

06– 04 – 2023

News: India Justice Report 2022

- According to the **India Justice Report (IJR) 2022**, Karnataka has achieved the top rank among the 18 large and mid-sized states in delivery of justice with populations over one crore.
- Tamil Nadu has ranked in the second position; Telangana third; and Uttar Pradesh is at rank 18 which is the lowest.

India Justice Report (IJR)

- The **India Justice Report (IJR)** is an initiative of Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative among others.
- It was first published in 2019.
- It assesses the performance of states in terms of justice delivery, by considering several parameters such as police, judiciary, prisons, and legal aid to assess the overall performance of each state.

Key Highlights of the Report

Ranking of Justice Delivery

- The list of 7 Small States with a population less than one crore each, was topped by Sikkim which was ranked second in 2020.
- Sikkim has been followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. The State of Goa is at rank seven which is the lowest.

Shortage of Judges

- The Indian judiciary is facing a severe shortage of judges and infrastructure, leading to rising pendency, increasing caseloads, and declining case clearance rates (CCR) in lower courts.
- As of December 2022, the High Courts were functioning with only 778 judges against a sanctioned strength of 1,108 judges.

Pendency

- The number of cases pending per judge is rising in most states over the last five years, while the sanctioned strength has remained the same.
- The average pendency in High Courts is highest in Uttar Pradesh (11.34 years) and West Bengal (9.9 years), while it is lowest in Tripura (1 year), Sikkim (1.9 years), and Meghalaya (2.1 years).

Increased Caseload

- The caseload per judge has steadily increased, with the caseload per judge increasing in 22 states and Union Territories between 2018 and 2022.

Case Clearance Rate (CCR)

- The Case Clearance Rate (CCR) in High Courts improved by six percentage points (88.5% to 94.6%) between 2018-19 and 2022 but declined by 3.6 points in lower courts (93% to 89.4%).
- High Courts are increasingly clearing more cases annually than subordinate courts.
- In 2018-19, only four High Courts had a CCR of 100% or more. In 2022, this more than double to 12 High Courts.

Court Halls

- Nationally, the number of court halls appears sufficient for the number of actual judges, but space will become a problem if all the sanctioned posts are filled.
- In August 2022, there were 21,014 court halls for the 24,631 sanctioned judges' posts, a shortfall of 14.7%.