**41% women judges in the district judiciary,**

**Madhya Pradesh ranks 7th overall, reveals India Justice Report 2025**

***Some encouraging improvements:***

* Ranks 5th in prison capacity, has the lowest shares of undertrial population in prisons (55%)
* Reduced vacancy among medical officers in prisons by half
* 98% of all police stations in the state have at least one cctv camera
* Highest state share in legal aid budget (91%) among all 18 large states

***Persistent lacunae:***

* 40% of the prisons have occupancy rate between 150-250%, officer vacancy in prisons is 43%
* The state has not completely filled any of its SC/ST or OBC quotas in police
* Vacancy among the High Court judges is nearly 38%

**15 April, Bhopal:** The 2025 India Justice Report (IJR), India’s only ranking of states on delivery of justice in the country, released today, ranks Madhya Pradesh 7th overall (2022:8th), with it climbing up 5 spots to the 9th position in Legal Aid and gaining the 5th spot in Prisons, 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*.”

**Madhya Pradesh’s Ranks: Pillar Wise**

|  | **IJR 4** | **IJR 3** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OVERALL** | **7** | 8 |
| **POLICE** | **11** | 7 |
| **PRISONS** | **5** | 7 |
| **JUDICIARY** | **9** | 10 |
| **LEGAL AID**  | **9** | 14 |

**Legal Aid: State with the highest share in legal aid budget**

Madhya Pradesh contributes 91% to the total legal aid budget of the state. It also reduced the vacancy among the DLSA secretaries (from 31% in 2022 to 2% in 2024). The disposal rate of pre litigation cases taken up in the Lok Adalats organised by the SLSA was among the highest at 91.6% (2023-24).

**Police: Reduction in training institutes, vacancies among reserved positions**

The MP Police dropped in rank from the 7th to the 11th position this year. With the reduction of 8 training institutes for police in the state, the number of police personnel per training institute almost doubled within a year. The Police also wasn’t able to completely fill any of its positions reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs. The share of women in police is at 7.1%. There was, however, improvement in the share of police stations with at least one CCTV camera (98%) and women helpdesks (82%).

**Judiciary: Case clearance rate at the district courts crosses 100 for the first time since IJR 1**

With improvement in vacancy among judges of the district courts (from 23.8% in 2022 to 16.6% in 2025), the case clearance rate at the district courts crossed 100 for the first time since IJR 1. 40.6% of the judges at the district court are women while at the high court it falls to 3%. Vacancy among the judges in the High court is nearly 38%.

**Prisons: 164% occupancy rate of the state’s prisons**

MP reduced its share of undertrial prisoners from 70% in 2020 to 55% in 2022, making it the state with the lowest share of the undertrial population nationally. It also reduced its medical officer vacancy from 72.4% in 2021 to 31% in 2022, leading to improvement in the workload of medical officers. These factors contributed to its rank among the top 5 spots in prisons this year.

However, the state’s prisons have an average occupancy rate of 164%. 40% of jails have occupancy between 150-250% while 12% have occupancy greater than 250%. Among the prison cadre, there is a 43% vacancy among officers.

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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