**Chhattisgarh ranks among top six states; Records Highest Increase in Spend on Training in Police reveals IJR 2025**

***Some encouraging improvements:***

* One of only four states to record 100% CCR at both High Court and district courts
* Meets OBC quotas at both constables and officer levels
* 100% police stations equipped with women help desks

***Persistent lacunae:***

* Number of paralegal volunteer reduced by half
* 1 in three posts missing among district court judges tripling from 9% in 2022
* 1 in every 3 jails reported occupancy rates between 150-250% and 9% (3 of 33 jails) had over 250%
* Only one legal service clinic in the entire state serving nearly 20,000 villages

**15 April, Raipur:** The 2025 India Justice Report (IJR), India’s only ranking of states on delivery of justice in the country, released today, ranks Chhattisgarh 4th in Police and 7th in Legal Aid, while overall it was ranked 6th (2022: 9th) among the 18 Large and Mid-sized states (with population of over one crore each).

The top overall position was retained by Karnataka, followed by Andhra Pradesh, climbing from fifth in 2022 to second, Telangana (2022 ranking: 3rd), and Kerala (2022 ranking: 6th). Among the seven small states (with populations less than one crore each), Sikkim (2022: 1st) ranked first, followed by Himachal Pradesh (2022: 6th) and Arunachal Pradesh (2022: 2nd).

The India Justice Report (IJR) was first initiated by Tata Trusts, with the first ever ranking published in 2019. This is the fourth edition of the report, in collaboration with partners including the Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS–Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, and How India Lives, IJR’s data partner.

Through a rigorous 24-month quantitative research, the IJR 2025, similar to the previous three, has tracked the performance of states in **capacitating their Justice delivery structures** to effectively deliver mandated services. Based on the latest official statistics from authoritative government sources, it brings together otherwise siloed data on the **four pillars of Justice delivery – Police, Judiciary, Prisons, and Legal Aid**. Each pillar was analysed through the prism of budgets, human resources, workload, diversity, infrastructure, and trends (intention to improve over a five-year period), against the state’s own declared standards and benchmarks. This edition also separately assesses the capacity of the 25 State Human Rights Commissions (*see SHRC brief for more*) and consists of essays on mediation and access to justice for persons with disabilities.

Discussing the India Justice Report, **Justice (Retd.) Madan B. Lokur** commented, “*The punishing process of accessing justice begins with the very first encounter an individual has with the system. With our failure to properly equip and train frontline justice providers—police stations, legal aid actors including paralegal volunteers and district courts—we fracture public trust. These institutions are intended to embody our commitment to equal justice. The strength of our entire justice framework rests on these critical first points of contact. The fourth edition of the India Justice Report points out that improvements remain few and far between in the absence of adequate attention given to resources. Alas, the burden continues to remain on the individual seeking justice, and not the state to provide it*.”

**Ms. Maja Daruwala, Chief Editor, India Justice Report**, highlighted, “*As India moves forward into a hundred years of being a democratic, rule of law nation, the promise of rule of law and equal rights will remain hollow unless underwritten by a reformed justice system. Reform is not optional. It is urgent. A well-resourced responsive justice system is a constitutional imperative that must be experienced as an everyday reality available to every citizen*.”

**Chhattisgarh’s Ranks: Pillar Wise**

|  | **IJR 4** | **IJR 3** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OVERALL** | **6** | 9 |
| **POLICE** | **4** | 9 |
| **PRISONS** | **13** | 13 |
| **JUDICIARY** | **8** | 6 |
| **LEGAL AID**  | **7** | 11 |

**Large vacancies across justice system**

As of 2025, vacancies range from 27% in HC to 30% among district judges. As of 2023, Chhattisgarh had a 28% vacancy in police constabulary. In the Chhattisgarh Forensic department, more than half of the scientific staff (54%) was missing in the forensic labs.

Chhattisgarh’s prisons are over 45% their capacity and run with a high overall staff[[1]](#footnote-0) shortfall of 36%. Within the prison staff, vacancies stand the highest among prison officers at 66%, one of the highest in the country. Its medical staff, doctors and correctional staff had shortfalls of over 50% and 1 in three guarding staff was also missing.

**Pending cases**

Nearly 1 in every three cases (32%) at the High Court were pending for 5-10 years in 2024. This share has increased from 27% in 2022. At the district court, 10% cases remained pending for 5-10 years.

**Gender and Caste Representation**

Nearly half of the state’s district court judges are women but they account for a meagre 6% at the High Court in 2025. At 8%, Chhattisgarh also recorded one of the lowest shares of women in the police in the country. In the police, Chhattisgarh fulfilled and exceeded caste quotas for ST and OBC constables and OBC officers as it has done since 2019. Among the district judiciary, the state recorded a high vacancy among ST judges at 40% despite a 32% reservation.

**Legal Aid**

In legal aid, despite the state contributing 87% of its total legal aid budget, it could utilise only 77% of it. Utilisation of NALSA Fund also fell to 69% in 2022-23. There was only a single legal service clinic for nearly 20,000 villages.

The IJR 2025 has reiterated both immediate and foundational corrections. It has flagged urgent filling of vacancies and increased representation. To effect irreversible change, it has exhorted that Justice delivery be designated as an essential service.

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**Sources:**

1. Police: *Data on Police Organisation 2023,* Bureau of Police Research and Development
2. *Prisons: Prison Statistics India 2022,* National Crime Records Bureau
3. Judiciary: 2024 & 2025- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), Court News, Supreme Court of India; eCourts Services; Websites and annual reports of High Courts, Department of Justice
4. Legal aid: 2024, Statistics from National Legal Services Authority

**ANNEXURE I:**

**OVERALL NATIONAL FINDINGS: AT A GLANCE**

**The ranking of the 18 large-and mid-sized states is:**

| **State** | **Rank 2025** | **Rank 2022** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Karnataka | 1 | 1 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2 | 5 |
| Telangana | 3 | 3 |
| Kerala | 4 | 6 |
| Tamil Nadu | 5 | 2 |
| Chhattisgarh | 6 | 9 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 7 | 8 |
| Odisha | 8 | 11 |
| Punjab | 9 | 10 |
| Maharashtra | 10 | 12 |
| Gujarat | 11 | 4 |
| Haryana | 12 | 13 |
| Bihar | 13 | 16 |
| Rajasthan | 14 | 15 |
| Jharkhand | 15 | 7 |
| Uttarakhand | 16 | 14 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 17 | 18 |
| West Bengal | 18 | 17 |

**The ranking of the seven small states is:**

| **State** | **Rank 2025** | **Rank 2022** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sikkim | 1 | 1 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2 | 6 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 3 | 2 |
| Tripura | 4 | 3 |
| Meghalaya | 5 | 4 |
| Mizoram | 6 | 5 |
| Goa | 7 | 7 |











| ***BUDGETS FOR JUSTICE AT A GLANCE**** **Legal Aid:** The national per capita spend on legal aid, is a meagre **Rs 6** per annum
* **Prisons:** The national per capita spend on prisons is **Rs. 57**. In 2022-23, the national average spend per prisoner has increased to Rs 44,110 from Rs 38,028 in 2021-22 Andhra Pradesh records the highest annual spend on a prisoner at Rs.2,67,673.
* **Judiciary:** The national per capita spend on judiciary stands at **Rs. 182.** No state spends more than one per cent of its total annual expenditure on the Judiciary.

 * **Police:** The national per capita spend on police is at **Rs. 1,275** which is the highest among the four pillars.
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1. Overall staff includes officers, cadre staff, correctional staff, medical staff and medical officers, [↑](#footnote-ref-0)