	0
Arbitration matters	172	47	46	173
Civil revisions	169	66	17	218
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	318	25	115	228
Civil appeals	83	16	6	93
Land acquisition matters	0	0	0	0
MACT matters	0	0	0	0
Civil suits (original side)	2	0	0	2
Other than above	0	0	0	0
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	979	562	742	799
Criminal revisions	6,077	1,609	861	6,825
Bail applications	2,324	11,341	11,648	2,017
Criminal appeals	16,772	1,222	500	17,494
Death sentence reference	6	1	0	7
Contempt (criminal)	20	6	4	22
Miscellaneous criminal applications	9,767	2,785	2,092	10,460
Other than above	0	0	0	0

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	25
Working strength of Judges	14
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	12
Highest	15
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	13,299

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	66,038	18,179	18,855	65,058
Criminal	250,493	105,832	87,021	269,551
Total	316,531	124,011	105,876	334,609

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
671	457	214

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	3,776
Criminal	6,037
Total	9,813

27

HIGH COURT OF
KARNATAKA



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Karnataka*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. K. Mukherjee, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. M. Patel	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vineet Kothari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Manohar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. M. Mallikarjunagouda	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. S. Bopanna	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rathnakala
Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. G. Ramesh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. N. Venugopala Gowda	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. B. Budihal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. A. Nazeer	Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. Narayana Swamy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. N. Murthy Phaneendra
Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. Billappa	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath	Hon'ble Ms. Justice S. Sujatha
Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. B. Sanganagouda	Hon'ble Ms. Justice B. V. Nagarathna	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Byrareddy Veerapa
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anand Byrareddy	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Sreenivase Gowda	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Narendar G.
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok B. Hinchigeri	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. N. Satyanarayana	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. S. Dinesh Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. S. Chauhan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar	

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

The administration of justice in erstwhile Mysore Princely State graduated from the locally confined *Sadar Munsiff* to Judges of the *Huzur Adalath*, and then to the Judicial Commissioner of Mysore in 1856. The post was re-designated in 1881 as the Chief Judge, while the Court was renamed as the Chief Court of Mysore under Chief Court Regulation (1) of 1884, which was passed under Mysore Act of 1884 by Krishnaraja Wodeyar III on 28 May 1884. The first Indian to be appointed as the Chief Judge was Rajadharma Pravina Sri. T. R. A. Thamboo Chetty, in 1885.

A resolution was tabled at the meeting of Legislative Council in December 1928 proposing that the Chief Court may be designated as “The High Court of Judicature at Mysore”. The Bill was introduced, and after discussion, a final note was

submitted by the Dewan of Mysore, Sir Mirza M. Ismail to Krishnaraja Wodeyar III, who approved the change as “High Court of Mysore” by his order dated 30 January 1929. Since then, High Court of Mysore exercised its jurisdiction over the former Princely State of Mysore and was continued as a High Court of Part-B State of Mysore till 26 January 1950. Thereafter, on the re-organization of States, in the year 1956, High Court of Mysore extended its jurisdiction to the entire State of Mysore which was re-named as State of Karnataka, with effect from 1 November 1973.

The number of Judges was fixed at a minimum number of three, under the Mysore Chief Court Regulation of 1884, which was gradually increased over a period of time. Presently, the sanctioned strength is 62, but the working strength is only 27.

The High Court building at Bengaluru, called *Attara Kacheri*, has its own pristine glory. Literally, *Attara Kacheri* means “eighteen offices or departments”, which originally comprised of the general and revenue secretariat of the erstwhile Mysore State. The *Attara Kacheri* was re-named as High Court of Mysore, in the year 1929. The building has a unique history, which is that all the three organs of erstwhile Princely State of Mysore, namely, the executive, the legislature, and the Judiciary, were located here. Even after independence, the building continued to retain its character till Vidhana Soudha, the seat of the State legislature and State secretariat was built. 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. It covers an area of 1.95 lakh square feet. The new annexe of the *Attara Kacheri* was inaugurated in mid-1995, and from early 1996 onwards, Courts started functioning therein, except the Court of the Chief Justice, which is on the second floor of the *Attara Kacheri*, the existing building.

The Court has experienced changes in its jurisdiction. The Chief Court of Mysore was exercising both original and appellate civil jurisdiction

from 1884 to 1891. From 1891 to 1897–1898, it exercised only appellate jurisdiction on the civil side. Its original jurisdiction was restored and it exercised such jurisdiction from 1898–1899 to 1901–1902, but in 1908, the Sessions Court, Bangalore division, was abolished. The Chief Court was invested with original criminal jurisdiction over the said division. On re-organization of Karnataka State, all the distinct territorial jurisdictions namely, erstwhile Mysore State, Bombay–Karnatak area, and Hyderabad–Karnatak area along with the coastal areas of Karnataka [Mangaluru region], and Coorg (Kodagu) were merged to form Mysore State, which was renamed as Karnataka on 1 November 1973, and the High Court of Mysore was re-named as High Court of Karnataka, with effect from that date.

Recently, a decision was taken to set up a Circuit Bench at Dharwad. A contemporaneous decision was also taken to set up a Circuit Bench at Gulbarga (now Kalaburagi), that is, one in former Bombay–Karnatak region and the other in Hyderabad–Karnatak region. The Circuit Benches were made Permanent Benches in the year 2013. The High Court at Bengaluru is now called as the Principal Bench of the High Court of Karnataka.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority has been conducting Lok Adalats and creating legal awareness through legal literacy programmes. Lok Adalats are held regularly for settlement of cases pending before the Courts as also for pre-litigation cases. During the year 2015–2016, 369,844 cases pending before the Courts have been settled and 3,913,273 pre-litigation cases have been settled. Between April 2015 and March 2016, 7708 cases have been settled before the Permanent Lok Adalats. From April 2016 till the end of August 2016, cases settled were 2,585.

Legal literacy camps have been conducted in the State during the period from April 2015 to August 2016. During this period, 10,354 legal literacy

programmes have been organized wherein 14,271 lectures were delivered. In total, 5,150 persons have been extended legal aid by the authority from April 2015 to August 2016. 73,392 persons have been given free legal advice during the period August 2015 to August 2016.

The number of cases mediated by Bangalore Mediation Centre (BMC) in 2015–2016 is 7,747, and cases settled are 4,561. During the period 2015–2016, the BMC has carried out important programmes, such as, Mediation Training Programme; State-level workshop on mediation was conducted on 27 February 2016 for 417 mediators; and one day Orientation Programme was conducted zone-wise from February to April 2016. Mediation centres are functioning in



Judges' Library, High Court of Karnataka

28 districts and in Taluk headquarters in the State, and they are being monitored by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. The first issue of the newsletter of BMC, 'Sandhana', was released by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka, Mr. Justice Subhro Kamal Mukherjee on 31 August 2016 at Bengaluru.

The High Court of Karnataka has also taken the initiative to establish an arbitration centre at Bengaluru. Between June 2013 and August 2016, the total number of cases referred to arbitration centre is 465. The total number of cases instituted as arbitration cases is 397. Of the aforesaid cases, 178 disputes have been adjudicated upon by passing final awards. There have been 13 pre-arbitration settlements and 44 awards by way of settlement. As of now, there are 143 arbitration proceedings pending.

Karnataka Judicial Academy has conducted several programmes and courses during the period from 2015-2016. The academy has been training newly recruited District Judges and Civil Judges by way of induction courses, and it has conducted continuing education programmes for District Judges, foundation courses for recently promoted District Judges, and for newly promoted Senior Civil Judges. In addition, training programmes have been held for the staff of the High Court, law officers, and administrative officers of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation. Workshops on

violence against marginalized women; Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences; human trafficking and bonded labour; The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; Child Access and Custody Guidelines; Mediation training to Referral Judges; Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Access and Benefit Sharing Mechanism; and delay in disposal of cases of domestic violence against women-causes and solution, have been conducted.

Technological Accomplishments

Under the directions of the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, "National Core Version of Case Information System", (CIS NC2.0) is implemented in Karnataka State. The following websites and systems are in operation, namely Government of India Guidelines for Website (GIGW) compliant official website; High Court Document Management System; Android App-High Court - Case Management; High Court Library with a separate web-page giving information of about 107,351 catalogue/records; in-house developed web applications for Online Recruitment Management System; Online Examination System; Human Resource Management System; e-Greetings; and Telephone Directory.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives in District Judiciary include- District Court website and National Judicial Data Grid Portal (NJDG); SMS services for Advocates/litigants; citizen centric services; 5.05 million judgments/orders/depositions upload to NJDG Portal in 182 Court complexes; Karnataka Judiciary Document Management System (KJDMS); police IT integration with CIS; and e-Newsletter.

The other facilities provided to litigant public are online filing of cases before The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT); Video Conference facility from District Courts to central prison, district prison, and prison for women.

The future plans are of providing certified copies of judgments and orders of the High Court of Karnataka at District/Taluka Courts to the public

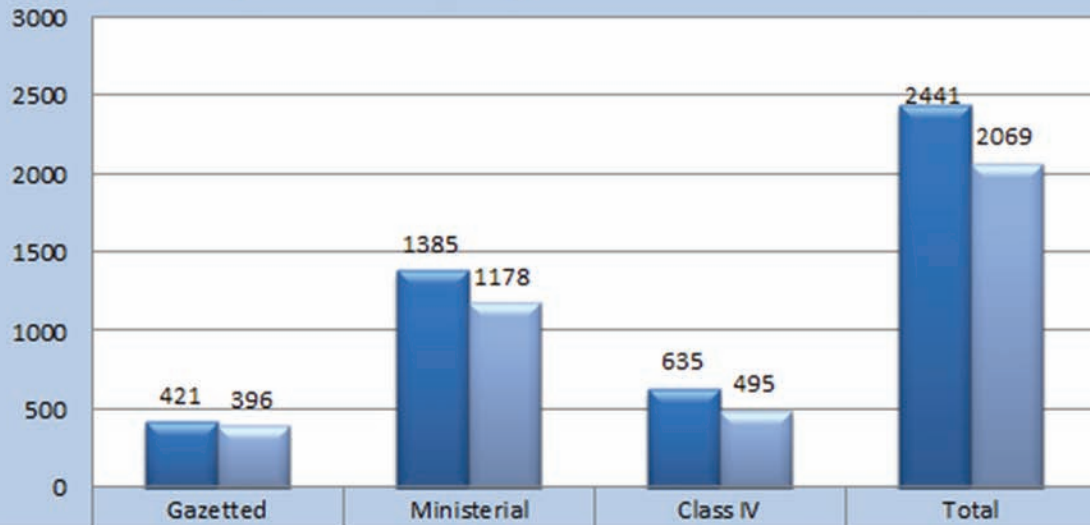


Aerial view of High Court of Karnataka

litigant; making available certified copies to litigants at multiple locations, that is, “Any Court Anywhere” basis; implementation of ICMS (Integrated Court Management System) at High Court; preparation of Paper Book using Karnataka Judiciary Document Management System (KJDMS) web application;

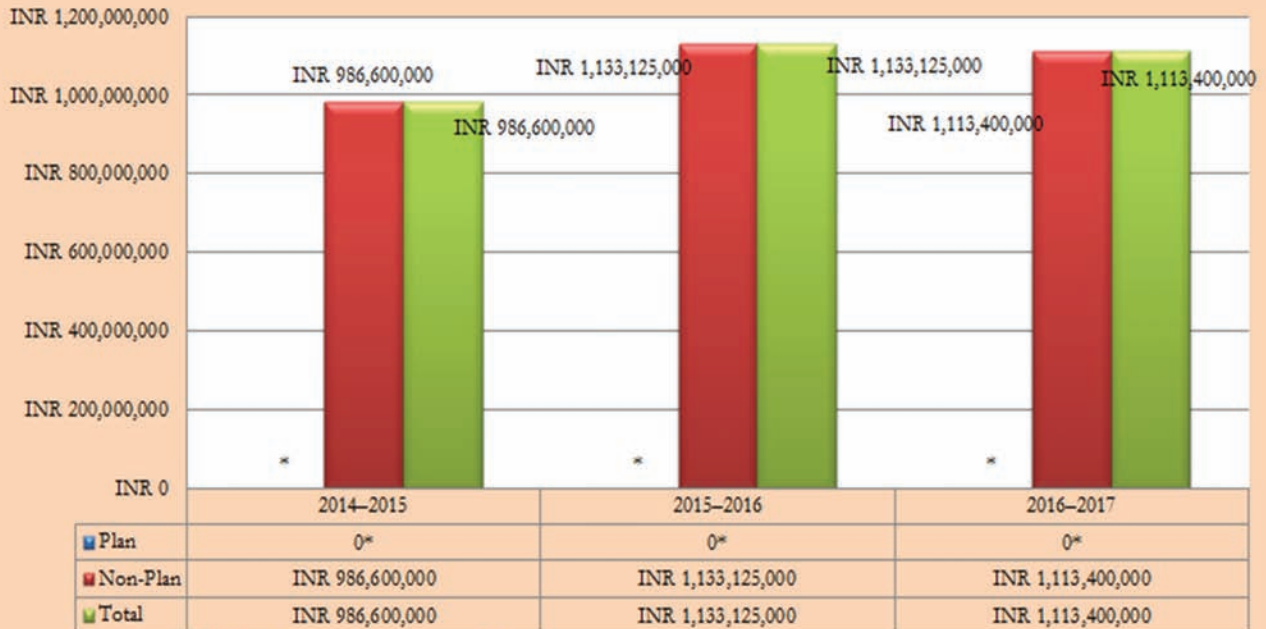
information kiosks in all prisons in the State; Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) facility in all prisons of the State; and Video Conference facility to 293 Court halls across the State where there are more than three custody cases presently pending.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Karnataka



Sanctioned Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	421	1385	635	2441
Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	396	1178	495	2069

Budget of the High Court of Karnataka



*Budget under the plan head is not available.

High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	82,944	102,936	66,773	119,107
Company matters	1,849	1,772	1,002	2,619
Contempt (civil)	2,138	2,552	3,916	774
Review (civil)	3,040	2,176	2,817	2,399
Matrimonial matters	1,381	571	355	1,597
Arbitration matters	0	0	0	0
Civil revisions	1,741	1,852	1,189	2,404
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	4,237	2,047	3,050	3,234
Civil appeals	44,227	12,130	14,045	42,312
Land acquisition matters	2,285	793	658	2,420
MACT matters	46,360	12,287	11,979	46,668
Civil suits (original side)	11	1	2	10
Other than above	17,874	8,069	15,377	10,566
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	0	0	0	0
Criminal revisions	3,446	2,075	930	4,591
Bail applications	637	7,818	7,329	1,126
Criminal appeals	7,243	2,766	980	9,029
Death sentence reference	28	2	3	27
Contempt (criminal)	43	15	14	44
Miscellaneous criminal applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	6,707	5,329	4,454	7,582

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	62
Working strength of Judges	27
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	27
Highest	32
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	1,541

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	668,414	320,016	289,159	699,874
Criminal	582,400	898,528	850,157	632,142
Total	1,250,814	1,218,544	1,139,316	1,332,016

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

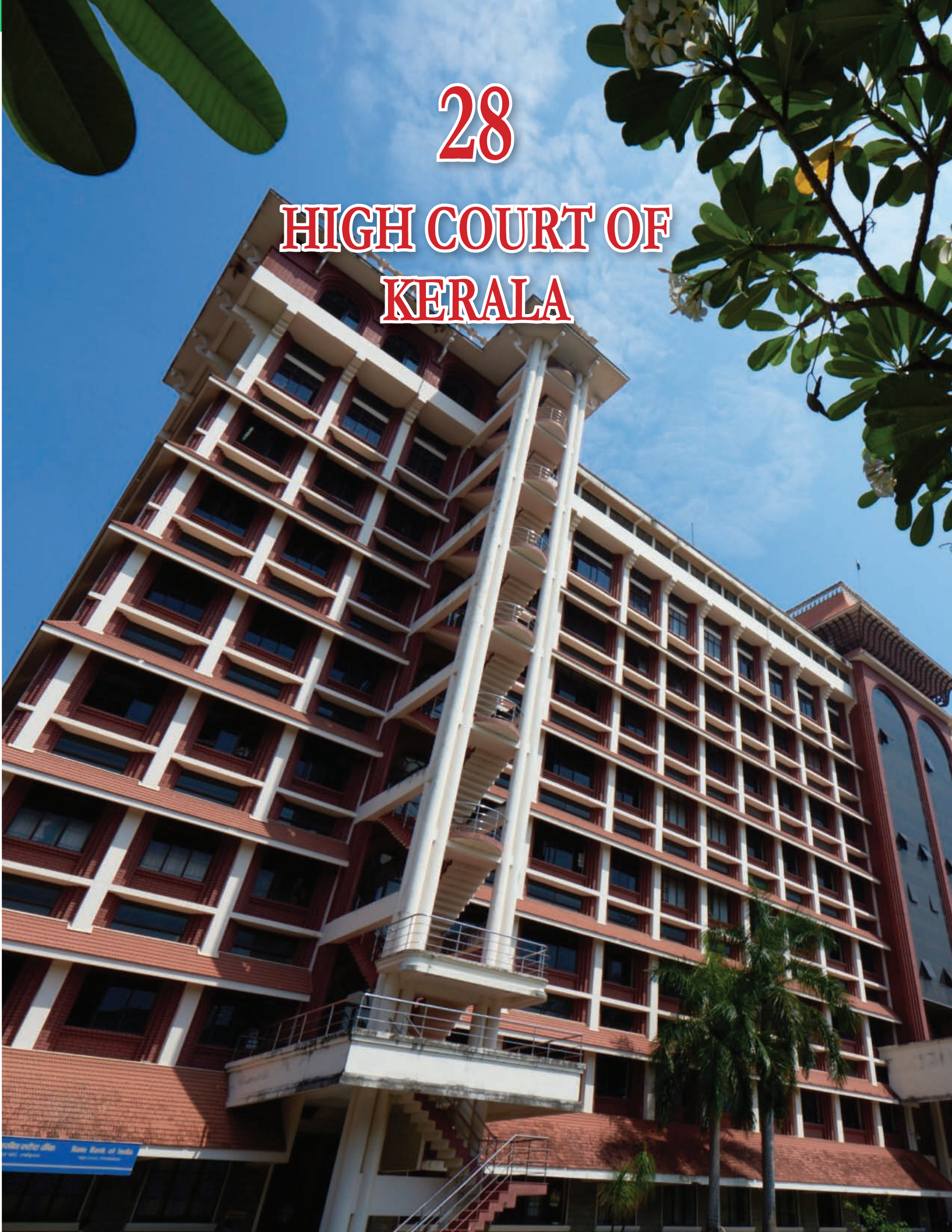
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1,294	927	367

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	11,505
Criminal	7,773
Total	19,278

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HIGH COURT OF
KERALA



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Kerala*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. B. N. Radhakrishnan, Acting Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. K. Thodiyil	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Babu Mathew P. Joseph	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil K. Narendran
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Antony Dominic	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. D. Rajan	Hon'ble Ms. Justice P. V. Asha
Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. N. Ravindran	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Ramakrishnan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. B. Suresh Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surendra Mohan Kuriakose	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Kemal Pasha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sunil Thomas
Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. R. Nair Ramachandra Menon	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Hariprasad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shaji P. Chaly
Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. K. Abdul Rehim	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. S. Naidu	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anu Sivaraman
Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. T. Ravikumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Ubaid	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan Valsala
Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Chitambaresh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Abraham Mathew	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. P. Sudheendra Kumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. M. Shaffique	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alexander Thomas	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. P. Jyothindranath
Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Harilal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Mumamed Mustaque	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Mary Joseph
Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Vinod Chandran	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Jayasankaran Nambiar	
*As on 30 June 2016.		

Brief Introduction

The High Court of Kerala came into being on 1 November 1956, with its seat at Ernakulam. In 1811, through a Regulation passed by Her Highness, the *Rani*, *Zilla* Courts were established, and in 1814, a *Huzur* Court (Court of Appeal) was also established. The *Huzur* Court was the final Court of Appeal. The Sadar Court replaced this Court of Appeal (*Huzur* Court) in 1861. The Sadar Court practically possessed all the powers which are now exercised by the High Court. It functioned from 1861 to 1881. The High Court of Travancore was established in 1887 with five Judges. The first Chief Justice of Travancore High Court was Mr. Ramachandra Iyer. The *Huzur* Court was

reconstituted as the Raja's Court of Appeal and sub-Courts were reconstituted as the *Zilla* Court. The *Zilla* Courts were given unlimited jurisdiction, but subject to confirmation by the Raja's Court of Appeal. It was in 1900 that the Raja's Court of Appeal was reconstituted as the Chief Court of Cochin with three permanent Judges, including Mr. S. Locke, Bar at Law as the first Chief Judge. Thereafter, during the Diwanship of Sri Shanmukham Chettiyar, the Chief Court became the High Court. On the integration of Travancore-Cochin State after independence on 1 July 1949, on the 7 July 1949, the High Court of Travancore-Cochin was inaugurated with its seat at Ernakulam.

Under the State Re-organisation Act, 1956, Travancore–Cochin State and Malabar were integrated to form the State of Kerala, on 1 November 1956. The High Court of Kerala was thus established. It inherited 3409 main cases from Travancore–Cochin High Court and 1504 cases from the High Court of Madras.

The present strength of permanent Judges in the High Court of Kerala is 26, whereas the sanctioned strength is of 35 Judges and there are seven Additional Judges as against the sanctioned strength of 12 Additional Judges.

The new nine storied High Court building, inaugurated on 11 February 2006, has a plinth area of 52,260 m² and consists of 12 blocks built around four courtyards leaving sufficient open space in between the blocks providing natural lighting and proper ventilation. There are 30 Court halls and 36 Judges' chambers in the new building. In the year 2016, the High Court renovated its auditorium so as to meet its increasing needs and to match up with modern standards.

The territorial jurisdiction of the High Court of Kerala extends to the entire State of Kerala and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

Various initiatives regarding Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism systems are being dealt with by three separate entities, viz., the Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KeLSA), the Kerala State Mediation and Conciliation Centre (KSMCC), and Kerala High Court Legal Services Committee. The programmes relating to ADR conducted during 2015–2016 include awareness programmes, one-to-one interactive programmes, and refresher courses in different parts of the State under the auspices of the District Mediation Centre. Regular legal aid clinic has been provided by the High Court Legal Services Committee and regular Adalats on all working Wednesdays and Thursdays. Besides that a National Lok Adalat is conducted on second Saturdays of every month.

A total number of 287,895 cases were settled in the National Lok Adalats and other Lok Adalats conducted throughout the State during the year 2015–2016, in which 234,698 cases were pending matters in Courts. In the year 2015, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) introduced a new monthly scheme for conducting National Lok Adalats on specified subjects. Accordingly, eight National Lok Adalats were conducted throughout the State during 2015–2016 on specified subjects. In December 2015, a mega National Lok Adalat was conducted on all topics. In the National Lok Adalats conducted during the year 2015–2016, total number of 225,492 cases were

settled involving an amount of Rs. 4,861,857,419/-. 2030 weekly Lok Adalats were conducted by District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs), and High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC) during 2015–2016. Thus, a total number of 62,403 cases were settled for a total sum of Rs. 132,922,627/-. The Lok Adalat vehicle has completed its tour in all the districts of the State during the year 2015. In total, 295 cases were settled by the mobile Adalat conducted throughout the State in the year 2015. At present, the services of Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs) are available in three regions in the State, namely, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, and Ernakulam. In 2015–2016, there were 809 sittings and 990 cases were settled.

During 2015–2016, a total number of 600 persons approached the High Court Legal Services Committee for legal aid. The Committee extended legal aid and appointed counsel for 519 applicants.

A televised version of Lok Adalat, '*Kathayallithu Jeevitham*' and '*Jeevitham Saksh*' is being telecasted on '*Amrita*' and '*Kairali*' television channels, respectively, with the support from KeLSA, to spread the message of peace and harmony in family through conciliation. '*Arivarangu*' — a special programme for children was arranged by DLSA, Kozhikode, for empowerment of children.

The Kerala Judicial Academy has always been very keen in ensuring quality training programmes. The year 2015–2016 was a significant one as there was a revamp



Chief Justice's Court, High Court of Kerala

of in-service training programmes. The programmes conducted by the Academy during 2015–2016 include induction training for *munsif*-magistrate trainees; in-service training for newly recruited District Judges; training for probation officers in association with the Department of Social Justice, Government of India; induction training for newly recruited and in-service training for principal counsellors of Family Courts; 'Training of Trainers' programme for Sub-Judges and *Munsif*-Magistrates to impart training to the staff of Subordinate Courts; training for District Government pleaders; training for Principal Magistrates of juvenile justice boards; colloquium on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for Sessions Judges; district level training programmes for Judicial Officers (seven programmes); and ASK (attitude, skill and knowledge) programmes for District Judges, Sub-Judges, Chief Judicial Magistrates, *Munsif*-Magistrates (eight programmes).

The High Court installed three portable oxygen concentrator device equipments on the fourth, sixth, and eighth floors of the building. The issue was addressed under Article 21 of the Constitution, to provide

appropriate support to the Advocates, Advocates' clerks, Court Staff, and litigants who visit the Courts as it was observed that there were many senior citizens among the Advocates and a large number of visitors who were facing the problem of breathlessness. An escalator (up to the fifth floor) has also been installed in the building.

In Subordinate Courts, drastic amendments to the Kerala Higher Judicial Service Rules, 1961 and the Kerala Judicial Services Rules, 1991 have been proposed and the same is pending consideration of the Government. All the subordinate Judicial Officers have been directed to ensure that the trial of mentally ill persons is expedited immediately on their being declared fit for trial.

Technological Accomplishments

The year 2015–2016 witnessed successful launching and implementation of multifarious initiatives.

In Phase I of the e-Courts project, 129 Court complexes consisting of 402 Courts in the State and three Courts in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep

were included. The Case Information System (CIS) software developed by NIC, CIS version 1.1, was installed in 436 Courts in the State. Migration of data from National Core version CIS 1.1 to National Core version CIS 2.0 is in progress. The data entry of backlog cases prior to 2010 has been completed in all the 14 Districts. The High Court is monitoring the data uploaded on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), by 455 Courts, on a daily basis.

A total of 339 Subordinate Courts in the State were included in the on-going phase II of the e-Courts project in the State. Steps have been initiated to identify 5% Court complexes in the State for generating electricity entirely through solar power projects as part of Phase II of e-Courts projects.

A touch screen kiosk has been set up at the inquiry counter of the High Court to give information on the case status, cause list and judgments. Judge-wise, Court-wise, and Advocate-wise cause list search is also made available through the website. The District Court website in Drupal template has been launched in all

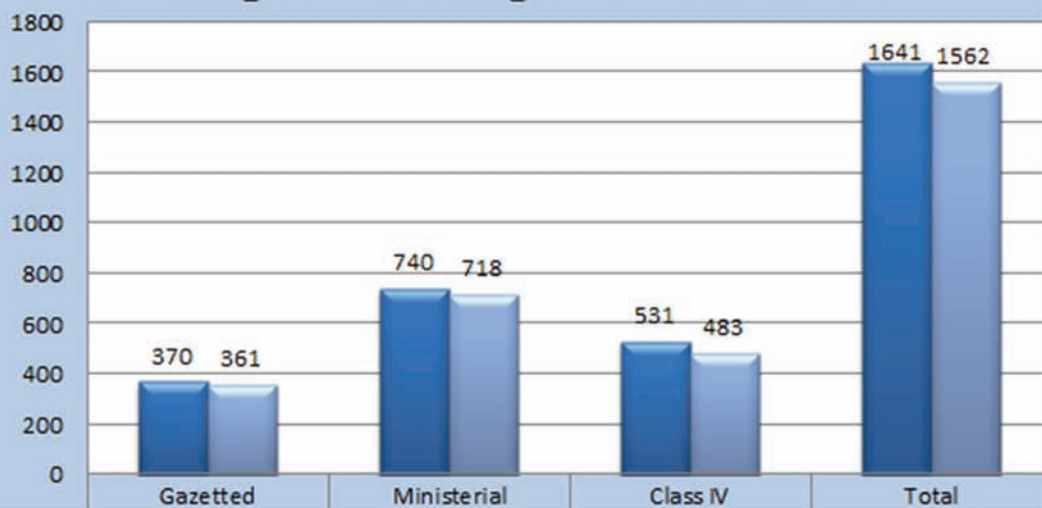
the 14 districts of the State and in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Training of Judicial Officers took place in UBUNTU, CIS, and other softwares. SMS Gateway is open for all 21 Court complexes in 13 districts across the State, except Kalpetta, where steps are being taken for implementation of SMS service. WAN connectivity is available through leased line, VPN over Broadband, and KSWAN connectivity in all Court centres is available.

Hardware-based Video Conferencing (VC) initiated by the State Government is functioning in three Court complexes in Thiruvananthapuram district at Thiruvananthapuram, Nedumangad, and Neyyattinkara. Installation of VC facility initiated by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India is completed in six District Courts and three district jails in the State and in the District Court, Kavaratti in Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Installation of VC facility in the district jail in Kozhikode and in two Courts and three jails in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is in progress.

Logo of High Court of Kerala

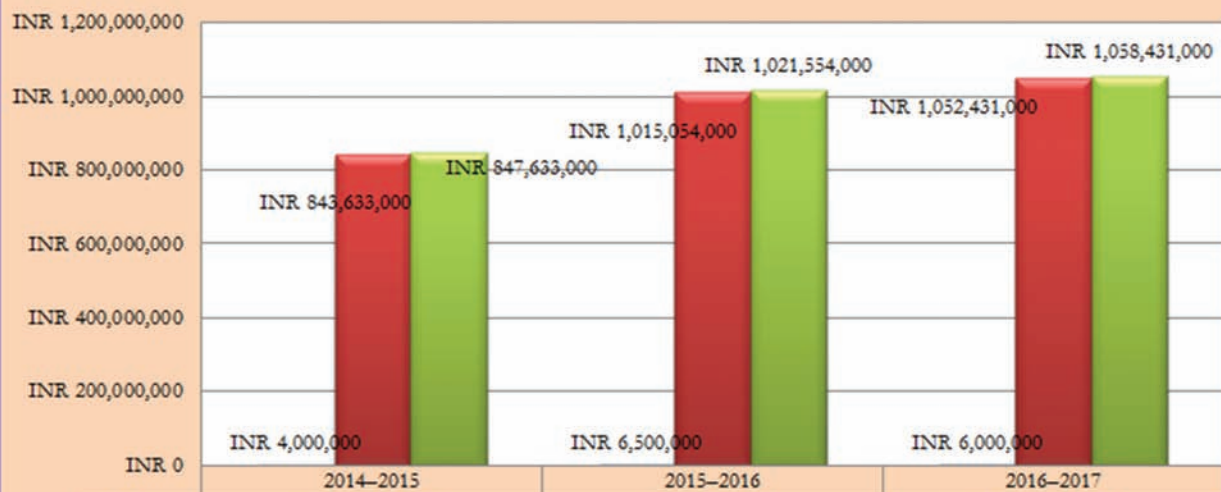


Staff Strength of the High Court of Kerala



Sanctioned Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	370	740	531	1641
Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	361	718	483	1562

Budget of the High Court of Kerala



Plan	INR 4,000,000	INR 6,500,000	INR 6,000,000
Non-Plan	INR 843,633,000	INR 1,015,054,000	INR 1,052,431,000
Total	INR 847,633,000	INR 1,021,554,000	INR 1,058,431,000

High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	57,358	48,168	46,548	58,978
Company matters	5,767	1,684	1,157	6,294
Contempt (civil)	1,686	2,029	1,624	2,091
Review (civil)	1,699	1,221	1,191	1,729
Matrimonial matters	4,942	1,415	404	5,953
Arbitration matters	389	152	80	461
Civil revisions	2,885	1,246	915	3,216
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	1,518	215	448	1,285
Civil appeals	23,286	5,332	4,804	23,814
Land acquisition matters	2,119	605	612	2,112
MACT matters	14,110	3,520	1,860	15,770
Civil suits (original side)	12	1	0	13
Other than above	3,015	1,898	2,063	2,850
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	54	480	483	51
Criminal revisions	13,738	2,418	3,514	12,642
Bail applications	882	9,532	9,527	887
Criminal appeals	17,780	1,333	1,950	17,163
Death sentence reference	10	3	0	13
Contempt (criminal)	1	2	1	2
Miscellaneous criminal applications	4,807	8,195	7,398	5,604
Other than above	136	575	587	124

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	47
Working strength of Judges	33
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	33
Highest	38
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old (as on 31.08.2016)	13,694

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	433,112	313,582	313,472	433,222
Criminal	951,249	1,048,508	967,575	1,032,182
Total	1,384,361	1,362,090	1,281,047	1,465,404

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

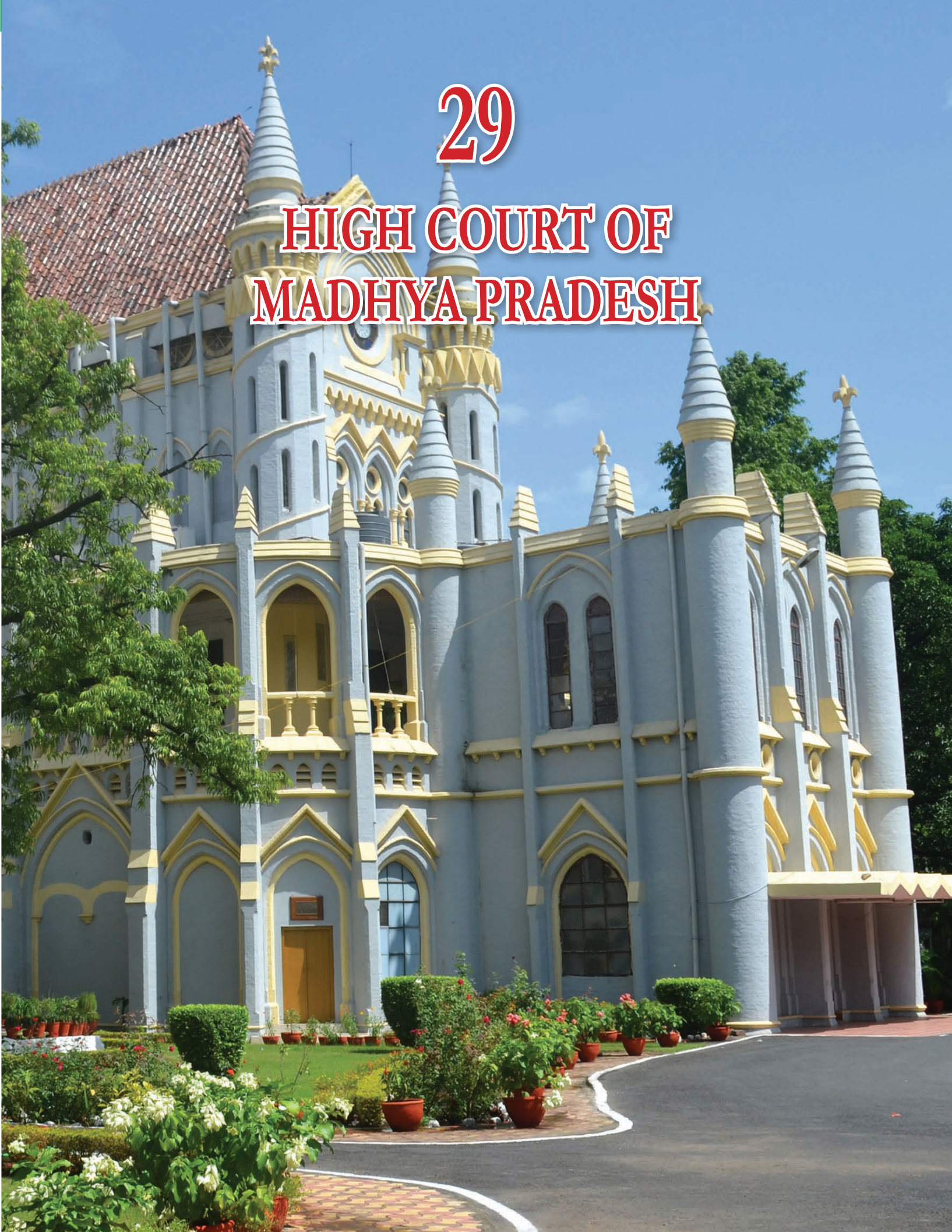
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
466	377	89

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	4,533
Criminal	1,988
Total	6,521

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**HIGH COURT OF
MADHYA PRADESH**



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Menon, Acting Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. K. Seth	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujoy Paul	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Atul Shreedharan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. K. Gangele	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. R. Kakade	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Agarwal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. K. Jaiswal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. K. Mudgal	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nandita Dubey
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Shankar Jha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. K. Paliwal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari
Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. K. Maheshwari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rohit Arya	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Rusia
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Yadav	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jarat Kumar Jain	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anand Pathak
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satish Chandra Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sushil Kumar Palo	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ved Prakash Sharma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prakash Srivastava	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Verma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jagdish Prasad Gupta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Aradhe	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Vandana Kasrekar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anurag Kumar Shrivastava
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Naresh Kumar Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Kumar Mahajan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Housla Prasad Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sheel Nagu	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandrahas Sirpurkar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok Kumar Joshi

*As on 30 June 2016.

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 Court was established by virtue of Letters Patent dated 2 January 1936 issued by King George V, under the Government of India Act, 1915. 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 and temporary Benches at Gwalior and Indore. By virtue of Presidential Order of 1976,

the temporary Benches at Gwalior and Indore were made permanent.

The present working strength of Judges is 34, whereas the sanctioned strength is of 53 Judges.

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 the cost of Rs. 3 lakhs. The building is constructed in brick-lime with ornamental towers and cornices. The architecture of the building is mixed baroque and oriental. This



Front view of Gwalior Bench, High Court of Madhya Pradesh

building was selected and approved for the Principal Seat of the High Court by Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Hidayatullah, the first Chief Justice of the new High Court of Madhya Pradesh. At present, a total of 25 courtrooms with chambers and six additional chambers are available at Principal Seat, Jabalpur, 13 courtrooms with chambers are available in Indore

Bench and 12 courtrooms with chambers are available in Gwalior Bench.

The jurisdiction of High Court of Madhya Pradesh comprises appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases and revisional jurisdiction in criminal cases.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

Various schemes have been prepared for providing momentum to the Mediation activities. Seven programmes of 40 hours of mediation training in 2015 were conducted by Madhya Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (MPSLSA) in which 201 Judicial Officers received intensive training of mediation. 42,698 matters/cases were referred during the year 2015, out of which mediation process has been completed in 36,890 cases. Out of processed cases, 12,691 cases have ended in settlement. Out of total trained Mediators, 11 Mediators have successfully mediated more than 50 cases. The MPSLSA has conducted five refresher programmes for Mediators, of two days duration, in which 193 trained Mediators

have undergone training. Two regional conferences (on 4 July 2015 and 25 July 2015) have been organized by the MPSLSA at Indore and Gwalior covering 13 and nine districts of the respective zone of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. There are 126 mediation centres working at High Court, District, Tehsil, and Family Court level.

New schemes introduced by NALSA and adopted by MPSLSA in the year 2015 include NALSA— Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Scheme, 2015; NALSA — Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector Scheme, 2015; NALSA — Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection Scheme, 2015; NALSA — Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and

Mentally Disabled Persons Scheme, 2015; NALSA — Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme, 2015; NALSA — Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights Scheme, 2015; and NALSA — Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace Scheme, 2015.

A society has been registered on 15 September 2015, under the Society Registration Act, 1973 titled, 'High Court of Madhya Pradesh Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society, 2015' [Registration No. 04/14/01/17579/15]. The society aims at providing free and competent legal services to the "citizen" belonging to middle income group having a gross income not exceeding Rs. 75,000/- per month or Rs. 900,000/- per annum.

The Madhya Pradesh State Judicial Academy, which is working under the administration of the High Court, serves to educate, train, and groom members of District Judiciary. In all, 41 programmes were conducted by the academy in the year 2015 including induction, foundation/orientation training programme, and refresher courses for newly appointed and other Judges of all cadres. The specialized

programmes organized during the year 2015 include workshop for Special Judges working under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988; regional conference on effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000, in collaboration with UNICEF at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, for six States namely, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Delhi; regional workshops at Jabalpur, Indore, and Gwalior on Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000, in which all the duty holders and high ranking officers from Police and Department of Women Empowerment, Government of Madhya Pradesh, interacted with the participants along with the officer of the academy; workshop on key issues and challenges under NDPS Act 1985; and six workshops on professionalism at workplace for the Registry officers, Judicial Officers from the District and Sessions Court at Jabalpur, and employees on different dates and 195 officers and employees were benefitted by this programme. Three workshops were organized by State Judicial Academy (SJA) for Advocates, so as to motivate them to join the judicial service in which 200 Advocates have been benefitted; four yoga training programmes were



High Court of Madhya Pradesh — Indore Bench

organized for Registry officers, Judicial Officers as well as employees of the High Court; and a specialised tailor-made programme in judicial management was conducted at IIM, Indore, for 20 Judicial Officers

A 'Crèche' at High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur, was made operational on 4 January 2016. The Crèche is equipped with basic first aid kit, primary cooking facilities, safe and regular drinking water supply, proper sanitation, cradle, toys, and other entertainment equipments such as television games and cartoons, etc. A comprehensive scheme for felicitation of meritorious wards/children of the official/employees was formulated for the welfare of employees of the High Court/Subordinate Courts.

The State of Madhya Pradesh has framed a scheme titled as 'Madhya Pradesh Crime Victim Compensation Scheme, 2015,' and allotted Rs. 9.54 crores for granting of compensation to the victim affected by the crimes.

Technological Accomplishments

Digital display system for display of case status at High Court, Jabalpur, and its Benches at Indore and Gwalior has been installed. Bilingual official website of the High Court has been developed. The facility of e-Filing has been started on trial basis from 11 January 2016 to familiarize the stakeholders.

Digitization of about 16.64 lakhs files comprising of 6.62 crore pages has been completed. This is prelude to making paperless Court (e-Courts). Scanning of about 203,886 files comprising of more than two crore pages has been achieved in the year 2015. The digitization of 2118 law books comprising of about 17 lakh pages was also completed which is a step towards making e-Library of the High Court.

Online right to information software has been developed. Installation of touch-screen kiosk with printing facilities and installation of dedicated MPLS

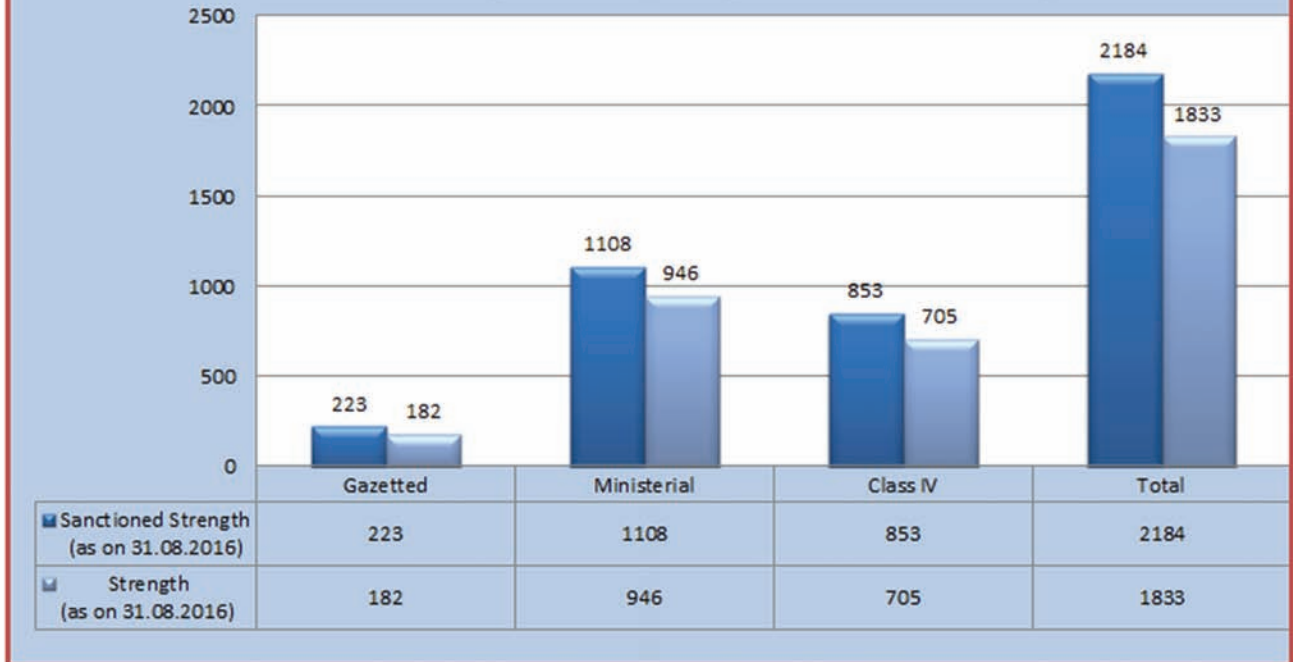
network for Judiciary which connects all the Districts Courts of Madhya Pradesh with high speed dedicated network has been completed. Personal Information System (PIS) for Judicial Officers in the State has been prepared. Employees Information System (EIS) for High Court employees; Radio Frequency Identification System (RFID)-based Asset Tracking and Inventory Management System, and Biometric-based Attendance and Monitoring System have been installed.

A state-of-the-art data centre has been developed in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur, to take care of issues related to data replication, data security, and mirroring of data. IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System) for status of cases; computerized vehicle management system, and a centralized portal having the details of all the District and Taluka Courts showing status of Cause List, judgment, and order, etc. has been developed. 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 High Court and District Courts.

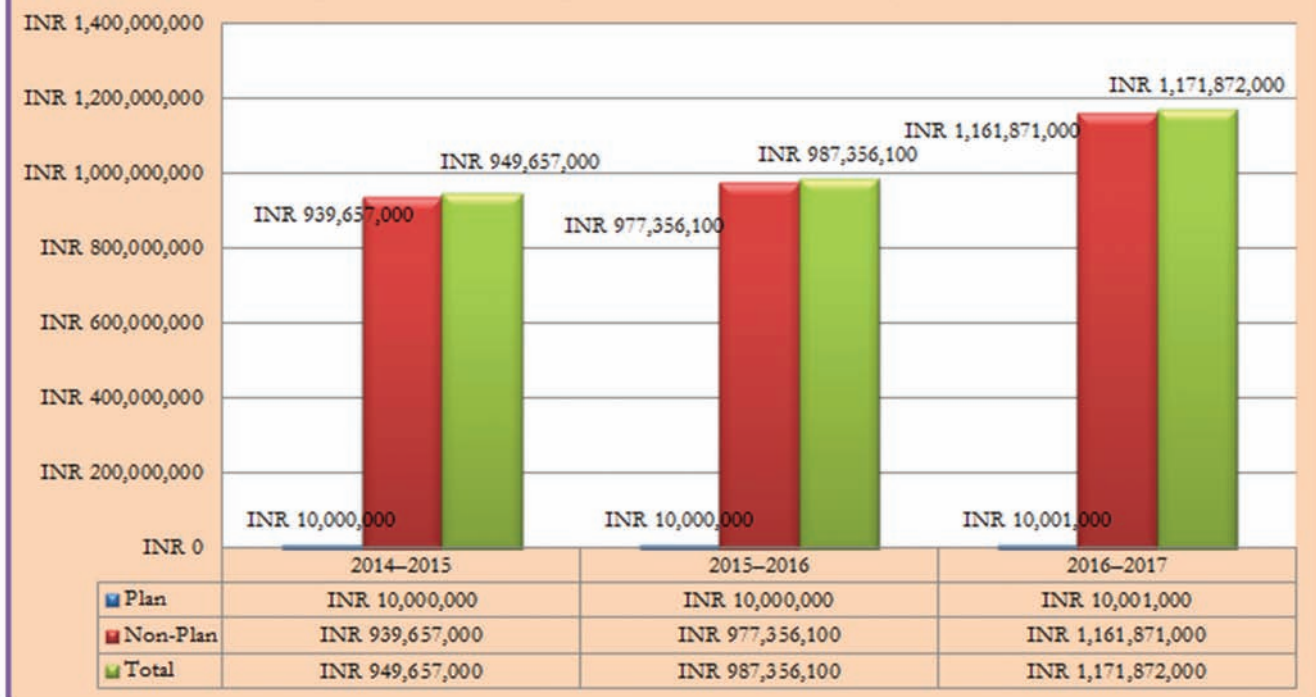
Video conferencing facility has been established providing connectivity of the High Court with all the 50 District Court headquarters and 150 out of 154 taluka Court headquarters. All the District Court complexes have also been connected through video conferencing with central jails, district jails, or sub-jail facilitating transaction of judicial business as regards judicial remand etc.

To address the issue related to security at the Principal Seat Jabalpur and its Benches at Gwalior and Indore, a Hi-tech security plan was envisaged. The State Government sanctioned an amount of Rs. 16.60 crores for installation of the security infrastructure including CCTV Cameras, x-ray baggage scanners, multi-zone door metal detectors, and boom barriers.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh



Budget of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	72,913	40,963	36,389	77,487
Company matters	303	103	87	319
Contempt (civil)	6,465	5,029	3,407	8,087
Review (civil)	840	2,017	2,046	811
Matrimonial matters	2,308	802	611	2,499
Arbitration matters	620	247	267	600
Civil revisions	2,774	956	912	2,818
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	2,434	403	823	2,014
Civil appeals	43,811	6,366	4,549	45,628
Land acquisition matters	4,502	1,536	1,141	4,897
MACT matters	25,793	5,710	4,116	27,387
Civil suits (original side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	4,587	7,448	7,885	4,150
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	688	1,168	1,051	805
Criminal revisions	18,965	6,824	4,071	21,718
Bail applications	4,142	40,964	42,366	2,740
Criminal appeals	60,249	6,748	1,198	65,799
Death sentence reference	7	12	12	7
Contempt (criminal)	32	8	9	31
Miscellaneous criminal applications	12,667	11,456	8,804	15,319
Other than above	3	2	2	3

Note: Pendency figures at the end of the period from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016 have been provided as on 01.07.2016 by the High Court.

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	53
Working strength of Judges	34
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	29 (from 10.01.2016 to 06.04.2016)
Highest	40 (from 07.04.2016 to 11.04.2016)
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	36,342

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	276,148	154,001	152,196	277,953
Criminal	930,481	1,005,799	976,528	959,752
Total	1,206,629	1,159,800	1,128,724	1,237,705

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

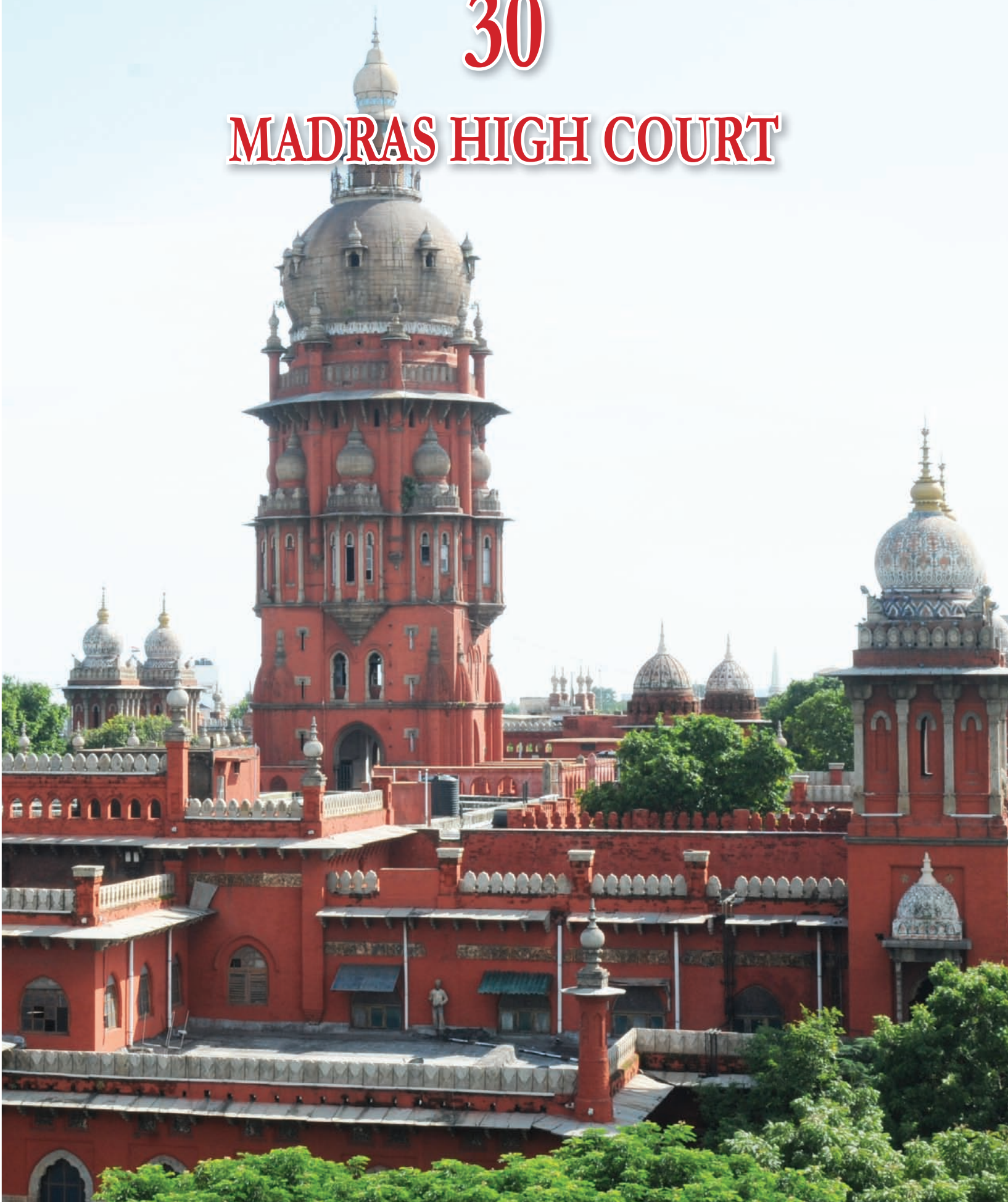
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1,461	1,259	202

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	6,451
Criminal	13,048
Total	19,499

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MADRAS HIGH COURT



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the Madras High Court*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. K. Kaul, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hluvadi G. Ramesh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.T. Selvam	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Kalyanasundaram
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Jaichandren	Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kirubakaran	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Vaidyanathan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Manikumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. M. Sundresh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Mahadevan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Selvam	Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Sivagnanam	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. Chockalingam
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nooty Ramamohana Rao	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Duraiswamy	Hon'ble Ms. Justice V. M. Velumani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Nagamuthu	Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Raja	Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Bharathidasan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Palanivelu	Hon'ble Ms. Justice R. Mala	Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. Krishnakumar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. K. Sasidharan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Mathivanan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. S. Sundar
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Venugopal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. Ravichandra Baabu	Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. V. Muralidaran
Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Subbiah	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Devadass	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ponnusamy Kalaiyaran
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Shakhder	Hon'ble Ms. Justice S. Vimala	Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Gokuldas
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. S. Sathyanarayanan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. N. Prakash	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. Rajendran	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana	

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

The Madras High Court is one of the three High Courts in India established in the Presidency towns of Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras by Her Majesty Queen Victoria. In pursuance of the authority given by the Indian High Courts Act of 1861, Her Majesty issued "Letters Patent" bearing the date, 26

June 1862, establishing a High Court of Judicature at Madras for the Presidency of Madras, along with High Courts at Calcutta and Bombay. The High Court of Judicature at Madras was constituted as a Court of Record, and it came into existence on the 15 August 1862. Sir Colley Harman Scotland became

its first Chief Justice and Adam Bittleston, Willam Ambrose Morehead, Thomas Lumisden Strange, Henry Dominic Phillips, and Hatley Frere became the puisne Judges.

A Letters Patent was issued in 1865, by which the High Court was to consist of a Chief Justice and not more than 15 regular Judges. The number of Judges was increased from time to time by various notifications. In 2009, the strength of Judges got increased to 45 and Additional Judges were increased to 15. The end of 2015 brought an increase in the strength of Judges and the sanctioned strength was increased to 75, whereas the present strength is only 38.

The Madras High Court came into existence in a building just opposite the Madras Harbour on the First Line Beach, which later became the Collectorate of Madras, and now known as *Singaravelar Maaligai*. The construction of the High Court buildings (in the present location at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Road, just north of Fort St. George) began in 1888 under the guidance of the famous Architect Henry Irwin and was completed at the cost of Rs. 1,298,163/-. It was inaugurated formally on 12 July 1892 by the then Governor of Madras, Baron Wenlock. The magnificent High Court complex housing the *Court of Small Causes* and the *City Civil Court* is an example of Indo-Saracenic architecture. The imposing structure of the red sand stone building which has withstood a sesquicentenary still looks spectacular. The red brickwork and granite, multi-coloured plaster work, minarets, mini-towers, and small Islamic domes present a breath-taking view for the visitors.

The High Court is housed in the old and annexe buildings— the old building was built in 1892 and the annexe was built during 1996. Both the buildings have 53 Judges' chambers, 37 Court halls, various sections on the judicial, administrative and technical sides, library, meeting and conference halls, National Informatics Centre, Museum, Office of the Advocate General, information centre, etc.

The High Court, at the inception, was to have and exercise all civil, criminal, admiralty and vice-admiralty, testamentary, intestate and matrimonial jurisdiction, and original and appellate jurisdiction. The High Court was given the power of superintendence over all other Courts within its appellate jurisdiction. The state of Madras was bifurcated in 1953 under the Andhra State Act and a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh was established with jurisdiction over 13 districts. The States Re-organisation Act, 1956, further reduced the number of districts under the appellate jurisdiction of the Madras High Court. In 1955, the abolition of original criminal jurisdiction of the High Court brought an end to the Sessions Jurisdiction of the High Court. Subsequent to the agreement signed between India and France for the *de facto* transfer of French territories, including Pondicherry, to India, in October 1954, by virtue of the Pondicherry (Administration) Act, 1962, the jurisdiction of the High Court got extended to Pondicherry with effect from 6 November 1962.

In exercise of the power conferred by Section 51 (2) of the States Re-organization Act, 1956, the Government of India issued the Madras High Court (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Madurai Order, 2004, which was notified on 6 July 2004 to come into effect on 24 July 2004. By virtue of the said Order, a Permanent Bench of the Madras High Court was directed to be established at Madurai, with not less than five Judges, as nominated by the Chief Justice, to sit there and exercise jurisdiction and powers in respect of cases arising in the Districts of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Madurai, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, VirudhuNagar, Sivaganga, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Tiruchirapalli, Perambalur, and Karur. Later, the jurisdiction over the districts of Nagapattinam and Perambalur stood restored to the Principal Seat, vide a corrigendum notified later. The Madurai district was bifurcated into two — Madurai and Theni — in the year 2006, and with that the number of districts within the jurisdiction of the Madurai Bench of Madras High

Court became 13. Except the original jurisdiction, the Madurai Bench exercises jurisdiction in all the matters as in the case of the Principal Bench in Chennai. The Bench was inaugurated on 24 July 2004, by Hon'ble

the then Chief Justice of India Mr. R. C. Lahoti. The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court has 16 Court halls and Judges' chambers attached to Court halls.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

High Court Legal Services Committee organizes Mega Lok Adalats/National Lok Adalats which are presided over by the Hon'ble sitting Judges of the Madras High Court. The Committee is conducting continuous Lok Adalats (two Benches on daily basis) presided over by the Hon'ble retired Judges of the Madras High Court along with one retired Judicial Officer and one Advocate as members. It has also conducted nine National Lok Adalats from 1 January 2016 to 31 August 2016.

The Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre is the first Court-Annexed Mediation Centre in the country. Mediation centres are functioning in 30 districts in the State of Tamil Nadu. In respect of Tiruvarur and Ariyalur districts, steps are being taken to establish Mediation centre, after training Mediators. Training programmes viz., 40 hours Mediation training programme, referral Judges' programme, and awareness programme, are being organized. In the Madras High Court arbitration centre, 136 cases have been referred from the Hon'ble High Court filed under section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, and arbitral proceedings are being conducted in the centre regularly.

The Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy (TNSJA) is being run under the administrative control of the Madras High Court. Besides training programmes to in-service Judicial Officers, TNSJA is involved in organising induction training programme for Judicial Officers and refresher courses for the Judicial Officers of all three cadres, viz. District Judges, Senior Civil Judges, and Civil Judges. With a view to decentralise the training programmes at the zonal level, the regional centres of the Tamil Nadu State

Judicial Academy at Coimbatore and Madurai, were inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. S. Thakur, the Chief Justice of India, at Coimbatore on 21 February 2016. The regional centre of TNSJA at Madurai was inaugurated through video conferencing from the regional centre of TNSJA at Coimbatore. During 2015–2016, TNSJA organized 31 training programmes and 3 conferences. In total, 10,455 participants have participated in the programmes organized by TNSJA.

Technological Accomplishments

From July 2016, the Madras High Court has commenced digitizing of current/fresh cases which are being filed in the four departments of the High Court, viz. Judicial Department, Criminal Section, Writ Section, and Original Side. The scanned documents are available for retrieval by the Hon'ble Judges while hearing the cases. There are more than 1 crore old/disposed case files and administrative files in the Madras High Court, which are to be scanned, digitized, and stored for integrated retrieval. For scanning and digitizing, a proposal was forwarded to the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government has accorded administrative sanction for a sum of Rs. 94,287,753/-. Efforts are being undertaken to enable the Hon'ble Judges to view the case bundles in a digitized form rather than physical form.

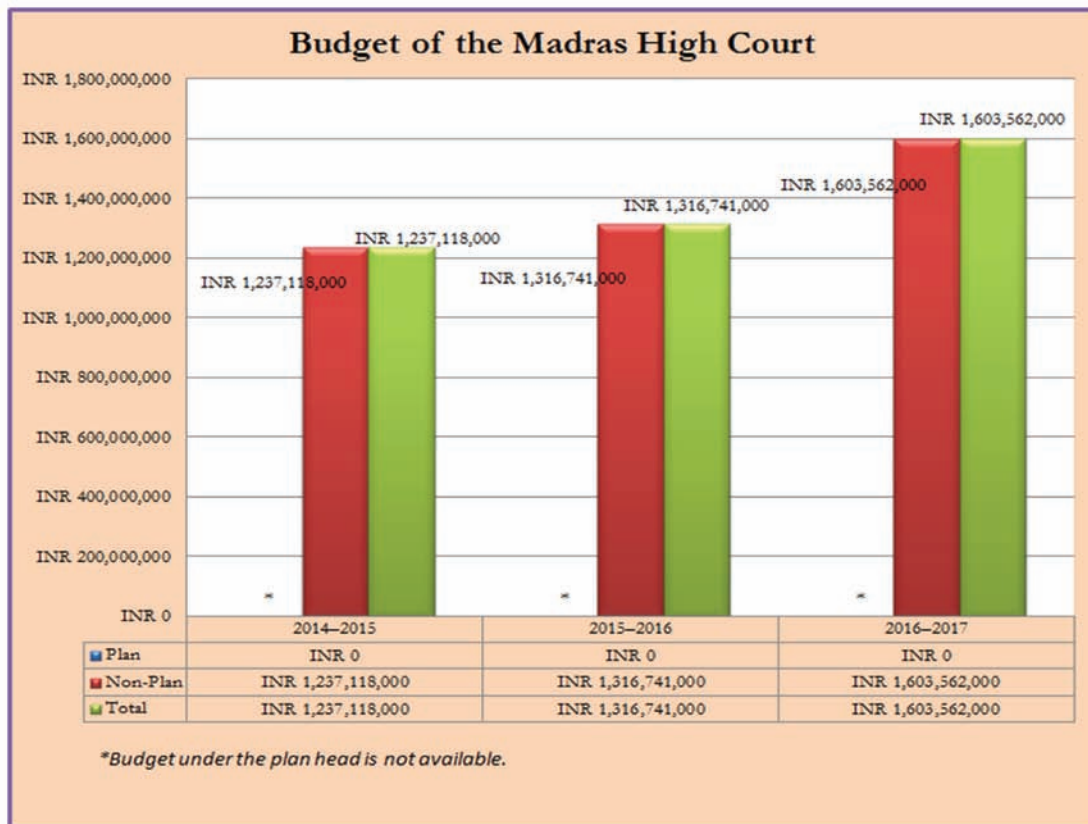
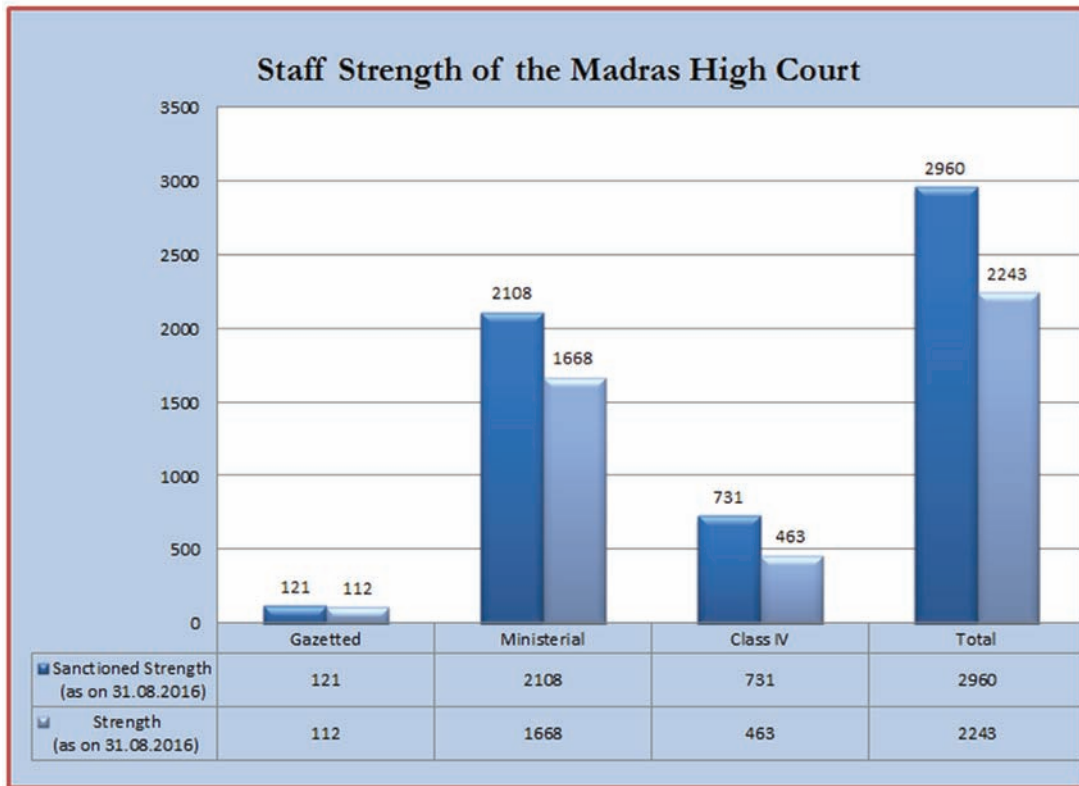
Digital display boards have been installed both in Madras High Court and Madurai Bench of Madras High Court. The display boards have been installed inside as well as outside the Court halls and composite display boards have been installed in six different locations in the High Court premises.

In-house software team has developed software modules for various sections and it includes- maintenance of profiles, transfer, postings and leave particulars of the Judicial Officers; introduction of biometric system of attendance for the staff and officers of the Registry; issuance of Radio Frequency Identity Card to the staff and officers of the Registry; management of the personal and official data of the officers and staff of the Registry; Inventory Management System for the IT peripherals purchased

under various projects; Visitors Management System for issuance of visitors pass to litigants and law college students with bar code and photo capture features; daily uploading of case status in the High Court website; maintenance of details of RTI application and appeals; maintenance of details of ID cards issued to Advocates under the comprehensive security system; and maintenance of statistics on disposal of cases and for printing dockets for all cases.

A view of Madurai Bench, Madras High Court





High Court Statistics

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	128,239	69,238	60,331	137,146
Company matters	961	519	302	1,178
Contempt (civil)	4,814	4,874	3,394	6,294
Review (civil)	2,672	671	501	2,842
Matrimonial matters	9	0	0	9
Arbitration matters	1,186	493	358	1,321
Civil revisions	20,358	7,178	5,437	22,099
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	7,001	1,325	1,039	7,287
Civil appeals	7,336	3,290	3,416	7,210
Land acquisition matters	14,048	1,443	732	14,759
MACT matters	9,069	1,748	1,249	9,568
Civil suits (original side)	6,857	848	517	7,188
Other than above	2,821	661	890	2,592
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	1,195	3,042	3,622	615
Criminal revisions	5,980	2,470	2,067	6,383
Bail applications	9,448	26,761	25,486	10,723
Criminal appeals	7,506	1,378	1,536	7,348
Death sentence reference	3	2	5	0
Contempt (criminal)	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous criminal applications	39,831	30,471	23,125	47,177
Other than above	9,984	27,149	26,026	11,107

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	75
Working strength of Judges	38
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	34
Highest	42
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	23,925

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	662,333	333,829	314,838	663,375
Criminal	449,222	856,202	847,436	449,914
Total	1,111,555	1,190,031	1,162,274	1,113,289

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1,058	967	91

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	23,084
Criminal	24,109
Total	47,193

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HIGH COURT OF
MANIPUR



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Manipur*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. R. Prasad, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Khwairakpam Nobin Singh

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Songkhupchung Serto

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

On re-organization of the North-Eastern region by the North Eastern Area (Re-organization) Act, 1971, a common High Court, known as the Gauhati High Court, was established for the five North-Eastern States, namely, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura, and the two Union Territories, namely, Union Territory of Mizoram and the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh. When Manipur attained statehood, Imphal Bench of the Gauhati High Court came into existence on 21 January 1972. In exercise of the power conferred by Sub-section (2) of Section 31 of the North Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) Act, 1971, His Excellency, the President of India, was pleased to establish the Permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court at Imphal, vide Gauhati High Court (Establishment of Permanent Bench at Imphal) Order dated 21 January 1992. On 16 May 2012, the Parliament passed a bill amending the North Eastern Areas Re-organization Act, 2012 and the same received the assent of the President of India on 4 June 2013. Vide this Amendment Act, the High Court of Manipur was to come into existence on the date to be determined and notified by the Central Government. Accordingly, the High Court of Manipur came into existence on 23 March 2013.

This High Court has total Bench strength of five (four permanent and one additional Judges including Hon'ble the Chief Justice) of which one post is vacant.

The need for a distinguished Court complex with a capacity to accommodate the intensity of routine litigation activities and ensure uninterrupted judicial proceedings throughout the year was felt long ago. On 30 April 2006, the foundation stone for a new building was laid at Mantripukhri, Imphal East District of Manipur. It is situated at the base of a legendary hill, Cheirao Ching, which holds immense festive relevance for the citizens of Manipur. They climb up that hill annually to celebrate *Cheiraoba* – the Manipuri New Year. Construction of the Court building was completed by the end of 2011 and it was inaugurated for occupation by Hon'ble the then Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice Altamas Kabir, on 7 April 2012. The High Court complex encompasses an area of 29.5 acres.

The Principal Seat in Imphal holds jurisdiction over nine districts, namely, Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Senapati, Ukhrul, Chandel, and Tamenglong.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

In the absence of an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) centre, Manipur State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) is concentrating on promoting the benefits

of ADR through a campaign that includes organizing workshops, phone-in programs, and talk shows as well as distribution of published literature by circulating pamphlets and booklets. An ADR centre is currently



Flash of lightning over High Court of Manipur — A picturesque night shot

under construction at Lamphel Court Complex. Lok Adalats held during the past one year helped to dispose of 2269 cases resulting in settlement worth Rs 110,995,971/-

Manipur has no mediation centre and the member secretary of MSLSA is the only coordinator for mediation, at present. Twenty-four Judicial Officers underwent a 40-hour training provided by the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee of Supreme Court. Judicial officers use their own chambers as makeshift mediation rooms for the time being. The High Court of Manipur is dedicated towards endorsement of ADR as a viable option in favour of the litigants.

The judicial education programs designed by the Manipur Judicial Academy in consultation with the High Court aim at providing a thorough understanding of legal knowledge by demonstrating its relevance in the contemporary environment. The curriculum of 2016 enhanced the value of core knowledge by imparting managerial skills while emphasizing the importance of a sensitized attitude and strong ethics.

The High Court of Manipur, being in its infancy stage, is making every possible endeavour for setting things in order. Six District and Sessions Courts across Manipur are already assured of a competent organizational framework honed to assist the litigants and differently abled persons.

The MSLSA was empowered with two more posts of Additional Member Secretary and Deputy Member Secretary.

Initiative was taken to provide solar energy to 32 of 33 existing Courts in Manipur through the Manipur Renewable Energy Development Agency

(MANIREDA). So far, it is operational in six Court complexes.

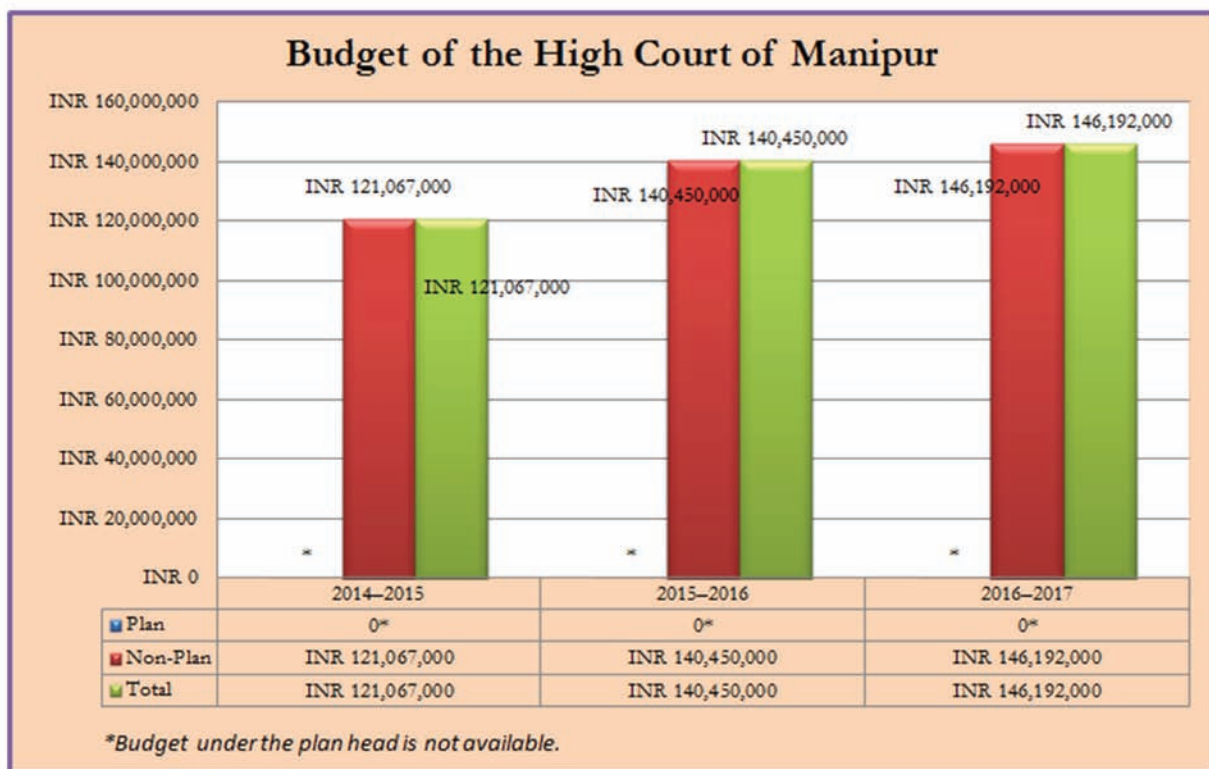
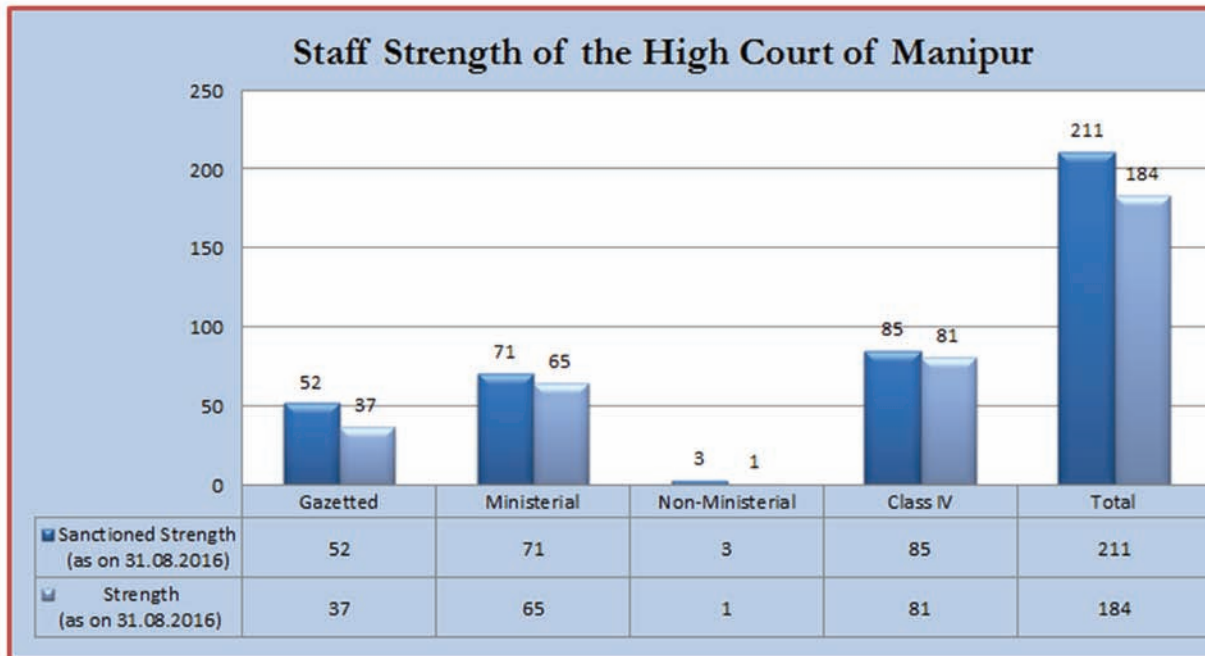
Technological Accomplishments

Phase I of the e-Court project was completed successfully in 31 Subordinate Courts which also entailed the implementation of CIS 1.0 content management system. It was upgraded to CIS 2.0 in 13 Courts last year. Consistent with phase II, 129 new computers were installed in all the Courts supplemented by provision of additional LAN nodes and broadband connection.

Websites for all the seven District and Sessions Courts are running successfully. SMS alert service was activated in five Court complexes for practicing lawyers in the Subordinate Courts. Cause list circulation by paper was discontinued and substituted with daily update on the official website.

Five master trainers are delegated with the responsibility to train the new recruits in UBUNTU and CIS 2.0. To systematize routine proceedings, a kiosk was installed in the High Court to obtain case status and listing. Hardware for display screens in front of all the courtrooms of the High Court was installed for the same purpose. Development of the application software is in process.

All the documents that need to be digitized were specified and a tender for outsourcing the activity will be released shortly. To enable remote proceedings, software-based video conferencing amenity was mobilized in 12 Courts and two jails. Presently, it is functional in two jails and one Court complex. The High Court also maintains fully operational hardware based video conferencing facility.



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	2,167	847	856	2,158
Company matters	3	0	1	2
Contempt (civil)	385	291	156	520
Review (civil)	28	11	14	25
Matrimonial matters	5	8	3	10
Arbitration matters	4	2	3	3
Civil revisions	28	21	22	27
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	0	0	0	0
Civil appeals	47	32	51	28
Land acquisition matters	0	0	0	0
MACT matters	10	4	8	6
Civil suits (original side)	49	12	18	43
Other than above	172	106	116	162
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	35	14	5	44
Criminal revisions	34	14	15	33
Bail applications	0	6	5	1
Criminal appeals	48	4	7	45
Death sentence reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (criminal)	2	2	0	4
Miscellaneous criminal applications	17	6	14	9
Other than above	42	8	9	41

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	5
Working strength of Judges	4
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	3
Highest	5
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	Nil

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	3,513	3,168	2,459	4,222
Criminal	3,333	2,691	2,579	3,445
Total	6,846	5,859	5,038	7,667

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
44	33	11

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	26
Criminal	23
Total	49

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HIGH COURT OF
MEGHALAYA

THE HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
ESTD ON 23RD MARCH 2013



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Meghalaya*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. Maheshwari, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudip Ranjan Sen

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ved Prakash Vaish

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

The High Court of Meghalaya was established on 23 March 2013. Only in the fourth year of its existence, High Court of Meghalaya has achieved the requisite standards to give shape to a robust judicial system at the State level.

Re-organization of North-East India in 1971 led to the composition of Meghalaya, among other states. However, being an erstwhile part of Assam, a Circuit Bench was based in Shillong that continued to be accountable to Gauhati High Court. It acquired the status of a Permanent Bench in 1995. Crucial amendments were made to the Principal Act of 1971 in 2012. The insertion of Section 28-A in North-Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2012, recognized the need for an independent High Court in Meghalaya. It finally empowered the State with an effective mechanism

to deliver justice to the local people commensurate with the legal system of the rest of the country while respecting their regional customs and circumstances.

Out of the total sanctioned Bench strength of four Judges (three permanent and one additional Judge), only the post of additional Judge is currently vacant.

The High Court of Meghalaya is a white, imposing building situated across an area of 3839 m² right in the heart of Mahatma Gandhi Road amid all the other Government buildings. For want of more operational space, the Building Committee of the High Court has proposed to construct an outbuilding on the adjacent land over an area of around 955.96 m².

At present, there are only 41 Judicial Officers in all cadres posted in districts of East Khasi hills, West Jaintia hills, West Garo hills, Ri-Bhoi, West Khasi hills, and East Garo hills.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

The Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) organized 40 hours of training for 18 mediators in collaboration with the Mediation Conciliation and Project Committee (MCPC) of the Supreme Court of India.

The Government of Meghalaya has allotted a plot measuring 0.6 acres in New Shillong Township for construction of an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) centre which will also serve as an office for the MSLSA. The Public Works Department of Meghalaya is in charge of designing the building according to the pre-requisites defined by the National Legal Services Authority. The 14th Finance Commission allocated an amount of Rs 8 crore for its construction.

The Meghalaya State Judiciary is still going through a phase of transition. Major progress was attained in the year 2016, the foremost being the formation of the State Judicial Academy on 4 May 2016. At present, the old residence of the Chief Justice and the adjacent Secretariat building is being used as residential space and training centre, respectively, to run the Judicial Academy where a foundation course for 12 newly appointed Judicial Officers is in progress. An annual schedule has been formulated to organize training for in-service Judicial Officers, public prosecutors and the remaining staff of the High Court and Subordinate Courts. At the same time, search is still on for an appropriate site to construct a new academy building.



Chief Justice's Court, High Court of Meghalaya

A dedicated recruitment cell was also formed to standardize and accelerate efficient hiring practices. Remodelling of judicial service rules regarding re-employment are in process.

Technological Accomplishments

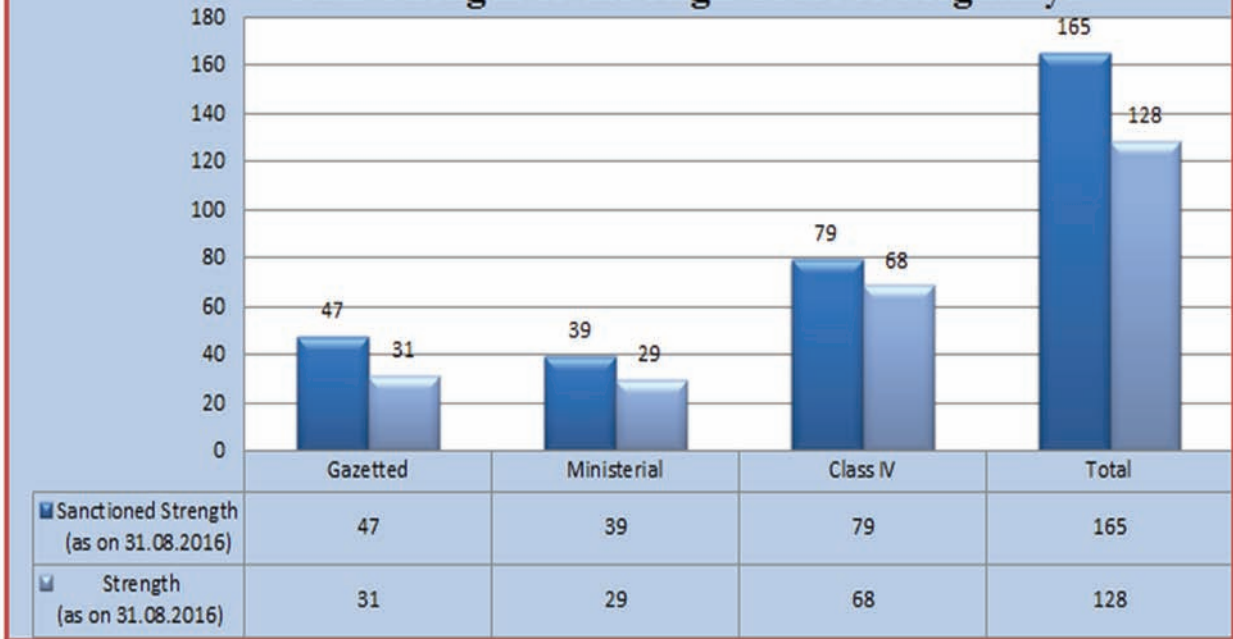
Implementation of case information applications for daily case proceedings, uploading of data in the National Judicial Data Grid Portal for District Court and SMS service facility has enabled lawyers and litigants to know the current status of a case. Payroll

application for management of pay has reduced the time spent on manual work.

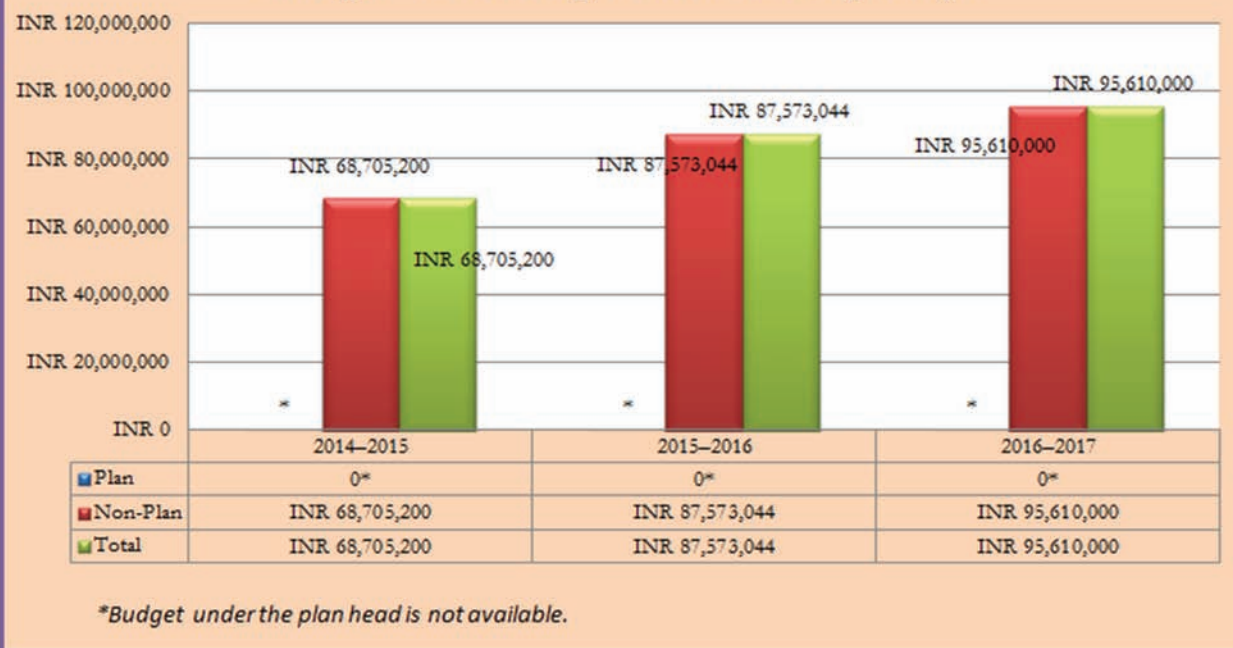
Initiatives are currently being taken by the High Court for scanning and digitization of records. The Computer Committee of the High Court is also looking after scanning and digitization of records.

Library applications, such as, KOHA for High Court and e-Granthalaya for District Courts help tracking of the books available without delay. Video conferencing facility linking the District Courts with jails has reduced the expenditure incurred in production of UTPs.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Meghalaya



Budget of the High Court of Meghalaya



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	364	402	364	402
Company matters	4	3	1	6
Contempt (civil)	16	32	30	18
Review (civil)	5	16	11	10
Matrimonial matters	0	0	0	0
Arbitration matters	4	3	4	3
Civil revisions	16	26	18	24
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	1	0	0	1
Civil appeals	51	92	39	104
Land acquisition matters	18	30	13	35
MACT matters	4	0	3	1
Civil suits (original side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	7	11	2	16
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	1	3	3	1
Criminal revisions	2	10	9	3
Bail applications	0	27	27	0
Criminal appeals	16	3	3	16
Death sentence reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (criminal)	1	1	1	1
Miscellaneous criminal applications	10	17	16	11
Other than above	9	50	39	20

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	4
Working strength of Judges	3
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	3
Highest	3
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	NIL

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	4,296	2,764	3,838	3,222
Criminal	10,835	13,099	12,900	11,034
Total	15,131	15,863	16,738	14,256

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
57	41	16

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	878
Criminal	2,720
Total	3,598

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HIGH COURT OF
ORISSA



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Orissa*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vineet Saran, Chief Justice	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Prasad	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Indrajit Mahanty	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Debabrata Dash
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sanju Panda	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Satrughana Pujahari
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subhash Chandra Parija	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswanath Rath
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bijaya Kumar Nayak	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chitta Ranjan Dash	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra
Hon'ble Dr. Justice Akshaya Kumar Rath	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jatindra Prasad Das
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Biswajit Mohanty	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Durga Prasanna Choudhury
*As on 30 June 2016	

Brief Introduction

On 9 February 1916, 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. During then, Orissa was placed under the jurisdiction of Patna High Court. On 18 May 1916, the Circuit Court of Patna High Court for Orissa held its first sitting at Cuttack. On 1 April 1936, Orissa was made a separate province but no separate High Court was provided for it. On 26 July 1938, the High Court Bar Association at Cuttack adopted a resolution demanding a separate High Court for Orissa. By Resolution dated 19 August 1942, the Law Department of Government of Orissa appointed a Committee constituting Shri Bira Kishore Ray as Chairman, Shri C. M. Acharya, Shri Bichitrananda Das, and Dr. Narasingha Rao as members and Shri J.E. Meher as the Secretary, who later proposed a separate High Court for the province. The Government of India on 30 April 1948 issued Orissa High Court Order, 1948 declaring that from 5 July 1948 "there shall be a Court for the Province of Orissa which shall be a Court of Record". Subsequently, by Orissa

High Court (Amendment) Order, 1948 issued on 8 June 1948, the date of establishment of High Court was changed from 5 July to 26 July 1948. On 26 July 1948, Orissa High Court with Shri Bira Kishore Ray as the Chief Justice and Shri B. Jagannadha Das, Shri L. Panigrahi, and Shri R. L. Narasingham, as puisne Judges was inaugurated by Justice Shri H. J. Kania, the then Chief Justice of the Federal Court of India.

The sanctioned strength of Judges in the High Court at present is 27 (20 puisne Judges and seven Additional Judges), but only 19 Hon'ble Judges are holding office at present.

The old building of the High Court has got its own architectural design and was constructed in 1914. For administrative exigencies, a Circuit Court of Patna High Court started functioning in the building, and finally, the High Court was established in the same building from 26 July 1948. Subsequently, the need for expansion of the building led to the construction of first extension building, followed by the second extension building. A multi-storied building has been constructed in the Court's premises, which has

provision for 25 Court halls with chambers for Judges and secretaries, conference hall, Judges' lounge, etc. All the Courts have started functioning in the new building since 2 January 2014.

The High Court of Orissa exercises both original and appellate jurisdiction over the entire territory of State of Odisha. There are 30 District Courts under the jurisdiction of High Court of Orissa.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

Thirteen Permanent Lok Adalats were established in the judicial year 2015–2016. The number of Lok Adalats held at HCLSC, DLSAs, and TLSCs for the year 2015 is 1202 and up to July 2016 is 564. The number of cases disposed of in 2015 by the National Lok Adalat are 434,961, and the number of mobile Lok Adalats held in 2015 is 17 (604 cases disposed of) and up to July 2016 is 13 (213 cases disposed of). The number of cases referred for mediation in the year 2015 is 4812 and up to July 2016 is 571. The total number of arbitration proceedings registered in 2015 is 28 (with eight cases disposed of) and up to July 2016 is 32 (with two disposed of).

The Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack has conducted 16 programmes from January 2016 to June 2016, in which 415 Judicial Officers participated. In 2016, the Academy organized a national seminar on “Sentencing and Appreciation of Electronic Evidence”; Interaction programme with Hon’ble Mr. Justice Mohan Pieris, the former Chief Justice of Sri Lanka on the topic “Judicial Conduct, Ethics and Skill”; judicial colloquium on “Human Trafficking”; and half-day seminar by Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society.

Odisha Judicial Academy in collaboration with National Law University, Odisha (N.L.U.O) has undertaken a research project on “An Analysis of the functioning of Lok Adalats in the Eastern Region of India” under the plan scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms, funded by Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Justice, Government of India.

The steps taken to deal with the pendency of cases include affixing tentative chart of life-cycle of each case record (both in Civil and Criminal) from its institution

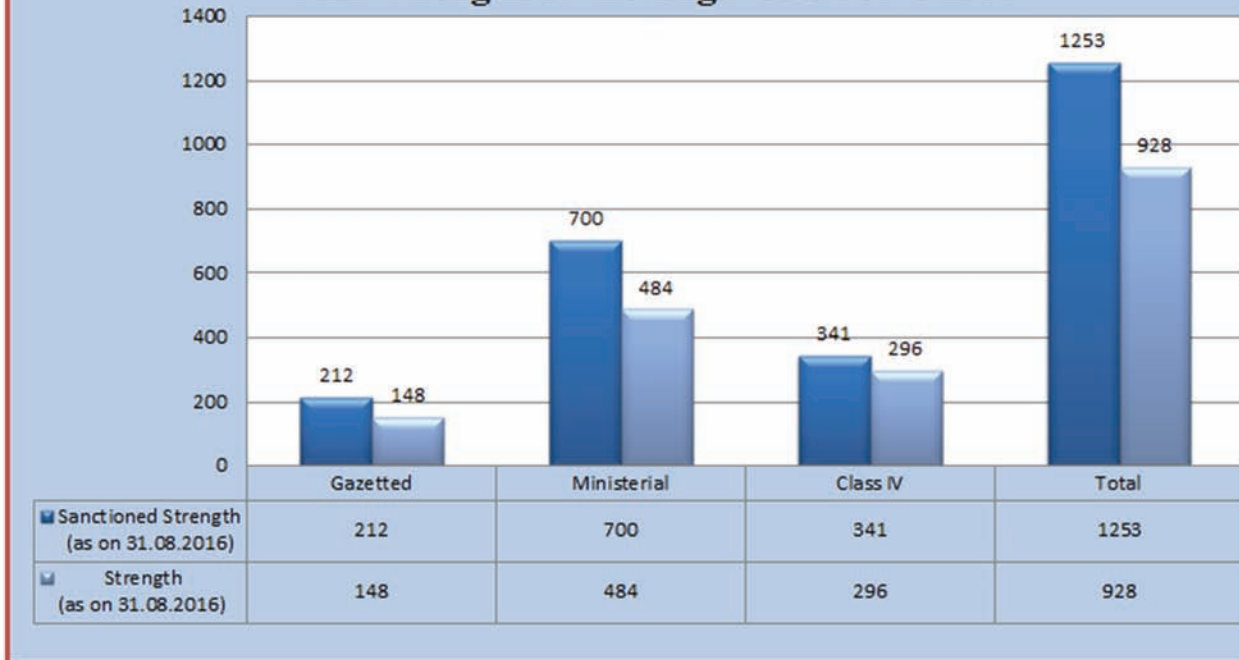
till disposal; fixing time schedule for specific steps/stages to avoid unnecessary delay in trial; affixing a green flag on more than three-year-old cases and a red flag on more than five-year-old cases so that the Courts are to be kept on alert towards timely disposal; and inside a Judgeship, the Judicial Officers can be moved to the identified stations having more pendency of cases from the stations having less pendency of cases.

Technological Accomplishments

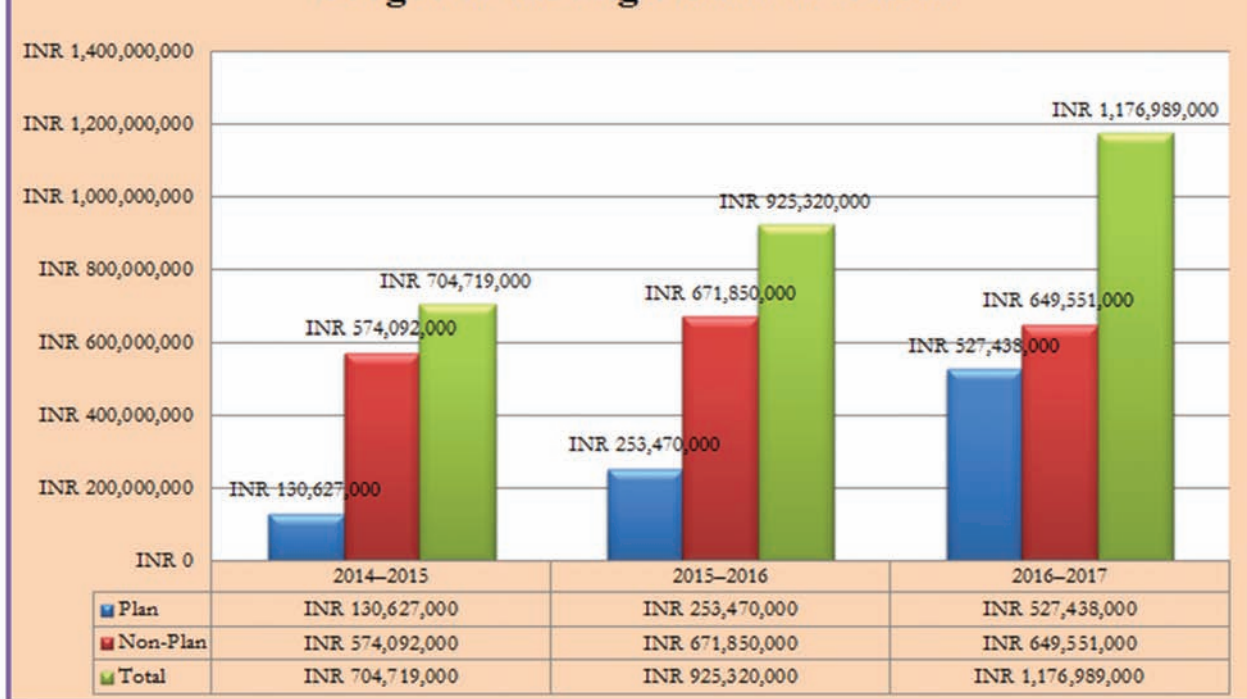
Most Court complexes all over the State have been computerized under e-Courts project. Successful data entry of backlog cases has been completed at 111 Court complexes; SMS services for filing of cases have been provided; websites in DRUPAL template have been created; judgements, daily orders, cause lists, circulars, notices, tenders, and other information are being regularly uploaded on the District Court websites; computer information system (CIS) data are regularly uploaded in the NJDG portal; and District Court Computer Committees have been constituted for monitoring the e-Courts' activities. All the Judicial Officers have been imparted training on Ubuntu 14.04 OS through ToT model.

The State Government has allotted Rs.1 crore for the project of scanning and digitization of records in the present financial year. The process of scanning, digitization, digital preservation, and integrated retrieval of case records of High Court of Orissa was initiated through the State e-Procurement portal (www.tenderodisha.gov.in) vide Notice No. 10858 dated 1 December 2015. In June 2016, the tender was re-floated for approximately 10 crore pages. Video conferencing facility is available at 43 Courts and 42 corresponding jails.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Orissa



Budget of the High Court of Orissa



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	86,991	23,384	27,357	83,018
Company matters	392	69	4	457
Contempt (civil)	9,340	2,104	1,384	10,060
Review (civil)	2,152	368	113	2,407
Matrimonial matters	1,532	452	318	1,666
Arbitration matters	1,134	92	151	1,075
Civil revisions	296	36	41	291
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	2,643	90	173	2,560
Civil appeals	4	0	1	3
Land acquisition matters	2,483	88	219	2,352
MACT matters	5,648	1,487	2,282	4,853
Civil suits (original side)	1,167	1,848	1,564	1,451
Other than above	21,149	3,174	3,436	20,887
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	1,524	125	164	1,485
Criminal revisions	7,502	956	614	7,844
Bail applications	5,794	29,278	29,006	6,066
Criminal appeals	8,212	658	140	8,730
Death sentence reference	2	3	2	3
Contempt (criminal)	125	5	2	128
Miscellaneous criminal applications	8,247	4,546	3,214	9,579
Other than above	4,820	2,282	1,183	5,919

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	27
Working strength of Judges	19
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	19 (w.e.f. 22.04.2016 till 30.06.2016)
Highest	22 (w.e.f. 01.07.2015 till 12.02.2016)
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	38,671

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	256,724	69,464	54,282	271,906
Criminal	859,581	364,003	361,913	861,671
Total	1,116,305	433,467	416,195	1,133,577

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
716	612	104

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30 .06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	27,355
Criminal	126,900
Total	154,255

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HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT
PATNA



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Patna*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice I. A. Ansari, Acting Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hemant Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Birendra Prasad Verma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aditya Kumar Trivedi
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navaniti Prasad Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Kumar Mishra
Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. K. Datta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gopal Prasad	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Samarendra Pratap Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mungeshwar Sahoo	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prabhat Kumar Jha
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hemant Kumar Srivastava	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jitendra Mohan Sharma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kishore Kumar Mandal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijayendra Nath	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anjana Mishra
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Ranjan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shivaji Pandey	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nilu Agrawal
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anjana Prakash	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashwani Kumar Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhir Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jyoti Saran	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikash Jain	
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Kumar	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah	
*As on 30 June 2016		

Brief Introduction

Consequent to the partition of Bengal and creation of State of Bihar in the year 1905, a High Court of Judicature for the State of Bihar was constituted in 1911. Prior to that, the whole territory of Bihar and Orissa, though constituted as separate provinces in 1912, was under the jurisdiction of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal (now called the Calcutta High Court). By the Letters Patent granted on 9 February 1916, King George V, erected and established, for the province of Bihar and Orissa, a High Court of Judicature at Patna (Patna High Court) and from 26 February 1916, the date on which the aforesaid Letters Patent was published in the Official Gazette of India, the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal ceased to

exercise its jurisdiction in all matters, and thereafter, the jurisdiction was given to the Patna High Court in the said matters.

The first sitting of the High Court took place with the Chief Justice and six puisne Judges on 1 March 1916, and on the same day, the formal working of the Court was commenced. The Patna High Court boasts of its long tradition in having an independent and brilliant Bar from the very beginning. The first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and the first President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha, were members of the Bar of this Court. The three Chief Justices from Patna High Court, namely Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. P. Sinha, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lalit Mohan Sharma, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. M. Lodha, became

the Chief Justices of India. Till now, 23 Hon'ble Judges of Patna High Court have been elevated to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

In 1947, the sanctioned strength of the Court was of nine permanent and three additional Judges. Though, a separate province for Orissa was created in the year 1937, this High Court exercised its jurisdiction over the territories of that province till 26 July 1948 when a separate High Court was constituted for Orissa. In February 1950, three posts of Additional Judges were made permanent. Since then there has been increase in the sanctioned strength of Permanent Judges of the Court from time to time and the sanctioned strength of Judges of Patna High Court is 53 whereas the present strength is only 29.

The foundation stone for the Patna High Court building was laid on 1 December 1913 by Viceroy Lord Hardinge. The High Court building was designed by Mr. Munings who was an Australian architect and the civil contractors were M/s Martin Burn and Company from Kolkata. The building of the Patna

High Court was completed and formally inaugurated on 13 February 1916 by Viceroy Lord Hardinge. It is situated in the heart of the city and its building is one of the finest monumental buildings in India. It is one of the masterpieces of Gothic architecture.

At present, construction of 44 courtrooms and 58 chambers is underway and also 12 acres land has been allotted for Judges' bungalows and 3.7 acres of land has been allotted for other purposes.

An important development took place in 1972 when on the demand of the people of Chotanagpur, a Circuit Court of the Patna High Court was established at Ranchi on 6 March 1972, and the Circuit Court at Ranchi was converted to a Permanent Bench on 19 April 1976. After Constitution of Jharkhand High Court in the year 2000, the total strength of the Judges of the Patna High Court remained unaltered. At present, there are all 37 Judgeships under its control. Out of these Judgeships, the building of Ara Judgeship (formerly known as Shahabad) is the oldest one being established in the year 1895.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

The Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BSLSA) organized District wise awareness programme in association with Panchayati Raj Department, Social Welfare Department, Labour Department, Women Development Corporation and other departments of Government vis-à-vis NGOs and social workers. BSLSA provides legal aid to weaker sections of society. BSLSA has empanelled Advocates in each district as well as in the High Court to work as mediator and such lawyers have been given 40 hours of intensive mediation training with the help of Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) of Supreme Court of India to improve their mediatory skills. Apart from the above, a sufficient number of Judicial Officers has also been given mediation training, and they have been directed to do the work of judicial settlement by one of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) modes, invariably on last Saturday

of the month. The Secretary, DLSAs and Family Court Judges have also been given such training. Till now, 215 Judicial Officers and 303 Advocates have been given this intensive mediation training. In the year 2015–2016, there are 2229 cases referred for mediation, and out of them 471 cases were settled.

During 2015–2016, 1,793,238 cases were settled or disposed of by the National Lok Adalats; 3241 cases were settled or disposed of by the continuous Lok Adalats, and 29,392 cases were settled or disposed of by the mobile Lok Adalats.

Furthermore, in this period under report, Bihar Judicial Academy organized various judicial education programmes for different target groups of Judicial Officers and ministerial staff of Civil Courts. These programmes include orientation courses on criminal laws and procedure and civil laws and procedure for District and Sessions Judge, Principal Judges, and Additional District Judges (ADJs); and refresher

Closing Ceremony of the Centenary Celebrations of the Patna High Court

By
Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, the Chief Guest
In the presence of
Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S.Thakur, Chief Justice of India
12.03.2016

1916

2016



Closing ceremony of Centenary celebrations of the Patna High Court

course for District Judges, Principal Judges, and ADJs working in different capacity. Orientation course and refresher courses were organized for Civil Judges (Senior Division) working in the capacity of Sub-Judge, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrates, Chief Judicial Magistrates, Additional Session Judges, etc., and for Civil Judge (Junior Division) working in the capacity of SDJM, Judicial Magistrate (JM), Railway Magistrate, Principal Magistrate, Munsif, Addl. Munsif, Execution Munsif, etc. Special orientation course was organized for the Judicial Officers holding special posts in various cadres. A foundation course and induction training programme for newly appointed probationer Civil Judges (Junior Division) and a refresher course for Office Clerk, Bench Clerk, Accountant, Asstt. D.D.O., Head Accountant, Head Clerk of English Office, Naib Nazir, Shirestdar, and all Ministerial staff was organized. A refresher course for Public Prosecutors, Government Pleaders, Additional Public Prosecutors, Assistant Prosecution Officers, etc., was also organized by the academy.

Technological Accomplishments

Patna High Court is the leading High Court in India to computerize Cause List Management System. It has taken a step towards transparency through computerization of activities in the Patna High Court which includes having in place Copying Section Information Management System (CIMS); Fax Section Information Management System (FIMS); Criminal (Disposal/Appeal/Miscellaneous/Revision) Sections Information Management System; an application software containing witness on record database for doctors; another application software containing witness on record database for Investigating Officers; and an Android-based application for e-Services.

Apart from the above, the following softwares have been upgraded this year by the Court for smooth functioning viz. online computerized filing system, Cause List Information Management System (CLIMS), Court-Room Information Management System (CRMIS), payroll software, G.P.F. module of the payroll software, information kiosk, e-services at

Patna High Court, reporting status, JOAS (Judicial Officers Activities Monitoring System) (Statistical Reports Management System of Cases of Patna High Court, Reception-cum-Information Counter, Judicial Officers Performance Evaluation System (JOPES), and Judgment and Order Retrieval System (JOARS).

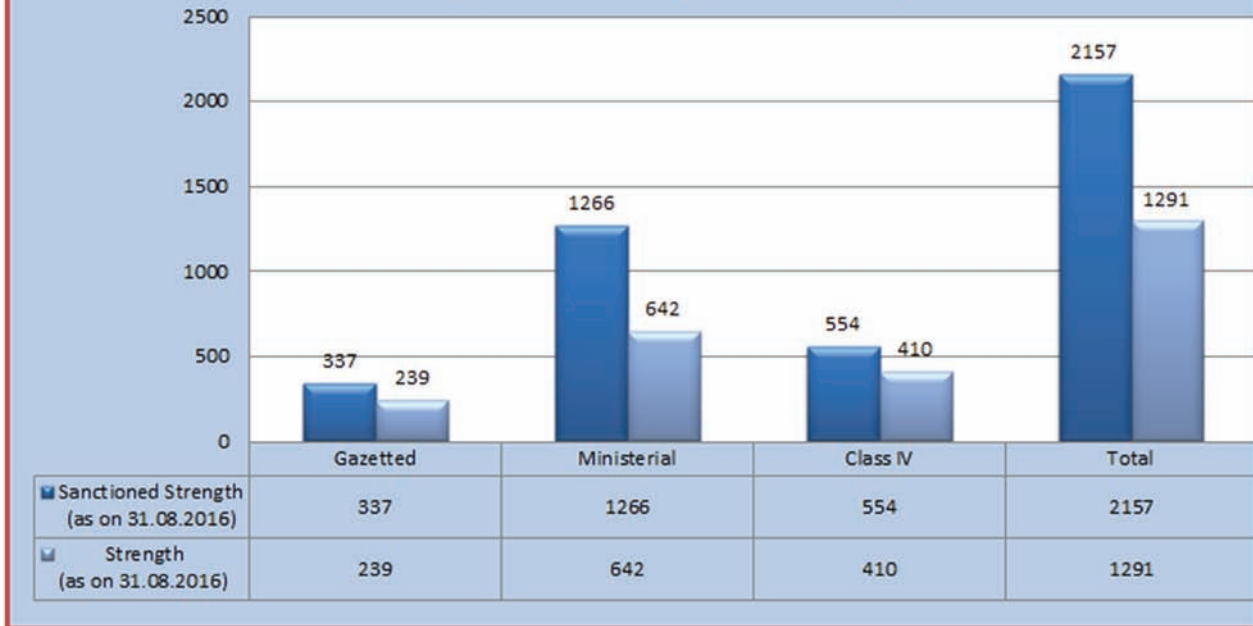
Patna High Court has undertaken technological initiatives, which include digitization of old records

of disposed of cases in order to preserve the records in digital form and active monitoring of the work of the Judicial Officers by the Arrears Committee of the Court through video conferencing. It has also taken initiative in successfully experimenting trial of accused through video-conferencing between Civil Courts and jails of Bihar.

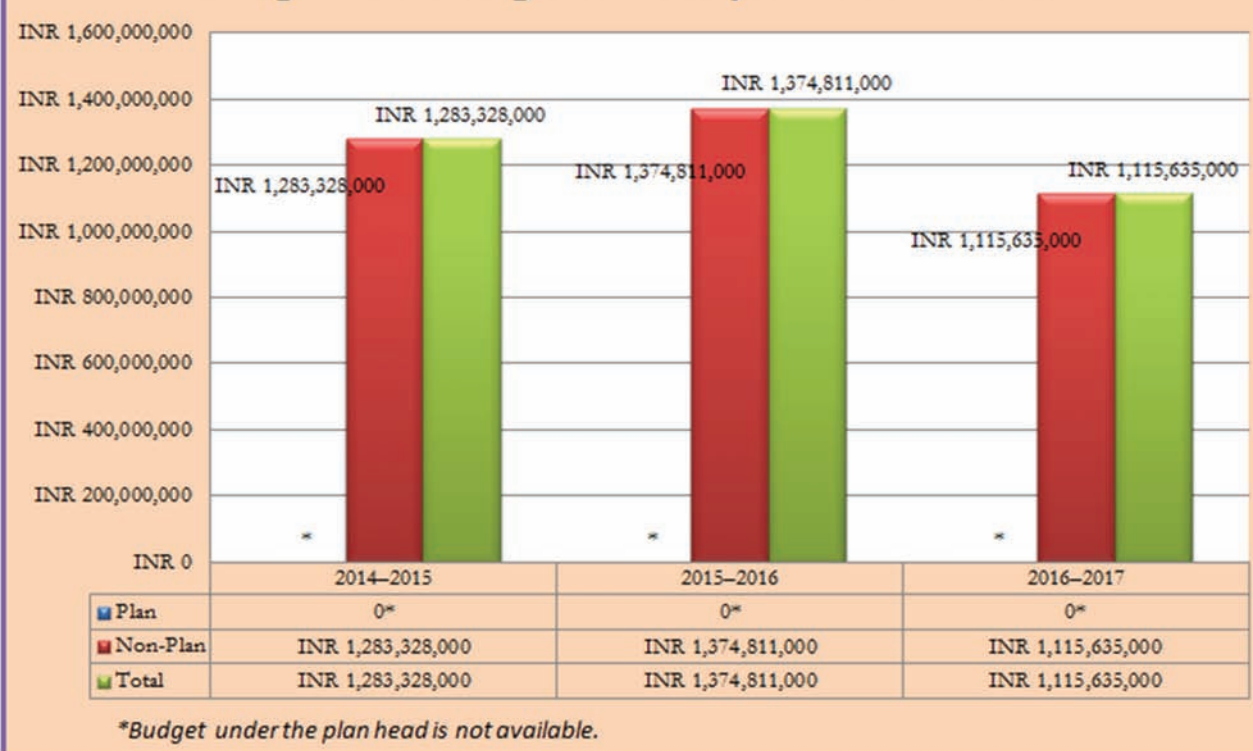
Chief Justice's Court, Patna High Court



Staff Strength of the High Court of Judicature at Patna



Budget of the High Court of Judicature at Patna



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	51,645	21,139	23,006	49,778
Company matters	113	20	16	117
Contempt (civil)	5,601	2,463	1,635	6,429
Review (civil)	734	491	421	804
Matrimonial matters	1	0	0	1
Arbitration matters	7	4	2	9
Civil revisions	337	214	172	379
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	13	0	1	12
Civil appeals	16,740	4,195	2,567	18,368
Land acquisition matters	835	623	295	1,163
MACT matters	713	0	136	577
Civil suits (original side)	41	3	1	43
Other than above	2,599	1,875	1,095	3,379
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	947	1,307	1,541	713
Criminal revisions	3,148	1,188	1,247	3,089
Bail applications	11,949	47,291	53,417	5,823
Criminal appeals	22,957	2,122	1,122	23,957
Death sentence reference	2	5	5	2
Contempt (criminal)	47	10	7	50
Miscellaneous criminal applications	0	0	0	0
Other than above	14,524	9,719	8,331	15,912

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	53
Working strength of Judges	29
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	29
Highest	33
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	18707

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	322,436	71,899 (+1 case received)	57,363	336,973
Criminal	1,678,807	350,264	277,512 (+5 cases transferred)	1,751,554
Total	2,001,243	422,163	334,875	2,088,527

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

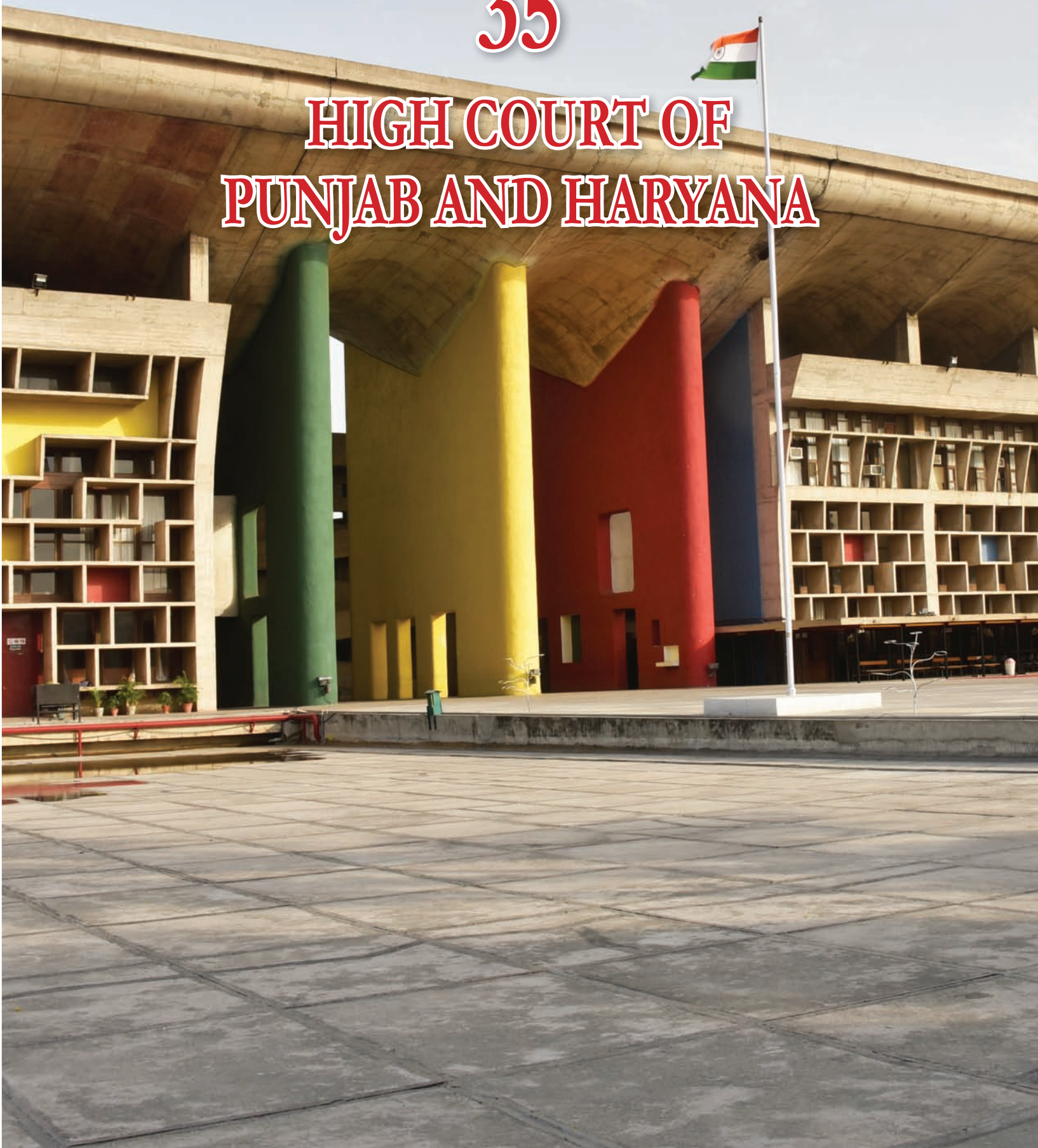
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1825	1033	792

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	42,293
Criminal	162,723
Total	205,016

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HIGH COURT OF
PUNJAB AND HARYANA



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. J. Vazifdar, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. S. Saron	Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.G. Masih	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harinder Singh Sidhu
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Ritu Bahri	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Palli
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Paramjeet Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kuldip Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Jeyapaul	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rameswar Singh Malik	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Lisa Gill
Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. P. Singh Mann	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Narain Raina	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Raj Mohan Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahesh Grover	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tejinder Singh Dhindsa	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amit Rawal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Bindal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. S. Sandhwalia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Sibal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohinder Mohan Singh Bedi	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Mittal	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hari Pal Verma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhaurao Chaudhari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Inderjit Singh	Hon'ble Ms Justice Raj Rahul Garg
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amol Rattan Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurmit Ram
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jaswant Singh	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anita Chaudhary	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sneh Prashar
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Daya Chaudhary	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Fateh Deep Singh	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Darshan Singh
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajan Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jaspal Singh	Hon'ble Dr. Justice Shekher Kumar Dhawan
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Tewari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surinder Gupta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pavan Kumar B. Bajanthri
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jitendra Kumar Chauhan	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudip Ahluwalia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ramendra Jain
*As on 30 June 2016.		

Brief Introduction

The High Court of Judicature for the provinces of Punjab and Delhi to be called 'The High Court of Judicature at Lahore' was established through a Letters Patent dated 20 March 1919 issued by King George V, by virtue of the powers conferred by Section 113 of the Government of India Act, 1915. After the independence of India, the High Court at Lahore, being in Pakistan, ceased to have jurisdiction over Delhi and East Punjab. The High Court (Punjab) Order, 1947, created a new High Court of Judicature for the territory of East Punjab (India) as on 15 August 1947 which started functioning from Circuit House at Amritsar and was shifted to Shimla vide Notification dated 23 September 1947.

After, the Constitution of India came into force, the State of East Punjab came to be known as Punjab, and accordingly, the name of the High Court was also changed. There existed the Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) which had its own High Court known as 'PEPSU High Court'. However by the States Re-organisation Act, 1956 the State of PEPSU was merged in the State of Punjab. The States Re-organisation Act, 1966, brought another State named Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh into existence from 1 November 1966. From the date of enforcement of the said Re-organisation Act, the High Court of Punjab was renamed as 'The High Court of Punjab

and Haryana'. The Court has been working since 1 November 1966 in its present form.

The present working strength of Judges is 46, whereas the sanctioned strength is 85.

The main building of High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh was designed by Le Corbusier, a well-known, French Architect. It has a rhythmic arcade created by a parasol-like roof, which shades the entire building. Keeping in view the special dignity of the Judges, Le Corbusier created entrance for them through a high portico resting on three giant pylons painted in bright colours. The building was inaugurated by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, on 19 March 1955. It has colourful tapestries having number of symbols that encapsulated Le Corbusier's view of man, earth, nature, the emblems of India and the scales of justice in abstract geometric patches on the rear walls of the courtrooms. The state-of-the-art auditorium has been constructed having seating capacity of around 300 seats.

The jurisdiction of High Court at Lahore by virtue of Letters Patent and the Government of India Act, 1915 was limited to all the appellate and superintending powers, authority and jurisdiction of the Chief Court. After partition, the Constitution of India conferred original writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India upon the High Court. The High Court has been conferred with appellate as well as revisional jurisdiction.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

To promote the concept of pre-litigation mediation, animated material has been prepared and displayed on 12 screens of different cinemas in Chandigarh. A regional conference on mediation for Zone-I was

organized by Mediation Committee of the High Court under the aegis of Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India on 22–23 August 2015. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Judges

and Mediators from Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand High Courts also participated in the conference. Mediation Committee also prepared an awareness film on mediation “*Aao Raab Aasaan Karein*”, which was released by Hon’ble Mr. Justice Madan B. Lokur. The Committee organized a refresher course for the Advocate-mediators of mediation centre on 16–17 November, 2015. Also, a 20-hour capsule course was conducted for different set of mediators.

Refresher courses for the in-service Judicial Officers; induction training programme for the newly appointed Judicial Officers; and refresher courses for the newly appointed Additional District and Sessions Judges and promotee Judicial Officers to the posts of Additional District and Sessions Judges were organized by the Chandigarh Judicial Academy, Chandigarh.

Various recruitment projects have been carried out, whereby a number of Judicial Officers as well as administrative officials were recruited by the recruitment cell of the High Court. A Society for Centralized Recruitment of Staff in Subordinate Courts (SSSC) has also been constituted which undertakes the recruitment of administrative staff for Subordinate Courts of Punjab, Haryana, and Union Territory Chandigarh.

Technological Accomplishments

A number of activities, viz e-filing, digital display boards, digitization of interim/final orders, library automation with radio frequency identification (RFID) system, e-diary, online traffic challan portal, e-Scan, and online publication of notices have been undertaken under computerization reforms of this Court. In the year 2015–2016, entire network is powered by centralized UPSs (20 KVA) having independent cooling, fire-fighting system and SMS/e-mail alert system. Wi-Fi facility has been extended to Archives Centre building, Arbitration Centre, and Bar room for quick Internet access.

High Court Data Centers are equipped with state-of-the-art information and communication technology (ICT) Infrastructure for ensuring 24 × 7 × 365 days’ uninterrupted operations with 99.9% uptime and zero data loss.

Apart from Case Information Software which has automated judicial work of case filing, case information, case up-gradation, and cause lists generation; various report generation softwares are being developed. Digitally signed interim orders are uploaded by Court secretaries, which can be viewed on Internet immediately after uploading of orders. Approximately, 7 lakh final orders and 1,583,000 interim orders are available on public portal, that is, on ‘phhc.gov.in’.

Personal Information System (PIS) has also been developed. Indian Law Reports (Punjab and Haryana) series from the year 2012 onwards have been digitized. Scanned judgments since 1950 are being added to software. Around 2,420,383 case files (127,651,838 images/pages) of judicial records have been scanned till July 2016 and the same has been uploaded on DMS in PDF/A digitally signed format. The Court has introduced a centralized copying agency, case management system (e-Diary), and library automation with RFID system. The RFID system was procured in the year 2015, and the integration of KOHA inventory system with RFID system has been completed.

The Court has also introduced video conferencing (VC) which is being used in District Courts and High Court extensively, whereby presence of accused from jails and evidence of doctors from hospitals is recorded. The evidence of Judicial Officers and residents of foreign countries is also recorded via VC. Last year, 130,546 under-trials were produced through VC in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh. In total, 3,946 doctors have availed the benefit of VC facility in Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh. All district hospitals in States of Punjab and Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh have been connected with

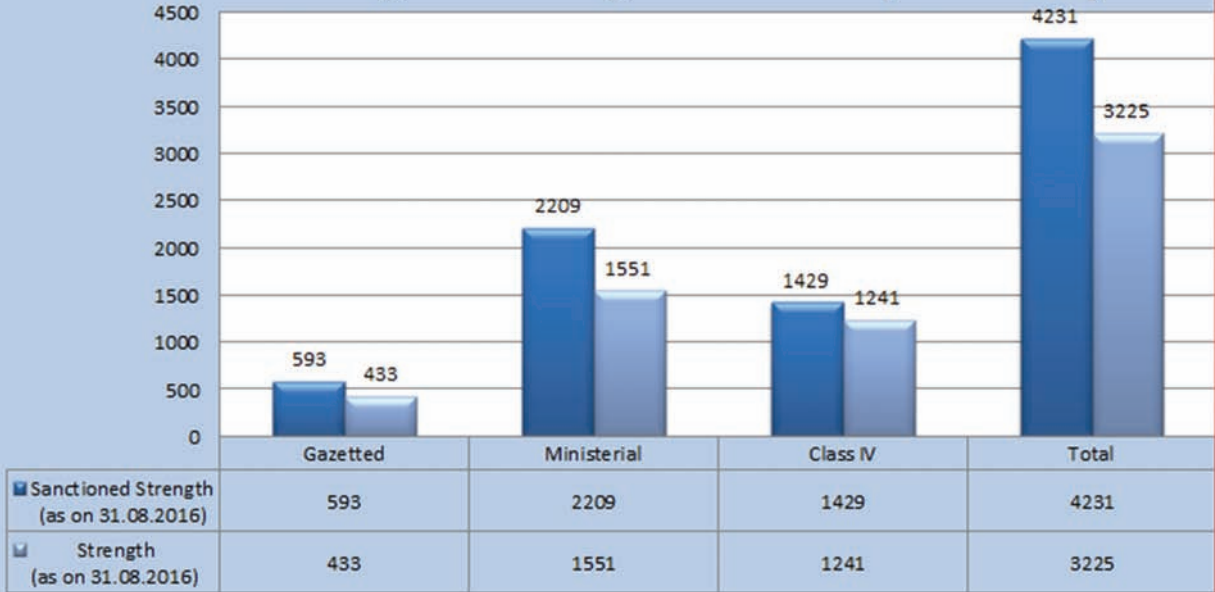
PAWAN/SWAN and VC equipment shall be installed soon. Data of prisoner software as implemented in jail of Haryana has been successfully synchronized with the e-Prisoner software developed by NIC, New Delhi.

Online access to view medico-legal report, post-mortem report, and forensic science laboratory report system has been provided to all Courts in the States of Punjab and Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

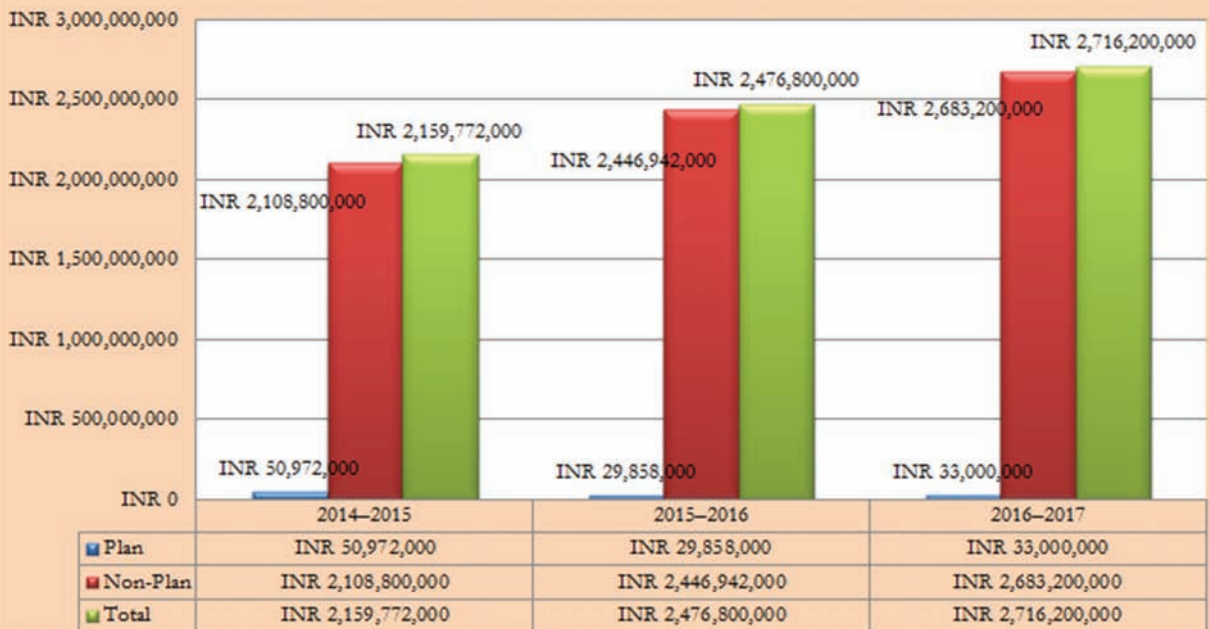
Auditorium of High Court of Punjab and Haryana



Staff Strength of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana



Budget of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	60,027	27,488	24,353	63,162
Company matters	588	289	338	539
Contempt (civil)	4,263	3,253	3,243	4,273
Review (civil)	814	1,251	1,012	1,053
Matrimonial matters	2,095	651	495	2,251
Arbitration matters	120	255	209	166
Civil revisions	9,113	8,901	9,365	8,649
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	2,829	608	1,342	2,095
Civil appeals	41,591	6,526	6,508	41,609
Land acquisition matters	43,927	6,829	26,131	24,625
MACT matters	39,185	7,190	4,531	41,844
Civil suits (original side)	2	3	0	5
Other than above	12,554	5,175	5,693	12,036
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	873	1,726	1,728	871
Criminal revisions	11,323	5,366	3,515	13,174
Bail applications	4,584	19,167	18,393	5,358
Criminal appeals	43,477	6,640	1,585	48,532
Death sentence reference	0	3	0	3
Contempt (criminal)	52	14	22	44
Miscellaneous criminal applications	12,356	25,334	24,423	13,267
Other than above	4,035	2,244	907	5,372

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	85
Working strength of Judges	46
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	46
Highest	54
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	65,704 (as on 30.06.2016)

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	501,071	352,334	343,950	509,455
Criminal	574,555	1,010,797	965,229	620,123
Total	1,075,626	1,363,131	1,309,179	1,129,578

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1,348	1,084	264

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	1,706
Criminal	922
Total	2,628

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RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the Rajasthan High Court*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navin Sinha, Chief Justice		
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajay Rastogi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prashant Kumar Agarwal	Hon'ble Ms. Justice Jaishree Thakur
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Govind Mathur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal
Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. K. Vyas	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sandeep Mehta	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Prakash Gupta
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammad Rafiq	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jainendra Kumar Ranka	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ganga Ram Moolchandani
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahesh Chandra Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pratap Krishna Lohra	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Maheshwari
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sangeet Raj Lodha	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Veerendra Singh Sirdhana (Gurjar)	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijay Kumar Vyas
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijay Bishnoi	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kailash Chandra Sharma
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kanwaljit Singh Ahluwalia	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Bhansali	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Goverdhan Bardhar
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sabina	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahendra Kumar Maheshwari	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pankaj Bhandari
Hon'ble Ms. Justice Nirmal Jit Kaur	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Banwari Lal Sharma	Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Chandra Somani

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

The State of Rajasthan enjoys a rich cultural history as well as an equally rich and distinct legal history right from the erstwhile Rajputana to modern Rajasthan. The Rajasthan High Court first came into being as a result of the Rajasthan High Court Ordinance, 1949 to mark the union and combined jurisdiction of 19 Princely States. Thereafter, under the States Reorganization Act 1956, the Rajasthan High Court was restored with renewed authority on 1 November 1956. Jodhpur continued to serve as the Principal Seat of the High Court of the new State of Rajasthan.

The Jaipur Bench of the High Court was abolished in 1958. However, the utility it served for the people of East Rajasthan, bar associations, and other organizations created a compelling demand for its revival. A Permanent Bench was finally re-created by an Order passed by the President of India in 1976. The present sanctioned Bench strength is 50 (38 permanent and 12 additional) of which 31 Judges have occupied their office.

The Principal Seat of Rajasthan is currently located in an old heritage building in Jodhpur. To



Jaipur Bench of Rajasthan High Court

cope up with the paucity of space that is unable to contain mounting infrastructure and manpower, a new majestic Court complex worth Rs 191.02 crore is under construction near Jhalamand, Jodhpur. The premises of the High Court Bench at Jaipur were also extended with the construction of a new block behind the old building that harbors additional courtrooms and office space for Advocates.

Nineteen districts exist under the jurisdiction of Jodhpur Bench while sixteen districts prevail under the Jaipur Bench. As per Orders passed in 1976, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Rajasthan has the discretion to transfer hearing of any case under the jurisdiction of the Jaipur Bench to the Principal Bench in Jodhpur.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

The Rajasthan State Legal Service Authority (RSLSA) is committed to provide a highly supportive Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to complement the conventional judicial system. To fulfill this ideal, the Lok Adalat system was streamlined strictly according to Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Lok Adalat campaigns were organized for revenue cases for three months

throughout the State including remote villages for successful disposal of 21 lac cases. Guidelines were issued to organize Lok Adalats for consumer cases at both pre-litigation and post-litigation stages. Mobile Lok Adalats are organized in mobile vans to benefit remote villages. Three new services, namely, banking and financial services, housing services, and LPG services, were added in the list of public utility services to be convened in Permanent Lok Adalats.



A view of High Court complex

Appointments for newly created posts of chairmen were made at all seven divisional headquarters.

A total of 948 mediators were trained in the past five years who are posted across 154 ADR centres at the High Court, District, and Taluka level. The success rate of mediation in 2016 is 26.41% and every effort is being made for radical improvement.

The Rajasthan Judicial Academy aims for excellence by imparting suitable in-depth expertise to all the staff members working for the Rajasthan High Court. At present, induction training of 112 newly recruited Civil Judges of 2016 batch is going on. Refresher courses, workshops, and seminars were organized at various district headquarters on cluster

basis for in-service Judicial Officers. Four west-zone regional judicial conferences were organized in collaboration with the National Judicial Academy in the past year. Rajasthan State Judicial Academy is also in charge for the publication of Indian Law Reporter.

Among other reforms, the High Court has developed a mechanism to reduce backlog of cases by clubbing together similar cases. A calendar is prescribed for prompt and seamless recruitment of Judicial Officers to increase the working efficiency of the High Court. The High Court is also pressing for increase in the number of Judges in Subordinate Courts and intends to fill those vacancies at the earliest.

Technological Accomplishments

The e-Courts Mission Mode Project was conceptualized with a vision to transform the Indian Judiciary by making use of technology. Under Phase I of the project, computer hardware has been provided to almost all the Courts to enable them with process of computerization.

All District Courts have their respective websites through which case information may be obtained along with other information. At the High Court level, all the orders are being uploaded on the official website of Rajasthan High Court.

Major digital initiatives include providing of certified copy from the uploaded orders without any movement of file. In a recent digital initiative e-Court Fee Collection Centre has been started at both Principal Seats, Jodhpur and Bench at Jaipur. At e-Court fees counters, Advocates, litigants and all concerned may purchase e-Stamps at the same rates on which Court fees stamps are sold. The use of traditional Court fee stamps would also continue simultaneously. Total required Court fee in a case may collectively be paid through one e-Stamp or through more than one e-Stamp, as per convenience or requirement.



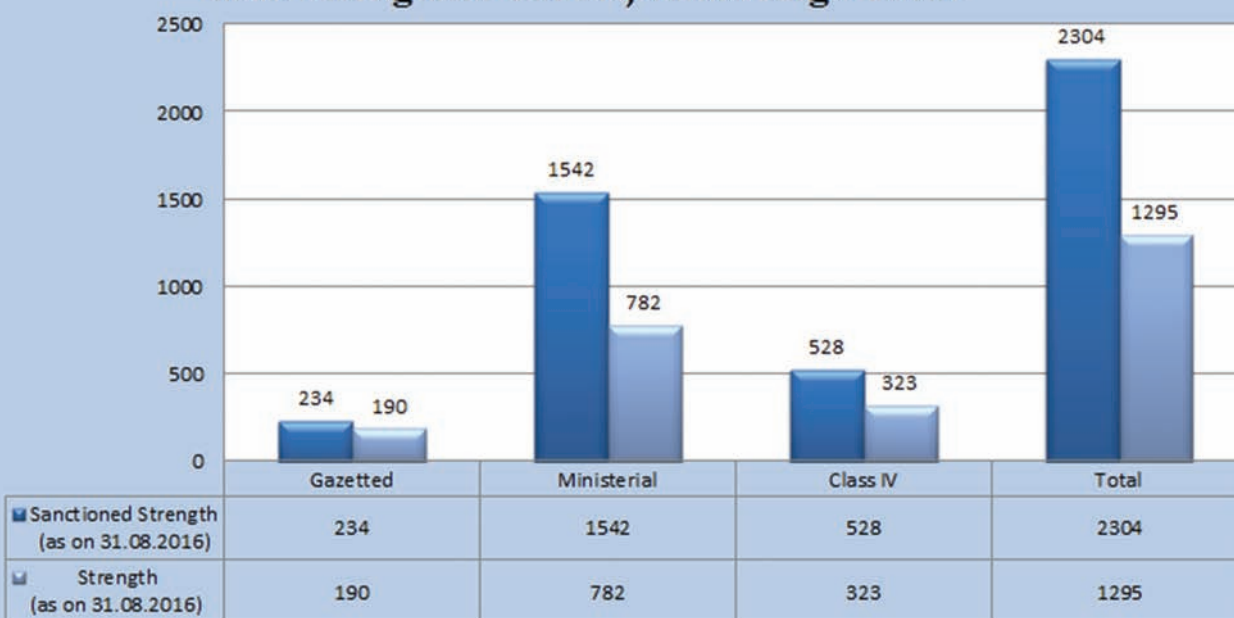
Chief Justice's Court at Jaipur

Apart from the above, for digitization of case records of High Court, a comprehensive project has been prepared and the report has been approved by Steering Committee. It further directed to take up the matter with the State Government for sanction of budget. The State Government has sanctioned a budget of Rs. 182.87 lakhs for the fiscal year 2016–2017 in

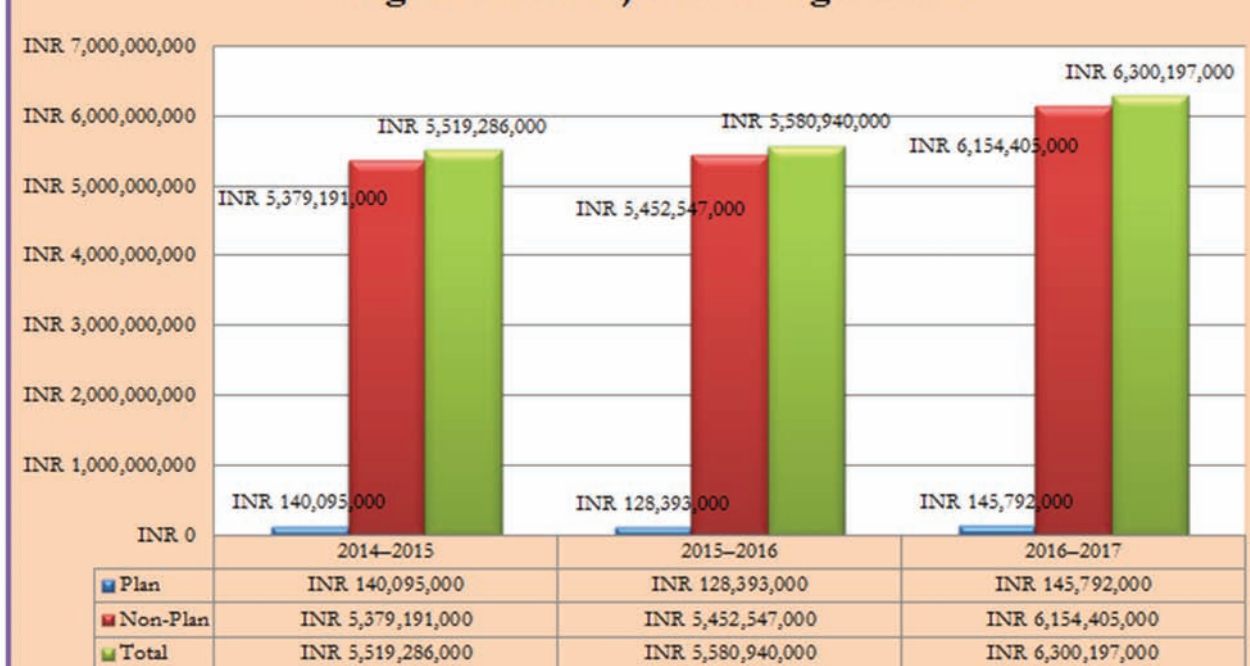
first phase and very soon the process of scanning and digitization will be started.

The High Court is also planning to adopt Open source technology by implementing and executing software on Linux OS which will reduce the cost and will enhance security.

Staff Strength of the Rajasthan High Court



Budget of the Rajasthan High Court



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	85,940	36,080	27,094	94,926
Company matters	299	189	145	343
Contempt (civil)	4,740	2,284	3,283	3,741
Review (civil)	619	245	150	714
Matrimonial matters	445	567	94	918
Arbitration matters	299	121	215	205
Civil revisions	1,397	436	382	1,451
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	5,534	596	1,965	4,165
Civil appeals	46,410	5,783	3,210	48,983
Land acquisition matters	149	48	1	196
MACT matters	12,321	3,058	1,890	13,489
Civil suits (original side)	0	1	0	1
Other than above	755	208	106	857
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	350	694	444	600
Criminal revisions	12,738	3,125	2,786	13,077
Bail applications	2,821	29,866	29,909	2,778
Criminal appeals	34,733	2,977	1,580	36,130
Death sentence reference	1	2	0	3
Contempt (criminal)	30	8	12	26
Miscellaneous criminal applications	3,528	4,402	3,894	4,036
Other than above	12	18	18	12

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	50
Working strength of Judges	31
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	24 (31.03.2016)
Highest	31 (30.06.2016)
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	55,314

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	457,932	238,801	221,318	475,415
Criminal	963,480	1,196,107	1,101,262	1,058,325
Total	1,421,412	1,434,908	1,322,580	1,533,740

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

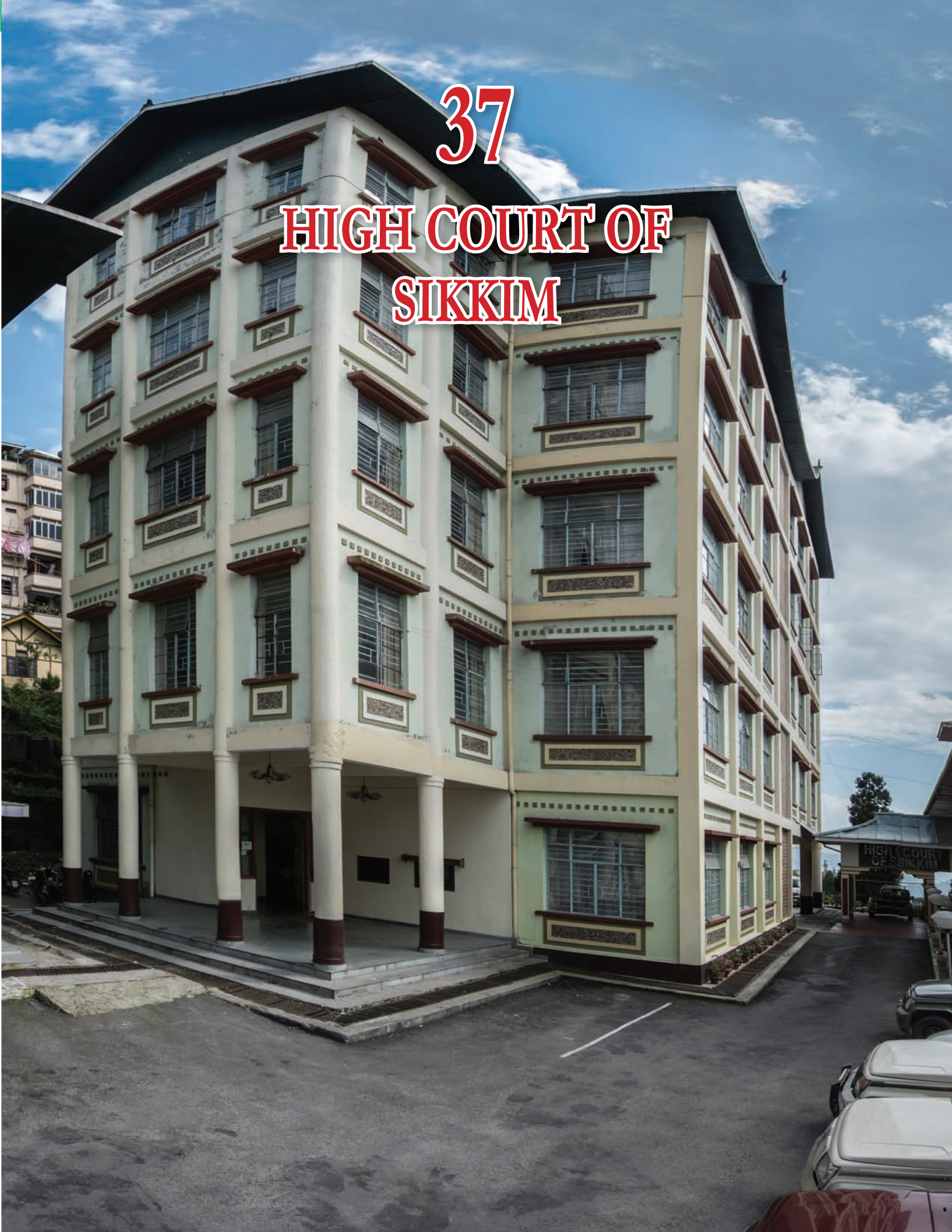
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1,199	989	210

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	30,281
Criminal	79,292
Total	109,573

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HIGH COURT OF
SIKKIM



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Sikkim*

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. K. Sinha, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. K. Agnihotri

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Meenakshi M. Rai

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

The High Court of Sikkim was established by a proclamation of His Highness Sir Tashi Namgyal, Maharaja of Sikkim, on 17 April 1955, after which the judicial system of Sikkim passed through various phases in the course of its evolution to its present State. Prior to the merger of Sikkim with the Union of India in the year 1975, by the Constitution (Thirty-Sixth Amendment) Act, 1975, the erstwhile State of Sikkim was a monarchy. The Maharaja of Sikkim first passed a ruling in favour of creating a High Court as the final destination to settle all matters of dispute in the State in 1955. However, he continued to exercise the prerogative to reprieve a sentence in case of conviction along with the authority to set up a special tribunal to review any case, civil or criminal.

In 1974, the ruling monarch, the leaders of the political parties representing the people of Sikkim and the Government of India mutually agreed upon the need for an independent Judiciary in Sikkim. To fulfil this ideal, the deliberate process of separating the Judiciary from the executive was continuously reformed for many years after Sikkim was integrated into India.

In 1978, Sikkim Civil Courts Act was passed with a view to consolidate the laws related to the Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court. The Sikkim State Judicial Service Rules, 1975 and the Sikkim Superior Judicial Service Rules, 1980 were framed to define the mode of recruitment and service of Judicial Officers. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, was also extended and enforced in 1994.

Presently, three positions are sanctioned for the post of Judges in Sikkim of which none is vacant. The High Court complex is located in Gangtok, East Sikkim. Back in 1975, a residential bungalow at the current address of the High Court was renovated to build the official premises. A new phase I building was completed in 2004 which houses the administrative block and auditorium. This was followed by the addition of phase II building in 2010 which houses three courtrooms, a library, conference hall, the video conference room, and a computer cell. There are four District Courts located in North, South, East, and West Sikkim serving under the jurisdiction of the High Court of Sikkim.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organises Lok Adalat and mediation using the financial support offered by the 13th Finance Commission. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) centres are based in all the four districts of Sikkim, of which, the ADR sites in East and West Sikkim turned operational in June

2016. Mediation is administered in Sikkim since 2009. There are 52 trained mediators at present. In the past eight years, 341 of 361 instituted cases were disposed of through mediation while the remaining 20 are pending.

The Sikkim Judicial Academy was inaugurated by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India in 2013.

It is functioning from the old Advocate General's office building while the completion of the official academy building is awaited. The induction training module for new recruits was overseen and prepared by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice himself in 2014. The academy subscribes to an interdisciplinary approach supplemented with practical training. Presently, the Sikkim Judicial Academy (SJA) is engaged in research on "Major bottlenecks in Service of Summons under Order V of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 and measures needed to remove such bottlenecks vis-à-vis liberal use of alternative modes of service."

Several Committees were formed during 2015-2016 to delegate duties in matters of immediate concern. Headway was made in domains related to gender sensitization and internal complaints, juvenile justice, arrears of cases, infrastructure of Subordinate Courts, implementation of resolutions passed in Chief Justices' Conference (2016), selection and appointment, utilization of funds allocated by the 14th Finance Commission, case pendency reduction, sensitization of Family Court matters, monitoring building plans of all Court complexes, mediation and Sikkim Judicial Academy.

Technological Accomplishments

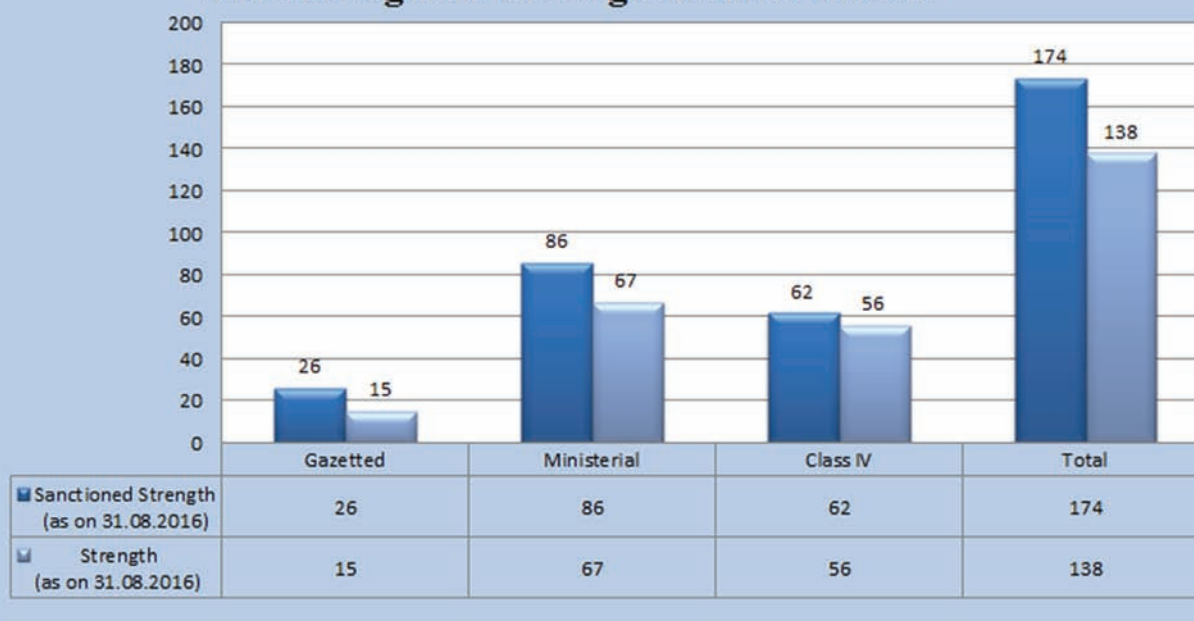
The "High Court of Sikkim Digitization of Records Rules, 2016" were framed and published on 31 March 2016. Permanent staff of 10 technical employees were hired in 2015, consistent with phase I of e-Courts project. In total, 40 computers and allied LAN items were set up in the Subordinate Courts of Sikkim as per phase II of e-Courts project in February 2016. Another 10 contractual posts were created in compliance with phase II of the e-Courts project in 2016. The Registry of the High Court of Sikkim floated an e-tender on 28 May 2016 in the State portal for scanning and digitization of cases/judicial records of the High Court and Subordinate Courts of Sikkim.

Ubuntu (14.04) operating system and CIS 2.0 content management system is being used on all the desktops and laptops of the Subordinate Courts. Migration to the latest CIS Core 1.0 rolled out by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, is under process at the High Court of Sikkim. Leased line connectivity is available in High Court of Sikkim and two other District Courts. It will be implemented in remaining Courts by October 2016. Video Conference system was also set up in all four District Courts and two jails of Sikkim.

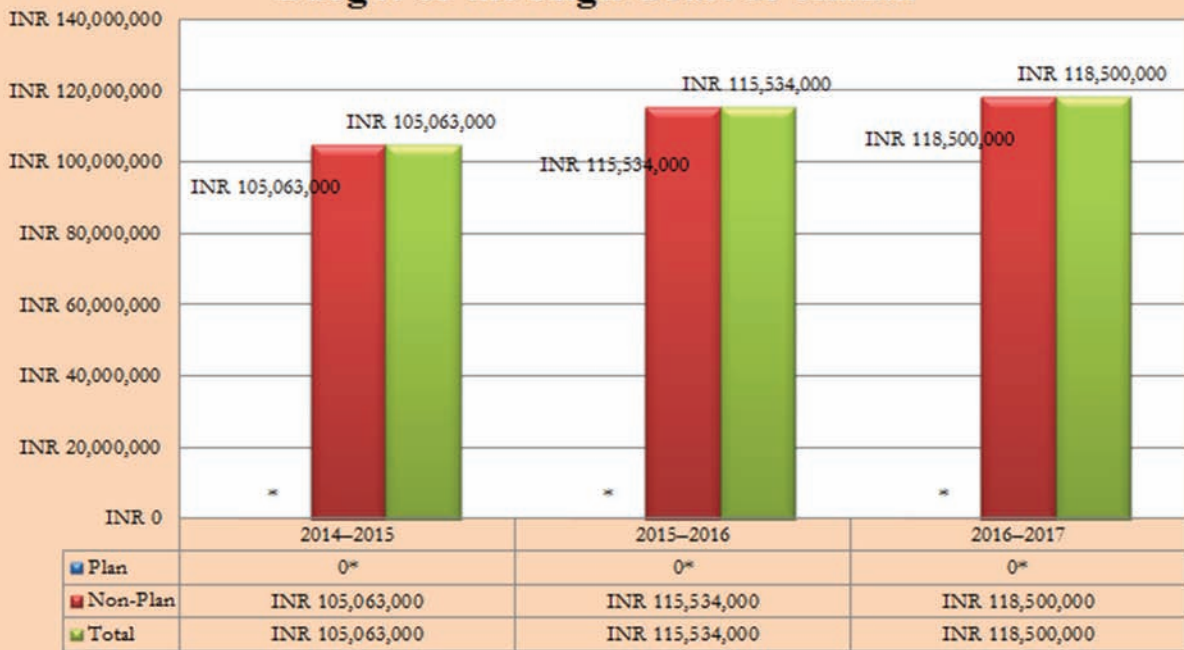


Chief Justice's Court, High Court of Sikkim

Staff Strength of the High Court of Sikkim



Budget of the High Court of Sikkim



*Budget under the plan head is not available.

High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	42	64	60	46
Company matters*	2	5	4	3
Contempt (civil)	1	3	4	0
Review (civil)	0	2	0	2
Matrimonial matters	2	2	3	1
Arbitration matters	0	2	1	1
Civil revisions	1	4	3	2
Tax matters (direct and indirect)*	4	2	3	3
Civil appeals	12	19	13	18
Land acquisition matters*	2	1	3	0
MACT matters	11	18	19	10
Civil suits (original side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	2	5	4	3
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	2	1	3	0
Criminal revisions	5	8	10	3
Bail applications	0	5	5	0
Criminal appeals	14	41	25	30
Death sentence reference	0	0	0	0
Contempt (criminal)	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous criminal applications	2	11	7	6
Other than above	3	3	5	1

*The figures shown at serial numbers 2, 8, and 10 are bifurcation of the figures shown at Sl. No. 1 (Writ Petition).

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	3
Working strength of Judges	3
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	2
Highest	3
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	NIL

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	342	586	512	416
Criminal	778	1,392	1,267	903
Total	1,120	1,978	1,779	1,319

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

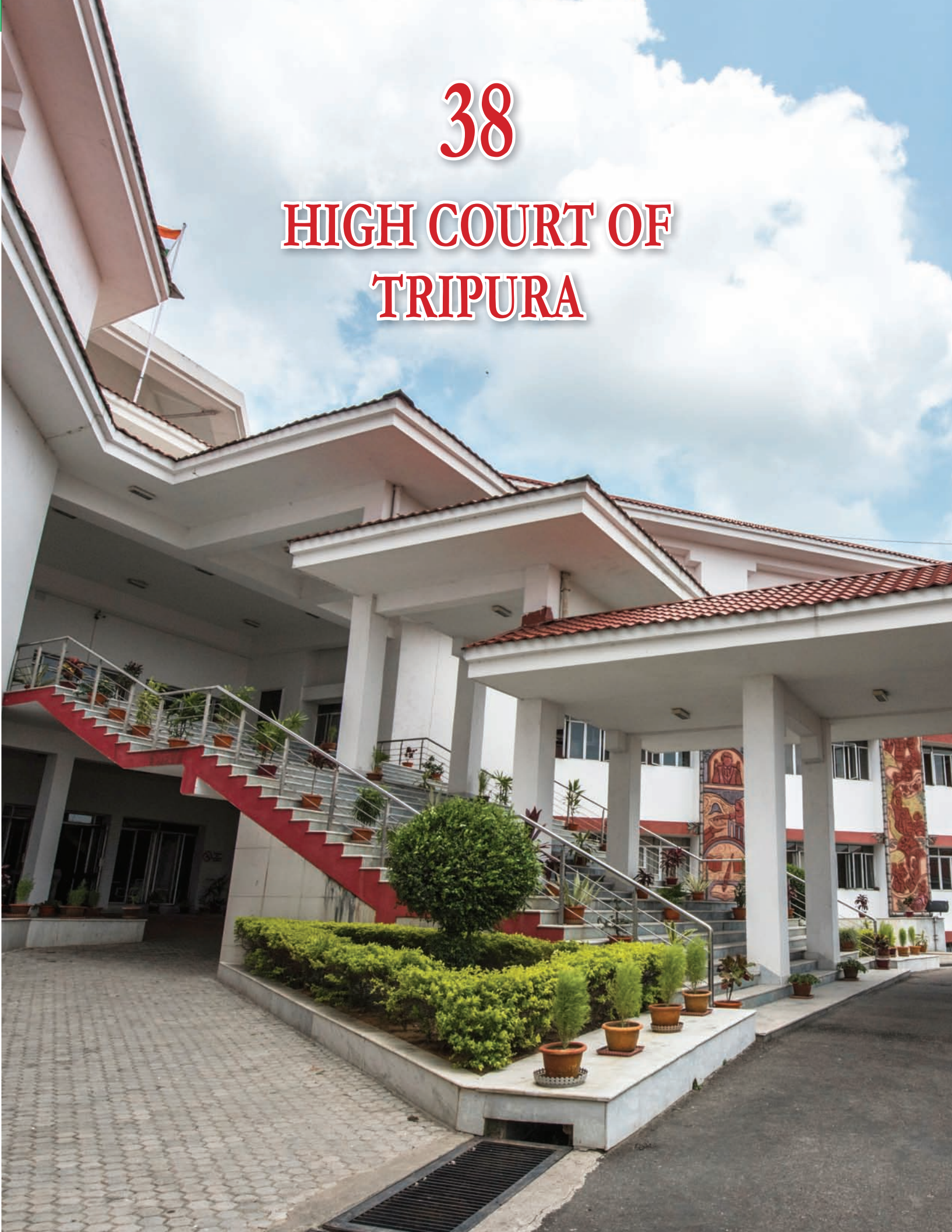
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
18	14	4

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	3
Criminal	3
Total	6

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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 T. Vaiphei, Acting Chief Justice

Honble Mr. Justice Utpalendu Bikas Saha

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Swapan Chandra Das

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subhasis Talapatra

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

Tripura, a small State of the North-Eastern region, was a princely State whose dynasty of tribal kings stretches back to antiquity. The tribal kings of Tripura used to administer justice in accordance with the prevalent customs, equity, and good conscience over a long period of time. Gradually, the legal and judicial system was modernized through the process of formation of legislative and judicial bodies and codification of laws.

Major administrative and judicial reforms were done during the tenure of Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Debbarman who was the last ruling king of the princely State of Tripura before its merger with the Union of India. He wanted to govern the State in accordance with a written Constitution for which he had set up a Committee of experts for drafting the Constitution. The written Constitution of Tripura which was later known as the Government of Tripura Act, 1351 Tripura Era (1941 AD) came into force on 1 July 1941. After the State merged into the Union of India, the Central Government, in exercise of powers conferred under Sections 3 and 4 of the Extra Provincial Jurisdiction Act, 1947 made Tripura Administration Order, 1949 and vested the powers exercisable by the Maharaja of Tripura to the Chief Commissioner. Then there was no High Court in Tripura. With a view to streamline the judicial administration in the State, the Central Government made Tripura (Courts) Order, 1950. Under paragraph 3 of Tripura (Courts) Order, 1950, the Court of Judicial Commissioner was established.

The State of Tripura came under the jurisdiction of Gauhati High Court in 1972 only after the North-

Eastern Areas Re-organization Act, 1971 was enacted and the High Court for Assam was re-designated as Gauhati High Court. Later by a Presidential Order, namely, Gauhati High Court (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Agartala) Order, 1992, a Permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court was set up at Agartala with effect from 16 May 1992. Tripura continued to be under the jurisdiction of the Gauhati High Court until under Section 28A(c) of the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971, as amended in 2012, a separate High Court for the State of Tripura to be called as the High Court of Tripura was established on 23 March 2013.

The sanctioned strength of permanent puisne Judges is three, apart from the Chief Justice. The High Court of Tripura is functioning from its own spacious and beautiful building covering an area of about 10 acres. The bar association hall consisting of a large area which is able to accommodate more than 500 lawyers, the administrative blocks including the office of the Advocate General, the officers of the Registry, office of the High Court Legal Services Committee, and the High Court Mediation Centre are all located on the ground floor of the High Court building. On the first floor of the building, there are five spacious Court halls along with Judges' chambers attached to each of the Court halls. On the second floor, there is the High Court's auditorium, which can accommodate 150 persons apart from the dais, a Judges' library, a Judges' lounge, a computer section, and a cyber-forensic lab.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

In the Lok Adalat, 59,723 pending cases have been disposed of from January 2016 till July 2016 and 569 pre-litigation disputes have been disposed of during this period. There is a Permanent Lok Adalat for settlement of disputes relating to public utility services which has disposed of 433 cases during the past 1 year.

The Tripura State Legal Services Authority has set up its first ADR Centre at Udaipur in Gomati District. The centre was inaugurated on 4 September 2015. Besides, various programmes on mediation have been implemented during the past one year, including workshop on mediation; 40 hours' training programme of mediators; a regional conference on mediation (Zone – 3), and many others. There are three district Mediation Centres in the State and one Mediation Centre in the High Court. The High Court has been stressing towards creation of a litigant friendly atmosphere in the District Courts by encouraging District Courts to ensure better infrastructure facilities to the litigants and easy flow of public information. In another initiative to provide quick relief to accident victims in Motor Accident Claim (MAC) appeals, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court of Tripura has directed that henceforth 10 Motor Accident Claims Appeals shall be listed for hearing in each of the Courts in the High Court on every Monday and Tuesday from the first week of September 2016. After the commencement of the High Court of Tripura, the Tripura Judicial Academy was registered on 21 May 2014 under the Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860). After inception, the academy organized number of training programmes for Judicial Officers and the ministerial staff of the High Court and District Courts.

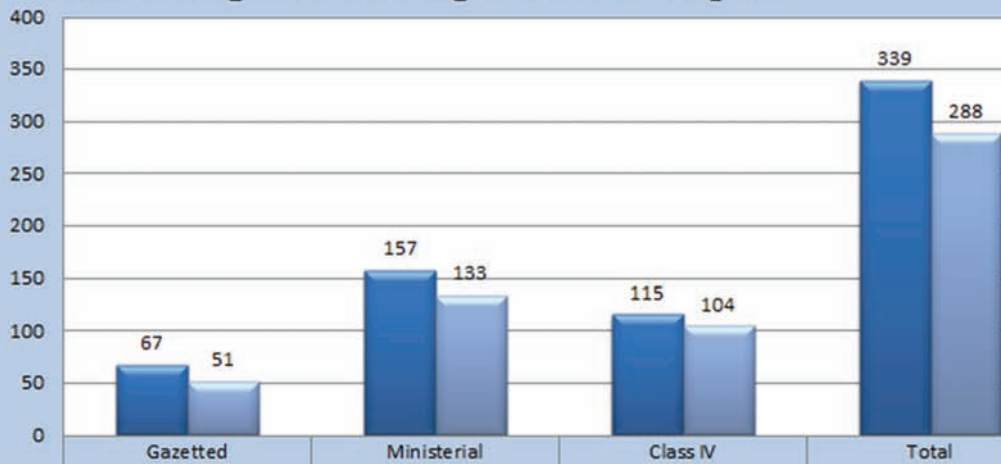
Technological Accomplishments

After the implementation of e-Courts project phase I in the District Courts, the High Court has taken up the task of implementing e-Courts project phase – II in the District Courts throughout the State and migration to CIS 2.0 version from CIS 1.1 version has been successfully completed in all Court complexes having internet connection.

A full-fledged computer section with a cyber-forensic lab is functioning in the High Court. Court display system with Android apps has also been introduced in the High Court. SMS service along with availability of orders and judgments through High Court's portal has been made available for Advocates, litigants and others. Judges library information system through KOHA software has replaced the 'Troodan' and 'e-Granthalaya'. Besides, there is payroll software for the accounts section. Moreover, there is a bio-metric attendance system in the High Court.

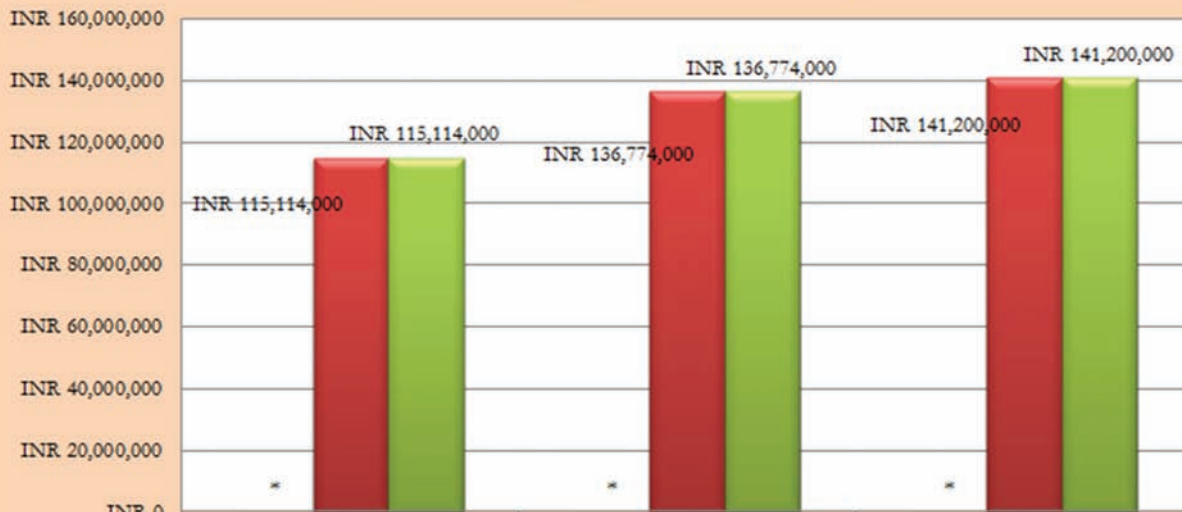
Some other key digital initiatives include- the installation of Video Conferencing (VC) equipment in the District Courts at Agartala, Udaipur, and Kailashahar; for the two Districts at Belonia and Dharmanagar the e-Committee has provided the video conferencing hardware and the installation of all the hardware is under progress at both Court end and jail end; registration of case by auto-generated case numbers has been initiated in the 12 Court complexes through NIC Pune Version (1.1) of CIS; the Drupal bases website for all the five Judicial Districts has been prepared and it is updated on a regular basis; case Information to the litigants/parties through SMS has been initiated through the PUNE Version of CIS in the 11 Court Complexes.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Tripura



Sanctioned Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	67	157	115	339
Strength (as on 31.08.2016)	51	133	104	288

Budget of the High Court of Tripura



Plan	0*	0*	0*
Non-Plan	INR 115,114,000	INR 136,774,000	INR 141,200,000
Total	INR 115,114,000	INR 136,774,000	INR 141,200,000

*Budget under the plan head is not available.

High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	1,027	1,147	1,099	1,075
Company matters	1	2	2	1
Contempt (civil)	24	29	41	12
Review (civil)	5	34	31	8
Matrimonial matters	82	25	49	58
Arbitration matters	10	35	25	20
Civil revisions	144	147	234	57
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	3	0	0	3
Civil appeals	455	88	289	254
Land acquisition matters	547	38	427	158
MACT matters	662	90	440	312
Civil suits (original side)	0	0	0	0
Other than above	1,303	285	1053	535
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	1	12	10	3
Criminal revisions	441	102	384	159
Bail applications	10	343	342	11
Criminal appeals	188	111	77	222
Death sentence reference	0	1	0	1
Contempt (criminal)	2	6	5	3
Miscellaneous criminal applications	143	26	116	53
Other than above	92	70	120	42

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	4
Working strength of Judges	4
Analysis of working strength of Judge's during 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016	
Lowest	4
Highest	4
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	3 (WP(C))

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	9,788	8,151	8,196	9,743
Criminal	107,759	219,469	197,501	129,727
Total	117,547	227,620	205,697	139,470

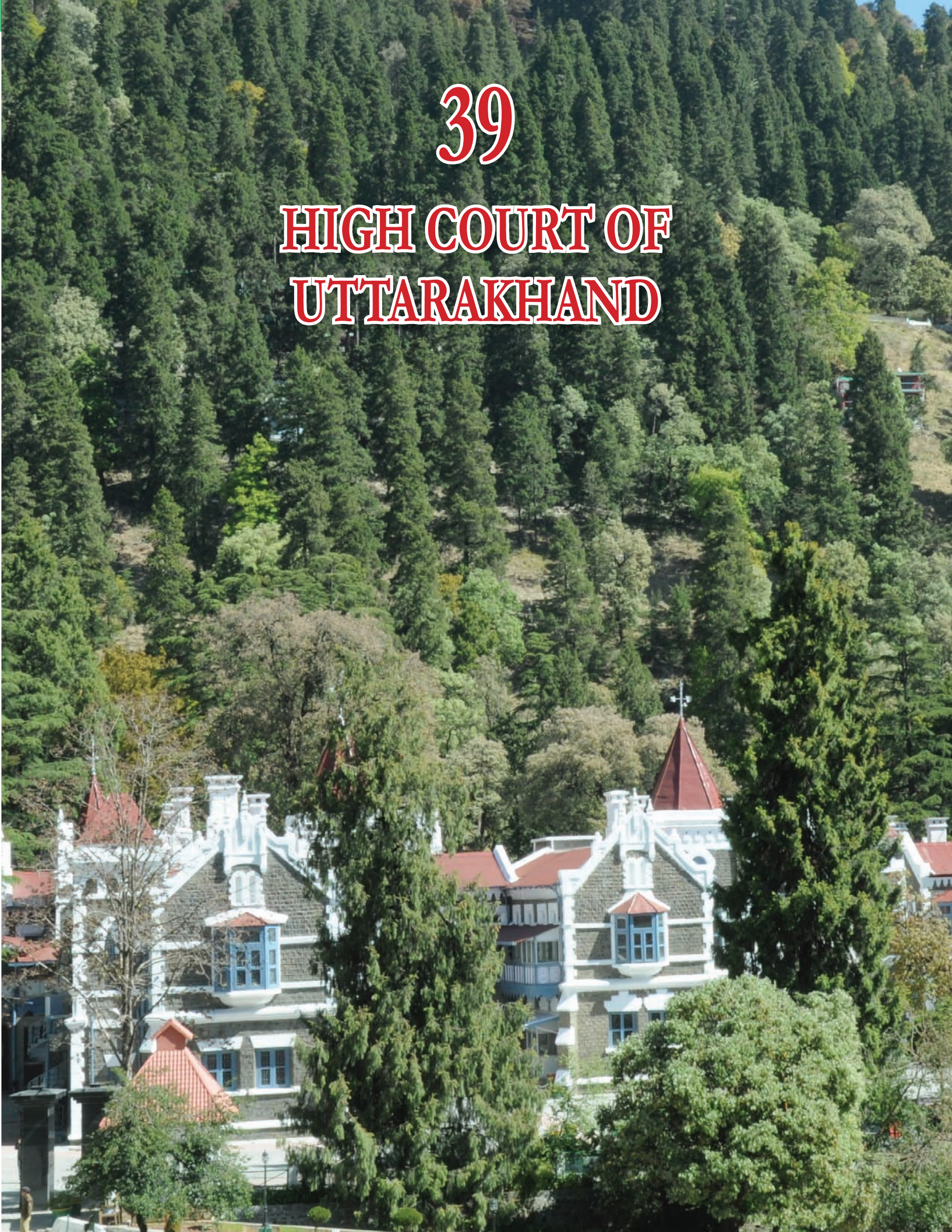
Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
106	77	29

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	105
Criminal	3,076
Total	3,181

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**HIGH COURT OF
UTTARAKHAND**



Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Uttarakhand

Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. M. Joseph, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. K. Bist

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Singh

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Serves Kumar Gupta

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Dhyani

*As on 30 June 2016.

Brief Introduction

Before the new State of Uttarakhand was carved out from the State of Uttar Pradesh, the territorial jurisdiction of this area was vested with the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad which was created by the Queen's Charter of England in the year 1866. Along with the High Courts of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, High Court of Uttarakhand, pursuant to re-organization of the State of Uttar Pradesh, came into being on 9 November 2000. At the time of creation of the State, the High Court of Uttarakhand was also established on the same day at Nainital and this popular hill station was transformed from being a minor district headquarters to the seat of the High Court of the State.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashok A. Desai was sworn in as the first Chief Justice of Uttarakhand amid an effective strength of three Judges. Two other Judges were transferred from the Allahabad High Court. At present, the sanctioned Bench strength for Uttarakhand is 11, but only six Judges are occupying the office at the moment.

The High Court complex is functioning in an old building situated in Mallital, Nainital, formerly

known as old secretariat. Since the building has immense historical importance as a 100-year-old catholic structure constructed in 1900 AD, it was considered an appropriate venue to establish the High Court of the new State of Uttarakhand. A park in front of the building and Naina peak, the highest hill in Nainital, right behind the Court building forms a majestic view. Though infrastructural facilities were rather elementary in the beginning and only five courtrooms were available, many improvements have been made and more courtrooms have been added over time.

The capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun (Garhwal Region) while the Principal Seat is based in Nainital (Kumaon Region). The jurisdiction of the High Court extends over Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Paur Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar and Uttarkashi. Currently, 206 Judicial Officers are deployed in different parts of the above districts.

Initiatives for the Judicial Year 2015–2016

Administrative Achievements

Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority (USLSA) organizes two National Lok Adalats every month in different parts of the State. In February 2016, 954 cases related to banking and financial matters were

disposed of leading to a total settlement worth Rs 71,168,918/-. In March 2016, 779 civil and revenue cases were resolved that settled an amount of Rs 2,364,716/-.



Chief Justice's Court, High Court of Uttarakhand

To publicize free legal aid available for the poor and needy people, a program by the name of '*Kanooni Salab*' is being prepared and telecast on Doordarshan. Member Secretary of USLSA and other secretaries, DLSAs participate as experts providing valuable information that might benefit the masses. Legal awareness camps are organized using mobile vans throughout the State. Each month designated districts are covered thoroughly including the remotest villages. Documentary on mediation and Lok Adalat are shown to the villagers and their queries are resolved on the spot. Applications for legal aid are also collected which are sent forward for necessary action.

Mediation centres are established in eight districts of Uttarakhand. NALSA initially allocated fund of Rs. 16 lakhs to fulfill pre-decided requirements of infrastructure, publicity of the centre, training, and honorarium for the staff. Mediation centres in the remaining five districts are working within the existing infrastructure. Permanent set-up of mediation centres in all of the 13 districts of the State is being planned for which the project will commence as soon as sufficient funds are available. Advocates are appropriately trained to handle mediation while the Judicial Officers are prepared to function as referral Judges.

The Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy (UJALA) became functional on 14 June 2008. The academy organizes induction/orientation training programs for newly appointed Judges and refresher programs, workshops, seminars, and specialized training programs for other Judges of Subordinate Courts of the State. The ultimate goal of the Academy is "to strengthen the administration of justice as a whole." Officers of various Departments of State

Government, who by virtue of their official position have to take judicial or quasi-judicial decisions are also imparted training in UJALA to suit their needs. Consequently, training programs on legal matters for the officers of Secretariat, Police Department, Medical and Health Department, Urban Development Department, and PWD/RES/Irrigation/Minor Irrigation Department are organized to encourage functional application of law.

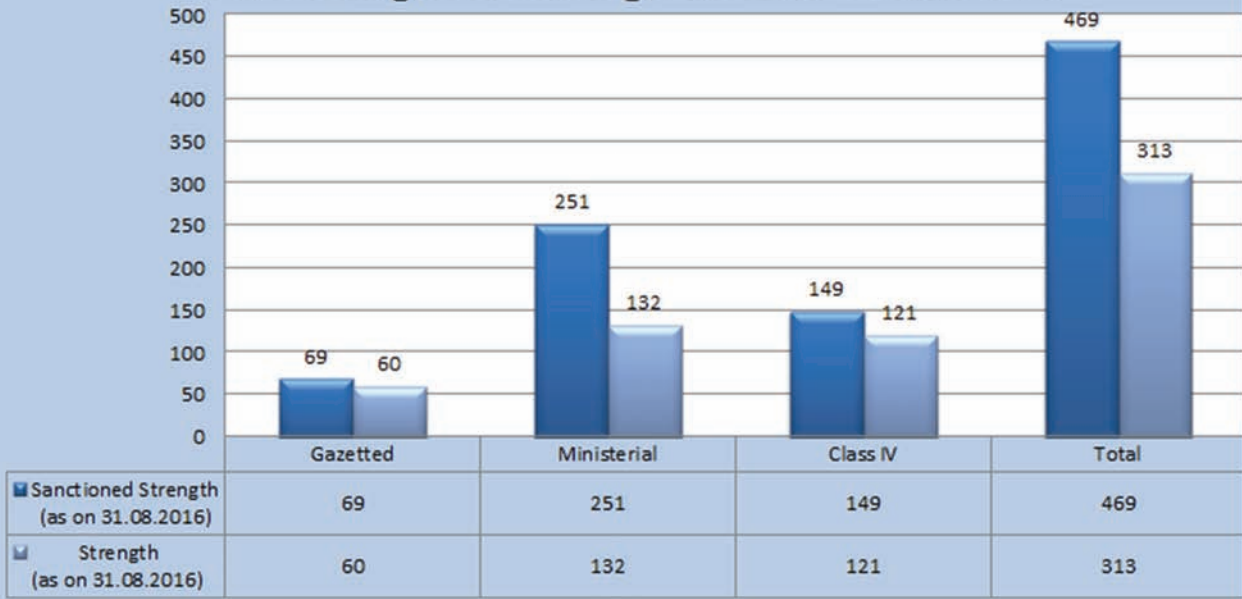
During first quarter of 2016, 10 crores were allocated for construction of Judges' residences in Nainital. Construction of covered passage (Girder Bridge) between registry block and the Glenthorn office building is expected to complete shortly. Major exercise is underway to establish solar power in all the District Courts of the State. Five districts have been marked for the first stage of this conversion.

Technological Accomplishments

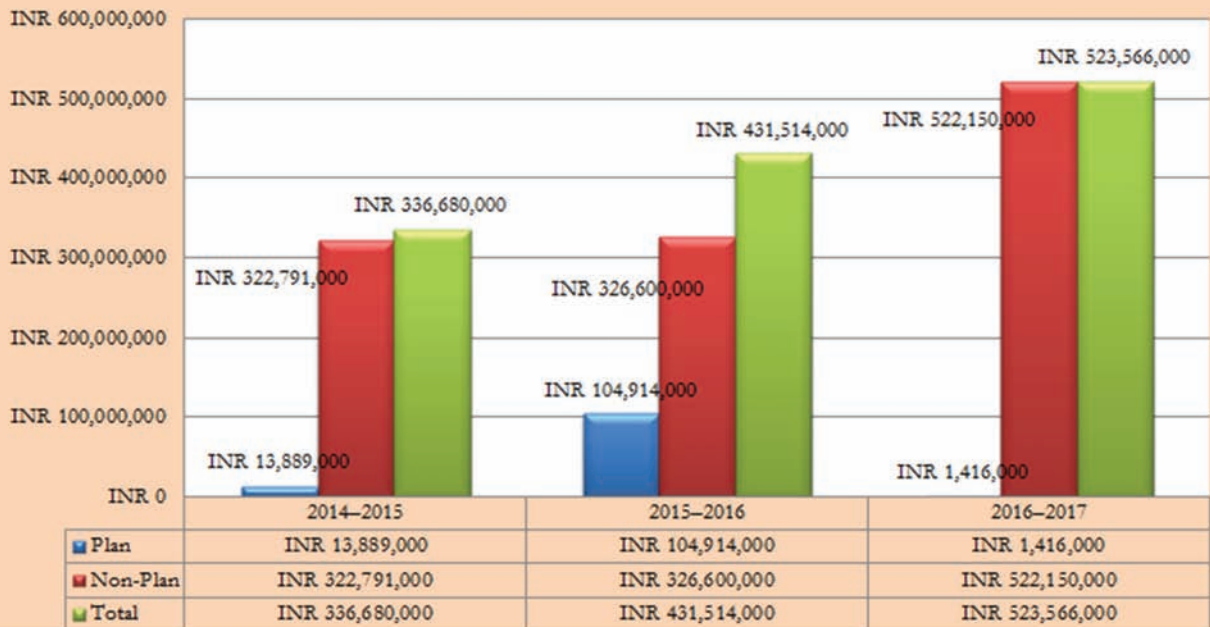
All the District Court complexes in Uttarakhand are ICT enabled as per the directions of the e-Courts mission mode project. Case status, cause list and Court orders are available on the web and accessible to litigants and Advocates.

Android applications (beta version) are available for free download from the official website of High Court of Uttarakhand to view case status and cause list on smart phones. Cause lists of the High Court of Uttarakhand are updated daily. Koha, e-library catalogue is available for the High Court staff. They have access to e-journals, reports prepared by the Law Commission of India and legal databases of international academic institutes among other valuable information.

Staff Strength of the High Court of Uttarakhand



Budget of the High Court of Uttarakhand



High Court Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency (as on 01.07.2015)	Institution	Disposal	Pendency (as on 30.06.2016)
Civil				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	11,507	7,416	5,399	13,524
Company matters	26	18	14	30
Contempt (civil)	324	476	309	491
Review (civil)	179	686	583	282
Matrimonial matters	199	96	28	267
Arbitration matters	40	41	32	49
Civil revisions	255	175	140	290
Tax matters (direct and indirect)	293	110	67	336
Civil appeals	747	538	385	900
Land acquisition matters	1,274	333	151	1,456
MACT matters	2,848	664	237	3,275
Civil suits (original side)	2	0	1	1
Other than above	41	70	55	56
Criminal				
Writ petition (Articles 226 and 227)	838	1,841	1,465	1,214
Criminal revisions	1,068	470	183	1,355
Bail applications	216	2,067	1,921	362
Criminal appeals	2,846	1,225	462	3,609
Death sentence reference	2	3	2	3
Contempt (criminal)	0	1	1	0
Miscellaneous criminal applications	2,529	1,803	1,381	2,951
Other than above	18	169	100	87

Judges' Strength, Analysis of Working Strength of Judges, and Old Cases

Judges' Strength (as on 30.06.2016)	
Sanctioned strength of Judges	11
Working strength of Judges	6
Analysis of Working Strength of Judges (from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016)	
Lowest	6
Highest	6
Analysis of Old Cases	
Cases more than 10 years old	339

Subordinate Courts Statistics

Institution, Disposal, and Pendency of Cases in Subordinate Courts

from 01.07.2015 to 30.06.2016

Category	Pendency as on 01.07.2015	Institution	Disposal	Pendency as on 30.06.2016
Civil	30,586	24,052	22,729	31,909
Criminal	123,245	173,840	147,194	149,891
Total	153,831	197,892	169,923	181,800

Details of Judicial Officers in Subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2016

Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
280	222	58

Analysis of Old Cases as on 30.06.2016

Category	Number of cases older than 10 years
Civil	306
Criminal	33
Total	339