**Haryana struggles to fulfil SC, OBC quotas in Police and Judiciary, ranks 3rd in Legal aid reveals IJR 2025**

***Some encouraging improvements:***

* Women judges at HC account for 26%, one of the highest shares in the country
* Recorded one of the highest daily spends per prisoner (Rs 437) in the country
* 97% of all police stations have at least one CCTV

***Persistent lacunae:***

* Highest shortfall of courtrooms (25%) against sanctioned judges in subordinate judiciary
* 39% vacancies among police constables, highest after West Bengal
* 1 in every 4 jails reported occupancy rates between 150-250%

**15 April, Chandigarh:** The 2025 India Justice Report (IJR), India’s only ranking of states on delivery of justice in the country, released today, ranks Haryana 3rd in Legal Aid, 10th in Judiciary, and 14th on Police and Prisons, while overall it was ranked 12th (2022: 13th) among the 18 Large and Mid-sized states (with populations 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*.”

**Haryana’s Ranks: Pillar Wise**

|  | **IJR 4** | **IJR 3** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OVERALL** | **12** | 13 |
| **POLICE** | **14** | 12 |
| **PRISONS** | **14** | 16 |
| **JUDICIARY** | **10** | 14 |
| **LEGAL AID**  | **3** | 4 |

**Large vacancies across justice system**

As of 2025, vacancies range from 40% in HC to 29% among district judges. As of 2023, Haryana had a 39% vacancy in police constabulary. In the Haryana Forensic department, more than half of the scientific staff (74%) was missing in the forensic labs and there was a 29% shortfall among administrative staff.

The Punjab & Haryana High Court recorded a shortfall of 40% in 2025 – one of the highest among the 18 large states. At the district courts, Haryana had nearly 1 in every 3 judges missing on the bench, also among the highest in the large states.

**Prisons**

Haryana’s prisons are over 22% their capacity and run with a high overall staff shortfall of 35%. Within the prison staff, there is a 47% shortfall among doctors and half of the medical staff is missing. Despite 11 correctional staff sanctioned, there are none.

Of its 20 jails, 1 in every 4 report occupancy rates of 150-250% and as of 2022, 27% of undertrial prisoners – the highest share among 18 large states – were detained for 1-3 years.

**Gender and Caste Representation**

Women account for 26% among judges in the High Court – the highest share after Telangana with 33% - and 41% of the state’s district court judges are women. Among police officers, women account for 12% - more than the 8% national average.

Haryana has no reservations for Scheduled Tribes. In the police, there is a 20% vacancy among SC officers and constables and a 30% shortfall among OBC officers and constables. Among the district judiciary, the state recorded a high vacancy among OBC judges at 60% despite a 27% reservation.

**Legal Aid**

Haryana spent Rs. 16 per capita on legal aid in 2022-23 - the highest among 18 large states. It was one of the states to record one of the highest utilisation of its NALSA Funds (83%). There was a 27% drop in the number of paralegal volunteers between 2019 and 2024 and legal aid clinics have dropped from 321 to nil in the same period.

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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