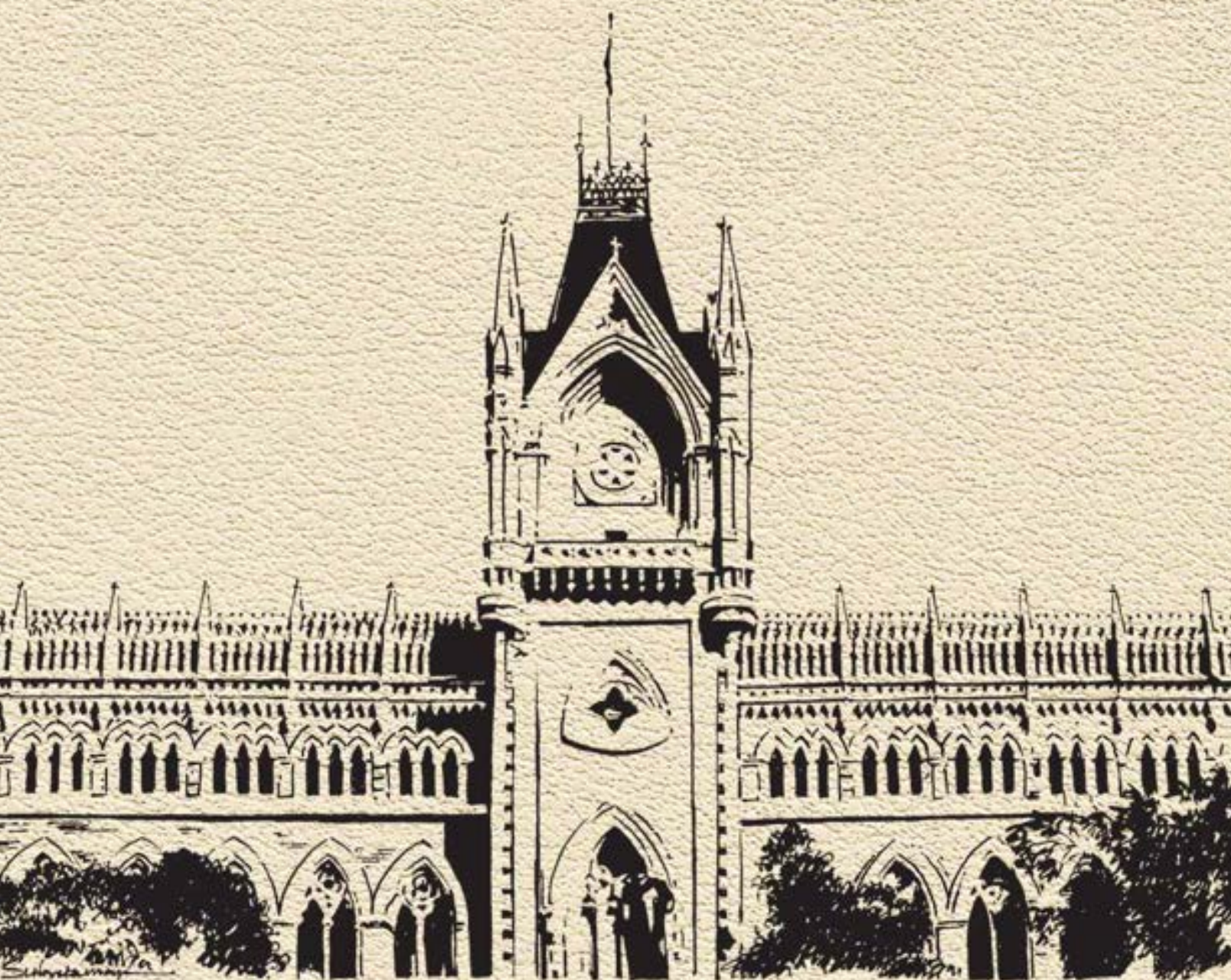
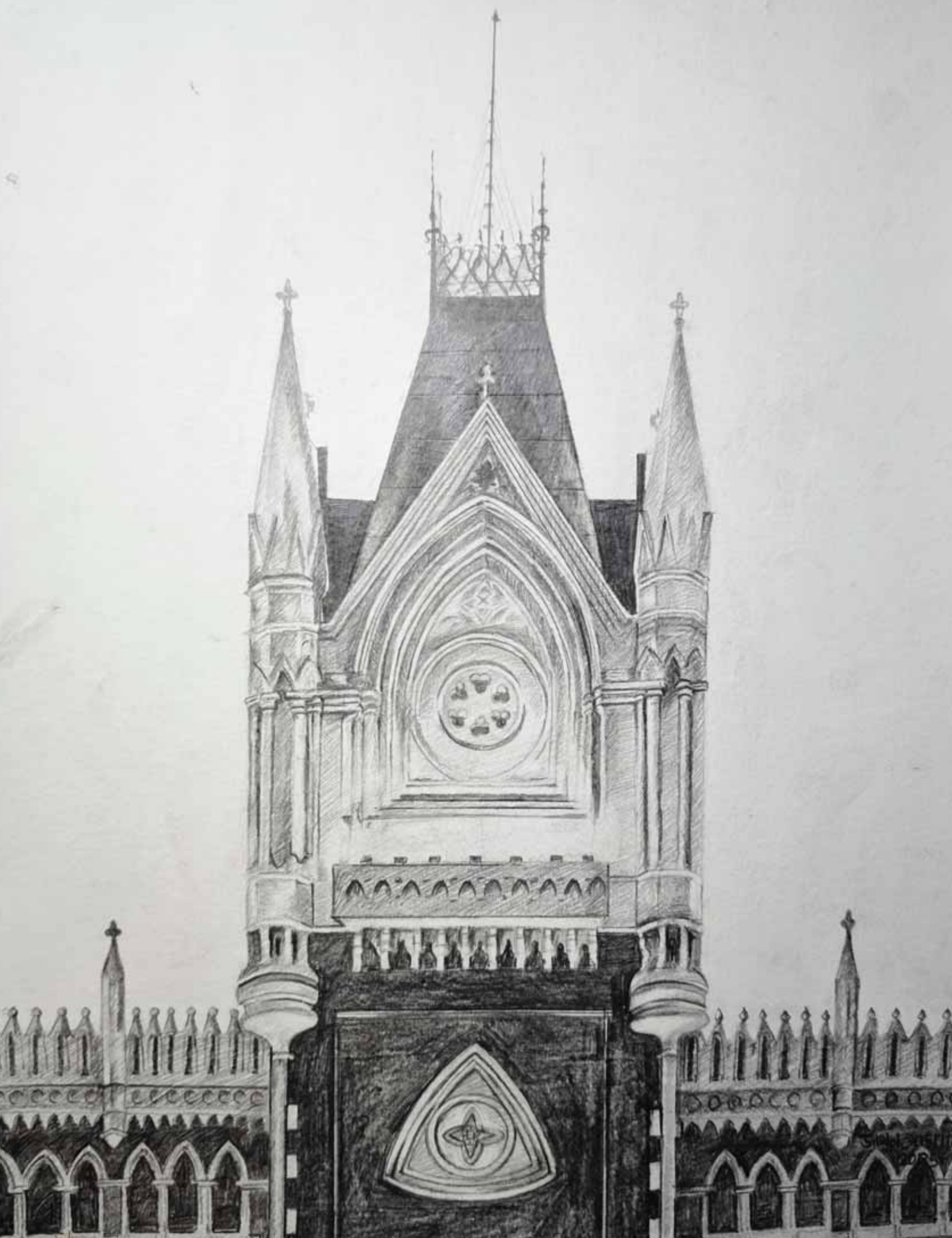


High Court at Calcutta

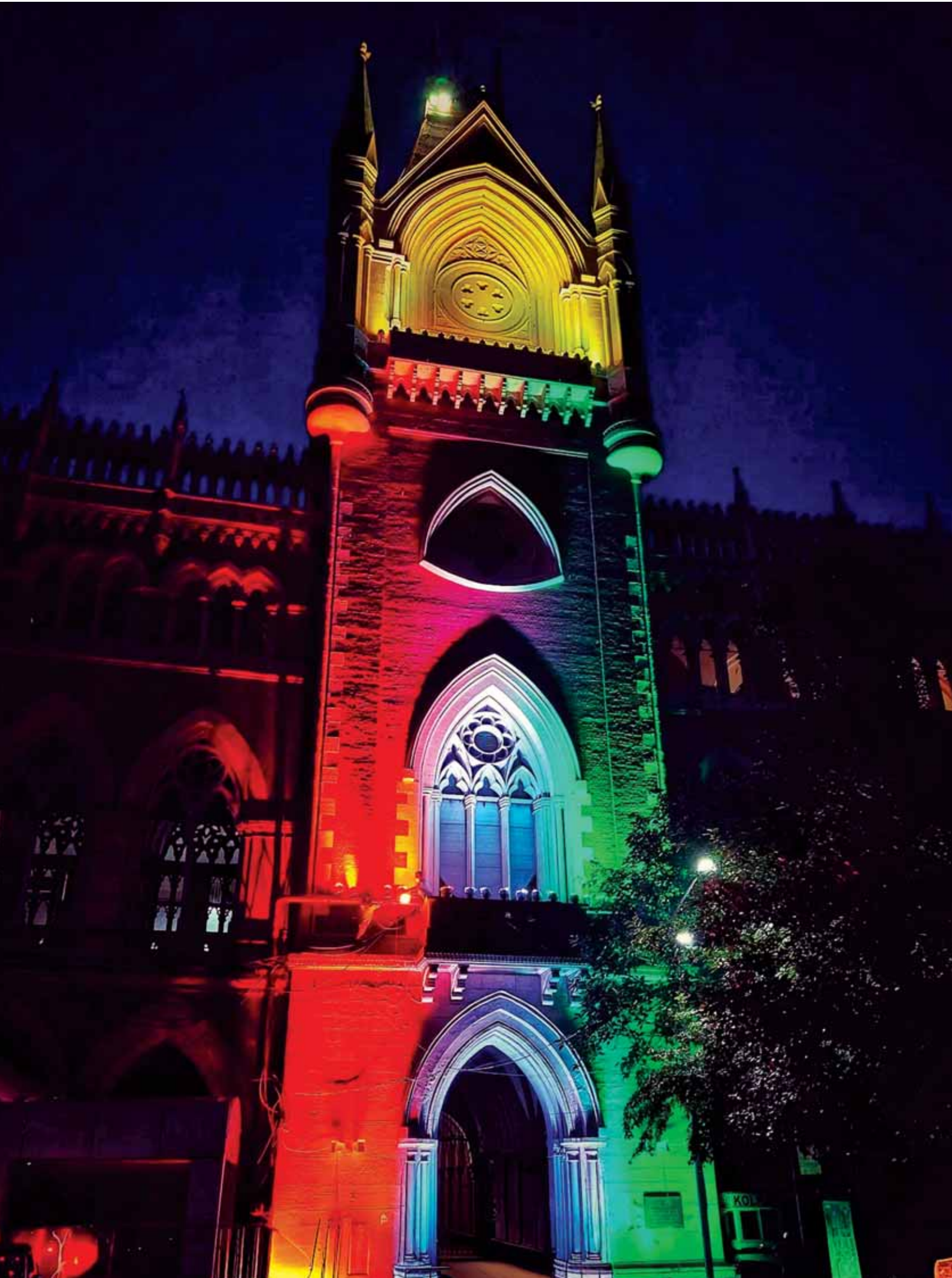
Annual Report
2024-2025







Annual Report
2024-2025
High Court at Calcutta



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View of the chamber of the Hon'ble Chief Justice

FROM THE DESK OF THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE



It is a privilege for me to present the Annual Report of the West Bengal Judiciary for the year 2024-25. The Annual Report is our Report Card, where we assess as to how much we have been able to do justice to the Vision Statement that we have made in the last Annual Report. The need of the conventional justice delivery system together with the Institutions of Alternative Dispute Redressal system is ever increasing with the advancement of Information and Communication Technology. Over the entire year, we have focused on the digitisation and Information & Communication Technology, infrastructure, Human Resources, Legal Aid and its Schemes, Training Programmes and a lot. This Report provides the details of the key accomplishments for the judiciary for the State during the year 2024-25 and I would like to highlight just a few of them.

Since publication of the last Annual Report, we have been able to make some advancement in the infrastructural aspect. We have been able to provide Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre at Maya Bandar, Port Blair, Integrated Court Complex at Jhargram, Coochbehar Court Complex, VC Room at Dinhata, Mathabhanga and Mekhligunj and residential quarter at Dinhata; Integrated Court Complex at Bolpur; Sub-Division Court at Bongaon; Integrated Court Complex at Malda; Special Additional District & Sessions Judge's Court at Alipurduar; two new rooms in Islampur

Sub-Divisional Court at Uttar Dinajpur; exclusive POCSO Court at Tamluk Sadar; New Court Building at Purulia Sadar amongst others.

We have opened two Hon'ble Judges' Lounges, one at the 2nd floor of the Main Building and the other in the 1st floor of the Centenary Building. We have also provided for a Baby Feeding Centre on 1st floor of the Centenary Building.

Recently we have opened Kamalini Ladies Lounge meant for the lady members of the Bar and female workers of the High Court, which is the first of its kind in the country, although several High Courts have ladies Bar Room but not lounge earmarked for ladies.

On the digital front, we have revamped the webpage of the High Court at Calcutta; provided 10 VC Cabins in Port Blair at Andaman & Nicobar; provided free wifi zone in the High Court at Calcutta; launched and distributed EBC Reader Platinum Edition 2.0 to the Judicial Officers and provided public information system at four points of the High Court.

In the High Court at Calcutta, we have established exclusive Intellectual Property Rights Division and Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Division from November, 2024. We are third in India after Delhi and Madras.

We have recently completed the permanent building for housing the Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri with the state of the art facilities, which will be inaugurated soon.

I appreciate the sincere assistance of my Sister and Brother colleagues for their continuous support in discharging my day to day administration at every level. They are part of different Committees on diverse matters, which aids, advises and enables me to take well informed decision. I know they perform under tremendous pressure of balancing the judicial and administrative work and deserve appreciation. While thanking my colleagues, I would also express my appreciation to the Registry of the High Court at Calcutta, all the Judicial Officers of West Bengal, working in different capacities and the huge work force associated with the administration of Judiciary in West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, including Officers and staff of High Court at Calcutta for their sincere contribution.

(T.S. SIVAGNANAM)

Chief Justice

Dated: 14th July, 2025





Annual Report team

FROM THE COMMITTEE'S DESK

"Let not the fruits of action alone define the year, but the spirit in which each act was done – for performance is virtue in motion."

Inspired by Marcus Aurelius

In our endeavour to deliver justice, transparency and self-examination are not mere ideals, but essential principles that fortify the foundation of our institution. The previous Annual Reports published by the High Court at Calcutta have been testaments to our unwavering commitment towards hoisting these avowed objectives.

It is with great honour and a deep sense of responsibility that we present the Annual Report for the year 2024-2025 on the auspicious occasion of Independence Day. This report is both a reflection and an assurance: a reflection on the milestones reached between 1st July, 2024 and 30th June, 2025 and an assurance of the State judiciary's ongoing dedication to accessibility, transparency and rule of law. Through this report we not only look back on our performance but also look ahead, renewing our pledge to serve society with integrity and to strengthen the pillars of justice for generations to come. This Report is more than a record of statistics or events. It is a mirror held to our own performance, a collective act of institutional self-reflection and discharge of our moral duty towards judicial accountability.

The purpose behind the publication of this report is manifold. It seeks to promote transparency in the functioning of the High Court and the district judiciary. The data relating to disposal of cases, initiatives and processes that define our daily judicial and administrative functioning are displayed in great detail. In doing so, we not only honour our Constitutional commitment to accountability but also build a culture of self introspection, where our successes are celebrated and our challenges are acknowledged with equal sincerity.

As we commemorate 75 Years of the adoption of our Constitution, the report opens with an article that explores the pivotal role of the High Court at Calcutta and its brilliant Judges as well as lawyers, in developing the foundational ethos of Indian constitutionalism. It traces the institutional evolution of the Court from its colonial origins, emphasising its contributions to justice, civil liberties and legal reforms. Through narratives of landmark cases and short biographical accounts of eminent judges and lawyers, the article highlights how this Court paved the path for protection of basic human rights and was a forum for contesting colonial authority.

It highlights how the High Court, despite its colonial background, stood as the champion of people's rights and democratic principles. This dual legacy has left an indelible mark in shaping the trajectory of the contemporary Indian laws and continues to influence the legal landscape. Following this, Chapter I provides an overview of the High Court's composition, detailing its Judges and the Registry. The Chapter

concludes by highlighting major advancements in infrastructure, enhancements in human resources, adoption of new management practices and ICT initiatives, including the innovative use of artificial intelligence for translating judgments into regional languages.

The Circuit Benches of the High Court at Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Jalpaiguri serve as vital extensions of the High Court for the people of those regions. The second chapter outlines significant activities and accomplishments at these Circuit Benches, with particular emphasis on the ongoing construction of the permanent court building in Jalpaiguri, which is almost ready to function and is awaiting inauguration.

The role of the judiciary is not limited to adjudicating cases, but as an institution, it plays a crucial part in facilitating access to justice. Chapter three highlights the contributions of our allied bodies, including the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority, Calcutta High Court Legal Services Committee, Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court Legal Services Committee, Calcutta High Court, Circuit Bench at Port Blair, Juvenile Justice Secretariat, Internal Complaints Committee for Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women in Workplace and West Bengal Judicial Academy. These bodies work diligently towards providing timely and affordable justice. Their efforts in providing Legal Aid, conducting Lok Adalats, organizing Mediation training programs, awareness programs/camps, setting up of child-friendly Courts, gender sensitization and judicial training are detailed in this Chapter.

The three wings of the Bar stand as indispensable pillars of judicial system, working in synergistic harmony with the Bench in order to uphold the sacred principles of justice. Far from being mere representatives of their clients, the lawyers competently discharge their fundamental duty in assisting Judges in the dispensation of justice. Chapter four embodies the commentaries from the Additional Solicitor General, Advocate General and the Secretaries of the three wings of the Bar.

Judges express their views through their judgments, impact whereof extend far beyond their tenure on the bench. Chapter five summarizes significant judgments delivered during the relevant period, which contribute to the development of jurisprudence and improve the justice delivery system.

District Courts form the foundation of the judicial system. These courts stand as the primary portals through which the vast majority of citizens seek justice. West Bengal's 26 judicial districts and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, represent a vast and dynamic network of courts. Chapter six provides a panoramic view of the vital composition, infrastructure, human resources and technological advancements within these district courts.

We have tried to analyse judicial performance by highlighting trends in case filings, disposals, case clearance rates and the emerging areas of technology and infrastructure in Chapter seven. Through detailed statistical tables and narrative summaries, the Annual Report captures the scale and complexity of our efforts, both at the High Court at Calcutta and the District Judiciary. Beyond the figures, it also

reflects the sincere contributions of Judicial Officers, Court staff, legal services authorities and institutional partners working in unison, to realise the promise of accessible and efficient justice.

We have not limited ourselves to the past and have attempted to take a kaleidoscopic approach for the future. Chapter eight outlines the objectives for the coming years and provides recommendations aimed at enhancing the institution's effectiveness and accessibility.

At its core, this report is a vehicle of institutional evaluation. It enables us to take a pause and look inwards, to assess the efficacy of our strategies, the reach of our reforms and the impact of our judgments and policies on the people we serve. The document enables us to design informed interventions. Such data-driven governance is vital to building a judicial system that is adaptive, responsive and future-ready. This is in alignment with the broader national vision of judicial digitization and citizen-centric governance under the stewardship of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India.

We convey our heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Justice Joymalya Bagchi, Judge, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for His Lordship's guidance as the first Chairman of this Committee. We are also thankful to Hon'ble Justice Debangsu Basak, Judge, High Court at Calcutta for His Lordship's inputs.

We place on record our sincere appreciation for the dedicated and tireless efforts of the members of Registry particularly Smt. Nabanita Ray, Shri Kallol Chattopadhyay, Shri Sanjay Mukhopadhyay, Shri Dipanjan Sen, Shri Subhra Som Ghosal, Smt Payel Banerjee, Smt Taniya Sarkar, staff of High Court, Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants and Saraswaty Press Ltd. The Committee also acknowledges the contribution of Prof. Diganta Mukherjee, Shri Avirup Chakraborty and Shri Supratim Das of the Indian Statistical Institute in preparing the section pertaining to performance analysis. Had it not been a team effort, the report would have been incomplete. The Committee humbly acknowledges all those working in this team and thanks them for their invaluable contributions in the preparation and publication of the report.

Through this Annual Report, we renew our pledge to fairness, equity, and accountability. We shall continue to strive with undiminished resolve, towards a justice system that is transparent, introspective and ever-evolving.

"Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment. Full effort is full victory" Mahatma Gandhi

SHAMPA SARKAR
CHAITALI CHATTERJEE (DAS)
OM NARAYAN RAI

JURISPRUDENTIAL HERITAGE OF HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA, LEGAL LUMINARIES AND THEIR LANDMARK CASES

Three-quarters of a century have unfurled since the Constitution of India - our august and aeonian charter that has shaped the destiny of our resplendent and myriad-hued nation, was adopted. As we commemorate this milestone, it is imperative to acknowledge the pivotal role played by the legal luminaries of the High Court at Calcutta in hoisting the avowed Constitutional ethos, much before the Constitution actually came into its present form.

The Constitutional ethos is nothing but the quintessence of its collective aspirations, ideals, and moral commitments, distilled into the solemn language of governance. It is the soul that breathes life into the parchment of the Constitution, transforming written words into a living, pulsating order of society. It is an intricate tapestry woven with the luminous threads of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. These principles are not mere abstractions; they are the profound guiding stars that illuminate the path of our Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.

At its heart lies the sanctity of human dignity. A belief that every individual, regardless of birth, caste or creed, is entitled to liberty, respect, equal rights, and opportunities. The Constitutional ethos demands a governance that is accountable yet benevolent, powerful yet restrained, dynamic yet anchored in timeless moral wisdom. It envisions a polity where the mighty are tempered by duty, and the meek are uplifted by right; where law is not an instrument of oppression, but a fountain of empowerment. The High Court at Calcutta, even in the colonial era through its legal luminaries stood as a venerable sentinel of these principles and has shown unwavering commitment towards pursuit of Justice. The High Court's nuanced approach to several complex issues of that era has often served as a guiding light for nationwide legal discourse.

The contribution of the legal luminaries and essentially of our High Court to issues of personal liberty, freedom of speech, and the right to equality laid crucial groundwork for the development of the essential tenets of our democracy. Their stanch commitment in upholding the rights, even in the face of colonial pressure, has been a cornerstone of Constitutionalism. Its vigilant oversight has been instrumental in safeguarding the rights of the citizenry against potential overreach. The decisions emanating from this Court held far-reaching consequences, profoundly influencing the trajectory of legal thought and practice across the vast expanse of the subcontinent. Through several judgments and the distinguished Indian legal minds who graced its halls during the British colonial period, it has been a bastion of legal evolution during the colonial era. The High Court was not merely a preserver of a static legacy but an active participant

in shaping the legal discourse, and at times, challenging the very foundations of imperial rule.

The contributions of its Indian legal luminaries were not simply additions to a pre-existing framework but powerful forces that steered the evolution of legal thoughts and practices in the subcontinent and played a pivotal role in shaping the very fabric of Indian legal philosophy and Constitutionalism. In this modest yet earnest endeavor, we seek to retrace the footsteps of those landmark cases and render homage to the illustrious legal luminaries whose imperishable contributions have indelibly shaped the records of our history.

A Brief History

The High Court at Calcutta being one of the oldest High Courts in India is a testament



to the early entrenchment of British dominion in Bengal. In the initial days of 1726, the Company established Mayor's Court, a court of record, to resolve civil dispute. Against the decisions of this Court, appeal lay to the Governor or President-in-Council and in important cases further appeal to the King-in-Council. English criminal law was also introduced at this time when the Governor and five senior members of the Council held quarter sessions four times a year.

After the grant of Dewani in 1765 to the East India Company, 'Dewani Court' (for administering Civil dispute) and 'Foujdari Court' (for administering Criminal liabilities) were introduced. At the chief seat of the Government, the Company established 'Sadar Dewani Adalat' and 'Sadar Nizamat Adalat'.

By the 1773 Act, by a Royal Charter, the Supreme Court of Judicature Consisting of a Chief Justice and three other judges was established at Fort William. The Supreme Court was empowered to exercise Civil, Criminal (including offences committed at High Seas), Admiralty and Ecclesiastical jurisdictions. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Bengal extended over Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The Supreme Court of Bengal was also empowered to determine all types of action in respect of the inhabitants of Calcutta with regard to their inheritance and succession to land, rent,



goods and all matters of contract, etc. Incidentally, appeals against the judgments of the Supreme Court were preferred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The earliest judgment of the Supreme Court judicature which aroused great deal of controversy was the trial of Nanda Kumar in 1775. Before the Supreme Court was abolished, the trial of Reverend James Long for publication of "Nil Darpan" evoked a great deal of sympathy from the native-inhabitants of Calcutta. Notwithstanding Reverend Long's eloquent and stirring address to the Judge and Jury, he was convicted and fined Rs. 1000, which was paid by Kali Prasanna Singhi¹.

Indian legal history witnessed the superseding of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William, by High Court of judicature in the year 1962. To preside over this nascent High Court, Sir Barnes Peacock was appointed as its inaugural Chief Justice, assuming his responsibilities on the very day of its opening². Shortly thereafter, marking the day second of February in 1863 significant, **Hon'ble Justice Sumboo Nath Pandit** became the first Indian to hold the esteemed office of a Judge in the High Court at Calcutta.

Initially, the jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court was remarkably expansive, encompassing a vast swathe of territories stretching from the Northwest Frontier Province in the west to Assam in the east³. However, with the passage of time the Court's jurisdictional purview became confined to the state of West Bengal and the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The architectural embodiment of this judicial authority is equally noteworthy. The capitals of the High Court building are intricately carved, and also sharply individuated, with swathes of heavy foliage arching upward from the bases and culminating in extruding bunches of leaves and flowers. Inset in the foliage are figures and faces, both of human beings and animals. It might be argued that the appropriateness of the representations of these figures resides in a symbolic reconfiguration, where these figures become meaningful in the context of sovereign claims of the High Court in Calcutta, its inclusive jurisdiction over all classes⁴.



¹Reference *The High Court at Calcutta, 150 Years: An Overview*

²*ibid*

³*The High Court at Calcutta 150 Years - An Overview - West Bengal Judicial Academy, accessed on April 27, 2025, https://www.wbja.nic.in/wbja_adm/files/The%20High%20Court%20at%20Calcutta%20150%20Years%20-%20An%20Overview.pdf*

⁴Reference *The High Court at Calcutta, 150 Years: An Overview*

The Pantheon of Indian Legal Minds: Prominent Luminaries from the Bench

Far from being a mere instrument of colonial rule, the High Court also functioned as a vital site where the imposed colonial legal norms were subjected to negotiation, contestation, and, on occasion, outright challenge by astute Indian lawyers and judges. This dynamic interplay created a complex environment wherein the High Court simultaneously upheld the tenets of the colonial legal order while also providing avenues for its scrutiny and potential subversion from within. The annals of the High Court at Calcutta are inextricably linked with the burgeoning tide of Indian nationalism, as many of the subcontinent's most prominent nationalist leaders were also legal practitioners who honed their skills and articulated their political aspirations within the precincts of this esteemed institution. Many of the distinguished lawyers who practiced before the High Court at Calcutta were also influential figures in the political landscape, serving as parliamentarians and actively contributing to the evolving Indian legal ethos. The High Court, therefore, became a crucial training ground and a vital platform for individuals who would later spearhead India's arduous struggle for independence. Their legal battles, often fought within the very system established by the colonizers, were frequently intertwined with the broader political movement aimed at achieving self-rule. With their active contribution the High Court gradually became a bulwark of Justice in colonial India.

The Calcutta High Court, throughout the colonial era, magnetically drew a constellation of exceptionally brilliant Indian legal minds to its fold. Among these distinguished figures, **Hon'ble Justice Sumboo Nath Pandit (Sambhunath Pandit)** holds the singular honor of being the first Indian to serve as a Judge of the High Court at Calcutta, his appointment dating back to the 2nd of February in 1863⁵. Beyond his judicial responsibilities, Justice Pandit was also a committed social reformer and a founding member of the Bhowanipur Brahmo Samaj, an organization dedicated to progressive social ideals⁶. He was a well-known associate of John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune and actively supported his endeavors in establishing schools for girls⁷. His contributions to the law and social reforms demonstrated a deep-seated commitment to broader societal advancement. While his tenure on the bench was tragically cut short by his passing in 1867 at the age of 47, Justice Pandit's appointment marked a pivotal moment, signifying an initial yet crucial step towards the greater inclusion of Indians in the higher echelons of the judiciary. His dedication to social reform

⁵<https://www.calcuttahighcourt.gov.in/page/History> (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

⁶<https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/yesterdate-this-day-from-kolkatas-past-june-6-1867/cid/1942541> (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

⁷*ibid*

movements underscores a vision for progress that transcended the confines of the courtroom, aiming for a more just and equitable society.

Following Justice Pandit's demise, **Justice Dwarka Nath Mitter** was appointed to the High Court in 1867, continuing the trend of Indian representation on the bench. Lord Northbrook, the then Viceroy of India, held Justice Mitter in high regard, describing him as one of the most brilliant individuals he had ever encountered⁸. Justice Mitter's appointment at a relatively young age highlighted his exceptional legal acumen, and his intellectual prowess suggests that he made significant contributions to the legal discourse during his time on the bench. His short tenure of seven years was marked by an effort to synthesize the principles of ancient Hindu and Mohammedan laws with the tenets of common law, whether directly or through statutes emanating from England⁹.

Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter (Romesh Chunder Mitter) achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Indian officiating Chief Justice of the High Court at Calcutta in 1886. His elevation to this prestigious position symbolized the increasing prominence of Indians within the administrative structure of the judiciary. Notably, he held a differing opinion from his British counterparts in the celebrated Surendranath Banerjee contempt case, demonstrating an instance of independent judgment against the prevailing colonial sentiment. His temporary leadership of the High Court, even for a brief period, represented a significant step forward for Indian representation in judicial leadership.

Sir Gooroodas Banerji (Gurudas Bandyopadhyay), appointed as a judge of the High Court at Calcutta in 1888, further distinguished himself by becoming the first Indian Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta in 1890. His intellectual contributions extended beyond the courtroom; in 1878, he delivered the prestigious Tagore Law Lectures on 'The Hindu Laws of Marriage and Stridhan', a work that continues to be regarded as a standard reference on the subject and significantly contributing to its understanding and practical application within the courts. These scholarly presentations served as invaluable resources, demonstrating the significant intellectual contributions of Indian scholars to the formalization of law by addressing the proprietary rights of women under Hindu law and the various restrictions placed upon their rights concerning stridhan. His multifaceted career underscored the remarkable intellectual depth present among Indian luminaries during this era, with his scholarly work significantly shaping the understanding of Hindu personal law within the colonial legal framework.

⁸https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwarka_Nath_Mitra (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

⁹https://www.allahabadhighcourt.in/event/Speech_Sunil_Ambwani_14_03_2008.doc (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

A truly towering figure in the histories of Indian education and law was **Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee (Ashutosh Mukherjee)**. He served as a Judge of the High Court at Calcutta from 1904 to 1923, including a six-month period as the Acting Chief Justice in 1920, and held the esteemed position of Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University for several terms¹⁰. His intellectual breadth was extraordinary, encompassing not only law and education but also mathematics, in which he was a distinguished scholar. In 1898, he delivered the Tagore Law Lectures on 'The Law of Perpetuities in British India', a work widely regarded as a seminal text in the field of jurisprudence¹¹. His extensive body of judicial pronouncements, spanned nearly every conceivable facet of law, significantly shaping its evolution and leaving an indelible mark on the legal history of India. Many of his judgments continue to be cited as exemplary models of legal reasoning and judicial craftsmanship. Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee's profound legal scholarship and his extensive judicial output had a lasting and transformative impact on the development of Indian constitutional and legal principles. His work demonstrated a deep and nuanced understanding of both Western and Indian legal traditions, and his judgments are celebrated for their thoroughness, clarity, and remarkable erudition. His prolific contributions as both a Judge and a legal scholar indicate a substantial and enduring influence on the formation of Indian law. His exceptional ability to synthesize diverse legal traditions and his comprehensive judgments played a pivotal role in the development of a distinct Indian legal jurisprudence within the specific context of colonial rule, often setting precedents that are still followed. His unwavering commitment to academic excellence and his occasional defiance of colonial authorities in educational matters further underscore his nationalist spirit.

Justice Phani Bhushan Chakravartti holds the significant distinction of being the first Indian permanent Chief Justice of the High Court at Calcutta, assuming this role after India gained independence, serving from 1952 to 1958¹². His appointment marked the culmination of the gradual Indianization of the High Court's leadership. Additionally, he served as the acting Governor of West Bengal for a brief period in 1956.⁹⁷ While his chief justiceship primarily falls within the post-independence era, it represents the final step in the transition of the High Court's leadership into Indian hands.

Chronicles of Legal Brilliance and their Influence on India's Legal Landscape.

The Indian legal luminaries who practiced at the High Court at Calcutta played an indispensable role in interpreting and shaping the application of British laws within

¹⁰<https://www.calcuttahighcourt.gov.in/page/History> (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

¹¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tagore_Law_Lectures (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

¹²<https://www.calcuttahighcourt.gov.in/#specials> (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

the unique Indian context. Their advocacy and legal arguments often demonstrated a profound understanding of both the established English legal traditions and the intricate social realities and deeply rooted customs of India.²⁴ In the colonial era the role of the High Court at Calcutta was inherently paradoxical. While it was undeniably a creation of the colonial regime, it simultaneously provided a space, albeit often constrained, for legal challenges against that very regime, reflecting the inherent complexities of colonial governance and the application of the rule of law in such a context.

The Surendranath Banerjee Contempt Case of 1883 **[(1884) 10 ILRPC 109]**

The Surendranath Banerjee Contempt Case of 1883 was an episode etched in the account of India's legal and political history as a moment where colonial judicial authority collided with the rising tide of Indian self-assertion.

Surendranath Banerjee, an erudite scholar, pioneering nationalist, and founder of the Indian Association, was one of the earliest architects of political consciousness in India. A former member of the Indian Civil Service, from which he was controversially dismissed, had turned his energies towards public life, journalism, and political agitation, becoming a formidable voice against racial discrimination and colonial high-handedness. He was the editor of the influential newspaper "The Bengalee", a publication that had become the mouthpiece of Indian aspirations. In 1883, "The Bengalee" published an editorial criticizing the conduct of Justice Norris, a British judge of the Calcutta High Court, in the handling of a particular case. The article, suffused with passion and patriotism, suggested that the Judge's decision reflected racial bias against Indian defendants. Such bold criticism of the judiciary was viewed as an intolerable affront. Justice Norris took grave exception to the publication, perceiving it as an act calculated to undermine public confidence in the impartiality and dignity of the colonial courts. Consequently, Surendranath Banerjee was charged with contempt of court, accused of scandalizing the judiciary and eroding the majesty of law.

The trial that ensued in the High Court was unprecedented. Never before had a public figure of Banerjee's stature been summoned to account for alleged contempt, especially on grounds so intimately bound with freedom of the press and public discourse. **Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee**, a prominent legal figure and later the first President of the Indian National Congress, undertook the defense of Surendranath Banerjee in this highly publicized contempt of court case¹³. This case became a *cause célèbre*, vividly illustrating

¹³ <https://inc.in/leadership/past-party-presidents/womesh-chandra-bonnerjee> (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

the escalating friction between the Indian intelligentsia and the colonial administration, particularly concerning the fundamental principles of freedom of the press and the judiciary's crucial role in safeguarding religious sensitivities. The involvement of such prominent legal figures as Banerjee and Bonnerjee underscores the close and often contentious intersection of law and politics during this transformative period, with widespread protests and hartals erupting across Bengal and various other Indian cities in response to Banerjee's arrest. Nevertheless, the Bench, determined to assert its authority and to preserve the perceived sanctity of the judicial institution under imperial rule, found Banerjee guilty of contempt. This case highlighted the tensions between the demands of maintaining judicial decorum and the imperative of allowing legitimate criticism - a balance that would later be enshrined in democratic Constitutionalism.

Queen Empress vs. Jogendra Chunder Bose (1891)
[(1892) ILR 19 CAL 35]

Jogendra Chunder Bose was the editor of the Bengali newspaper "Bangobasi". In 1891, the British government introduced the Age of Consent Act, 1891. This Act was seen by many Indians, especially traditionalists, as an interference in Hindu customs and personal law. "Bangobasi" newspaper published an article strongly criticizing the government for passing this law. It was framed in a highly emotional and provocative tone.¹⁴ The British authorities viewed the article as seditious- meaning, they felt it was attempting to incite hatred or contempt towards the colonial government. As a result, Jogendra Chunder Bose was prosecuted under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (the provision dealing with sedition). This was one of the first major sedition trials in India. It sparked massive public debate on freedom of the press and freedom of expression, core values later enshrined in the Constitution. The case has become a milestone in understanding the meaning of the word "disaffection" and even in recent judgments it is cited to interpret the law on this score¹⁵.

Bipin Chandra Pal vs. Emperor (1907)

On the 26th August, 1907, during the trial of Emperor vs Arabinda Ghose and others before the Chief Presidency Magistrate for the offence of sedition published in the "Bande Mataram" Bipin Chandra Pal was called as the seventh prosecution witness. On going into the witness box, he said to the Magistrate "I refuse to take any oath or solemn affirmation. I have been subpoenaed to give evidence in this case." The Magistrate then put him the question "Do you know the paper "Bande Mataram" to which he replied, "I decline to answer this question." He was then asked, "Do you decline to

¹⁴ <https://scroll.in/article/935392/indias-first-sedition-case-a-newspaper-opposed-the-governments-decision-to-stop-child-marriage> (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

¹⁵ <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/50969306/> (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

answer any question in this case" and he said, "I do." Bipin Chandra Pal was then bound down to appear the next day, but the case was not taken up till the 29th August when he was again asked to take the oath or affirmation and to answer questions as a witness, and he again declined to do either. The Chief Presidency Magistrate, thereupon, drew up a proceeding against him and sent him for trial before the Third Presidency Magistrate for an offence under section 178 and section 179 Indian Penal Code, 1860. The latter took up the case on the 10th September and framed two heads of charges¹⁶. The case became a symbol of civil disobedience and assertion of individual rights against colonial authority. Although Bipin Chandra Pal was sentenced, but the case intensified the demand for civil liberties and manifested the Constitutional ethos of Fraternity.

Ameer Khan & Hashmadad Khan, Political Prisoners
[(1870) 06 BLR 392]

In August 1870, the High Court at Calcutta, under the distinguished stewardship of Justice Norman, paved a seminal chapter in the history of habeas corpus with its deliberation on the case of Ameer Khan. Ameer Khan, a venerable Muslim merchant of approximately seventy-five years, had been arrested from his Calcutta residence and confined outside the jurisdiction of the High Court for over a year. Throughout this period, the only explanation for his detention was rooted in Bengal Regulation Act III of 1818, a statute empowering the Governor to detain individuals suspected of threatening public order, without disclosing specific reasons for arrest. Challenging his detention, Ameer Khan invoked the foundational doctrines of habeas corpus and the rule of law. The resulting petition prompted Justice Norman to deliver an expansive and erudite exposition-spanning forty-five pages and published in the Bengal Law Reports. This landmark decision echoed as a clarion affirmation of Constitutional liberties in colonial India.

The Alipore Bomb Case of 1908-1909
[ILR 37 Cal 467]

This case witnessed the legal brilliance of **Chittaranjan Das** as he successfully defended Aurobindo Ghose against serious charges of involvement in revolutionary activities stemming from a bomb explosion in Muzaffarpur. The early 20th century in Bengal witnessed a rise in nationalist sentiment and revolutionary activities against British rule. Secret societies like the Anushilan Samiti aimed for independence through armed resistance. The immediate trigger for the case was the Muzaffarpur bombing on April 30, 1908. Revolutionaries Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki attempted to

¹⁶http://14.139.60.116:8080/jspui/bitstream/123456789/9381/1/019_%20Bipin%20Chandra%20Pal%20v.%20Emperor%20%28161-170%29.pdf (last accessed on 11.08.2025)

assassinate the unpopular British Magistrate Douglas Kingsford by throwing a bomb at his carriage. However, the bomb mistakenly killed his relatives.

The Muzaffarpur bombing led to a massive police investigation. While Khudiram Bose was arrested, Prafulla Chaki committed suicide to avoid arrest in the hands of British. Based on leads and informants, the police raided several locations in Calcutta including the Muraripukur garden house, which allegedly served as the revolutionaries' headquarters. Numerous suspected revolutionaries were arrested, including Aurobindo Ghose and his brother Barindra Kumar Ghosh, along with other Bengali nationalists. The prosecution presented 206 witnesses and a large amount of evidence, including numerous material exhibits.

A key turning point occurred when one of the accused, Narendranath Goswami also known as Naren Gosai, turned approver (prosecution witness). However, he was subsequently shot dead inside Alipore Jail by Kanailal Dutta and Satyendranath Bose. Chittaranjan Das famously defended Aurobindo Ghosh, arguing that his writings were philosophical and not direct incitement to violence. This Case was a landmark event in the history of the Indian independence movement. It brought revolutionary activities to the forefront and garnered significant public attention. The case also demonstrated the courage and dedication of the revolutionaries, even in the face of severe consequences.

This high-profile trial propelled **Chittaranjan Das** to national prominence, establishing him not only as a highly skilled lawyer but also as a staunch and unwavering supporter of the burgeoning nationalist cause. His masterful handling of the case ultimately led to Aurobindo Ghose's acquittal in appeal, solidifying Das's reputation as one of India's most exceptional legal minds. This landmark case also powerfully demonstrated the potential for the legal system, even within the constraints of colonial rule, to be utilized as a tool to challenge the authority of the British and to defend those accused of seditious activities. In his judgment Chief Justice Sir Lawrence Hugh Jenkins writes:

"Again I wish to express my sense of obligation to all those who have assisted in this difficult and complex enquiry. Though against several of the accused the convictions under Section 121A of the Indian Penal Code have been upheld; it is a satisfaction to feel that those accused have been represented before us by Counsel and pleaders who have spared no effort of industry on their behalf, and have brought to our notice everything that could be legitimately argued for their clients advantage: and I desire in particular to place on record my high appreciation of the manner in which the case was presented to this Court by their leading advocate, Mr. C.R. Das."

During the trial C.R Das famously said:

"Long after this controversy is hushed in silence, long after this turmoil, this agitation ceases, long after he is dead and gone, he will be looked upon as the poet of patriotism, as the prophet of nationalism and the lover of humanity. Long after he is dead and gone, his words will be echoed and re-echoed, not only in India, but across distant seas and lands. Therefore, I say that the man in his position is not only standing before the bar of this court but before the bar of the High Court of History."

Emperor vs Lalit Mohan Chuckerbutty And Ors. (1911)
[(1911) ILR 38 CAL 559]¹⁷

Forty-six accused were tried and the charges against them were under Sections 121A, 122 and 123 of the Indian Penal Code. The period of the conspiracy, as charged, was "between the Christian years 1905 and 1910 both inclusive," and the accused were charged with having conspired at Sibpur in the District of Howrah, and at other places in British India. The observations made by the Hon'ble High Court in its judgment are still revered and followed. The Hon'ble High Court observed:

"Any accused not shown to be a member of that conspiracy is entitled to demand an acquittal at our hands, however bad his record may be and however much he may be suspected of this or that offence. Any other view would be intolerable."

Eventually Soilen Das, Sushil Biswas, Atul Mukherjee, Gonesh Das, Soilendra Nath Chatterjee and Upendra Kristo Deb were only found to be guilty, and all other accused persons were acquitted from the charges framed against them.

Subhas Chandra Bose vs R. Knight And Sons And Anr.
[AIR 1929 CALCUTTA 69]

In this case, the plaintiff Subhas Chandra Bose sued the defendants who were the proprietors and editor of the Statesman newspaper for damages for libel contained in their issue of 26th November 1924. The words complained of are part of a leading article in which the main subject matter is a speech made by the Earl of Lytton when he was the Governor of Bengal at Maldah on the 24th of that month. In appeal the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta held in favor of Subhas Chandra Bose and awarded damages in favour of Subhas Chandra Bose. The significance of this case lies in how it foreshadowed important Constitutional principles that were later embedded, particularly: Freedom of Speech and Expression and State's power to impose reasonable restrictions on this right in the interests of defamation, and other things.

¹⁷<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/1033901/>

This case illustrated early judicial recognition that freedom of expression must be balanced with protection of individual dignity and reputation. Although not explicitly stated it also recognized that the right to reputation which subsequently became a part of the right to life under Article 21. This also highlights the issue of accountability of Media.

Landmark cases stand as powerful examples of instances where the High Court at Calcutta became a significant battle-ground for the assertion of Indian rights and the challenge of specific colonial actions. In the Surendranath Banerjee Contempt Case, the widespread public demonstrations and hartals that followed his arrest clearly indicated the growing public disapproval of the colonial government's heavy-handed measures against voices of Indian nationalism and dissent. Similarly, the acquittal of Aurobindo Ghose in the Alipore Bomb Case represented a direct and significant challenge to the colonial government's determined attempts to suppress revolutionary activities and nationalist movements.

The history of the High Court at Calcutta through its legal luminaries thus paints a nuanced picture of the judiciary under colonial rule, revealing it not as a monolithic entity solely dedicated to serving imperial interests but rather as a dynamic institution where legal principles were constantly being interpreted, applied, and at times, actively resisted by the individuals operating within its complex framework. The court served as a crucial site of legal contestation, where the imposed British legal norms interacted with the deeply rooted native institutions and customs of India, playing a significant role in shaping the early development of Constitutional jurisprudence¹⁸.

Niharenddu Dutta Mazumdar vs. A.E. Porter, (Calcutta) (FB)

AIR 1945 Calcutta 107

The Full Bench decisions of the Calcutta High Court stand as striking pre-Independence precursors to India's constitutional jurisprudence. In this case the High Court examined whether the immediate re-arrest of nine political detenus, some within minutes of release by the Court, constituted contempt of Court. While by majority view it was held that re-arrest under a valid warrant, even within Court premises, was not per se contempt; if the business of the Court was undisturbed and fraudulent intent was not proved, the Court delved deeply on the principle of audi alteram partem. In this judgment the Court emphasized the importance of provisions which enable the detenu to be told what are the grounds on which he is detained and further provisions enabling the detenu to show cause against his detention.

The observations of the High Court at Calcutta even during the colonial rule directly relates to Articles 22(1) and 22(5) of the Constitution, which mandate prompt communication of grounds for arrest and the opportunity to consult, and to be defended

¹⁸https://www.researchgate.net/publication/390829709_The_Role_of_the_Supreme_Court_of_Calcutta_1774_in_Shaping_Early_Colonial_Jurisprudence

by, a legal practitioner of his choice. Even in the present day adjudication these principles are celebrated and enforced.

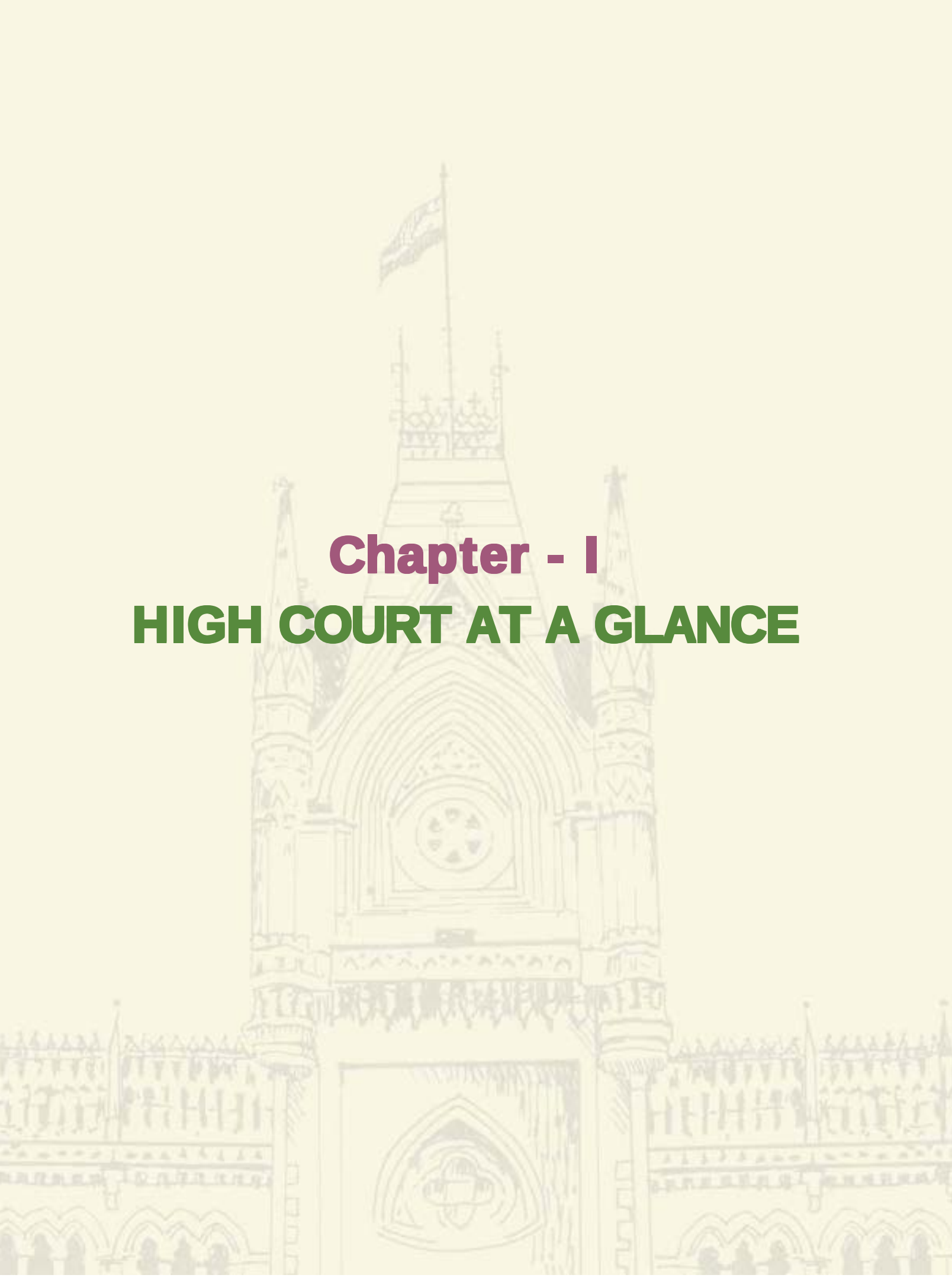
The decision is steeped in the rule of law principle. Hon'ble Justice Mitter in his dissenting judgment observed "While I am of opinion that Judges should not be over-sensitive of their personal dignity, they must always be jealous of the dignity of the Court and nothing savouring of contempt must be allowed to pass unnoticed, uncensured or unpunished." He also condemned executive conduct that projected "police supremacy" and undermined the dignity of Court orders. These views resonate with later constitutional doctrines protecting judicial independence and guarding against executive overreach.

Even under the shadow of second world war, the High Court at Calcutta insisted that detention must rest on reasoned satisfaction and fair notice. Fundamental Right of personal liberty is a recognition of the nuanced principles dealt with in this judgment and the High Court at Calcutta have only raised the bar since.

An Enduring Legacy

The High Court at Calcutta stands as a monumental institution in the legal history of India. The invaluable contributions of the Indian legal luminaries who practised their craft within the hallowed halls of this Court were absolutely instrumental in shaping the very evolution of Indian constitutional law and the foundational legal principles that underpin it. Their remarkable intellectual prowess, their astute legal acumen, and their unwavering commitment to the ideals of justice have left an enduring legacy that continues to exert a profound influence on the Indian legal system as it exists today. The landmark cases that were heard within its historic precincts vividly reflect the key legal and political battles that defined the colonial period, powerfully highlighting the court's complex role in both upholding and, at times, directly challenging the authority of the colonial regime. The history of the High Court at Calcutta and the legal luminaries associated with it serves as a compelling testament to the intricate interplay of power dynamics, legal frame works, and the spirit of Constitutionalism.





Chapter - I

HIGH COURT AT A GLANCE



Corridor of Main Building

JUDGES



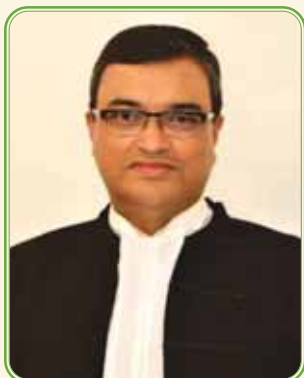
DETAILS REGARDING THE HON'BLE JUDGES' SANCTIONED STRENGTH, WORKING STRENGTH AND VACANCY

AS ON 30.06.2025

	Bar	Service	Total
Sanctioned Strength			
Permanent: 54			
Additional : 18	48	24	72
Working Strength	26	20	46
Vacancies	22	04	26

- The High Court has sanctioned strength of 72 Judges comprising 54 permanent Judges and 18 Additional Judges.
- As on 01.07.2024, the existing strength was 45, which has become 46 as on 30.06.2025.
- During this period, 4 (four) Judges have taken oath; 1 (one) Judge has sworn-in on being transferred from other High Court and 1 (one) Judge has demitted office on superannuation.
- During this period, 1 (one) Judge has been elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India and 2 (two) Judges have been elevated as the Chief Justice of other High Courts.

JUDGES IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA ELEVATED FROM THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA



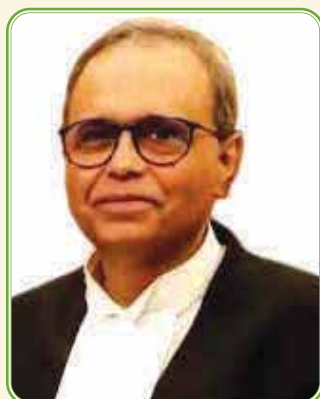
***The Hon'ble Justice Dipankar Datta
Judge, Supreme Court of India***

- Appointed as a permanent Judge of High Court at Calcutta on 22.06.2006.
- Appointed as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court on 28.04.2020.
- Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India and assumed the charge on 12.12.2022.

- Transferred from the Common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as Judge of High Court at Calcutta on 05.01.2021.
- Appointed to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of High Court at Calcutta w.e.f 27.04.2021.
- Took oath as the Chief Justice of High Court of Judicature at Allahabad on 11.10.2021.
- Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India and assumed Office on 13.02.2023.



***The Hon'ble Justice Rajesh Bindal
Judge, Supreme Court of India***



***The Hon'ble Justice Joymalya Bagchi
Judge, Supreme Court of India***

- Appointed as a permanent Judge of High Court at Calcutta on 27.06.2011.
- Transferred as Judge of Andhra Pradesh High Court on 04.01.2021.
- Transferred as Judge of High Court at Calcutta on 08.11.2021.
- Elevated as Judge, Supreme Court of India on 17.03.2025.

CHIEF JUSTICES OF OTHER HIGH COURTS ELEVATED FROM THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

- Appointed as a permanent Judge of High Court at Calcutta on 22.06.2006.
- Was the Acting Chief Justice of High Court at Calcutta from 01.01.2019 till 03.04.2019.
- Transferred as Judge of Allahabad High Court on 17.10.2019.
- Elevated as the Chief Justice of High Court of Meghalaya and took oath on 27.04.2020.
- Transferred as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim and took oath on 12.10.2021.



***The Hon'ble Justice
Biswanath Somadder,
Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court***



***The Hon'ble Justice I.P. Mukerji
Chief Justice, High Court of Meghalaya***

- Appointed as a permanent Judge of High Court at Calcutta on 18.05.2009.
- Appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya on 21.09.2024 and took oath on 03.10.2024.

- Appointed as a permanent Judge of High Court at Calcutta on 13.04.2010.
- Appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa on 26.03.2025.



***The Hon'ble Justice Harish Tandon
Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa***

HON'BLE JUDGES

[01.07.2024 – 30.06.2025]



**The Hon'ble Justice T. S. Sivagnanam,
the Hon'ble the Chief Justice**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Soumen Sen**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Surya Prakash Kesarwani -
*Superannuated on 15.07.2024 (F/N)***



**The Hon'ble Justice
Tapabrata Chakraborty**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Arijit Banerjee**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Debangsu Basak**



**The Hon'ble
Justice Madhuresh Prasad**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Rajasekhar Mantha**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Rajarshi Bharadwaj**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Shampa Sarkar**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Ravi Krishan Kapur**



**The Hon'ble Justice
Arindam Mukherjee**



The Hon'ble Justice
Biswajit Basu



The Hon'ble Justice
Amrita Sinha



The Hon'ble Justice
Jay Sengupta



The Hon'ble Justice
Suvra Ghosh



The Hon'ble Justice
Tirthankar Ghosh



The Hon'ble Justice
Hiranmay
Bhattacharyya



The Hon'ble Justice
Saugata Bhattacharyya



The Hon'ble Justice
Kausik Chanda



The Hon'ble Justice
Aniruddha Roy



The Hon'ble Justice
Sugato Majumdar



The Hon'ble Justice
Bivas Pattanayak



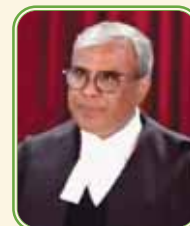
The Hon'ble Justice
Krishna Rao



The Hon'ble Justice
Bibhas Ranjan De



The Hon'ble Justice
Dr. Ajoy Kumar
Mukherjee



The Hon'ble Justice
Dinesh Kumar Sharma
took oath on 07.04.2025



The Hon'ble Justice
Gaurang Kanth



The Hon'ble Justice
Ananya Bandyopadhyay



The Hon'ble Justice
Rai Chattopadhyay



The Hon'ble Justice
Subhendu Samanta



The Hon'ble Justice
Shampa Dutt (Paul)



The Hon'ble Justice
Raja Basu Chowdhury



The Hon'ble Justice
Biswaroop Chowdhury



The Hon'ble Justice
Partha Sarathi Sen



The Hon'ble Justice
Prasenjit Biswas



The Hon'ble Justice
Uday Kumar



The Hon'ble Justice
Ajay Kumar Gupta



The Hon'ble Justice
Supratim Bhattacharya



The Hon'ble Justice
Partha Sarathi
Chatterjee



The Hon'ble Justice
Apurba Sinha Ray



The Hon'ble Justice
Md. Shabbar Rashidi



The Hon'ble Justice
Chaitali Chatterjee (Das)
took oath on 14.02.2025



The Hon'ble Justice
Smita Das De
took oath on 11.03.2025



The Hon'ble Justice
Reetobroto Kumar Mitra
took oath on 11.03.2025



The Hon'ble Justice
Om Narayan Rai
took oath on 11.03.2025

Fiat iustitia, ruat caelum
Let Justice be done, though the heavens fall.

COMMITTEES OF HIGH COURT

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEES
1.	Administrative Committee
2.	Transfer Committee for officers under West Bengal Judicial Service
3.	Committee for Recruitment, Selection and Promotion of the Judicial Officers
4.	Court Creation Committee and to look after the Family Court matters
5.	Committee for Evaluation of Potentiality of the Judicial Officers
6.	Annual Confidential Report Committee (Judicial Officers)
7.	Committee to monitor allocation of Court Rooms, Judges' Chambers and High Court Cars
8.	Building Committee
9.	Safety and Security Committee
10.	Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench Permanent Building Committee
11.	Recruitment and Promotion Committee of all categories of posts / cadres of General Employees of Hon'ble High Court
12.	Committee to consider amendments / review of CRO, CRRO, A.S. / O.S Rules & High Court Services Rules
13.	Computer, e-court, Digitization, Artificial Intelligence and Translation Committee
14.	Library Committee
15.	Litigation and Case Management Committee
16.	Committee to oversee RTI matters
17.	Committee for Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women in office / work place in the High Court
18.	Arrears and State Court Management System Committee
19.	Physical verification and data monitoring Committee
20.	Committee for Hospitality, facilitation and felicitation including different celebrations/events
21.	Committee for designation of Senior Advocates

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEES
22.	Committee for monitoring of disposal of drug
23.	Committee to look after the Grievances of Retired Judges and Retired Judicial Officers
24.	Committee for implementation of Shetty Commission
25.	Committee for implementation of resolution of the Chief Justices' Conference
26.	Purchase Committee and Finance Committees
27.	Committee to monitor Centrally Sponsored Scheme
28.	Committee to look after the matters of the Commercial Courts in West Bengal and A & N Islands
29.	Anomaly Committee in connection with pay disparities, promotional avenues and all such matters of the employees of this Hon'ble Court
30.	Committee for preparation of Budget
31.	Committee for West Bengal Judicial Academy
32.	Special Committee for archives & other documents and for restoration of old records
33.	Council of Law Reporting Committee
34.	Committee for State Legal Services Authority for the State of West Bengal
35.	Committee for State Legal Services Authority for Andaman & Nicobar Islands
36.	High Court Legal Services Committee (A&N Islands)
37.	Calcutta High Court Legal Services Committee
38.	Mediation and Conciliation Committee
39.	Juvenile Justice Committee
40.	Rule Committee (u/s 123 CPC)
41.	Committee to oversee modification of order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in All India Judges Association and Ors. vs U.O.I
42.	Committee for the Hon'ble Judges relating to providing various allowances

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE COMMITTEES
43.	Committee to examine and report regarding auditing of accounts
44.	Committee for Special Pay Commission of High Court Employees
45.	Sentence Remission Committee
46.	Committee for implementation of the orders / directions passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India
47.	VWDC (Vulnerable Witnesses Deposition Centres) Committee
48.	Committee to monitor the timely completion of projects and facilitate proper coordination between the officials at the district level and the authorities of the State Government
49.	District level Committee to monitor the timely completion of projects and facilitate coordination between the officials at the district level and the authorities of the State Government
50.	Annual Report Committee
51.	Committee to monitor the vacations in the High Court
52.	Committee for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary regarding implementation of the recommendations of SNJPC
53.	Accessibility Committee
54.	Committee for filling up of the posts of Law Clerk cum Research Assistant
55.	Committee to look after the matters relating to Gram Nyayalays
56.	Grievance Redressal Committee of Ld. Advocates/Bar Associations
57.	Committee to oversee the enlistment and updation of the list of valuer/surveyor/engineer
58.	Committee to oversee the construction of availability of Toilet facilities (R. Kalita vs U.O.I)
59.	Committee to look after the establishment of International Arbitration Centre
60.	Committee to look after the timely completion of execution cases
61.	Committee to oversee the enhancement of pecuniary jurisdiction
62.	Special Committee to Prepare the SOP for praying extension of time from Supreme Court

REGISTRY AT PRINCIPAL BENCH



Smt. Chaitali Chatterjee (Das)
Registrar General
till 13.02.2025 (A/N)

*(Elevated as Additional Judge of High Court
at Calcutta w.e.f. 14.02.2025) (F/N)*



Smt. Nabanita Ray
Registrar General

Registrar Administration
(Lawazima & Office Management)
till 04.03.2025 (F/N)



Shri Amit Chakravorty
Registrar (Vigilance)



Shri Subrata Chandra Polle
Registrar (Inspection-I)



Shri Raju Mukherjee
Registrar (Judicial Service)
Registrar (Inspection-II)
till 05.05.2025 (A/N)



Shri Partha Pratim Chakravorty
Registrar (Inspection-II)



Shri Kallol Chattopadhyay
Registrar Administration
(Lawazima & Office Management)



Shri Sanjay Mukhopadhyay
Registrar (IT)



Smt. Indrila Mukhopadhyay (Mitra)
Secretary,
Juvenile Justice Secretariat



Dr. Ashis Kumar Hazra
Registrar (Recruitment &
Management)



Shri Bhawani Shankar Sharma
Registrar Administration
(General, Infrastructure & Estate)
Registrar, Circuit Bench of
Calcutta High Court at
Port Blair *till 30.04.2025 (A/N)*



Shri Subhra Som Ghosal
Registrar (Commercial
Courts Division)



Shri Soumen Sarkar
Registrar
(Original Side)



Shri Dipanjan Sen
Central Project Coordinator



Shri Sudeep Banerjee
Secretary, High Court
Legal Services Committee



Shri Sanjeet Ambastha
Registrar (Protocol)



Smt Payel Banerjee
Addl. Secretary,
Juvenile Justice Secretariat



Smt. Taniya Sarkar
Joint Registrar
(Commercial Appellate Division)

REGISTRY AT CIRCUIT BENCHES



Mr. Rashid Alam
Registrar, Circuit Bench of
Calcutta High Court at Port Blair



Shri Sourav Bhattacharya
Registrar, Circuit Bench of
Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri



GROUP PHOTO OF REGISTRY



***Hon'ble Chief Justice with His
Lordship's Seceretary, Additional
Seceretary and Officer
on Special Duty***

REGISTRARS POSTED / TRANSFERRED DURING 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025



Shri Abhijit Som
Registrar (Inspection-I)
till 01.03.2025 (A/N)



**Smt. Chandrani Mukherjee
(Banerjee)**
Registrar, Original Side
till 26.07.2024 (A/N)



**Shri Biswarup
Bandyopadhyay**
Registrar (Judicial Service)
till 05.05.2025 (A/N)



Shri Debaprasad Nath,
Registrar (Vigilance)
till 26.07.2024 (A/N)
Registrar, Original Side
*26.07.2024 (A/N)-
01.05.2025 (F/N)*



Shri Jibon Kumar Sadhu,
Registrar (Inspection I)
*12.03.2025 (A/N)-
07.05.2025 (F/N)*



Shri Sanjeev Kumar Sharma
Secretary, Calcutta
High Court Legal
Services Committee
till 16.04.2025 (A/N)



Shri Chiranjib Bhattacharya
Registrar, Circuit Bench of
Calcutta High Court
at Jalpaiguri
till 19.08.2024 (A/N)



Shri Lokesh Pathak
Registrar (Protocol)
till 01.05.2025 (A/N)



Shri Ambarish Ghosh,
Registrar, Administration
(GI&E)
till 13.05.2025 (A/N)



Dr. Moumita Bhattacharya,
Secretary,
Juvenile Justice Secretariat
*10.07.2024 (F/N)-
30.04.2025 (A/N)*



Shri Mandip Saha Roy
Additional Secretary,
Juvenile Justice Seretariate
till 11.07.2024 (A/N)



Shri Abhranil Neogi
Joint Registrar,
Commercial Appellate
Division
till 21.04.2025 (A/N)

INFRASTRUCTURE



Court Room No. 1

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS:

The Main Building of the High Court at Calcutta stands as a magnificent relic of architectural brilliance. Established in 1862, it holds the distinction of being the oldest High Court in India, marking the inception of the modern judicial system under British rule.

Designed by the renowned British architect Walter Granville, the Main Building exudes a Gothic Revival style, closely resembling the Cloth Hall at Ypres, Belgium. Its distinctive features, including arched windows and towering spires adorned with intricate symmetry and etched with the marks of time and grandeur, evoke the grace of a European cathedral transformed into a basilica.

Each corridor within the Main Building carries the weight of history, akin to the quiet presence of a grand old book, withered yet intact. It serves both as a monument and a living memory, preserving the legacy of the past.

At present there are five buildings in the High Court premises, out of which four buildings comprising Court halls, Bar Associations and Departments.

The fifth one is the New Administrative Block at Block-"B" (1st floor to 9th floor) of the New Secretariat Building, 1, K. S. Roy Road, Kolkata-700 001 comprising with offices of the Registrars as well as Judicial and Administrative Departments.

BUILDING COMPLEX OF HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

Sl No.	Building Name	Shadow free Rooftop Area	Height Of Building (Meters)	Type of roof R.C.C/GI Sheet/Asbestos
01	High Court Main Building	7300 Sqm	25.2	Kori Barga Roof
02	Sesquicentenary Building	1300 Sqm	42.5	R.C.C
03	Centenary Building	1600 Sqm	17.7	R.C.C
04	Annex Building	1300 Sqm	24.2	R.C.C
05	New Administrative Block, High Court, Calcutta at Block 'B' (1 st floor to 9 th floor), New Secretariat Building	6900 Sq.ft in each floor build up area.		R.C.C



Court room in Sesquicentenary Building

NUMBER OF COURT HALLS

i.	Main Building	25+1 (Video Conference Room)
ii.	Centenary Building	14
iii.	Sesquicentenary Building	24

NUMBER OF CHAMBERS OF HON'BLE JUDGES

i.	Main Building	19
ii.	Centenary Building	13
iii.	Sesquicentenary Building	28

DIFFERENT INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS OF HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA, WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED :

1. Renovation of Court Rooms and Chambers.
2. Preparation of two new Court Rooms in Sesquicentenary Building to accommodate the Hon'ble Judges.
3. Construction of New Police Kiosk near Judges' Gate at Main Building (Gate-A).
4. Construction of Judges' Lounge and Baby Feeding Room on the 1st Floor at Centenary Building.
5. Making workstation for Assistant Registrar Court Recording (ARCR), Original Side in the Annex Building.
6. Construction of work-station in the front office of the Registrar General.
7. Setting up of second Medical Unit with critical Facilities for Emergency Court Services in the vacant room of erstwhile Party Copy Section situated at the Northern West Corner of the Ground Floor of the Main Building.
8. Construction of the cabins and the sitting area in the Hon'ble Judges' Library along with changing room for the female staff.



Centenary Building



Sesquicentenary Building

HUMAN RESOURCES

DETAILED STRENGTH OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

(AS ON 30.06.2025)

CADRE		SANCTIONED STRENGTH	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF BERTHS AVAILABLE	WORKING STRENGTH	CADRE VACANCY
Higher Judicial Service (DJ/ADJ)		338	298	273 (including 1 suspended officer)	25 (against Maximum number of berths available)
Combined cadre of Civil Judge (Senior Division)	ADJ (FTC)	337 (including 88 FTC)	88 (FTC) + 222 CJ (SD) = 310	86	2 (against Maximum number of berths available)
	Civil Judge (Senior Division)			219	3 (against Maximum number of berths available)
Civil Judge (Junior Division)		430	430	312 (including 3 suspended officers)	118 (against Maximum number of berths available)
Total		1105*	1038	890	148 (against Maximum number of berths available)

**As stands after cadre strength revision of West Bengal Judicial Service vide Govt. of WB Notification No. 1615-JD dated 10.05.2024.*

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN DISTRICT JUDICIARY



STRENGTH OF STAFF IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

(AS ON 30.06.2025)

AT A GLANCE

ESTABLISHMENT	SANCTIONED STRENGTH	WORKING STRENGTH	VACANCIES
Appellate Side	2510	1613	897
Original Side	635	447	188
TOTAL	3145	2060	1085

APPELLATE SIDE

CATEGORY WISE BREAK-UP OF THE SANCTIONED & EXISTING STRENGTH

CATEGORY	SANCTIONED STRENGTH	WORKING STRENGTH	VACANCIES
Group- A	568	404	164
Group- B	413	352	61
Group- C	619	292	327
Group- D	690	411	279
Supernumerary posts for the official residence of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice	03	01	02
Posts sanctioned for the High Court Guest House at Bijan Bhavan	10	04	06
Other Posts carrying consolidated monthly remuneration	207	149	58
TOTAL	2510	1613	897

DETAILS**GROUP - A****(General Branch, Computer Wing and Technical Man Power)**

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
1.	Joint Registrar	07	06	01
2.	Deputy Registrar	15	13	02
3.	Court Manager	03	00	03
4.	Senior Programmer [Direct Recruitment]	01	01	00
5.	System Manager [Direct Recruitment]	02	00	02
6.	Assistant Registrar & Special Officer	40	30	10
7.	Assistant Court Officer (ACO)	65	65	00
8.	Superintendent, Grade-I	01	01	00
9.	Stamp Reporter/Addl. Stamp Reporter	05	04	01
10.	Officer-on-Special Duty (Ex-Cadre)	01	01	00
11.	Officer-on-Special Duty for Protocol Section (Ex-Cadre, specifically on temporary Basis)	01	00	01
12.	Protocol Officer	01	00	01
13.	System Analyst (Programming) [Direct Recruitment]	03	03	00
14.	System Analyst (Hardware & Networking) [Direct Recruitment]	03	00	03
15.	Court Keeper [Direct Recruitment]	02	01	01
16.	Addl. Court Keeper	01	01	00

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
17.	Caretaker to the Official residence of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice [Redesignated as Assistant Registrar (CJR) w.e.f. 01.05.2019]	01	01	00
18.	Section Officer	46	44	02
19.	Accountant/Cashier	05	05	00
20.	Committee Clerk	01	00	01
21.	Special Assistant (Legal)	01	00	01
22.	System Administrator	03	00	03
23.	System Officer	21	14	07
24.	System Assistant	66	15	51
25.	Technical Assistant	06	01	05
26.	Senior Supervisory Salaried Typist	01	01	00
27.	Senior Supervisory Extra Typist (Regular)	01	01	00
	TOTAL	303	208	95

Technical Branch

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
1.	Joint Registrar (Court)	01	01	00
2.	Deputy Registrar (Court)	03	03	00
3.	Assistant Registrar (Court)	142	135	07
4.	Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Judges	72	24	48
5.	Stenographer, Grade A	20	13	07
6.	Stenographer, Grade B	20	17	03
7.	Librarian/Centenary Librarian	04	03	01
8.	Assistant Librarian	03	00	03
	TOTAL	265	196	69

GROUP- B

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
1.	Superintendent & Editor	49	47	02
2.	Senior Translator	1	01	00
3.	Electronic Data Processing Supervisor (EDPS)	50	25	25
4.	Senior Commissioner of Affidavit	1	00	01
5.	Commissioner of Affidavit	3	00	03
6.	Translator	7	00	07
7.	General Assistant to the D.R. & A.R.-I	2	00	02
8.	Upper Division Assistant/ Court Clerk	250	250	00
9.	Stenographer, Grade C	47	29	18
10.	Technical Assistant for Judges' Library	03	Nil	03
	TOTAL	413	352	61

GROUP - C

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
1.	Lower Division Assistant	261	52	209
2.	Salaried Typist	27	04	23
3.	Extra Typists (Regular)	49	19	30
4.	Typist (Computer Knowledge)	19	00	19
5.	Data Entry Operator	163	130	33
6.	Assistant to the Librarian	06	00	06
7.	Muharrir, Gr.-I	11	11	00
8.	Muharrir, Gr.-II	19	19	00
9.	Bank Clerk	01	01	00
10.	Record Arranger	32	32	00
11.	Telephone Operator	07	04	03

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
12.	Driver	21	19	02
13.	Head Mali	01	01	00
14.	Library Clerk	02	00	02
	TOTAL	619	292	327

GROUP - D

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
1.	Duftry	27	27	00
2.	Jamadar	78	58	20
3.	Group-D (Regular) (Peon/ Orderly/Barkandaz/Darwan/ Night Guard/ Cleaner)	480	261	219
4.	Senior Mali	01	01	00
5.	Mali	04	03	01
6.	Head Sweeper	01	00	01
7.	Sweeper	38	16	22
8.	Vistee	13	02	11
9.	Farash	43	43	00
10.	Duplicating/Copying Machine Operator	5	00	05
	TOTAL	690	411	279

SUPERNUMERARY POSTS FOR THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
1.	Group - D	02	01	01
2.	Cook	01	00	01
	Total	03	01	02

POSTS SANCTIONED FOR THE HIGH COURT GUEST HOUSE AT BIJAN BHAVAN

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
1.	Superintendent	01	00	01
2.	Lower Division Assistant	01	01	00
3.	Group- D (R)	03	03	00
4.	Darwan	01	00	01
5.	Helper to the Cook	01	00	01
CONTRACTUAL POSTS				
6.	Caretaker (on contract basis with consolidated pay)	01	00	01
7.	Cook (on contract basis with consolidated pay)	01	00	01
8.	Sweeper (on contract basis with consolidated pay)	01	00	01
	TOTAL	10	04	06

OTHER POSTS CARRYING CONSOLIDATED MONTHLY REMUNERATION

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned Post	Existing Strength	Vacant
1.	Law Clerk -cum Research Assistant (on contractual basis with consolidated pay)	60	22	38
2.	Software Developer (on contractual basis with consolidated pay)	06	03	03
3.	Data Entry Operators (on contractual basis with consolidated pay)	24	19	05
4.	Badli Workers (on contractual basis with consolidated pay)	110	103	07
5.	Translators (on contractual basis with consolidated pay)	07	02	05
	TOTAL	207	149	58

ORIGINAL SIDE

CATEGORY WISE BREAK-UP OF THE SANCTIONED & EXISTING STRENGTH

CATEGORY	SANCTIONED STRENGTH	EXISTING STRENGTH	VACANT
GROUP A	134	107	27
GROUP B	163	154	9
GROUP C	181	87	94
GROUP D	157	99	58
TOTAL	635	447	188

DETAILS

GROUP - A

SL NO.	NAME OF POST	SANCTIONED POST	EXISTING STRENGTH	VACANT
1.	Registrar	1	1	0
2.	Senior Master & Official Referee	1	1	0
3.	Master & Official Referee	1	1	0
4.	Registrar-in-Insolvency	1	1	0
5.	Assistant Master & Referee	1	1	0
6.	Joint Registrar	2	2	0
7.	Joint Registrar-cum-Secretary to the Hon'ble The C.J.	1	1	0
8.	Joint Registrar-cum-Additional Secretary to the Hon'ble The C.J.	1	1	0
9.	Deputy Registrar	6	5	1
10.	Assistant Registrar	32	24	8
11.	Assistant Registrar (C.R.)	51	42	9
12.	Interpreting Officer (Court)	12	4	8

SL NO.	NAME OF POST	SANCTIONED POST	EXISTING STRENGTH	VACANT
13.	Stamp Reporter	2	1	1
14.	Superintendent Grade-I	1	1	0
15.	Section Officer	18	18	0
16.	Cashier	1	1	0
17.	Accountant	2	2	0
	TOTAL	134	107	27

GROUP - B

SL NO.	NAME OF POST	SANCTIONED POST	EXISTING STRENGTH	VACANT
1.	Assistant to the Registrar	1	1	0
2.	Superintendent	19	19	0
3.	Preservation Assistant	1	1	0
4.	Upper Division Assistant	106	105	1
5.	Shorthand Typist to Registrar	1	0	1
6.	Senior Supervisory Grade Typist	1	1	0
7.	Supervisory Grade Typist	1	1	0
8.	Typist Grade -I	4	2	2
9.	Senior Supervisory Grade S.W.	1	1	0
10.	Supervisory Grade Section Writer	5	5	0
11.	Grade I Section Writer	18	18	0
12.	Senior Nagri Munshi	1	0	1
13.	Senior Bengali Mohurrir	1	0	1
14.	Translators	3	1	2
	TOTAL	163	154	9

GROUP - C

SL NO.	NAME OF POST	SANCTIONED POST	EXISTING STRENGTH	VACANT
1.	Lower Division Assistant	107	55	52
2.	Typist	6	0	6
3.	Basic Grade Section Writer	24	3	21
4.	Nagri Munshi	2	0	2
5.	Bengali Mohurrir	4	3	1
6.	Mohurrir Grade I	5	5	0
7.	Mohurrir Grade II	8	8	0
8.	Record Arranger	19	10	9
9.	Bank Clerk	1	1	0
10.	Sealing Clerk	1	1	0
11.	Bank Sarkar	1	0	1
12.	Inspection Clerk	1	1	0
13.	Persian Reader	1	0	1
14.	Arabic Reader	1	0	1
	TOTAL	181	87	94

GROUP - D

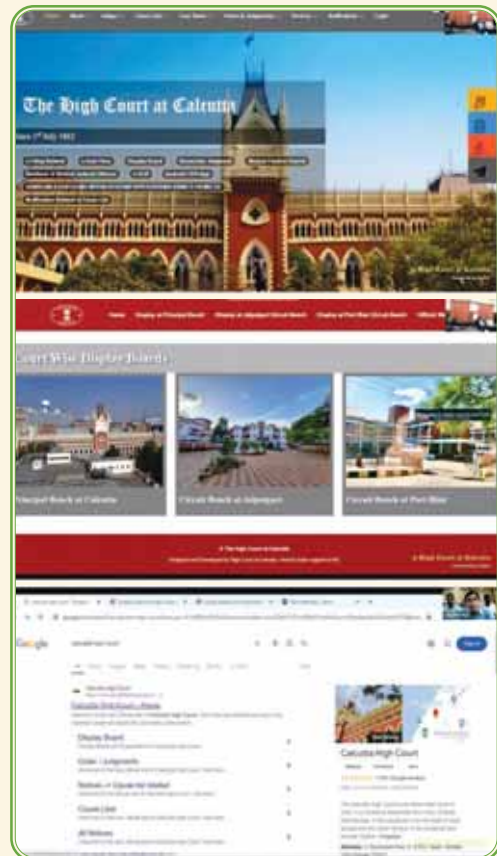
SL NO.	NAME OF POST	SANCTIONED POST	EXISTING STRENGTH	VACANT
1.	Duftry Grade I	3	3	0
2.	Duftry	5	5	0
3.	Jamadar Grade I	1	1	0
4.	Jamadar	2	2	0
5.	Process Server	2	2	0
6.	Peon	93	43	50
7.	Grade I Peon	42	42	0
8.	Sweeper Grade I	2	1	1
9.	Sweeper	5	0	5
10.	Bhisti Grade I	1	0	1
11.	Bhisti	1	0	1
	TOTAL	157	99	58

ICT INITIATIVES

(During the period 01.07.24 — 30.06.25)

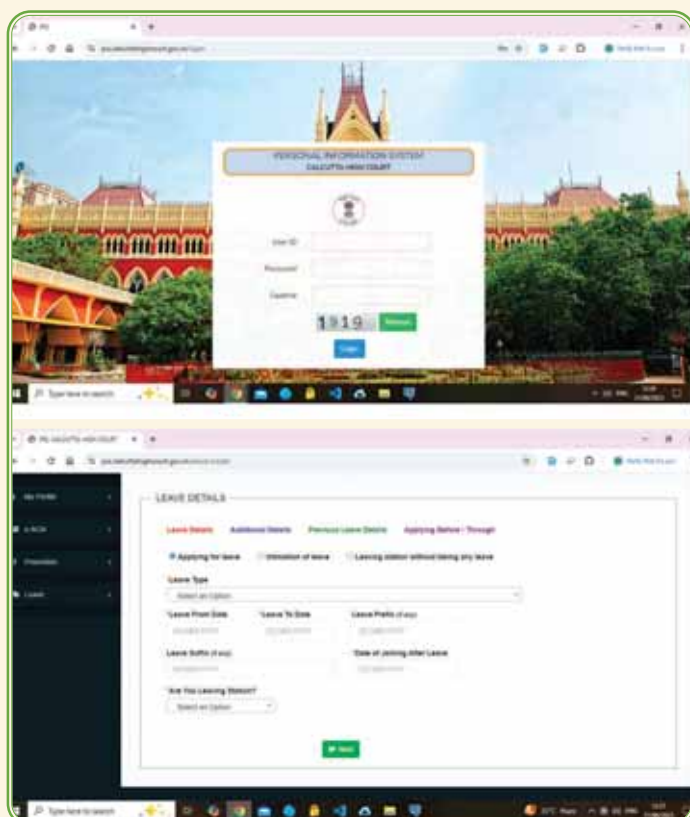


1. **Upgradation of Website of High Court at Calcutta :** The website of High court at Calcutta has been upgraded with a new look. The revamped site is now running on the latest Laravel 11.0 framework with PHP 8.3 and Postgres SQL 15, with all updates implemented by the in-house IT team. A separate sub domain has been created for the Display Board to improve speed and performance. These measures enhance security against potential cyber threats and significantly improve through the portal.



2. Migration to Cloud Server: The portal of the High court at Calcutta, Display Board and the Drug Disposal Management System (DDMS) have been migrated to the West Bengal State Data Centre (WBSDC) from NDC 1.0 by the in-house IT team to adhere the recommendation of the Hon'ble Computer Committee.

3. Addition of leave module in PIS: The Personal Information System (PIS) now supports online leave applications for judicial officers. This enhancement streamlines the request and approval process, reducing paperwork and turnaround time.



4. Implementation of Paperless Court Solution: The Paperless Court Operations project has been initiated and is currently awaiting budgetary approval from the competent authority.

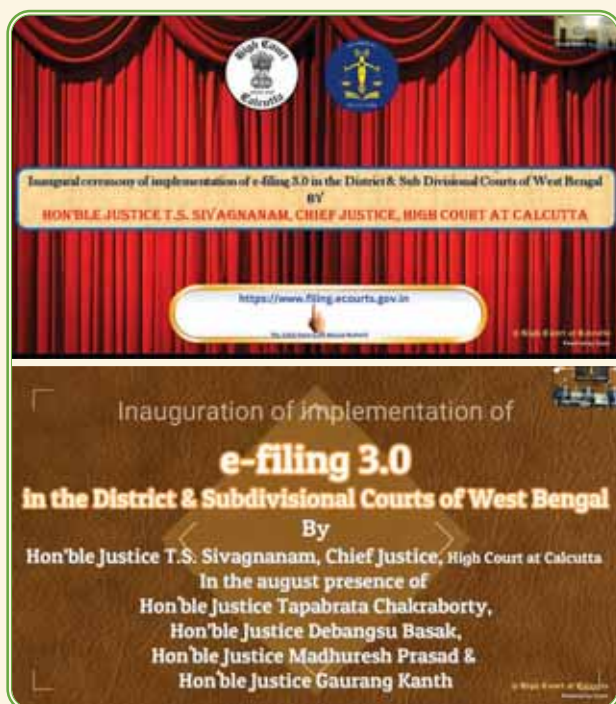
5. Public Information System: The Public Information System showing key information such as the locations of various courts, offices, Bar rooms, departments and sections have been installed at four strategic points in the High Court premises. These information help visitors to navigate the building easily and efficiently.

Court Details	Location
Court No. 1 THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE T. S. MUKHOPADHYAY	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 1)
Court No. 2 HON'BLE JUSTICE ANIRUDHA BOY	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 2)
Court No. 3 HON'BLE JUSTICE GALLAGHER KANTH	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 3)
Court No. 4 HON'BLE JUSTICE MADHURESH PRASAD	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 4)
Court No. 5 HON'BLE JUSTICE RAJA RAJU CHATTERJEE	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 5)
Court No. 6 HON'BLE JUSTICE BRAJENDRA BHATTACHARYA	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 6)
Court No. 7 HON'BLE JUSTICE CHAITALI CHATTERJEE DAS	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 7)
Court No. 8 HON'BLE JUSTICE HARISH TANDON	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 8)
Court No. 10 HON'BLE JUSTICE RAVI KRISHNA KAPUR	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 10)
Court No. 11 HON'BLE JUSTICE SAPARAJA CHAKRABORTY	Main Building 1 st Floor (Room No. 11)
Bar Details	Location
Bar Association Near Bar Council Study Room - Bridge Connection	Main Building 2 nd Floor
Bar Library Club Near 10 Court Room No. 8	Main Building 1 st Floor
Ladies Bar Association Opposite to Court Room No. 14	Contemporary Building 2 nd Floor
Incorporated Law Society Near Bar Association Room No. 1	Main Building 1 st Floor
Bar Association Room No. 1 Near Bar Association Common	Main Building 1 st Floor
Bar Association Room No. 2	Main Building 1 st Floor
Bar Association Room No. 3	Main Building 1 st Floor
Bar Association Room No. 4	Main Building 1 st Floor
Bar Association Room No. 5	Main Building 1 st Floor
Bar Association Room No. 6 Near Bar Library Club	Main Building 2 nd Floor

PERFORMANCE IN TECHNOLOGICAL SPHERE IN THE DISTRICT JUDICIARY UNDER THE E-COURTS PROJECT

1. Implementation of e-Filing Version 3.0 at all the Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal -

Implementation of e-Filing 3.0 is one of the objectives of Phase-III of the e-Courts Project. Viewing this objective of the e-Committee, Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Calcutta had virtually inaugurated the implementation of e-Filing 3.0 in all the District and Sub-divisional Courts of West Bengal on the 1st day of October, 2024 in the august presence of the Hon'ble Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty, the Hon'ble Justice Debangsu Basak, the Hon'ble Justice Madhuresh Prasad and the Hon'ble Justice Gaurang Kanth.



As a pilot instance and in order to make the staff and Advocates well versed with the e-Filing system, only petitions falling under Section 28 of the Special Marriage Act 1954, Section 10A of the Divorce Act 1869 and Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act 1955 are permitted to file through e-Filing portal through "Advocate login" only in the Court Complexes. The facility will soon be extended to e-File other type of cases.

2. Migration from e-Filing version 1.0 to e-Filing version 3.0 at four (04) numbers of Commercial Courts in the State of West Bengal- Four numbers of

Commercial Courts at South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Paschim Bardhaman and Darjeeling which were running on e-Filing version 1.0 have been migrated to e-Filing version 3.0.

3. Procurement and distribution of 900 numbers of EBC Reader Platinum Edition (e-Library) for Judicial Officers of West Bengal- On 5th March, 2025 an inaugural ceremony was organized for symbolic distribution of 900 numbers of subscriptions of EBC Reader Platinum Edition to the Judicial Officers in the State of West Bengal in the august presence of the Hon'ble Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of High Court at Calcutta, with other Hon'ble Member Judges of Computer Committee of High Court at Calcutta and other Judicial Officers of District Judiciary who were also present in the distribution ceremony.





4. Implementation of CIS version 4.0 in the District and Sub-divisional Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal-

All the Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have migrated the data from CIS version 3.2 to CIS version 4.0. 281 numbers of establishments in the State of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been migrated to CIS 4.0.



5. Installation of Porta Cabins for e-Sewa Kendras in the Court Complexes under the Phase-III of the eCourts Project-

The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta has procured and installed 57 numbers of Porta Cabins for setting up e-Sewa Kendras in the Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



6. Procurement of Hardware and LAN components for the e-Sewa Kendras of the District and Sub-divisional Court Complexes under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project- In the financial year 2024-25, the Department of Justice, Government of India has provided fund for procurement of Porta Cabins and different hardware and LAN for e-Sewa Kendras under the component of the Phase-III project plan "e-Sewa Kendras".

High Court has procured 86 numbers of scanners, 516 numbers of All-in-One Computers, 86 numbers of Printers, 86 numbers of Document Visualizers, 2 numbers of Porta Cabins and 86 numbers of LAN nodes for the e-Sewa Kendras of the District and Subdivisional Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

7. Procurement of Additional Hardware for the District and Sub-divisional Courts under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project- In the financial year 2024-25, the Department of Justice, Government of India has provided fund for procurement of Additional Hardware under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project for the Courts that were covered under Phase-I and Phase-II of the e-Courts Project but not covered in the financial year 2023-24. Out of the said fund, the High Court at Calcutta has procured 16 numbers of All-in-One PC,

4 Numbers of Scanners and 16 numbers of LAN nodes for such aforesaid Courts.

8. Procurement of ICT equipment for New Court Rooms under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project- In the financial year 2024-25, the Department of Justice, Government of India has provided fund for procurement of ICT equipment for the newly created Court Rooms. Out of the said fund the High Court at Calcutta has procured 80 numbers of All-in-One PCs, 10 numbers of MFD Printers, 10 numbers of Scanners, 10 numbers of Extra Monitor with VGA/HDMI, 10 numbers of Display Monitors, 10 numbers of UPSs and 160 numbers of LAN nodes.

9. Procurement of Videoconferencing equipment for the Courts, Jails and Hospitals under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project- In the financial year 2024-25, the Department of Justice, Government of India has provided fund for procurement of videoconferencing equipment for the Courts, Jails and Government Hospitals. Out of the said fund, the High Court at Calcutta has procured 18 numbers of All-in One PC, 18 numbers of Display Unit and 18 numbers of UPS for the Courts, Jails and Government Hospitals in the State of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

10. Installation of rooftop Solar Power Plants in the Court Complexes under the Phase-III of the Courts Project- The High Court at Calcutta through Webel

Technology Limited has procured and installed rooftop On-Grid Solar Power Plants at 70 Sites at different Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal out of the fund sanctioned as "Committed Liabilities of the financial year 2023-24" in the financial year 2024-25, under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project.

11. Installation of LAN Nodes in the Court Rooms under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project- The High Court at Calcutta has completed procurement and installation of 3303 numbers of LAN Nodes at Court Rooms in the State of West Bengal out of the fund sanctioned as "Committed Liabilities of the financial year 2023-24" in the financial year 2024-25, under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project.

12. Procurement of mobile adapters and BSNL Prepaid SIM cards for the smartphones already procured for the process servers and bailiffs in the State of West Bengal- The High Court at Calcutta has procured 814 numbers of mobile charging adapters and 551 numbers of BSNL prepaid SIM cards for the Bailiffs and Process Servers in the State of West Bengal for implementation of NSTEP out of the State Government fund.

13. Procurement of 2032 numbers of printers for the District and Sub-divisional Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal- The High Court at

Calcutta has procured 1016 numbers of Multifunctional printers and 1016 numbers of Mono Laser Printers for the District and Sub-divisional Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal through 'buyback policy' of the existing printers provided under the Phase-I and Phase-II of the e-Courts Project.

14. Regional Cluster Workshop for all three Zones i.e. West Zone, East Zone & South Zone on 27th and 28th July, 2024 at Gujarat State Judicial Academy- Under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project, as a part of the Capacity Building Programme, the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India conducted Regional Cluster Workshop for all three Zones i.e. West Zone, East Zone & South Zone on 27th and 28th July, 2024 at Gujarat State Judicial Academy. The Central Project Coordinator, High Court at Calcutta, OSD Digitization, NIC Coordinator of the High Court at Calcutta, Senior Programmer, High Court at Calcutta and System Officer, High Court at Calcutta were nominated by the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta to participate in the said Workshop.

15. Installation of FTTH connections in the Court Rooms for the purpose of Video conferencing- The High Court at Calcutta has accepted the proposal of West Bengal Electronics Industry Development

Corporation Ltd (WEBEL) for providing BSNL FTTH (Fiber to Home) connections including One Free Telephone Number with Handset (Land Line) on *pro bono* basis for 36 months in the Court Rooms of the District and Sub-Divisional Courts in the State of West Bengal under "Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-2023". The said work is in progress.

16. Procurement of 265 numbers of Class - 3 Digital Signature Certificates (DSC) for the use of the Hon'ble Judges of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta as well as for the use of AR(Court), AR(CR) and PA/Stenographers posted at Hon'ble the High Court at Calcutta- The High Court at Calcutta has issued Work Order to Webel Technology Limited, a procurement agency of the Government of West Bengal for procurement of 283 numbers of Class-3 Digital Signature Certificates for the use of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court at Calcutta as well as for the use of AR(Court), AR(CR) and PA/Stenographers posted at the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta.

17. E-courts International Capacity Building training Programme for the Judicial Officers and Technical Staff- The e-Committee, Supreme Court of India has organized an e-Courts International Capacity Building Programme for the

Judicial Officers and Technical Staff working under the e-Courts Project in two separate batches. The Central Project Coordinator, High Court at Calcutta and the System Officer, High Court at Calcutta working under the e-Courts Project were nominated by the Hon'ble High Court for attending the said training programme at Singapore.

18. Digitization of Case records in the District Judiciary- Out of four (04) numbers of vendors, who were directed by the High Court at Calcutta to submit their Proof of Concept by digitizing upto One Lakh Pages at four separate District Courts, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Kolkata has been provisionally selected by the High Court at Calcutta to carry out the work of digitization of case records in the District Judiciary. The work will start soon.

19. Hiring of Technical Manpower on Contractual Basis, under the e-Courts Project- The High Court at Calcutta through Webel Technology Limited is in the process of hiring Technical Manpower for working under the e-Courts Project for the position of Senior Software Developer, Software Developer and Software Application Support. The same will be finalized soon.

20. Setting up videoconferencing facility in the Court Rooms in the State of West Bengal- In terms of the direction

of a Judicial Order, Webel Technology Limited has provided and installed video conferencing equipment at 750 numbers of Court Rooms in the State of West Bengal.

21. Virtual Court for dealing with e-Challan Cases- The High Court at Calcutta is in the process of extending the facility of Virtual Court to all the other Traffic Guards falling under Kolkata Police besides existing 4 Traffic Guards which are already sending e-Challan Cases to the Virtual Court at the 4th Metropolitan Magistrate, Kolkata. For new Virtual Courts, the Courts to be dealt with the said cases have already been identified by the High Court and soon the Virtual Courts will start functioning.

22. Implementation of e-Summons and NSTEP- The High Court at Calcutta has already taken steps for implementation of e-Summons and NSTEP. Procurement of Smartphones, Charging Adapters and BSNL prepaid SIM Cards for the Process Servers and Bailiffs has already been

made. Creation of User Profile of the District Administrator in the NSTEP portal is under process. Soon the same will be implemented in full-fledged.

23. Utilization of Fund sanctioned by the Department of Justice, Government of India, under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project in the financial year 2024-25-

Under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project, the Department of Justice, Government of India had sanctioned a fund of Rs. 41,90,35,194/- (Rupees Forty One Crore Ninety Lakh Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Ninety Four Only) for procurement of different hardware and LAN equipment in the financial year 2024-25. Out of the said fund, the High Court at Calcutta has utilized a fund of Rs. 27,65,14,342/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Sixty Five Lakh Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Forty Two Only) in the financial year 2024-25 for procurement of different hardware and LAN items for the District Judiciary, with a utilization percentage of 65.98%.

TRANSLATION OF E-SCR JUDGEMENTS AND HIGH COURT JUDGEMENTS AS WELL AS HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT JUDGEMENTS OF THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The High Court at Calcutta has undertaken the translation of the e-SCR judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and High Court, Calcutta in vernacular language. For the purpose of translation of the judgments from English to Bengali primarily SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software), developed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, is being used by the translators of this Court.

Considering the volume of judgments, which are required to be translated into vernacular language, in particular Bengali language, the Hon'ble AI Assisted Legal Translation Committee of High Court, Calcutta decided to deploy AI technology in the translation project and thereby WEBEL, a Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking was approached. Currently High Court at Calcutta run it's translation project by using AI technology and the SUVAS software.

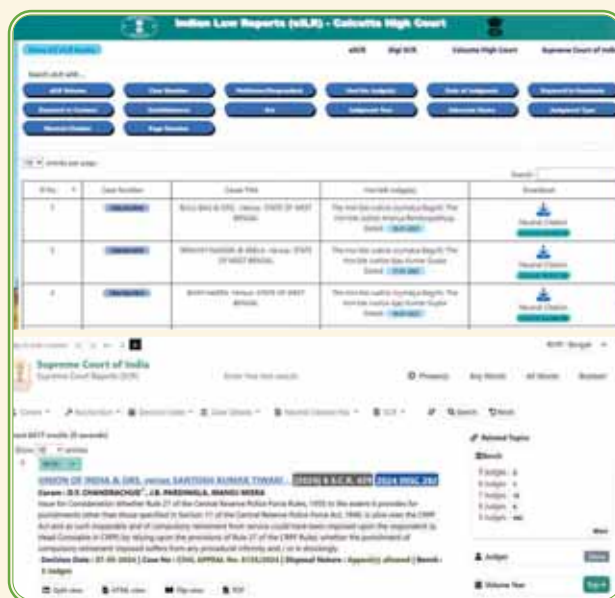
Altogether six translators, out of them two are contractual and four are doing the translation job under the scheme of AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, Supreme Court of India, apart from five permanent translators of the High Court at Calcutta. The High Court at Calcutta has already set up a permanent translation wing having all IT infrastructure.

As on 30-06-2025 altogether 6417 numbers of e-SCR judgments have been translated into Bengali language with 816 numbers of High Court Judgments and 14 numbers of Historical Judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The

translation project has now become the permanent feature in the High Court at Calcutta, having target to translate more than 36000 e-SCR judgments as well as all reportable High Court Judgments. The object of the project to translate all the judgements in real time basis.

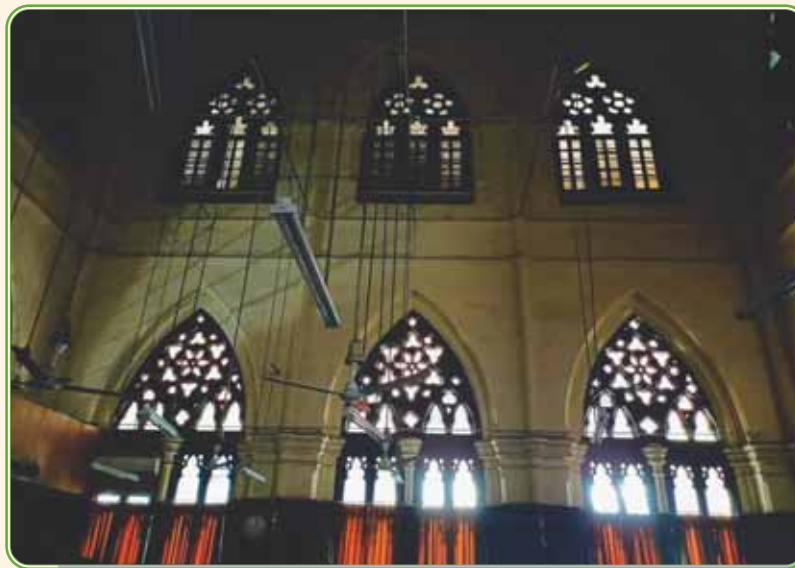
e-ILR or digital HCR has been developed in-house by the System Analyst (Programming) of this Court. The digital platform has 14 search parameters by which a user can search a judgment of the High Court at Calcutta. Currently the software is under Security Audit. The e-ILR will be hosted at the cloud server of State Data Center.

As on 30-06-2025 one Editor cum Chief Reporter and seven Advocate Reporters are performing the job of reporting of the judgments of the High Court at Calcutta under Indian Law Report Council.



TECHNOLOGICAL SPHERE ON THE ORIGINAL SIDE ESTABLISHMENT

- ❖ Software for digital conversion of records regarding deposit, investment and payment of litigant's money in terms of the Hon'ble Court's order has been introduced in the Original Side, reducing risk of losing important data due to damage or natural disasters and simplifying tedious burden of maintenance of very old ledgers.
- ❖ Procurement of computers and allied accessories through GeM in the Original Side has been started in terms of Government Notification bearing no. 5430-F(Y) dated 23.08.2018 and other subsequent notifications.
- ❖ Maintenance of store and distribution of requisite stationaries to the Hon'ble Court as well as to the departments/ sections of the Original Side Registry are being done with more ease and efficiency with introduction of software "e-Inventory System".
- ❖ Maintenance and distribution of furniture and some stationaries are being done smoothly by the concerned department with the introduction of software "Departmental Resource Manager" since May, 2025.
- ❖ Receiving of online applications submitted under RTI Act, 2005 and reply to the same via e-mail are being done proficiently using e-RTI portal.
- ❖ e-Filing of Commercial Suits is going on in compliance with Notification No. 10702-RG dated 24.11.2023.



ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

(I) Actions aiming at timely filling up of vacancies of Judicial Officers :

The process of filling up of vacancies in West Bengal Judicial Service was severely hampered and deviated from time-schedule during the period from 01.07.2021 to 30.06.2022 and 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 owing to Covid-19 pandemic. However, during the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, following the mandate in Malik Mazhar Sultan's case, diligent actions have been taken in filling up of vacancies of Judicial Officers. The three channel recruitment process for filling up of total 32 vacancies in the cadre of District Judge (Entry Level) for the year 2024 is almost completed. The process of filling up of 29 vacancies declared for the year 2024 in Fast Track Court is also completed and successful officers have been given promotional posting. The process of filling up of 33 vacancies declared for the year 2024 in Civil Judge (Senior Division) is completed. Selected officers have been given promotional posting. The process of filling up of vacancies in different cadre for the year 2025 is under consideration in view of the order dated 20.05.2025 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (C) No. 1022 of 1989 (All India Judges Association and Others vs Union of India and Others).

It may be mentioned that result of West Bengal Judicial Service Examination for the year 2022 has been published. Appointment order issued by the Govt. of West Bengal in favour of 27 candidates, out of 29 recommended vide no. JD-16099/19/2022 dated 02.04.2025. Accordingly posting order has been issued by the Hon'ble Court and the concerned Officers have joined their respective courts on probation.

(II) Creation of exclusive POCSO Courts :

In terms of orders and mandates of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in *Suo Moto Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 1/2018*, 8 (Eight) exclusive POCSO Courts have already started functioning in newly created Courts at Tamluk and Purba Bardhaman.

(III) Creation of Family Courts :

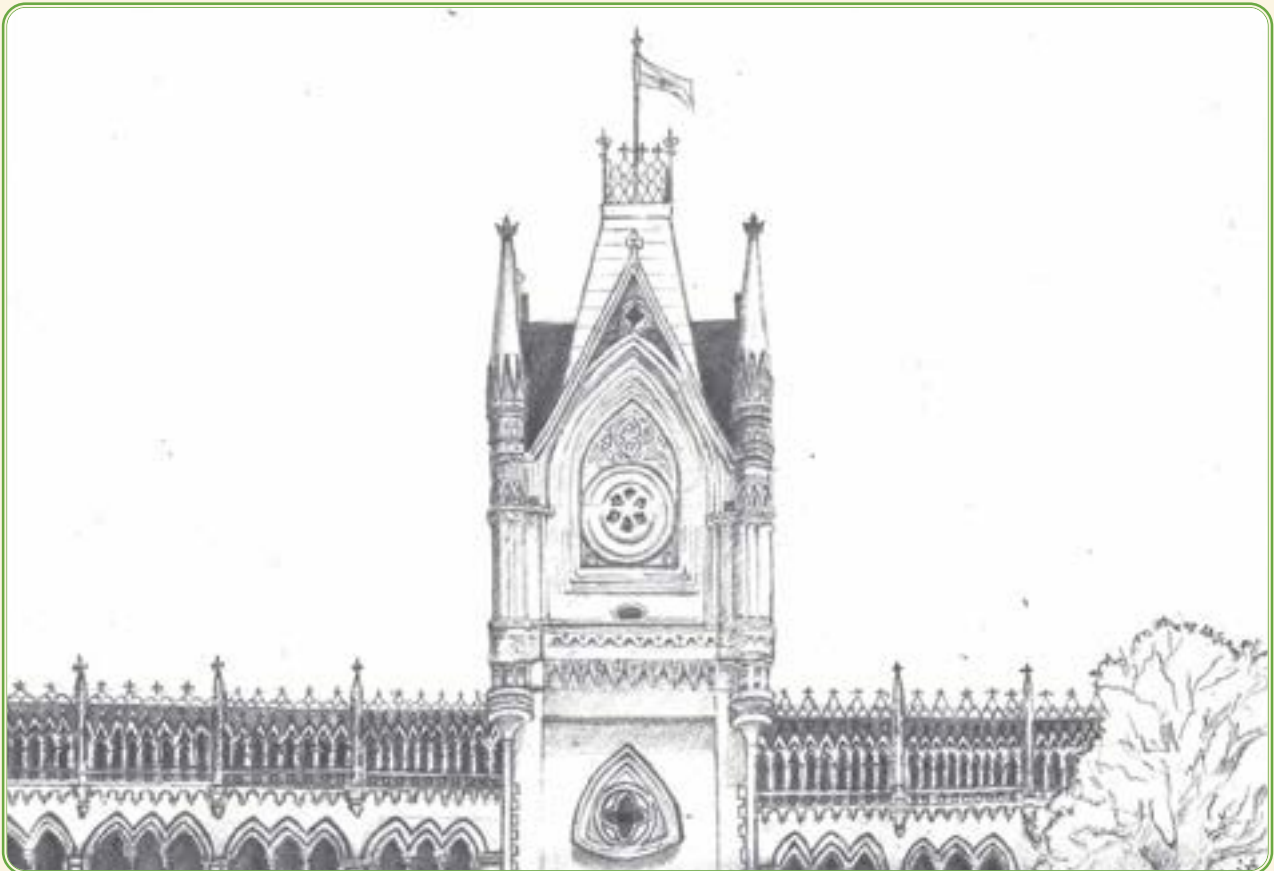
25 Family Courts are sanctioned by the Government, out of which only 7 (2 at Calcutta and 1 each at A & N Islands, Bankura, Purba Medinipur, Jhargram and Paschim Bardhaman) are functioning. Requisite infrastructure for other courts is being persuaded with the Govt.

(IV) The PIS portal : Developed by the IT Cell of this Hon'ble Court for management of different cadres of Judicial Officers have

been further fine tuned aiming at system-centric precision and at substantially enforcing transparency in proposals for transfer-posting of Judicial Officers. The Judicial Officers now can have access to such portal to submit their judgments in connection with promotional process, update personal database and log requests to modify such database in case of any discrepancy.

(V) Introduction of Leave module in PIS Portal :

On and from 01.01.2025, all the judicial officers can have access to such portal to apply for leave (of any kind), upload necessary documents as required in support thereof, through the Leave Module of PIS Portal only.



*Pencil sketch drawn by
Shri Amit Chakravorty, Registrar (Vigilance)*

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Dedicating the facility of Ladies Lounge - "The Kamalini Lounge" near Court Room No.12, Annex Building, High Court at Calcutta, having changing room and rest room.
2. Successful completion and commissioning of the training centre at 9th Floor of New Secretariat Building.
3. Renovation of 9th Floor of New Secretariat Building initiated for shifting the Departments of Original Side to cater to the need of the space and to avert the space crunch issue.
4. The 'Rest Room' near parking area of the cars of the Hon'ble Judges is ready for use of the Drivers.
5. Various works of renovation and repair undertaken during this period for the chamber of the Hon'ble Judges, Court Rooms and the Court Halls in Sesquicentenary Building have been made ready.
6. Successful commissioning of the Gym at Bijan Bhavan for the Hon'ble Judges and their family members residing therein.
7. The work of renovation of the toilet for transgender is nearing completion and the space for construction of the wash rooms for specially abled persons, transgender and female have been identified near Court Management office at the Main Building.



INAUGURATION OF THE GYM AT BIJAN BHAVAN



INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN DISTRICT JUDICIARY

**Under Construction projects (Court Halls, 90% and 90% above),
as on 30.06.2025.**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Project	Status % complete
1.	Paschim Bardhaman	G+4 storied building in the sub-division of Durgapur	90%
2.	Cooch Behar	construction of ADJ court room at Mathabhanga including wooden Ejlash, Chamber and toilet, office room in the newly constructed 1 st floor of Mathabhanga court building	100%
3.	Murshidabad	Construction of 2nd Floor & Fire Exit Stair (Structural, S & P and Electrical works) in the Composite Criminal Court building within the District Judges Court Compound at Beharampure in the district of Murshidabad under Berhampore Division-II (PWD)	Completed
4.	Howrah	Court Halls of 10 storied court complex at Howrah Sadar-Phase-I	99%
5.	Hooghly	Child friendly Special Court under POCSO Act in Chandernagore sub-division	All works have been completed except electricity connection.
		POCSO Court at Serampore	99%

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Project	Status % complete
6.	Paschim Medinipur	Construction of Family Court including construction of concrete pavement and surface drain at Sadar Court, Paschim Medinipur	100%
		Construction of ACJM Court at Dantan, Paschim Medinipur	100%

Under Construction projects (Residential Units, 90% and 90% above), as on 30.06.2025.

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Project	Status % complete
1.	Bankura	6 numbers residential type A Quarter at Bankura	98% (Civil Completed)
2.	Nadia	Six units Quarter for Judicial Officer at Kalyani	99%

COURT CREATION

- (I) One Additional Family Court at Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman.
- (II) One Additional Court in the cadre of CJ(SD), in the Judgeship of City Sessions Court, Calcutta viz. ACJM-III.
- (III) Operationalization of two new Courts of different cadres in the District Judiciary
 - The Court of Additional District & Sessions Judge, Special Court at Alipurduar, post created earlier vide Govt. Notification No. 3123-J/JD/v/3H-07/2023 dated 25.08.2023, started functioning on and from 04.10.2024.
 - The Court of Civil Judge (Junior Division) Domkal, Murshidabad, created long ago vide Govt. Notification No. 329-J/X & 330-J/X both dated 26.06.2006, started functioning on & from 11.06.2025.

WRIT OF POSSESSION OF LAND

Description of land and project	Possession taken on
Sub-Divisional Court Complex at Dhupguri, Dist. Jalpaiguri, Mouza-Bairatiguri, JL No. 98 Plot no. 1055, LR Khatian No. 7471, area 0.5 acre.	05.06.2025 (WOP taken by the District Judge, Jalpaiguri)
Construction of Court Complex, Judicial Quarters and Record Room at Mirik, Mouza-Thorbu TG(2), RS & LR plot no. 3020(P), Khatian no. 1, Area 0.57 acre.	18.03.2025 (WOP taken by District Judge, Darjeeling)

**INAUGURATION/FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF COURTS
AS ON 30.06.2025**

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Date of Inauguration/ Foundation stone laying ceremony
1.	Inauguration of Sub-division Composite Court Building and Residential units at Domkol, Murshidabad.	11.06.2025
2.	Inauguration of Type A (G+5) Residential Complex having 10 (ten) Quarters for Judicial Officers at Contai, Purba Medinipur.	24.04.2025
3.	Inauguration of G+4 New Court Building in Purulia	05.04.2025
4.	Three storeyed Court Building at Islampur Sub-division in Uttar Dinajpur	05.02.2025
5.	Virtual Unveiling of the inaugural plaque for the Ld. Additional District & Sessions Judge's, 2 nd Court (Special Court), Alipurduar.	04.10.2024
6.	The newly constructed Composite Court Building (G+4) at Malda Sadar.	20.09.2024
7.	Foundation stone laying ceremony of Integrated Court Building at Bongaon, North 24 Parganas.	19.09.2024
8.	Inauguration G+5 integrated New Court Building at Bolpur, Birbhum.	09.08.2024
9.	Virtual inauguration of the Video Conferencing Room at Dinhata, Tufanganj and Mathabhanga as well as unveiling of inauguration plaque for the project of Residential Complex for Judicial Officers at Dinhata, Coochbehar.	07.08.2024
10.	Inauguration of the Newly Constructed G+5 Integrated Court Building, Residential Bungalow and Quarters of the Judicial Officers for the Judgeship of Jhargram.	06.08.2024

COMMERCIAL COURTS DIVISION & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS DIVISION

With the advent of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, the judicial system in India has taken a significant step towards expeditious and effective adjudication of commercial disputes. As India experiences a sharp upward economic trajectory, the incidence of commercial disputes has also witnessed a corresponding rise. Recognizing the growing need for specialized forums in an evolving economic landscape, the High Court at Calcutta has stepped in and has participated in implementing and expanding the framework of commercial adjudication within its jurisdiction.

In exercise of power conferred under Section 5 of the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Court Act, 2015 (No. 4 of 2016), The Hon'ble The Chief Justice has already constituted the Commercial Appellate Division of Calcutta High Court consisting of two Hon'ble Judges for the purpose of exercising the

jurisdiction and powers conferred on Commercial Appellate Division by the Act.

In exercise of power conferred under Section 4 of the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Court Act, 2015 (No. 4 of 2016), the Hon'ble the Chief Justice has already constituted the Commercial Division of Calcutta High Court for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred on Commercial Division by the Act. It has also been notified vide Notification No. 2810-G dated 16th July, 2016.

In exercise of the power conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015 (4 of 2016) the Hon'ble Governor, after consultation with the High Court, Calcutta has constituted 04 (four) Commercial Courts at Siliguri, Asansol, Alipore and Rajarhat, for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred on those Courts under the said

Commercial Court	Jurisdiction
Alipore	South 24-Parganas, Purba Medinipore, Paschim Medinipore, Jhargram
Rajarhat	North 24-Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly, Howrah
Asansol	Murshidabad, Birbhum, Bankura, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Purulia
Siliguri	Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Coochbehar, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, Malda, Kalimpong

Act. All these 04 (four) Commercial Courts are functional, and they are dedicated Commercial Courts taking up matters only related to commercial disputes of and above the specified value. The territorial jurisdiction of these Courts has been notified as well.

Two Commercial Courts at Calcutta have been constituted by notification No. 156 JL dated 20th March, 2020. These two Courts are yet to become functional. Space was for construction of these two Courts was identified but subsequently considering the structural issues related to the roof of the space identified space, the setting up of the Commercial Courts at that space had to be reconsidered. Now a separate place has been identified, and work of construction is going on and it is expected that these two Commercial Courts will become functional within a very short period of time and it will be another significant step in strengthening the realm of Commercial dispute adjudication.

Responding to the increased responsibilities brought about by the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 the High Court has also formulated the practice direction in exercise of Section 18 of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and the High Court at Calcutta Commercial Courts Act Practice Direction, 2021 has been accordingly notified.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) are legal safeguards protecting the fruits of human intellect which yields inventions, designs, trademarks, creative works, and brand identities. These rights incentivize innovation by granting creators exclusive commercial use, thereby encouraging sustained investment in research and development. IPR enforcement plays a vital role in fostering creative industries and is instrumental in attracting foreign direct

investment. One of the most notable developments during the year under report has been the establishment of a dedicated Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) and the Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Division (IPRAD) in the High Court at Calcutta. It is a pioneering institutional reform that marks a new era in the adjudication of intellectual property matters. Following the enactment of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, which led to the abolition of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB), and vesting of jurisdiction to High Courts. In response, and in line with national policy and expert recommendations, the High Court at Calcutta took swift initiative to establish a dedicated Intellectual Property Rights Division and Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Division to ensure seamless, efficient, and expert adjudication of such disputes.

The High Court also framed and notified the Calcutta High Court Intellectual Property Rights Division Rules, 2024, published in the Kolkata Gazette on September 20, 2024. These rules have introduced a comprehensive and specialized procedural framework for IPR litigation. These rules aim not only to improve the quality and efficiency of IP litigation but also to transform the High Court at Calcutta into a national hub for intellectual property jurisprudence.

The Commercial Courts Division and the Intellectual Property Rights Division underlines the High Court at Calcutta's commitment to judicial modernization, economic responsiveness, and institutional excellence. These initiatives embody a forward-looking vision of specialized justice and are reflective of the High Court's enduring legacy of reform, innovation, and public service.

ACTIVITIES OF VIGILANCE CELL

With a view to strengthening institutional discipline, promoting administrative efficiency, and fostering transparency and accountability in the functioning of the High Court, a dedicated Vigilance Cell has been established at the High Court at Calcutta. The Vigilance Cell plays a pivotal role in overseeing vigilance matters relating to both judicial officers of the State of West Bengal and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, as well as the officer and staff of the High Court.

The Vigilance Cell maintains oversight over the conduct and job performed by judicial officers across the State, as well as the officer and staff attached to the High Court. The Cell processes complaints received against judicial officers across the State of West Bengal as well as officers and staff of the High Court and, where necessary, conducts preliminary enquiries or full-fledged fact-finding enquiries as directed by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice. In obedience to the direction of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, the Vigilance Cell also conducts departmental proceedings (D.P.) against erring judicial officers and staff, in accordance with applicable service conduct rules. The Cell is also responsible for issuing Vigilance Clearance Certificates in connection with requests made by judicial officers and members of the Registry for various official purposes, including promotions, deputations, training nominations, or foreign assignments. The Vigilance Cell is also the custodian of the asset declarations submitted by judicial officers in the prescribed format and ensures their

safekeeping and confidentiality, as per protocol. The Vigilance Cell also coordinates and takes necessary steps with regard to nomination of the Hon'ble Judges of this Court for their participation in the different programme conducted by the National Judicial Academy or any other institutions.

Through these comprehensive functions, the Vigilance Cell plays a vital role in upholding the values of discipline, transparency, and accountability in the district judiciary.

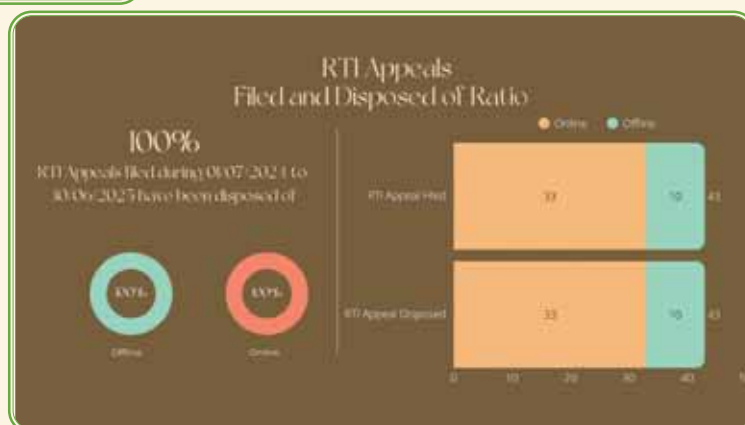
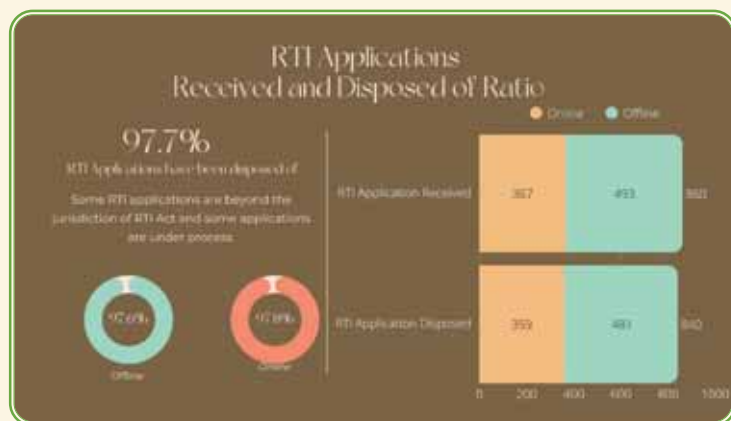
Performance during the period 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025:

- 1)** During the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, 32 (Thirty two) complaints have been received among which 27 number of complaints have been disposed of.
- 2)** During the aforesaid period D.P. against 1 (One) Judicial Officer has been initiated and concluded after final enquiry of the same. Moreover, D.P. against 5 (five) members of staff of this Hon'ble Court have been initiated and 1 (one) D.P has been concluded during the period.
- 3)** Vigilance clearance report in respect of the prayers of 791 judicial officers for different purposes have been issued during the aforesaid period.
- 4)** During this period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, total number of 66 (Sixty Six) Hon'ble Judges of this Hon'ble Court have been nominated by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for participation in total number of 32 (Thirty Two) various programmes held by the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and other Institutions.

ACTIVITIES OF RTI CELL

The Right to Information (RTI) Act serves as a cornerstone for promoting transparency and accountability within any institution. By empowering citizens to seek information regarding the functioning, decisions, and expenditure of public bodies, RTI strengthens the democratic fabric and fosters a culture of openness. In institutions committed to good governance, RTI acts as a vital check against arbitrariness and inefficiency, encouraging officials to act responsibly and within the framework of law. It builds public trust, ensures participative governance and reinforces the principle that public offices are accountable to the people they serve. Ultimately, RTI is not merely a legal right but a powerful tool for institutional integrity and reform.

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 stands as a cornerstone for enhancing transparency and accountability within our institution. Recognizing the right to information inherent to every citizen, the RTI Cell has diligently worked to embed its principles into every facet of the administration. The RTI Cell has streamlined internal processes and ensured that all relevant legally accessible information is provided within the statutory framework. As the custodians of public trust, the Cell believes that RTI is not merely a statutory right, but a vital instrument for institutional integrity and ongoing reform. The following data will demonstrate our unwavering resolve to uphold the highest standards of transparency and accountability, reaffirming that the judiciary is answerable to the people it serves.



ACTIVITIES ON THE ORIGINAL SIDE ESTABLISHMENT

A. Judicial Sphere

- With solemn guidance from the Hon'ble Judges' Committee, the Registry is **investing the cash security deposited by the litigants** in terms of Court's order, **maintaining the Bank Guarantee** furnished as per Court order and also maintaining respective ledgers with more ease & proficiency. The Original Side Registry, during the period starting from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, has invested **Rs. 206, 87, 62,815.43/- (Rupees two hundred six crore eighty seven lakh sixty two thousand eight hundred fifteen and paise forty three only)** with different nationalized Banks.

Furthermore, the Registrar's Commission for the period January, 2021 - December, 2021, January, 2022 - December, 2022 & January, 2023 - December, 2023 which was deducted at the time of making payment to the litigant or litigants in terms of the orders of the Hon'ble Court passed in different cases, are mentioned herein below:

1. Registrar's Commission for the period January' 2021 to December' 2021: - **Rs. 1, 00, 39,394.30/-**

2. Registrar's Commission for the period January' 2022 to December' 2022: - **Rs. 6, 46, 63,013.25/-**
3. Registrar's Commission for the period January' 2023 to December' 2023: - **Rs. 3, 41, 66,131.87/-**

During the period under report, aforementioned Registrar's Commission amount has been transferred to the Government Account at the Reserve Bank of India in terms of Rule 49 under Chapter XXIV of the Original Side Rules, High Court at Calcutta.

- **Physical verification of records is in full swing** in the various Record Departments on the Original Side to trace out the old matters.
- While **4884** matters were instituted during the aforesaid period, **4277** matters were disposed of.

B. Administrative Sphere

- Departmental promotions, based upon seniority, are being done regularly on the date on which the posts get vacant and thereby financial benefits have been granted to the staff in due course. As far as promotional examinations are concerned, they are being held regularly.

- **Construction of Computerized Central Filing Section** of the Original Side Establishment in the front portion of the Main building of the High Court and **shifting/**

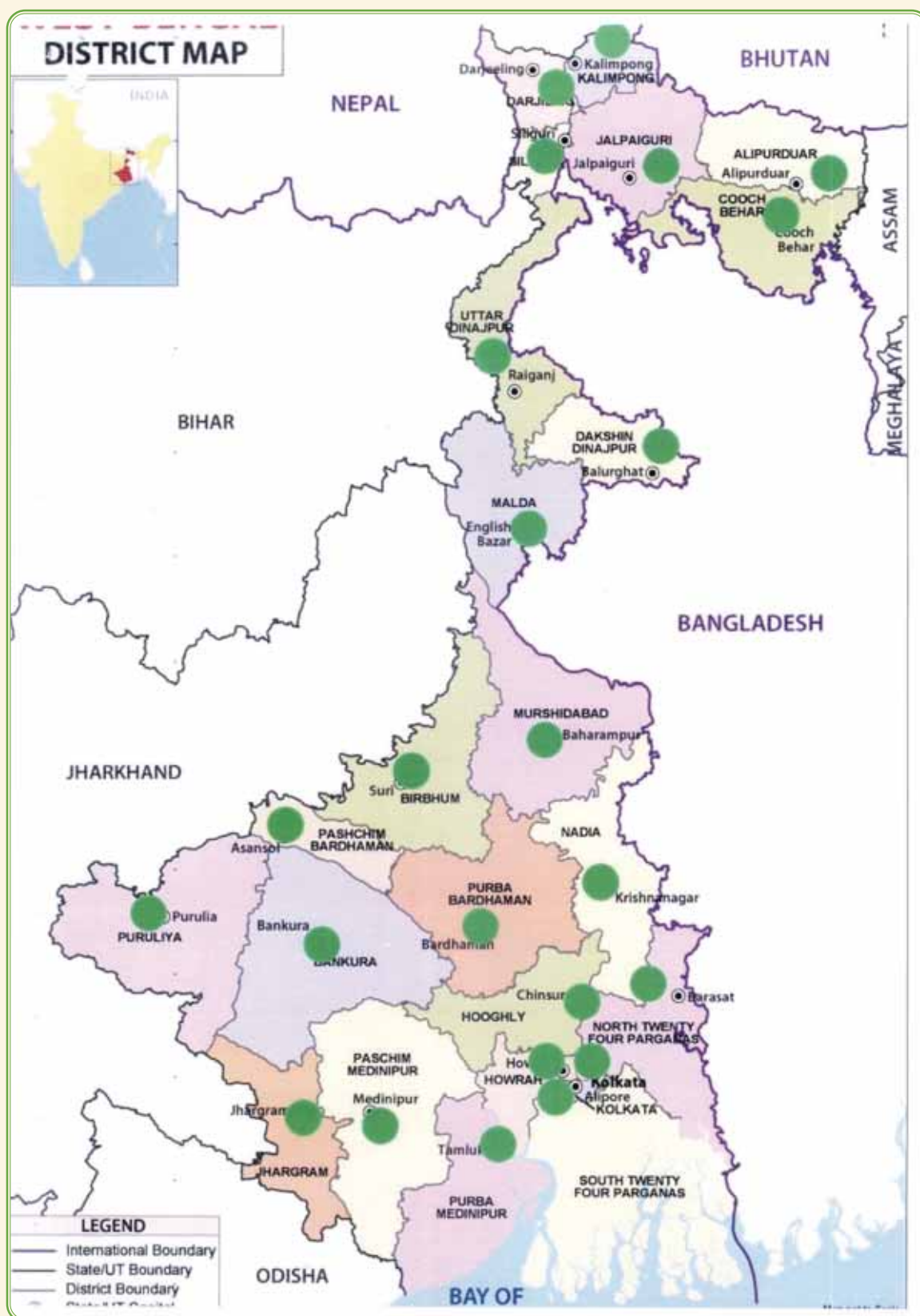
reallocation of some of the departments to the **Administrative Block of New Secretariat Building** are under consideration.



Lateral view of the Main Building

VULNERABLE WITNESS DEPOSITION CENTRES IN WEST BENGAL AND A & N ISLANDS

1. In compliance with the judgment dated 11.01.2022 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in connection with Miscellaneous Application No. 1852 of 2019 in Criminal Appeal No. 1101 of 2019 (Smruti Tukaram Badade Vs. State of Maharashtra & Anr.), the VWDC Committee of this Hon'ble Court comprising of the Hon'ble Justice T.S. Sivagnanam (as the Hon'ble the Chief Justice then was), Hon'ble Justice Amrita Sinha and the Hon'ble Justice Krishna Rao, was constituted by the then the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, vide order dated 29.03.2022, which was subsequently reconstituted comprising the Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar, the Hon'ble Justice Amrita Sinha and the Hon'ble Justice Krishna Rao.
2. The Guidelines for recording Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses, as finalized by the Hon'ble Committee in the light of the guidelines of the Vulnerable Witnesses Committee (New Delhi), was published under Notification No. 2345-RG dated 27.04.2022, and uploaded in the official website of this Hon'ble Court. Later, with the approval of the Hon'ble the then Chief Justice, the aforesaid Guidelines were amended by incorporating corresponding rectifications and published under the Court's Notification No. 3688-RG dated 29.07.2022, as well as uploaded in the official website of this Hon'ble Court. Lately, the revised 'Guidelines for recording Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses 2024' has been uploaded in the official website of this Hon'ble Court.
3. Moreover, the directions passed from time to time on various issues relating to the VWDC, by the Hon'ble Justice Gita Mittal, the Hon'ble Chairperson of the Vulnerable witness Committee, were duly complied with.
4. The Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) at Mayabunder and Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been inaugurated on 11.07.2024 & 18.04.2025 respectively by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
5. The temporary/permanent Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) in all the judgeships are functional. The construction of a permanent VWDC in different districts are under process. The functional VWDCs either temporary/permanent in the state of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are shown in the map of West Bengal by green colour.



GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS PUBLISHED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025

SL. NO.	NOTIFICATION NUMBER	NOTIFICATION DATE	SUBJECT MATTER	DATE OF PUBLICATION
1.	2281 - G	02.07.2024	Intellectual Property Rights Rules of The High Court at Calcutta, 2023.	20.09.2024
2.	1852- RG	06.03.2025	Amendment of the existing provision of Rule 9(2) of the Chapter II of the Appellate Side Rules of the High Court at Calcutta.	20.03.2025
3.	539 - G	01.03.2025	Amendment to Rule V (2) of the existing Rules framed in connection with appointment of Law Clerk - cum - Research Assistants for Hon'ble Judges of the High Court at Calcutta.	21.03.2025
4.	582-G	05.03.2025	The Calcutta High Court Service of Court Manager (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2024.	25.03.2025

OATH TAKING / SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



*Oath taking Ceremony of
Justice Chaitali Chatterjee (Das)
on 14.02.2025*



*Oath taking Ceremony of
Justice Smita Das De
on 11.03.2025*



*Oath taking Ceremony of
Justice Reetobroto Kumar Mitra
on 11.03.2025*



***Oath taking Ceremony of
Justice Om Narayan Rai
on 11.03.2025***



***Swearing-in Ceremony of
Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma
on 07.04.2025***

FAREWELL CEREMONY



*Farewell Ceremony of
Justice Surya Prakash Kesarwani
on superannuation on 12.07.2024*



*Farewell Ceremony of
Justice I.P. Mukerji on elevation as the Chief Justice,
High Court of Meghalaya on 30.09.2024*



***Farewell Ceremony of
Justice Joymalya Bagchi on elevation as Judge,
Supreme Court of India, on 12.03.2025***



***Farewell Ceremony of
Justice Harish Tandon on elevation as the Chief Justice,
High Court of Orissa, on 24.03.2025***



YOGA DAY CELEBRATION





**INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
&
RELEASE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024**



**CULTURAL PROGRAMME PERFORMED BY THE FAMILY MEMBERS
OF THE HON'BLE JUDGES**





Women's day celebration



*Inauguration of Judges' Lounge,
2nd Floor, Main Building*



*Inauguration of Baby Feeding Room,
1st Floor, Centenary Building*



Registrars with the Hon'ble Justice I.P. Mukerji



Registrars with the Hon'ble Justice Joymalya Bagchi



Registrars with the Hon'ble Justice Harish Tandon

RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION

Direct Recruitment to the Cadre of District Judge (Entry Level) Conducted Between 01/07/2024 and 30/06/2025

Sl. No.	Name of the Examinations	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
1.	Direct Recruitment to the Cadre of District Judge (Entry Level) for the year 2024 through Direct Recruitment (DRB) from amongst the members of the Bar & through Limited Competitive Examination (LCE) from amongst the eligible Judicial Officers of the WBJS	08 vacancies declared for DRB, 2024 vide Employment Notification No. 7951-RG Dt. 30/08/2024 & 03 vacancies declared for LCE, 2024 vide Employment Notification No. 7952-RG Dt. 30/08/2024 Notice informing date, time, venue and list of eligible candidates of Preliminary Examination [OMR based (Phase – I)] published vide Notification No. 9272-RG dated 20/11/2024 (for DRB) & 9273-RG dated 20/11/2024 (for LCE) Preliminary Examination [OMR based (Phase – I)] held on 22/12/2024 at Public Service Commission, West Bengal Provisional Answer Key of the Preliminary Examination [OMR based (Phase – I)] published vide Notification No. 11528-RG dated 24/12/2024. Final Answer-Key and Result of the OMR based Preliminary Test (Phase-I) which was held on 22/12/2024, was published vide Notification No. 1025-RG dt. 13/02/2025	Process has been completed. Finally, 01 candidate was selected for giving appointment against 03 declared vacancies for LCE.

Sl. No.	Name of the Examinations	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
		followed by Corrigendum vide Notification No. 1905-RG dt. 10/03/2025 declaring 14 + 04 candidates as qualified in connection with filling up of 08 vacancies of DRB & 05 + 03 candidates as qualified in connection with filling up of 03 vacancies of LCE.	
		Written Competitive Test (Phase-II) held on 11/03/2025, 12/03/2025 and 13/03/2025 at the Registrars' Lounge, 8 th Floor, Sesqui-Centenary Building, High Court, Calcutta.	
		Result of Written Competitive Test (Phase-II) published vide Notification No.3260-RG dated 02/05/2025 (for DRB) declaring no candidate qualified in the Written Competitive Test (Phase-II) & 3261-RG dated 02/05/2025 (for LCE) declaring 01 candidate qualified in the Written Competitive Test (Phase-II)	
		Viva-voce/Personality Test (Phase-III) held on 20/05/2025.	
		Final Result published vide Notification No. 3711-RG dated 23/05/2025.	

**Fresh Recruitment Process as Well as Promotional Examination
Conducted Between 01/07/2024 and 30/06/2025 In Connection
with Filling Up of Different Vacant Posts On the
Appellate Side and Original Side Establishment**

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
1.	Joint Registrar (Inspection)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Viva-voce/ Interview held on 15/07/2024 in connection with filling up of 01 vacancy of Joint Registrar (Inspection), General Branch for Appellate Side.	Process has been completed.
			Final Merit Wise Result published vide Notification No. 6487-R(R&M) dated 19/07/2024.	Finally, 01 candidate was appointed.
2.	Joint Registrar (Administration-II)	Promotional Examination / Original Side	Viva-voce/ Interview held on 15/07/2024 in connection with filling up of 01 vacancy of Joint Registrar (Administration-II), General Branch for Original Side.	Process has been completed.
			Final Merit Wise Result published vide Notification No. 6486-R(R&M) dated 19/07/2024.	Finally, 01 candidate was appointed.
3.	Deputy Registrar (Judicial) and Deputy Registrar (Court Management)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 21/09/2024 in connection with filling up of 02 vacancies of Deputy Registrar (Judicial) and Deputy Registrar (Court Management).	Process has been completed.
			Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 10858-R(R&M) dated 27/11/2024.	Finally, 02 candidates were appointed.
			Interview/ Viva-voce held on 05/12/2024.	
4.	Lower Division Assistant	Fresh Recruitment / Appellate Side & Original Side	Final Merit Wise Result published vide Notification No. 11291-R(R&M) dated 09/12/2024.	Phase-I Examination held on 29/09/2024 and 2947 candidates are found to be eligible to appear in the Phase-II Examination.
			Employment Notification No. 6785-RG dated 01/08/2024 published in connection with filling up of 245 vacancies for Appellate Side & 46 vacancies for Original Side.	

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
4.			Notification No. 8310-R(R&M) dated 13/09/2024 published regarding date & time of Preliminary Screening Test (Phase-I) which is 29/09/2024 (Sunday) from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M.	In view of the pending Judicial proceedings, the ongoing recruitment processes involving the filling vacancies of OBC-A and OBC-B categories of the Appellate Side Establishment of this Court and also in the District Courts, is kept in abeyance until further order vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21/03/2025.
			Phase-I OMR based Preliminary Screening Test held on 29/09/2024 (Sunday) from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M.	
			Provisional Answer Key of Phase-I OMR based Preliminary Screening Test published vide Notification No. 8941-R(R&M) dated 22/10/2024.	
			Final Answer-Key and Result of the candidates appeared in the OMR based Preliminary Screening Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 306-R(R&M) dated 15/01/2025.	
			List containing the names of 2947 candidates who are found eligible to appear in the Phase-II Examination (Competitive Written Test) published vide Notification No. 422-R(R&M) dated 18/01/2025.	
5.	Translator (Contractual)	Fresh Recruitment / Appellate Side	Document verification for candidates qualified in the Exempted Category, Meritorious Sportsperson Category, PwD Category and Ex-SM Category held on 22/01/2025 and 24/01/2025.	
			Merit Wise Result of Test of Computer/ Typing and Interview/ Viva-voce (Phase-II) in respect of 04 qualified candidates published vide Notification No. 6819-R(R&M) dated 02/08/2024 subsequent to Employment Notification No. 11783-RG dated 22/12/2023 published in connection with filling up of 07 vacancies of Translator (Contractual).	Process has been completed. Finally, 02 candidates were appointed.
6.	Assistant Registrar (Court Recording)	Fresh Recruitment / Original Side	Merit Wise Result of the Selection Test in respect of 215 candidates published vide Notification No. 7088-R(R&M) dated 14.08.2024 subsequent to	Process has been completed.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
6.			Employment Notification No. 02-R/ARCR/HCOS/2021 dated 17/09/2021 published in connection with filling up of 14 vacancies of Assistant Registrar (Court Recording), Original Side. Category wise final result along with information regarding wait list published vide Notification No. 8084-R(R&M) dated 04/09/2024.	Finally, 08 candidates were appointed out of 14 declared vacancies.
7.	Assistant Registrar (Court)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Dictation & Transcription Phase held on 17/08/2024 in connection with filling up of 29 vacancies of Assistant Registrar (Court). Merit Wise Result published vide Notification No. 8849-R(R&M) dated 05/10/2024.	Process has been completed. Finally, 27 candidates were appointed out of 29 declared vacancies.
8.	Assistant Registrar (General Branch)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side & Original Side	Revised result of Written Test published vide (i). Notification No. 8033-R (R&M) Dt. 03/09/2024 declaring 11 candidates as qualified from Appellate Side in partial modification of the notification vide no. 5308-R(R &M) dated 18/06/2024 pursuant to the notice dated 13/02/2024 and 06/03/2024 as well as in view of the written test held on 06/03/2024. & (ii). Notification No. 8034-R (R&M) Dt. 03/09/2024 declaring 8 candidates as qualified from Original Side in partial modification of the notification vide no. 5309-R(R &M) dated 18.06.2024 pursuant to the notice dated 20/02/2024 and 26/03/2024 as well as in view of the written test held on 06/03/2024. Viva-voce/Interview (Phase-II) for both Appellate Side & Original Side held on 18/09/2024. Merit Wise Result published vide (i) Notification No. 8829-R(R&M) dated 05/10/2024 for Appellate Side	Process has been completed. Finally, 04 candidates were appointed in the Appellate Side & 03 candidates were appointed in the Original Side.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
8.			& (ii) Notification No. 8830-R(R&M) dated 05/10/2024 for Original Side.	
9.	P.A./ Stenographer, Grade-C	Fresh Recruitment / Appellate Side	List of eligible/not eligible candidates and dates of defect(s) removal published vide Notification No. 8881-R(R&M) dated 07/10/2024 subsequent to Employment Notification No. 2026-RG dated 22/02/2024 published in connection with filling up of 25 vacancies of P.A./Stenographer, Grade-C, Appellate Side. Notice informing date, time and venue of Shorthand Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 10114-R(R&M) dated 22/11/2024. Defect(s) Removal Programme held on 06/11/2024, 07/11/2024 and 08/11/2024. Shorthand Test (Phase-I) held on 01/12/2024 at Surendranath College, Sealdah.	Phase-I Examination held on 01/12/2024 and publication of result is pending. In view of the pending Judicial proceedings, the ongoing recruitment processes involving the filling vacancies of OBC-A and OBC-B categories of the Appellate Side Establishment of this Court and also in the District Courts, is kept in abeyance until further order vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21/03/2025.
10.	Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistant (Contractual)	Fresh Recruitment / Appellate Side	Employment Notification No. 6275-R(R&M) dated 11/07/2024 published. List of eligible/not eligible candidates and dates of defect(s) removal published vide Notification No. 8940-R(R&M) dated 22/10/2024. Defect(s) Removal Programme held on 11/11/2024, 12/11/2024 and 13/11/2024. Notification No. 1101-R(R&M) dated 17/02/2025 published containing the names of eligible candidates as well as date, time, venue and mode of Written Test (Phase-I) alongwith the date of collection of duplicate admit card.	Result of Phase-I Examination has been published on 23/05/2025.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
10.			Written Test (Phase-I) held on 23/03/2025 at Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose College, Kolkata. Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 3858-R(R&M) dated 23/05/2025.	51 candidates out of 212 candidates have qualified for Interactive Session (Phase-II)
11.	Deputy Registrar, Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri	Promotional Examination / Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 16/11/2024 in connection with filling up of 02 vacancy of Deputy Registrar, Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 400-R(R&M) dated 17/01/2025 Viva-voce/Interview (Phase-II) held on 24/02/2025 Final Merit Wise Result published vide Notification No. 1680-R(R&M)/2025 dated 28/02/2025.	Process has been completed. Finally, 02 candidates were appointed.
12.	Deputy Registrar (Administration)	Promotional Examination / Original Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 22/11/2024 in connection with filling up of 01 vacancy of Deputy Registrar (Administration), O.S. Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 3283-R(R&M) dated 02/05/2025. Viva-voce Test (Phase-II) held on 15/05/2025 Final Merit Wise Result published vide Notification No. 3586-R(R&M) dated 17/05/2025.	Process has been completed. Finally, 01 candidate was appointed.
13.	Deputy Registrar (Court), Technical Branch	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 22/11/2024 in connection with filling up of 01 vacancy of Deputy Registrar (Court), A.S. Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 2025-R(R&M) dated 13/03/2025 Viva-voce/Interview held on 24/03/2025 Merit-Wise Result published vide Notification No. 2561-R(R&M) dated 02/04/2025	Process has been completed. Finally, 01 candidate was appointed.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
14.	Joint Registrar (Protocol)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 12/12/2024 in connection with filling up of 01 vacancy of Joint Registrar (Protocol), A.S. Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 11534-R(R&M) dated 24/12/2024. Viva-voce/Interview held on 16/01/2025 Merit Wise Result published vide Notification No. 401-R(R&M) dated 17/01/2025	Process has been completed. Finally, 01 candidate was appointed.
15.	Deputy Registrar (Protocol)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 12/12/2024 in connection with filling up of 01 vacancy of Deputy Registrar (Protocol), A.S. Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 531-R(R&M) dated 21/01/2025. Viva-voce/Interview (Phase-II) held on 24/02/2025 Final Merit Wise Result published vide Notification No. 1681-R(R&M)/2025 dated 28/02/2025.	Process has been completed. Finally, 01 candidate was appointed.
16.	Assistant Registrar (General Branch)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side & Original Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 18/12/2024 in connection with filling up of 06 vacancies of Assistant Registrar, General Branch for Appellate Side & 02 vacancy of Assistant Registrar, General Branch for Original Side. Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide (i) Notification No. 3291-R(R&M) dated 03/05/2025 declaring 21 candidates as qualified from Appellate Side & (ii) Notification No. 3292-R(R&M) dated 03/05/2025 declaring none of the candidates as qualified from Original Side. Viva-voce Test (Phase-II) held on 17/05/2025 Merit Wise Result published vide Notification No. 3632-R(R&M) dated 20/05/2025 for Appellate Side.	Process has been completed. Finally, 06 candidates were appointed in the Appellate Side & no one was appointed in the Original Side.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
17.	Bengali Mohurris	Promotional Examination / Original Side	Viva-voce held on 04/01/2025 where 16 out of 17 candidates appeared subsequent to Written Test & Reading out a Bengali passage (Phase - I) exam in respect of 26 candidates in connection with filling up of 04 vacancies of Bengali Mohurris held on 29/04/2024 where 17 out of 26 candidates were appeared in the said examination. Merit-Wise Result published vide Notification No. 307-R(R&M) dated 15/01/2025	Process has been completed. Finally, 04 candidates were appointed.
18.	Assistant Registrar (Protocol)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 23/12/2024 in connection with filling up of 02 vacancy of Assistant Registrar (Protocol), A.S. Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 880-R(R&M) dated 06/02/2025 followed by Corrigendum vide Notification No. 933-R(R&M)/2025 dated 07/02/2025. Viva-voce/Interview (Phase-II) held on 05/03/2025 Merit-Wise Result published vide Notification No. 2024-R(R&M)/2025 dated 13/03/2025	Process has been completed. Finally, 02 candidates were appointed.
19.	Assistant Registrar (General Branch), Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri	Promotional Examination / Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 09/01/2025 in connection with filling up of 02 vacancies of Assistant Registrar (General Branch), Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri.	Evaluation of Answer Scripts is under process.
20.	Joint Registrar (General Administration)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test held on 18/02/2025 in connection with filling up of 01 vacancy of Joint Registrar (General Administration), A.S. Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 2124-R(R&M) dated 19/03/2025.	Process has been completed.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
21.			Viva-voce/Interview held on 24/03/2025	Finally, 01 candidate was appointed.
			Merit-Wise Result published vide Notification No. 2529-R(R&M) dated 01/04/2025	
21.	Translator (on contractual basis)	Fresh Recruitment	Notification No. 1618-RG dated 26/02/2025 published in connection with filling up of 04 vacancies of Translator (Contractual).	No one applied for the post.
22.	Deputy Registrar (Establishment) and Deputy Registrar (Criminal)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test held on 19/03/2025 in connection with filling up of 02 vacancies of Deputy Registrar (Establishment) and Deputy Registrar (Criminal), A.S. Result of Written Test (Phase-I) published vide Notification No. 3493-R(R&M) dated 14/05/2025. Viva-voce/Interview (Phase-II) held on 19/05/2025 Merit-Wise Result published vide Notification No. 3652-R(R&M) dated 21/05/2025	Process has been completed. Finally, 02 candidates were appointed.
23.	Translator	Fresh Recruitment / Original Side	Employment Notice No. 01-HCOS/TSL/2025 dated 10/01/2025 published in connection with filling up of 02 vacancies [SC-01 and UR(EC)-01]) List of eligible and non-eligible candidates published vide Notification No. 3859-R(R&M) dated 23/05/2025	Written Test (Phase-I) Examination will be held on 27/07/2025.
24.	Stamp Reporter	Fresh Recruitment / Original Side	Employment Notice No. 02-R/HCOS/SR/2025 dated 05/03/2025 published in connection with filling up of 01 vacancy (SC) of Stamp Reporter, O.S.	Notice in connection with the lists of eligible and non-eligible candidates is yet to be published.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
25.	Special Assistant (Legal)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 19/05/2025 in connection with filling up of 01 vacancy of Special Assistant (Legal), A.S.	Evaluation of Answer Scripts is under process.
26.	Section Officer (Protocol)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 22/05/2025 in connection with filling up of 02 vacancies of Section Officer (Protocol), A.S.	Evaluation of Answer Scripts is under process.
27.	Superintendent (Protocol)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 22/05/2025 in connection with filling up of 02 vacancies of Superintendent (Protocol), A.S.	Evaluation of Answer Scripts is under process.
28.	Software Developer (on contractual basis)	Fresh Recruitment	Advertisement No. 3861-RG dated 23/05/2025 published in connection with filling up of 03 vacancies of Software Developer on purely contractual basis. List of eligible candidates alongwith the schedule of Viva-voce/Interview published vide Notification No. 4371-R(R&M) dated 25/06/2025. Viva-voce/Interview held on 30/06/2025	Viva-voce/ Interview held on 30/06/2025. Final Result is yet to be published.
29.	Translator (on contractual Basis)	Fresh Recruitment	Advertisement No. 4081-RG dated 13/06/2025 published in connection with filling up of 04 vacancies of Translator (for translating judgments from English to Bengali) on purely contractual basis.	Closing date was fixed on 30/06/2025 at 4:45 P.M.
30.	Assistant Registrar (Court)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side	Dictation & Correction Phase and Transcription Phase held on 23/06/2025 in connection with filling up of 06 vacancies of Assistant Registrar (Court)	Examination held on 23/06/2025. 18 candidates out of 24 candidates appeared.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Nature of Selection / Name of the Establishment	Steps of the Selection Process with connected Notification and Date	Remarks
31.	Assistant Registrar (General Branch)	Promotional Examination / Appellate Side & Original Side	Written Test (Phase-I) held on 26/06/2025 in connection with filling up of 10 vacancies of Assistant Registrar, General Branch for Appellate Side & 06 vacancy of Assistant Registrar, General Branch for Original Side.	Phase-I Examination held on 26/06/2025. 43 candidates out of 50 candidates appeared from A.S. & 11 candidates out of 18 candidates appeared from O.S.
32.	Interpreting Officer (Court)	Fresh Recruitment / Original Side	Employment Notice No. 01-HCOS/IO(Court)/2024 dated 24/12/2024 published in connection with filling up of 08 vacancies of Interpreting Officer (Court), O.S.	In view of the pending Judicial proceedings, the ongoing recruitment processes involving the filling vacancies of OBC-A and OBC-B categories of the Original Side Establishment of this Court, is kept in abeyance until further order vide Corrigendum No. 03-R/HCOS/IO(Court)/2025 dated 21/03/2025

APPOINTMENT TO THE BASIC GRADE POSTS AS WELL AS PROMOTIONAL POSTS FILLED IN FOR THE PERIOD DURING 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025

APPELLATE SIDE ESTABLISHMENT

BASIC GRADE POSTS (DIRECT RECRUITMENT)

Name of posts	Number of Posts filled in	Concerned Appointment Order Nos.
Lower Division Assistant (Group- C)	5 posts (Compassionate ground)	Appointment Order - 81, 83 of 2024 & 12 of 2025
Farash (Group-D)	5 post (Compassionate ground)	Appointment Order - 71, 82, 84 of 2024 & 10 of 2025
Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistant (contractual post)	4 posts	Appointment Order - 63, 64 of 2024 & 22, 23, 27, 41 of 2025

PROMOTIONAL POSTS

Name of posts	Number of Posts filled in	Concerned Appointment Order Nos.
Joint Registrar (General Branch) (Group-A)	2 posts	Appointment Order - 03, 26 of 2025
Deputy Registrar (General Branch) (Group-A)	6 posts	Appointment Order - 56, 86 of 2024 & 14, 32 of 2025
Deputy Registrar (General Branch), Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri (Group-A)	2 posts	Appointment Order - 13 of 2025

Name of posts	Number of Posts filled in	Concerned Appointment Order Nos.
Deputy Registrar (Court), (Technical Branch), (Group-A)	1 post	Appointment Order - 29 of 2025
Assistant Registrar (General Branch) (Group-A)	12 posts	Appointment Order - 73 of 2024 & 15, 33 of 2025
Assistant Registrar (Court) (Technical Branch) (Group-A)	27 posts	Appointment Order - 78 of 2024
Assistant Court Officer (General Branch) (Group-A)	14 posts	Appointment Order - 74, 75, 76, 77 of 2024 & 01, 20, 21, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 of 2025
Superintendent Grade-I (Group-A)	13 posts	Appointment Order - 74, 76, 77 of 2024 & 01, 20, 21, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 of 2025
Additional Court Keeper (Group-A)	12 posts	Appointment Order - 74, 76, 77 of 2024 & 01, 20, 21, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 of 2025
Section Officer (Group-A)	12 posts	Appointment Order - 74, 76, 77 of 2024 & 20, 21, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 of 2025
Accountant/Cashier (Group-A)	12 posts	Appointment Order - 74, 76, 77 of 2024 & 20, 21, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 of 2025

Name of posts	Number of Posts filled in	Concerned Appointment Order Nos.
Superintendent (Group-B)	12 posts	Appointment Order - 74, 76, 77 of 2024 & 20, 21, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 of 2025
Upper Division Assistant (Group-B)	13 posts	Appointment Order - 74, 76, 77 of 2024 & 19, 20, 21, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 of 2025
Muharrir Grade-I (Group-C)	2 posts	Appointment Order - 60 of 2024 & 06 of 2025
Muharrir Grade-II (Group-C)	6 posts	Appointment Order - 54, 60, 66 of 2024 & 06, 08 of 2025]
Bank Clerk (Group-C)	6 posts	Appointment Order - 54, 60, 66 of 2024 & 06, 08 of 2025
Record Arranger (Group-C)	17 posts	Appointment Order - 67 of 2024 & 06, 08 of 2025
Duftry (Group-D)	25 posts	Appointment Order - 67 of 2024 & 04, 06, 07,08 of 2025

ORIGINAL SIDE ESTABLISHMENT

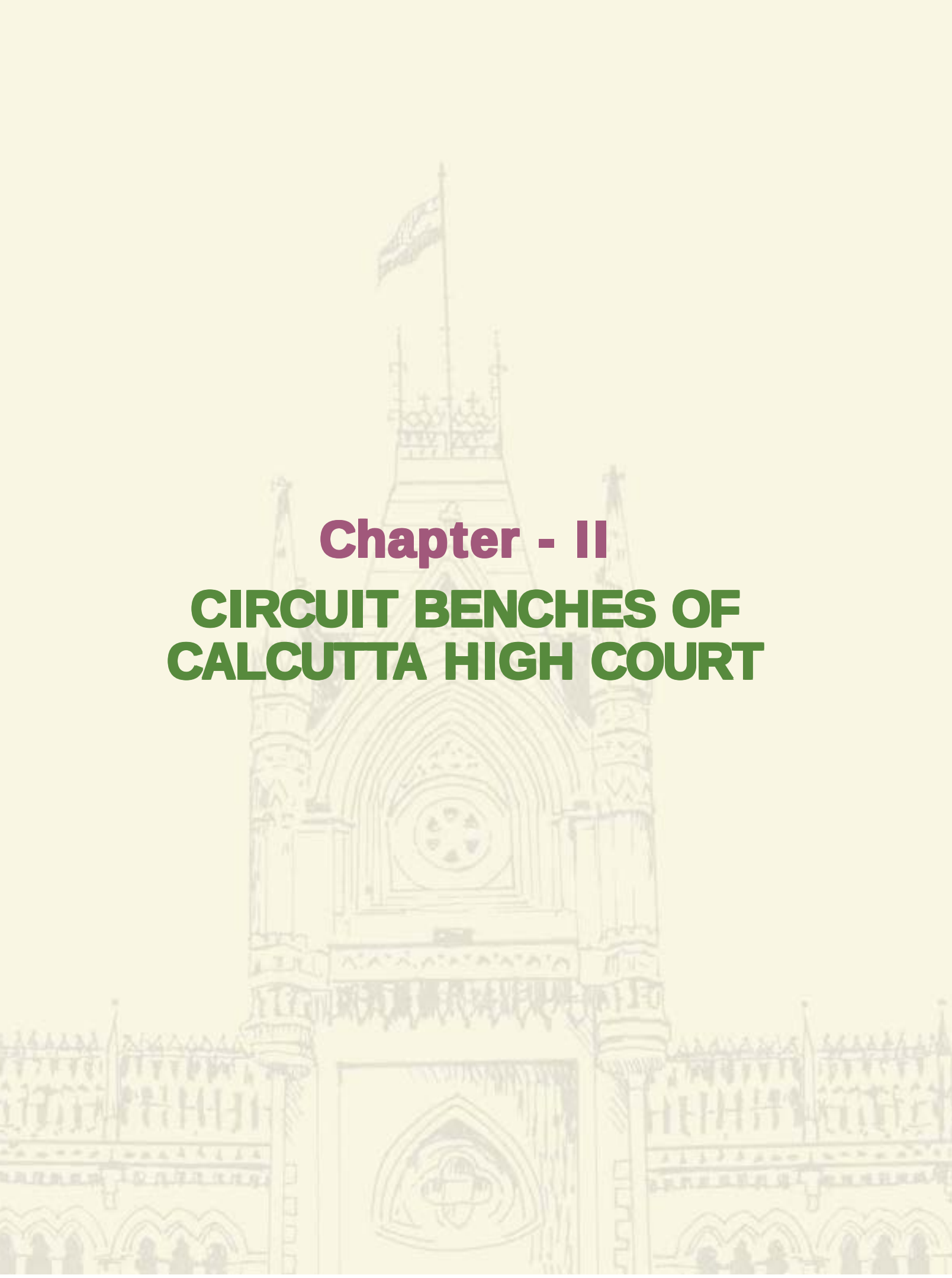
BASIC GRADE POSTS (DIRECT RECRUITMENT)

NAME OF POSTS	NO. VACANCY FILLED UP	VIDE ORDER NO.
LOWER DIVISION ASSISTANT	01 (Compassionate ground)	Estb. No. 63 of 2024
PEON	01 (Compassionate ground)	Estb. No. 53 of 2024

PROMOTIONAL POSTS

NAME OF POSTS	NO. VACANCY FILLED UP	VIDE ORDER NO.
REGISTRAR-IN- INSOLVENCY	01	Estb. No. 21 of 2025
ASSISTANT MASTER & REFEREE	01	Estb. No. 22 of 2025
JOINT REGISTRAR (ADMN.-II)	01	Estb. No. 31 of 2024
DEPUTY REGISTRAR (ADMINISTRATION)	01	Estb. No. 25 of 2025
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR	03	Estb. No. 43 of 2024
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (COURT RECORDING)	07	Estb. No. 41 of 2024, Estb. No. 44 of 2024
SECTION OFFICER	06	Estb. No. 45,47,49,51 of 2024, Estb. No. 17,23 of 2025
ACCOUNTANT	02	Estb. 45,51 of 2024,
ACCOUNTANT (JUDGES' ACCOUNTS SECTION)	02	Estb. 47 of 2024, Estb. 17 of 2025
CASHIER	02	Estb. 49 of 2024, Estb. 23/2025

NAME OF POSTS	NO. VACANCY FILLED UP	VIDE ORDER NO.
ASSISTANT TO REGISTRAR	06	Estb. No. 46,48,50,52 of 2024, Estb. No. 18,24 of 2025
SUPERINTENDENT	07	Estb. No. (46,48,50,52) of 2024, Estb. No. 16,18,24 of 2025
SUPERVISORY GRADE SECTION WRITER	01	Estb. No. 55 of 2024
PRESERVATION ASSISTANT	07	Estb. No. 46,48,50,52 of 2024, Estb. No. 16,18,24 of 2025
UPPER DIVISION ASSISTANT	09	Estb. No. 46,48,50, 52, 58) of 2024, Estb. No. 1,16,18,24 of 2025
GRADE I SECTION WRITER	01	Estb. No. 55 of 2024
BENGALI MUHARRIR	04	Estb. No. 03 of 2025
DUFTRY	02	Estb. No. 30/2024, Estb. No. 16/2025
GRADE I PEON	07	Estb. No. 25,30,38) of 2024, Estb. No. 4,10,11,16 of 2025



Chapter - II

CIRCUIT BENCHES OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT



CIRCUIT BENCH AT PORT BLAIR, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is an archipelago of stunning visual beauty, having a varied biodiversity. The demography of the islands is equally diverse, including several protected tribes and people from all cross-sections of society. The isolation of the Islands from the mainland and the remoteness of the islands *inter se* create a geographical disconnect. As such, it is a challenge for the A & N State Legal Services Authority to reach every nook and corner of the islands.

However, the A & N SLSA has taken up the challenge successfully with the motto of taking justice to the doorstep of the litigants, in particular the tribal areas and marginalized sections of society. As access to justice is an integral part of the Right to Equality before the Law, the Right to Life and the Rule of Law, which are enshrined in the Constitution of India, it is our endeavour to ensure that all and sundry, irrespective of their physical location and social standing, get the advantage of legal remedies. The attempt is to spread legal aid services beyond the corridors of courts and to the grass-roots level.

The past year saw a variety of programmes undertaken by the A & N SLSA.

Recently, on March 29, 2025, a State-Level Conference on Child Marriage and Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was organized by the A & N SLSA, in collaboration with other stake holders, at Port Blair. Eminent social activists and organizations like Ms. Sampurna Behura and the Association of Voluntary Action, who were petitioners in landmark judgments of the Supreme Court on the POCSO Act, the JJ Act, Child Pornography and Child Rights were part of the panel of speakers at the said conference.

An interactive Awareness Session and another State-Level Conference, graced by the Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant (Chairman, NALSA) and the Hon'ble Justice Dipankar Datta (Patron-in-Charge, A & N SLSA), Judges of the Supreme Court, and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court (Patron-in-Chief, A & N SLSA), were organized by the A & N SLSA on 20th and 21st May, 2025, at Swaraj Dweep and Port Blair respectively, touching relevant issues such as Drug Abuse, Suicide, Mental Health Issues, Child Marriage and Sexual Abuse and the POCSO Act. The programmes saw huge participation by all stake holders, including school and college students, whose incisive questions and vibrant interaction shed new light on the maladies afflicting the islands and evolved solutions to those.

Several other activities were organized by the A & N DLSA, in collaboration with the A & N SLISA, to ensure access to justice for all, promote legal literacy and awareness, and encourage amicable dispute resolution.

The broad contours of such activities are outlined below:

Legal Awareness & Outreach Activities

DLSA, in collaboration with the Andaman & Nicobar State Legal Services Authority and partner institutions, organized over 30 Legal Awareness Programmes and Camps on diverse issues such as:

- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act
- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act
- Domestic Violence Act
- Child Marriage Prevention
- Rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- Suicide Prevention and Mental Health
- Human Trafficking and Labour Laws
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Women's Rights and Gender Sensitization

Key highlights:

- State-Level Conferences addressing child marriage, child sexual exploitation, and suicide prevention.
- Interactive Sessions with school students and police officials on POCSO and Juvenile Justice.

- Legal Aid Clinic formally inaugurated at Andaman Law College to promote legal literacy and accessibility.

Environmental Initiatives

To promote environmental sustainability and community engagement:

- Van Mahotsav held on 5th July, 2024.
- "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" Tree Plantation Drive on 9th August, 2024.

Both events witnessed participation from the Hon'ble Judges of the Calcutta High Court, Judicial Officers, members of the Bar, and community stakeholders.

Free Legal Aid Provided During the period:

- Total beneficiaries provided Free Legal Aid: 108
- Support included legal counselling, drafting assistance and representation before courts.

Mediation Achievements

Mediation Performance in South Andaman District:

Particulars	Pre-Litigation Cases	Post-Litigation Cases
Cases Referred	-	79
Cases Settled	-	31
Mediation Success Rate (%)	-	39.2%

Lok Adalat Performance

**National Lok Adalats Organized: 4 (14th Sep. 2024, 14th Dec. 2024,
8th Mar. 2025, 21st Jun. 2025)**

Cumulative Lok Adalat Data (01.07.2024-30.06.2025)

District	Pre-Litigation Cases Referred	Pre-Litigation Cases Settled	Success Rate (%)	Post-Litigation Cases Referred	Post-Litigation Cases Settled	Success Rate (%)
South Andaman	3,710	266	7.17%	1,998	1,796	89.89%
N&M Andaman	905	211	23.31%	658	349	53.04%
Total	4,615	477	10.33%	2,656	2,145	80.76%

Lok Adalats have significantly contributed to reducing pendency and providing speedy resolution of disputes.

Capacity Building & Trainings

- Training on Compensation to Victims of Hit & Run Cases conducted at Police Training School.
- Legal Literacy Programme for Students organized at Circuit Bench, High Court of Calcutta at Port Blair.
- Interactive Sessions on laws and court processes for students and stakeholders.

Community Engagement & Inclusion

The DLSA, under the aegis of the SLSA, placed special emphasis on:

- Women's rights and gender sensitization
- Child protection and juvenile justice

- Support for persons with disabilities
- Empowerment of tribal communities and migrants

Legal awareness activities were conducted in remote areas including Nancowry, Car Nicobar, Campbell Bay, Diglipur and Swaraj Dweep to ensure no one is left behind.

The A & N DLSA, in tandem with the SLSA, has demonstrated sustained commitment to:

- Enhancing legal awareness
- Facilitating amicable settlements
- Strengthening access to justice mechanisms
- Promoting environmental and social responsibility

The collaborative efforts of the judiciary, administration, bar associations, civil society organizations, and community stakeholders have made these achievements possible.

SABYASACHI BHATTACHARYYA,

Judge, High Court at Calcutta

&

Executive Chairman, SLSA, A & N Islands

ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025

1. Interactive Session on Women's Rights on the Occasion of International Women's Day

The High Court Legal Services Committee, Calcutta High Court, Circuit Bench at Port Blair, organized an Interactive Session on "Women's Rights" in commemoration of International Women's Day. The event was graced by the august presence of the Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen, Judge, High Court at Calcutta, the Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar, Judge, High Court at Calcutta & Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, Calcutta High Court Circuit Bench at Port Blair, the Hon'ble Justice Raja Basu Chowdhury, Judge, High Court at Calcutta on 08th March, 2025 at the Calcutta High Court, Circuit Bench at Port Blair premises.

Shri Bhawani Shanker Sharma, Secretary, HCLSC, delivered the inaugural address. The event was further enriched by valuable speeches from the Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen, Judge, High Court at Calcutta. The Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar, Judge, High Court at Calcutta, who spoke on women's rights and the achievements of inspiring women, Smt. Sharmila Sen, W/o Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen & Social Worker, who addressed women's issues and empowerment, Shri Diptendra Nath Mitra, Judge, Family Court, Port Blair, who discussed legal aspects concerning family law and women's rights, Smt Arkabrati Neogi, Chief Judicial Magistrate, South Andaman, who spoke on the significance of Women's Day, Shri Deep Chaim Kabir, Ld. Senior



Advocate, who highlighted women's achievements, Smt Reeta Devi, Welfare Officer, Directorate of Social Welfare, who shared insights on welfare activities for women, Smt Anjili Nag, Ld. Senior Advocate, who emphasized legal protection of women, Dr. Jochibed Vincent, Faculty, Andaman Law College, who spoke on women's legal rights. Ms. Babita Das, Ld. Government Pleader, who discussed women's role in the legal field, Smt Akshya, Faculty, Andaman Law College, who highlighted women's contributions to society, Smt. Devanjali Kabir, W/o Shri Deep Chaim Kabir, who shared perspectives on women's empowerment, Ms. Neeta Chandra, Assistant Professor, TGCG, who spoke on the occasion and highlighted the role of education in women's empowerment. The sessions were also attended by distinguished judicial officers, including, Shri Sudhir Kumar, District Judge, Shri Neyaz Alam, Additional District Judge, Port Blair, Shri Souvik Ghosh, Judicial Magistrate, First Class-I, Port Blair.

The programme was concluded with the vote of thanks by Shri Bhawani Shanker Sharma, Secretary, HCLSC. As a gesture of appreciation, the Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar, presented flower bouquets to all women participants.

2. National Lok Adalat held at Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court, Port Blair.

The High Court Legal Services Committee, Calcutta High Court Circuit Bench at

Port Blair, successfully organized the **1st National Lok Adalat, 2025** on 08.03.2025 reinforcing its commitment to accessible and expeditious justice.

The Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar, Judge of Calcutta High Court and Chairperson of the High Court Legal Services Committee, presided over the Lok Adalat along with Ms. G. Mini, Ld. Advocate, District Court Port Blair as its Member. The event witnessed the settlement of **6 out of 18 pending cases.**



The Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar highlighted the revival of the High Court Legal Services Committee at Port Blair which had been dormant since 2006 and expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Patron-in-Chief Mr. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, for supporting this initiative and acknowledged the contributions of the Andaman and Nicobar Bar Association and local Administration.



3. Inauguration of office of the High Court Legal Services Committee, Calcutta High Court Circuit Bench at Port Blair

In order to ensure effective functioning of the Office of the High Court Legal Services Committee, the Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar, Judge, High Court at Calcutta and the Hon'ble Chairperson, HCLSC, the Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen and the Hon'ble Justice Raja Basu Chowdhury jointly inaugurated the office within the premises of the office of the Indian Law Report, A & N Islands.



4. 2nd National Lok Adalat held on 21.06.2025

The 2nd National Lok Adalat was to be chaired by the Hon'ble Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee. Due to sudden change in weather condition, His Lordship could not reach Sri Vijaya Puram and the flight had to divert again to Calcutta. However, with the prior verbal approval of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta, the 2nd National

Lok Adalat held on the same day with the immediate constitution of Bench comprised by the Hon'ble Justice Jay Sengupta, Chairman and Ms. Tasneem Abid, Learned advocate as Member. Although communications were made to several stakeholders to come forward to settle the disputes, three matters were placed before the Bench. Out of three, two matters were directed to be placed before the Court and the one was directed to be placed before the next Lok Adalat.



Brief Statistics

National Lok Adalat -2025 conducted by The High Court Legal Services Committee

Date	Total Taken up pre-litigation cases & Pending court cases	Disposal	Settlement amount
08.03.2025	18	6	5,00,000/-
21.06.2025	3	Nil	Nil

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE CIRCUIT BENCH AT PORT BLAIR

Construction of 10 (Ten) VC Cabin for facilitating video conference to Advocate/litigants & providing for furniture in the 10 VC Cabins :

The above said project has been successfully carried out with the financial assistance provided by the A & N Administration to the tune of Rs.21,55,150/- (Rs.16,68,840 & Rs.4,86,310/-) and the same was inaugurated on 9th January, 2025 by the Hon'ble Justice T.S.Sivagnanam, The Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta in presence of the Hon'ble Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya, Judge, High Court at Calcutta and Judge-in-Charge, A & N Islands and the Hon'ble Justice Raja Basu Chowdhury, Judge, High Court at Calcutta and Judge-in-Charge (Additional), A & N Islands. The Hon'ble Justice Madhuresh Prasad and the Hon'ble Justice Supratim Bhattacharyya, physically unveiled the ceremonial plaque.

Modernization, renovation and extension of office premises of the Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Port Blair :

Requisite drawings prepared and submitted to the Hon'ble High Court. The Hon'ble Court duly approved the drawings submitted by the Registry, in principle, subject to the estimate to be submitted by the respective departments.

Revamping of Record Room of the Registry :

Considering preservation of court records significant and in order to retrieve the case records, steps were taken to keep the disposed of records in year-wise also by entering the same in the relevant register.

Recruitment of the vacant post of Assistant Registrar (Court) :

Steps were taken to fill up the vacant post of Assistant Registrar (Court). Recruitment was duly conducted and Shri Alok Kumar Bakshi was appointed as Assistant Registrar (Court) on promotion in the month of March, 2025.

Recruitment of the vacant post of PA to Hon'ble Judge :

Shri Manoj Halder, Stenographer (OG), A & N Administration has been absorbed in the post of PA to the Hon'ble Judge in the month of May, 2025.

Session on Drug Abuse, Suicide, POCSO Act and Mental Health Issues Held at Swaraj Dweep, June 20, 2025 :

A significant session focusing on Drug Abuse, Suicide, the POCSO Act, and Mental Health Issues was held at the Dolphin Conference Hall, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. The session intended to raise awareness and initiate discussions on pressing social and legal issues affecting vulnerable people.

The session was graced by the presence of distinguished dignitaries: the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court & Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta, Judge, Supreme Court & Patron, A&N State Legal Services Authority; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta & Patron-in-Chief, A&N SLSA; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sabyasachi

Bhattacharyya, Judge, High Court at Calcutta, Zonal Judge for A&N Islands & Executive Chairman, A&N SLSA.

The session emphasized collaborative approaches to mental health, protection of children under the POCSO Act, and the increasing threat of drug abuse and suicide in the region. The vote of thanks was delivered by Shri Bhawani Shanker Sharma, Registrar Administration (G, I & E), High Court at Calcutta.



State-Level Conference on Child Marriage, Child Sexual Abuse and Suicide Highlights Urgency of Legal and Mental Health Interventions, Port Blair, June 21, 2025 :

A State-Level Conference addressing Child Marriage, Child Sexual Abuse, and Suicide, with legal focus on the POCSO Act and the Mental Health Act, was held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute Technology, Sri Vijaya Puram, from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

Esteemed dignitaries who addressed the conference included the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court & Executive Chairman, NALSA; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta,

Judge, Supreme Court & Patron A&N SLSA; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta & Patron-in-Chief, A&N SLSA; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya, Judge, High Court at Calcutta & Executive Chairman, A & N SLSA and also eminent Administrative Officials from the A & N Administration.

The speakers highlighted the vital need for coordinated efforts between the judiciary, law enforcement, mental health professionals, and community leaders. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Rashid Alam, Registrar & Member Secretary, A&N State Legal Services Authority.





Legal Aid Services Clinic Inaugurated at Andaman Law College, Port Blair, June 21, 2025 :

The Legal Aid Services Clinic at Andaman Law College was formally inaugurated at 3:00 PM, marking a significant milestone in providing accessible legal aid and promoting legal literacy amongst the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The inaugural session witnessed the participation of eminent members of the judiciary: the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datta, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Patron A&N

SLSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta & Patron-in-Chief, A&N SLSA; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya, Judge, High Court at Calcutta & Executive Chairman, A&N SLSA; the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jay Sengupta and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bivas Pattanayak, Judges of the High Court at Calcutta, presently holding Circuit Bench at Port Blair.

This initiative aims to provide hands-on legal assistance to citizens while involving law students in real-world legal aid practices under professional supervision.





Celebration of International Yoga Day by the Office of the Registrar, in Association with Legal Services Authorities, Port Blair, on 21st June, 2025:

The Office of the Registrar, in association with the State Legal Services Authority and the District Legal Services Authority, observed International Yoga Day on 21st June 2025 at 7:00 AM with great enthusiasm and participation.

The event took place in the presence of Judicial Officers and staff of the Registry,

who actively took part in the yoga session. The session was guided by Shri Ilango, Yoga Master, who conducted various asanas and breathing exercises promoting physical and mental well-being.

The celebration emphasized the importance of yoga in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and managing stress, especially for members of the judicial and legal fraternity who operate in high-pressure environments.



Interactive Session with School Students

CIRCUIT BENCH OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT AT PORT BLAIR

Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025

Category/Case	Pendency on 01.07.2024	Institution from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025	Disposal from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025	Pendency as on 30.06.2025
CIVIL				
Writ Petition (Article 226)	231	803	811	223
Company Matters	—	—	—	—
Contempt (Civil)	93	56	40	109
Review (Civil)	08	12	11	09
Matrimonial Matters	06	07	04	09
Arbitration Matters	02	14	12	04
Civil Revisions	—	—	—	—
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	—	—	—	—
Civil Appeals	—	—	—	—
Land Acquisition Matters	—	—	—	—
MACT Matters	16	23	11	28
Civil Suit (Original Side)	—	—	—	—
Other Than Above	50	179	163	66
TOTAL CIVIL	406	1094	1052	448
CRIMINAL				
Criminal Revisions	28	52	54	26
Bail Application	07	20	23	04
Criminal Appeals	24	27	19	32
Death Sentence Reference	—	—	—	—
Contempt (Criminal)	—	—	—	—
Misc. Criminal Application	—	—	—	—
Other Than Above	—	—	—	—
TOTAL CRIMINAL	59	99	96	62
TOTAL (CIVIL+CRL)	465	1193	1148	510

CIRCUIT BENCH AT JALPAIGURI

1. Execution of the Deed of Conveyance



A total of 40.08 acres of land has been earmarked for the establishment of the new building of the Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. This includes 39.25 acres under Mouza - Kharia (J.L. No. 07, Sheet No. 6) and 0.83 acres under Mouza - Paharpur (J.L. No. 06, Sheet No. 3), both situated under the jurisdiction of Jalpaiguri Sadar Police Station in the district of Jalpaiguri. The land, located within the SJDA Composite Complex Phase-II, was relinquished by the

Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority (SJDA) and formally handed over to the Calcutta High Court.

On 8th May, 2025, a landmark event took place with the formal execution of the Deed of Conveyance for the entire 40.08 acres of land. The ceremony, held in Court No. 1 of the newly constructed building, was presided over by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, T. S. Sivagnanam, along with the esteemed members of the Hon'ble "Committee to Look After the Construction and Progress of the Permanent Building for the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench" - the Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar and the Hon'ble Justice Biswajit Basu. The occasion was further graced by the presence of senior judicial and administrative officers, underscoring its significance and solemnity.



Execution of the Deed of Conveyance on 8th May, 2025

The Deed of Conveyance was executed by the State Administration, represented by Smt. Shama Parveen, District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri, in favour of the High Court at Calcutta, represented by Smt. Nabanita Ray, Registrar General, in the presence of two witnesses - Shri Sourav Bhattacharya, Registrar, Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri and Shri Dhiman Barai, Additional District Magistrate (General), Jalpaiguri.

On this momentous occasion, the Hon'ble the Chief Justice graced the ceremony with an address that echoed deep appreciation for the efforts behind the creation of the new infrastructure. In His Lordship's gracious words:

"Facilities provided for the litigant public is extremely good, and the Public Works Department-all the three wings of the Department: civil, electrical, and IT-have toiled much. The front elevation of the building has come out beautifully.

I congratulate every person who has been associated with this wonderful construction. Thank you."

His Lordship's remarks stand as a testament to the tireless dedication, coordinated excellence and aesthetic sensibility that shaped the project. The commendation extended to all involved in the construction serves not only as recognition but also as encouragement to uphold such high standards in public service and judicial infrastructure.



***The Hon'ble Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges, Stakeholders,
Officers and Staff in a group photograph***

2. Civil and Structural Progress

Significant strides have been achieved in the domain of civil and structural development through the collaborative efforts of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Public Works Department (PWD). These agencies have been diligently working on key infrastructure elements such as drainage networks, culverts, minor bridges, and internal roadways-each playing a vital role in supporting the broader scope of the project- New Building of the Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri.

A large portion of these construction activities has already been successfully completed. The drainage systems, designed to ensure efficient water runoff and prevent flooding, have been largely laid out and are operational in many areas. Similarly, the construction of culverts and minor bridges-which facilitate unimpeded

movement across water channels and depressions-has reached an advanced stage, with several units already in place and functional.

Internal roads, which are essential for connectivity and accessibility within the development zone, have also seen considerable progress. These roads are being constructed with a focus on durability, traffic efficiency and future scalability.

In summary, the civil and structural components of the project are advancing at a steady pace. With the foundational infrastructure nearing completion in many segments, focus is now shifting towards the finishing touches and the completion of pending works. The combined efforts of NHAI and PWD continue to ensure that all tasks are executed in alignment with the project's quality and timeline objectives.



A panoramic view of the New Building as seen from the National Highway

3. Landscaping and Site Aesthetics

A comprehensive landscaping and beautification project has been undertaken at the permanent site of the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench, led by the Parks & Gardens Division of the West Bengal Forest Department. On 8th March 2025, A.K. Mukherjee, IFS, Conservator of Forests (Parks & Gardens), conducted an on-site inspection at Paharpur with his full team to assess and guide the development plan.

To mitigate noise and dust pollution from the adjacent national highway, two rows of evergreen trees have already been



Green transformation begins

planted. These species are environmentally sustainable and well-suited to local soil and climatic conditions.

The designated agency has commenced essential groundwork, including soil filling, ground levelling and layout marking. The entire landscaping initiative is being executed under the supervision of the Ex-officio Manager, Green Projects Wing, WBFDCCL and the Divisional Forest Officer, Parks & Gardens (North) Division,

Siliguri. This initiative aims to create a serene, green and ecologically balanced environment across the premises.

4. Electrical and Utility Infrastructure

To ensure continuous and efficient judicial operations, significant progress has been made in developing the site's electrical and utility infrastructure. Key among these efforts are the ongoing installation of power distribution systems designed to support all administrative and courtroom functions.

A high-capacity chiller plant is currently being commissioned to provide reliable air conditioning across the premises of the new building at Paharpur, Jalpaiguri. This is crucial for maintaining optimal indoor conditions in work-space and courtrooms. Alongside this, substation facilities are being established to deliver a stable and sufficient power supply, minimizing the risk of outages and ensuring uninterrupted operations. Together, these systems form the backbone of the facility's electrical and environmental support, enabling smooth and efficient functioning of judicial services.

5. Vision Ahead

As various administrative, infrastructural, and environmental components come together, the new building premises of the Circuit Bench are progressing steadily towards completion. This unified effort reflects a collective commitment to establishing a fully functional and self-reliant judicial campus.

6. Promoting Accessibility and Gender Inclusivity

The newly constructed Circuit Bench building of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri stands as a testament to progressive infrastructure with a clear emphasis on accessibility and gender inclusivity. As part of its inclusive design, the building features a total of 15 toilets for persons with physical disabilities (PH) and 5 designated toilets for transgender individuals. These facilities are thoughtfully and evenly distributed across the five floors of the building - from the ground level to the fourth floor - with each floor equipped with 3 PH toilets and 1 transgender toilet.

The provision of PH toilets on every floor is particularly significant in enhancing the mobility and convenience of differently-abled individuals.

This initiative marks a vital step forward in fostering a barrier-free and gender-sensitive environment within the judicial system and beyond.

7. Ensuring Comfort and Efficiency Through Full Air Conditioning in All Sections

Last year in the month of December, the entire temporary facility of the existing Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench was fully air-conditioned. To ensure a comfortable and efficient working environment, air conditioning units were installed across all key departments and sections-including Mandamus, Rule, Civil, Criminal and others.

8. First Audit of the Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri

A compliance audit was conducted by the Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit-I), West Bengal on the account of the Senior Accounts Officer, Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri for the period from 11 April 2019 (inception) to 31 October 2024. The audit team carried out the inspection between 02.12.2024 and 20.12.2024.

9. Inter-Departmental Possession of Teesta Bhawan Complex

The State Government has formally approved the inter-departmental transfer of the Teesta Bhawan Complex, which spans 2.77 acres and currently accommodates the residences of Hon'ble Judges along with other related structures.

A proposal vide Letter No. 39/D/E/001/366/LMS-I/DLLRO/JAL/25 dated 17.01.2025, was submitted by the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri to the Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, Land Reforms Department. The proposal concerns the inter-departmental transfer of 2.77 acres of government land at Mouza Kharia (JL No. 07, Sheet No. 108, L.R. Plot No. 30) in favour of the Judicial Department for the possession of Teesta Bhawan Complex (Judges' Bungalow), rest shed, staff quarters, and water supply infrastructure.



Adjacent land of Teesta Bhawan

10. Issuance of Smart PVC ID Cards

As part of a progressive effort to strengthen identification protocols, bolster security, and enhance administrative efficiency, Smart PVC ID Cards have been introduced for all officers, staff members and housekeeping personnel associated with the Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri.

11. Landscaping of Jubilee Park and Teesta Bhawan Residences

Jubilee Park and Teesta Bhawan serve as two distinguished residential premises for the Hon'ble Judges at the Circuit Bench, Jalpaiguri. Throughout the year, these premises undergo systematic maintenance and upkeep, executed by the PWD Construction Division under the close

supervision of the officers of the Circuit Bench.



Aerial view of Jubilee Park - the Hon'ble Judges' residence, peacefully nestled in the heart of lush greenery

Special emphasis is given to landscaping, with priority-based planning and execution. The gardens are aesthetically maintained and enriched with a wide variety of seasonal flowers, contributing to a serene and vibrant ambience.



Front view of Teesta Bhawan - the Hon'ble Judges' residence, standing gracefully amidst serene greenery



Sadar Dak Bungalow - the existing building of the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench

12. Progress Update on the Establishment of the Permanent Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri

The long-cherished aspiration of the people of North Bengal to have a Circuit Bench of the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court came to fruition on 24th January, 2013, when the President of India approved the establishment of the Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri. Due to the absence of a permanent infrastructure at that time, the Hon'ble High Court agreed to begin functioning from a temporary setup, pending the completion of the permanent complex.

To this end, the State Government arranged for temporary accommodation at the Sadar Dak Bungalow of the Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad. A ceremonial inauguration was held on 9th March, 2019 and the Circuit Bench officially began its operations from 11th March, 2019.

Since then, considerable progress has been made in terms of infrastructure development. Currently, 10 bungalows would be constructed for the Hon'ble Judges and one for the Hon'ble Chief Justice. Additionally, work on 80 staff quarters and a three-storied police barrack would be constructed.

The construction of the permanent court complex commenced on 12th February, 2021. This ambitious project includes a new Court Building, Chief Justice's Bungalow, Judges' Bungalows, a 330-seat auditorium, Judges' Club with swimming pool, staff quarters, open car parking space, and other allied facilities.

The new court building will feature 13 courtrooms - including one dedicated courtroom for The Hon'ble The Chief Justice. A Judges' Library will be located on the first floor.

The construction of the service road is progressing at full pace under the supervision of the National Highways

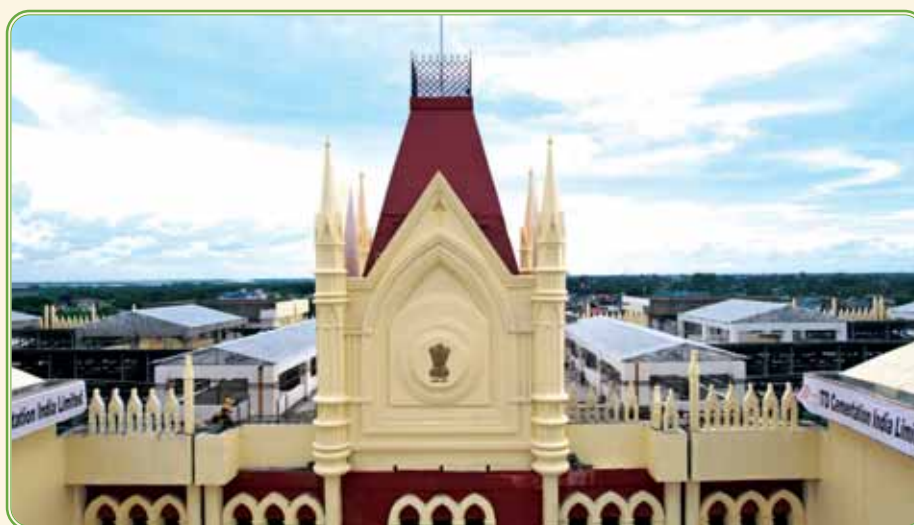
Authority of India (NHAI) and is expected to be completed shortly.

Additional amenities have also been planned for the benefit of the legal fraternity and court staff. These include

canteens, dedicated facilities for Lady advocates such as a changing room and a separate Ladies Bar Room, and 07 (seven) Video Conferencing (VC) cabins for use by learned advocates.



Panoramic view of the new building, beautifully designed in resonance with the iconic neo-Gothic architecture of the High Court at Calcutta



The new building of Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri proudly features a majestic dome, echoing the iconic neo-Gothic design of the High Court at Calcutta

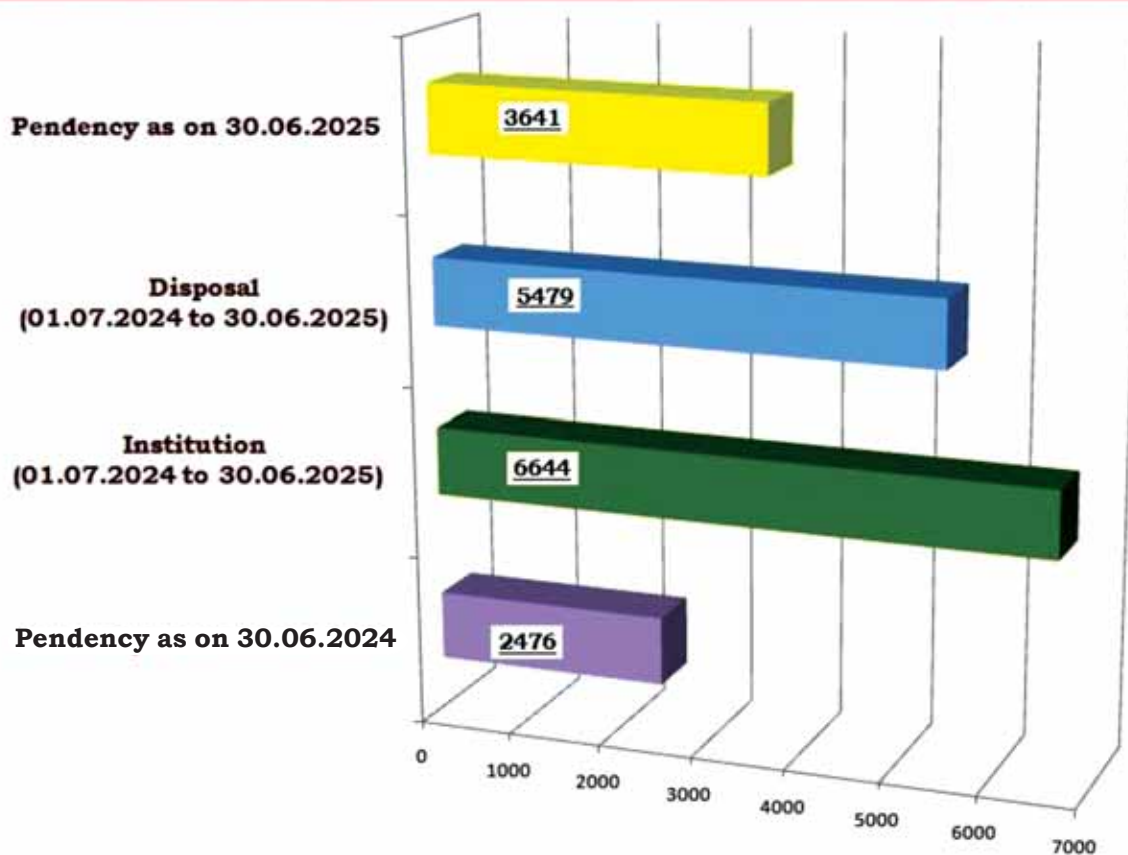
13. Institution, disposal and pendency of cases:

During the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025 a total number of 16 Circuits

were successfully completed. During the said period 6644 cases were instituted and 5479 cases were disposed. As on 30.06.2025, 3641 cases were pending in the Circuit Bench.

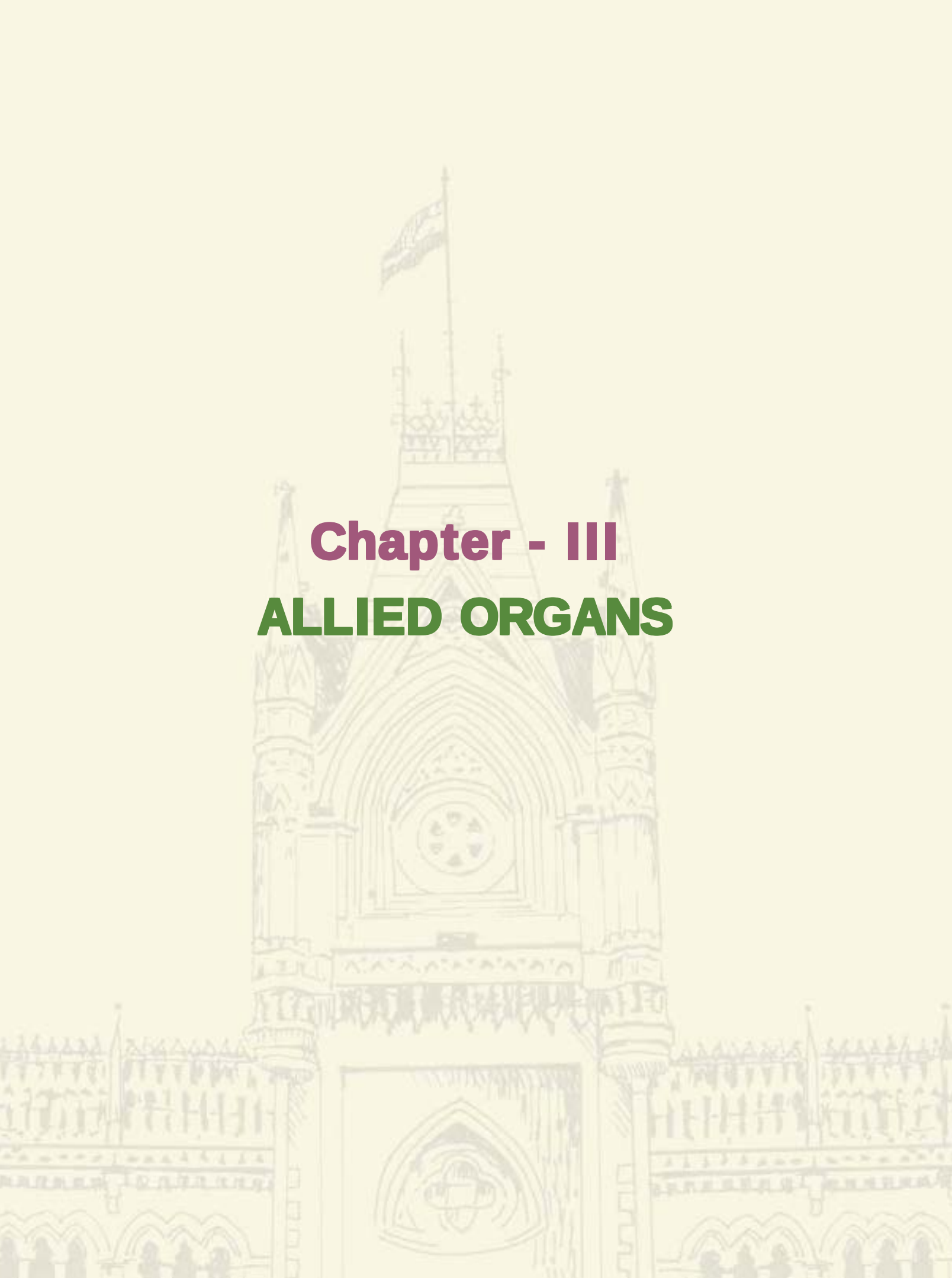
CIRCUIT BENCH OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT AT JALPAIGURI CASE STATISTICS

Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025				
Category	Pendency on 30.06.2024	Institution (01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025)	Disposal (01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025)	Pendency as on 30.06.2025
CIVIL				
Writ Petition (Article 226)	969	2526	1875	1620
Contempt (Civil)	180	85	45	220
Review (Civil)	21	7	16	12
Matrimonial Matters	19	7	6	20
Arbitration Matters	4	12	7	9
Civil Revisions	75	254	171	158
Tax Matters (Direct & Indirect)	17	11	8	20
Civil Appeals	104	107	102	109
Land Acquisition Matters	209	183	126	266
MACT Matters	150	133	50	233
Other Than Above	120	161	185	96
TOTAL (CIVIL)	1868	3486	2591	2763
CRIMINAL				
Criminal Revisions	282	627	487	422
Bail Application	88	2394	2319	163
Criminal Appeals	196	79	47	228
Death Sentence	2	8	2	8
Reference				
Contempt (Criminal)	0	1	0	1
Misc. Criminal Application	9	8	6	11
Other Than Above	31	41	27	45
TOTAL (CRIMINAL)	608	3158	2888	878
TOTAL (CIVIL+CRIMINAL)	2476	6644	5479	3641

Case Institution, Disposal and Pendency from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025

Bar Chart showing institution, disposal and pendency of cases from 01.07.24 to 30.06.25





Chapter - III

ALLIED ORGANS



STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, WEST BENGAL

FROM THE DESK OF THE HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON

I wish to convey that Team SLSA is working tirelessly to instill faith and confidence of the hapless and the marginalized and the public at large in the legal aid system of the land. The Legal Services Institutes of the State shall not falter to facilitate the discharge of the obligations that are owed to the indigent and the impoverished; as obliged under the constitution:

In the brief write up we made a humble attempt to present and highlight our myriad activities and ensuring "justice at the doorstep." However as Robert Frost said in his famous poem "The Road not taken", we are taking the one less travelled by and frequently ignored as a challenge

in ensuring the road map ends in the doorstep at the farthest point and difficult terrain where someone would be eagerly waiting for justice. We have "miles to go" before we sleep. As the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India Justice B. R. Gavai has recently said in the context of activities of NALSA, we are required to reach out to the grassroot and farthest corner of the country. The inspirational words of Swami Vivekananda "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached" have encouraged us to ensure access to justice to the "last mile citizens" in the state becomes a reality and it should not be deterred by obstacles until we achieve the desired outcome.

SOUMEN SEN

Judge, High Court at Calcutta

&

Executive Chairman

State Legal Services Authority

West Bengal

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY WEST BENGAL STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

The State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) West Bengal, has not been an idle spectator, sitting on the fringes of the legal aid movement that cascaded and drenched us all in the period under consideration. The SLSA, ably supported by the DLSAs, has tried to deliver as per its existential promise and people from all walks of life have been caressed by its myriad ventures. Although, the reaching out process is an activity that necessarily extends till infinity and we can ill afford to be complacent in the matter of discharge of our services; it may be said with some vigour that the Legal Services Institutes of the State have delivered in the preceding months, if not maximally, then certainly at the optimal level, with gusto, dedication and commitment.

The following paragraphs are an attempt to highlight the multifarious campaigns of the SLSA and the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs); the singular objective of all these being the aiding and assisting of the impoverished, the marginalized, the weak and the infirm. The chasm between the common citizenry and the legal system with its numerous rights in favour of the former was tried to be bridged by the Team SLSA and the acts and activities were designed to be the building blocks of that trestle. What follows is but just a glimpse of the untiring effort by Team SLSA to reach out to the hapless sections of the society

with a view to engendering legal awareness, aiming all the while to secure for them legal protection as well as guaranteed exercise of legal rights in the most pervasive sense of the concept.

1. LEGAL AID: in the form of advice and engaging of counsel was provided to 2,39,626 persons in Legal Services Clinics / Village Legal Care and Support Centres across the State.
2. Rs. 5,12,75,000/- was disbursed as victim compensation to victims and their family members under the West Bengal Victim Compensation Scheme, 2017, benefiting 171 persons.
3. In the National Lok Adalats held during the period under consideration, 12,13,205 cases were settled, involving a total sum of Rs. 1280,12,43,237/- (One thousand two hundred eighty crores twelve lakhs forty three thousands two hundred and thirty seven)
4. 690 cases were settled through mediation during the relevant period.
5. During Durga Puja, the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal, set up seven legal literacy stalls at prominent pandals across the State. These stalls served as vital outreach points to sensitize the public about free legal aid services, rights-based entitlements, and the role of Legal Services Institutions. Informative materials were distributed to promote legal awareness among festival-goers.

6. Inspection of the newly constructed ADR Centre, Jhargram as well as the office of the DLSA, Jhargram was done on Sunday, the 15th September, 2024.

7. On 9th November, 2024, the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority, in collaboration with the Kolkata DLSA, organized a public awareness rally to mark National Legal Services Day. The walk, flagged off from the Calcutta High Court, saw participation from judges, PLVs, NGOs, students, and marginalized communities like transgender persons, acid attack survivors, and children of sex workers. Over 200 people joined the event, promoting equal access to justice and legal awareness across social strata.

8. On 12th November, 2024, a virtual orientation-cum-training programme was conducted for all Secretaries of District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) on various government welfare schemes. The session conducted by Mr. Manoj Kumar Roy, Probation-cum-After Care Officer, South 24 Parganas, Alipore, aimed to enhance understanding and implementation of these schemes at the grassroots level.

9. On 26th November, 2024, the SLSA, W.B. celebrated the Constitution Day and organized a Quiz Competition in its Conference Room. A large number of Law Students representing various colleges/universities [MIES R.M. Law College, Shyambazar Law College, South Calcutta Law College, Adamas University - School of Law & Justice (AU SOLJ), George School of Law, School of Law, Sister Nivedita

University, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, National Law University, Odisha and Hazra Law College] participated in that Competition. The winning team was felicitated by the Hon'ble Executive Chairman, SLSA, W.B.

10. From 6th to 10th January, 2025, SLSA, West Bengal, in collaboration with the Institute of Psychiatry, conducted drug abuse awareness programmes across five colleges, highlighting psychological, physical, and legal aspects of substance abuse. Medical and legal experts addressed students, fostering awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation through interactive sessions.

11. State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal organized a day-long State Level Conference on "Ways & Means to Eliminate the Bane of Child Marriage in West Bengal", held on 11th January, 2025, in the auditorium on the 9th floor of the Calcutta High Court Sesquicentenary Building.

12. State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal organized a legal awareness programme in observance of National Girl Child Day on 24th January, 2025 at the premises of Sukanya Home for Girls, focusing on the legal rights and duties of young citizens. The inmates were also told about cybercrimes and the ways and means of digital safety. The attending girls were made aware of the POCSO Act and the Child Marriage Prevention Act. The National Girl Child Day must be regarded as a significant and opportune occasion to inspire and empower young women. It is strongly believed in this regard that educating women and girls about their

legal rights and responsibilities will go a long way towards ushering in a new generation cast in the mould of responsibility, in addition to making the present generation adequately equipped to take on the continuing misogynistic traits and trends prevailing in male dominated societies.

13. A Legal Literacy Stall was set up at the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair - 2025 in the Boi Mela Prangan, Central Park, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 091 during the period from 28th January to 9th February, 2025 for spreading legal awareness. Skits were organized during this period by the PLVs of the SLSA.

14. On 7th February, 2025, SLSA, West Bengal organized a virtual seminar on "Mental Health Challenges with Focus on Suicide," chaired by Dr. Rajlakshmi Guha of IIT, Kharagpur. Attended by DLSA Secretaries, PLVs, and students, the session drew around 100 participants and focused on suicide prevention and mental wellness.

15. A Conference-cum-Orientation Programme for legal aid lawyers on promoting alternatives to detention and diversion for children in conflict with law was held at Hotel Sonnet on 22nd February, 2025, organized by the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal in collaboration with UNICEF and PRAJAAK. Legal aid lawyers from 14 districts and five Principal Magistrates of the Juvenile Justice Boards participated in the session. The programme was inaugurated with an insightful and inspiring presidential address by the then

Executive Chairman, SLSA, W.B., the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Judge High Court at Calcutta (as His Lordship was then). The event witnessed an engaging and thought-provoking exchange of ideas, paving the way for strengthened child-centric justice delivery and effective legal representation.

16. A sensitization programme with the Law Students was organized by the SLSA on 4th March, 2025, wherein more than sixty students of the University of Burdwan were initiated into the working of the Legal Services Institutes of the State.

17. On 8th March, 2025, SLSA, West Bengal celebrated National Lok Adalat and International Women's Day together, constituting 461 benches and resolving over 3.4 lakh cases. Special benches at SLSA featured eminent women achievers, emphasizing justice delivery and women's empowerment.

18. On 22nd March, 2025, the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority organized a State-Level Consultation on Labour Trafficking and Bonded Labour at the High Court's Sesquicentenary Building Auditorium, bringing together judges, officials, legal experts, and activists to deliberate on eradication strategies. Inaugurated by the then Hon'ble Executive Chairman, SLSA, W.B., the event featured impactful addresses, a survivor's testimony, and a panel discussion covering enforcement challenges, legislative tools, and child trafficking. With active participation from stakeholders the consultation emphasized convergence, victim rehabilitation, and legal reform as essential tools in the fight against labour trafficking.

19. Legathon 2025, a run from College Square to Calcutta High Court, was organized on 23rd March, 2025 to promote legal awareness among the public. With participation from students, advocates, NGOs, and legal aid teams, the event spread knowledge on legal rights and access to justice.

20. No sooner had the go-ahead received from the NALSA than the SLSA arranged for the inauguration of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System in four new districts - Birbhum, Paschim Bardhaman Paschim Medinipur & 24 Parganas (North) on 24th April, 2025 in virtual mode. The honours in this regard was done by the Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen, Judge, High Court at Calcutta & Executive Chairman, SLSA, W.B. Work is in progress to extend the Scheme to all the remaining districts of the State.

21. On 26th April, 2025, SLSA, West Bengal conducted a one-day training on electronic evidence for Legal Aid Defence Counsels, led by Prof. Faisal Fasih of WBNUJS. Held in hybrid mode, the session enhanced understanding of electronic evidence among counsels from 10 districts.

22. On 3rd and 4th May, 2025, the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, South 24 Parganas, conducted two impactful legal awareness programmes at Sonaga village and the BDO Office, Gosaba, Sundarbans. The initiative was spearheaded by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen, Executive Chairman,

SLSA, W.B., who emphasized the importance of bringing justice and legal literacy to the remote corners of the State. The audience included Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, police personnel, and school students, all of whom engaged meaningfully with the discussions.

23. On 28th and 29th May, 2025, under the aegis of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), West Bengal, and in collaboration with Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, the District Legal Services Authority, Paschim Bardhaman conducted two impactful legal awareness camps in Asansol. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen, Executive Chairman, SLSA, W.B., led both initiatives, focusing on legal rights of sex workers and educational empowerment of their children.

24. State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal conjointly with Sankalp Today, N.G.O. organized an Anti-Tobacco Legal Awareness Programme "Ek Yudh Nashe Ki Virudhh" : Role and activities of Legal Services Institutions under the purview of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, on Saturday, the 31st May, 2025 at the Presidency Correctional Home on the occasion of the International Anti- Tobacco Day.

25. On World Environment Day, 5th June, 2025, SLSA, West Bengal organized a cycling awareness ride across Central Kolkata. The initiative promoted eco-friendly transport and raised awareness about SLSA's role in ensuring access to justice.

26. On 6th June, 2025, SLSA, West Bengal, in collaboration with Sankalp Today NGO, conducted a unique legal awareness programme, "Nyay Sabke Liye," aboard a cruise covering South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, and North 24 Parganas. The event engaged school children, transgender persons, sex workers, and migrant labourers through interactive sessions, puppet shows, speeches, and performances, focusing on legal rights, welfare schemes, and inclusion. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen, Executive Chairman, SLSA, W.B. graced the programme and addressed the gathering with great empathy and insight. His Lordship emphasized the transformative power of legal awareness in uplifting marginalized communities and reaffirmed the role of SLSA in ensuring access to justice for all.

27. On 14th June, 2025, a Mega Legal Awareness Camp was organized by DLSA, Cooch Behar in collaboration with Koshi Lok Manch under the aegis of SLSA, West Bengal. Graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen, Executive Chairman, SLSA, W.B., the event addressed critical issues like child marriage, trafficking, and domestic violence, witnessing participation from nearly 500 individuals. His Lordship emphasized grassroots legal empowerment and the need for legal aid clinics and sustained community sensitization. A similar camp was held at Alipurduar, on the same day, led by His Lordship, focusing on child rights, girls' education, and child marriage prevention. The event saw wide

participation from students, tea garden workers, legal professionals, and administrators, underscoring inclusive outreach.

28. The State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal observed World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15th June, 2025 by organizing a legal awareness camp at St. Joseph's Home for the Aged. The event saw active participation from around 80 elderly residents.

29. On 21st June, 2025, SLSA, West Bengal observed International Yoga Day at DLSA Kolkata, aligning with the national theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" to promote holistic well-being.

30. On 26th June, 2025, SLSA, West Bengal organized a Drug Abuse Awareness Programme at Goodwill Foundation, Liluah, Howrah, in collaboration with Sankalp NGO to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The event sensitized 30 recovering individuals about their legal rights, free legal aid and rehabilitation support.

31. On 28th June, 2025, DLSA, Hooghly, under the aegis of SLSA, West Bengal, organized a Mega Legal Awareness Camp on Women Empowerment and a Mediation Camp at Arambagh. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen, Executive Chairman, SLSA, W.B inaugurated the event, advocating for mediation as a peaceful dispute resolution tool and emphasizing women's legal awareness. The programme saw participation from judicial officers, district officials, ASHA workers, law interns, and students.



Conducting an orientation programme on "Different Welfare Schemes of Government" on 12.11.24



Conducting Programme on Insights of New Criminal Laws Day on 18.11.24 and 19.11.2024



Conducting a Quiz Competition on Constitution Day on 26.11.24



Celebration of Human Rights Day at SLSA, WB on 10.12.2024



Holding of 4th National Lok Adalat at SLSA on 14.12.2024



Visiting Presidency Correctional Home and conducting an awareness campaign on 21.12.2024



Conducting a drama act to spread awareness on various crimes at Bolpur on 25.12.24



Conducting a Drug Abuse Awareness Programme in five colleges from 6th January 2025 to 10th January 2025



Conducting a conference on WAYS AND MEANS TO ELIMINATE THE BANE OF CHILD MARRIAGE in association with Just Rights for Children (Alliance) and Association for Voluntary Action on 11.01.2025



Visiting Presidency Correctional Home on 16.01.2025



Celebrating National Girl Child Day on 24.01.2025



Stall at Kolkata Book Fair to spread Awareness and Literacy, from 28.01.2025 to 09.02.2025



Conducting a seminar on “Mental Health Challenges with focus on suicide” on 07.02.2025



Sensitization Programme for 60 law students of Hooghly Mohsin College took place in the Conference Room of SLSA, WB on 18.02.2025



Conducting a Conference-cum-Orientation Pro-gramme for legal aid lawyers on promoting alternatives to detention and diversion for children in conflict with law on 22.02.2025



Conducting a sensitization programme under the Legal Services Authorities Act on 04.03.2025 & 06.03.2025



Organising a Legal Awareness Programme for Social Workers and Survivors of Trafficking on 01.03.2025





Celebrating International Women's Day and also conducting first national Lok Adalat of 2025



Hosting a State Level Consultation on Labour Trafficking and Bonded Labour on 22.03.2025



Visiting St. Joseph' Home for free legal aid camp on the occasion of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, on 15.06.25



Spreading awareness about free legal services and ensure people know about their easy accessibility, with Sankalp NGO, on 23.03.2025



Visiting Dum Dum, Baruipur, and Burdwan Central Correctional Homes with interns from 08.04.2025 to 11.04.2025



Conducting a medico-legal eye and health checkup program in correctional home in collaboration with Sankalp Today on 17.04.25



Conducting National Lok Adalat on 21.04.25



Inauguration of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System on 24.04.25



Conducting One-Day Training Program on Electronic Evidence for the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System



Conducting Legal Aid Camp on "Role and Activities of Legal Services Institutions" organized by Heritage Law College on 29.04.25



Organising two Legal Awareness Camps in collaboration with DLSA South 24 Parganas, on 03.05.25 and 04.05.25



Conducting a meaningful Legal Awareness Program in association with DLSA Paschim Bardhaman and the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, on 28.05.25 and 29.05.25



Conducting 2nd National Lok Adalat, 2025 on 10th May 2025.

Observing Anti-Tobacco Day, in collaboration with Sankalp Today NGO, on 31.05.25



Celebrating World Environment Day on 5th June, 2025.



Conducting a legal rights welfare program on 06.06.2025



Organising a Mega Legal Awareness Camp, in association with DLSA Cooch Behar and Alipurduar and Kosi Lok Manch on 14.06.25

CALCUTTA HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

FROM THE DESK OF THE HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON

The Calcutta High Court Legal Services Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) was constituted under section 8-A of the Legal Services of Authorities Act, 1987 with the object to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society, to promote alternative dispute resolution and to ensure that justice is accessible and affordable for marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society, including women, children and the economically weaker section.

In furtherance of such object and keeping in mind the constitutional obligations under Article 39A of the Constitution of India, the Committee has made a sincere endeavour to ensure access to justice and to cater to the needs of all citizens, particularly those who are economically and socially disadvantaged. The Committee conducts itself with high probity and candour to ensure that such litigants do not succumb to any procedural rigmarole.

To assist the litigants in availing free legal advice seamlessly, the Committee, with the active support of retired Judicial Officers, maintains a Front Office at the premises of the Court. During the period from 1st July, 2024 to 30th June, 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the said period) legal advice has been provided in 1753 matters. During the said period, the Committee has engaged learned advocates to conduct 1386 cases from the panel of advocates maintained by the Committee, which currently comprises of 264 learned advocates. For the Circuit

Bench at Jalpaiguri, the Committee also maintains a panel of 28 advocates.

To provide methods of resolving disputes outside of traditional court litigation, aiming for quicker, more cost-effective and less adversarial solutions, the Committee periodically and in accordance with the calendar of National Legal Services Authority organizes National Lok Adalat. On 14th September, 2024, 14th December, 2024, 8th March, 2025 and 10th May, 2025, National Lok Adalat was organized by the Committee which led to disposal of 280 cases and the quantum of amount settled is of Rs.12,30,08,466/-.

Apart from the litigations in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta, the Committee has expanded its horizon in providing legal services in litigations before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to facilitate the Hon'ble Supreme Court Legal Services Committee. During the said period, the Committee has engaged 21 advocates in 17 matters. In aid of the campaign launched by the Hon'ble Supreme Court Legal Services Committee to identify the prisoners in need of legal aid throughout the country, this Committee has taken proactive steps to identify the inmates, to ascertain their willingness and to procure the necessary documents including paper books and certified copy of judgments for the purpose of filing Special Leave Petitions.

As the Chairman of the Committee, I feel privileged to share the achievements of the Committee and my views to facilitate preparation of the Annual Report 2024-2025.

TAPABRATA CHAKRABORTY,

Judge, High Court at Calcutta &
Chairperson, Calcutta High Court
Legal Service committee

PERFORMANCE OF THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A. NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Lok Adalat organized by the CHCLSC during 01.07.24 to 30.06.25 = 04
2) Total No. of cases taken up during the period = 512 | 3) Total No. of cases settled during the period = 280
4) Total percentage of disposal = 54.68%
5) Quantum of amount settled in total during the period = Rs. 12,30,08,466/- |
|--|---|

LOK ADALAT UNDER THE CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF	DATE	NO. OF CASES PLACED	NO. OF CASES SETTLED	PERCENTAGE OF DISPOSAL	QUANTUM OF AMOUNT SETTLED
NATIONAL LOK ADALAT THE HON'BLE JUSTICE HARISH TANDON	14.09.2024	124	96	77.41%	Rs. 4,67, 72,460/-
NATIONAL LOK ADALAT THE HON'BLE JUSTICE SOUMEN SEN	14.12.2024	176	95	53.97%	Rs. 4,17,91,771/-
NATIONAL LOK ADALAT THE HON'BLE JUSTICE SOUMEN SEN	08.03.2025	124	52	41.93%	Rs. 2,38,38,235/-
NATIONAL LOK ADALAT THE HON'BLE JUSTICE TAPABRATA CHAKRABORTY	10.05.2025	88	37	42.04%	Rs. 1,06,06,000/-
TOTAL		512	280	54.68%	Rs. 12,30,08,466/-

B. LEGAL AID

1. Total no. of Advice rendered by the Judicial Officers in the Front Office from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025 = 1753;
2. Total no. of Advocates engaged in favour of the litigants/ prisoners, (excluding changes of advocates and excluding engagement of senior to a junior or vice versa) by the CHCLSC / by the Hon'ble Courts and subsequently, where, CHCLSC had regularized such appointments in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Courts, for Calcutta High Court matters from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025 = 1386;
3. Total no. of Advocates engaged, by the CHCLSC, for Supreme Court matters from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025 = 21 in 17 matters, including changes of advocates;
4. Total no. of communications (containing documents like Paper Book & Certified Copy of Judgment of Criminal Appeals along with other relevant documents of trial court including Prisoner's petition & Vakalatnama, as per check list of SCLSC) sent till date to SCLSC for the purpose of filing SLP (Crl). = 45 + 1 (Documents of 1 matter was sent in last year) in compliance with the specific direction of the Hon'ble Chairperson, SCLSC, upon the HCLSCs, forwarded to this end on 13.01.2025;
5. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in sending reference of two orders passed in 2 separate matters along with another order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2021, directed CHCLSC to send appropriate papers to SCLSC in those two matters both physically (hard copy) and also scanned copy (Soft copy of entire documents), without which, the matter could not be processed. The Hon'ble Supreme Court further directed to follow henceforth such mode in other matters also. Documents of the aforesaid 2 matters have been procured accordingly and the same along with another matter has been sent to SCLSC through mail and through speed post also;
6. Total no. of Advocates engaged by the CHCLSC from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025 in the Calcutta High Court Legal Services Committee, Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri is 102, within which, Calcutta High Court, Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri was pleased to direct to appoint Advocates in 7 pending matters and regularized appointment in 13 matters.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Juvenile Justice Committee oversee the conditions and functions of juvenile homes, pays periodical visit to those homes and suggests remedial measures for betterment of condition of those homes and their inmates. The Committee also monitors the implementation of Juvenile Justice Act and regulates the entire affairs in connection with the POCSO Act.

1. Meetings of the Juvenile Justice Committee

The Juvenile Justice Secretariat of High Court at Calcutta organizes the Juvenile Justice Committee meetings once in every month with the Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal, Director, Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking, Government of West Bengal, Special Secretary, Home and Hill Affairs Department, West Bengal, Additional Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, West Bengal, Joint Director of Health Services & State Family Welfare Officer, West Bengal, Secretary, Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Director, Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, SSP (CID), Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Deputy Secretary (Law), Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Deputy

Director Health, Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

The strict implementation of Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and the POCSO Act, 2012 are focused in the meetings of the Hon'ble Juvenile Justice Committee.

2. Home visits undertaken by every District

Under the instruction and direction of the Committee, visits to the Child Care Institutions and Observation Homes are being made on a regular basis by the Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Board, Senior Lady Judicial Officers of the District, Visitor as well as other functionaries and reports are sent with regard to condition and functioning of the Homes and institutions, highlighting issues and problems if any. The reports are thereupon placed before the Committee for necessary consideration and directions. The issues which require intervention of the Government are immediately brought to the notice of the Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare and follow-ups are being made.

3. Home visits by the Juvenile Justice Committee

1. On 03.08.2024 and 04.08.2024 the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, the then Hon'ble Member, Juvenile Justice

Committee, High Court, Calcutta inspected 3 Homes in the district of Bankura with the assistance of the Secretary, Juvenile Justice Secretariat, High Court, Calcutta;

2. On 03.08.2024 the Hon'ble Justice, Shampa Sarkar, Hon'ble Member, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court, Calcutta inspected Homes in the District of Jalpaiguri and at Siliguri;

3. On 31.01.2025, the Secretary & the Additional Secretary of Juvenile Justice Secretariat, High Court, Calcutta visited the Hamara Ghar CINI Home, Tangra, Kolkata and the Amader Bari CINI Home, Kolkata;

4. On 08.01.2025, both the Secretary & the Additional Secretary of Juvenile Justice Secretariat, High Court, Calcutta visited two Homes, namely Sukanya Home, Salt Lake City, Kolkata and Bodhi Peet, Kolkata;

5. On 20.03.2025 and 22.03.2025 the Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen, the then Hon'ble Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee accompanied by the Hon'ble Justice Raja Basu Chowdhury, Judge, High Court, Calcutta visited Balika Niketan Home at Sri Vijay Puram and Abhyuday Complex, Ferrargunj in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

6. Lastly, on 29.03.2025 and on 30.03.2025 the Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar, Hon'ble Member, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court, Calcutta inspected

3 Homes in the District of Jalpaiguri, 3 Homes at Cooch Behar and 3 Homes in the district of Darjeeling with the assistance of the Secretary & the Additional Secretary of Juvenile Justice Secretariat, High Court, Calcutta.

4. State Level Multi-Stakeholders Consultation

The State Level Multi Stakeholders Consultation on Protection of Children with Disabilities, 2024 was held on 17th day of August, 2024 at the West Bengal Judicial Academy on 'Protecting the rights of children living with disability (focus on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of disabilities'. Hon'ble Mr. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, The Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court at Calcutta and Patron-in-Chief, Juvenile Justice Committee had graced the occasion and had presented the keynote address. The Hon'ble Judges, Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal, the Director, Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking, Government of West Bengal and many others like Mr. Muhammad Mohiuddin Chief, UNICEF (from West Bengal) had participated in the meeting and had deliberated on the topic. Group discussions were held on different aspects related to 'Protecting the rights of children living with disability (focus on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of disabilities'.

5. National Annual Stakeholders Consultation

The National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on 'Protecting the rights of children living with disability (focus on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of disabilities' was held on 28th day and 29th day of September, 2024 at the Supreme Court Auditorium, 3rd Floor, C-Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, in association with UNICEF-India. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Judge, High Court at Calcutta and Member of the Juvenile Justice Committee, the Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen, Judge, High Court at Calcutta and Member of the Juvenile Justice Committee along with the Secretary of Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court, Calcutta, the Principal Secretary of Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal and Commissioner cum Secretary of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Islands were nominated to be present at the National Annual Stakeholders Consultation.

6. Cluster Meets

The Cluster Meets of the year 2025 had been organized on 05.04.25 and 14.06.25 at Murshidabad and Kolkata under the directions of the Hon'ble Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court at Calcutta in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal.

Issues in connection with the POCSO cases as well as cases proceeding before the Juvenile Justice Boards were vividly dealt with in the Meet. Analysis of data relating to pendency and disposal of POCSO cases and cases before JJB were made in order to find out whether time schedules are adhered to and the reasons for the delay, problems encountered in the process by the Courts and the stakeholders were looked into. Problems regarding infrastructure, timely submission of Social Investigation Reports in the Juvenile Justice Boards were discussed. Whether adequate number of Child Psychologists, Counsellors, Special Educators, Psychiatrists and Social Welfare Officers were available in the Districts to assist the victims in POCSO cases as well as to assist the Juvenile Justice Boards were also considered and discussed by the Committee.

7. Distribution of books and other articles for children

1. A small step to bring the essence of education in life, the children's desire to study towards making a better future through distribution of books for newly formed library at Andandamath Home, Purulia. Twelve different books for inmates of the Home were distributed.
2. At Shehachhaya Child Care Institution, Purba Medinipur twenty eight different books were distributed among the children.
3. A cricket set consisting of two cricket bats, twenty four balls and two sets of wickets with ball was distributed among the boys at Sumangalam Home, Bankura.

4. Another remarkable initiative was taken by the Committee for distribution of different articles among the street children housed at Calcutta Social Project (Girls), Calcutta Social Project (Boys), Child in Need Institute (CINI) Urban Unit, Hamara Ghar (Boys) and Institute of Psychological & Educational Research (IPER) (Girls).

8. Functioning of JJB, Children's Court & POCSO Court

The Hon'ble Committee collects monthly data from all the Juvenile Justice Boards, Children's Courts and POCSO Courts for monitoring purposes regarding proper implementation of the JJ Act, 2015 and POCSO Act.

9. Creation & Functioning of new POCSO Courts

Exclusive POCSO Court at Purba Medinipur (Tamluk) was inaugurated on 06.02.2025 and the same started functioning from 02.05.2025.

Another Exclusive POCSO Court at Purba Bardhaman has started functioning from 30.04.2025.

10. Formation of Monitoring Committees

Monitoring Committees have been formed at every District level comprising the District Judge, District Magistrate, Chairperson CWC, Secretary DLSA and District Inspector of Schools (both Primary & Secondary) and at every Sub-division level comprising the senior most Additional District Judge who

shall also be the Chairperson, SDLSC, Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) and Assistant District Inspector of Schools (ADI) for identifying the number of CNCs including school dropouts at the district/rural level

11. Camps at local levels for identifying the Children with disabilities.

As per the direction of the Hon'ble Committee, Camps at district and rural levels for identification of the children with disabilities are being conducted by the Social Welfare Directorate, Andaman & Nicobar Administration in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services and the Composite Regional Centre (CRC).

12. Preparation of e-Handbook

Handbook of Acts, Schemes, Rules and Government Notifications with respect to Children with Special Needs (West Bengal & Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands) was prepared and compiled under the directions of the Hon'ble Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court at Calcutta and sent to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

13. Inclusion of a column in the FIR form for recording whether the victim or the accused are the persons with disabilities

The Hon'ble Committee has time and again passed directions for inclusion of a disability column in FIR. Now, provision has been made available in CCTNS State Application to capture whether the victim suffers from any disability (Divyangyan) by adding an extra column during the registration of FIR.

SHAMPA SARKAR

Judge, High Court at Calcutta
&

Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee



Cluster Meets with Juvenile Justice Committee



Distribution of Article under Supervision of the Juvenile Justice Committee



Distribution of Books under Supervision of the Juvenile Justice Committee

State Level Multi Stakeholders' Consultation on Protection of Children with Disabilities, 2024





Home Inspection by Juvenile Justice Committee



Programme at West Bengal Judicial Academy

MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION COMMITTEE, HIGH COURT, CALCUTTA

ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025

In an era where traditional adjudicatory mechanisms are increasingly beleaguered by an ever-expanding docket of cases, the judicial system in India has been compelled to seek innovative methods of dispute resolution. Among these, mediation has emerged not merely as an alternative but as a transformative modality, offering a confluence of accessibility, efficiency, confidentiality, and collaboration.

As the vanguard of this movement stands the Mediation and Conciliation Committee of the High Court at Calcutta and it has been our aim to promote alternative dispute resolution methods. With unwavering dedication and a vision aligned with the principles of alternative dispute resolution, the Committee has been working effortlessly towards promoting the process of mediation as a vital instrument of alternative dispute resolution. Its endeavors are firmly rooted in the conviction that justice delivery system needs not always be adversarial, resolution of dispute can be harmoniously achieved through dialogue and understanding.

In pursuit of this vision, the Committee has undertaken a spectrum of initiatives

designed to embed mediation deeply into the legal landscape of West Bengal. To achieve this avowed object, robust emphasis was given on capacity-building. A series of meticulously organized 40-hour Mediation Training Programmes were conducted at the West Bengal Judicial Academy, which have equipped retired High Court judges, Judicial officers (retired and serving), advocates, and domain experts with the nuanced skills required for effective mediation. These training courses were held on the following dates:

- **24.08.2024 to 28.08.2024** : 40 hours Mediation Training at West Bengal Judicial Academy for the Retired Judges of High Court, Calcutta, Retired Judicial Officers and willing and eligible Advocates of different districts and Sub-divisional Courts of West Bengal;
- **07.09.2024 to 11.09.2024** : 40 hours Mediation Training at West Bengal Judicial Academy for the willing and eligible Advocates of different districts and Sub-divisional Courts of West Bengal;
- **03.10.2024 to 07.10.2024** : 40 hours Mediation Training at West Bengal Judicial Academy for the willing and eligible Advocates of different districts and Sub-

divisional Courts of West Bengal and experts of different fields;

➤ **02.11.2024 to 26.11.2024** : 40 hours Mediation Training at West Bengal Judicial Academy for the Retired Judges of High Court, Calcutta, Retired Judicial Officers and willing and eligible Advocates of different districts and Sub-divisional Courts of West Bengal;

➤ **18.12.2024 to 22.12.2024** : 40 hours Mediation Training at West Bengal Judicial Academy for the Retired Judicial Officers, experts in different fields, willing and eligible Advocates of different districts and Sub-divisional Courts of West Bengal;

➤ **03.06.2025 to 07.06.2025** : 40 hours Mediation Training at West Bengal Judicial Academy for the Registrars of the High Court at Calcutta, Administrative Officer, Retired Judicial Officers and willing and eligible Advocates of different districts and Sub-divisional Courts of West Bengal.

Through these training programmes, 125 new mediators were introduced into the system, bringing the total number of empanelled trained mediators under the High Court, Calcutta and the different districts and Sub-divisional Courts of West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to an impressive count of 507. As a result, every Taluka Court in West Bengal is now served by at least two trained mediators, whereas each Sadar Sub-Divisional Court boasts a panel of no fewer than five. This

was done to ensure access to amicable resolutions at the grassroots level. All the newly inducted mediators were awarded certificates at a "Certificate Distribution Ceremony" held on 14th May, 2025.

In addition to training, the Committee has demonstrated its commitment to public engagement. From 28th January to 9th February, 2025, the Committee participated in the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair, where it conducted mass sensitization campaigns, educating thousands of visitors on the principles, procedures, and benefits of mediation as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism.

Furthermore, the observance of Mediation Fortnights, commencing from April, 2025, across various districts and Taluka Courts of West Bengal, serve to embed the ethos of mediated justice more deeply into our conventional case disposal system.

However, despite its promise and progress, mediation is not without its trials. The journey towards mainstreaming this transformative tool is impeded by challenges such as limited awareness, insufficient mediator strength, and sporadic support from critical stakeholders. Cognizant of these impediments, the Committee continues to tirelessly work towards overcoming them by strengthening infrastructure, fostering institutional partnerships, and cultivating a culture of

mutual respect and dialogue between the Bench and the Bar.

In the present times, mediation is no longer a peripheral experiment in the legal ecosystem; it is a central pillar in the architecture of humane and responsive justice. With the promulgation of the Mediation Act, 2023, statutes mandating pre-institution mediation, continued resolve from stakeholders, and institutional backing, mediation can transcend its

statutory framework and evolve into a preferred legal norm, an intuitive first step in the resolution of disputes. The High Court at Calcutta, through its Mediation and Conciliation Committee, remains resolute in this mission with the vision to establish mediation as the preferred mode of dispute resolution by fostering a culture of dialogue, trust and amicable settlement, thereby ensuring timely, cost-effective, and harmonious resolution of conflicts.



The poster is for a 40 Hours Mediation Training Programme. It features a green and yellow background with a subtle floral pattern. At the top, there are two circular emblems: the left one is the emblem of the Supreme Court of India, and the right one is the emblem of the High Court of Calcutta. Below the emblems, the title "40 Hours Mediation Training Programme" is written in a large, bold, blue font. Underneath the title, there are four sections, each with a heading in a dark red box and text in a black box. The first section is "Under the Aegis of" followed by "The Hon'ble Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India". The second section is "Organised by" followed by "The Hon'ble Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court, Calcutta". The third section is "Date" followed by "24.08.2024 to 28.08.2024". The fourth section is "Venue" followed by "The West Bengal Judicial Academy B-10, AA - III, New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata - 700160".

40 Hours Mediation Training Programme

Under the Aegis of
The Hon'ble Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee,
Supreme Court of India

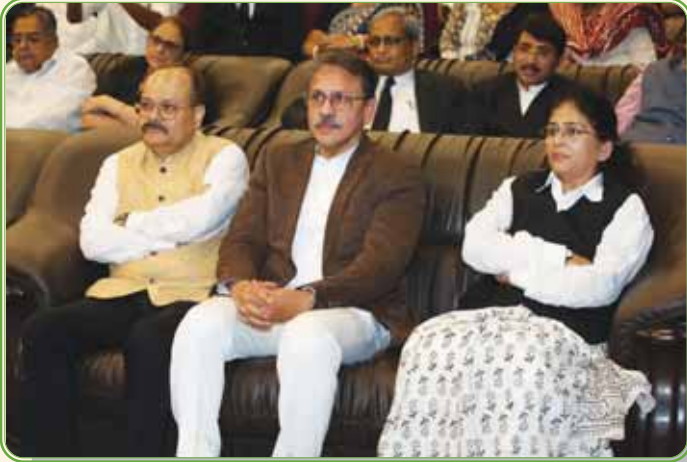
Organised by
The Hon'ble Mediation and Conciliation Committee,
High Court, Calcutta

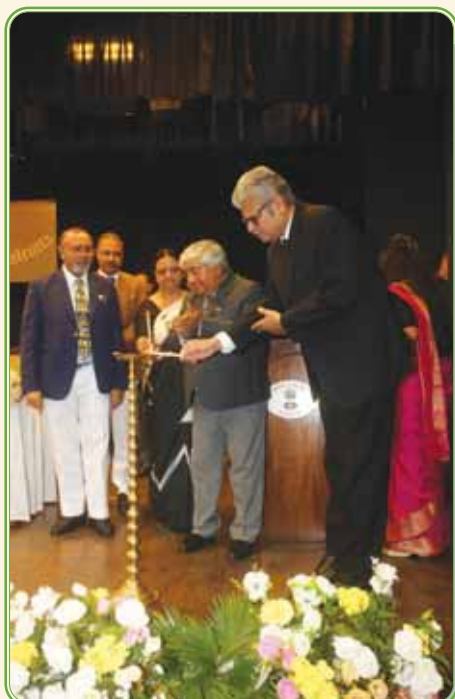
Date
24.08.2024 to 28.08.2024

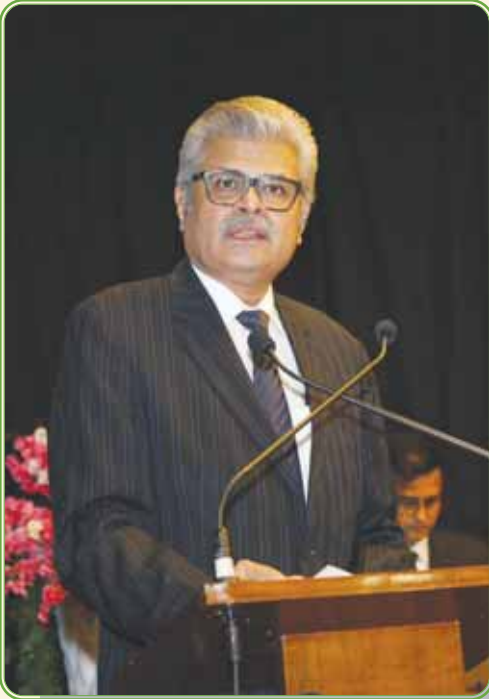
Venue
The West Bengal Judicial Academy
B-10, AA - III, New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata - 700160



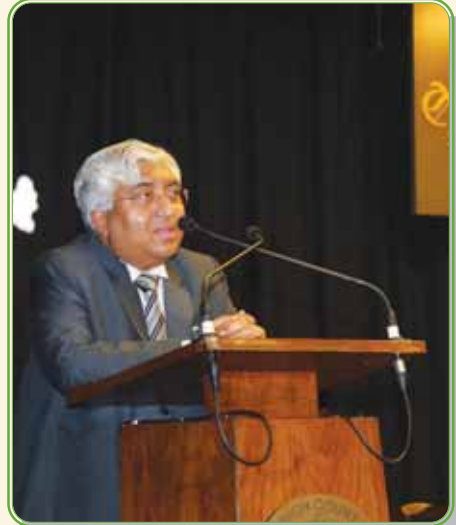
MEDIATION CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY AT HIGH COURT AUDITORIUM BY MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION COMMITTEE











THE WEST BENGAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY

The West Bengal Judicial Academy, established under the auspices of the High Court at Calcutta, seeks to serve as the cornerstone for judicial education and capacity building catering to the Judicial Officers both in West Bengal and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Academy plays a vital role in enhancing the quality, efficiency and responsiveness of the District Courts.

During the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, the Academy remained steadfast in its mission to provide institutional training and continuing judicial education to in-service officers. Emphasis was placed on a balanced approach, combining classical legal doctrines with emerging areas of law, such as cybercrime, forensic science, environmental jurisprudence and gender justice.

The Academy took an active part in providing suggestions for upgrading of curriculum and teaching methodologies, an exercise undertaken by the Centre of Research and Planning, Supreme Court of India in collaboration with the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and such suggestions were accepted and have been recommended. In view of the suggestions provided by the Centre of Research and Planning, Supreme Court of India, the Academy has been following an andragogical model of training extending

beyond theoretical instructions, incorporating practical modules, interactive sessions with domain experts and exposure visits, thus seeking to enhance the professional exposure of the judicial officers. Feedback classes have been introduced based on question-answer sessions and interactions involving all the trainee Judges. Special attention is being given to sessions on electronic evidence, procedural fairness, forensic awareness, cyber laws, artificial intelligence and the use of technology in courts, thereby equipping officers with tools necessary for modern judicial functioning.

The Academy undertook a comprehensive initiative to sensitize members of the State Judiciary to the provisions of the newly enacted criminal laws. Recognizing the significance of this legislative shift, the Academy systematically incorporated relevant provisions into its training curriculum across all formats-induction, orientation, special and refresher courses. Judicial Officers at various levels were acquainted with both substantive and procedural aspects of the new legal framework. Trainee officers have also been sent in batches to different institutions for training on new criminal laws.

With a view to signify Training-at-doorstep, E-Courts training (ECT_04) for Advocates and law Clerks at District and Sub-

Divisional Courts were rolled out in West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands with the assistance of the Master Trainers of the E-courts project to ensure successful implementation of the E-Courts Project and to help such stakeholders to use ICT tools like e-filing, e-payments, etc.

Our Academy had taken a unique initiative in sensitizing members of the State Judiciary about the provisions of the newly enacted criminal laws by publishing a Primer on New Criminal Laws. The Academy had been particular in incorporating a sessions on new criminal laws into its training curriculum across all formats-induction, orientation, special and refresher courses. Judges of varied ranks have also been nominated and sent in batches to different national institutions for training on various aspects of new criminal laws.

During this period, the Academy has been able to effectively clear the backlog of training programmes which had accumulated due to the administrative dislocation caused by emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and has been able to systematically regularise its training curriculum with the ongoing sessions.

The Academy is in the final stages of completing its building infrastructure, which includes the construction of a new

hostel rooms comprising 112 rooms spread across eight floors. Equipped with modern facilities and enhanced amenities, this development is aimed at supporting the Academy's growing academic and operational needs. The project is expected to be completed between February and April 2026. During the long (Puja) vacation, all 48 rooms of the existing trainee hostel were repaired, re-furnished and freshly painted.

PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY WBJA IN COLLABORATION WITH DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS FROM 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025

A. Induction Level Training Programme (in Physical Mode) :-

1. Induction Level Training Programme for District Judge (Entry Level) Officers [2022 Batch] from 29.07.2024 to 09.08.2024;
2. Induction Level Training Programme for newly appointed District Judge (Entry Level) Officers [Batch-2023] from 11.11.2024 to 26.11.2024;
3. Phase-II Induction Level Training Programme for Civil Judge (Junior Division) [2020 batch] from 09.12.2024 to 21.12.2024;
4. Phase-II Induction Level Training Programme for Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.) [2021 batch] from 24.03.2025 to 08.04.2025.

B. Orientation Training Programmes (in Physical Mode) :-

1. Orientation Programme for Additional District Judges (FTC) [2023 Batch] from 19.08.2024 to 31.08.2024;
2. Orientation Programme for Civil Judge (Sr. Division) from 09.09.2024 to 21.09.2024 at WBJA;
3. Orientation Programme for newly promoted Additional District Judges (FTC) [2024] from 09.06.2025 to 04.07.2025.

C. Refresher Course/Sensitization Programmes (in Physical Mode) :-

1. Refresher Course for Judicial Magistrates held from 24.07.2024 to 26.07.2024;
2. Refresher Course for Civil Judge (Junior Division) from 26.09.2024 to 28.09.2024;
3. Refresher Course for Civil Judge (Senior Division) from 03.10.2024 to 05.10.2024 at WBJA;
4. Refresher Course for CJM/ACJM from 20.03.2025 to 22.03.2025;
5. Refresher Course for Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.) from 28.04.2025 to 03.05.2025;
6. Refresher Course on Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 for Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Board and Penal Laws from 13.05.2025 to 16.05.2025;

7. Refresher Course on Criminal Laws for Judicial Magistrates of all ranks from 19.05.2025 to 23.05.2025.

D. Special Course (in Physical Mode) :-

1. Special Course on Juvenile Justice Act for Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Boards of West Bengal & Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 02.12.2024 & 03.12.2024;
2. Special Course on NDPS Act for the Presiding Officers of the NDPS Court on 17.01.2025 & 18.01.2025;
3. Special Course on POCSO Act for the Presiding Officers of the POCSO Court on 28.01.2025 & 29.01.2025;
4. Special Course on Family Laws for Additional District and Sessions Judges on 14.02.2025 & 15.02.2025;
5. Training Programme on Commercial Courts Act, 2015 for Presiding Officers of Commercial Court and Additional District & Sessions Judges from 28.02.2025 to 01.03.2025;
6. Training Programme on New Criminal Laws (NCLs) with emphasis on Electronic and Digital Evidence for Judicial Magistrates of all ranks from 22.04.2025 to 24.04.2025;
7. Special Course on Commercial Courts Act, 2015 for Presiding Officers of Commercial Court and Additional District & Sessions Judges from 19.06.2025 to 21.06.2025.

E. Refresher Course/Sensitization Programmes (in Online Mode) :-

1. Online Refresher Course on 'Power and Duties of Drawing and Disbursing Officer with special emphasis on The W.B. Treasury Rules & The West Bengal Financial Rules for Civil Judge (Jr. Divn.) on 11.07.2024 and 12.07.2024;
2. Online Training on 'Trial under The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881' for the Judicial Magistrates of all ranks on 15.07.2024 and 16.07.2024;
3. Two (2) batches of Online Training programmes on 'Civil Appeal' ADJ, ADJ (FTC) and Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) on 18.07.2024 and 19.07.2024 and on 17.01.2025;
4. Online Training Programme on "West Bengal Service Rules" for Judicial Officers of all ranks on 06.08.2024 and 07.08.2024;
5. Three(3) batches of Online Training Programmes on "Criminal Revision & Criminal Appeal" for ADJ and ADJ (FTC) held on 12.08.2024 and 13.08.2024, on 16.01.2025 and on 29.04.2025;
6. Online Training Programme on "Bengal Excise Act" for Judicial Magistrates of all ranks held on 14.08.2024;
7. Online Training Programme on "Law of Injunction" for Civil Judge (Senior Division) and Civil Judge (Junior Division) held on 17.08.2024;
8. Online Training Programme on 'Motivation" for Judicial Offices of all ranks held on 04.09.2024;
9. Online Training Programme on "Electronic Evidence" for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 05.09.2024;
10. Online Training Programme "Gender Justice and Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace" for the District Court staff and staff of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta held on 06.09.2024;
11. Online Training Programme on "Civil Rules & Orders" for Civil Judge (Senior Division)/Civil Judge (Junior Division) held on 07.09.2024;
12. Two(2) Online Training Programmes on Criminal Rules and Orders on 21.09.2024 and 16.11.2024 for Magistrates of all ranks;
13. Two(2) batches of Online training programmes on "WB Correctional Service" for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 23.09.2024 & 24.09.2024 and on 07.03.2025;
14. Online Sensitization Programme on "Trafficking of Women and Children" for Judicial Magistrates held on 25.09.2024;

15. Three (3) Online Training Programmes on "Law of Bail" for Magistrates of all ranks held on 26.09.2024, for ADJ & ADJ(FTC) held on 03.10.2024 and for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 28.03.2025;
 16. One Day Online Sensitization Programme on "Trafficking of Women and Children" for Judicial Magistrates held on 29.11.2024;
 17. Online Course on "Law of Injunction" for Civil Judges (Jr. Divn.) and Civil Judges (Sr. Divn.) held on 11.12.2024;
 18. Online Training on 'Civil Appeal' for ADJ, ADJ (FTC) and Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) held on 17.01.2025;
 19. Three(3) Online Discussions on "Civil Rules and Orders" for Civil Judges (Sr. Divn.) and Civil Judges (Jr. Divn.) held on 18.01.2025, 16.05.2025 and 25.05.2025;
 20. Online Refresher Course on "Electronic Evidence" for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 25.02.2025;
 21. Online Refresher Course on "Stress Management" for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 06.03.2025;
 22. Online Training on "Trial Under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881" for Judicial Magistrates of all ranks held on 24.03.2025;
 23. Online Discussion on "Law of Bail" for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 28.03.2025;
 24. Two(2) Online Trainings on "Law of Injunction" Civil Judges (Sr. Divn.) and Civil Judges (Jr. Divn.) held on 02.04.2025 and 21.05.2025;
 25. Online Training on "Bengal Excise Act" for Judicial Magistrates of all ranks held on 10.04.2025;
 26. Online Training Programme on "Law of Bail with special reference to the guidelines in i) Siddharth vs. State of UP & ii) Satender Kumar Antil vs. CBI and BNSS, 2023" for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 30.04.2025;
 27. Online Refresher Course on West Bengal Service Rules, DCRB, Dying in harness cases" for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 05.05.2025.
 28. Online Refresher Course on "Electronic Evidence" for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 27.06.2025;
 29. Online Refresher Course on "Time Management/Motivation" for Judicial Officers of all ranks held on 30.06.2025.
- F. Special programmes organised/ hosted by WBJA**
1. Transnational Crimes Pilot Workshop (Group-2) conducted by National Judicial Academy, India in collaboration with the Federal Judicial Center, Washington DC, USA and CEELI, Prague, Czechia on 20.07.2024 and 21.07.2024;

2. State Level Multi Stakeholders consultation on Protection of Children with Disabilities, 2024 held on 17.08.2024 at WBJA organized under the aegis of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by the Hon'ble Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court at Calcutta in collaboration with Department of Women & Child Development & Social Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal and UNICEF;
3. 40 Hours Mediation Training Programme conducted by Hon'ble Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court, Calcutta under the aegis of Hon'ble Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India in 5 phases from 24.08.2024 to 28.08.2024, 07.09.2024 to 11.09.2024, 03.10.2024 to 07.10.2024, 22.11.2024 to 26.11.2024 and from 18.12.2024 to 22.12.2024 at the West Bengal Judicial Academy;
4. One- day Workshop on 30.11.2024 titled "Ensuring Justice for children and alternatives to detention for children in conflict with law" in terms of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, organized and hosted by West Bengal Judicial Academy in partnership with UNICEF and Praajak;
5. Online Consultation on the topic "Empowering Judiciary through Women" on 08.03.2025 to mark the International Women's Day, 2025;
6. Exposure Tour to West Bengal Judicial Academy by Trainee Judicial Officers in Grade-III of Assam Judicial Service from 24.03.2025 to 29.03.2025;
7. One day seminar titled State Consultation on Diversion: Addressing and Redirecting Children in Conflict with Law organized by WBCPCR in collaboration with WBJA held on 17.05.2025.
8. 40 Hours Mediation Training Programme conducted by Hon'ble Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court, Calcutta under the aegis of Hon'ble Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India from 03.06.2025 to 07.06.2025 at WBJA.

Training & ICT outreach programmes through the State Judicial Academies under Supreme Court of India's e-Committee [2024-2025]

1. **Training code : ECT_04 (Additionally covered E-filing + E-Stamp payment + Bhasini - for Advocates and Advocate's Clerks**

Sl. No.	District Judgeship	Dates	Total Participants
1.	Purulia	28.01.2025, 29.01.2025, 30.01.2025	109
2.	Dakshin Dinajpur	28.01.2025, 29.01.2025, 30.01.2025, 31.01.2025	91
3.	Jhargram	30.01.2025, 31.01.2025	43

Sl. No.	District Judgeship	Dates	Total Participants
4.	Purba Bardhaman	06.02.2025, 07.02.2025, 10.02.2025, 11.02.2025	90
5.	City Sessions Court	29.01.2025, 30.01.2025, 31.01.2025, 01.02.2025	71
6.	Murshidabad	11.02.2025, 12.02.2025, 13.02.2025	98
7.	Bankura	27.01.2025, 28.01.2025, 29.01.2025, 30.01.2025	99
8.	Coochbehar	06.02.2025, 07.02.2025, 10.02.2025, 12.02.2025	89
9.	Darjeeling	07.02.2025, 10.02.2025	37
10.	South 24 Parganas	24.02.2025	18
11.	North 24 Parganas	12.02.2025, 21.02.2025	38
12.	PSC Court	19.02.2025, 20.02.2025	42
13.	Purba Medinipur	20.01.2025, 21.01.2025, 22.01.2025, 27.01.2025, 18.03.2025, 19.03.2025, 20.03.2025	450
14.	Paschim Bardhaman	20.02.2025, 21.02.2025	35
15.	Malda	05.03.2025, 06.03.2025, 07.03.2025, 10.03.2025, 11.03.2025, 12.03.2025	213
16.	Uttar Dinajpur	21.02.2025, 24.02.2025	49
17.	Kalimpong	03.03.2025, 04.03.2025	36

2. Training code: ECT_13 For Judicial Officers

- (a) Dates of the Training: 31.07.2024, 01.08.2024, 02.08.2024, 20.08.2024, 21.08.2024, 19.09.2024, 20.09.2024, 19.11.2024, 21.11.2024, 22.11.2024, 02.12.2024, 12.12.2024, 14.02.2025, 01.03.2025, 21.03.2025, 24.03.2025, 22.04.2025, 28.04.2025, 13.05.2025, 21.05.2025, 13.06.2025, 20.06.2025.

- (b) Total no. of judicial officers trained : 403

3. Training code: ECT_14 For Judicial Officers

- (a) Dates of the Training: 05.08.2024,

07.08.2024 29.08.2024, 12.09.2024, 12.11.2024, 02.12.2024, 10.12.2024, 11.12.2024, 17.01.2025, 28.01.2025, 14.02.2025, 28.02.2025, 20.03.2025, 27.03.2025, 24.04.2025, 28.04.2025, 14.05.2025, 22.05.2025, 16.06.2025, 20.06.2025.

- (b) Total no. of judicial officers trained : 418

4. Training code: ECT_16 & 17 For Judicial Officers

- (a) Dates of the Training: 04.04.2025, 18.06.2025

- (b) No. of officers trained : 44

STATUS OF ONGOING INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS AT THE ACADEMY

STATUS OF ONGOING WORKS UNDER BIDHANNAGAR EAST DIVISION P.W.D.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Name of Agency	Administrative approval number, date & amount	Tendered amount (Rs.)	Date of Commencement	Physical progress as on 01.07.2025	Remarks
1	Construction of Vertical extension of Hostel building from 4 th floor to 7 th floor (Structural and Sanitary & Plumbing works) within the campus of WBJA	Sayo San Construction	GO2324000836JD Dated 18.05.2023 Rs. 10,32,37,914/-	8,55,40,112/-	08.11.2023	60%	Work in Progress

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Name of Agency	Administrative approval number, date & amount	Tendered amount (Rs.)	Date of Commencement	Physical progress as on 01.07.2025	Remarks
2	Construction of proposed G+4 Storied Building for Director, Additional Directors Quarter and Guest House with G+5 storied foundation within the campus of WBJA	Gupta Engineering Enterprises	GO2324006256JD Dated 01.09.2023 Rs. 6,72,31,468/-	6,84,54,576/-	15.03.2024	40%	Work in Progress
3	Construction of Proposed G+4 Storied Auditorium Building with 300 capacities within the campus of WBJA	D.M.P. Nirman Private Limited	GO2324006255JD Dated 01.09.2023 Rs.31,57,63,652/-	26,59,09,440/-	12.02.2025	7%	Work in Progress
4	Emergent repair and refurbishment of the inside of all existing rooms of ground floor to 3rd floor of the Hostel Building in the campus of WBJA	Gupta Engineering Enterprises	GO2425025045JD Dated 01.10.2024 Rs.20,18,315/-	Rs.19,54,018/-	04.10.2024	100%	Work completed

STAFF STRENGTH

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Post Creation G.O.	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacant
1	Director	8772-J/JD/3H-10/04 dated 23.11.2005	1	1	-
2	Additional Director	8772-J/JD/3H-10/04 dated 23.11.2005	1	1	-
3	Administrative Officer	8772-J/JD/3H-10/04 dated 23.11.2005	1	1	-
4	Hand Hold Faculty	5458-J/JD/O/3H-01/12 dt. 04.09.2012	1	-	1 (vacant from October, 2015)
5	Accounts Officer	551-J/JD/O/5C-07/2010 dated 30.01.2012	1	1	-
6	Librarian	8730-J dt. 27.12.2011	1	-	1
7	Assistant Librarian	4360-J/JD/3H(IV)-28/10 dated 23.09.2013	1	-	1
8	Personal Assistant	8772-J/JD/3H-10/04 dated 23.11.2005	1	1	-
9	Accountant	8772-J/JD/3H-10/04 dated 23.11.2005	1	1	-
10	Clerk- cum- Typist	8772-J/JD/3H-10/04 dated 23.11.2005	1	1	-
11	Data-Entry- Operator	8772-J/JD/3H-10/04 dated 23.11.2005	1	1	-
12	Accounts Clerk	8772-J/JD/3H-10/04 dated 23.11.2005	1	1	-
13	Group-'D'	Two posts vide no. 8772-J/JD/3H-10/04 dated 23.11.2005 & five posts vide no. 8730-J dt. 27.12.2011	7	5	2

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPECIAL TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS



The Hon'ble Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, The Hon'ble The Chief Justice, The Hon'ble Justice Harish Tandon, The Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen in the State Level Multi Stake-Holder's Consultation on Protection of Children with Disabilities, 2024 held on 17.08.2024



The Hon'ble Justice Joymalya Bagchi, Judge, Supreme Court of India with Director, Additional Director, Administrative Officer of the WBJA along with the participants of the CEELI workshop on Transnational Crimes



Group photo of Exposure Tour of Assam Judicial Service, Gr-III from 24.03.2025 to 29.03.2025



Group photo of 40 hours Mediation Training Programme under the aegis of the MCPC, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India from 03.06.2025 to 07.06.2025



Group photo of Orientation Programme for ADJ (FTC) from 09.06.2025 to 04.07.2025



Group photo of Refresher Course Training Programme for Civil Judges (Junior Division) from 28.04.2025 to 03.05.2025



Group photo of Special Training Programme on Commercial Courts Act, 2015 from 19.06.2025 to 23.06.2025



Group photo of Refresher Course on Juvenile Justice Act and Penal Laws from 13.05.2025 to 16.05.2025



***The Hon'ble Justice Indira Banerjee,
Former Judge, Supreme Court of India
conducting a session on 28.02.2025***



***The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harish Tandon, Judge,
High Court at Calcutta delivering lecture
on 23.11.2024***



***The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Joymalya Bagchi,
Judge, High Court at Calcutta conducting
a session on 26.11.2024***



***The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tapan Kumar Dutt,
Former Judge, High Court at Calcutta
conducting a session on 01.08.2024***



**Dr. Dipa Dube, Associate Prof., IIT, Kharagpur
conducting a session through YouTube
streaming for staff of High Court and
District Court
on 06.09.2024**



**Ms. Ruchira Goswami, Asst. Prof.
& Centre Head, CCR, WBNUJS
addressing the Principal
Magistrates of JJB
on 03.12.2024**



**Sri Chittaranjan Das, IAS, Former Member,
Land Reforms & Tenancy Tribunal, WB
conducting a session
on 02.04.2025**



**Sri Subrata Biswas, IAS, Special Excise
Commissioner (Enforcement), Excise
Directorate, WB conducting a session on
15.05.2025**

ECT-04 TRAINING AT DOORSTEPS FOR ADVOCATES AND LAW CLERKS AT DISTRICT & SUB-DIVISIONAL COURT COMPLEXES



INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

UNDER THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013, HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of the High Court at Calcutta, designated as the "Committee for Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Office/Workplace," stands as a critical institutional safeguard for ensuring safety, dignity and equality for all women within the precincts of the High Court. Rooted in the ideals of gender justice, the Committee operates with the vision of fostering a workplace "where the mind is without fear and the head is held high."



Chaired by the seniormost Lady Judge of the High Court and comprising three Hon'ble Judges, three staff representatives (including one male member), and an external woman member from a reputed women's rights NGO, the Committee

reflects inclusivity and diversity. It is supported administratively by a Registrar appointed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice, ensuring smooth coordination and procedural compliance.

The ICC remains committed to a functioning model that prioritizes transparency, access, confidentiality, and procedural fairness. Essential information, including the POSH Act, Committee composition, contact details and relevant guidelines are available on the official website. A dedicated helpline and email facility further enhance access and prompt redressal.

The Committee has been diligently discharging its duties under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace



(Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, through structured procedures that uphold the principles of natural justice. Each complaint is dealt with sensitively, maintaining confidentiality, offering legal assistance when necessary and facilitating interim protective measures during inquiry. Proceedings are conducted with fairness and decorum, bearing in mind the dignity and psychological well-being of all parties.



Beyond adjudicatory responsibilities, the ICC has also undertaken awareness and capacity-building initiatives to instil a culture of gender sensitivity and constitutional morality. The Committee has proactively organized workshops and programmes to disseminate knowledge about the POSH Act and sensitize all stakeholders.

Key Initiatives and Programmes Undertaken:

In its continued commitment to fostering a safe and gender-sensitive workplace, the



High Court at Calcutta has organized a series of impactful sensitization programmes aimed at enhancing institutional awareness on the prevention of sexual harassment. The inaugural POSH Workshop was held in the month of November, 2024 and marked a significant milestone in this journey. Attended by court employees and members of the legal fraternity, the workshop laid the groundwork for a deeper understanding of the POSH Act and its





practical implications within the judicial setting. Building upon the success of this initiative, a second Gender Sensitization Workshop was conducted on 4th April, 2025, which witnessed overwhelming participation from over 600 court staffs and advocates. The event was inaugurated with an enlightening keynote address by the Hon'ble Chief Justice, who emphasized the spirit and legislative intent behind the enactment of the POSH Act. The Chairperson of the Internal Complaints Committee provided a comprehensive overview of the provisions of the Act,

focusing particularly on the mechanisms available for redressal of complaints. In an effort to engage participants meaningfully, the workshop incorporated creative and participatory formats such as dance drama and role play, which vividly depicted the themes of dignity, safety and accountability. Additionally, informative handouts and explanatory materials were distributed to all participants to reinforce the key takeaways of the sessions. Collectively, these programmes not only reaffirm the High Court's institutional dedication to gender justice but also seek to instil a culture of respect, sensitivity and proactive compliance within the judicial workforce.

District-Level Monitoring and Support:

The Internal Complaints Committee of the High Court at Calcutta has also undertaken the crucial responsibility of overseeing and supporting the functioning of ICCs constituted across the entire territorial jurisdiction of the High Court, encompassing all 23 districts of West Bengal and the 3 districts in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. These district-level committees serve as the primary institutional mechanism for the redressal of sexual harassment complaints at the local level. To ensure uniformity, accountability, and effectiveness, the High Court Committee consistently monitors their functioning by calling for periodic

reports and reviewing their activities. The objective is not merely to ensure compliance with the statutory mandate of the POSH Act but also to foster a gender-sensitive and secure work environment across the judiciary. To this end, all Learned District Judges have been expressly advised to organize regular sensitization workshops and awareness sessions for judicial officers and court staff. These initiatives are aimed at deepening understanding of the POSH framework, encouraging proactive compliance, and promoting a workplace ethos that is respectful, inclusive, and safe for women.

As a statutory body grounded in Constitutional values, the Internal Complaints Committee continues to serve not only as an adjudicatory mechanism but as an agent of cultural change. Through sensitization programmes, capacity building, and an unwavering commitment to dignity and justice, the High Court at Calcutta aspires to make gender equality an everyday institutional norm, not merely a statutory obligation. Justice, indeed, begins within.



SHAMPA SARKAR

Judge, High Court at Calcutta

&

Chairperson, Committee for
Prevention of Sexual Harassment of
Women in Office/Work place
in the High Court

**THE AGGRIEVED WOMAN MAY AVAIL OF THE
FOLLOWING MECHANISM
TO REGISTER/FILE COMPLAINT**

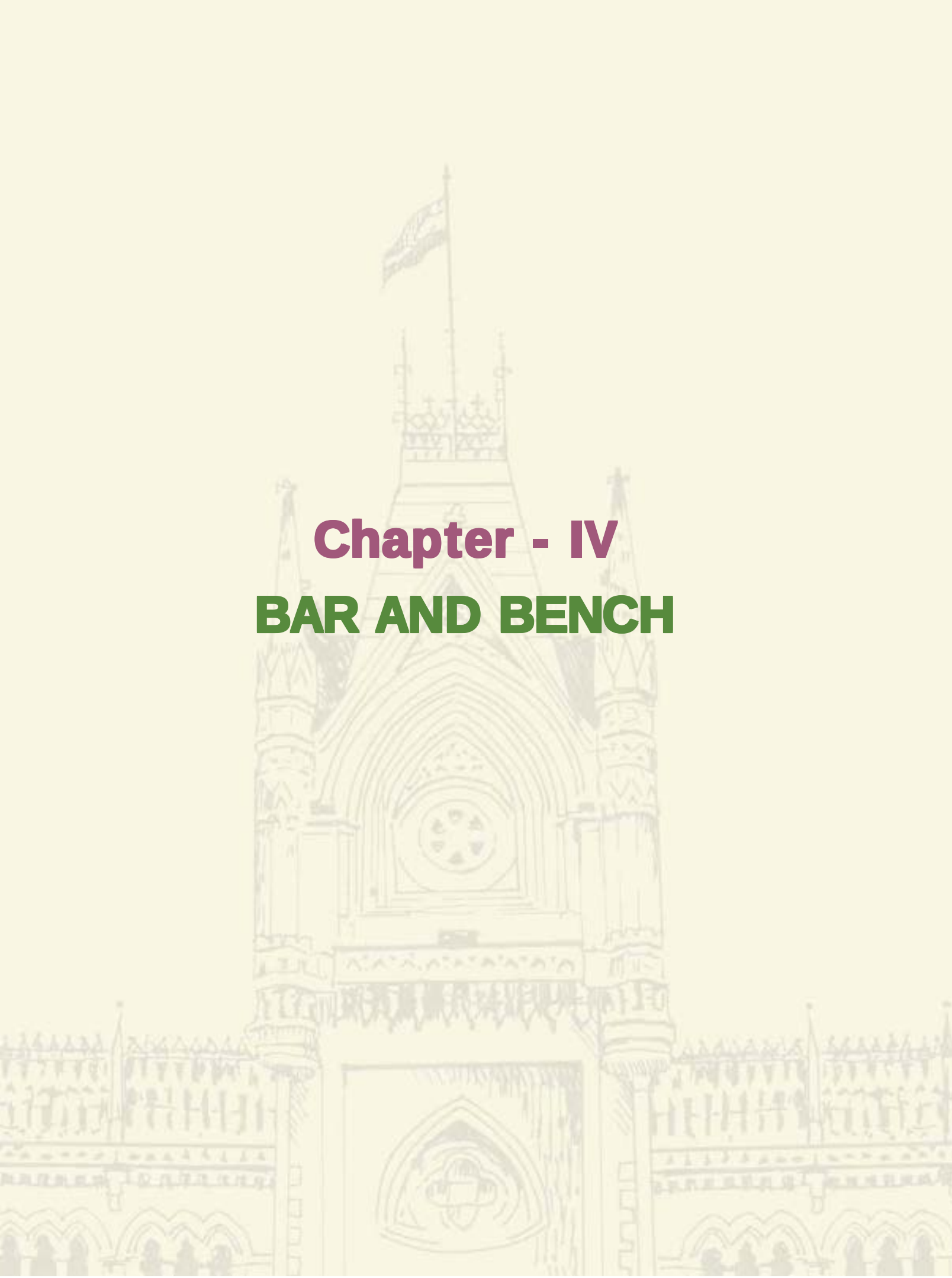
HELPLINE

(033) 2262 8070

calhc.iccposh@gmail.com

**Complaint box provided outside the office of
General & Establishment Section,
Appellate Side, Main Building,
High Court at Calcutta**

**Complaints can also be filed directly to the
Secretary, Juvenile Justice Secretariat, High Court,
Calcutta who is the Assisting Registrar**



Chapter - IV

BAR AND BENCH



OFFICE OF THE LEARNED ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

The legal matters pertaining to the Union of India in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta is headed by Shri Asok Kumar Chakrabarti, Learned Additional Solicitor General of India.



Shri Asok Kumar Chakrabarti

And

Two Deputy Solicitors General of India



Shri Dhiraj Trivedi, DSGI



Shri Rajdeep Majumdar, DSGI

The panel of counsel for the Union of India consists of 170 Sr. Counsel Gr.I Advocates, 175 Sr. Counsel Gr.II Advocates and 25 Jr. Counsel Advocates.

The Branch Secretariat, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, Kolkata is the concerned department receiving

petitions on behalf of Union of India which are filed before the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta. The said Branch Secretariat is also responsible for maintaining records pertaining to litigations concerning the Union of India. In terms of information received from the Ministry of Law &

Justice, Department of Legal Affairs, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata from 01/07/2024 to 30/06/2025, the total number of cases pertaining to the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta that has been processed is 3685.

The Branch Secretariat, Kolkata does not deal with matters pertaining to Revenue (Direct and Indirect Taxes, Central Excise etc.), Customs, Enforcement Directorate and these departments have their own panel of counsels. However, the learned Additional Solicitor General of India and the learned Deputy Solicitors General of India appear even in case of these departments on request to that effect being made on case specified by the departments. The CBI, ED and NIA do not come under the purview of the Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata. The Additional Solicitor General of India has overall supervision upon all cases filed against Government of India and/or Central

Agencies and give opinion on request to different departments on question of law.

There is one Deputy Solicitor General of India for the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench namely Shri Sudipto Mazumdar.



Shri Sudipto Mazumdar, DSGI

There are three senior panel counsel and eight Central Government Counsel of the Union of India for the Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri.

In so far as the Circuit Bench at Port Blair is concerned, there are three senior panel counsel and five Central Government counsel for the Union of India.



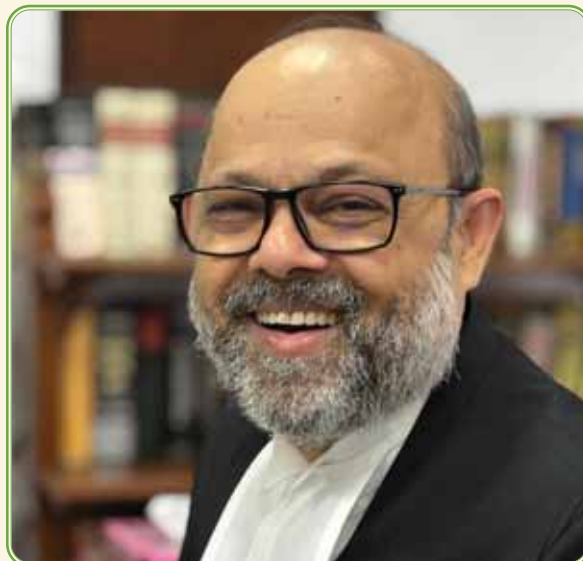
Chamber of the Ld. Additional Solicitor General

OFFICE OF THE LEARNED ADVOCATE GENERAL OF WEST BENGAL

The Advocate-General is considered to be the leader of the Bar. The office of the Advocate-General is older than the Calcutta High Court. We trace the history of the office of the Advocate-General of Bengal, present West Bengal, from the year 1774 with Charles Newman as the first Advocate-General. The Advocate-General was considered the senior law officer of the East India Company during the British rule. The Advocate-General, apart from being the senior law officer of the East India Company was also the Attorney-General of the Sovereign of Great Britain.

With the enactment of laws to administer India, The Government of India Act, 1935 provided for the office of the Advocate-General and the powers and functions of the Office. Finally, after independence, we received the supreme law of our country, the lengthiest one in the World. Its framers examined Constitutions of various countries of the world. They liberally borrowed appropriate provisions from Constitutions of many countries of the world and also the working of the Government of India Act, 1935 to make it a comprehensive document.

Article 76 of our Constitution established the office of the Attorney-General for India. Article 165 of our Constitution continued the office of the Advocate-General for the States. Our Constitution continued substantially the position of Advocate-



Shri Kishore Datta

General as it existed under The Government of India Act. Following the tradition, the role of the Advocate-General is to advise the State Government, perform duties referred or assigned by Governor and discharge functions conferred by Constitution and other laws. Several statutes confer statutory duties and responsibilities on the Advocate-General. He has the right to address the Legislature as well under article 177 of our Constitution.

The non-political nature of the office of the Advocate General is evident from the provisions of articles 165 and 177 of our Constitution.

In the State of West Bengal, the Advocate General is assigned with all legal matters pertaining to the State and to perform such other duties of the legal character in the

discharge of his functions conferred under the Constitution. For this purpose, he does not require any written engagement from the learned Legal Remembrancer. If he receives instructions from the Government, he is constitutionally empowered to appear in Court in any case to represent the State and make submissions before the Court.

Over my career I have observed the overarching traits in the best lawyers, many of whom later became Judges. I have been privileged to work with some of them, many of whom I watched from a distance. I have gazed in wonder their wisdom to see, ability to assess, in-depth legal knowledge, great communication skills, robust work ethic, interpersonal, and personal qualities to effectively represent their clients, use law as an ever-improving instrument for the betterment of society and uphold the values of legal profession.

While growing up in this profession, I have watched with surprise and astonishment the performance of doyens at the Bar. Doyens combine the best traits of the profession. Doyens are leaders of the Bar. Leader of the Bar is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way. Leader of the Bar is he who is capable of resolving a legal dispute, knowing how to resolve two legal rights in conflict, using legal stunts in service of justice, applying clever tricks which can affect legal outcomes, having knowledge in diverse topics apart from law, displaying wit and satire and above all enjoying confidence and dependence of the Bar. Leader of the

Bar is one on whom the members of the Bar and litigant public reposes faith. Senior Lawyers with exceptional qualities, who are the true leaders of the bar, have either declined or were never offered Judgeship or Advocate-Generalship.

The Bar is also enriched by legal luminaries, who are regarded as the mentors, especially for their commitment towards justice. Doyens are recognized through their long experience and leadership qualities. A luminary is someone famous and influential, who inspire through his achievements. Doyens are luminaries but all luminaries are not doyens. Luminaries are also regarded leaders of the Bar. Their contribution towards the Bar and field of law are also well recognized. Their position is highly respected from Bench as well.

Advocate-General enjoys a special position in the Bar and under the Advocates Act. The position and glamour of the Advocate-General in society fell for consideration before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, one of which needs mention. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Adi Pherozshah Gandhi v. H.M. Seervai*, Advocate General of Maharashtra reported in (1970) 2 SCC 484, speaking through Hon'ble Chief Justice M. Hidayatullah, while agreeing with Hon'ble Justice G. K. Mitter and Hon'ble Justice J. M. Shelat, held that The Advocates Act mentions the offices of the Advocates-General, the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General and the Additional Solicitor-General. The Act gives a right of pre-audience over other advocates to the

Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, the Additional Solicitor-General and the Advocate-General. The right of pre-audience gives them a standing for hearing of cases but does not confer on them any other rights. The magniloquent phrases such as Leader of the Bar, keeper of the conscience of the Bar have no meaning neither now, nor under the Bar Councils Act of 1926. They are just honorific titles given by courtesy but are not grounded on law. Indeed, the keepers of the conscience of the Bar are the Bar Councils and the Leader of the Bar may be someone who may even have refused to accept Advocate-Generalship. (Emphasis mine)

A leader of the Bar is not someone who is merely a holder of the prestigious post. He is someone who is a holder of integrity, a

man of principles, respected from all quarters of the society and the Bar. A leader of the Bar indicates someone who is looked up to as a guide and protector of laws. He may not necessarily be the highest law officer of the State or even the Country and may have refused to be so but remains the uncrowned Leader of the Bar for his contributions over a stretch of time.

A preconceived notion that the seniormost member of the Bar (considering the age) or the Advocate-General of the State is impliedly the Leader of the Bar, isn't necessarily correct. Professional stalwarts are to be regarded as Leaders of the Bar.

My respectful tribute to the true leaders of the Bar.



Chamber of the Ld. Advocate General

BAR ASSOCIATION, HIGH COURT, CALCUTTA

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

At present the Committee consisting of 15 members, namely Mr. Ashok Kumar Dhandhanian (Hony. President), Mr. Krishnendu Bhattacharya (Hony. Vice President), Mr. Sankar Prashad Dalapati (Hony. Secretary), Mr. Falguni Bandopadhyay (Hony. Asstt. Secretary), Mr. Dipanjan Datta (Hony. Asstt. Secretary), Mr. Soumik Ganguly (Hony. Treasurer) and the Committee members are Ms. Aishwarya Rajyashree, Ms. Paromita Pal, Ms. Pinki Sarkar, Ms. Reshma Chatterjee, Ms. Sharda Sha, Ms. Srijani Mukherjee, Ms. Sushmita Chatterjee, Ms. Shaila Afreen and Mr. Shibasish Banerjee.

It is the largest wings amongst the three wings of the Bar besides the biggest bar of the Country. The present Bar Association Committee has been obstinately undertaking following venerable performances towards serving their members :-

I. Bar Association Committee has been obliged and honoured to induct the Hon'ble Chief Justice T. S. Sivagnanam as "Special Member" of the Bar Association ;

II. Resolutely ensuring working hours for Court functioning from 10.30am to 4.30pm save and except intermittent condolence for departed members and thereby restricted the loss of working hours;

III. Extending medical expense assistance to large number of members who have feeble financial ability;

IV. Tenaciously introducing Group Health Insurance scheme for the benefit of the members at large;

V. Bar Association Committee has allotted lockers and table spaces to more than 300 (three hundred) new members;

VI. Bar Association Committee extends and conveys gratitude to High Court Administration for accommodating advocates irrespective of genders at Lounge facility on 6th floor of the Sesquicentenary building and on 1st floor of the Main Building for women;

VII. Bar Association Committee relentlessly keeping all washrooms and restrooms of three buildings of the High Court unsoiled and hygienic with the help of High Court Administration and also engaged more sweepers to clean toilets round the clock;

VIII. Bar Association Committee has been requesting High Powered Committee comprising of Hon'ble Judges to allot more washrooms for both female and male advocates to accommodate continual enhancing members;

IX. Bar Association Committee has been requesting High Powered Committee comprising of Hon'ble Judges to allot more Bar Rooms to accommodate continual enhancing members;

X. Following requests of the Bar Association Committee, High Powered Committee

comprising Hon'ble Judges have inspected and directed to sketch a modern canteen for the Bar Association members on first floor of the main building;

XI. Bar Association Committee is elated to comprehend fabulous relation between the Bench and the Bar;

XII. Bar Association Committee has been enthusiastically working on revising pay-scale of the Bar Association staffs for further enhanced administration of the bar;

XIII. Bar Association Committee has been contributing profoundly in celebrating various functions and programmes carried out by the High Court Administration;

XIV. Bar Association Committee has successfully circumscribed unwarranted political influence in the administration of the Hon'ble Court and hygienically cleaned all Bar Association rooms during Summer Vacation;

XV. Bar Association Committee has been conserving zero-tolerance on shady practices that used to hover around the Bar Association;

XVI. Bar Association Committee has been successfully bid grandiose farewell to Hon'ble Justice I.P. Mukherjee, Hon'ble Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Hon'ble Justice Harish Tandon on their Lordship's Transfer and elevation respectively;

XVII. Bar Association Committee has been cooperating with the High Court admini-

stration to remove the dead-weight for the improvement of the buildings of the Hon'ble High Court;

XVIII. Bar Association Committee has been obliged to announce fixation of cause-list to reasonable amount with the help of the High Court Administration and Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice of the State of West Bengal;

XIX. Bar Association Committee has been demanding before the Hon'ble President of India, before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of our High Court to appoint more Judges from the Bar for smooth functioning of the Court;

XX. Bar Association Committee has been relentlessly organising free heart check-up and free eye check-up camp;

XXI. Bar Association Committee has been consistently thriving to enhance parking facilities, maintaining bar rooms and sanitisation system for the betterment of its almost 14500 members;

XXII. Bar Association committee have purchased huge number of books for its members and thereby enriched the libraries.

Last but not the least I extend my gratitude and thanks to the staffs of the Bar Association, without their help it would be impossible for us to run the organization smoothly.

BAR LIBRARY CLUB, HIGH COURT, CALCUTTA

Established on 15th June, 1825, the Bar Library Club is nearly two centuries old and is widely regarded as the oldest Law Bar in all of Asia. Its foundation predates the establishment of the Calcutta High Court (1862) by thirty-seven years and came fifty years after the creation of the Supreme Court at Calcutta (22nd October, 1774).

The Club owes its inception to Mr. Longueville Clarke, a distinguished Barrister practising before the Supreme Court at Calcutta. He served as the Treasurer of the Club from its founding until 1840 and subsequently as its Secretary until 1862. His vision and commitment laid the groundwork for what would become a cornerstone of legal scholarship and professional fellowship in the region.

In its formative years, the Hon'ble Justice Buller graciously allotted a room in the Court House for use by the Club members, while Registrar James Weir Hogg contributed his entire collection of legal books at a special concession—marking a significant moment in the growth of the Club's library resources.

Initially formed with 16 European members, including 10 Barristers, the Club saw its strength rise to 240 members by 1925. In 1975, the Club adopted its first

set of written Rules, which have since evolved into the present Constitution, adopted in 2015.

Today, the Bar Library Club continues to thrive as a vibrant intellectual and professional hub within the High Court at Calcutta, with more than 400 members- a testament to its enduring legacy and relevance in the legal fraternity.

a. Office bearers:-

President- Mr. Sudipto Sarkar, Senior Advocate

Vice President- Mr. Utpal Bose, Senior Advocate

Secretary- Mr. Sabyasachi Choudhury, Senior Advocate

Treasurer- Mr. Anindya Basu, Advocate

Executive Committee Members-

1. Mr. Anubhav Sinha, Advocate
2. Ms. Suchishmita Ghosh, Advocate
3. Ms. Sananda Mukhopadhyay, Advocate

b. Strength of the Bar:-

Approximately 403.

c. Infrastructural developments:-

As the Bar Library Club celebrates its momentous 200th year, the Committee has undertaken a series of restoration and upgradation initiatives aimed at preserving

its legacy while enhancing its functionality for the future. These include:

- Restoration and upkeep of the library infrastructure;
- Rebinding and preservation of important journals and legal volumes;
- Installation of new display boards for convenience of the members to follow the court proceedings; and
- Internal refurbishment of existing spaces to create a more conducive and efficient working environment.

These efforts reflect our continued commitment to honouring the past while preparing the Bar Library for the demands of the generations to come.

The Bar Library currently occupies three rooms on the first floor and one room on the second floor of the High Court Main Building. Additionally, a canteen, popularly known as "Cherchen," situated adjacent to Court No. 8, is run exclusively by the Bar, catering to all.

With the ever-increasing strength of its members and the growing demands of the Bar, there is an urgent and pressing need for expansion. In particular, provision must be made for:

1. An additional room to accommodate seating and workspace for members; and
2. A new ladies' washroom, exclusively for members, to meet the basic

infrastructural and hygienic needs of our female practitioners.

3. Wi-fi connectivity in all the rooms.

d. Beyond the Courtroom: Life at The Bar Library Club :-

The Bar Library Club is not only a distinguished hub of legal professionals who have enriched the institution with their knowledge, dedication and legacy over the years, but also a vibrant community that fosters camaraderie, tradition and continuity.

Each year, the Club hosts its much-anticipated Annual Cricket Festival and Sports Day, inviting participation from members and their families-celebrating fellowship, teamwork and spirited competition. The Traditional Bar Dinner, a cherished event, continues to uphold the values of collegiality, offering a space for senior and junior members to interact and build lasting bonds.

In recent years, the Bar Library has also introduced a monthly programme titled "Reflections", where senior members share their professional journeys, personal anecdotes, and insights from the Bar and Bench. These sessions are being digitised and archived to preserve the collective memory of the institution for future generations.

To reach a wider audience and maintain a lasting digital footprint, the Club has also launched its official YouTube channel, where recordings of "Reflections" and other significant events are regularly uploaded.

These initiatives reflect the Club's commitment not just to legal excellence, but also to community, heritage and mentorship-ensuring that the spirit of the Bar Library thrives both within and beyond the courtroom.

We trust this will serve to highlight the vibrant legacy and continued contributions of the Bar Library Club, both in professional excellence and community engagement.



INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY, HIGH COURT, CALCUTTA



Highlights of Achievements

Court Operations and Infrastructure

- 1. Interlocutory Court in Court Room 38:** Successfully communicated and interacted with the concerned authority, resulting in the approval by the Hon'ble Chief Justice for the functioning of the Interlocutory Court in Court Room 38, as per Reference No. 3417-R-Admn. dated 5th April, 2024.
- 2. Reallocation of Court Room 39:** Collaborated with two wings of the Bar to secure the reallocation of Court Room 39 for the functioning of the

Interlocutory Court, Non-Commercial Division, which was accepted via letter dated 24th April, 2025.

Facilities for Members

- 1. Furnishing of Rooms 3 and 4:** Ensured the furnishing and operationalisation of rooms 3 and 4 on the 2nd floor of the Sesquicentenary Building for the use of members.

High Court Administration

- 1. Fixing of Working Days:** Actively participated with the High Court Administration and the Administrative

Committee in determining the number of working days for the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court.

2. **Safety and Security:** Contributed to the Committee concerning the monitoring of safety and security of the Hon'ble High Court, particularly regarding vehicle parking.

Intellectual Property Rights

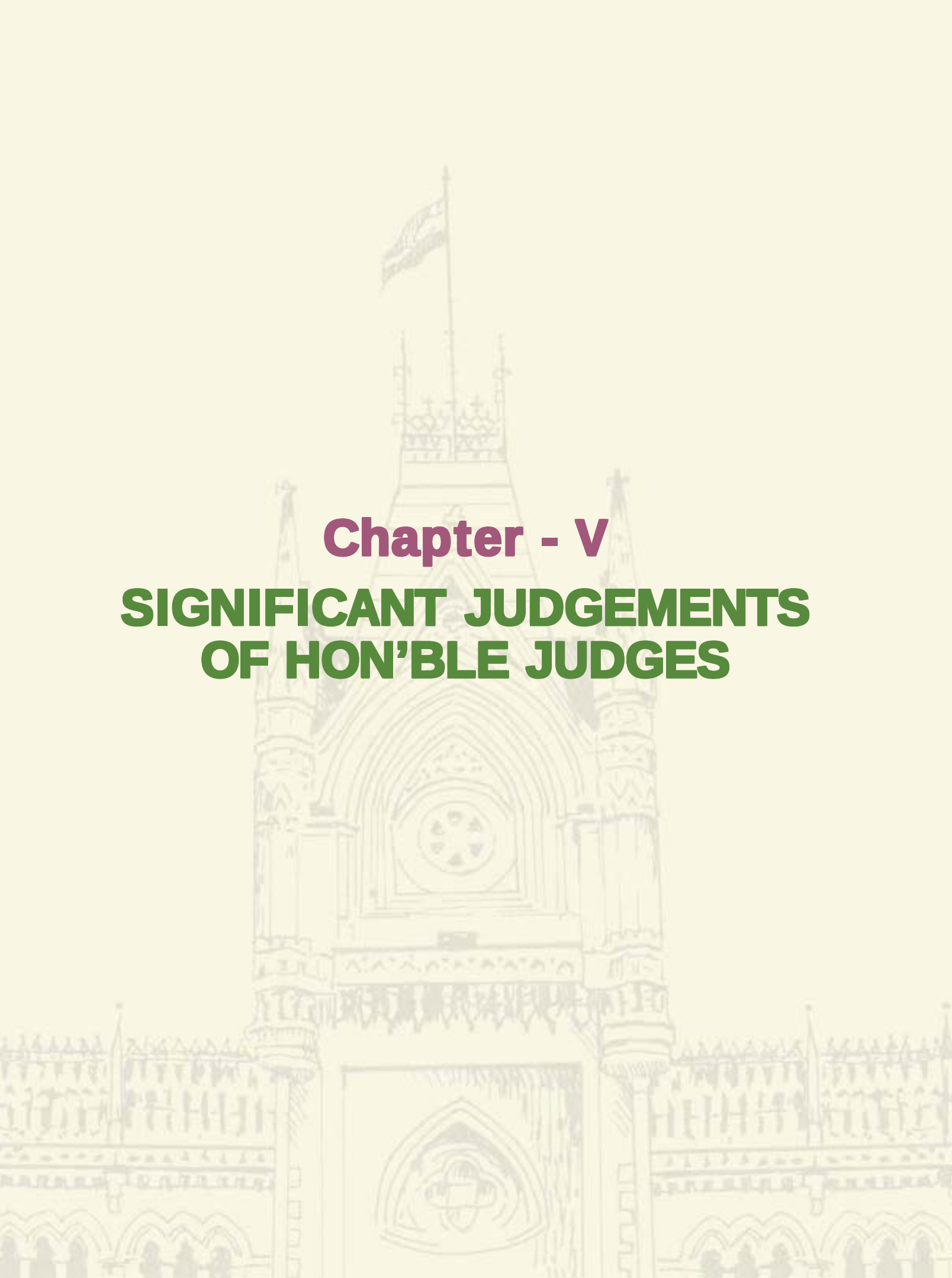
1. **Dedicated Department for IPRD :** Collaborated with two wings of the Bar to secure a dedicated department under Intellectual Property Rights Division, as communicated on 30th September, 2024.
2. **Separate Department for IPD and IPRAD:** Pursued the setting up of a separate department for Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) and Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Division (IPRAD) matters, as represented on 2nd December, 2024.

Other Initiatives

1. **Probate Signing:** Addressed delays in signing the grant of probate through

communication with the concerned authority.

2. **Departmental Works:** Represented difficulties of members in various departmental works on 6th February 2025.
3. **Bench Strength and Allocation:** Collaborated with Bar Library Club to address the lack of sufficient benches on the Original Side and allocation of additional criminal matters to the Hon'ble Judges, as represented on 12th February, 2025.
4. **Felicitation:** Felicitated Justice Joymalya Bagchi on his elevation as Supreme Court Judge on 12th March, 2025.
5. **Optional Wearing of Gowns :** Requested the concerned authority to make wearing gowns optional due to increasing heat and humidity, as represented on 11th April, 2025, which was allowed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice till the end of the Summer Vacation.



Chapter - V

SIGNIFICANT JUDGEMENTS OF HON'BLE JUDGES



HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE T.S. SIVAGNANAM**M/S. HOOGHLY BUILDING AND INVESTMENT
COMPANY LIMITED AND ANOTHER****VS.****THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL AND OTHERS****CORAM - JUSTICE T.S. SIVAGNANAM AND
JUSTICE HIRANMAY BHATTACHARYYA****CITATION: [MANU/WB/1452/2024]**

The above judgment revolves around a property dispute related to Waqf properties. A Mutawalli (trustee) cannot enter into a lease agreement for Waqf property without prior approval from the Waqf Board. The Hon'ble High Court emphasized the importance of obtaining prior approval from the Waqf Board for any lease agreements related to Waqf properties. The Court referred to several previous judgments, including **Board of Waqf West Bengal Versus Anis Fatma Begum, Rashid Wali Beg Versus Farid Pindari and others** etc.

The judgment highlights the importance of understanding the legal framework governing Waqf properties and the limitations on managing these assets. The ruling emphasizes the need for prior approval from the Waqf Board for lease agreements related to Waqf properties, ensuring accountability and transparency in their management. Thus, the Court by dismissing the appeal did not interfere with the order passed by the Learned Single Bench, which held that once a property is designated as Waqf, it retains this status indefinitely.

JUSTICE I.P. MUKERJI***SHRISTI INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
VS.******SARGA HOTEL PRIVATE LIMITED & ANR.*****PRESENT - JUSTICE I.P. MUKERJI AND JUSTICE BISWAROOP CHOWDHURY*****CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 7817***

Interpretation of the nature, scope and effect of Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 relating to "pre-institution, mediation and settlement" of suits and Section 13 thereof dealing with appealability of orders passed by the Commercial Court are the subject-matters of this judgment.

The appellant filed a commercial suit without undergoing pre-litigation mediation, seeking interim relief. The defendants/respondents having filed a caveat, were notified. The respondents/defendants then filed an application to reject the plaint under Order 7 Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code. The court below rejected the plaint, finding that no urgent interim relief was contemplated in the suit.

On appeal, interpreting the expression "contemplating urgent interim relief", the court was of the view that the cause of action to seek an urgent relief may not have arisen at the time of institution of the suit but could likely arise after its institution. Hence, there may not be any averment in the plaint in that regard. Yet, the plaintiff could contemplate a situation for obtaining urgent reliefs in the future. Therefore, not only the plaint but any declaration by the plaintiff in that regard ought to be considered by the court under Section 12A. Unless frivolous or mala fide or wholly erroneous, the plaintiff's assertion should not be lightly taken by the court and accepted by it.

Regarding appealability of a decree passed by the Commercial Courts, the court held that use of the words judgment and order in Section 13(1) of the said Act had to be reasonably interpreted. The proviso to sub-section (1A) of Section 13 specifies the orders from which an appeal lies. If judgment in Section 13(1) is held to refer to orders in the form of judgment, then in that case, all orders written in judgment form would become appealable making the said proviso redundant or otiose. Use of the words judgment and order in the said section together with the provision of Section 13(2) thereof "no appeal shall lie from any order or decree.... otherwise than in accordance with this Act" and headnote or title to Section 13 referring to decree leads to the inference that reference to judgment in sub-section (1) of Section 13 can only mean judgment which results in a decree.

Hence, rejection of plaint which is deemed to be decreed by the court below in the instant suit was an appealable decree under Section 13 of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.

JUSTICE HARISH TANDON**X -VS- Y & ORS.****PRESENT - JUSTICE HARISH TANDON AND JUSTICE PRASENJIT BISWAS****CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 11896**

The core issue in this appeal is whether the LCC was justified in dismissing a complaint of sexual harassment on the ground of limitation at the preliminary stage, without fully considering the composite definition of "sexual harassment" which includes a "series of incidents" as contemplated under the POSH Act. The Court found no credible evidence to support the claims and upheld the LCC's decision to dismiss the complaint, citing the time limitations outlined in the POSH Act and emphasized the role of due process, evidence in workplace harassment cases, the critical need for timely and credible complaints to preserve the integrity of both the individuals and the institution for both the legal and academic communities, highlighting the delicate balance between justice, accountability, and procedural fairness in cases of harassment at workplace.

The time limit put forth in the statutory provisions may act harshly upon the seeker of justice but the moment it is so incorporated, it partakes the character of the law and is to be accepted. In this regard, the legal maxim *dura lex sed lex* can be gainfully applied meaning thereby that the law is hard but it is the law. This ruling underscores the importance of procedural fairness in handling sexual harassment complaints. It emphasizes the need for timely reporting and substantiated claims under the POSH Act, ensuring that such legal protections are not misused for other grievances. The judgment also reinforces the necessity of integrity in administrative processes within academic institutions, balancing the rights of complainants with the need for a fair and impartial investigation.

JUSTICE SOUMEN SEN**FACTION CO. LTD.****VS.****CHARTERERS PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE VESSEL M.T. BD****CORAM - JUSTICE SOUMEN SEN AND JUSTICE BISWAROOP CHOWDHURY****CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 11347**

In this case the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court observed that the arrest of a vessel is an action in rem. The essence of the action in rem in procedure is that 'res' itself becomes, as one might say, the defendant, and ultimately the 'res' the ship may be arrested by legal process and sold by the Court to meet the plaintiff's claim.

The jurisdiction to entertain claims for possession is derived from the inherent jurisdiction of the admiralty court to take ships or vessels out of the hands of wrongdoers and restore them to the owners and to dispossess masters who ought to be removed

and to decide any question of title relating to the subject matter of claims for possession. When the owner allowed the charterer to have possession and control of the ship (or res), the liability of the charterer, which is often described as charter by demise or bareboat charter would suffice for the purpose of an action in rem.

The purpose of the arrest is to acquire jurisdiction, to obtain security for satisfaction of the claim when decreed, and to put pressure on the owner, charterer or other person responsible to appear and answer for the claim.

Mareva injunction is often invoked in admiralty matters when there is a strong prima facie case as opposed to a mere prima facie case that the plaintiff is entitled to damages and there is a real risk of the judgment in favour of the plaintiff being rendered otiose or frustrated. The order of the court is not to seize any asset, as in the case of the attachment before judgment by the common-law or equity courts, but to restrain the owner or person/entity in possession from dealing with the asset or assets in certain ways.

JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

KRISHNA PRADHAN @ TANKA

VS.

STATE OF WEST BENGAL

PRESENT - JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 2083

Krishna Pradhan was convicted of murder.

While one judge proposed acquittal, another judge upheld the conviction. Matter was proposed to third Judge under Section 392 CrPC.

Third Judge held certificate under Section 65-B of Evidence Act was not properly proved and no question was put to witness regarding identification of stolen articles (identified in TI parade).

In these circumstances Court analysed the following -

1. *Power of the Referring Judge under Section 392 CrPC* - The Referring Judge is not bound even by that part of the judgement where two judges constituting the Division Bench agreed and can examine the whole case independently.
2. *Admissibility of Section 65-B Certificate* - A police officer who had requisitioned the computer outputs, i.e., CDRs/CAFs from the service provider was not the competent authority as per law.
3. *Non-Examination of Vital Witnesses regarding identification of stolen property: Whether fatal?* - Omission or failure of prosecution to put question to the witness regarding identification of stolen article though material omissions do not constitute inherent lacunae in the prosecution case.
4. *Remissness of the Prosecutor/Trial Court: Whether curable?* - Remissness/omission may be cured by directing additional evidence under Section 391 CrPC.

Accordingly, the case was remanded for additional evidence for an effective adjudication.

JUSTICE TAPABRATA CHAKRABORTY**RAJIB BRAHMA & ORS****VS.****STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS****CORAM - JUSTICE TAPABRATA CHAKRABORTY AND
JUSTICE PARTHA SARATHI CHATTERJEE****CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 7948**

These appeals arose from the selection process under the 1st State Level Selection Test (SLST), 2016 for Assistant Teachers in Upper Primary schools. The original process was quashed in 2020 due to irregularities, with fresh steps initiated from Rule 12(2) of the 2016 Rules. The revised process drew objections over reserved category migration, scanned OMR-based re-evaluation of TET scores, and non-compliance in category-wise interview lists. The Division Bench held that the Commission lacked authority to conduct post-interview re-verification and set aside such actions. It directed publication of the final merit list for 14,052 eligible candidates and completion of appointments within a fixed time-frame, ensuring procedural fairness and securing children's uninterrupted right to education.

JUSTICE ARIJIT BANERJEE**CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND OTHERS****VS.****CRICKET ASSOCIATION OF BENGAL AND OTHERS****CORAM - JUSTICE ARIJIT BANERJEE AND JUSTICE KAUSIK CHANDA****CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 4970**

The Wills World Cup cricket tournament of 1996 was held in India. The inaugural ceremony was held on February 11, 1996 at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata. A semi-final match of the tournament was held there on March 13, 1996. Certain advertisements had been put up both inside and outside the Eden Gardens Stadium on those dates. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) raised a demand on Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) on account of advertisement tax for the aforesaid two days by invoking Section 204 of the KMC Act, 1980 (before its amendment in 2019), which was challenged by CAB by filling a writ petition. One of the contentions of CAB was that as the interior of the Eden Gardens Stadium is not a public place, Section 204 of the KMC Act is not attracted. The learned single judge upheld such argument and also other arguments including breach of principles of natural justice.

The Division Bench upheld the order of learned single judge. The Bench noticed that the phrase 'Public Place' is defined neither in the KMC Act nor in the General Clauses Act, 1897. Therefore, the phrase must be given its natural meaning. It must mean a place which is open to the public at large. Any member of the public must have access

to that place without any restriction. Nobody's permission should be required for visiting such a place. As soon as conditions are imposed for entering a particular place by an authority having such power, the place ceases to be a public place. A public place must be accessible to an indeterminate number of people without any hindrance or condition, for example the Maidan or the river side in Kolkata. The bench, referring to legal precedents, observed that it is not the dimension of a place or the number of people that visit a particular place that would determine the nature of a place as 'private or public'. The only criterion must be whether or not the members of the public have an unrestricted right of access to that place. Applying that test, the Bench held that the Eden Gardens Stadium is not a public place.

JUSTICE DEBANGSU BASAK

STATE OF WEST BENGAL.

VS.

PEPSICO INDIA HOLDINGS (P) LTD.,

CORAM - JUSTICE DEBANGSU BASAK AND JUSTICE MD. SHABBAR RASHIDI

CITATION: (2025) 141 GSTR 703

Vires of the amendments introduced to the West Bengal Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas Act, 2012 by the West Bengal Finance Act, 2017 was assailed inter alia on the ground of the same being discriminatory. Issue as to whether the West Bengal Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas Act, 2012 being in force on the date of its amendment in view of the judgment and order dated June 24, 2013 of the learned Single Judge of this Hon'ble Court was also raised. The validity of the amendments introduced to the West Bengal Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas Act, 2012 was upheld. The amendments introduced were held not to be discriminatory and that the Act of 2012 to be in force in view of the stay granted by the High Court by the Judgment and order of the learned Single Judge dated June 24, 2013 and subsequently by the Division Bench.

JUSTICE MADHURESH PRASAD

NRS AGRO PVT. LTD.

VS.

BHAGIRATHI CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD. AND OTHERS

CORAM - JUSTICE MADHURESH PRASAD AND

JUSTICE PARTHA SARATHI CHATTERJEE

CITATION: 2024(4) CHN (CAL) 402

The Division Bench dismissed an appeal filed by NRS Agro Pvt. Ltd. against the rejection of its writ petition challenging the award of a milk packaging contract by Bhagirathi Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd. to a third party. The appellant argued that the co-operative society was discharging a public function and therefore subject to writ

jurisdiction. However, the Court found that the society operated independently under its own bye-laws, was not created by statute, received no government aid, and had no government control in its functioning. These facts were confirmed by a report from the District Magistrate, which stated that the State only provided financial guidance without exercising any administrative control. The Court held that the society did not perform any public duty and thus was not amenable to writ jurisdiction under Article 226. Finding no constitutional or legal infirmity in the single bench's reasoning, the appeal and all pending applications were dismissed.

JUSTICE RAJASEKHAR MANTHA

TATA STEEL LIMITED
VS.

THE OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE OCEAN
VESSEL ESPERANZA - III

CORAM - JUSTICE RAJASEKHAR MANTHA AND JUSTICE AJAY KUMAR GUPTA

CITATION: MANU/WB/0956/2025

The Court upheld the carrier's entitlement to Rs. 68.42 lakhs in detention charges under clauses 11 and 12 of the Bill of lading for delays caused by a river pilot strike at Kolkata Port in 1996. It was held that a formal counterclaim was unnecessary in admiralty proceedings where the defendant's claim arises from the plaintiff's suit itself and held the counterclaim to be within limitation. It was further found that the plaintiff unjustly enriched itself by taking delivery of the cargo through interim orders, while abandoning its claim without leading evidence. The Court directed encashment of the bank guarantee and awarded interest at 11% per annum from 1996, applying the principles of restitution under section 144 of CPC and reaffirming the carrier's maritime lien rights.

JUSTICE SABYASACHI BHATTACHARYYA

JAYASHREE ELECTROMECH PRIVATE LIMITED
VS

THE WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
PRESENT - JUSTICE SABYASACHI BHATTACHARYYA

CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 8730

Jayashree Electromech Pvt. Ltd. filed a petition under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, seeking arbitration regarding disputes under six contracts awarded by WBSETCL for transformer-related works. Disputes arose concerning GST-based price enhancement and waiver of liquidated damages. Despite repeated representations and pending writs, no amicable resolution was reached. The petitioner's

unilateral appointment of an Adjudicator was invalidated, leading to an application for appointment of an arbitral tribunal. The Court noted a clear concession made earlier by WBSETCL agreeing to arbitration under Clause 6.2.3. It held that pre-arbitral procedures like adjudication or negotiation can be mutually waived off and cannot be insisted upon after such concession. Relying on precedents like Demerara Distilleries Private Limited and another v. Demerara Distillers Limited, reported at (2015) 13 SCC 610, the Court held that forcing parties to restart the process would be an "empty formality." A three-member arbitral tribunal was constituted, with arbitrators nominated by both parties. All issues, including clubbing of disputes from different contracts, were left open for the tribunal to decide. The pending writ was to be withdrawn as per the petitioner's undertaking.

JUSTICE RAJARSHI BHARADWAJ

***NCLT ADVOCATES BAR ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS
VS.***

UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS,

CORAM - JUSTICE RAJARSHI BHARADWAJ AND JUSTICE APURBA SINHA RAY

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 4271

In this case, the Hon'ble High Court addressed an appeal challenging the Learned Single Judge's order that had directed authorities to provide improved facilities to the NCLT Advocates Bar Association, Kolkata Bench and examined the broader issue of relocating the tribunal to Corporate Bhawan. The appellant association argued that the relocation compromised the independence of the judiciary and violated the doctrine of separation of powers, citing key Supreme Court judgments to support their position. However, the respondents maintained that the petitioners had not established any violation of fundamental rights and that such administrative matters, including the location and infrastructure of tribunals, fall squarely within the executive's policy domain.

The High Court, after considering the submissions and relevant precedents, held that decisions regarding tribunal infrastructure and location are primarily matters of administrative discretion and policy, not subject to judicial intervention unless there is clear evidence of arbitrariness, illegality or violation of statutory or constitutional rights. The Court emphasized the importance of judicial restraint and the separation of powers, noting that the judiciary should not interfere in executive decisions unless absolutely necessary. Observing that the new premises provided improved facilities and that the association, being a voluntary body, had no statutory right to demand specific arrangements, the Court found no malafide or arbitrariness in the executive's

decision. Consequently, the appeal was dismissed, however the Court encouraged the authorities to consider, when feasible, relocating the NCLT to a more independent and suitable location in the future. This judgment reaffirmed the principle that the judiciary must respect institutional boundaries and exercise restraint in matters of administrative policy.

JUSTICE SHAMPA SARKAR

WPA 12782 OF 2013

NAWDA THANA FERRY SERVICE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

VS

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS. WITH

WPA 9316 OF 2022

MURSHIDABAD PATNI COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

VS

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

PRESENT - JUSTICE SHAMPA SARKAR

CITATION: MANU/WB/0197/2025

The core legal issue before the Court was whether ferry ghats under control of the Nawda Panchayat Samiti must be settled only with local boatmen's cooperatives (under Rule 281(iii) of the Land & Land Reforms Manual, 1991), or whether the Panchayat Samiti can lawfully opt for open e-auctions.

Upon considering every possible facet involved in this case the Court has decided that Panchayat Samitis are not bound by manuals prepared by the executive, such as the Land Reforms Manual, if this conflicts with the constitutional or statutory powers vested in them. Through the judgment the court reinforces the spirit of decentralization introduced by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, affirming the autonomy and decision-making authority of Panchayati Raj institutions. While recognizing the importance of affirmative action for marginalized communities, the Court firmly held that public interest, transparency, and competitive fairness must guide the management of public assets. This approach ensures revenue maximization for local governments and prevents monopolistic control by a single entity under the pretext of social protection. Ultimately, the judgment promotes equality and fair play by enabling broader participation of eligible cooperatives and individuals in public resource allocation.

On the basis of the delineations made in the judgment, the Court rejected claims of permanent entitlement by a single cooperative and ruled in favor of open, competitive, and decentralized management of local assets. It harmonizes social justice with accountable governance, a significant boost for federalism, transparency, and the rule of law.

JUSTICE RAVI KRISHAN KAPUR

***TATA STEEL LIMITED (HOOGHLY MET COKE DIVISION) HALDIA CONTRACTORS'
MAZDOOR SANGH AND ANOTHER***

VS.

STATE OF WEST BENGAL AND ORS.

PRESENT - JUSTICE RAVI KRISHAN KAPUR

CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 10487

The challenge in this writ petition was against a notification dated 27th June 2022, issued by the State of West Bengal aiming to streamline the recruitment process in the industrial establishment by appointing Employment Committees. The notification was quashed and held to be excessively manifestly arbitrary. The impugned notification was also held to be an unreasonable interference with the right to carry on business under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution and also violative of Article 14 of the Constitution. It was also held that the notification would ultimately strangle private industries by achieving pervasive control over their recruitment process. There was also no legislative authorization for issuance of the impugned notification and the rights of industry could not be regulated or controlled in such a circuitous manner by the State.

JUSTICE ARINDAM MUKHERJEE

AISHWARIYA RAJYA RAI & ORS

VS.

***THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT CALCUTTA SERVICES
THROUGH THE LEARNED REGISTRAR GENERAL & ORS***

PRESENT - JUSTICE ARINDAM MUKHERJEE

CITATION: MANU/WB/0660/2025

In this case, the court has dismissed a writ petition challenging the selection process of the West Bengal Judicial Service Examination, 2022. The petitioners, who had participated in the examination and were included in the merit list, alleged that the advertisement dated 30th December 2022 did not disclose the actual number of vacancies. They claimed that RTI replies indicated 23 or 28 clear vacancies existed as of 31st December 2022, whereas only 12 clear and 17 anticipated vacancies were advertised. The Court held that the vacancies were correctly notified by January 2022 in accordance with the Supreme Court's directions in *Malik Mazhar Sultan* and that any vacancies arising thereafter were future vacancies, which were not required to be

included in the 2022 selection. The Court found no illegality in the process and rejected the argument that the petitioners' rights were infringed. Consequently, the writ petition was dismissed, the interim order was vacated, and the authorities were permitted to proceed with appointments as per the recommendation list dated 14th May 2024.

JUSTICE BISWAJIT BASU

HIRA DEVI JAIN

VS.

PRITEPAL SINGH

PRESENT - JUSTICE BISWAJIT BASU

CITATION: AIR ONLINE 2024 CAL 1638

The defendant in a suit for ejectment is the petitioner of the revisional application. By the order impugned, the Trial Judge had rejected the application of the petitioner under Section 7(1) of the West Bengal Premises Tenancy Act, 1997 on the ground that it was filed four days beyond the prescribed period of limitation. The issue before this Court was whether the Trial Judge had acted with material irregularity in objecting to the said application of the petitioner on the ground of limitation.

Learned advocate for the petitioner submits that summons was served to his client on April 24, 2018, as such, in terms of the provision of Section 7(1) of the said Act of 1997, he was supposed to appear before the Court on May 24, 2018, however, since the said date fell during the summer vacation of the Court, requisite compliance of the said provision could not be made. He further submits that Section 4 of the Limitation Act, 1963 is the appropriate provision to calculate the limitation period for filing of the said application and according to the said provision of the said Act of 1963, the date of reopening of the Court after the summer vacation is the last date for filing of the said application, which the petitioner did.

Learned advocate for the opposite party, placing reliance on the case of Bijoy Singh vs. Amit Kumar Chamaria submits that the provisions of Act of 1963 cannot be applied to calculate and/or extend the period of limitation to file an application under Section 7(1) of the said Act of 1997. Learned advocate for the petitioner submits that according to the Full Bench decision of the Calcutta High Court in the case of Balageria Central Cooperative Bank Ltd. vs. State of West Bengal & ors. Section 12 of the Bengal General Clauses Act, 1899 squarely applies in this context; in terms thereof, the date of reopening of the Court after the summer vacation can be reckoned to be the last date of the period prescribed for filing of such application.

The Court discussed the referred judgments in detail and held that Section 5 of the Limitation Act cannot be applied only to extend the period of limitation prescribed under Section 7(1)(b) of the said Act of 1997 to comply with the conditions given under Section 7(1) thereof.

The Court also clarified that when in a proceeding, the Act of 1963 does not apply, aid of the provision of Section 12 of the Bengal general Clauses Act 1899 can be taken as the said provision is the general principle for computing the period of limitation, and as such, can be applied where the Act of 1963 cannot. The Court, holding the aforesaid, had set aside the rejection of the application of the petitioner under Section 7(1) of the said Act of 1997 and directed disposal of the said application in accordance with law.

JUSTICE AMRITA SINHA

***VISHVA HINDU PARISHAD, DAKSHINBANGA & ANR
VS.***

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

PRESENT - JUSTICE AMRITA SINHA

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 810

The issue which fell for consideration in the instant case is whether the Publishers and Booksellers Guild can be treated as 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution and whether the writ petition will be maintainable against the same.

The Court was of the opinion that the Publishers and Booksellers Guild cannot be treated as 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution and the writ petition against the Publishers and Booksellers Guild will not be maintainable.

JUSTICE JAY SENGUPTA

PADMA MONDAL

VS.

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL

PRESENT - JUSTICE JAY SENGUPTA

WPA 703 OF 2024

Delay in filing writ petition is hardly an absolute bar in seeking justice for victims, that too in a gruesome case of double murder. As this Court was approached earlier in 2019, it has been an ongoing process. The State cannot expect that every time they perpetrate injustice in a case, a citizen would have to rush to the Court forthwith, whatever comes.

The detailed eye-witness account given by the de-facto complainant in the FIR was sufficient to implicate the prime accused. So, the brazenly faulty and biased conclusion of the first investigation of leaving out the influential prime accused renders the whole approach suspect.

Existence of suspicious exonerative statements recorded by the police could be detrimental to the cause of justice. One option is to have the statements of all such witnesses recorded before a Magistrate.

The case involves extreme depredations and perpetration of most brazen and brutal atrocities. It deserves much more than the ramshackle investigation done by the police that arguably had a stench of taint. CBI directed to conduct further investigation.

JUSTICE SUVRA GHOSH

***SUBHAJIT BANERJEE V/S THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS
AND***

BIKASH BISWAS V/S THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

PRESENT - JUSTICE SUVRA GHOSH

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 1369

In a judgment dated 14th February 2025, the Calcutta High Court partially allowed two criminal revision petitions filed by police officers Subhajit Banerjee and Bikash Biswas in a custodial death case. While the Court quashed the charge under Section 193 IPC for lack of compliance with procedural requirements under Sections 195 and 340 Cr.P.C., it upheld the remaining charges, including Section 302 IPC, citing sufficient prima facie evidence. The petitioners' plea for discharge was rejected, and the trial was allowed to proceed.

JUSTICE TIRTHANKAR GHOSH

DR. SANJAY KUMAR ARYA.

VS.

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

PRESENT - JUSTICE TIRTHANKAR GHOSH

CITATION: MANU/WB/0273/2025

This case arose from an appeal against a conviction under Sections 7 and 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Arya, then Divisional Medical Officer at South Eastern Railway Hospital, Adra, was convicted by the Special (CBI) Court, Asansol, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs. 500 from Pawan Kumar, a Junior Engineer at Diesel Loco Shed, Bokaro, in exchange for extending his

medical rest. He was sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment (two years under Section 7 and one year under Section 13(2), to run consecutively), along with a fine of ₹30,000.

The CBI claimed that Dr. Arya was caught accepting the bribe during a pre-arranged trap operation. However, the High Court found the prosecution to be fundamentally flawed due to the absence of a valid sanction under Section 19 of the PC Act. PW4 Sunil Kumar, Deputy Secretary (Discipline & Appeal), Railway Board, admitted during his testimony that the sanction was granted by the Railway Minister and that he merely authenticated it without applying his own independent mind. The Court held that such mechanical approval, devoid of personal satisfaction or application of mind, rendered the sanction legally unsustainable.

Relying on the Supreme Court's judgment in *Mansukhlal Vithaldas Chauhan vs. State of Gujarat*, the Court emphasized that a valid sanction is not a procedural formality but a mandatory safeguard, and any non-compliance vitiates the prosecution. The testimony of the shadow witness, PW2 D.K. Srivastava, Chief Office Superintendent, Bokaro, was also found to be unreliable due to significant improvements upon recall, raising doubts about possible tutoring. Furthermore, no chemical test was conducted on the tainted currency notes themselves, which further weakened the prosecution's case. The complainant not receiving the full benefit of extending his medical rest, allegedly sought, also cast doubt on the motive.

Accordingly, Dr. Arya was acquitted and discharged from all charges. The judgment underscores the judiciary's insistence on procedural propriety and credible evidence in corruption cases and reiterates that a conviction under the Prevention of Corruption Act must rest on a valid sanction and unimpeachable proof of both demand and acceptance of illegal gratification.

JUSTICE HIRANMAY BHATTACHARYYA

***SRI GIRIJA PRASANNA COTTON MILLS LIMITED
VS.***

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL AND OTHERS.

PRESENT - JUSTICE HIRANMAY BHATTACHARYYA

CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 10243.

The petitioner filed this writ petition against the State of West Bengal concerning the requisition and partial acquisition of their land. The petitioner claimed ownership of 17.60 acres of land, of which 12.46 acres were requisitioned by the State Government in 1979 for setting up ESI Hospital. While 10.34 acres were subsequently acquired,

the remaining 2.12 acres were still under requisition. The petitioner prayed for issuing a writ of mandamus to release the said 2.12 acres of land and payment of requisition compensation from the date of taking possession until return of land. The judgment primarily relies on the provisions of the West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Act, 1948 (Act II of 1948), especially Sections 3 (Power to requisition), 4 (Acquisition of land) & 6 (Release from requisition). The Court emphasized that Section 3(3) of the Act mandates the Collector to enforce delivery of possession if a person fails to comply with the requisition order. The Court opined that Section 4(1a) allows the State to acquire land requisitioned under Section 3. The fact that only a portion of the requisitioned land was acquired means the remaining 2.12 acres were still legally under requisition, as there was no evidence of a formal release order as envisaged under Section 6. The Court emphasized that requisition cannot continue indefinitely, especially when the purpose is for construction of a permanent structure. Therefore, it was observed that keeping a portion of the requisitioned land for a prolonged period without either acquiring it or releasing it is deemed a "gross abuse of the power and a colourable exercise of such power" by the State which deprives the landowners' of their rights without due compensation. Accordingly, the Court directed that the State can either decide to acquire the remaining 2.12 acres of land in accordance with law or in case the State decides not to acquire the land, it must be released from requisition.

JUSTICE SAUGATA BHATTACHARYYA

THE INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS ASSOCIATION & ORS.

-VS-

THE UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

PRESENT - JUSTICE SAUGATA BHATTACHARYYA

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 2844

Issue was whether dehors relevant provisions of the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India can compel Indian Science Congress Association being a registered body under the said Act of 1961, to adopt new Rules & Regulations and Bye-Laws instead of its original Rules and Regulations. One of the points which fell for consideration, was whether in terms of General Financial Rules, Central Government can implement new Rules & Regulations and Bye-Laws thereby altering the nature and character of petitioner association as limited financial grant is provided by Central Government. It was decided that

notwithstanding the receipt of limited financial grant from Central Government, petitioner association cannot be compelled to adopt newly framed Rules & Regulations and Bye-Laws by Department of Science and Technology without following relevant provisions of the said Act of 1961. If adoption of Rules & Regulations and Bye-Laws framed by the Department of Science and Technology is made by the petitioner association upon non-compliance of relevant provisions of the said Act of 1961, that would change the nature and character of said association which is contrary to the Memorandum of Association.

JUSTICE KAUSIK CHANDA

BINOD KUMAR GOEL

VS.

SILIGURI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND OTHERS

PRESENT - JUSTICE KAUSIK CHANDA

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 3959

This judgment addressed the petitioner's challenge to the demand of Siliguri Municipal Corporation for an additional report by a structural engineer in furtherance of proceedings initiated by it under Section 268 of the West Bengal Municipal Corporation Act, 2006.

Interpreting the scope and applicability of Section 268, it was held that the entire objective of the section is to deal with buildings unfit for human habitation due to their dilapidated state, balancing the dual conditions of cost of repairing and utility of the building after the improvements. To uphold the legislative intent, the requirement of an owner of the building or interested party submitting undertaking(s) under Section 268(2) must be read to mean that under no circumstances should an undertaking not to use the building for human habitation be accepted without a corresponding undertaking to carry out the required improvements. Thereafter, upon satisfactory/unsatisfactory improvement work carried out by the owner/interested party, the Commissioner may either conclude the proceeding without ordering for demolition of the building or go ahead with the demolition proceedings as per Section 268(4) of the Act. Thus, the Commissioner is within his powers to decline to accept the undertaking for the "work of improvement" as submitted by the petitioner and direct modifications to the same.

JUSTICE SUGATO MAJUMDAR

CALCUTTA GUJARATI EDUCATION SOCIETY AND ANOTHER
VS.
BUDGE BUDGE COMPANY.

PRESENT - JUSTICE SUGATO MAJUMDAR
CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 11159

This is a suit for recovery of possession by a lessor from a lessee after termination of the lease under Section 106 of the Transfer of the Property Act. Once the lease expired, a suit for recovery of possession was filed. The said suit was withdrawn and fresh monthly tenancy was created which came to an end by serving notice under Section 106 of the Transfer of Property Act. Questions involved in the suit were creation of tenancy by holding over, waiver of notice, examination and application of Sections 113 and 116 of the Transfer of Property Act, *res judicata* in interlocutory proceedings. The Court also addressed the issue of maintainability of the suit, bar of subsequent suit once the earlier suit is dismissed for default or withdrawal of the earlier suit without leave to file the suit afresh. The Court held that in the given facts there was no waiver of notice. There was no automatic holding over too. The Court concluded that the defendant's tenancy was validly determined and their continued possession thereafter was unlawful. Therefore, the defendant was liable to be evicted and also accountable for mesne profit.

JUSTICE BIVAS PATTANAYAK

MAHASSEN SK.
VS.
THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL
PRESENT - JUSTICE BIVAS PATTANAYAK
CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 8481

Mahasen Sk, the petitioner filed a criminal revision under Section 482 read with Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 challenging an order under Sections 21(C), 22(C), 25, 28 and 29 of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. In the before-mentioned order, the return of the seized truck during a police operation based on Intelligence Information regarding Illegal Transport of Yaba

tablets was denied. The petitioner was arrested, a charge sheet was filed against him under the NDPS Act and after being released on bail, the petitioner took out an application for return of the seized articles and cash which was denied by the Trial Court citing possible concerns regarding misuse of the seized objects. The petitioners argued that the NDPS Act does not explicitly bar interim release of seized vehicles and the Court shall invoke the provisions of Section 451 and 457 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for return of the seized article or vehicle till the final decision of the pending criminal case. Relying on Supreme Court precedents including *Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai Versus State Of Gujarat* supporting interim return of property with conditions, the State opposed the application citing the risk of the vehicle being reused for illegal activities and possibly not being produced for trial. The High Court observed that under Sections 60 and 63 of the NDPS Act, vehicles can be confiscated only after trial and due inquiry. The Court acknowledged past rulings from Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court allowing such interim releases with safeguards, and allowed the revision and set aside the lower court's order, permitting release of the vehicle subject to strict conditions which included furnishing a `50,000 bank guarantee, no misuse or transfer of the vehicle, and mandatory production during trial and confiscation proceedings.

JUSTICE KRISHNA RAO

A.K. GHOSH & COMPANY & ORS.

VS.

BIMAN BOSE & ORS.

PRESENT - JUSTICE KRISHNA RAO

CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 7538

The question of law that arose for interpretation in the present application was, whether the time to file a written statement by the plaintiffs to the counter claim filed by the defendants in a commercial suit can be accepted after the period of 120 days from the date of receipt of the counter claim. The plaintiffs sought leave to file an additional written statement in response to a counter-claim filed by the defendants. The defendants had filed their written statement and counter-claim after an extension of

time was granted. The plaintiffs received the counter-claim on July 18, 2023, and filed their application for leave to file an additional written statement on March 15, 2024, approximately 238 days later. The plaintiffs argued that there is no specific time limit for filing a written statement to a counter-claim, and that the 120-day limit applicable to the defendants for filing their initial written statement does not apply to the plaintiffs responding to a counter-claim. They cited various judgments supporting their contention, emphasizing that the Court has the discretion to fix a time for such filings. The defendants contended that the 120-day limit under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, should apply to the plaintiffs' response to the counter-claim, as the delay was significant. They argued that the plaintiffs had ample opportunity to file their response within the prescribed time. The Court after considering the relevant provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, the Commercial Courts Act, and the Original Side Rules as well as the judgments cited by the parties, noted that while the defendants were granted an extension to file their written statement, the plaintiffs failed to file their response to the counter-claim within a reasonable time. The Court found that the plaintiffs' application was filed after a considerable delay of 238 days and accordingly, dismissed the plaintiffs' application.

JUSTICE BIBHAS RANJAN DE

ZARIN MOMIM KHAN @ ZAREEN KHAN

VS.

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ANOTHER

PRESENT - JUSTICE BIBHAS RANJAN DE

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 685

In this instant Revision Application, the Hon'ble High Court dismissed a criminal case against actress Zareen Khan over her alleged failure to appear as a guest artist at a Kali Puja event in November 2018 despite having a contractual obligation to do so. A Talent management agency's representative had filed the criminal complaint on allegations that Khan's failure to appear for the event after taking a payment of 12 lakh Rupees eventually led to a loss totaling to Rupees 42 Lakhs. He also accused the actress and her associates of issuing threats and attempting to defame him. A charge sheet was filed in the matter in 2023 against her and other co-accused under Sections 406, 420, 506 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code, the criminal trial of which was

pending before the Court of Ld. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sealdah. In 2022, the petitioner moved the High Court with a plea to quash the case. The petitioner claimed that the allegations levelled in the FIR would make it evident that a purely civil dispute was given the cloak of criminality. The complainant, on the other hand, alleged conspiracy, breach of trust, and defamation by the actress and her associates. However, The Court was of the opinion that this whole course of action at best could only be termed to be a breach of contract for which admittedly a civil suit was pending. As it is the opposite party no. 2 herein, who had approached the petitioner to come as a guest artist. Accordingly, such a proposal was accepted by the petitioner but ultimately she committed a breach. Therefore, it was held that the complaint in question, on the basis of which FIR was registered, clearly spells out the commercial nature of relationship by and between the parties. It was further observed that a mere failure to appear in the Puja Pandal as a guest cannot make out an offence of cheating, as the quintessential ingredient of Section 420 of the IPC is initial deception and mere non-appearance before a Puja Pandal cannot infer initial deception and therefore, the Court felt that allowing the instant criminal proceeding to continue would be an abuse of process of the Court and as a sequel quashed the entire criminal proceeding against the Petitioner. Thus, by focusing on the contractual nature of the dispute, this judgment reinforces the principle that criminal charges should not be filed in situations where civil remedies are more appropriate as the Criminal Courts are not meant to be used for settling scores or pressurizing parties to settle civil disputes.

JUSTICE DR. AJOY KUMAR MUKHERJEE

SRI CHANDAN SAHA

VS.

SRI AMALENDU DEY & ORS.

PRESENT - JUSTICE DR. AJOY KUMAR MUKHERJEE

CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 10275

The petitioner filed a suit seeking specific performance of a revised agreement to purchase three car parking spaces, following mutual modification of an earlier agreement for a flat and ground floor space. The original agreement was alleged to be insufficiently stamped, leading the trial court to impound it and defer the hearing on temporary injunction. The plaintiff sought review of the impounding order, which the trial court rejected, citing lack of jurisdiction to alter a merit-based order not challenged in a

higher forum. The plaintiff argued that the trial court erred by not deciding the injunction on merits and unnecessarily focused on technicalities of stamping. The defence contended that an insufficiently stamped document cannot be relied on for any purpose, including seeking injunctions, under Sections 33 and 35 of the Indian Stamp Act. The legal heirs of some defendants claimed misuse of power of attorney by co-defendant no.1 and denied the validity of the revised agreement. The High Court observed that the facts of this case differed significantly from the precedent relied upon in *Abjer Ali Mullick Vs. Rohima Bibi* by the trial court. It held that mere submission of a document copy during interim proceedings does not warrant invoking Section 33 of the Stamp Act. The trial court was found to have acted without jurisdiction in impounding the document and delaying the injunction application. The court also criticized the inconsistency of continuing ad-interim injunctions while keeping the main injunction plea pending. Therefore, both impugned orders were set aside, and the trial court was directed to decide the injunction application purely on merits within 12 weeks.

JUSTICE GAURANG KANTH

JAGAT SINGH MANOT

VS.

**MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER,
KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION & OTHERS**

PRESENT - JUSTICE GAURANG KANTH

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 3053

The petitioner challenged KMC's refusal to de-amalgamate premises based on an arbitral award cancelling an earlier development agreement and deed of exchange. Though the arbitrator passed awards in 2018 declaring the deeds void, the Court held that the arbitrator's award, particularly the cancellation made under Section 31 of the Specific Relief Act constituted a judgment in personam binding only between parties and not enforceable against third parties like the Municipal Corporation. Since KMC was not a party to the arbitration and the cancellation of a registered exchange deed requires either mutual cancellation or a civil court decree, the writ was dismissed. The Court upheld that the municipal authority acted within its jurisdiction.

JUSTICE ANANYA BANDYOPADHYAY**SANKAR KUMAR PAL****VS.****INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE & ORS.****PRESENT - JUSTICE ANANYA BANDYOPADHYAY****WPA 20055 OF 2016**

Dr. Sankar Kumar Pal, a former Director of Indian Statistical Institute, filed a writ petition seeking release of full gratuity amount as per ISI's Standing Service Orders (SSO), 1963, claiming Rs. 38.92 lakhs instead of the Rs. 10 lakhs paid to him. He opted for the CPF-cum-Gratuity scheme in 1983, which, under ISI's long-standing internal rules, did not impose any statutory ceiling on gratuity. ISI had consistently followed this practice until an audit objection by the CAG in 2015, which cited non-compliance with the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. In response, ISI issued administrative communications restricting gratuity payments to the Rs.10 lakh ceiling mandated under the amended Gratuity Act. The petitioner argued that his contractual service conditions under SSO, including gratuity without ceiling, formed a vested right protected under Section 4(5) of the Gratuity Act. He claimed that the abrupt shift in gratuity disbursement violated the legitimate expectation created through ISI's past practices and internal calculations. ISI, defending its action, stated that it was bound by financial directives from the Government of India and could not exceed statutory limits. The Court held that the petitioner's CPF contribution created a vested contractual and statutory right, and such rights could not be altered unilaterally. The Court emphasized that internal ISI communications, audit objections, or financial constraints cannot defeat legally accrued service benefits and concluded that Indian Statistical Institute had no legal basis to withhold the balance gratuity and the audit concerns did not override the petitioner's enforceable rights. Therefore, the impugned memorandum was set aside, and Indian Statistical Institute was directed to pay the petitioner the remaining gratuity amount of Rs. 28.92 lakhs with 6% interest within 3 months.

JUSTICE RAI CHATTOPADHYAY***M/S. SETHIA OIL INDUSTRIES LIMITED & ANR.*****VS.*****STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.*****PRESENT - JUSTICE RAI CHATTOPADHYAY*****CITATION: MANU/WB/1029/2025***

In this case, the petitioner, a rice bran oil manufacturer, challenged two State notifications and the 2014 & 2017 Amendments to the West Bengal Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1972, which brought refined rice bran oil under the ambit of market fee regulations. The key legal issue was whether these amendments, enacted without Presidential assent, violated Article 304(b) of the Constitution and whether the resulting fee imposition amounted to double taxation or lacked a quid pro quo basis. The petitioner argued that rice bran oil was not an agricultural produce and that the amendments were ultra vires for lacking Presidential assent, unlike earlier valid amendments. The State contended that the amendments were constitutionally valid under the doctrine of pith and substance, and that no fresh assent was needed as the original Act had Presidential assent. The Court held that the amendments were intra vires, the levy was regulatory (not compensatory), and refined rice bran oil qualified as agricultural produce under the amended definition. It also ruled that rice bran and refined oil are distinct products, so separate levies did not amount to double taxation. Regulatory fees, the Court said, need not meet the quid pro quo test. Concluding that there was no violation of constitutional provisions or fiscal fairness, the Court dismissed both writ petitions and upheld the validity of the impugned laws and fee demands.

JUSTICE SUBHENDU SAMANTA***ACCENT DEAL TRADE PVT. LTD. AND ANOTHER*****VS.*****STATE OF WEST BENGAL AND OTHERS.*****PRESENT - JUSTICE SUBHENDU SAMANTA*****CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 4685***

Order of confiscation under Section 6A of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 passed by collector is purely administrative order. Appeal against such order provided under

Section 6C of the Said Act, 1955 is to be heard by a Judicial Authority appointed by the State Commission concerned, is also an administrative order. Merely a Judicial Authority who is empowered to hear an appeal against order passed by collector in its administrative capacity does not ipso facto change entire cord or essence of the proceedings into a judicial proceeding. Hence, an order of appeal passed by a Judicial Officer under Section 6C of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is not an order amenable under Article 227 of the Constitution but it is amenable under writ jurisdiction of High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

JUSTICE SHAMPA DUTT (PAUL)

MANI SQUARE LIMITED & ANR.

VS

SRI SUBHASH KUMAR & ORS.

PRESENT - JUSTICE SHAMPA DUTT (PAUL)

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 2559

The petitioners sought transfer of two pending suits, one being a Title Suit pending before the Commercial Court and the other one being a Title Suit pending before a Civil Court, to the High Court for joint adjudication under Clause 13 of the Letters Patent Act, 1865, read with Sections 24 and 151 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. In both the suits the issue to be decided was regarding the right, title and interest in respect of the same suit property involving the same parties. The final outcome in the two suits would affect both the parties and thus a prima facie case was made out for adjudication by the same court, not only to avoid possible conflicting decisions but also for the convenience of the parties on both sides, relating to common witnesses, same documents to be proved while deciding the same issues, similar in all respect to adjudicate the similar reliefs prayed for by the plaintiffs in both suits, which are inter connected. For a title suit to be transferred to a Commercial Court there must exist a "commercial dispute" in the said suit. As laid down in the Commercial Court, Act (Section 15) a Commercial Suit is to be heard only by a Commercial Court having jurisdiction. It had been decided finally in the petitioners' suit before the commercial court that the issue therein, is a "commercial dispute". The "issue" in both the suits are the same, between the same parties in respect of the same property. Hence, the issue in the Title Suit filed by the respondents herein, would also qualify as a "commercial dispute" and therefore could be heard by the Commercial Court along with the petitioner's Commercial Suit (Technotrade Impex India Pvt. Ltd. Vs State of Maharashtra on 1st Sept, 2021 (2021 SCC OnLineBom 10497). The title suit was thus transferred to the commercial Court for analogous adjudication.

JUSTICE RAJA BASU CHOWDHURY***HALDIBARI TEA MANUFACTURERS LLP & ANR.*****VS.*****MAHINDRA TUBES LIMITED & ORS.*****PRESENT - JUSTICE RAJA BASU CHOWDHURY*****CITATION: MANU/WB/0622/2025***

In a revisional application challenging the rejection of plaint for non-compliance with Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, the defendants contended that the suit ought to be rejected as the plaint does not contemplate any urgent interim relief, and claimed that the plaintiffs have camouflaged the relief to bypass mediation. The defendants also questioned non-recording of the satisfaction of the learned judge as regards the plaint contemplating an urgent relief at the time of its institution. While deciding on the challenge, although the Court found that the plaintiffs after filing the suit seeking urgent relief did not succeed in obtaining an ex parte order, the same could not be a ground for rejection of the plaint, as even a weak case for urgent relief cannot be thrown out. The events subsequent to filing of the plaint are not a relevant consideration for rejection, as the only consideration in such case is the contemplation of urgent relief at the time of institution although, the plaintiffs have no absolute discretion or choice to paralyse Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act to temporarily by-pass the mandate of pre-institution mediation. The acceptance of the plaint by the learned judge having regard to the judgment delivered in the case of Yamini Manohar v. T.K.D. Keerthi, reported in (2024) 5 SCC 815, should be construed as an application of mind by the learned judge for receiving the plaint and non-recording of satisfaction at the stage of institution, in the facts of the case cannot be said to be fatal, however, once an application for rejection is filed, the Court is bound to consider as to whether the plaint contemplates an urgent relief at the time of institution and not the chance of success thereof.

JUSTICE BISWAROOP CHOWDHURY***THE REGIONAL MANAGER AND DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY,
R.B.O., VI, COOCH BEHAR &ORS.*****VS.*****GHANASHYAM GURUNG*****CORAM - JUSTICE ARIJIT BANERJEE AND JUSTICE BISWAROOP CHOWDHURY*****CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 937***

The Regional Manager of SBI, filed the appeal against a Single Judge's order that had set aside the disciplinary actions which were taken against their employee, Ghanashyam Gurung. Gurung, a retired Army personnel, joined SBI in 2000 and was dismissed from service just one day before his retirement on allegations of fund misappropriation. He was served a charge sheet on December 12, 2019, with only two days to respond, but having faced some personal emergencies, sought more time. Despite his hospitalization and his mother's death, the bank proceeded with an ex-parte inquiry and dismissed him on December 30, 2019. Gurung challenged the dismissal, claiming violation of principles of natural justice and lack of reasonable opportunity to defend himself. The Single Judge held that the inquiry was rushed with disregard for due process, especially considering Gurung's medical condition and imminent retirement. The appellate court found that disciplinary proceedings were initiated merely 18 days before retirement, denying him sufficient time and procedural fairness. It criticized the inquiry officer for acting under pressure from the disciplinary authority and completing the inquiry ex-parte without examining the witnesses. The court emphasized that departmental inquiries must adhere to principles of natural justice, particularly when an employee is nearing retirement. While setting aside the dismissal, the court allowed SBI to withhold Rs. 7,89,700-alleged to have been misappropriated-pending a proper recovery process. It permitted SBI to either conduct recovery proceedings with a hearing or initiate a civil suit to recover the amount.

JUSTICE PARTHA SARATHI SEN**WPA 11856 OF 2010****GILLANDERS ARBUTHNOT & CO. LTD.****VS.****5TH INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL & ORS****PRESENT - JUSTICE PARTHA SARATHI SEN**

The petitioner company challenged the award by the 5th Industrial Tribunal, which directed them to pay 80% back wages to the respondent from dismissal to superannuation. Respondent was dismissed in 1982 following a domestic enquiry, which the Tribunal later found to be invalid in 2008. The petitioner argued that the unit where the respondent worked was permanently shut and all employees had taken voluntary retirement. The petitioner contended that the Tribunal ignored key evidence, emphasizing on the misconduct. It was also submitted that the Tribunal wrongly relied on the testimonials and failed to follow the principle of preponderance of probabilities. Moreover, the petitioner claimed the respondent never specifically denied the misconduct charges and failed to plead that he was not gainfully employed post-dismissal. The Court reiterated that writ jurisdiction under Article 226 is supervisory and not appellate, hence it cannot reweigh evidence. It found that neither did the Tribunal act outside its jurisdiction, nor violated natural justice principles. However, the Court held that the Tribunal erred in awarding 80% back wages without sufficient evidence that the respondent was not gainfully employed. The award was modified: instead of 80% back wages, the petitioner was directed to pay a lump sum of `3 lakhs to the respondent within 2 months. The appeal was partly allowed, and failure to pay in time would attract 6% interest from the date of judgment.

JUSTICE PRASENJIT BISWAS**MUBARAK ANSARI & ANR.****VS.****STATE OF WEST BENGAL****PRESENT - JUSTICE PRASENJIT BISWAS****CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 5240**

Mubarak Ansari, the appellant and his father Khalil Ansari were convicted by the trial court under Sections 304B and 498A of the Indian Penal Code in connection with the unnatural death of Mubarak's wife, Rohimunnese, within seven years of marriage. The

prosecution alleged that the victim was tortured and harassed for dowry, leading to her death by hanging in her matrimonial home. The defence argued that the evidence lacked specific dates or proof of cruelty or harassment "soon before death", which is essential to convict under Section 304B. Witnesses, including the victim's father, claimed dowry demands and past assaults but failed to establish any incident of torture "immediately" preceding her death. Medical evidence (post-mortem report) did not show any external injury, and the autopsy could not confirm death by violence. The trial court relied on general allegations and prior incidents but failed to link them to the death with proximity, as required by law. The High Court emphasized the need for a clear nexus between the alleged dowry-related cruelty and death for conviction under Sections 304B and 498A of the Indian Penal Code. The prosecution failed to establish that the victim was subjected to cruelty or dowry harassment "shortly" before her death. The High Court cited Supreme Court rulings, including *Bajnath v. State of MP* and *Kans Raj v. State of Punjab*, reinforcing that : "The demand of dowry, cruelty or harassment based upon such demand and the date of death should not be too remote in time which, under the circumstances, be treated as having become stale enough". It held that mere unnatural death in the matrimonial home within 7 years does not automatically invoke a presumption of dowry death without concrete evidence. Therefore, the High Court set aside the conviction and acquitted both appellants, concluding that the prosecution had utterly failed to prove the charges beyond reasonable doubt.

JUSTICE UDAY KUMAR

MR. SHUVENDRA MULLICK

-VS-

MR. INDRANIL MULLICK AND OTHERS

**CORAM - JUSTICE SABYASACHI BHATTACHARYYA AND
JUSTICE UDAY KUMAR**

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 1245

The appellant challenged the rejection of his plea to restrict the respondents from operating CCTV cameras inside a shared dwelling. Five CCTV cameras were installed by the respondents without the appellant's consent in areas including common corridors and a hall. The appellant contended that this activity of the appellant violated his right to privacy and hindered the enjoyment of his property as a co-trustee. A Special Officer's report identified that these cameras were indeed installed inside the residential wing and some of them were focused on common areas as well. The court emphasized that

the right to privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India as held by the apex Court in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) and Anr. vs Union of India[AIR 2017 SC 4161], and therefore, installation and operation of the CCTV cameras inside the residential portion without the appellant's consent infringes this right as well as the right to enjoy his property with dignity. The appeal was allowed, setting aside the lower court's order. The respondents were restrained from operating the five identified cameras and the parties were granted liberty to explore alternative security measures and were allowed to have joint control over all the CCTV cameras and records.

JUSTICE AJAY KUMAR GUPTA

**PROFESSOR BIDYUT CHAKRABORTY & ORS
VS.**

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ANR

PRESENT - JUSTICE AJAY KUMAR GUPTA

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 3889

An application under Section 482 of the CrPC was filed by the then Vice Chancellor of Viswa-Bharati University and others, seeking quashing of criminal proceedings commenced on an FIR lodged by a Group A officer from a reserved category. The FIR alleged caste-based insults, intimidation and discriminations made during an official meeting, held in the Central hall of the University where the Vice Chancellor reportedly stated that SC/ST/OBC officers would not be allowed to enter into his office or contact him in front of other officials. The Court held that the threat and remarks, made in the Conference Central Hall owned by Government and publicly accessible venue, comes within the purview of "Public Place" and also the statements made therein come in the ambit of "Public view" and were directly linked to the complainant's caste and public humiliation. Finding a prima facie case under Sections 3(1)(r),(p),(s) of the SC/ST Act, the Court declined to quash the proceedings and permitted the matter to proceed trial in accordance with law, as the offence is against caste-based humiliation and discrimination.

JUSTICE SUPRATIM BHATTACHARYA**DEBASISH DAS****VS.****SMT. URMILA MITRA & ORS****PRESENT - JUSTICE SUPRATIM BHATTACHARYA****CITATION: 2024 SCC ONLINE CAL 7596**

The question of law on which this Appeal was admitted for consideration was whether both the Ld. Trial Court and the Ld. First Appellate Court wrongly shifted the onus to prove the transaction entered into by and between the Plaintiff/Appellant and the Defendant, without appreciating the provision of Section 111 of the Evidence Act. The factual backdrop revolved around the purported claim of the Defendant/Elder Daughter of the Appellant to have purchased a portion of the Plaintiff/ Appellant's property on a consideration paid by the Defendant to the Plaintiff. The Plaintiff denied the Sale Deed contending that he was visiting his elder daughter, the Defendant, while suffering an illness. It has been further alleged that taking advantage of his fragile physical condition, the Defendant/ elder daughter along with her husband influenced the Plaintiff to put his signatures on a document which the Defendants described to the Plaintiff to be a Power of Attorney. The Plaintiff discovered that the document was not a Power of Attorney but, a Sale Deed by which the Plaintiff was purportedly selling a portion of his own property which was under his ownership and possession. Accordingly, the Plaintiff filed the Suit for Cancellation of Deed of Sale. Both the Ld. Trial Court and the Ld. First Appellate Court came to the conclusion that the onus of proof lay on the Plaintiff to prove that the Sale Deed was illegally executed. Hence, this Appeal. The Hon'ble High Court noticed that both the Ld. Trial Court and the Ld. First Appellate Court failed to appreciate the law on the point of onus of proof as applicable to the facts of this case viz., Section 111 of the Evidence Act. The Hon'ble High Court, on a true reading of the provision of Section 111, held that in a transaction between parties during which a question of good faith arises, the party who is in a position of active confidence vis-a-vis the other party, is required to discharge the onus of proof attached to such transaction. The Hon'ble High Court also considered the impact of Section 3(22) of the General Clauses Act, 1897 and Section 16 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 which respectively define good faith and undue influence. The Hon'ble High Court further noticed that no independent witness came forward on the part of the Defendants to prove the Sale Deed being actually executed. Therefore, applying the law laid down in ANIL RISHI vs. GURBAKSH SINGH reported in (2006) 5 SCC 558 on the meaning of active confidence as also the proof of dominant position, the Hon'ble High Court also held that the Plaintiff has been able to prove the dominant position of

the Defendant qua the Plaintiff and therefore, it was incumbent upon the Defendant to prove the validity of the Sale Deed. For the above reasons, the Sale Deed was cancelled with a direction upon the jurisdictional Registrar of Assurances to notify and /or stamp the Sale Deed as cancelled.

JUSTICE PARTHA SARATHI CHATTERJEE

ANIMESH MAJUMDER

VS.

UNION OF INDIA

PRESENT - JUSTICE PARTHA SARATHI CHATTERJEE

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 2849

This judgment addresses a jurisdictional challenge in a writ petition concerning an employee's removal from service. The petitioner, residing within the Court's jurisdiction, received the dismissal order at his residence, while the disciplinary action originated elsewhere. The Court, citing Article 226(2) and various precedents, particularly Umashankar Chatterjee, affirmed that the "cause of action" arises, in part, where the impugned order becomes effective, i.e., upon its receipt by the affected party. Rejecting the respondents' argument that mere receipt doesn't confer jurisdiction, the Court held that since the order's effect and the infringement of the petitioner's right occurred upon its receipt within its territorial limits, it possessed the necessary jurisdiction. Consequently, the preliminary objection to jurisdiction was overruled, allowing the writ petition challenging the removal order to proceed.

JUSTICE APURBA SINHA RAY

HAKIM MIA @ MIYA

VS.

THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION & ANR.

PRESENT - JUSTICE APURBA SINHA RAY

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 2998

Warrant of Proclamation and attachment - The directions contained in section 82 and 83 of Cr.P.C are, essentially, the duties of the concerned court - From a combined study of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 82 it transpires that the concerned court is under a duty to deal with each and every condition as mentioned in sub-

section (2) specifically and separately. The order directing attachment should also indicate that compliance of above conditions has been duly examined by the court. Sub-section (3) of Section 82 has given a mandate upon the concerned court to make a statement in writing to the effect that the proclamation was duly published on a specified day and the manners as specified under sub-sections (2) clause (i).

JUSTICE MD. SHABBAR RASHIDI

STATE OF WEST BENGAL

VS.

SURESH PASWAN

CORAM - JUSTICE DEBANGSU BASAK AND JUSTICE MD. SHABBAR RASHIDI

CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 4901

One lady who lived with her family beneath a flyover on a footpath woke up on the night of July 20, 2013 to find her grand-daughter, the victim, a minor girl aged around 2½ years missing from her side. According to the statements of neighbours, the appellant was seen near their family shelters late at night and tried to flee away when chased. Next morning on July 21, 2013, the victim was found lying dead in a drain with bleeding injuries from nose, ears and private organs.

A case was started against the appellant and on the conclusion of the police investigation, a charge-sheet under several sections of I.P.C. and P.O.C.S.O was filed. Medical examination report and post-mortem report suggested as many as 17 injuries on the body of the victim and that her death was caused due to manual strangulation after being subjected to sexual assault. After considering the suspicious presence of the appellant on the date, time and place of occurrence, recovery of the victim and her wearing apparels, identification of the appellant and his wearing apparels, the circumstances set forward by the prosecution, it was established that the appellant alone was responsible for committing rape and murder upon the victim. The conviction of the appellant by the Ld. Trial Court was upheld. However, after considering the psychological evaluation report suggesting mild mental disability, socio-economic report and age of the appellant, the death penalty of the appellant was commuted to imprisonment for life without remission until 50 years from the date of his arrest.

JUSTICE CHAITALI CHATTERJEE (DAS)***GUNJAN SINHA @ KANISHK SINHA AND ANR.******VS.******UNION OF INDIA ORS.*****CORAM - JUSTICE T.S. SIVAGNANAM AND JUSTICE CHAITALI CHATTERJEE (DAS)*****CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE 3567***

The appellant, Gunjan Sinha @ Kanishk Sinha, was granted a patent (No. 254875) titled "A Fuel Cell System and an Efficient Eco-Friendly Vehicle Mounted with Fuel Cell System" on 28.12.2012 with retrospective effect from 02.05.2005. Aggrieved by the delay of over seven years in grant of the patent, the appellant claimed prejudice in enforcing patent rights and approached the High Court seeking, inter alia, a declaration that Section 53 of the Patent Act, 1970 was unconstitutional.

The Hon'ble Single Bench of the High Court heard the said writ petition and dismissed the same with the observation that section 53 of the Patents Act 1970 is intra vires the Constitution. Floundering with such dismissal, the appellant through this intra Court appeal has called upon the Division Bench to delve and decide the legal defensibility of the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Single Bench and the Constitutional validity of the Section 53 of the Patent Act, 1970.

The Hon'ble Division Bench dismissed the appeal, upholding the constitutional validity of Section 53 of the Patents Act, 1970 on the following grounds:

The Court clarified that there is no conflict between Sections 11A(7) and 53 of the Patents Act, 1970 as these provisions function independently and are not at odds with each other. The judgment emphasized that patent rights are purely statutory in nature and not grounded in common law, meaning thereby, infringement actions can only be pursued once a patent has been formally granted.

The Court also underscored the boundaries of judicial intervention, reiterating that it is not within the Court's remit to suggest or mandate legislative amendments rather the duty of the court is limited to interpreting laws and not to enacting them.

JUSTICE SMITA DAS DE***SUBODH KUMAR MONDAL*****VS.*****STATE OF W.B. & ORS.*****CORAM - JUSTICE DEBANGSU BASAK AND JUSTICE SMITA DAS DE*****CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 2666***

The appeal arose from a dismissal order issued against the appellant, whose service had been extended by the Board of a Co-operative Society for five years post-superannuation. The extension lacked approval from the general body and was unsupported by a bye-law amendment, as mandated under Section 19 of the West Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, 2006. The appellant was dismissed following a show cause notice alleging misconduct. A writ petition challenging the dismissal was rejected. On appeal, the Division Bench held that the Society was not "State" under Article 12 of the Constitution and that post-retirement contractual service involved no public law element. As principles of natural justice were found to have been followed, the appeal was dismissed.

JUSTICE REETOBROTO KUMAR MITRA***SMT. MAMATA BANERJEE AND ANR.*****VS.*****EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED AND ORS.*****CORAM - JUSTICE TAPABRATA CHAKRABORTY AND
JUSTICE REETOBROTO KUMAR MITRA*****CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 4421***

In the case, the appellants, being the widow and son of Late Badal Banerjee, claimed benefits under ECL's 1979 Land Loser Scheme, which entitled landowners to either employment or 20,000 metric tons of coal if at least two acres of land were acquired. ECL acquired .22 decimal of Badal's land and permitted him to lift only 2100 metric tons of coal. Due to paucity of funds, Badal couldn't lift the rest, and subsequent attempts were denied by ECL, claiming his entitlement arose under the Free Sale Scheme instead of the Land Loser Scheme. However, multiple documents, including ECL's own letters issued by the General Manager and note sheets, confirmed Badal's status as a land loser. The Court noted that Badal pursued his rights diligently through

representations and legal proceedings, and ECL's own conduct, including assurances given after withdrawal of an earlier writ, acknowledged his claim. The Court rejected ECL's argument that a job to Jiten (son of Badal's uncle Madan) fulfilled its obligation, as Badal and Madan were from separate legal branches. The Single Judge's dismissal based on lack of title was found to be untenable, since ECL had never denied possession of Badal's land. As the scheme no longer existed, coal delivery was found unenforceable. Balancing equities and acknowledging over 32 years of deprivation, the Court set aside the Single Judge's order and directed ECL to pay Rs. 25 lakhs compensation.

JUSTICE OM NARAYAN RAI

DHANBAD LAB INSTRUMENTS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

VS.

METRAVI INSTRUMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED

CORAM - JUSTICE ARIJIT BANERJEE AND JUSTICE OM NARAYAN RAI

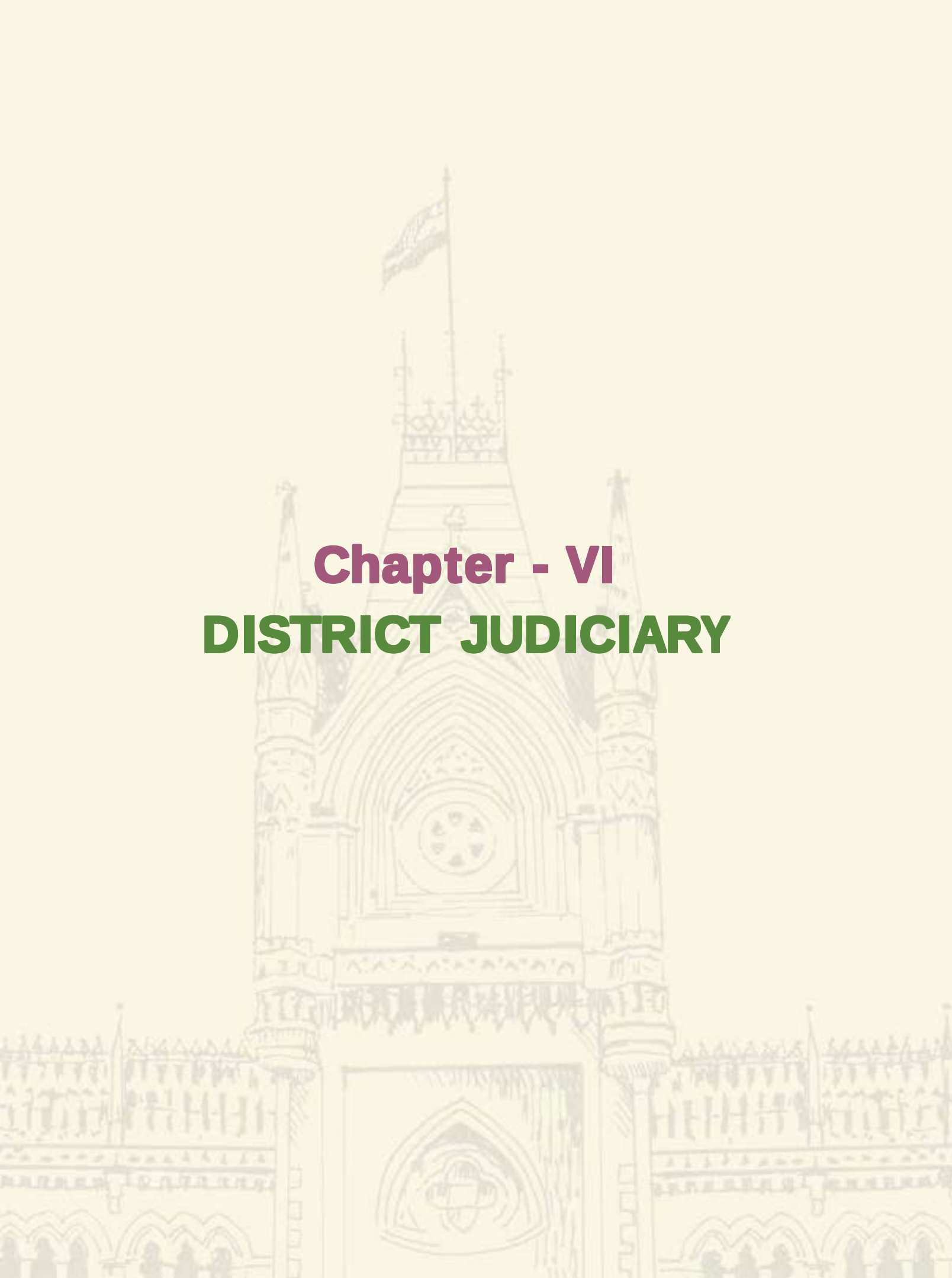
CITATION: 2025 SCC ONLINE CAL 4723

The fundamental issue in this appeal was whether or not the Appellant's use of the mark "METERIVA" constituted infringement and passing off.

The Court scrutinized the case based on the "classical trinity" test for a passing-off action: which comprises establishment of (1) *Goodwill*, (2) *Misrepresentation*, and (3) *Damage*. The Court observed that the Respondent had successfully established a strong prima facie case for possessing substantial goodwill, as it had impressive sales figures and advertising expenses. The Court dismissed the Appellant's arguments based on the balance sheet, holding that accounting standards might be the reason for the non-declaration of the trademark as an intangible asset and that such non-disclosed in balance sheet did not negate the existence of real-world goodwill. The Court discovered a high likelihood of confusion and deception as the names "METRAVI" and "METERIVA" were found to be phonetically and structurally very close and that it was "highly implausible" that the Appellant was unaware of the Respondent's established mark, given the prior contact between the companies' directors. The Court while dismissing the appeal gave significant weight to the evidence of confusion on online platforms, acknowledging that in the digital age, such similarities could easily mislead consumers. It was held that once goodwill and misrepresentation were established, the likelihood of damage to the plaintiff's business and reputation became almost a certainty, therefore, at the interim stage, proof of actual damage was not required; the likelihood of damage was sufficient.



View of river Ganges from High Court at Calcutta



Chapter - VI

DISTRICT JUDICIARY



Purulia



Domkal



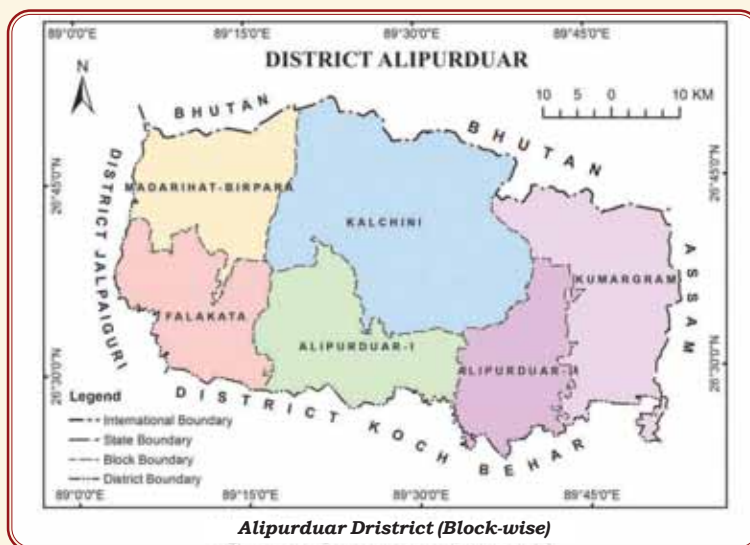
Jhargram



Coochbehar

DISTRICT JUDICIARY

ALIPURDUAR



Newly constructed court building yet to be functional

Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 3,136 sq. km

Population : 15,01,983

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 1

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 12

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://alipurduar.dcourts.gov.in/>

Name of the District : Alipurduar

Court Location			
No. of Judges		Sadar	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		13	1
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	125	69	The Judgeship of Alipurduar has been bifurcated from the Judgeship of Jalpaiguri w.e.f. 29.04.2023 and after the bifurcation the District Recruitment Committee has been constituted but the process for recruitment could not be done due to pending litigation.

Alipurduar is relatively new Judgeship after being carved out from the Jalpaiguri District with effect from 29.04.2023. With the existing courts already functioning in this District, the inauguration of the court of the Ld Additional District & Session Judge 2nd Court, (Special Court) marked a significant milestone, adding a new feather to the crown of Alipurduar. The court was inaugurated by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of High Court at Calcutta on 04.10.2024.



Upcoming Court Rooms

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Complying with the direction of the Hon'ble High Court Calcutta, The District Case Management Committee has been constituted at the Judgeship of Alipurduar to monitor all the Old Pending Cases.

All the 30+ years Old Pending Cases have been disposed off.

Physical Verification of all the Case Records have been conducted in every Court of the Judgeship of Alipurduar.

All the Cases which are over 10 years old have been marked as "Most Urgent 10+ years Old Case."

All the Judicial Officers, Public Prosecutors, Additional Public Prosecutors as well as the Nodal Officers of the Revenue and Police Department have been sensitized about the spirit of the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and they

have been directed to oversee the progress regarding disposal of the Old Pending Cases of the Judgeship of Alipurduar.

Vision regarding Arrear Reduction -

The number of pending cases between 20 to 30 years is only 26 in this District. All the Cases between 20 to 30 years Old Cases will be disposed off very shortly.

The Cases between 10 to 20 years Old will be disposed off within stipulated time.

District Legal Services Authority:

After the bifurcation from Jalpaiguri District, the District Legal Services Authority, Alipurduar has been established at the Judgeship of Alipurduar.



National Lok Adalat

Achievements of DLSA Alipurduar:-

During the period starting from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, 32380 cases have been referred to the National Lok Adalat, out of which, 13257 cases have been settled, making the rate of success over 40% in post litigating area.

Vision of DLSA, Alipurduar:-

The District Legal Services Authority, Alipurduar being the youngest District Legal Services Authority has a long way

to go. The vision is to make the District Legal Services Authority, Alipurduar one of the best establishment in the State. The District Legal Services Authority, Alipurduar is working on various issues like Public Awareness, Legal Aid and Mediation etc. and we are taking every possible step to dispose as many cases as possible through Mediation and National Lok Adalat.

Human Resource:

After the bifurcation w.e.f 29.04.2023, the District Promotion and Recruitment Committee has been constituted. The recruitment process has been held up due to pending litigation.

ICT Initiatives :

CIS has been implemented in every Court. The e-Filing and e-Bail Bond have been introduced. The Official Website of the Judgeship of Alipurduar is live. The DSCs are distributed to the Judicial Officers and the Staff members. The VC set ups are installed in every Courts. The permanent as well as the Temporary VWDCs are fully operational with the audio visual equipment.

Infrastructural Development:-

Following the bifurcation from the judgeship of Jalpaiguri, the construction of an integrated G+6 Court Complex at the Judgeship of Alipurduar commenced on 26.05.2023. The project has been progressed substantially and is at the threshold of completion.

Vision :-

The vision is to enhance judicial accessibility through introduction of NSTEP, full operationalization of E-Seba Kendras, digitization of old case records.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY

SOUTH ANDAMAN, NORTH & MIDDLE ANDAMAN & NICOBAR



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 8,249 sq. km **Population :** 4,04,000 (projected as of 01.07.2023)

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 3

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 11

District Court Portal/ Website : southandaman.dcourts.gov.in

Name of the District : Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Court Location						
No. of Judges	South Andaman & Nicobar (Port Blair)		North & Middle Andaman & Nicobar (Mayabunder)		Car Nicobar, Campbel Bay	
	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy
	6	0	3	0	2	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken			
Staff	116	32	The recruitment process could not be initiated as the revised recruitment rules is yet to be published in the Official Gazette of the A&N Administration which is pending since long.			

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

In view of the directions of the Hon'ble Arrears Committee, High Court, Calcutta, the Judicial Officers, the Learned Advocates, Public Prosecutors and other stakeholders were sensitized about the criteria to be adopted in identifying and disposal of cases as stipulated by the Hon'ble Arrears Committee. The Nodal officers of the Revenue Department and the police department who are also the members of the committee have also been requested to render all assistance for implementation of the directions of the Hon'ble Arrears Committee.

Only 01 civil suit is pending for more than 30 years, out of a total of 70 cases (31 civil

and 39 criminal), 04 criminal cases and 06 civil cases were disposed in the category of 20-30 years.

In view of specific directions issued, the Judicial Officers have been requested to take efforts to dispose of such cases which are older than 10 years.

Physical Verification of all case records in all the Courts have been done.

District Legal Services Authority :

The Andaman & Nicobar State Legal Services Authority, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, celebrated Van Mahotsav on July 5, 2024, in the Court Complex at Port Blair.

On 06.08.2024, a State Level National Annual Stakeholder Consultation on the Protection of Children with Disabilities 2024 at conference Hall of DC office Port Blair was organized.

On 02.08.2024 Legal Awareness Camp at Car Nicobar was held on POCSO Act. On 03.08.2024 Legal Awareness Camp at Campbell Bay was held on POCSO Act and NDPS Act.

On August 9, 2024, in the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Justice Arijit Banerjee and Hon'ble Justice Sugato Majumdar of the Calcutta High Court, the Andaman & Nicobar State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, jointly organized the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" tree plantation program at the Court Complex, Port Blair.

A&N State Legal Services Authority (A&N SLSA) and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), in collaboration with JNRM College, conducted a legal awareness program on the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and crimes against women.

On 12.02.2025 an interactive session on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Juvenile Justice

Act, and General Court Procedure was organized by the Andaman & Nicobar Police in association with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Andaman & Nicobar Islands at the Police Headquarters Conference Hall.

A Legal Awareness Camp was successfully organized on 23.02.2025 at Uttara Panchayat Hall, Kadamtala by the Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee, Mayabunder, under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Human Resource :

The recruitment process is not yet initiated as the revised recruitment rules is yet to be published in the Official Gazette of A&N Administration which is pending since long.

ICT Initiatives :

Video conferencing facility is functional in every court at Port Blair and Sub-Divisional Court Complex at Mayabunder, Diglipur, Car Nicobar and Campbell Bay. Setting up of e-Sewa Kendra in District Court Complex at Port Blair and Sub-Divisional Court Complex at Mayabunder is on the verge of completion.

Infrastructural Development :

Vulnerable Witness Deposition Center at Mayabunder has been setup and was

inaugurated in the month of July, 2024 which is fully functional.

Installation of lift at Phase-II Annexe building is in progress. Installation of lift at Phase-I Annexe building has also been initiated and will be installed shortly once the administrative approval and expenditure sanction is received from the Administration.

A separate land for establishment of court of Judicial Magistrate First Class at Diglipur is allotted by the Administration. The land is situated at R.K. Gram, Diglipur.

Steps have also been taken for construction of triple storied building after dismantling the existing ADR center "PRAYAS" for housing Commercial Court, State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority, Mediation and other offices.

The e-Sewa Kendra which have proposed to be set up at Port Blair and Mayabunder is at the verge of completion.

Juvenile Justice :

The Juvenile Justice Board at Port Blair is presided over by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, 2nd Court, Port Blair sitting with 02 other members. The Board functions at the Observation Home. Similarly, the Juvenile Justice Board at North & Middle Andaman, Mayabunder is presided over by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, Mayabunder. As regards, the constitution of Juvenile Justice Board, Car Nicobar is concerned, communication has been made to the Director of Social Welfare.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY BANKURA



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 6,882 sq. km

Population : 3,596,292 as per Census 2011

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 3 (Three)

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 31

District Court Portal/ Website : <http://bankura.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : Bankura

Court Location			
No. of Judges		Sadar, Bishnupur Sub Division, Khatra	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		32	1
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	388	158	Staff Recruitment Examination 2024 has been conducted on 23.02.2025. Further progress has been kept in abeyance in view of the Hon'ble Court's direction vide No. 2217- RG dated-21.03.2025.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

During the time period in between 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, total of 850 (Eight hundred & fifty) civil cases and 1671 (one thousand six hundred & seventy one) Criminal cases, which are more than 5 years old, have been disposed of. Shortest possible dates are being provided. All Judicial Officers have been informed for considering the old cases as most urgent and assessment are being done on regular interval. A committee namely District Case Management Committee has been constituted in this regard as per direction of the Hon'ble Court. The committee is monitoring the progress of reduction of old cases.

In the District of Bankura, there are currently 3,423 civil and 12,347 criminal

cases pending for over five years. Focused efforts have been taken to reduce this backlog through regular stakeholder meetings and systematic physical verification of records to facilitate expedited disposal. Physical verification of case records have been done.

District Legal Services Authority :

During a routine inspection in February 2025 at Sumangalam Home for Boys, Bishnupur, the Ld. Secretary, DLSA, Bankura identified a child, exhibiting multiple vulnerabilities including speech and hearing impairment and serious health issues. Recognizing the need for specialized care, the DLSA, Bankura ensured his relocation to a CCI which is suitable to his special needs.

Human Resource :

Staff Recruitment Examination 2024 has been conducted on 23.02.2025. Further progress has been kept in abeyance.

ICT Initiatives :

Revamping of LAN and replacement of network switches has been completed; and all courts now have VC systems and high-speed Wi-Fi for virtual hearing.

ICJS has been made functional from 01.01.2025 enabling online tracking of eFIRs and eCharge-sheets across the Judgeship.

Old computers & printers provided under Phase I & II hardware have been replaced with HP All-in-One PCs and multifunction printers have been supplied for smooth court functioning.

eBail-Bond facility introduced for online management of surety details for each accused.

eFiling and ePayment systems launched allowing 24/7 online case filing and fee payments.



Infrastructural Development:

One nine storied composite court building at Bankura sadar is under construction,

one Judicial Magistrate's Court at Khatra sub division under the judgeship of Bankura has been proposed, at the building of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Khatra.

Temporary Vulnerable witness deposition centers at Khatra & Bishnupur Sub-division are functioning. CCTV surveillance system is functioning for District Judge's Court Complex as well as Judge's Enclave, Bungalow, Kenduadihi, Bankura. Solar projects have been installed at sadar Bankura as well as Khatra and Bishnupur sub-divisional courts.

Juvenile Justice Board :

Juvenile Justice Board is functional.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY

BIRBHUM



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 4,545 sq. km

Population : Over 3.5 Million

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 4

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 32

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://birbhum.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : Birbhum

No. of Judges	Suri		Rampurhat		Bolpur		Dhubarajpur	
	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy
	16	2	10	2	7	0	3	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned		Vacancy		Steps Taken			
Staff	344		109		The recruitment process has been temporarily suspended due to pending High Court litigation concerning OBC-A/OBC-B reservations.			

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

The District Court Management Committee, Birbhum has actively undertaken backlog reduction by identifying targeted cases across all 35 courts, ensuring equitable distribution among Presiding Officers, and leveraging technology such as the JustIS App. Regular meetings-both physical and virtual-with Judicial Officers have streamlined case disposal. Notably, over 50% of cases pending for more than 30 years were disposed of in the first phase of the arrear reduction plan. Coordination with senior officers across departments including Police, Health, Forest, and Excise has further strengthened efforts towards efficient disposal.

Vision :

The District Court Management Committee is taking endeavour to dispose of cases through mediation, Lok Adalat and other Alternative Dispute Redressal method to resolve disputes. Pre Lok Adalat sitting for old cases has already started to function in Birbhum District.

Physical verification of case records in all the courts of this district is done.

District Legal Services Authority:

Lok Adalats have achieved significant success in resolving disputes, particularly through disposal of cases and providing swift, affordable justice, especially for pre-litigation matters and those in rural areas.



Inauguration of Office of Legal Aid Defence

Lok Adalat have settled considerable number of cases, relieving the burden on traditional courts and offering a more accessible and amicable dispute resolution process.



National Lok Adalat

ICT Initiatives :

LAN infrastructure has been comprehensively revamped and Video Conferencing facilities have been made available in all courts. The ICJS service has been implemented. In order to improve efficiency, outdated computers and printers have been replaced with updated new one. A new Court Building at Bolpur has been inaugurated and it is equipped with State of the Art IT infrastructure. The e-Filing, E-Bail Bond and e-payment facilities have been implemented to enhance digital processing.

Infrastructural Development :

A new integrated Court building at Bolpur having provision of 09 Court Halls with

ancillary departments and 01 POCSO Court was inaugurated on 09.08.2024 by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta, T.S. Sivagnanam and became functional from that day.



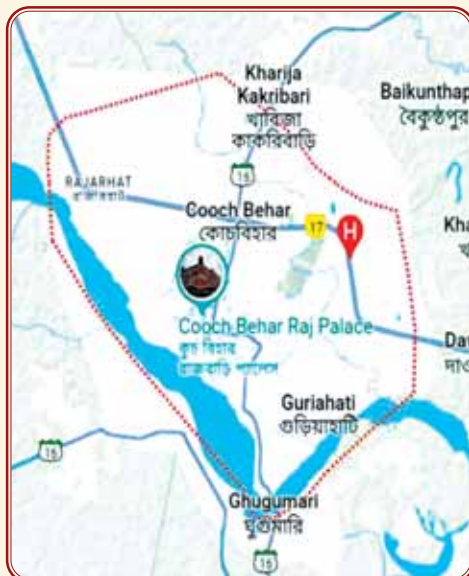
Inauguration of Court Building at Bolpur

At Dubrajpur a new Court room with provision of ancillary office with ready infrastructure has been completed for the proposed court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate. At Suri a Site at Mouza-Karidhya, Plot no. 1705, J.L no. 106, area - 1.3884 acres under Suri P.S has been identified for the construction of Judicial Quarter with G+4 construction and the said land has already been transferred in favour of the Judicial Department and the matter is under process. Drinking Water facilities with Water Purifier machines will be provided to all the stakeholders and the machines are being installed at all the four stations. Besides these temporary VWDCs have been made ready in all the four stations and permanent VWDC is under process.

Juvenile Justice :

Juvenile Justice Board is functioning in this District.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY COOCH BEHAR



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 3,387 sq. km

Population : 28,19,086 as per 2011 census

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 5

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 28

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://coochbehar.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : Coochbehar

Court Location										
No. of Judges	Dinhata		Sadar		Mathatbhanga		Tufanganj		Mekhliganj	
	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy
	6	0	14	1	3	0	3	0	3	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned		Vacancy		Steps Taken					
Staff	318		94		Recruitment process has been kept in abeyance due to pending litigation over OBC-A and OBC-B matter.					

Located in the north-eastern corner of West Bengal, **Cooch Behar** district shares international border with Bangladesh and State border with Assam, making it a geo-politically sensitive region.

District Legal Services Authority :

After the active intervention of District Legal Services Authority, Cooch Behar, a good number of Child Marriages has been stopped. With the assistance of District Legal Services Authority, Cooch Behar, a good number of orphan Children got financial assistance towards their education under appropriate schemes of the Government.

**Workshop on children with Disabilities****International day observance**

Owing to its location near International border, relation is maintained between the DLSA, local administration, and occasionally the Bangladesh High Commission.

Human Resource :

The recruitment process of Cooch Behar remains stalled in the light of ongoing stay concerning OBC Categorization. Several lower-level posts, including typists, group D staff, and stenographers, remain vacant.

ICT Initiatives :

The District Judgeship being a part of the e-Courts projects initiated and made functionalising Phase wise E-filing of cases, Court fees payment through E-payment portal, E-sewa kendra for providing accessibility to the Learned Advocates and litigants and other stakeholders and VC facilities through online.



Infrastructural Development:

The Judgeship has also taken steps for the construction of additional courtrooms, judges' chambers, and litigant amenities, including waiting halls and barrier-free access facilities. At present, courts are functioning in available heritage structures, and while these provide a culturally significant backdrop, they are not always optimal for modern judicial functioning—particularly in terms of digital connectivity, security, and accessibility.

Proposals have been submitted for:

POCSO Court at Mathabhanga and Toofanganj are at the verge of completion. Process for construction of residential Judicial Quarters is ongoing.

Juvenile Justice :

The JJB, Cooch Behar has firmly established a child-centric approach that prioritizes rehabilitation and reintegration over punitive action.

Vision :

Setting up of a permanent VWDC at Sadar Cooch Behar.

Setting up a creche.

Establishment of dedicated lactating unit for mothers with new borns.

Construction of dedicated ramp facilities at the Court premises for the litigants as well as other stakeholders with disabilities.

Name of the District : Daksin Dinajpur

Court Location					
No. of Judges		Sadar at Balurghat		Gangarampur Sub-Division at BUNIADPUR	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy
		13	1	5	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken		
Staff	163	33	The stalled position of recruitment process due to some unavoidable circumstances.		

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Dakshin Dinajpur is a district which was carved out of the erstwhile undivided Dinajpur district in 1992. Its head quarters is at Balurghat, known for its cultural heritage and scenic beauty. The district primarily thrives on agriculture and shares its international border with Bangladesh.

Meeting is regularly held for District Case Management Committee, Action Plan for Arrear Reduction of cases, Case Flow Management to reduce the oldest cases, pending in each of Court of this Judgeship. Result has started to come as 906 cases pending for more than 10 years in of this Judgeship have been disposed of during the period. The physical verification of all records is done in this District.

District Legal Services Authority :

Effective steps have been taken by the DLSA to settle / solve the huge number of disputes in the pre-litigation stage. Numerous child marriages have been stopped in the remote areas of this District by the hard work of the authority (59 marriages stopped in 2025).

**National Lok Adalat**

The authority is communicating / informing about the facilities of different Govt. schemes. Efforts are made to reinstate the school drop-out students to the schools for continuous study. Medical facilities are also being provided to those socially backward communities who are unable to avail the facility on their own especially retarded peoples through the C.M.O.H. in the Govt. Hospital. Moreover, one awareness campaign has been going in full swing to restrain / stop the child trafficking in this district

Vision :-

The authority has taken the vision to eradicate child marriage. Steps have been taken to provide all kinds of Govt. facilities to all the common people of this district by making door to door campaign so that they may get the full benefit of those schemes.



Tree Plantation

Many trees were planted during this period in both the Court Complexes of Sadar Balurghat and Sub divisional Court Gangarampur at Buniadpur on a global campaign namely "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam". This judgship also celebrated International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm and zest in both Sadar and Sub-division.

ICT Initiatives :

Hearing cases through video conference is achieved. Moreover, e-Sewa Kendras and temporary VWDC are providing service round the clock in both the Sub-divisions.

E-Sewa Kendras in both the Sadar and Sub-division are providing service to the litigants in full swing round the clock. NSTEP will be started within a week which will help the Judgeship in the service of processes in proper manner.



Infrastructural Development :

One plan for construction of G+4 building (consisting of Family Court, Child Friendly Court, Fast Track Court for Adivasi Under Trial Prisoner with other facilities) at Sadar Balurghat is pending for architectural drawing before the Chief Government Architect, Kolkata since 2019 and construction of G+2 building for residential accommodation in the sub-division for the Judicial Officers is also pending since 2024 for architectural drawing before the North Zone Architect, Jalpaiguri.



New proposal for construction of One (01) Toilet Block at Sadar Court Balurghat and renovation of existing toilets at both the Sadar Court at Balurghat and Sub-divisional Court Gangarampur at Buniadpur for the use of transgender and PWD have been sent to the Judicial Department in compliance with the direction of Hon'ble Apex Court.

VWDC are running smoothly in both Sadar Court at Balurghat and Sub-divisional Court Gangarampur at Buniadpur in temporary accommodation.

Juvenile Justice :

Juvenile Justice Board is functioning and 20 cases out of 50 cases pending for more than 10 years have been disposed of.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY

DARJEELING



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 2,092 sq. km

Population : 18,46,823

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 5+1 Commercial Courts establishment at Siliguri

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 25

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://darjeeling.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : Darjeeling

Court Location												
No. of Judges	Sadar		Kurseong		Mungpoo Chauki Court		Mirik Taluka Court		Siliguri Sub Diviison		Commercial Couart at Siliguri	
	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy
	9	1	3	0	2	1	2	1	11	0	1	0
Human Resource Position		Sanctioned		Vacancy		Steps Taken						
Staff		239		82		The entire ongoing process of Recruitment of staff has been kept in abeyance as per direction of the Hon'ble Court pending OBC related case.						

Darjeeling, a Himalayan district of West Bengal, is renowned for its scenic beauty, tea estates, and cultural diversity.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

To ensure timely disposal of cases, an Arrear Committee has been constituted in the district of Darjeeling as per the direction of the Hon'ble High Court's Arrear Committee. The Committee actively monitors progress, addresses hindrances, and ensures equitable distribution of oldest pending cases, along with focusing on long-pending petitions. Witness depositions are being facilitated through video conferencing, and physical verification of case records has been completed in all courts.

District Legal Services Authority :

Legal awareness initiatives conducted across tea gardens, tribal belts, panchayats,

hospitals, and schools, addressing issues like child abuse, trafficking, early marriage, ADR, and POCSO Act.

15 new Legal Aid Clinics were opened at police stations, health centres, educational institutions, and remote areas to improve grassroots-level legal access.

Multiple Lok Adalats were held, disposing of 5618 cases.

Committees were constituted for Child-Friendly Services, Mental Health Legal Aid, UTRC, Hit & Run compensation, and senior citizen-focused campaigns.

Training sessions and workshops were held for PLVs on human trafficking, cybercrime, and the new criminal laws, in collaboration with police and NGOs.

Legal Literacy Clubs were formed in various schools and 25 awareness programmes have

been conducted in educational institutions across the district.



Repeated legal awareness drives were held in all district correctional and sub-correctional homes focusing on prisoner rights and legal remedies.

PLVS plays pivotal role in rescuing trafficked children, minor rape victims, other victims and in preventing child marriages, rehabilitating abandoned minors, and supporting elderly persons in distress.

Inspections and legal education sessions were conducted in Children's Homes with monitoring of facilities like dormitories, kitchens, and food.

Celebrated at the ADR Centre with the participation of court staff, Judicial Officers, and children from Edith Wilkins Home; cultural events and a skit on domestic violence were showcased.

Human Resource :

The entire ongoing process of Recruitment of staff has been kept in abeyance as per

direction of the Hon'ble Court pending OBC related case.

ICT Initiatives :

NSTEP ensures transparent, real-time tracking of court summons and notices, streamlining the justice delivery process efficiently.

Infrastructural Development :

The Child Friendly Court at Sadar, Darjeeling is nearing completion with all major works done. A capsule lift for victims is under construction, post which the court will be ready for commissioning as a Special Fast Track Court for POCSO cases. Simultaneously, new court infrastructure projects are underway in Mirik, Kurseong, and Siliguri, with land acquisition, funding, and architectural planning progressing steadily.

Juvenile Justice :

The Juvenile Justice Board, Darjeeling, is committed to protecting child rights, ensuring fair trials, access to legal aid, and rehabilitative justice. Between 01.07.2024 and 30.06.2025, the Board disposed of 35 cases, focusing on care, protection, and victim compensation. Its core vision is to foster reintegration over punishment, guiding children toward becoming responsible and productive members of society.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY HOOGHLY



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 3,149 sq. km

Population : 5519145

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 4

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 50

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://hooghly.dcourts.gov.in/>

Name of the District : Hooghly

Court Location								
No. of Judges	Chinsurah		Chandernagore		Serampore		Arambagh	
	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy
	20	2	9	0	16	0	9	2
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned		Vacancy		Steps Taken			
Staff	547		122		As per Notification No. 2217-RG, dated, 21.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta, all the recruitment processes are withheld.			

Hooghly district, located in the lower Gangetic plains of West Bengal, represents a blend of rural, peri-urban, and industrial zones, which presents a multifaceted judicial workload.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Besides disposal of 30 years old cases, emphasis is also put in to reduce the pending margin of 20 years old cases to a Single Digit or Zero. Focus was given for disposal of POCSO cases, JJB Pending Cases, Negotiable Instrument Act Cases, Land Acquisition Cases, Motor Accident claim cases. Focus was given for disposal of three-year oldest execution petition. Due to the steps taken the rate of disposal of more than 30 years old cases is increased to 18.32% from 4.99% in March, 2025 as compared to December, 2024. Physical Verification of Case Records is done in all Courts.

District Legal Services Authority :

During a visit to Prabartak Seva Niketan, Chanderangore, a CNCP girl, was identified by DLSA, with no traceable background and initiated her restoration process through coordination with Jharkhand SLISA and West Singhbhum DLSA. Based on the reports and the girl's willingness, CWC Hooghly issued a transfer order for her accommodation in a CCI at Singhbhum, Jharkhand.

DLSA, Hooghly facilitated the release and rehabilitation of UTP, a mentally ill undertrial without any social support, by securing legal aid, psychiatric care, and arranging surety through NGO support. Upon release, a PLV assisted his safe return to Uttar Pradesh with travel support from the Jail Authority.

On 04.04.2025 DLSA, Hooghly organized a cultural programme performed by the inmates of District Correctional Home, Hooghly on the thought 'Second Chances Start Here' on the occasion of World Theatre Day.



ICT Initiatives :

e-Sewa Kendra cabin has been set up but it is yet to be functional. N-step is soon to be made functional. Four (4) Porta Cabins (eSewa Kendras) have been set up at Chandernagore, Serampore and Arambagh Sub-Divisional Court and also at District Judge's Court at Hooghly Sadar. The said Porta Cabins (eSewa Kendras) are yet to be functional. For the sake of security Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras have been installed at Chandernagore Sub-Divisional Court and Serampore Sub-Divisional Court for surveillance.

Infrastructural Development :

Three child-friendly special courts under the Protection of Children from Sexual

Offences (POCSO) Act are nearing completion at the Sub-Divisional Courts of Chandernagore, Serampore, and Arambagh. Four (4) numbers of temporary Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers (VWDCs) have been created at Chandernagore, Serampore and Arambagh Sub-Divisional Court and also at District Judge's Court at Hooghly Sadar.

Juvenile Justice :

JJB as a statutory body as per JJ act emphasizes participation of the CCL & ensures legal aids. By passing order to attend schooling system, vocational training & even transferring to the CWC as CNCP as per requirements keeping in view the vision of the Juvenile Justice. JJB Hooghly had proposed the names of the CCL for sponsorship (non institutional) programme among them 10 CCL have been approved from the state.



Counseling at JJB

JJB Hooghly took initiative through PPP model and through cooperation of DCPU

in opening one skill development centre run by KDBRASS NGO (jute production centre). It has created child friendly environment by fixing suggestion box, affixing posters regarding free legal aids to the CCL and distributing leaflets regularly through PLV, arrangement of First aid box at the premises having picture/images at the premises, rendering message related to child rights,

child protection. JJB Ensured child friendly atmosphere by interacting with the CCL & their guardians and ensures that the CCL is not ill treated at the police station as well as during their stay at the Observation Home.

Miscellaneous Activities :

Tress have been planted on 5th June. International Day for Yoga has also been observed.



Name of the District : Howrah

Court Location						
No. of Judges	Sadar		Uluberia		Amta	
	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy
	33	6	9	1	3	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken			
Staff	421	81	Recruitment Process is yet to be initiated.			

Situated adjacent to the state's capital, the district of Howrah commands a pivotal role in the state's judicial landscape. The most defining achievement for the reporting year is the completion of Phase I of the new court infrastructure, which marks a new era of modernization and digital enablement in judicial service delivery.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Physical verification has been done. Ghost records and duplicate records have been deleted from the CIS. More than 30 years old cases have been targeted for speedy disposal.

District Legal Services Authority:

DLSA has provided legal aid to over 5,000 beneficiaries, including women, children, prisoners, SC/STs, and economically weaker sections. DLSA operated 92 Legal Aid Clinics across villages, jails, courts, colleges, and police stations and organized 399+ awareness programmes, reaching

9,620+ individuals, including targeted outreach in schools, jails, villages and slums. DLSA Howrah Conducted 4 National Lok Adalats, settling 16,164 cases with total settlements exceeding 22 Crores, and has handled 47+ mediation cases, and it has conducted training for mediators and panel lawyers. DLSA implemented the Victim Compensation Scheme with the disbursement of Rs 14,30,000/-. DLSA has held four Under-trial Review Committee meetings, resulting in 17 inmate releases. It further Carried out legal awareness drives on child rights, women's safety, mental health, bonded labour and drug abuse and illicit trafficking.



Vision:

To ensure inclusive, accessible, and technology-enabled justice through: legal awareness in rural and vulnerable sections of the Society.

Promoting mediation and alternative dispute resolution.

Enhancing digital efficiency via LSMS/ LACMS portals. Strengthening collaboration with NGOs, government departments, and educational institutions. Empowering Para-Legal Volunteers as legal outreach agents.

ICT Initiatives :

Porta cabin of e-Sewa Kendra has been installed. Electrical and IT work have been completed in e-Sewa Kendra.

Infrastructural Development :

New court building (G+1) (Phase - I) will be inaugurated very soon. As on date the Phase-I of the New Court Building has been inaugurated. Civil, Electrical and IT works have been completed. All the courts and offices are equipped with centralized AC. Second Phase of the new court building will be started after completion of necessary formalities and also after inaugural of the first phase. Virtual hearing infrastructure has been installed in all courts of the new court building. IT work has been completed. Drinking water facility and lift facility are also available in the building. Each floor of the building, beginning from the first floor, will be exclusively designated for a single court, along with its respective chambers and office spaces. Painting and renovation work is going on at old court building.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY

JALPAIGURI



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 3,386.18 sq. km

Population : 2381596 as per census 2011

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 2

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 15

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://jalpaiguri.dcourts.gov.in/>

Name of the District : Jalpaiguri

Court Location			
No. of Judges		Sadar, Malbazar	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		17	2
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	After bifurcation of Jalpaiguri Judgeship from 29.04.2023 no sanctioned strength is received from the Judicial Department, Govt. of W.B.	Does not arise.	The Judgeship of Alipurduar has been bifurcated from the Judgeship of Jalpaiguri w.e.f. 29.04.2023 and after the bifurcation the District Promotion and Recruitment Committee has been constituted. The recruitment process has not been initiated.

With its proximity to the Himalayan foothills, international borders, and several eco-sensitive zones, the district faces a unique combination of legal challenges ranging from land rights, environmental disputes, and child protection to cross-border crimes and migration-related issues.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Several key initiatives have been undertaken to improve case management and ensure

timely disposal of long-pending matters. All officers are regularly updating the targeted list of cases and have been instructed to ensure month-wise disposal of cases pending for 5-10 years, 20-30 years, and more than 30 years, with proper supervision and prioritization. The Nodal Officer has been assigned the task of maintaining and regularly updating a database of such stayed cases, which will

be submitted to the Registrar Judicial Service on a regular basis. Efforts are also being made to reduce the number of undated cases in the Case Information System (CIS) to zero or single digits. Each Presiding Officer has been directed to maintain a separate register for lost files, and any such instance must be reported to the District Case Management Committee without delay. Court staff are also directed to keep the Presiding Officer informed about any lost files and the daily progress of targeted cases. Additionally, a copy of the resolution passed by the District Case Management Committee is circulated to all officers of the Judgeship for necessary compliance and follow-up. Physical verification of the case records is done.

District Legal Services Authority:

A Legal Awareness Camp on child rights and legal remedies, including DLSA services and the POCSO Act, was held on 24.09.2024 at Special Cadre School, Berubari.

Quarterly visit is done by District Judge, Jalpaiguri at the Central Correctional Home.

District Judge inspected the Prison Legal Aid Clinic (PLAC).

The Prison Legal Aid Clinic is run within the Correctional Home premises with the assistance of long term convicts who get time to time orientation training from the DLSA on running the clinic. The PLAC is created as per the direction and guidance of NALSA, specially to provide legal assistance to the inmate at Correctional

Home and address other issues concerning the inmates.

The DLSA, Jalpaiguri has set up 02 (Two) Legal Literacy Stall at Durga Puja Pandals, to sensitize the people.



National Legal Services Day is celebrated. 20 Para Legal Volunteers have been deputed on this day to provide awareness amongst the mass about the importance of that day. In this respect 16 Legal Awareness camps were organized at the village level. On that day one sensitization programme was conducted at Nijoloy Children's Home amongst the inmates of the custody home.

The Secretary DLSA, Jalpaiguri, along with the Judicial Officers of Jalpaiguri Sadar observed Constitutional Day by reading of the Preamble of the Constitution for promoting Constitutional Values among all. A tribute was paid to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar for his exemplary service as an architect of the Constitution. Constitution Day was observed by the Sub Divisional Legal Services Committee, Mal at Additional

District & Sessions Judge, Mal Court complex.

On World AIDS Day, DLSA Jalpaiguri organized a sensitization programme in collaboration with CMOH and Health Department officials, engaging students of the Pharmacy College.

A Legal Literacy Stall was set up by DLSA Jalpaiguri at the Maynaguri Book Fair from 16-22 Dec 2024, attracting 247 visitors and spreading awareness on legal aid schemes.

Legal awareness camp on 'bonded labour abolition day' at the Conference hall of Circuit House, Jalpaiguri in collaboration with International Justice Mission (IJM) and Duars Express.



Capacity Building Workshop on empowering Communities for Child Protection with Central Armed Forces (BSF 18 BN NB FTR) held on 21.08.25 at the Conference Hall at BOP, Fulbari 18 BN BSF under NB FTR, New Jalpaiguri in collaboration with CINI.

Human Resource :

After bifurcation of Jalpaiguri Judgeship since 29.04.2023, this Judgeship made correspond with the Principal Secretary Judicial Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Kolkata with regard to required staff strength of all categories. Judgeship of Jalpaiguri presently consisting of Jalpaiguri Sadar and Malbazar Sub-Division. However, no response has been received from their end till date, due to which the recruitment process could not be initiated.

ICT Initiatives :

Basic digital infrastructure such as the **Case Information System (CIS) and video conferencing facilities** are in place and regularly used. The judiciary plans to adopt **NSTEP** to streamline service of notices and summons digitally-a move that is expected to reduce procedural delay and improve transparency.

Officers and court staff have been sensitized on the use of **ECMT (Electronic Case Management Tools)**.

Juvenile Justice :

In the year 2023, a total of 906 active cases were disposed of, while 139 active cases have been disposed of in the year 2024 so far. Guided by the legal framework, the primary objective remains the protection of children in conflict with law from any form of violence and to ensure their rehabilitation into society. Efforts are consistently made to minimize the detention of Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) in observation homes, thereby promoting a more restorative and child-sensitive approach.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY

JHARGRAM



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 3,024.38 sq. km

Population : 11,37,163

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 1

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 11

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://jhargram.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : Jhargram

Court Location			
No. of Judges		Sadar	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		11	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	117	39	1. Recruitment process for the post of Stenographer is going on. 2. Family Court is running with the staff deputed from the strength of the staff of the District Court. Recruitment process for those posts of Family court will be started shortly.

Jhargram is a district located in the western part of the state of West Bengal, known for its rich tribal heritage, cultural diversity, and scenic beauty.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

The District Case Management Committee, Jhargram, has reviewed period-wise pending cases across the Judgeship and has instructed all courts to identify and prioritize targeted cases pending for over 10 years. Courts are also directed to submit police station-wise pending E/R of W/A for onward transmission to the Nodal Officer. The Nodal Officer has been asked to address several specific issues related missing GDE. Notably, an average arrear reduction of approximately 9.6% has been achieved

for cases over 10 years old. Physical verification of court records is done.

District Legal Services Authority :

DLSA, Jhargram successfully resolved key disputes during the reporting period,

including a pension case (Pre-litigation Case No. 151/2022) where the family pension of an unmarried daughter was restored along with arrears, and an insurance claim case (Pre-litigation Case No. 85/2024) where a widow received her due claim after initial denial by the bank.

During the Mediation Fortnight held from 03.08.2024 to 17.08.2024, 09 cases were referred, of which 02 were amicably settled through mediation.

DLSA, Jhargram successfully mediated two matrimonial disputes resulting in mutual settlements and withdrawal of both cases. Counselling facilitated amicable resolutions between the parties.

DLSA, Jhargram held a refresher training for PLVs on 26.11.2024 and an orientation for Panel Advocates and PLVs on 03.12.2024, focusing on legal awareness and responsibilities under key NALSA schemes.

DLSA, Jhargram conducted four specialized training sessions for PLVs in February and March 2025, focusing on human trafficking, SC/ST (PoA) Act, and child-related issues. The programmes were held in collaboration with International Justice Mission and the District Administration.

DLSA, Jhargram conducted extensive legal awareness initiatives through camps at correctional homes, villages, and schools, along with outreach stalls at Joy Johar Mela, Book Fair, and Industrial Fair. These programmes promoted knowledge on legal

rights, child protection laws, ADR mechanisms, and the role of DLSA in providing free legal aid.

DLSA, Jhargram commemorated key national days including Independence Day, Republic Day, Constitution Day, National Legal Services Day, Children's Day, Parakram Divas, World Environ-ment Day, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and International Yoga Day through district-wide legal awareness initiatives involving judicial officers, PLVs, and the public.

In 2024-2025, DLSA Jhargram conducted regular jail and child care home visits, ensured legal aid for 82 undertrial prisoners, and successfully organized four National Lok Adalats settling several cases in which 2 crore has been awarded.

Human Resource :

The recruitment process for Stenographer is underway, and recruitment for Family Court staff will commence shortly, as it currently functions with deputed District Court staff.

ICT Initiatives :

eSewa Kendra, E-Filing and E-Payment has been implemented and functioning. NSTEP: Smart Phones along with SIM cards have been allotted to all Bailiffs and Process Servers. It will start functioning very shortly after arranging a training program, which is under process. Digitization of case record has been started as pilot project. E-Bail Bond application is being implemented. It will start functioning very shortly.

Infrastructural Development :



Since August 2024, the Jhargram Judgeship has undergone major infrastructural transformation with the inauguration of the G+5 Composite Court Building, ADR Centre, Residential Quarters, and the District Judge's Bungalow-all aimed at enhancing judicial efficiency, accessibility, and inclusivity. These modern facilities include 17 courtrooms, accessible amenities, child-friendly POCSO court, mediation and Lok Adalat rooms, and comfortable staff accommodations. All the Courts are equipped to record evidence of vulnerable witnesses. Ongoing projects like the extension of the Bar Association building and construction of main entry gates further reflect the Judgeship's continued commitment to a future-ready, functional, and inclusive justice delivery system.

Juvenile Justice :



The JJB, Jhargram, has adopted a rehabilitative and child-friendly approach by engaging CCLs in education, vocational training, community service, and therapeutic activities. One CCL completed a six-month electrical training at Vidyasagar Technical College and is now a 2nd-year student at Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Polytechnic. Others participated in community service at Jhargram Medical College and Ramkrishna Mission. Regular counselling, art and play therapy, and a child-friendly boardroom ensure a supportive environment. Additionally, a separate room for lactating mothers has been established.

Vision :

Pending needs include a centralized record room, sanction of additional courts with staff, and preservation of heritage structures within the court complex.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY

KALIMPONG



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 1,075 Sq. Km

Population : 2,51,642 (as per 2011 census)

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 2

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 07

District Court Portal/ Website : www.kalimpong.dcourts.gov.in

Name of the District : Kalimpong

Court Location			
No. of Judges		Sadar & Gorubathan	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		7	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	91	55	The filling up of vacant posts of the staff of the Judgeship of Kalimpong is under process vide recruitment Notification No.1/2024 and Notification No.2/2024 but in view of corrigendum vide notification No.2217-RG dated 21.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta the ongoing recruitment processes involving the filling up vacancies of OBC-A and OBC-B categories in the District Courts has been kept in abeyance until further order.

Kalimpong, nestled in the eastern Himalayas of West Bengal, is a serene hill district known for its scenic beauty, cultural diversity, and educational institutions. It was carved out of Darjeeling district and declared a separate district on 14th February 2017.

**Measures taken for arrear reduction :**

The Case Management Committee for implementation of Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in the Judgeship of Kalimpong has been constituted. There is no pendency of cases in the Judgeship of Kalimpong pending for more than 30 Years and 20 years. Priority are given for disposal of oldest cases pending for more than 10 years by all the Courts of this Judgeship. There is no undated cases and physical case record pending in the CIS in the Judgeship of Kalimpong till date. The details of oldest cases which are being identified are

displayed in the notice board of the District Court, Kalimpong. There is no Execution petition pending for more than six months from the date of filing in the Judgeship of Kalimpong. There is no under-trials identified in the District Correctional Home, Kalimpong who have served 1/3rd. of the maximum period of imprisonment for their alleged offences as reported by the Superintendent, District Correctional Home, Kalimpong. There is also no Civil Cases pending for more than 5 years on account of non service of summons/notices as reported by all the Civil Courts of this Judgeship. Physical verification of all the case record is done.

District Legal Services Authority:

The DLSA Kalimpong has observed the plantation campaign "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" on 25.08.2024 at the District Judge's Bungalow, Kalimpong.

Organized awareness programmes for senior citizens on 01.10.2024 to mark the International Day for elderly persons.

Installed display boards in Nepali language publicizing NALSA's Toll-Free Legal Aid Helpline 15100 at key locations including police stations, hospital, child protection unit, and court premises.

Conducted a legal awareness programme on Children's Day (14.11.2024) at Apostolic Children Home, Kalimpong.

Organized a two-day orientation training programme for the Legal Services Unit for children under the NALSA Child-Friendly Legal Services Scheme, 2024.

Conducted training on 05.12.2024 for panel advocates and PLVs on legal services for persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities under the NALSA Scheme, 2024.

Affixed DLSA contact templates at various public places including Kalimpong town, post office, correctional home, women's police station, and Jaldhaka and Gorubathan police stations.

Deputed advocates and PLVs to the Sabala Mela Stall held from 09.01.2025 to 11.01.2025 at Delo Park, Kalimpong, organized by Kalimpong Development Block-I.

Human Resource :

In view of the corrigendum vide notification no. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025, the ongoing recruitment process involving the filling up vacancies of OBC A and B categories of the District of Kalimpong is being kept in abeyance until further order.

ICT Initiatives :

E-seva Kendra is ready to be inaugurated.

Infrastructural Development :

Land has been secured and building plans submitted for residential units for Judicial

officers at Kalimpong and Gorubathan which is under process for inter-departmental land transfer.

Juvenile Justice :

During the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, 09 cases have been disposed of and only 26 cases are pending at the end of the said period. This JJB has endeavored to follow the principles enshrined in Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act, 2015 keeping in view the principle of best interest of the CCL are in the best interest of the CCL. In the case where the CCL has been found to be in Conflict with Law, resort has been made for community service in consonance with principle of repatriation and restoration

and also keeping in mind the principle of institutionalization as a measure of last resort. Also proper counseling is given to the CCLs which had positive impact on them aimed at their rehabilitation.

The term of Board Members had expired on 17.02.2025 and new Board Members are yet to join. The vision is to dispose of maximum cases as soon as the new Board Members join and reduce the pending cases to single digit figure.

Miscellaneous Activities :

The achievement need to be focused regarding Infrastructure for the Judgeship of Kalimpong is a new Composite Court Building for the District of Kalimpong.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY KOLKATA



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 206 sq. km

Kolkata, the capital city of West Bengal, has a well-established judicial infrastructure that caters to both civil and criminal matters. The city's judicial system is divided primarily into two broad streams:

Criminal Courts - Includes the City Sessions Court, Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court. Under the BNSS the nomenclature of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate changed

Population : 4,496,694 (as per 2011 census)

to Chief Judicial Magistrate and the Metropolitan Magistrate to Judicial Magistrate. These courts ensure access to justice for citizens through timely adjudication of disputes and trial of offences.

Civil Courts - Includes the City Civil Court, Presidency Small Causes Court, and Family Courts.

City Civil Court , Kolkata

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 14

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://citycivilcourtcalkutta.dcourts.gov.in/>

Court Location			
No. of Judges		City Civil Court	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		14	0
Human Resource	Position Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	214	51	This judgeship has taken initiative to recruit Stenographers and Group-D staff in the year 2024. This judgeship has appointed one (1) Stenographer and twelve (12) Group-D staffs. Two (2) posts could not be filled up due to pending litigation. This judgeship has taken further initiative in the year 2025 for recruitment of staffs in Commercial Courts at Calcutta to be inaugurated shortly.

Located in the bustling heart of the metropolis, the City Civil Court, Kolkata, serves one of the most populous and complex urban jurisdictions in the state.

District Legal Services Authority:

The **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kolkata** has successfully settled **47,480 out of 53,487 pre-litigation cases (89%)**, and **2,26,200 out of 2,32,425 post-litigation matters (97%)** during this period. These numbers reflect a commitment not only to volume but to meaningful resolution of disputes. The authority's involvement in

rescuing **17 child labourers** from the Bowbazar area, and organizing **Awareness Camps in Correctional Homes** and on the **Adoption of Children** further underscores its proactive and humanitarian role.

The DLSA also remains engaged in supporting the **Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS)** and regularly holds awareness campaigns commemorating Legal Services Day, Constitution Day, and National Flag Day. The authority's vision of promoting inclusive justice and empowering marginalized communities through awareness, rescue, mediation, and

rehabilitation initiatives has been earnestly fulfilled over the past year.

Infrastructural Development:

This judgeship has taken initiative to renovate public toilets as well as toilets of Ld. Judicial Officers. Previously one officer has to share toilet with another officer. Now there are fourteen (14) toilets for fourteen officers. Public toilets were renovated thoroughly. Wooden ramps were installed in the main entrance. Signage were affixed in the Court premises.

Creche is available in this Judgeship but same is not functioning due to lack of manpower. VWDC room has been created in this premises. e-Sewa kendra is ready and functioning in this Judgeship.

Two Commercial Courts are ready to function very soon. The Electrical and Civil work has been completed by PWD. The IT hardware are ready and LAN work is going on. Server machine and CIS software will be installed very soon.



E- Seva Kendra

ICT Initiatives :

This Judgeship has inaugurated e-Sewa Kendra at the ground floor of City Civil Court Building. The same is functioning with the help of PLV. All the hardware have been installed in the e-Sewa Kendra. 26 citizen centric services are available under e-court project in this Judgeship. E-filing has been upgraded in 3.0 version. V.W.D.C. room is created in the City Civil Court Complex. C.C.T.V Surveillance is available in City Civil Court.

Vision :

This judgeship has been entrusted with the work of Commercial Court project at 7th and 8th floor of City Civil Court building. This judgeship has taken initiative to vacate the 7th floor for construction of Commercial Court at Calcutta. This judgeship is keeping liaison with Commercial Division, High Court and PWD (Civil, Electrical and IT) and also with Judicial Department, Government of West Bengal for successful completion of the project. The entire project has been completed and almost ready for inauguration. The ejlash of Chief Judge has been renovated.



Upcoming Commercial Court

City Session Court

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 37

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://citysessions.dcourts.gov.in/>

Court Location			
No. of Judges		City Session Court	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		44	7
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	376	132	Recommendation of Implementation of Justice Shetty Commission for the District Judiciary as well as West Bengal District Court (Constitution of Service, Recruitment, Appointment, Probation and Discipline of Employee) Rules, 2015 is under progress.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Judicial Officers have been instructed to prioritize cases pending over five years, minimizing adjournments and ensuring shorter intervals between hearings. Physical verification of case records is done.



Human Resources:-

Recommendation of Implementation of Justice Shetty Commission for the District Judiciary as well as West Bengal District Court (Constitution of Service, Recruitment, Appointment, Probation and Discipline of Employee) Rules, 2015 is under progress.

ICT Initiatives :

Temporary VWDC is setup. Permanent VWDC is under construction. E-Sewa Kendra has been setup and ready for functioning.

Infrastructural Development :

Roof Top Solar Panels have been installed and awaiting connection with the main grid.

Juvenile Justice :

4 cases with pendency of 10- 20 years have been disposed of during this period.

Order granting interim victim compensation is being passed in every case which qualifies to be granted such compensation under West Bengal Victim Compensation Scheme.

Order under section 15 of JJ Act has been passed in 30 cases involving heinous offences during this period.

52 Petty cases with pendency of more than 6 months have been terminated during this period u/s 14(4) of JJ Act.

Vision :

Commissioning of V.C facilities.

Establishment of victim friendly court setup.



Presidency Small Causes Court, Kolkata

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 6

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://psccourt.dcourts.gov.in/>

Court Location			
No. of Judges		Presidency Small Causes Court	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		7	1
Human Resource	Position Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	155	51	The Staff Recruitment Committee of this Judgeship has already calculated the vacancy position, but no further progress of the recruitment process is made due to pending litigation and order by the Hon'ble court

The Presidency Small Cause Court is one of the oldest Civil Court of India.

Beside the regular judicial and official works this Judgeship also organize other programme like celebration of International Yoga Day, plantation programme, Independence Day, Republic Day etc.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

The District Court Case Management Committee has adopted an SOP for reducing old pending cases, with targeted case records identified by all Courts and shared with the Local Bar Association. Regular reviews of progress are conducted.

Out of 3,946 cases, 19 cases identified as more than 30 years old, mainly delayed due to stays or awaiting orders from higher courts. Physical verification of case records has been done.



Human Resource :

Vacancy position has already been calculated for the staff recruitment process for this Judgeship, but no further process could be initiated by the Staff Recruitment Committee.

ICT Initiatives :

Uploading of Order and Judgements, SMS of case information to Ld. Advocates on record and party concerned are done in regular basis.

Infrastructural Development :

This Judgeship is operating from City Civil Court Building, Calcutta. Sufficient toilet facilities for Ld. Advocates, general public is available in every floor of this Court building.

VWDC: Civil works for construction of VWDC is completed during this year, but the electrical and IT works till date not

started due to non-availability of necessary allotment.

Regarding CCTV installation : Few Cameras already been installed in this building and for additional requirement the concerned PWD engineers have already made a survey regarding installation of more additional CCTV cameras inside the court premises, accordingly sanction for Civil works and IT equipment installation has already been received and civil works for monitoring room already completed, but due to non-availability of Electrical allotment the installation work of IT equipment and cameras not yet started.

All hardware equipment received from Hon'ble Court under Phase-I, Phase-II and Phase-III e-court project. This Judgeship is already well equipped for Virtual Court. Space is the main constrain for Dizitization of case records.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY

MALDA



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 3,733 sq. km

Population : 3988845

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 2

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 21

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://malda.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : Malda

Court Location					
No. of Judges		Sadar		Chanchal	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy
		19	2	6	2
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken		
Staff	235	85	The Recruitment Processes of several categories of staff of Malda Judgeship is to be initiated and completed after completion of some pending necessary formalities.		

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

In Malda District, the identification of long-pending target cases has been completed in several courts, while others are progressing under close supervision. Emphasis is laid on expediting criminal matters delayed due to non-appearance of complainants or witnesses, and civil pendency, especially in LA and MACC cases. Coordination meetings with ADM (LR) and insurance companies have been initiated, and Judicial Officers have been directed to avoid unwarranted adjournments for early disposal.

Physical Verification of Case Records Done in all Courts.

District Legal Services Authority :

During the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, the District Legal Services Authority, Malda, undertook an extensive legal awareness initiative, organizing 11 mega camps, 537 school programmes, 8 college sessions, 5,264 village and community outreach camps, and 680 awareness sessions in jails. These efforts reached 2,21,541 individuals, of whom 25,613 were provided with legal assistance, ensuring deep community engagement across the district.



The campaigns focused on a wide array of legal and social issues including the rights and protection of children, women, senior citizens, workers, and tribal communities. Key legislative areas covered included the POCSO Act, Child Marriage Prohibition Act, Labour Laws, Environment Protection, HIV/AIDS awareness, Cyber Laws, and the Rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals. The awareness drives also addressed contemporary concerns such as drug abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence, and the rights of victims.

Special emphasis was laid on NALSA's flagship schemes such as Legal Services to Senior Citizens, Victims of Trafficking, Differently-Abled Children, Workers in the Unorganised Sector, and DAWN (Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation), as well as on access to free legal aid, pre-trial rights, and alternative dispute resolution through mediation and Lok Adalats.



The DLSA, Malda, also disseminated information on key helplines and digital

platforms including NALSA's Toll-free Helpline 15100, Child Helpline 1098, Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>), and Cyber Crime Helpline 1930, thereby facilitating timely redressal and legal empowerment. This massive outreach reflects the unwavering commitment of the District Judiciary and DLSA, Malda, in promoting inclusive legal literacy, access to justice, and protection of rights at the grassroots level.

Human Resource :

The Recruitment Process of English Stenographers in the posts of Grade-II and Grade-III are going on and is nearing completion. The Recruitment Processes of other categories of staff of Malda Judgeship is to be initiated after completion of some pending necessary formalities.

ICT Initiatives :

IT equipped newly created Composite Court Building (G + 4) at Malda Sadar has been inaugurated.

Dedicated Server Room along with Rack Server for CIS, has been commissioned.

Video-conferencing system facility for all Courts has been provided.

CCTVs have been installed at the newly created Composite Court Building (G + 4) at Malda Sadar.

Vision:

IT enabled proposed Exclusive POCSO Court at Malda Sadar.

Further IT infrastructure set up at Malda Sadar and Chanchal Sub Division and installation of more CCTVs.

Infrastructural Development :

Significant infrastructural development has taken place in Malda Sadar, with the commissioning of a new building and the shifting of the Court of Ld. CJM. Construction of an Exclusive POCSO Court is ongoing, along with AC installation in courtrooms and judges' chambers, and repair of the Record Room roof. Upgradation

of the internal drainage system and restoration of generators at Malda Sadar and Chanchal Sub-Division are underway, with the proposal currently pending with the Judicial Secretary. The new Composite Court Building is equipped with modern IT infrastructure, with all courts utilizing daily Video Conferencing, including remote production from the Correctional Home.

Juvenile Justice :

Juvenile Justice Board prioritize rehabilitation over punishment, ensuring child-friendly procedures, legal aid, and holds regular inspection of child care facilities for holistic protection and reintegration.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY MURSHIDABAD



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 5,324 sq. km

Population : 7102430 (census 2011)

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 5

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 53

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://murshidabad.dcourts.gov.in/>

Name of the District : Murshidabad

Court Location										
No. of Judges	Berhampore		Jangipur		Kandi		Lalbagh		Domkal	
	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy
	23	1	12	1	8	1	12	0	1	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned		Vacancy		Steps Taken					
Staff	516		126		Last process of recruitment of staff in this Judgeship of Murshidabad was accomplished in the year 2019. After implementation of the West Bengal District Court (Constitution of Service, Recruitment, Appointment, Probation and Discipline o Employee)Rule, 2015, some complications in recruitment of staff members of different categories in the Judgeship of Murshidabad have been arisen. Process of mitigating these issues is going on.					

The district of Murshidabad continues to uphold its judicial commitment through an expansive court network spread across its four sub-divisions– Jangipur, Kandi, Lalbagh, and Domkal and Sadar at Berhampore.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

In compliance with the directives of the Hon'ble High Court, the Judgeship of Murshidabad has actively undertaken the implementation of the Action Plan for Arrears Reduction with a pragmatic approach. A comprehensive list of pending cases has been meticulously prepared, including 700 cases over 30 years old, 50

targeted cases per Court, 100 cases under the jurisdiction of the JJB, as well as the oldest MACC, land acquisition, and five-year-old execution cases are under regular monitoring with respect to undated cases, which are generally found to be either nil or in single digits. Physical verification of case records has been duly completed in all courts of the district.

District Legal Services Authority:

With the assistance of PLV and DLSA, Murshidabad, a 10-year-old student from Jharkhand facing admission issues due to document discrepancies was successfully

admitted to Pauli High School, Sagardighi, on 16.01.2025.

On receiving information about a child marriage, the PLV under SDLSC, Jangipur, Murshidabad promptly intervened with local authorities, successfully preventing the marriage and securing an undertaking from the minor girl's guardian.



DLSA Murshidabad

Acting on verified information, the PLV under SDLSC, Jangipur, Murshidabad, with support from local authorities, successfully intervened on 01.02.2025 to prevent the child marriage of a 19-year-old boy and secured an undertaking from his guardian.

Upon receiving information, the PLV and LSUM member of DLSA, Murshidabad intervened to assist a mentally distressed woman living alone and facilitated her admission to Beldanga Mental Hospital on 28.02.2025 with police support.

Human Resource :

Last process of recruitment of staff in this Judgeship of Murshidabad was accomplished

in the year 2019. The Judgeship is currently facing an acute shortage of staff, and the recruitment process is presently on hold pending resolution of certain anomalies identified in the West Bengal District Court (Constitution of Service, Recruitment, Appointment, Probation and Discipline of Employees) Rules, 2015.

ICT Initiatives :

CIS is implemented and executed in District and sub-division as well. ICJS is introduced and implemented successfully. e-filing and e-Bail bond is introduced. Each and every courts are now equipped with proper VC setup. A dedicated official website for the Judgeship of Murshidabad has been successfully launched to enhance accessibility and transparency in judicial services. Permanent e-Sewa Kendra(s) are yet to be functional. DSC is introduced among the LD. Judicial Officers and staff members.

VISION:-

Launch of NSTEP.

Digitization of old case records.

Infrastructural Development :

In a significant step towards strengthening judicial infrastructure in Murshidabad, the Composite Court Building at Domkal, along with a residential quarter complex for Judicial Officers, was formally inaugurated on 11.06.2025.



View of New court Building Domkol

This development marks a major milestone in improving access to justice and providing better facilities for judicial functioning in the district.



Residential quarters at Domkol

Juvenile Justice :

During the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, a total of 287 cases were disposed of by the Juvenile Justice Board, Murshidabad, despite high pendency and substantial fresh filings. Special initiatives have also been undertaken to clear petty offence cases and prioritise pre-2021 matters, reflecting the commitment to speedy, sensitive, and rehabilitative justice under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.



JJB Murshidabad



DISTRICT JUDICIARY

NADIA



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 3,927 sq. km

Population : 5167600

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 5

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 49

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://nadia.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : Nadia

No. of Judges	Krishnanagar Sadar		Ranaghat		Kalyani		Tehatta		Nabadwip Taluk	
	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy
	26	1	9	0	7	0	5	0	3	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned		Vacancy		Steps Taken					
Staff	457		80		Recruitment process is pending due to OBC issue as per direction of The Honble Court					

Nadia district, located in southern Bengal with a vast rural and semi-urban demographic, is a significant district in West Bengal.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Number of Cases pending more than 10 years, 20 years and 30 years or more have already been reduced in various courts in this Judgeship by disposing the same. Physical verification of case records in various courts of this Judgeship has already been done. Disposal of case records in most of the courts of this Judgeship has notably increased.

In Nadia, Judicial Officers have been directed to expedite case disposal, discourage unnecessary adjournments, prefer short dates, promote resolution through Mediation or Lok Adalat, hold regular arrear review meetings, and remove ghost records from the CIS system.

District Legal Services Authority :

DLSA Nadia regularly conducts legal awareness camps across villages and vulnerable groups, educating them on child rights, cyber safety, child marriage prevention, and POCSO to empower and protect the community.

DLSA Nadia successfully conducted National Lok Adalats, settling 13,706 cases inclusive both pre-litigation and pending matter, they also conducted per-

conciliation sittings to promote amicable settlements and reduce court burden.

DLSA Nadia ensures holistic support for vulnerable groups through close coordination with agencies like DCPU, CWC, JJB, POCSO Courts, and the Police.



Elder-Abuse Awareness Day-DLSA Nadia

The DLSA Nadia has implemented training programs for panel lawyers on updating legal aid cases in the NALSA portal they also appoint of retainer and remand lawyers to ensure consistent legal representation. DLSA NADIA also ensured dedicated criminal defense system known as LADCS.

DLSA Nadia, aligned with NALSA's vision of inclusive justice, strengthens ADR mechanisms and ensures accessible legal aid for the marginalized. Through 68 legal awareness camps in villages and colleges, it empowered citizens on child rights,

abuse prevention, cyber safety, and NALSA schemes.

Human Resource :

Recruitment process are pending as per direction of the Hon'ble Court regarding OBC issue.

ICT Initiatives :

Under the e-Courts Project, all courts in Nadia Judgeship have been computerized using the Case Information System (CIS).

Centralized case filing, case proceedings, uploading of orders/judgments, case disposal tracking, court-wise data monitoring, ICJS, e-filing, and e-payment are functional.

Important notifications are available on the official website of the district judiciary.

All courts are equipped with video conferencing facilities.

Infrastructural Development :

Construction of 6-unit residential quarters at Kalyani is on the verge of completion.

New toilets have been constructed for male staff, female staff, and persons with disabilities.

Site selection for the proposed new court building at Sadar is underway with assistance from PWD.

Safety net installation in old court buildings is ongoing and partially completed in the District Record Room and Munsif Court Building.

Temporary VWDCs are functional in all sub-divisional courts as well as at Sadar.

Infrastructure for one Child Friendly Court at Sadar is completed, including requisite furniture.

Infrastructure for one Family Court at Sadar has partly completed, pending electrical work and furniture allotment.

Board room and child-friendly corner for POCSO victims renovated in line with JJ Act objectives.

Infrastructure improved with provision for drinking water and toilets for CCLs and their parents.

Juvenile Justice :

Numerous cases disposed to provide timely relief to both victims and CCLs.



JJB Nadia

Efforts have been made to ensure fair justice, individualized interventions, and accountability in a safe environment.

Focus remains on best interest of the child by ensuring a supportive and non-intimidating atmosphere. Emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration of children, not punishment is always given.

School dropouts are helped to re-enroll and return to mainstream education. Individual needs of each child assessed to provide tailored support and intervention.

Mental health counseling is being provided to children and their parents.

Monthly visits to Boys' and Girls' Homes is conducted to check health, safety, and food quality. Superintendents are directed to maintain hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, and medical care.

Legal-cum-Probation Officers conduct social investigation reports.

Ensured children are not subjected to harsh punishment but provided with rehabilitation opportunities. Advocated for reliable and sustainable legal aid funding for children.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY NORTH 24 PARGANAS



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 4,094 sq. km

Population : 10,009,781 as per the 2011 census

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 5+1 Commercial Court at Rajarhat.

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 60

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://north24parganas.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : North 24 Parganas

Court Location			
No. of Judges		Barasat, Bidhannagar, Bashirhat, Bangaon, Barrackpore	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		65	5
Human Resource	Position Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	589	316	Recruitment Under Process

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Arrears Reduction Committee focuses on timely disposal of long-pending cases by prioritizing older matters and setting specific disposal targets. They aim to strengthen case flow management through better scheduling, reduced adjournments, and use of technology for real-time tracking. These resolutions also promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to ease the burden on courts.

Physical verification of case records has not been completed.

District Legal Services Authority :

DLSA, North 24 Parganas organized multiple awareness campaigns across various Gram Panchayats and communities focusing on Human Trafficking, Prevention of Child Marriage, and Basic Laws.



Legal literacy stalls were set up at Durga Puja pandals and various local fairs to reach a larger audience.

Numerous awareness campaigns were held in schools, covering topics like Prevention of Child Marriage, Cyber Crime, Human Trafficking, Right to Education, Drug Abuse, and Good Touch & Bad Touch.

DLSA celebrated several important days of the year to enhance public engagement and legal awareness.

Regular visits are made by Para Legal Volunteers and Panel Advocates to all four correctional homes in the district.

The Legal Aid Defense Counsel System is functional and serving litigants effectively in the district.

The DLSA office at Barasat saw significant footfall for free legal aid, pre-litigation counselling, and court-based legal services.

The front office has been modernized with the introduction of Visitor Register, Phone Book Register, Help Desk Register, etc., and digitalization has been implemented.

Regular inspections of Observation Homes, Special Homes, and Child Care Institutions

are conducted, ensuring awareness of JJ Act, 2015, among inmates.

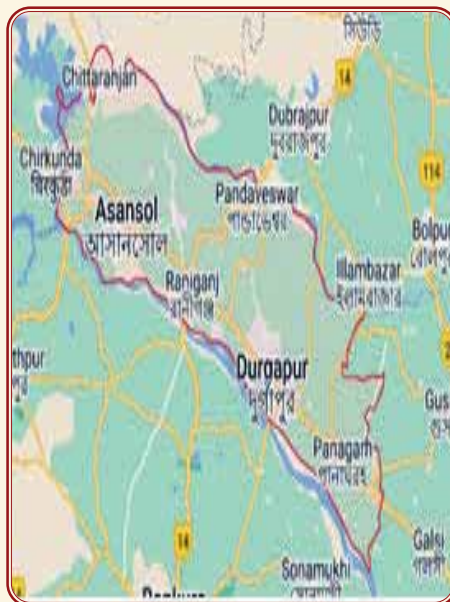
Legal aid is provided to juveniles if required with Panel Lawyers appointed as needed.

Infrastructural Development :

The residential complex for Judges at Zilla Sadar, Barasat is under process, while a new four-storied court complex is under construction at Bongaon by the Public Works Department. CCTV have been installed across all court premises at Barasat. Revised cost estimates for IT infrastructure and AC installations for VWDC at Barasat have been submitted.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY PASCHIM BARDHAMAN



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 1,603 sq. km

Population : 2,882,031 (according to 2011 census data)

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 2+1 Commercial Court establishment at Rajarhat

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 32

District Court Portal/ Website : paschimbardhaman.dcourts.gov.in

Name of the District : Paschim Bardhaman

Court Location					
No. of Judges		Aansol Sadar		Durgapur Sub Division	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy
		27	3	11	3
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken		
Staff	300	79	The recruitment process in this Judgeship has been halted due to the implications arising from the recent judgement concerning OBC reservations. As a result, no fresh recruitment could be initiated or progressed, pending further legal clarification and directives from the competent authorities.		

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

All courts in Paschim Bardhaman have identified and prioritized disposal of old cases (10, 20, 30+ years), with lists notified on notice boards and shared with respective Bar Associations. Weekly reports on disposal are mandated, and targeted case are being followed. Physical verification of case records is underway and monitored closely by the District Case Management Committee.

District Legal Services Authority :

District Legal Services Authority, Paschim Bardhaman has organized 143 nos. of Legal Awareness Camps / Programmes during the period 01.07.2024 till 30.06.2025 which includes programmes in

the Village / Community Centres, Schools, Colleges, Panchayets, Tribal Areas, Jails etc.

To ensure Access to Justice for All, especially the marginalized and under privileged by providing Free and Competent Legal Services, promoting Legal Awareness and fostering a Culture of amicable dispute resolution at the grass-root level.

Human Resoures :

Recruitment process is halted in view of recent Judgement.

ICT Initiatives :

All courts are equipped with HP AIO PC Modern Computer, Printer, along with full VC set up.

Infrastructural Development :

Two lifts have been installed at the Residential Quarters of Judge's Enclave.

Legal Aid Defence Counsel System, Paschim Bardhaman has been inaugurated at Asansol Sadar Court.

The matter as regards toilet for persons with disabilities/ specially abled has been taken up with P.W.D (Civil), Asansol Division for converting the existing structure at the New Court Building of this Judgeship into accessible bathrooms for persons with disabilities and transgender individuals.

Infrastructure of District Record Room, Paschim Bardhaman is ready.

Construction of new court building at Durgapur Sub-Division is nearing of completion.

The Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee, Asansol Sadar & the Chairman of the Building Committee, Durgapur Sub-Division are constantly monitoring the infrastructure of Asansol Sadar & Durgapur Sub Division.

Juvenile Justice :



JJB Paschim Bardhaman

The Juvenile Justice Board, Paschim Bardhaman, commenced its independent functioning since 01.08.2022 with the appointment of the Principal Magistrate and two Social Worker Members, following the transfer of relevant case records from Purba Bardhaman. A Legal Aid Clinic was inaugurated at the Board on 13.12.2024, and currently, 166 cases are pending before it.

Vision :

To ensure Access to Justice for All, especially the marginalized and underprivileged by providing Free and Competent Legal Services, promoting Legal Awareness and fostering a Culture of Right based empowerment and amicable dispute resolution at the grassroot level. This vision emphasized the core values of social justice, inclusivity Legal empowerment and Restorative Practices such as Mediation and Lok Adalats. This D.L.S.A is reaffirming it's commitment to bridge the gap between the law and the people, particularly in the Rural and underdeveloped areas.

Construction of New Court Building at Durgapur is under process.

This Judgeship is also taking initiative to make the District Record Room functional very soon.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY PASCHIM MEDINIPUR



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 9,295.28 sq. km

Population : 594330

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 5

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 40

District Court Portal/ Website : paschimmedinipur.dcourts.gov.in

Name of the District : Paschim Medinipur

Court Location			
No. of Judges		Sadar, Ghatal, Garhbeta, Dantan, Kharagpur	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		45	5
Human Resource	Position Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	462	213	Recruitment process has been stopped as per direction of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta. Recruitment for Family Court has not yet been initiated.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Achieved a significant progress in Arrear Reduction. Working hardly on the guidelines framed by the Hon'ble Court to achieve target in Arrear reduction. The Judgeship is committed to achieve the required target in the next phase of Arrear Reduction.

District Legal Services Authority :

DLSA, Paschim Medinipur is promoting legal awareness, providing legal aid, and facilitating the amicable settlement of disputes through mechanisms like Lok Adalats and Mediation. It is conducting awareness programs to educate the public about their legal rights and entitlements, particularly focusing on vulnerable groups. It is working to promote an inclusive legal system in order to ensure fair and meaningful justice to the marginalized and

disadvantaged sector. National Lok Adalats are being conducted with grate success.

**Human Resource :**

Recruitment process has been halted as per direction of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta. Recruitment for Family Court has not yet been initiated.

ICT Initiatives :

CIS is implemented in District and sub division as well. Status of Case can be seen

in Real Time. ICJS is implemented successfully. e-filing and e-Bail bond have been introduced. Each and every courts are now equipped with proper VC setup. Individual website for Paschim Medinipur Judgeship is established. Permanent e-Sewa kendras are yet to be functional. DSC has been distributed among the Ld. Judicial Officers and staff members.

Vision:

Launch of NSTEP

Digitization of old case records.

Juvenile Justice :

Child Friendly corner for the CCL is established.

Board ensures that none remains unrepresented and ensures submission of follow up reports and S.I.R on time.

Separate rooms have been allotted for CCL and the survivor and their parents.

It is ensure that none remains unrepresented.

Vision:

The Board is yet to be made friendly for child with special need. Steps have been taken but response is awaited.

Child friendly play area within the campus, is also very much required.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY

PURBA BARDHAMAN



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 5,432.69 sq. km

Population : 48,35,532

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 3

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 32

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://purbabardhaman.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : Purba Bardhaman

Court Location						
No. of Judges	Sadar		Katwa		Kalna	
	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy
	26	8	10	3	8	1
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken			
Staff	405	22	Steps have been taken to initiate recruitment process.			

Measures Taken for Arrear Reduction :

Purba Bardhaman holds a rich legal legacy and administrative importance. Efforts are underway to enhance the pace of case disposal, and further improvement may be achieved through measures such as, redistribution of specific case types, augmentation of support staff, and enhanced coordination with stakeholders. Physical verification of case records is completed in the District.

District Legal Services Authority :

DLSA Purba Bardhaman organized multiple awareness programmes in 2025, including observance of Bonded Labour Abolition Day, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day across various locations, and International Day Against Drug Abuse through legal camps, cultural events, and collaborations with NGOs. These initiatives focused on community outreach, health awareness, and substance abuse prevention under the guidance of SLISA, West Bengal.



DLSA, Purba Bardhaman successfully intervened to restrain child marriage on two separate occasions, ensuring protection of minors in accordance with the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

ICT Initiatives :

Installation of CCTV surveillance camera in all three subdivisions under Purba Bardhaman Judgeship has been completed.

The vision is to run paperless court.

Infrastructure Development:-

In Bardhaman Sadar there are two main Court Buildings. The Civil Court Building was established on 13th day of January, 1923 during the British Regime.



A process has been initiated for a new court complex at Kalna Sub-division and a vacant land has been identified and the matter is presently pending for inter-departmental transfer of land.

The exclusive POCSO Court has been housed in child friendly court at Criminal Court Building, Bardhaman.

Public drinking water facility has been installed at Sadar Court, Katwa Court & Kalna Court.

AC machines have been installed in different courts.

Juvenile Justice :

158 no of cases have been disposed by Juvenile Justice Board, Purba Bardhaman during the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025. Number of pending cases have been reduced to 261 from 306 during the said period. Among the 158 disposed cases, 28 cases are more than 5 years old and 21 cases are more than 10 years old.

All the petty cases that were pending for more than six months have been terminated. At present, there is no petty cases pending for more than six months.

Correctional homes under the Jurisdiction of the Purba Bardhaman Judgeship have been visited and reports submitted time to time by the Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Purba Bardhaman.

After persuasive efforts, received sanction of Rs.7.32 lakh for development of infrastructure of JJB premises.

Quarterly meetings have been held at regular intervals with CWPOs, SJPU unit and other stakeholders and they have been informed about non filing of FIR in case of petty and serious offences.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY PURBA MEDINIPUR



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 4,736 sq. km

Population : 51 Lakhs

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 3

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 37

District Court Portal/ Website : purbamedinipur.dcourts.gov.in

Name of the District : Purba Medinipur

Court Location						
No. of Judges	Tamluk Sadar		Contai		Haldia	
	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned	Vacancy
	21	4	16	3	7	0
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken			
Staff	395	98	The Recruitment Notification vide No. 01 / DRC/Purba Medinipur, dated 30.01.2025, was published for recruitment to the 46 numbers of vacant post including all categories of staff and the receiving windows for receiving the online applications from the willing candidates has been closed on 28.02.2025 (midnight). Thereafter, the ongoing recruitment process of this Judgeship has been kept in abeyance until further order, received from the Hon'ble Court.			

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

Physical verification of case records are done, and the courts are working towards achieving the disposal of targeted cases.

District Legal Services Authority :

On 04.07.2024, DLSA, Purba Medinipur, addressed a Legal Awareness Workshop on Forest & Wildlife Cases, aiming to educate 96 participating Forest Officers on new laws. Between July and September 2024, DLSA Purba Medinipur officials actively

participated in legal workshops, conducted multiple inspections at correctional homes, and oversaw the smooth functioning of the National Lok Adalat across 11 benches at Tamluk. DLSA organized Training for PLVs, held legal awareness programs and camps. National Girl child Day was observed. DLSA Purba Medinipur conducts regular visits to Correctional Homes to ensure proper monitoring and uphold the rights and welfare of inmates.

Human Resource :

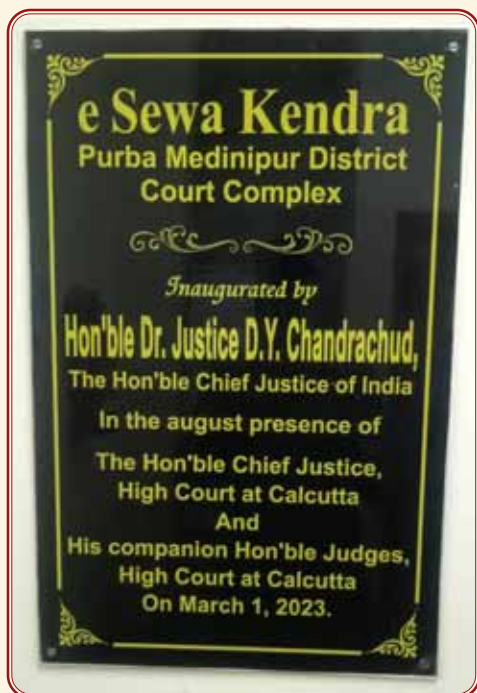
The Recruitment Notification No. 01/DRC/Purba Medinipur dated 30.01.2025 invited applications for 46 vacant posts across various categories, with the application window closing on 28.02.2025. Subsequently, while finalising the examination schedule, the recruitment process has been kept in abeyance until further orders, as per the direction of the Hon'ble High Court.

ICT Initiatives :

All the Courts are computerized as per the e Courts Projects.

All Courts are provided with All in one PC, Scanner, High end printers, and all setup for VC.

CIS is implemented in District and sub-division as well. Status of Case can be seen in Real Time. All the Orders/ Judgments are uploaded to NJDG Server.



Centralized Backup System at District Court has been implemented by the Technical Assistant.

ICJS is implemented successfully.

e-filing and e-Bail bond have been introduced.

Each and every courts are now equipped with proper VC setup.

Permanent e-Sewa kendra is functioning in Tamluk and temporary in Haldia and Contai.

DSC is distributed among the Ld. Judicial Officers and staff members.

Mobile with sim connection is provided to all Process server for proper serving the summons and same time tracking can be possible on real time basis.

Infrastructural Development :

New residential complex (G+5) having ten numbers (10) of quarters for Judicial officers at Contai has been Inaugurated by the Hon'ble Court through virtual mode on 24.04.2025.

Construction of Type A-(G+5) Quarters having 10 numbers of residential quarters for Judicial Officers of Haldia sub-division. Works has been started by PWD.

Inauguration of Exclusive POCSO Court at Tamluk on the 5th floor of New Court Building on 06.02.2025 by the Hon'ble The Chief Justice Calcutta High Court through virtual Mode

Sanction of Exclusive POCSO Court at Contai is received.

Identification of land for Egra Court Building and Residential complex for Judicial officers is completed. Construction of proposed Ten (10) Courts

within the proposed (G+5) New Court Building at Egra Subdivision, District Purba Medinipur, is going on.

Permanent VWDC has been inaugurated at Tamluk.

Construction of Record Room (G+3) at District Judges' Court Complex at Tamluk in Medinipur is full swing and it will be completed by August 2025.



Permanent VWDC is functioning in Tamluk.

Permanent VWDC is ready for inauguration after the Installation of IT Infrastructure at Contai and Haldia.

CCTV Installation completed in Contai.

IT infrastructure development for the Conference Room on the 5th floor of the New Court Building (G+5) at Tamluk Purba Medinipur:

Proposed construction of (G+5) Judicial Officer's Quarter at District Judge's Court campus in Tamluk in the District of Purba Medinipur. Drawing and plan and estimate are pending.

Proposed Construction of District Judge, Purba Medinipur Bungalow at Nimtouri Administrative area at Tamluk. Estimate is pending from PWD in the District of Purba Medinipur.

Proposed construction of (G+5) Haldia a Court in Haldia Sub-Divisional Court campus under Haldia Sub-Division in the District of Purba Medinipur. Estimate is pending from PWD in the District of Purba Medinipur.

Juvenile Justice :

Petty cases are being disposed of within the stipulated timeframe, and police have been sensitized to follow the modalities of Law and JJ Rules while registering FIRs against children.



The Board has successfully intervened in cases where children were expelled from school, enabling their re-admission, and has implemented the principle of diversion in few cases for the best interest of the child. Administratively, a child-friendly room has been set up, and several awareness programmes on child-related issues, including child marriage, have been conducted in collaboration with DCPU and the Police. Technologically, the JJB is now equipped with an online video conferencing system to facilitate hearings.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY

PURULIA



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 6,259 sq. km

Population : The Population of Purulia District according to the 2011 census is 2930115

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 2

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 21

District Court Portal/ Website : purulia.dcourts.gov.in

Name of the District : Purulia

Court Location			
No. of Judges		Sadar and Raghunathpur Sub Division	
		Sanctioned	Vacancy
		23	2
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken
Staff	193	56	The Recruitment Process has also been kept in abeyance until further order received from the Hon'ble Court.

Purulia, located in the western part of West Bengal, is known as the gateway to the Chotanagpur Plateau. Purulia is also noted for its contribution to traditional folk arts, particularly the renowned Chhau dance, a UNESCO-recognized intangible cultural heritage.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

The Judgeship of Purulia has taken notable step to reduce case pendency through regular arrear clearance drives, use of virtual hearings as efficient case management system. Special Emphasis is given on disposal of cases pending for more than 10 years. The focus remain on expanding the use of technology to reduce the arrear. Physical Verification of Case Records has been completed in all courts across the district, ensuring accurate data maintenance. The vision for the future is to clear pendency of 10+ Year Old Cases.

District Legal Services Authority

The DLSA, Purulia has substantially tried to give legal advices from the top to bottom of the people of the society.



The DLSA, Purulia caused to appoint the Panel Lawyers for the litigant people in 472 cases during the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025.

During the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025, DLSA Purulia has actively advanced the mandate of Article 39A by promoting legal awareness and access to justice for the marginalized and disadvantaged.

Human Resource :

The Recruitment Process has also been kept in abeyance until further order received from the Hon'ble Court.

ICT Initiatives :

The E-Sewa Kendra for the Raghunathpur Sub-Divisional Court Complex was inaugurated on 26th June, 2025, marking a significant step towards enhancing citizen-centric services through technology.

Infrastructural Development :



The New Court Building at Sadar, inaugurated on 05.04.2025, and the eSewa Kendra at Raghunathpur Sub-Divisional

Court Complex, inaugurated on 26.06.2025, mark major strides in strengthening judicial infrastructure and digital accessibility. These developments reflect the District Judiciary's commitment to timely, transparent, and citizen-centric justice delivery through modern facilities and technology integration.

Juvenile Justice :

The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) of Purulia has been trying to dispose of more cases than instituted. Efforts such as child-friendly courtrooms, individual care plans, and coordinated rehabilitation through CWCs and NGOs underscore a holistic, rights-based approach of the JJB.

Miscellaneous Activities :

Steps have been taken for designated Family Court, Child Friendly Court, VWDC.

Vision:

The vision is to harness Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to create a more accessible, transparent, and efficient justice delivery system, ensuring timely and citizen-friendly court services for all.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY SOUTH 24 PARGANAS



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 9,960 sq. km

Population : 8,161,961 as per the 2011 census

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 5+1 Commercial Court establishment at Alipore

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 90

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://south24parganas.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : South 24 Parganas

Court Location										
No. of Judges	Alipore Sadar		Baruipur		Sealdah		Diamond Harbour		Kakdwip	
	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy	Sanc-tioned	Vaca-ncy
	64	11	11	1	16	4	15	3	4	1
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned		Vacancy		Steps Taken					
Staff	1144		284		There are several issues affecting the implementation of the Shetty Commission's recommendations regarding the filling of promotional vacancies. These issues have led to delays in finalizing vacancies for direct recruitment. Furthermore, the recruitment process for Fast Track Courts and Commercial Courts has been stalled due to the pendency of a litigation.					

South 24 Parganas is a district of West Bengal, which uniquely combines urban expansion with rural and ecological diversity, including parts of the Sundarbans.

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

During the period from July 2024 to June 2025, the District Judiciary of South 24 Parganas has acted proactivity towards access to justice and pendency reduction. Out of 6,51,590 post-litigation cases referred to Lok Adalats, 6,51,201 were successfully resolved, including a large number of motor accident claims and cheque bounce matters, resulting in a

disposal success rate of 99.94%. With the implementation of digital reforms such as CIS, e-Filing, and virtual hearings, the case management system has been significantly streamlined. Under the active guidance of the Arrear Reduction Committee, over 55,000 cases were disposed of in the last year from a total pendency of approximately 4 lakh, including around 1,000 cases pending more than 30 years. Legal aid services were strengthened through the efforts of DLSA, panel lawyers, and para-legal volunteers, ensuring improved outreach. Physical verification of case records has been completed in all courts.

District Legal Services Authority :

Rescued 17 child labour from a brick field at Bhangore II and shifted to CCI and there after restored to their native place Bihar and Orisha.



Held several Legal Awareness Camp at remote areas of Sundarban namely Kultali, Gosaba, Moipith Coastal, Jharkhali, Namkhana etc to spread awareness of free legal aid services to the needy people.



Held Legal Awareness Camp specially under subject of Transgenders Rights with the police personel and the Transgender community,

Successfully held a Health camp at the ADR Centre benefitted around 200 patients including litigants, lawyers and Judges.

DLSA actively participated in repatriation of a Bangladeshi girl who was at CCI Home about last 8 years by the help of the Administration

Sensitization of LADCS to effectively handle the cases allotted to them.

Successfully held at Legal Awareness Camp at Santoshpur with the migrated labour and short out the issues of migrated child into the school.

Legal awareness in rural and marginalized sector

Provide free legal aid to the prisoners

Disposal of huge number of cases in Lok Adalat of Mediation

Distribution of ration and cloths to needy people

Human Resource :

The implementation of the Shetty Commission's recommendations concerning promotional vacancies has encountered several challenges, resulting in delays in finalizing positions for direct recruitment. Additionally, the recruitment processes for Fast Track and Commercial Courts have been stalled due to the pendency of litigation.

ICT Initiatives :

Courts are effectively functioning using the Case Information System (CIS), in alignment with the e-Courts project, ensuring greater transparency, digital access to case data, and improved court management.

Infrastructural Development :

Renovation work of the Sub-Judge Building at Alipore Civil Court Complex is currently in progress.

Civil, IT, and electrical infrastructure development for the E-POCSO Court at Alipore is underway and fund allocation is pending with Govt of West Bengal.

Construction of the new court building at Kakdwip has been completed; however, the formal handover is still pending.

Temporary VWDCs are functioning at all the sub-divisions.

Estimate for setting up permanent VWDC has been sent to the concerned authority.

Juvenile Justice :

JJB South 24 Parganas ensured child-friendly justice with focus on rehabilitation over punishment. and achieved timely disposal of juvenile cases. JJB Promoted diversion programs like counseling and community service in Collaboration with NGOs and child protection units for better

support. It Conducted awareness campaigns on child rights and juvenile justice.

Vision :

To create a compassionate justice system focused on reform, reintegration, and dignity for children through legal care, education, and community support.

Miscellaneous Activities :

A solar power plant installed at Baruipur Sub-Divisional Court is successfully generating a significant amount of electricity, marking a step towards sustainable and eco-friendly court infrastructure. Another solar plant at Diamond Harbour Court Complex is at the threshold of completion, advancing the district's commitment to green energy.

Vision:

The District envisions regular Lok Adalats, full digitalization of court procedures, rural legal awareness campaigns, and capacity building through infrastructure development and judicial training.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY

UTTAR DINAJPUR



Basic Information about District :

Total Area : 3,140 sq. km

Population : 3007134

Number of Sub-Division Including Sadar/Taluka : 2

Number of Judicial Officers Posted : 21

District Court Portal/ Website : <https://northdinajpur.dcourts.gov.in>

Name of the District : Uttar Dinajpur

Court Location				
No. of Judges		Raiganj		Islampur
		Sanctioned	Vacancy	Sanctioned
		14	1	9
Human Resource Position	Sanctioned	Vacancy	Steps Taken	
Staff	211	58	Recruitment have been kept in abeyance in compliance of Hon'ble High Court's direction.	

Measures taken for arrear reduction :

In Uttar Dinajpur, the District Case Management Committee, is actively monitoring the disposal of long-pending cases, especially those over 20 and 30 years old, with a directive to achieve at least 50% disposal by February 2025. Courts have been instructed to report obstacles and submit detailed lists of targeted cases, including their status and disposal probability, in compliance with directions from the Hon'ble High Court. Physical verification of case records has been duly completed in all courts across the district.

District Legal Services Authority :

Over 100 disputes resolved through VLSCs (land, matrimonial, family, and community issues).

Significant contributions have been made by Ld. Advocates and PLVs in achieving settlements without court intervention.



The DLSA, Uttar Dinajpur has been able to significantly Contribute towards arrear reduction through Lok Adalat and mediation.

Focus has been given to resolve on family and civil matters through trained mediators under DLSA guidance.

The DLSA ensured the peaceful reinstatement of undertrial prisoner's family into their lawful residence through prompt intervention and legal awareness, restoring communal harmony without litigation.

Human Resource :

Recruitments under Employment Notifications No. 22/DRC (dated 25.07.2024)

and No. 01/DRC (dated 10.01.2025) have been kept in abeyance as per the Hon'ble High Court's order in WPO 1160 of 2013.

ICT Initiatives :

The Virtual Justice Clock, launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 26th November 2022, has been operational in this judgeship since 6th December 2022, reflecting the judiciary's commitment to transparency and accessibility.

E-Sewa Kendra: Presently, the Counters at the Judicial Service Centre-cum-Server Room at the first floor of the new Court Building of the District Judge of Uttar Dinajpur District are functioning as Help Desk Counter.

Infrastructural Development :



The remaining portion of the second floor of the Islampur Court building was inaugurated on 05.02.2025 in the presence of The Hon'ble Chief Justice High Court at Calcutta, accommodating Fast Track Courts which commenced functioning since the same day.

The construction of a Child Friendly Court with G+3 provision at Raiganj District Court Complex, on reclaimed court land, is progressing steadily with 60% of the physical work completed.

Administrative approval and sanction of ₹70,75,142 for construction and AC installation in the new ADJ Court Room at Uttar Dinajpur has been sought but it is waiting for response.

Administrative approval for ₹37,47,794 for construction of a lift room at Islampur Court was granted by the High Court on 26.02.2025, but the sanctioned fund is yet to be received.

Juvenile Justice :

Juvenile Justice Board, Uttar Dinajpur is functioning. It is holding quarterly meetings and regularly inspecting correctional Homes. Juvenile mistakenly kept in correctional Home were identified and shifted to observation Homes.



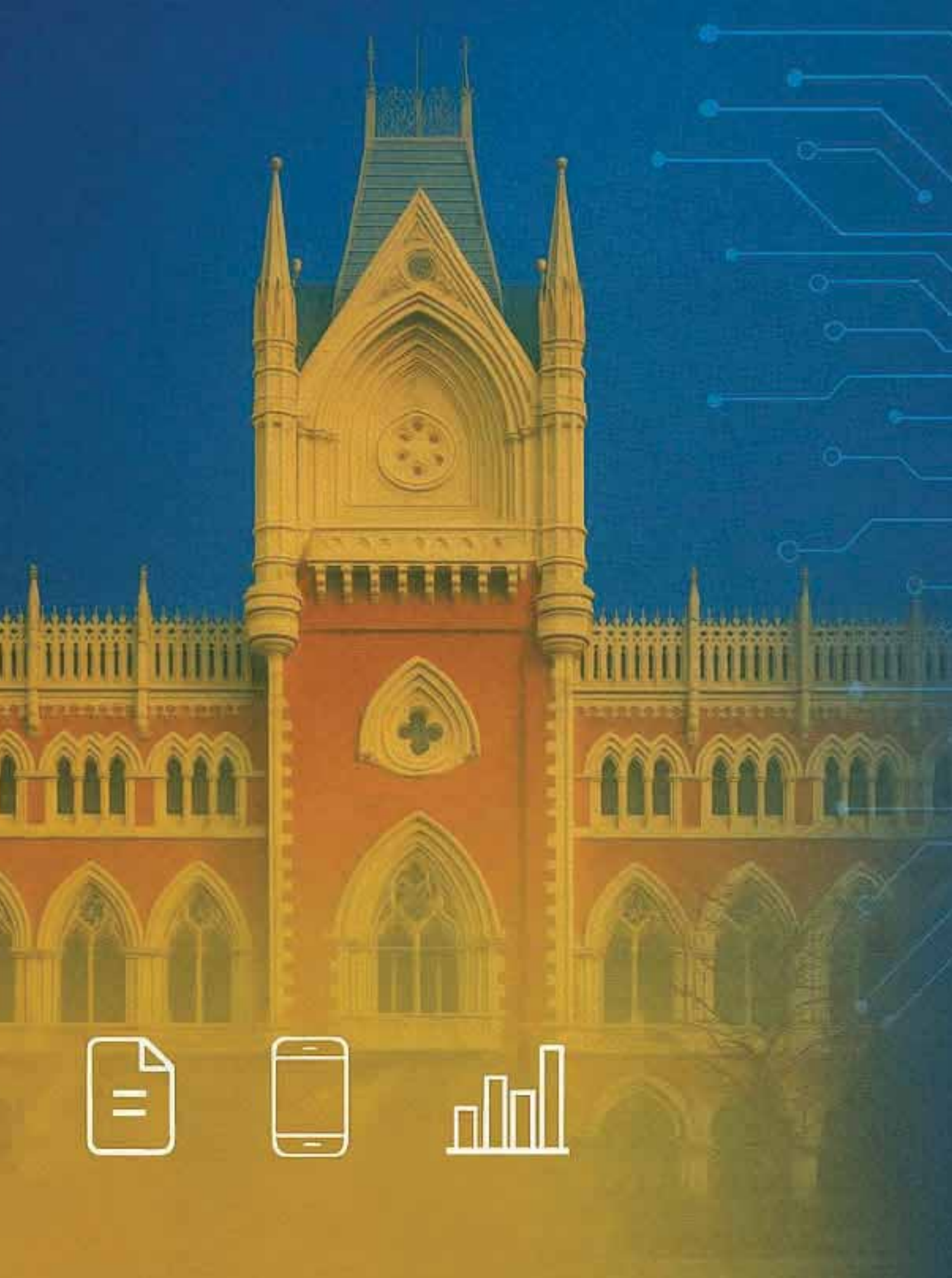
Miscellaneous Activities :

A Medical Sick Unit was established on 27.09.2023 at Uttar Dinajpur Judgeship with stakeholder's support, and is functioning smoothly. A bicycle and two-wheeler parking shed was inaugurated on 20.03.2024 as per Apex Court guidelines. Additionally, ₹1,93,000 was sanctioned and utilized for updating the Judgeship Library with new legal texts including BNS, BNSS, and BSA.



Chapter - VII

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS -
A STATISTICAL PERSPECTIVE**



PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS - A STATISTICAL PERSPECTIVE

Introduction:

Self-assessment of court performance through systematic monitoring, real-time data analysis, and evidence-based evaluation has emerged as a vital mechanism for advancing efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency in the judicial system. This dynamic process not only contributes to institutional strengthening and accountability but also plays a pivotal role in reinforcing public trust and confidence in the judiciary. In today's data-driven environment, the need for a modern, responsive and accountable judicial system is more pressing than ever. This analysis draws upon the **Baseline Report of the National Framework of Court Excellence (NFCE) 2024** as a foundational reference. The indicators and classification framework adopted herein are aligned with the benchmarks outlined in that report.

This report presents an analytical overview of key statistical indicators reflecting the

performance of **district courts in West Bengal**, the Union Territory of **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**, and the **High Court at Calcutta**. The findings are based primarily on data extracted from the National Judicial Data Grid (**NJDG**) and other **official platforms**, covering the period from **1st July, 2024 to 30th June, 2025**. There are delays, legacy entry and asynchronicity in the database management system which is sometimes reflected in a mismatch of rates/ numbers between the previous year's report and the current report.

To ensure a more balanced and meaningful comparison across judicial districts, the districts of West Bengal, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been categorised into **three distinct groups** based on the **total number of functioning courts** in each district. This stratified approach allows for more equitable benchmarking, recognizing the variations in scale, caseload and resource allocation. The court number data is collected from the districts.

West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The categories are as follows:

Big (Group 1)	Medium (Group 2)	Small (Group 3)
● HOOGHLY	● BANKURA	● ALIPURDUAR
● HOWRAH	● BIRBHUM	● ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS
● KOLKATA	● COOCHBEHAR	● DAKHSHIN DINAJPUR
● MURSHIDABAD	● DARJEELING	● JALPAIGURI

Big (Group 1)	Medium (Group 2)	Small (Group 3)
● NADIA	● MALDA	● JHARGRAM
● NORTH 24 PARGANAS	● PASCHIM BARDHAMAN	● KALIMPONG
● PASCHIM MEDINIPUR	● PURBA BARDHAMAN	● PURULIA
● SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	● PURBA MEDINIPUR	● UTTAR DINAJPUR

It is important to note that **Kolkata**, although is a district under the ordinary original civil judisdiction of the High Court at Calcutta, but it has been treated separately from the High Court itself. The Kolkata district includes three major court complexes: **the City Civil Court, the City Sessions Court and the Presidency Small Causes Court**. Kolkata as a district has been included in Group 1 considering the number of Courts in the above mentioned three Court establishments. Additionally, Group 3 includes the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**, which also fall under the jurisdiction of the **High Court at Calcutta**.

Calcutta High Court:

The High Court at Calcutta holds a unique and prominent position within the judicial framework of **West Bengal** and the **Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands**, over which it has jurisdiction. In addition to the district courts, this report presents a separate analysis of the relevant parameters relating to the **High Court at**

Calcutta. Given its distinct administrative structure, jurisdictional reach, and complex caseload profile, the performance has been evaluated independently from the district-level groupings.

Measures of Performance of Courts :

Identifying appropriate performance indicators are crucial for accurately assessing court excellence in relation to its core values. The performance measures adopted in this report are drawn from the **Baseline Report on the National Framework of Court Excellence (NFCE) 2024**, ensuring alignment with nationally recognized standards for judicial evaluation.

The specific measures taken into the study are as follows:

I. Case Processing Diligence:

Timely disposal of cases is one of the most critical measures of court-excellence. Delay in adjudication renders issues stale, burdens the litigation process and ultimately affects public faith and

confidence. In order to reflect on this parameter we have considered to measure under this;

- **Case Clearance Rate (%):**

The parameter measures the number of cases disposed of within the prescribed period as a percentage of the total number of cases instituted during the period.

II. Judicial Capability:

To assess Judicial Capability, following parameter has been used;

- **Working strength vis-à-vis sanctioned strength of judges:** This is an important criterion that identifies whether the Courts are functioning at their full strength or not. This is expected to directly affect the first performance measure i.e. case processing diligence.

III. ADR:

Lok Adalats and Mediation are effective alternate dispute resolution mechanisms for speedy disposal of cases. Judges and other stakeholders need to be made aware of the efficacy of alternate dispute resolution methods to ensure expeditious disposal of cases. Efficiency of ADR initiatives may be measured in the following manner,

- **Lok Adalat Success Rates (%)**
- **Mediation Success Rates (%)**

IV. IT Facilities:

A sound IT system is necessary for robust working of Courts, especially with the magnitude of caseload and an urgent need for timely disposal. Performance of High and District Courts in engaging IT tools and

IT enabled services to render justice may be measured under the four broad categories:

- **Hardware, Software and Networking;**
- **Digitisation;**
- **Online access and citizen centric measures and**
- **Futuristic Courts.**

Case Processing Diligence:

Case Clearance Rate (%):

Percentage of cases disposed of within the prescribed period out of the total cases instituted during that period.

A = cases disposed of within the prescribed time frame;

B = cases instituted within the time frame

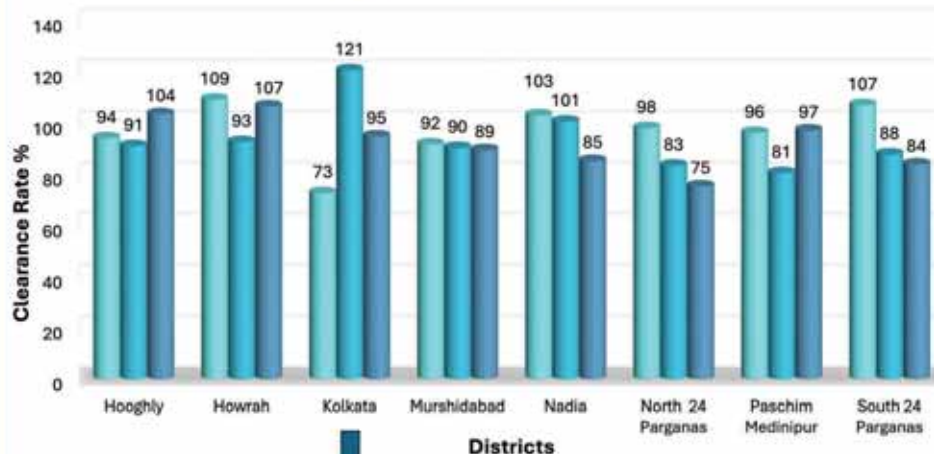
$$\text{Case Clearance Rate (\%)} = \text{A/B} \times 100$$

From the given definition, it is evident that the case clearance rate can **exceed 100%**. To provide a clearer and more comprehensive understanding, the data has been separated into two categories: **Civil and Criminal** cases. Each group's performance for **this year** is compared against the corresponding figures from the **previous two years**. The bar charts presented below illustrate these comparisons.

Additionally, for better clarity and more meaningful insights, the data for **Kolkata** has been further **disaggregated** into its constituent Courts both for Civil and Criminal cases.

Civil Case Clearance Rate (Group 1)

2022-23 2023-24 2024-25



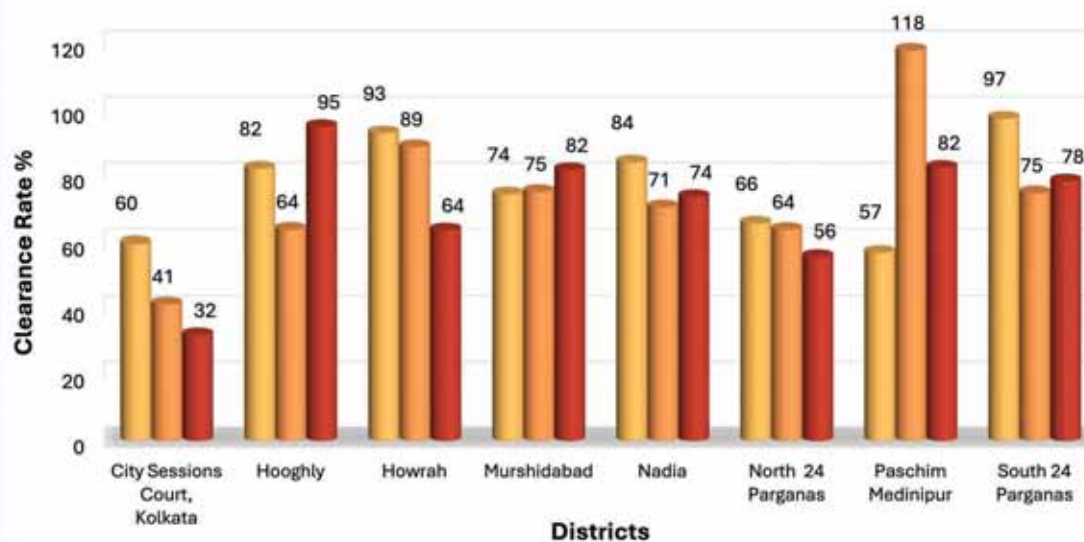
Civil Case Clearance Rate for Kolkata

2022-23 2023-24 2024-25

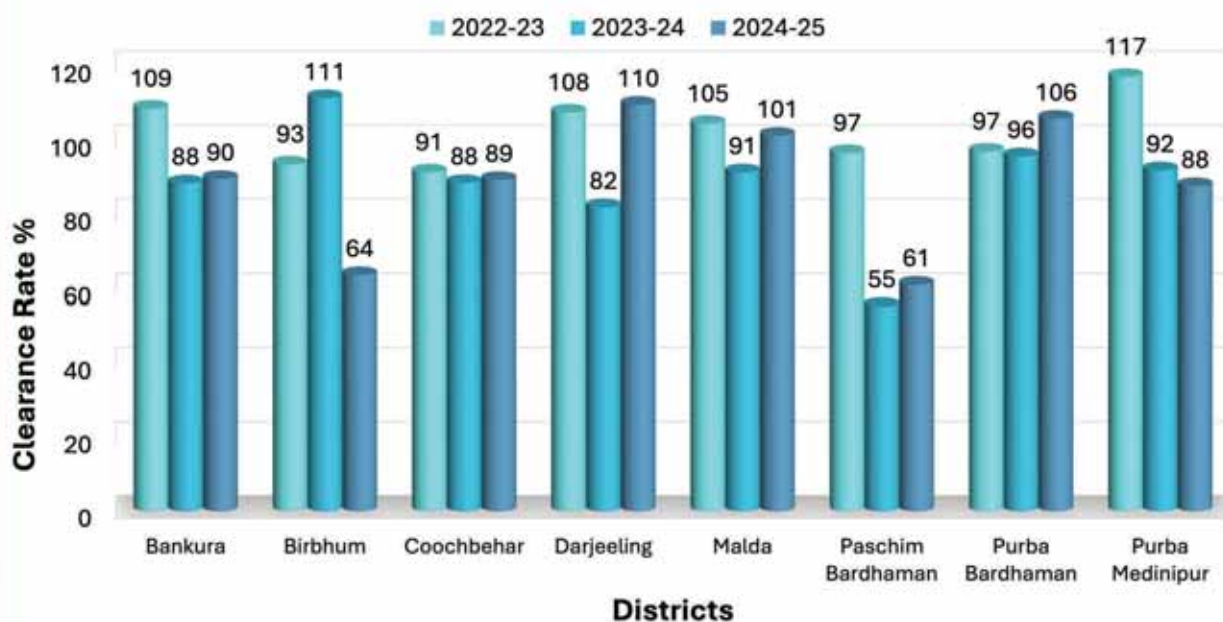


Criminal Case Clearance Rate (Group 1)

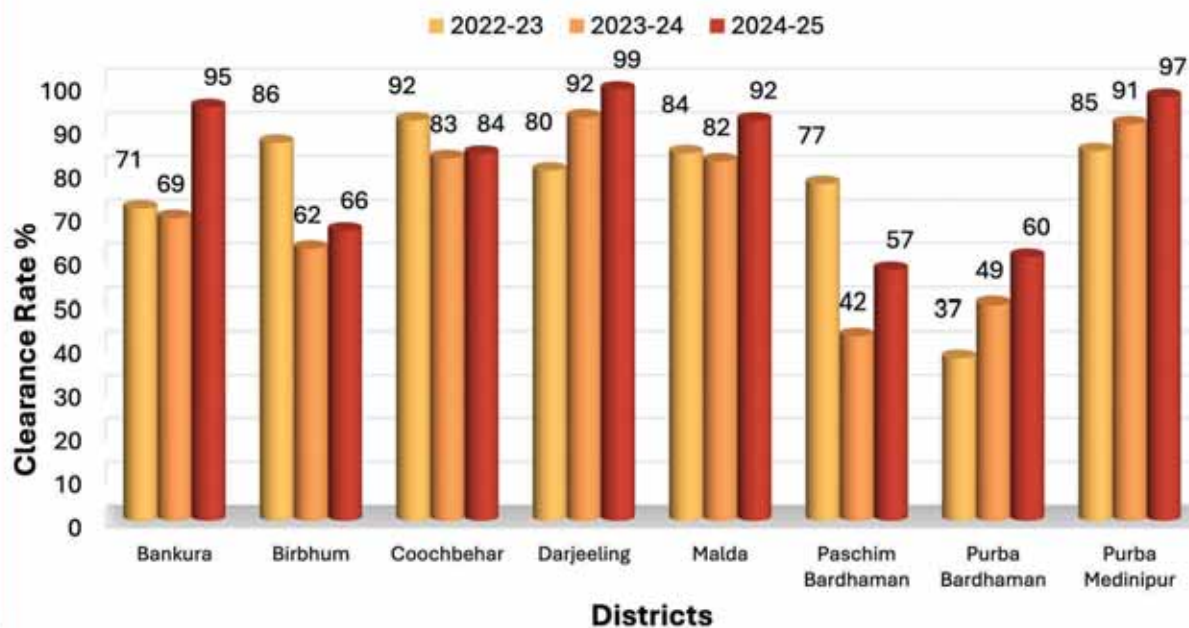
2022-23 2023-24 2024-25



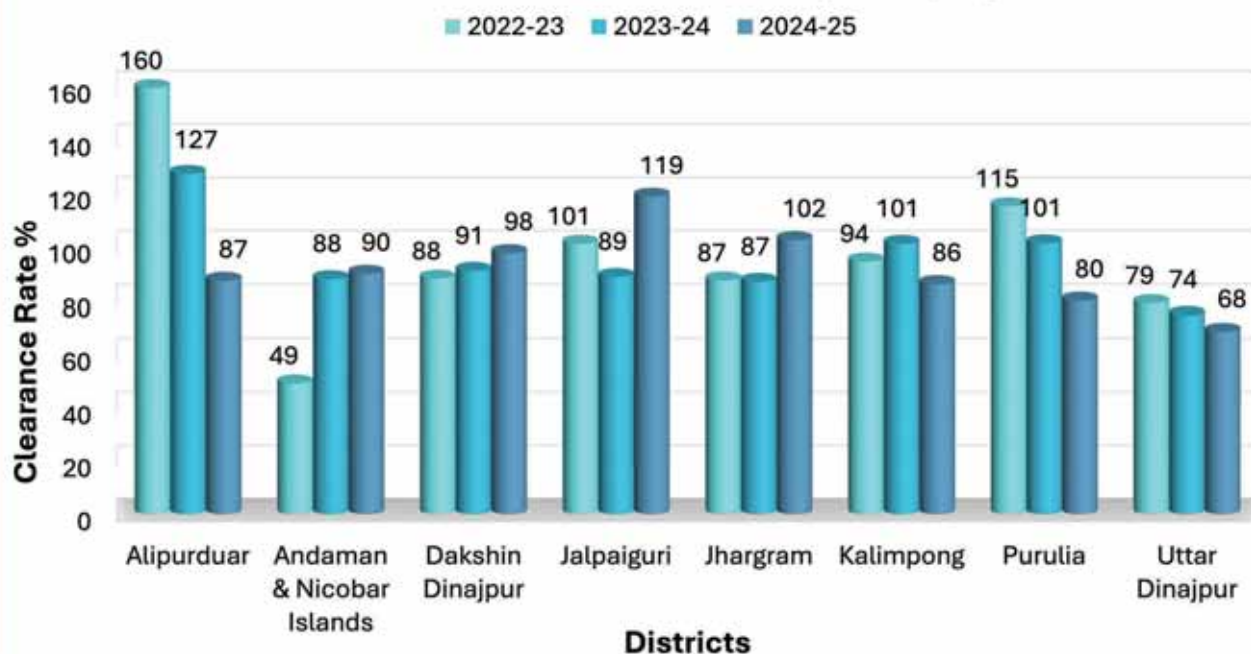
Civil Case Clearance Rate (Group 2)



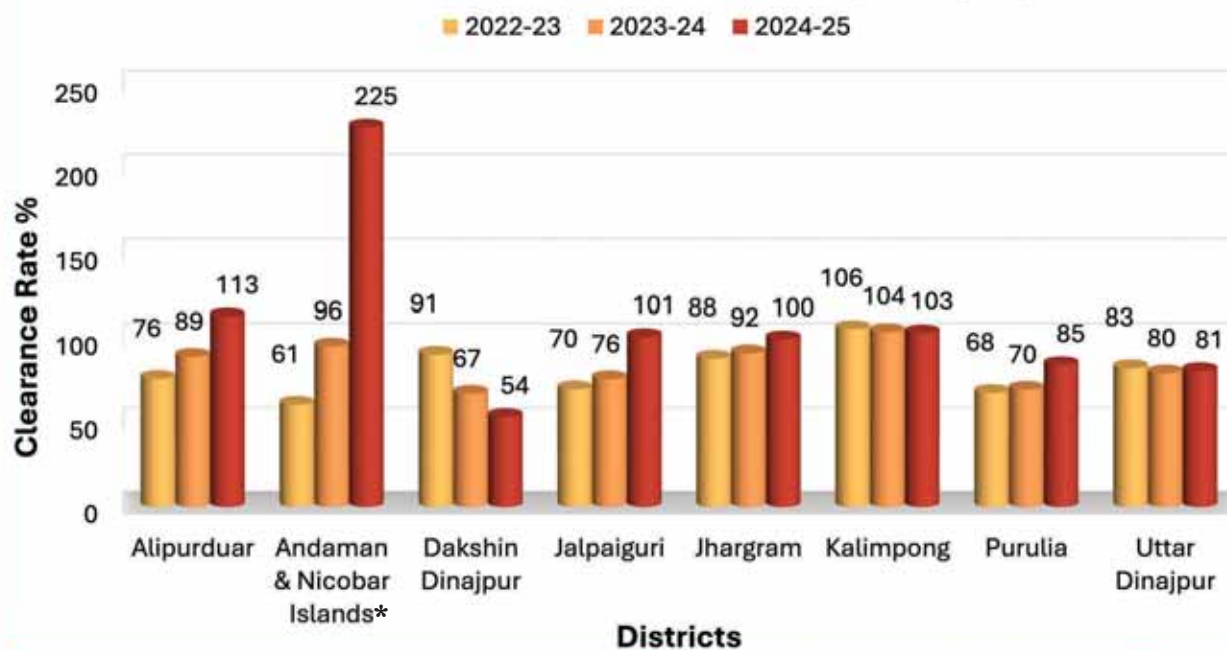
Criminal Case Clearance Rate (Group 2)



Civil Case Clearance Rate (Group 3)

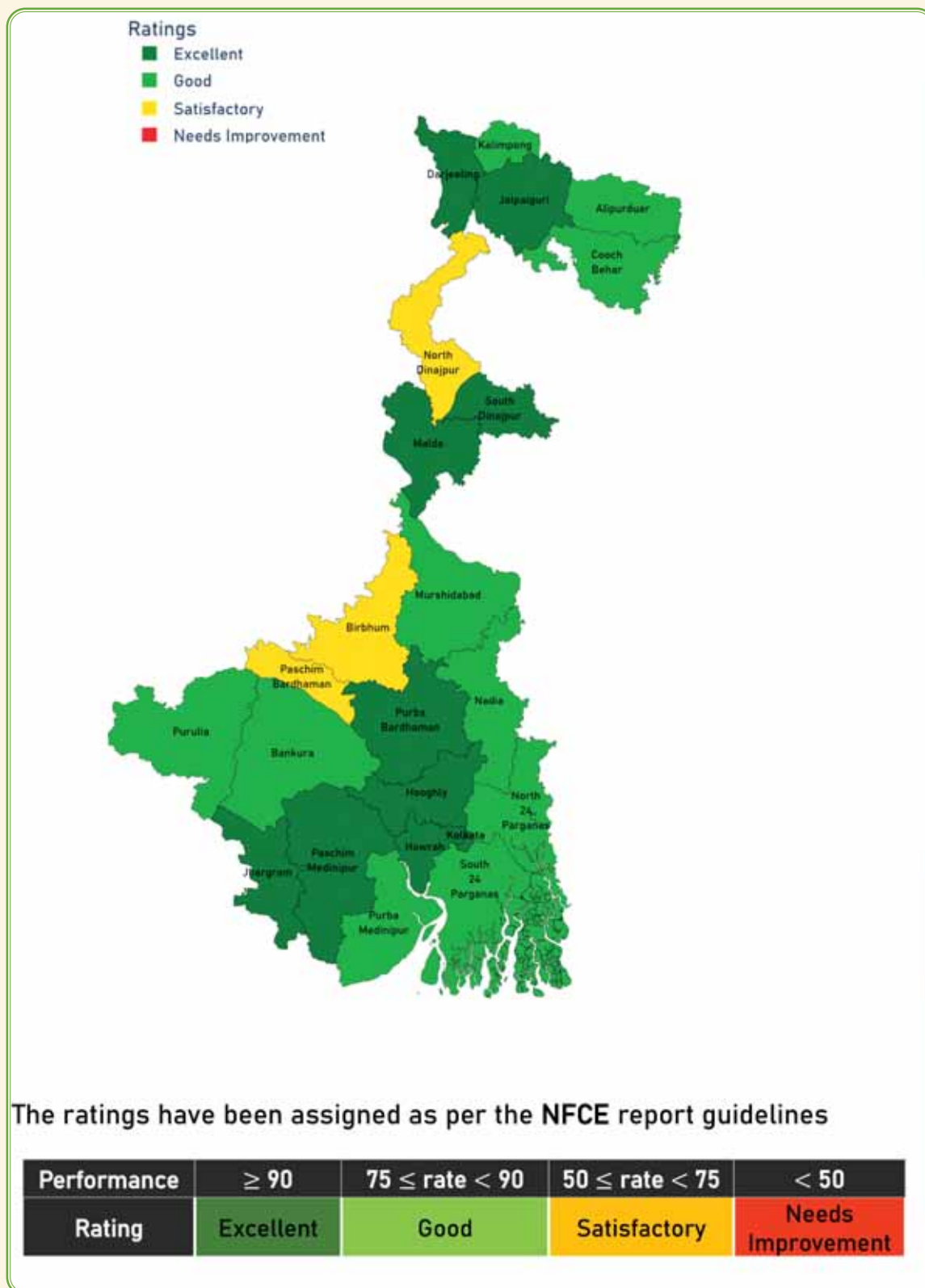


Criminal Case Clearance Rate (Group 3)

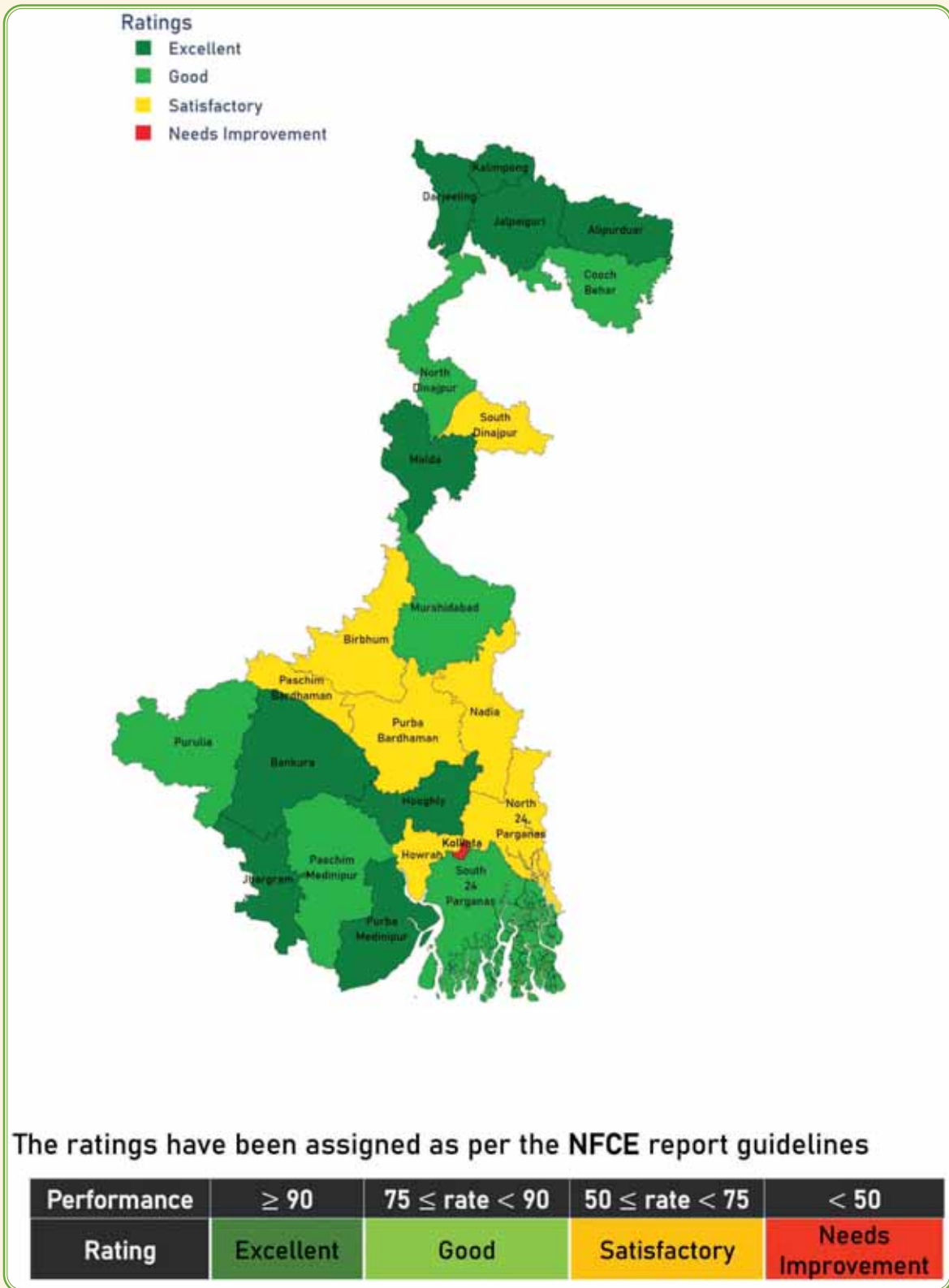


**The data includes cases disposed of and transferred.*

District-wise Civil Case Clearance Rate Ratings (West Bengal)



District-wise Criminal Case Clearance Rate Ratings (West Bengal)



JUDICIAL CAPABILITY

Working strength vis-a-vis Sanctioned strength:

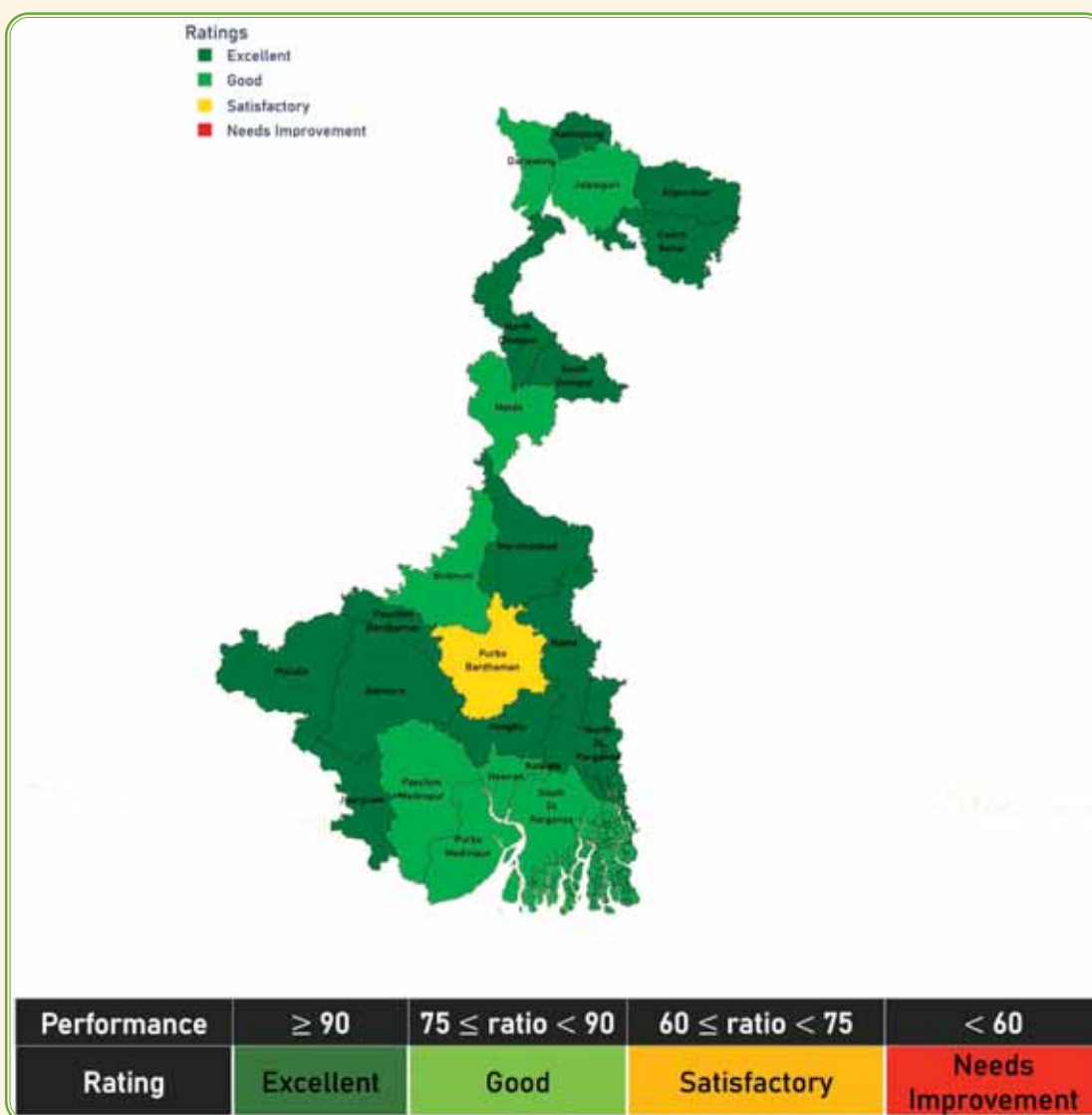
W = Numbers of Judges Working

S = Sanctioned strength

Working strength vis-a-vis Sanctioned strength = $W/S \times 100$

Based on these values, the ratings have been assigned as per the NFCE report guidelines. A map of West Bengal has also been included to visually represent the ratings across different jurisdictions.

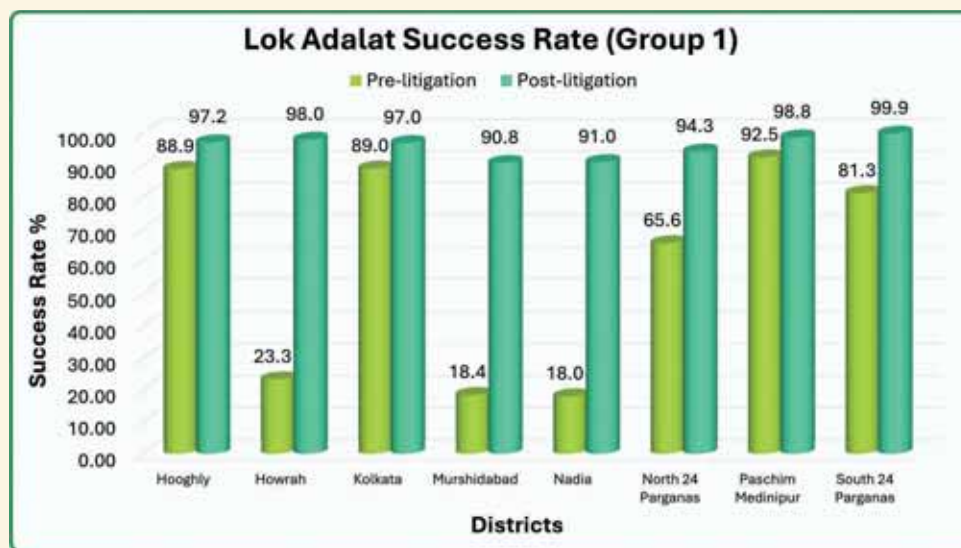
District-wise Judge Strength to Sanctioned Rate Ratings (West Bengal)



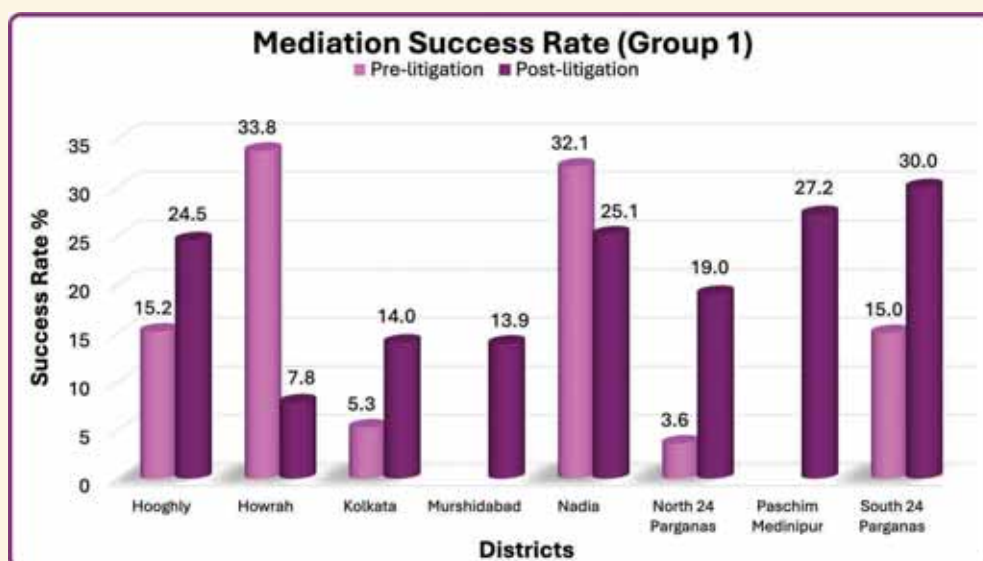
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)

To assess the effectiveness of **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** mechanisms, we have plotted the **pre-litigation** and **post-litigation** success rates of both Lok Adalats and Mediation.

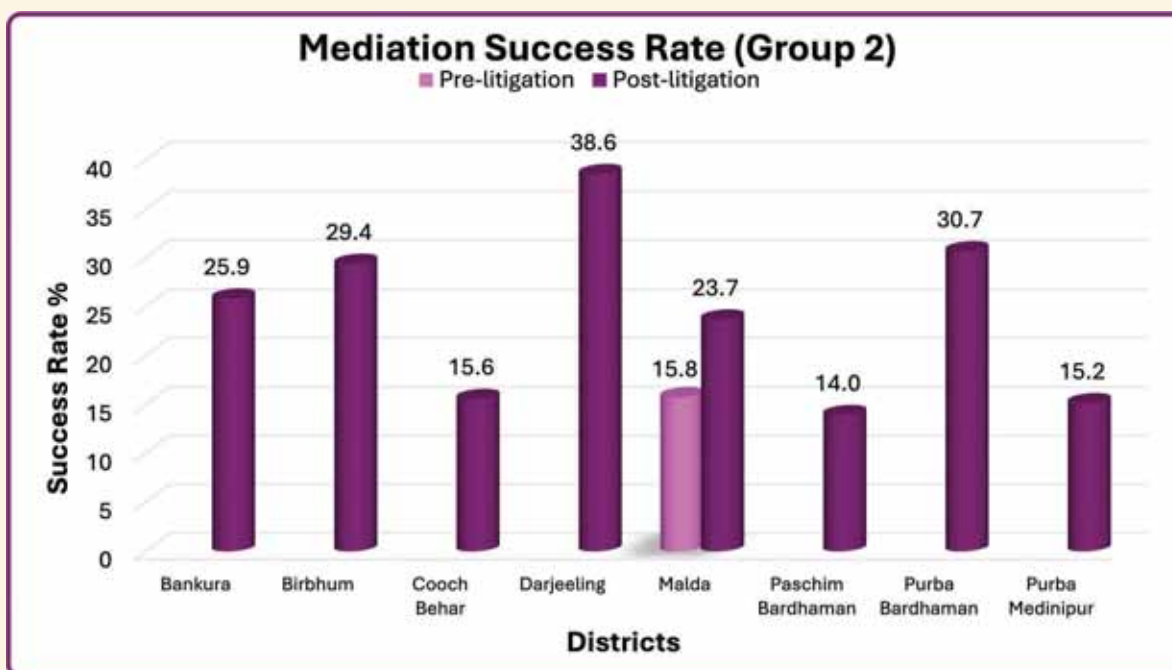
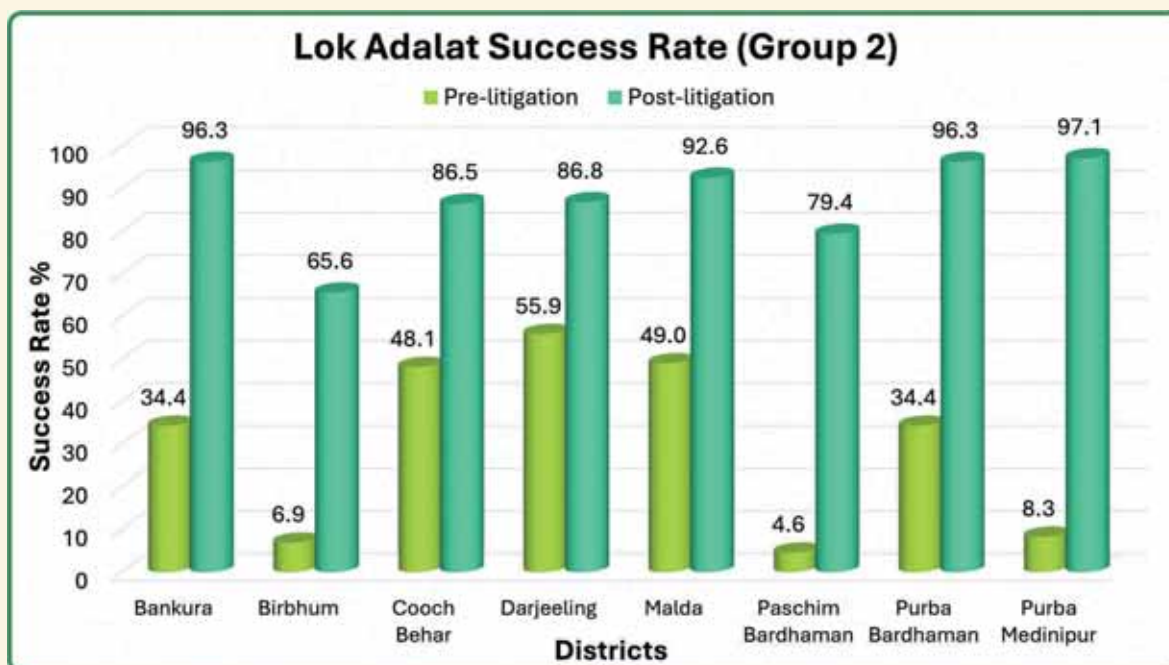
$$\text{Lok Adalat Success Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{No. of cases settled in Lok Adalat in the period}}{\text{No. of cases referred to Lok Adalat in the period}} \times 100$$



$$\text{Mediation Success Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{No. of cases settled in Mediation in the period}}{\text{No. of cases referred to Mediation in the period}} \times 100$$

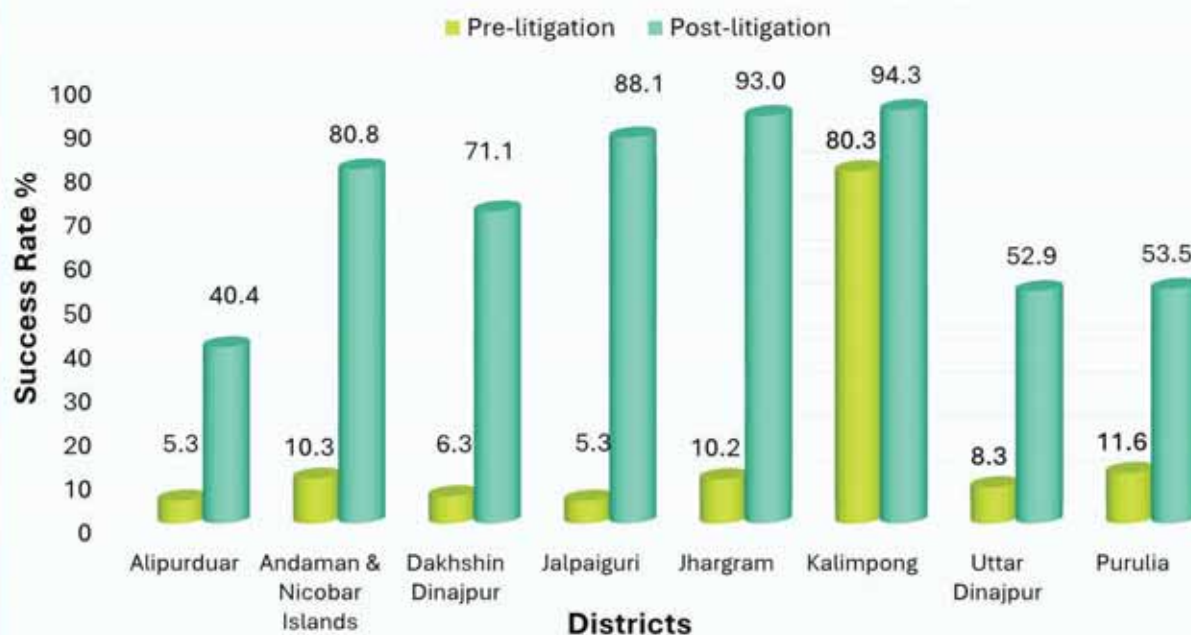


Note: If a bar is missing, it implies that there are no referred cases in the corresponding category.

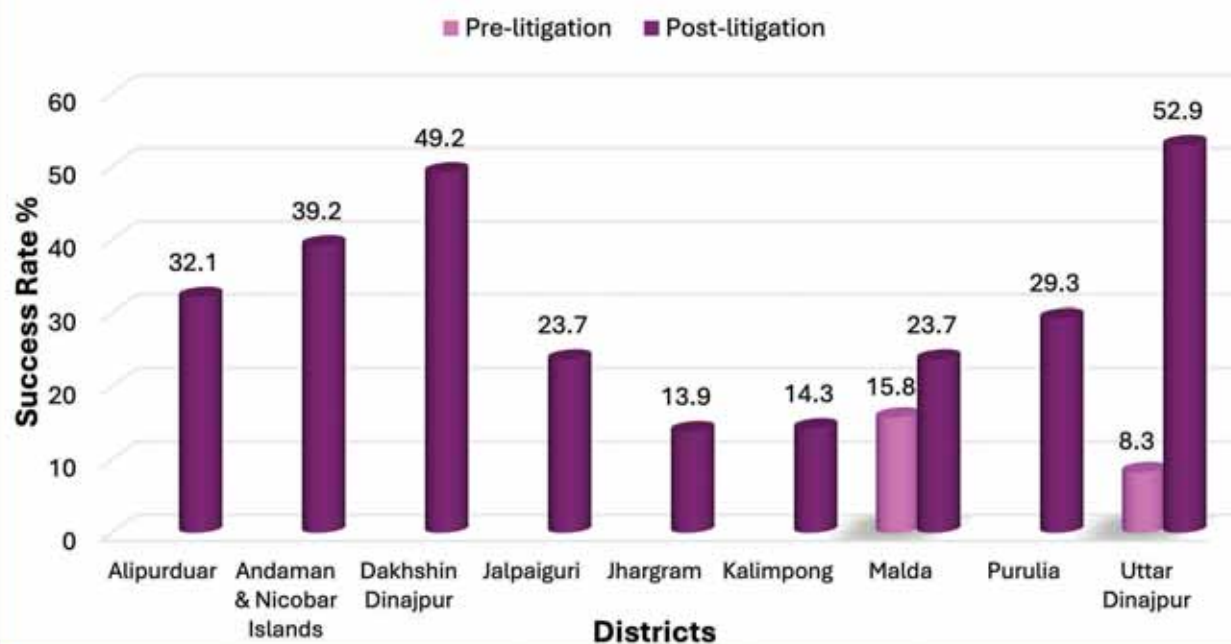


Note: If a bar is missing, it implies that there are no referred cases in the corresponding category.

Lok Adalat Success Rate (Group 3)



Mediation Success Rate (Group 3)



Note: If a bar is missing, it implies that there are no referred cases in the corresponding category.

IT FACILITIES

This formulation follows the baseline report of **NFCE**. Marks are awarded for **19 questions (57 marks)** [excluding the point on solar energy in (i)e. of the baseline report NFCE. The physical installation of **solar panels** has been completed; commissioning is pending and awaiting the installation of smart meters.] with each question carrying a weight of 3. The questions are provided below,

(i) Hardware, Software & Networking (12 marks)

- To what extent the Physical LAN and WAN connectivity are available in all the court complexes?
- To what extent the hardware viz. computers/laptops, servers, UPS, scanners, printers installed and functional as per recommendations of the Hon'ble e-Committee in all the courts and/or court complexes?
- What is the present state of the official website created for the court?
- To what extent is the ICJS implemented in the district enabling sharing of data between courts, police stations, jails, hospitals, forensic laboratories?

(ii) Digitisation (9 marks)

- To what extent the Court initiated Digitisation of legacy and current records and uploads the digitized file in Document Management Software (DMS)?
- How far the Court Management System through Paperless Court is functional in the courts?
- What is the present status of the E-Library (viz. repository of case law etc.)?

(iii) Citizen Centric Measures (27 marks)

- To what extent the Case Information System (CIS) software is implemented and the services through the software are available to the litigant and lawyers?
- To what extent the Centralized Filing Counter is functioning and what is the status of e-filing and e-payment facilities in those places?
- To what extent is mobile based service delivery including service of processes implemented?
- To what extent the uploading of orders and Judgments are undertaken regularly by all the courts?
- To what extent the touch screen-based kiosks are installed and actually functioning in the court complex?
- To what extent the e-Sewa Kendras and help desks are available to assist litigants?
- To what extent is the facility of hearing cases through video conferencing available in each court?
- To what extent the display boards are installed and functioning outside all the Courtrooms in the court complex?
- To what extent the Digital display boards, which show status of different ongoing cases in various courts, are installed in the Court complex on a single large size display screen near/inside bar room and/or at the court complex entrance?

(iv) Futuristic Courts (9 marks)

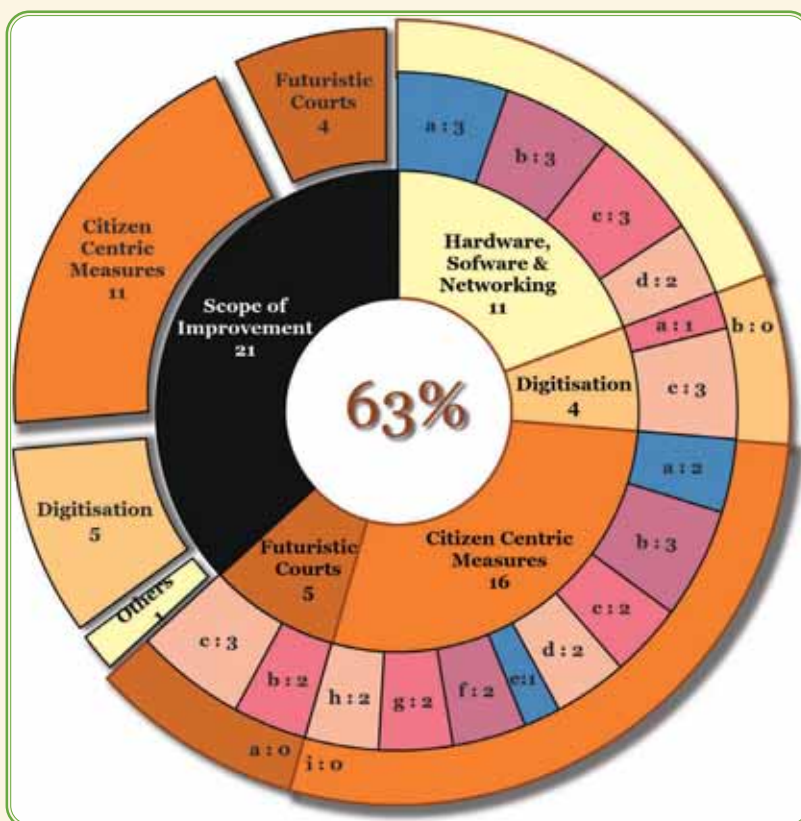
- To what extent sophisticated software (such as software using AI/ML, Data Science etc.) are exploited in court proceedings?
- To what extent the cloud storage and network computing are in use for the computer system?
- To what extent digital signature and/ or any other method is used to

ensure authentication and security of the document including the order/ Judgment?

In the Pie Charts presented in the next page, we have shown the composite score received by districts in those categories and we've also shown the scope of improvement in terms of scores in each of these domains.

PERFORMANCE PIE-CHART OF THE DISTRICTS UNDER THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT JURISDICTION

The **Calcutta High Court** oversees the supply and installation of all IT facilities across all its jurisdictions. As a result, each jurisdiction receives the same score under this measure. Therefore, the pie chart below represents the **overall performance** of all jurisdictions combined in this category.



Note: Every Category has constituent sub-categories a, b, c, d etc. as outlined in the previous pages. The physical installation of **solar panels** has been completed; commissioning is pending and awaiting the installation of smart meters.

HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

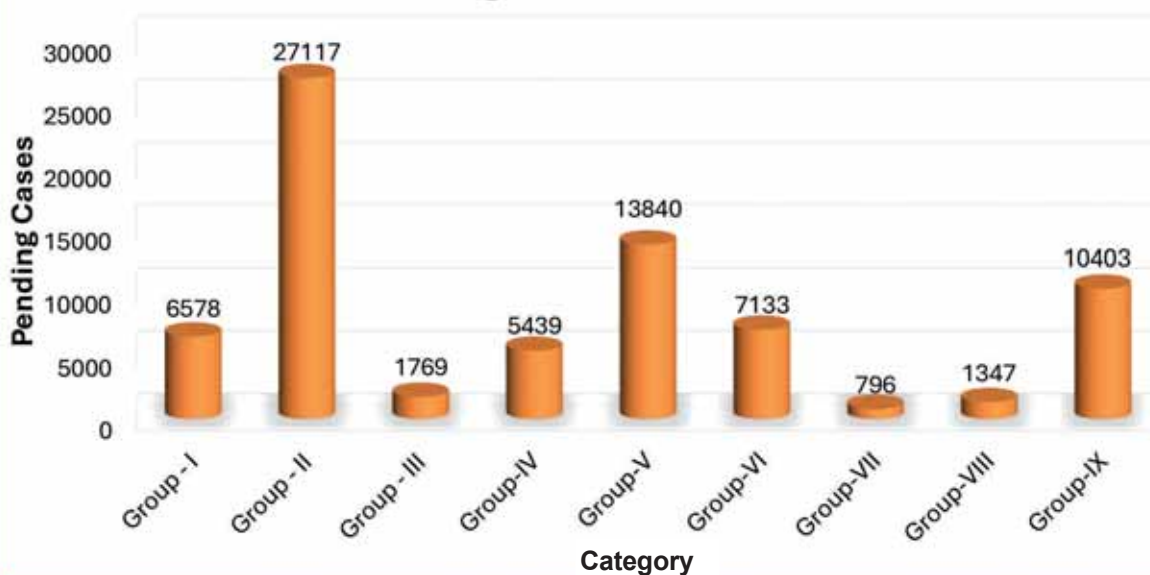
Civil and Criminal Cases have been separately categorized for easy identification.

Civil Cases

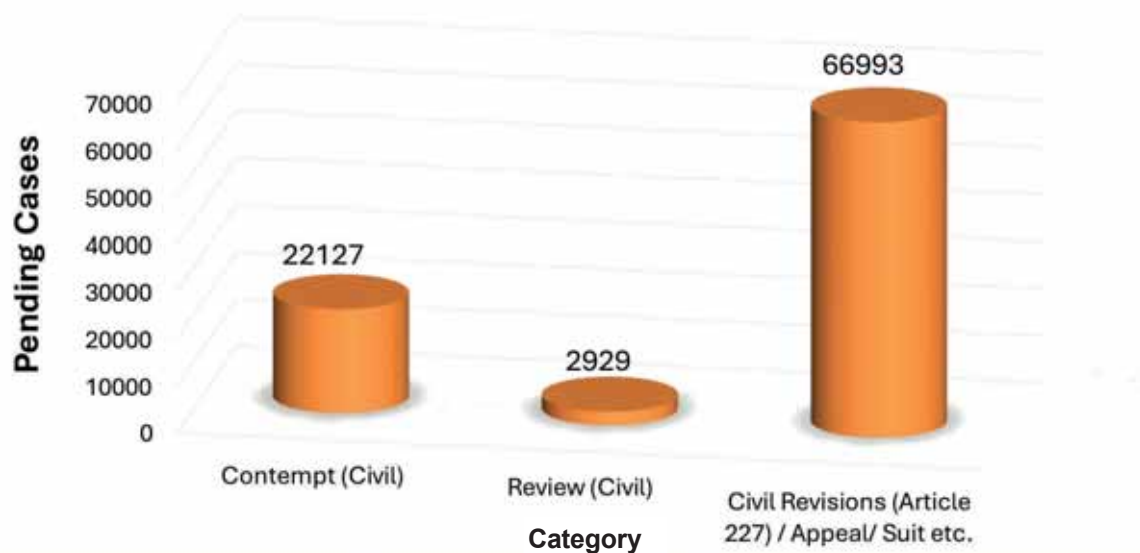
Civil cases have been sub-categorized into **13 groups** for detailed analysis. These include **ten groups of writ matters** along with **Contempt Application (Civil)**, **Review (Civil)**, **Civil Revisions (Article 227)**, **Civil Appeals** and **Civil Suit etc.**

CATEGORY		INSTITUTION FROM 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025	DISPOSAL FROM 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025	CLEARANCE RATE % (2024-25)	CLEARANCE RATE % (2023-24)
WRIT PEITITION (ARTICLE 226)					
GROUP - I	Matters relating to Land	2101	1767	84.10	132.68
GROUP - II	Matters relating to Educational Institutions	8887	9551	107.47	146.77
GROUP - III	Labour	553	730	132.01	124.48
GROUP-IV	Revenue	2380	1020	42.86	80.52
GROUP-V	Municipalities / Co-operative Societies / Panchayats	2615	3653	139.69	112.82
GROUP-VI	Service Regulations	2217	4256	191.97	138.38
GROUP-VII	Transport and Communication	570	479	84.04	104.51
GROUP-VIII	Essential Commodities	842	441	52.38	81.45
GROUP-IX	Residuary	3865	4257	110.14	108.71
WRIT	Habeus Corpus	99	87	87.88	90.29
CONTEMPT (CIVIL)		3240	2440	75.31	287.56
REVIEW (CIVIL)		404	253	62.62	44.94
CIVIL REVISIONS (ARTICLE 227) / CIVIL APPEAL / CIVIL SUIT/ ARBITRATION ETC.		12141	12851	105.85	119.87

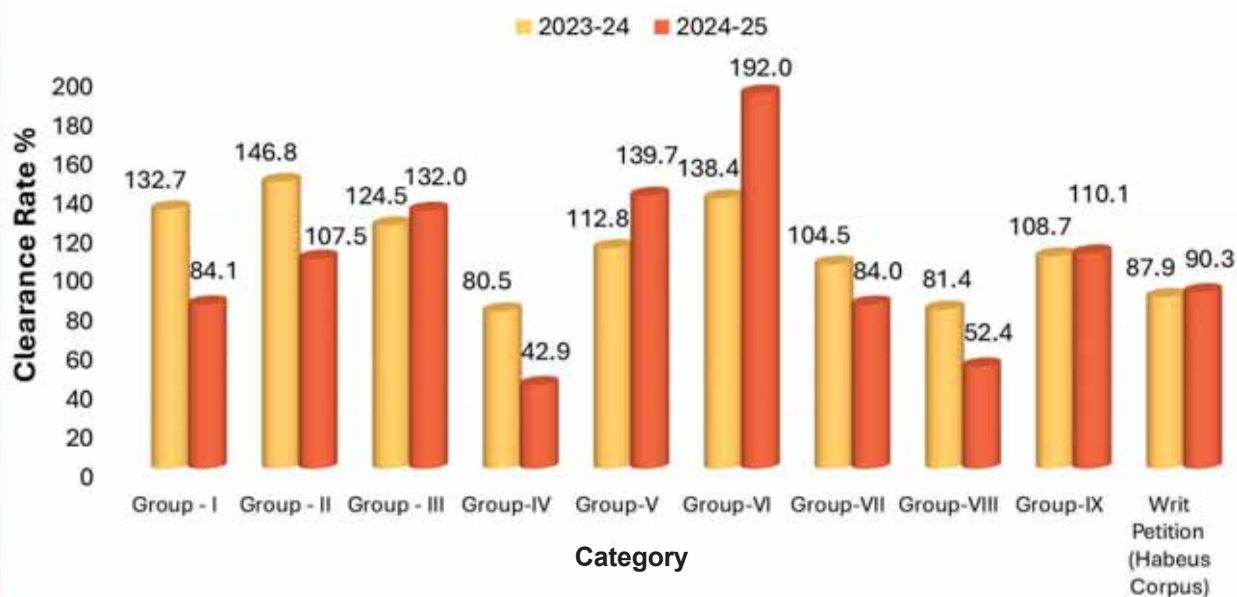
**Category-wise Civil Case Pendency for
Calcutta High Court as on 30.06.2025**



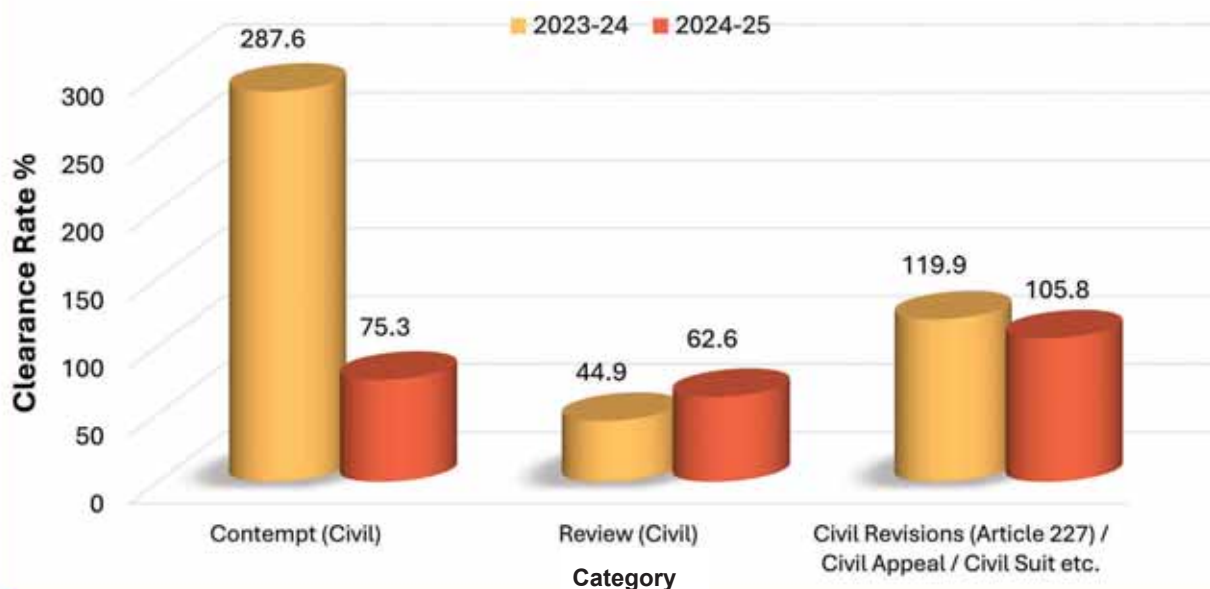
**Category-wise Civil Case Pendency for
Calcutta High Court as on 30.06.2025**



Category-wise Civil Case Clearance Rate as on 30.06.2025



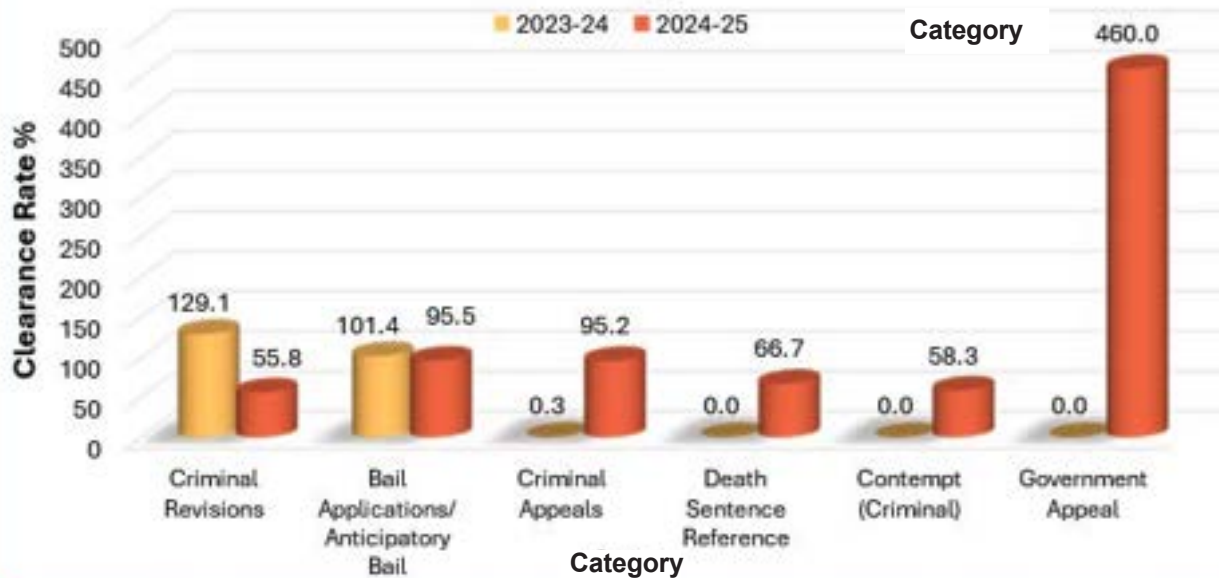
Category-wise Civil Case Clearance Rate as on 30.06.2025



Criminal Cases

CATEGORY	INSTITUTION FROM 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025	DISPOSAL FROM 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025	CLEARANCE RATE % (2024-25)	CLEARANCE RATE % (2023-24)
CRIMINAL REVISIONS	5592	3119	55.78	129.09
BAIL APPLICATIONS / ANTICIPATORY BAIL	11105	10607	95.52	101.36
CRIMINAL APPEALS	642	611	95.17	0.34
DEATH SENTENCE REFERENCE	9	6	66.67	0
CONTEMPT (CRIMINAL)	24	14	58.33	0
GOVERNMENT APPEAL	10	46	460	0

**Category-wise Clearance rate of Criminal Cases
as on 30.06.2025**



CASE PENDING

Case Pending:

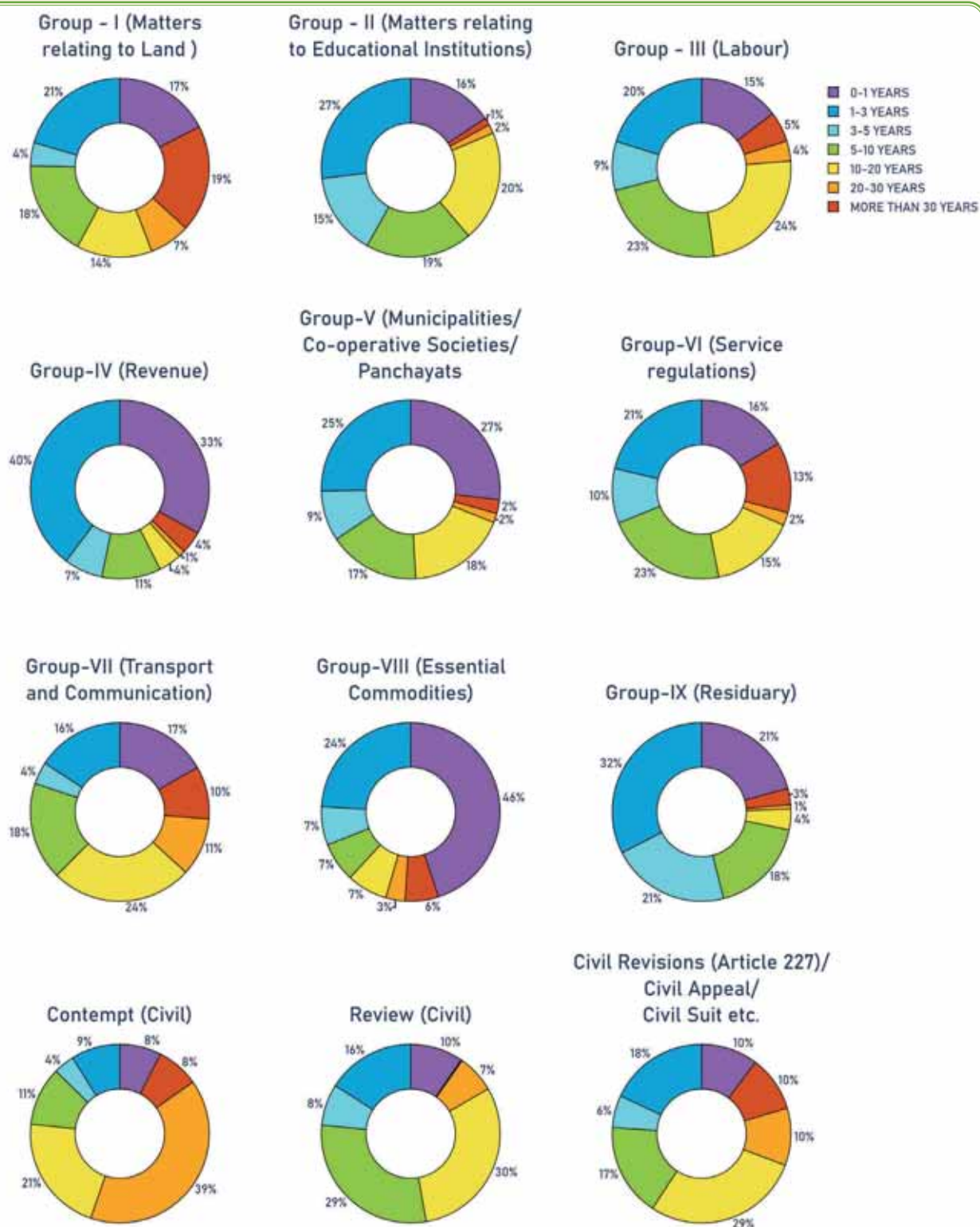
The age-wise distribution of the number of pending cases, serves as a crucial indicator

of the Court's performance. This analysis has been further divided into Civil and Criminal categories for clarity.

Civil Cases:

TYPE OF CASE		CASE AGE IN YEARS							TOTAL
		0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-20	20-30	> 30	
GROUP - I	Matters relating to Land	1144	1346	276	1152	898	487	1275	6578
GROUP - II	Matters relating to Educational Institutions	4259	7300	4064	5242	5453	444	355	27117
GROUP-III	Labour	259	358	157	409	424	65	97	1769
GROUP-IV	Revenue	1801	2162	381	582	227	63	223	5439
GROUP-V	Municipalities / Cooperative Societies / Panchayats	3717	3498	1263	2287	2499	232	344	13840
GROUP-VI	Service Regulations	1170	1512	709	1567	1095	167	913	7133
GROUP-VII	Transport and Communication	133	126	32	141	204	84	76	796
GROUP-VIII	Essential Commodities	606	324	94	96	99	47	81	1347
GROUP-IX	Residuary	2160	3387	2229	1851	389	82	305	10403
CONTEMPT (CIVIL)		1669	1962	847	2348	4742	8863	1696	22127
REVIEW (CIVIL)		280	468	220	858	895	202	6	2929
CIVIL REVISIONS / CIVIL APPEAL ETC.		6912	12111	3905	11304	19060	6959	6742	66993

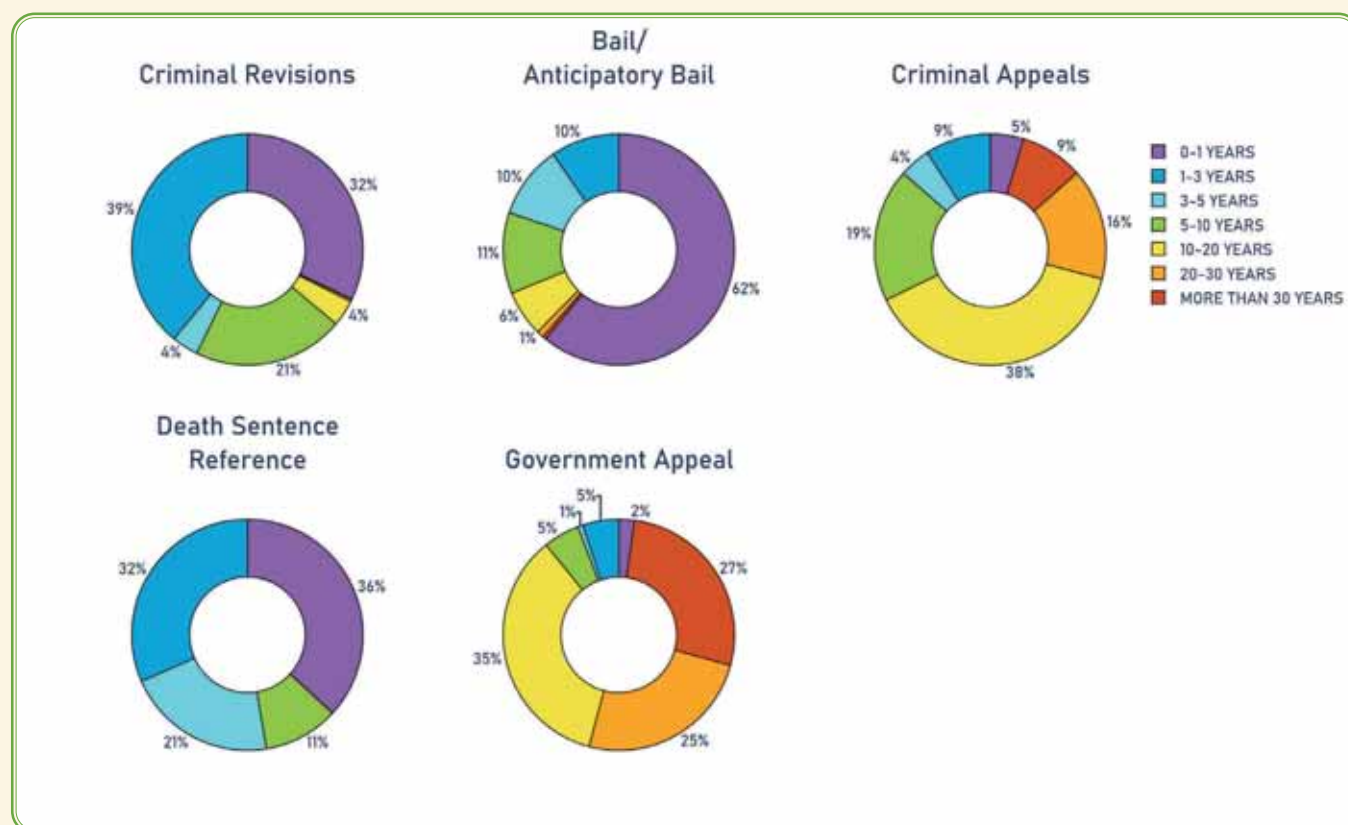
AGE-WISE PENDENCY OF CIVIL CASES



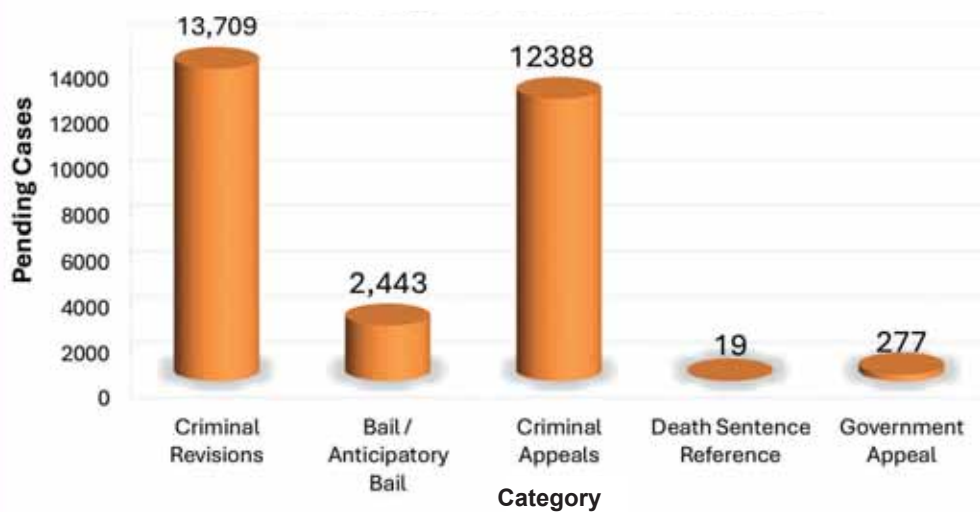
Criminal Cases:

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AGE IN YEARS							
	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-20	20-30	> 30	TOTAL
CRIMINAL REVISIONS	4396	5354	513	2891	501	44	10	13709
BAIL / ANTICIPATORY BAIL	1488	235	250	277	157	24	12	2443
CRIMINAL APPEALS	577	1137	539	2314	4793	1932	1096	12388
DEATH SENTENCE REFERENCE	7	6	4	2	0	0	0	19
GOVERNMENT APPEAL	6	14	2	14	97	69	75	277

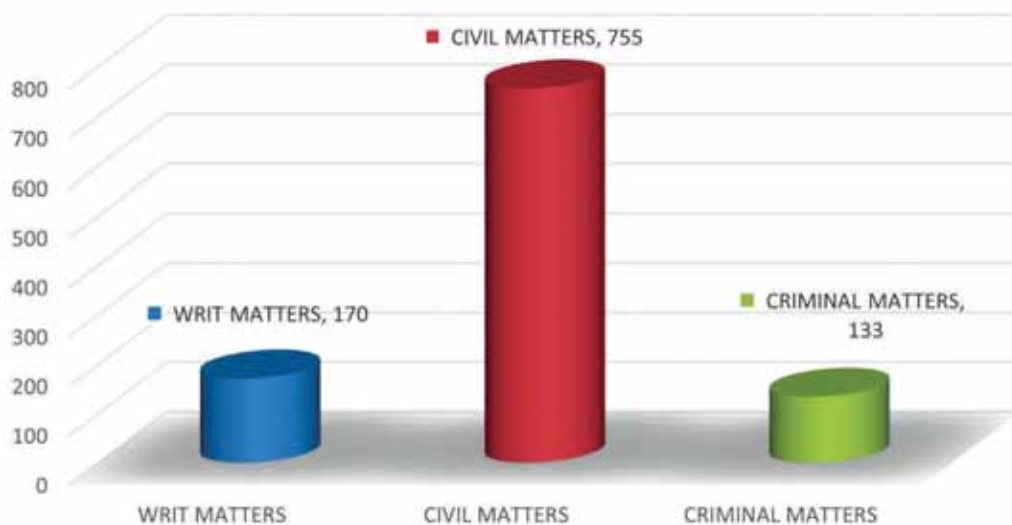
AGE-WISE PENDENCY OF CRIMINAL CASES



**Category-wise Pendency of Criminal Cases
as on 30.06.2025**



**Disposal of cases pending for more than 30 years
During 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025**



IT FACILITIES

This formulation again follows the baseline report of NFCE. Marks are awarded for **17 questions (50 marks)**, with each question carrying a weight of 3 (except 2. i. with weight 2). The questions are provided below,

1. Digitisation (12 marks)

- a. To what extent the Court initiated Digitisation of legacy and current records and uploads the digitized file in Document Management Software (DMS)?
- b. What is the present status of any system or software for online tracking of files?
- c. How far the Court Management System through Paperless Court is functional in the courts?
- d. What is the present status of the E-Library (viz. repository of case law etc.)?

2. Citizen Centric Measures (26 marks)

- a. To what extent e-filing of cases is implemented in the High Court?
- b. Whether the Rule for e-filing of cases has been framed?
- c. Whether Rules have been framed to permit communication of orders/notices through SMS/email at the High Court level?
- d. Whether Rules have been framed for Video Conferencing at the High Court and District Courts?

- e. Whether Rules for Live Streaming of Court Proceeding has been framed?
- f. Whether Rules for preservation and retrieval of electronic evidence is framed at the High Court level?
- g. Whether Rules for electronic service of processes have been framed by the High Court?
- h. To what extent the translation of orders/judgments in vernacular are undertaken?
- i. Whether Centralised UPS system for power backup available in Court Complex?

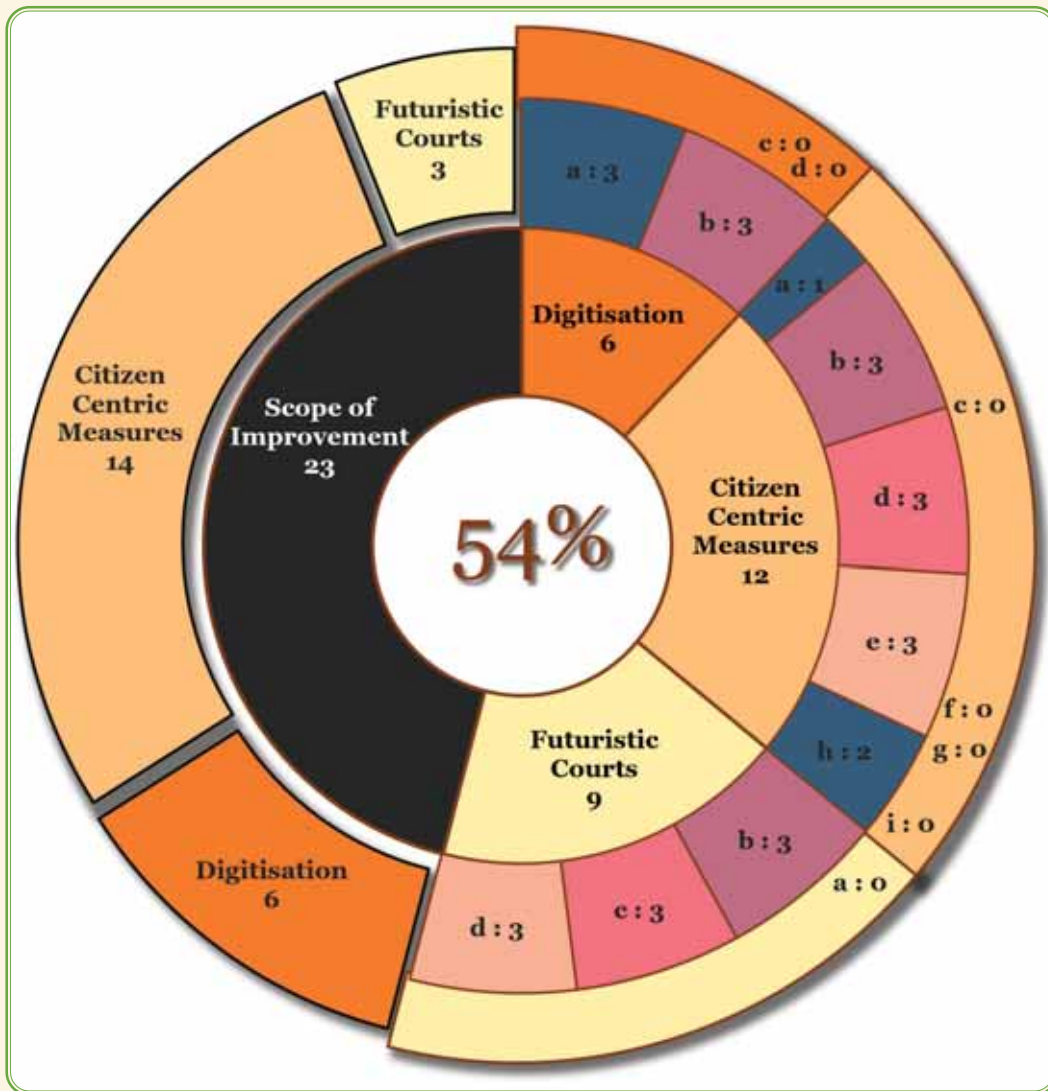
3. Futuristic Courts (12 marks)

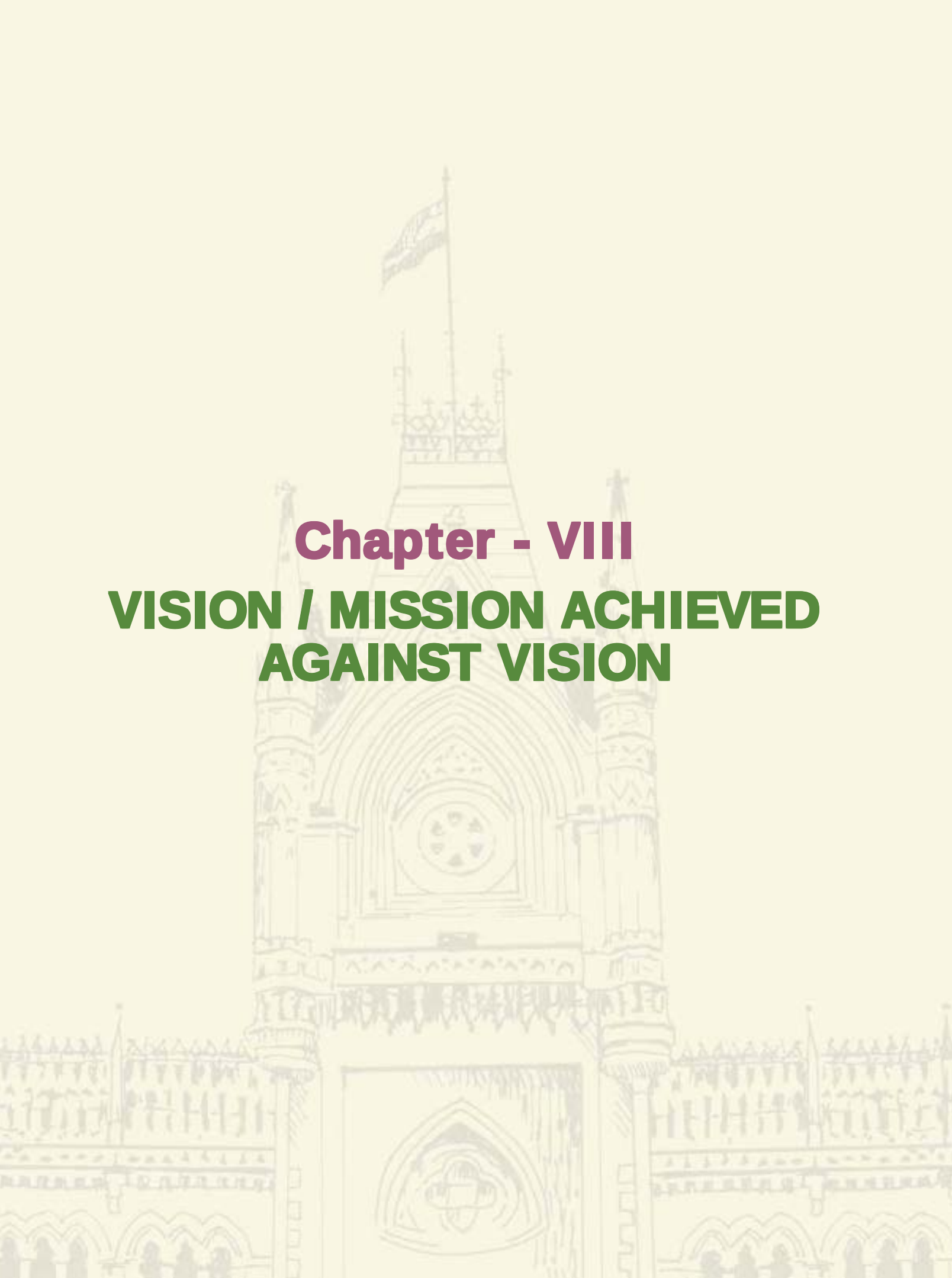
- a. To what extent sophisticated software (such as software using AI/ML, Data Science etc.) are exploited in court proceedings?
- b. To what extent the cloud storage and network computing are in use for the computer system?
- c. To what extent the steps are taken for data privacy and security?
- d. To what extent digital signature and/or any other method is used to ensure authentication and security of the document including the order/judgment?

Conclusions:

The analysis of both District and High Courts performances highlights key areas of strength as well as zones requiring focused attention. By evaluating parameters such as case pendency, disposal rates, infrastructure, and accessibility, we have identified

The findings will be instrumental in guiding data-driven policy decisions and administrative interventions aimed at improving the efficiency, transparency and overall functioning of the courts. This assessment is a step forward toward ensuring timely justice and enhancing public trust in the judicial system.





Chapter - VIII

VISION / MISSION ACHIEVED AGAINST VISION



78th

year of

বিক্রমী

সূর্য্য সেন

কর্তৃক

VISION IN RESPECT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

HIGH COURT

- **Dedicated website for Juvenile Justice Secretariat :** A dedicated website will be developed for the Juvenile Justice Secretariat (JJS) of West Bengal. This website will provide all kinds of important information about JJBs, Children's Homes, relevant reports, and contact details of the Secretariat.
 - **Comprehensive software for collection of data :** An internal software will be developed to collect reports of Children's Home Visit (both CNCP and CCL) from different districts. This system will enable the Juvenile Justice Secretariat to electronically access data across the state, facilitating efficient monitoring of the Homes and to take timely action, including decision-making.
 - **To hoist the Agenda Management System Software on Cloud Server:** The in house Online Agenda Management System will be made live upon successful completion of its security audit, which will facilitate the Hon'ble Judges to view the Agenda of the Meeting as well as Paper book from residence and also from anywhere.
- Subsequent user training will be provided to cover all functionalities.
- **Introduction of Barcode in the Case file :** Central File Tracking System (CFTS) which tracks the files being exchanged between the departments, will be upgraded to include barcode scanning to facilitate faster capturing and processing the files. Missing files can easily be tracked through this system.
 - **Database for Mediation Center :** A Database for Mediation center will be implemented to consolidate mediation case details in a structured, searchable format. It enables quick filtering, sorting, and export of records to support efficient management of Mediation cases.
 - **Law Clerk Registration online:** Online Registration System for Law Clerk is to be implemented to streamline the end-to-end process of law clerk registration with the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta.
 - **Upgradation of PIS Software:** The Personal Information System (PIS) will be upgraded to include a new module

for the judicial officers for submitting and managing transfer related representation.

- **Animated videos for general public:** Animated videos will be developed, explaining court procedures and other related processes of filing cases and the same will be made available on the portal to promote general awareness among citizens.
- **Set up of LED Display for public information and other purposes :** A large, weather-protected display board will be installed in the middle of the Travelator, connecting the Main Building and the Centenary Building, enabling the live streaming of important programs held at the Hon'ble Court and displaying other important information/notices.
- **Common platform to collect data from districts:** A Framework will be established to collect data centrally from District judiciary for timely compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- **Hoisting of DMS to cloud server:** The DMS system along with the digital copies of court proceedings will be

migrated from a premises server to State Data Centre (WBSDC). This will be a futuristic approach towards IT functionality with load balancing and storage upgradation.

- **Interface of DMS to the Courts:** Development of a peripheral application is in progress to access the digitized documents present in the DMS Server from courts. It will facilitate the Hon'ble Judges to access the digitized copy of the case files from the DMS.
- **Platform for processing medical bills of Hon'ble Judges:** An internal application will be developed to track the progress of various phases involved in processing the medical bills of the Hon'ble Judges. The application will be installed in the Judges' Account Section.
- **Common Platform to manage POCSO case centrally:** A mechanism will be developed to monitor POCSO cases, ensuring timely compliance of the mandate of the law by different stakeholders and to generate reports as per the requirement.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY

- Procurement of 139 numbers of Scanners and 496 numbers of LAN nodes as additional hardware and LAN for the District and Sub-divisional Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Procurement of Hardware such as All-in-One PC, MFD Printer, Scanner, Extra Monitor plus VGA/HDMI, Display Monitor, UPS and installation LAN nodes in the 5 numbers of newly setup Courts
- Procurement of one (01) Rack Server for the High Court at Calcutta.
- Procurement of ICT equipment such as Projector with Screen, Touchscreen Kiosk, USB Hard Disk, DG Set and UPS for the newly created Court Complex at Domkal, Murshidabad.
- Procurement of video-conferencing equipments such as Mic-cum-Speaker, PTZ Camera, Display Unit, UPS, All-in-One PC and 2MBPS Broadband Connectivity for Court Complexes and Correctional Homes.
- Implementation of e-Summons and NSTEP in the District and Sub-divisional Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal.
- Digitization of Case records in the District Judiciary and utilization of fund sanctioned by the Department of Justice, Government of India for the aforesaid purpose in the financial year 2025-26.
- Initiation of implementation of e-Office at High Court at Calcutta.



CREATION/REGULARIZATION OF POSTS

- Proposal for creation of an ex-cadre post of Officer-on-Special Duty (OSD) for the official residence of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
- Proposal for engagement of 100 (one hundred) clerical staff having knowledge of computer operation and/or Data Entry Operator on contractual basis in the Digitization Project at the West Bengal Judicial Academy, Rajarhat, Kolkata.
- Proposal for creation of 22 (twenty two) posts of different categories on the Original Side of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta for Commercial Division and Interlocutory Court.
- Proposal for creation of 295 (two ninty five) posts of different categories on the Original Side of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta for digitization of records.
- Proposal for creation of 41 (forty one) posts of different categories for the General Branch on the Original Side of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta.

ENHANCEMENT OF ALLOWANCE/REMUNERATION/ AGE OF SUPERANNUATION

- Proposal for increasing the age of superannuation of the Group-D employees working in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta.
- Proposal for augmentation of Special Allowance in respect of the P.A./Stenographers working in the High Court at Calcutta, A.S.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Request for providing 02 (two) wheelchairs facilitating meaningful access for the elderly and differently-abled individuals within the High Court premises.

VISION ON HUMAN RESOURCE 2025-26

(Recruitments & Promotions) (01.07.2025 - 30.06.2026)

Sl. No.	Mission (In Filling of Posts & Carrying out Works)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Vision (To Fill up the posts & Carry out works)
1.	P.A/ Stenographer, Grade-A, Technical Branch, Appellate Side	7	Promotional Exam	Jun'2025	Stage-I (Dictation) Stage-II (Transcription by use of computer)	July'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
2.	P.A/ Stenographer, Grade-B, Technical Branch, Appellate Side	3	Promotional Exam	Jun'2025	Stage-I (Dictation) Stage-II (Transcription by use of computer)	July'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
3.	Driver, Appellate Side	2	Recruitment Exam		Phase-I Practical Test of Driving	Dec'25	To complete the Selection Process (if allowed by Court' order to proceed vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025)
					Phase-II Interview	Jan'26	
4.	Lower Division Assistant (under 10% reservation quota), Appellate Side& Original Side	11+2	Promotional Exam	Jun'2025	Phase-I Written Test	Aug'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II Viva-voce	Sept'25	

Sl. No.	Mission (In Filling of Posts & Carrying out Works)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Vision (To Fill up the posts & Carry out works)
5.	P.A/ Stenographer, Grade-C, Technical Branch, Appellate Side	17	Recruitment Exam	Nov'2024	Phase-II Dictation & Transcription by use of Computer	Dec'25	To complete the Selection Process (if allowed by Court' order to proceed vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025)
6.	Assistant Registrar (General Branch), Appellate Side & Original Side	10+6	Promotional Exam	June'25	Phase-II Viva-voce	Aug'25	To Complete the Selection Process
7.	Joint Registrar (Vigilance), Appellate Side	1	Promotional Exam		Phase-I: Written Test	July'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Aug'25	
8.	Lower Division Assistant, Appellate Side& Original Side	291	Recruitment Exam	Sept'2024	Phase-II: Mains (Descriptive)	Nov'25	To complete the Selection Process (if allowed by Court' order to proceed vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025)
					Phase-III: Interview	Dec'25	
9.	Group-D Staff, Appellate Side& Original Side	191	Recruitment Exam		Phase-I: OMR based & Descriptive Test	Feb'26	To complete the Process of Phase-I (if allowed by Court' order to proceed vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025)
					Phase-II: Interview	April'26	

Sl. No.	Mission (In Filling of Posts & Carrying out Works)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Vision (To Fill up the posts & Carry out works)
10.	Court Keeper, Appellate Side	1	Recruitment Exam		Phase-I: Written Test	Aug'25	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Nov'25	
11.	Translator, Original Side	2	Recruitment Exam	Jan'2025	Phase-I: Written Test	Jul'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Nov'25	
12.	Record Arranger, Original Side	8	Promotional Exam	Jun'2025	Phase-I: Reading, Writing from dictation & Writing from passage	Sept'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview	Nov'2025	
13.	Stamp Reporter, Original Side	1	Recruitment Exam	Mar'2025	Phase-I: Written Test	Jul'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview	Sept'25	
14.	Sweeper/ Vistee, Appellate Side & Original Side	24+12	Recruitment Exam		Phase-I: Practical Test of Sweeping, mopping, etc	March'26	To complete the Selection Process (if allowed by Court' order to proceed vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025)
					Phase-II: Interview	May'26	
15.	Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistant, Appellate Side	34	Recruitment Exam	July'2024	Phase-II: Interactive Session	July'25	To Complete the Selection Process

Sl. No.	Mission (In Filling of Posts & Carrying out Works)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Vision (To Fill up the posts & Carry out works)
16.	Interpreting Officer, Original Side	8	Recruitment Exam	Dec, 2024	Phase-I: Written Test	Dec'25	To complete the Selection Process (if allowed by Court' order to proceed vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025)
					Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Feb'26	
17.	System Manager and System Analyst (Hardware & Networking), Appellate Side	2+3	Recruitment Exam		Phase-I: Written Test	Aug'25	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Nov'25	
18.	Court Managers, Appellate Side	3	Recruitment Exam		Phase-I: Written Test	Aug'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Viva-voce (Interview)	Sept'25	
19.	Special Assistant (Legal), Appellate Side	1	Promotional Exam	May'2025	Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	July'25	To Complete the Selection Process
20.	Translator (on contractual basis), Appellate Side	4	Recruitment Exam	Jun'2025	Viva-voce/ Interview, Test of Language and Test of Computer Proficiency	Sept'25	To Complete the Selection Process
21.	Deputy Registrar (Medical Protocol), Appellate Side	1	Promotional Exam		Phase-I: Written Test	Sept'25	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Sept'25	

Sl. No.	Mission (In Filling of Posts & Carrying out Works)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Vision (To Fill up the posts & Carry out works)
22.	Deputy Registrar (Accounts), Appellate Side	1	Promotional Exam	Jun'2025	Phase-I: Written Test	Jul'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Aug'25	
23.	Bank Sarkar, Original Side	1	Promotional Exam	Jul'2025	Phase-I: Written Test& Reading out passage	Aug'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Viva-voce (Interview)	Sept'25	
24.	Bengali Mohurrir, Original Side	1	Promotional Exam	Aug'2025	Phase-I: Written Test & Reading out a Bengali Passage	Aug'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Viva-voce & Service/Leave Records	Nov'25	
25.	Protocol Officer, Appellate Side	1	Promotional Exam	Jul'2025	Phase-I: Written Test	Aug'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Sept'25	
26.	Section Officer (Protocol)& Superintendent (Protocol), Appellate Side	2+2	Promotional Exam	May'2025	Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Aug'25	To Complete the Selection Process
27.	Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Judges, Technical Branch, Appellate Side	48 (Revised)	Promotional Exam	Jun'2025	Stage-I Dictation	July'2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Stage-II Transcription by use of Computer		

Sl. No.	Mission (In Filling of Posts & Carrying out Works)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Vision (To Fill up the posts & Carry out works)
28.	Superintendent (Bijan Bhawan)	1	Promotional Exam	Jul,2025	Phase-I: Written Test	Jul,2025	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Aug'25	
29.	District Judge (Entry Level) in WBJS Direct recruitment from Bar (DRB) Exam'2025		Recruitment Exam		Phase-I: Preliminary Exam (OMR based)	Dec'25	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Written Competitive Test	Feb'26	
					Phase-III: Interview/Viva-voce	March'26	
30.	District Judge (Entry Level) in WBJS Recruitment from eligible Judicial Officers by Limited Competitive Exam (LCE)'2025		Recruitment Exam		Phase-I: Preliminary Exam (OMR based)	Dec'25	To Complete the Selection Process
					Phase-II: Written Competitive Test	Feb'26	
					Phase-III: Interview/Viva-voce	March'26	
31.	Creation of - 'Recruitment Portal'(for online application, web publication, etc in connection with different recruitments and examinations in the High Court at Calcutta)		Work		Phase-I: Fresh steps for creation of Recruitment Portal	Aug'25	To complete the process of creation of Recruitment Portal
					Phase-II: Agreements with the stakeholders (WEBEL & SBI)	Dec'25	
					Phase-III: Implementation of the Recruitment Portal	March'26	

Sl. No.	Mission (In Filling of Posts & Carrying out Works)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Vision (To Fill up the posts & Carry out works)
32.	Formation of 'Examination Conducting Agency' (ECA)		Work	Sept'2024	Preparing & Placing proposal for approval	Dec'2024	To prepare a plan and place proposal
33.	Safety, Security & Developmental Work of 'Strong Room' of the High Court			Dec'2024	Preparing & Placing proposal for approval	March'2025	To prepare a plan and place proposal
34.	Setting a Mechanism for regular 'Disposal of Examination Materials' (Unused or Used materials or documents)				Preparing & Placing proposal for approval	Dec'25	To prepare a plan and place proposal
35.	Preparation and Implementation of 'Annual Calendar' for the year'2026 in respect of promotional examinations				Preparing & Placing the calendar for approval	Dec'25	To prepare, publish and implement 'Annual Calendar' in respect of promotional examinations from Jan'26-Dec'26
36.	Preparation and Implementation of 'Biennial Calendar' for the period '2026-2027 in respect of recruitment examinations				Preparing & Placing the calendar for approval	Dec'25	To prepare and implement the 'Biennial Calendar' in respect of recruitment examinations

***The dates/ months of notification, Examinations/ Tests are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.**

ANNUAL CALENDAR OF PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS' 2026

RECRUITMENT CELL, APPELLATE SIDE

(To fill up vacancies of different categories of posts in the Appellate Side and Original Side Establishments in the High Court at Calcutta in the year)

Sl. No.	MONTH OF EXAMINATIONS (1)	POSTS FOR EXAMINATIONS (2)	VACANCY UPTO (3)	DATE OF NOTICE (Tentative) (4)	PHASES OF EXAMS (5)	DATE OF EXAMS (Tentative) (6)
1.	JANUARY	All posts of JOINT REGISTRARS , General Branch & Technical Branch, <i>Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments</i>	31.12.2025	02.01.2026	Phase-I: Written Test	In between 2 nd & 4 th Week of the month
					Phase-II: Viva-voce Test	To be notified later
2.	FEBRUARY	All posts of DEPUTY REGISTRARS , General Branch & Technical Branch, <i>Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments</i>	31.01.2026	01.02.2026	Phase-I: Written Test	In between 2 nd & 4 th Week of the month
					Phase-II: Viva-voce Test	To be notified later
3.	MARCH	All posts of ASSISTANT REGISTRARS , General Branch & Technical Branch, <i>Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments</i>	28.02.2026	02.03.2026	Phase-I: Written Test	In between 2 nd & 4 th Week of the month
					Phase-II: Viva-voce Test	To be notified later
4.	APRIL	All promotional posts of TECHNICAL BRANCH categories, <i>Appellate Side Establishments (Private Secretary of the Hon'ble Judges, P.A/Stenographers of all grades, Librarian, Assistant Librarian, etc)</i>	31.03.2026	01.04.2026	Phase-I: Dictation of passage & Shorthand Test Phase-II: Transcription of dictated passage by use of Computer & Written/Viva voce Test (<i>for Librarian posts</i>)	In between 2 nd & 4 th Week of the month

Sl. No.	MONTH OF EXAMINATIONS (1)	POSTS FOR EXAMINATIONS (2)	VACANCY UPTO (3)	DATE OF NOTICE (Tentative) (4)	PHASES OF EXAMS (5)	DATE OF EXAMS (Tentative) (6)
5.	MAY	All promotional posts of SELECTION GRADE & GROUP-A Categories, Appellate Side Establishment(Stamp Reporter, Addl, Stamp Reporter, Protocol Officer, Section Officer (Protocol) etc.	30.04.2026	01.05.2026	Phase-I: Written Test	In between 2 nd & 3 rd Week of the month (before Summer Vacation)
					Phase-II: Viva-voce Test	To be notified later
6.	MAY-JUNE	SUMMER VACATION				
	JUNE	All promotional posts of SUPERINTENDENT Categories, Appellate Side Establishment/ Superintendent (Protocol); Superintendent (Bijon Bhavan) & Special Assistant (Legal) etc.	31.05.2026	Re-opening date of Summer Vacation	Phase-I: Written Test	In between 2 nd & 4 th Week of the month
					Phase-II: Viva-voce Test	To be notified later
	JULY	All posts of JOINT REGISTRARS , General Branch & Technical Branch, Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments	30.06.2026	01.07.2026	Phase-I: Written Test	In between 2 nd & 4 th Week of the month
Phase-II: Viva-voce Test					To be notified later	
8.	AUGUST	All posts of DEPUTY REGISTRARS , General Branch & Technical Branch, Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments	31.07.2026	03.08.2026	Phase-I: Written Test	In between 2 nd & 4 th Week of the month
					Phase-II: Viva-voce Test	To be notified later
9.	SEPTEMBER	All posts of ASSISTANT REGISTRARS , General Branch & Technical Branch,	31.08.2026	01.09.2026	Phase-I: Written Test	In between 2 nd & 4 th Week of the month (before Annual Puja Vacation)

Sl. No.	MONTH OF EXAMINATIONS (1)	POSTS FOR EXAMINATIONS (2)	VACANCY UPTO (3)	DATE OF NOTICE (Tentative) (4)	PHASES OF EXAMS (5)	DATE OF EXAMS (Tentative) (6)
9.		<i>Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments</i>			Phase-II: Viva-voce Test	To be notified later
10.	OCTOBER	ANNUAL PUJA VACATION				
11.	NOVEMBER	All promotional posts of TECHNICAL BRANCH categories, <i>Appellate Side Establishments (Private Secretary of the Hon'ble Judges, P.A/ Stenographers of all grades, Librarian, Assistant Librarian, etc)</i>	31.10.2026	Re-opening date of Annual Puja Vacation	Phase-I: Dictation of passage & Shorthand Test Phase-II: Transcription of dictated passage by use of Computer & Written/Viva voce Test (for Librarian posts)	In between 2 nd & 4 th Week of the month
12.	DECEMBER	All promotional posts of GROUP-C & D Categories, <i>Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments (Lower Division Assistant under 10% quota, Record Arranger, Assistant to Librarian, Duftry, Bengali Mohurir, Bank Sarkar, etc)</i>	30.11.2026	01.12.2026	Phase-I: Written Test, Skill Test, Reading Test Phase-II: Viva-voce Test	In between 2 nd & 3 rd Week of the month (before Christmas Vacation) To be notified later

N.B.:

1. The tentative date(s)/months of examinations, notice, etc are liable to alteration or change, if the circumstances so warrant.
2. The departments/offices concerned shall issue notice on the date fixed inviting applications or willingness of the eligible candidates to appear in the examination for the respective posts and prepare a list of candidates as per existing criteria and extant rules and send the list to the recruitment cell well in advance prior to the date/week of examination.
3. The promotional examination, if any, approved by the Hon'ble Committee after commencement or during the period of this calendar and to be conducted immediately due to urgency, may be fixed on any date within the period of this calendar as per convenience of the Registry.

BIENNIAL CALENDAR OF RECRUITMENT EXAMINATIONS' 2026-2027

RECRUITMENT CELL, APPELLATE SIDE

(To fill up vacancies of different categories of posts in the Appellate Side and Original Side Establishments in the High Court at Calcutta)

Sl. No.	NAME OF POSTS FOR RECRUITMENT	VACANCY UPTO	PUBLICATION OF EMPLOYMENT NOTICE (Tentative)	PUBLICATION OF LIST OF CANDIDATES	PHASE-I EXAMINATION (OMR based test/Written Test/ Technical Test)	PUBLICATION OF RESULT (PHASE-I EXAMINATION)	PHASE-II EXAMINATION (Written Test/Technical Test/ Viva-voce)	PUBLICATION OF RESULT (PHASE-II EXAMINATION)	PHASE-III EXAMINATION (Viva-voce Test/Interview)	PUBLICATION OF FINAL RESULT
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1.	GROUP-D, <i>Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments</i>	31.12.2026 (Existing + Anticipated)	Feb, 2026	May, 2026	Jun/ Jul, 2026	Aug, 2026	-	-	Nov, 2026	Dec, 2026
2.	P.A./STENO-GRAPHER, GRADE-C, <i>Technical Branch, Appellate Side Establishment</i>	31.12.2027	Jan, 2027	Jun, 2027	Jul, 2027	Feb, 2028	Mar, 2028	-	-	May, 2028
3.	DATA ENTRY OPERATOR, <i>Appellate Side Establishment</i>	31.12.2026	Jun, 2026	Sep, 2026	Nov, 2026	Jan, 2027	Mar, 2027	Aug, 2027	Nov, 2027	Dec, 2027
4.	DRIVER, <i>Appellate Side Establishment</i>	31.12.2025	Mar, 2026	Jul, 2026	Nov, 2026	Nov, 2026	Jan, 2027	-	-	Jan, 2027
5.	LOWER DIVISION ASSISTANT, <i>Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments</i>	31.12.2027	Jan, 2027	Apr, 2027	May, 2027	Jun, 2027	Aug, 2027	Nov, 2027	Dec, 2027	Dec, 2027

Sl. No.	NAME OF POSTS FOR RECRUITMENT	VACANCY UPTO	PUBLICATION OF EMPLOYMENT NOTICE (Tentative)	PUBLICATION OF LIST OF CANDIDATES	PHASE-I EXAMINATION (OMR based test/Written Test/ Technical Test)	PUBLICATION OF RESULT (PHASE-I EXAMINATION)	PHASE-II EXAMINATION (Written Test/Technical Test/ Viva-voce)	PUBLICATION OF RESULT (PHASE-II EXAMINATION)	PHASE-III EXAMINATION (Viva-voce Test/Interview)	PUBLICATION OF FINAL RESULT
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
6.	ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (COURT RECORDING), <i>Original Side Establishment</i>	31.12.2025	Mar, 2026	Jul, 2026	Aug, 2026	Jan, 2027	Mar, 2027	-	-	May, 2027
7.	MANUSCRIPT SECTION WRITER, <i>Original Side Establishment</i>	31.12.2025	Feb, 2026	Jul, 2026	Sep, 2026	-	-	-	-	Feb, 2027
8.	SWEEPER, <i>Appellate Side & Original Side Establishments</i>	31.12.2025	Mar, 2026	Jul, 2026	Aug, 2026	Sep, 2026	Nov, 2026	-	-	Dec, 2026
9.	MALI, <i>Appellate Side Establishment</i>	31.12.2025	Feb, 2026	Jul, 2026	Aug, 2026	Sep, 2026	Nov, 2026	-	-	Dec, 2026
10.	TELEPHONE OPERATOR, <i>Appellate Side Establishment</i>	31.12.2026	Feb, 2027	Jul, 2027	Aug, 2027	Sep, 2027	Nov, 2027	-	-	Dec, 2027
11.	TRANSLATORS, <i>Appellate Side and Original Side</i>	31.12.2025	April, 2026	Aug, 2026	Sept, 2026	Nov, 2026	Jan, 2027	-	-	Mar, 2027
12.	MISCELLANEOUS POSTS, <i>Appellate Side and Original Side</i>	31.12.2025	May, 2026	Sept, 2026	Dec, 2026	Feb, 2027	Mar, 2027	-	-	May, 2027

N.B.:

1. The tentative months of examinations, advertisement etc. are liable to alteration or change, if the circumstances so warrant.
2. The establishment/offices concerned shall report the vacancy details, publish the advertisement/ notification in the month fixed for inviting applications of the eligible candidates to appear in the competitive examination(s) for the respective posts, as per this Calendar.

INFRASTRUCTURE (DISTRICT JUDICIARY)

VISION FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026

Sl. No.	Integrated Name of the Project	District	Total Project Cost
1.	Construction of Composite Court Building (B+G+10) at Lalbagh Sub-Division of Murshidabad	Murshidabad	44,13,51,096/- (Civil+Electrical)
2.	Construction of proposed G+3 storied Type-A Staff Quarter for Judicial Officers of the Durgapur Sub-Division within existing Residential Complex at City Centre, Durgapur.	Paschim Bardhaman	3,79,04,947/-

VISION OF THE STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, WEST BENGAL FOR THE YEAR AHEAD (2025-2026)

The State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal envisions a year of deepened impact, inclusivity, and innovation in the delivery of legal aid and awareness. Building on the constitutional mandate of ensuring access to justice for all, SLSA aims to strengthen the last-mile delivery of legal services, empower vulnerable communities through targeted outreach, and modernize institutional mechanisms for faster, more responsive support.

Key priorities for the upcoming year include:

- Expanding Legal Awareness: Designing need-based legal literacy programmes for women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities in both rural and urban areas, using culturally and linguistically relevant formats.
- Enhancing Institutional Collaboration: Working closely with judicial officers, District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), civil society organisations and government departments to address overlapping areas such as bonded labour, trafficking, domestic violence, child protection and rights of undertrial prisoners.
- Capacity Building: Investing in continuous training for legal aid counsels, PLVs and frontline functionaries to improve the quality, empathy and timeliness of legal services.
- Ensuring the capability to provide quality legal aid.
- Organizing camps in the remotest corners of the State to reach out to those who are on the other side of the socio-digital divide.

- Increasing the visibility of the Legal Services Institutes with a view to making the not-so-fortunate citizen aware of an institutionalized opportunity to vindicate her rights.
- Generating the feeling among the legal aid seekers that in their unequal fight against the State, its machineries or an opulent antagonist, she is not alone, undefended and unresourced. The SLSA (and the DLSAs) are here to stand by her through thick and thin and on every occasion when legally recognized rights are either trampled upon or are rendered ineffective by devious extra-legal machinations.
- The vision of the SLSA is not just to provide legal aid, but to build legal consciousness, where every citizen is aware of their rights, understands the remedies available to them, and feels empowered to seek justice without fear, delay or discrimination.

VISION OF WEST BENGAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY

In alignment with the vision of a more accountable and effective justice delivery system, the West Bengal Judicial Academy continues to thrive in its pursuits to foster judicial excellence through structured learning, critical analysis, and values-based education. In terms of directions of the Supreme Court passed in *All India Judges Association vs. Union of India* (2025 INSC 735) and in line with the model training program devised by the Centre of Research and Planning, Supreme Court of India in collaboration with the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, the Academy is in the process of implementing an

inclusive andragogical module for the training of the newly inducted fresh recruits in the rank of Civil Judge (Junior Division) involving classroom-based sessions, field training and practical training modules.

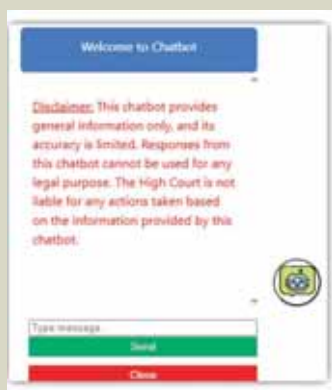
The Academy is currently in the process of upgrading its infrastructure. Upon completion, it will be optimally equipped to conduct multiple sessions simultaneously, thereby significantly enhancing its capacity to organize a broader range of training programs, workshops and seminars for a larger cohort of judicial officers.

VISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SECRETARIAT

- The JJS would build a robust website and a Home Visit Format for submission of Home visit report by districts through online mode.
- The JJS will ensure construction of Specialized Homes for Adult Persons with Disabilities and CWSN who are residing in the CCI's even after attaining the age of 18 years.
- The JJS will ensure inclusion of disability column for the accused person in the CCTNS module as early as possible.
- The JJS will ensure creation of a Research Wing in the Juvenile Justice Secretariat for the purpose of survey and research into various issues connected with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, 2012.
- The JJS seeks to organize conferences/meets for getting the stakeholders to deliberate on urgent issues pertaining to child development and child protection within the State.
- The JJS will also ensure that the Commissioner of Disabilities frames an SOP for handling of children with disabilities by police personnel.
- The JJS will ensure that more number of POCSO Courts are set up in terms of the requirements as specified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Re: Alarming rise in the number of Reported Child Rape Incidents, Suo Motu Writ Petition no. 01 of 2019, pg.24.
- The JJS will also ensure that State takes appropriate measures for disbursement of compensation to victims in POCSO cases on a timely basis.

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT E-SERVICES HIGH COURT

VISION	ACCOMPLISHMENT
1. e-Bail Bond: This custom-built software module currently is under development by the in-house team of Software Developers at the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta. This innovative digital solution aims to uniformly manage and maintain all data related to bail bonds provided by sureties across various district courts in West Bengal. By implementing this system, the Hon'ble High Court seeks to improve the overall administration of justice and ensure that all bail bond-related information is accurate, up-to-date, and easily accessible.	The IT team has developed the e-Bail Bond application in-house to enable all district courts to maintain a centralized list of sureties, track master data, such as names, contact details, surety amounts, ledger reports and stored scanned copies of surety documents, where applicable. This software has already deployed in the District Judgeship for use. This software will replace the use of physical Bail Bond Register.
2. CHAT-BOT: Team of expert Software Analysts is currently developing an AI-powered chatbot with advanced self-learning capabilities. This innovative chatbot will be seamlessly integrated into the official portal of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta, enabling the general public to easily access a wide range of information about the Court. With this cutting-edge technology, users will be able to quickly and efficiently obtain necessary information, enhancing their overall experience and interaction with the Court.	AI based Chatbot has been developed to assist citizens with basic queries and information about court operations. The Chatbot has already integrated with the website of the Calcutta High Court for use by general public.
3. To set up permanent training centre of the High Court at Calcutta for imparting training to the Ld. Advocates, Law Clerks about different e-initiative of this Hon'ble Court.	Training Room cum Examination Hall, has been set up with all IT infrastructure and same has been inaugurated by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice on 26th June, 2025.



Inaugurated on 26th June, 2025

VISION	ACCOMPLISHMENT
4. To set up free Wi-Fi Zone at the ground floor of three buildings viz Main Building, Centenary Building, Sesqui Centenary Building of High Court, Calcutta to facilitate Ld. Advocates, Law Clerks, Litigants etc. in e-filing through high-speed internet. 	Free Wi-fi Zones have been established in all the respective areas in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta. The service is OTP based service, which can be availed by Ld. Advocates/litigants/Law Clerks within the vicinity (Free Wi-fi Zone) of the three buildings of the Calcutta High Court.
5. e-ILR: Web version of e-ILR is being developed by in-house Software Developers of High Court at Calcutta in terms of direction of AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.	A website has been developed in-house by IT team. which will facilitate the access of all Indian law reports, Calcutta Series in digital form. The website has advance search mechanism with some parameters. The application is now under security audit.
6. e-Certified Copy: This module is being developed by the in-house Software Developers of High Court at Calcutta and through this module Stakeholders can apply for certified copy from the comfort of their home and they can also track the status of certified copy application. Even they can make payment of the applicable fees online.	e-Certified Copy module has been developed and the Hon'ble Computer Committee has been pleased to approve the same. Now e-Certified copy software is under security audit.

DISTRICT JUDICIARY

VISION	ACCOMPLISHMENT
Deployment and commissioning of complete VC infrastructure in the District Judiciary.	Out of 844 Courts in the State of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, VC equipment has been set up at 838 Court Rooms e-Courts Project. The remaining Court Rooms will be covered in this current financial year 2025-26.
Digitization of records in the District Judiciary	The vendor, M/s Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Kolkata has been provisionally selected by the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta to carry out the work of digitization of case records of the District Judiciary. The work will start soon.
Creation of more virtual courts in the State, taking clusters of Districts as units	The High Court at Calcutta has already taken steps to extend the facility of Virtual Court to all the remaining Traffic Guards falling under the Kolkata Police beside 4 Traffic Guards which are already integrated with Virtual Court at 4th Metropolitan Magistrate, Kolkata. The new Courts to deal with e-Challan Cases have already been identified and will start functioning soon.
Commissioning of e-signing facility for digital documents in all courts of the District Judiciary	The High Court at Calcutta has already procured and delivered 3193 numbers of Digital Signature Certificates for the Judicial Officers and Court Staff in the State of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands under the Phase-III of the e-Courts Project.

MISSION ACHIEVED AGAINST VISION OF HUMAN RESOURCE 2024-25

(Recruitments & Promotions) (01.07.2024 - 30.06.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of Posts (to be filled up) & Work (to be carried out)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Date of issuing Notice/ Advt.	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Date of Events (with Notification No.)	Achievement (of mission)
1.	P.A/ Stenographer, Grade-A, Technical Branch, Appellate Side	7	Promotional Exam	Nov'2024	23.06.2025	Stage-I (Dictation) Stage-II Transcription by use of computer)	Dec'2024	Scheduled to be held on 14.07. 2025	Examination preparation is under process
2.	Driver, Appellate Side	2	Recruitment Exam	Aug'2024	Nil	Phase-I Practical Test of Driving	Sept'2024		*This process is kept in abeyance until further order vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025.
					Nil	Phase-II Interview	Sept'2024		
3.	Lower Division Assistant (under 10% reservation quota), Appellate Side & Original Side	11+2	Promotional Exam	Sept'2024	30.06.2025	Phase-I Written Test	Nov'2024	Scheduled to be held on 02.08. 2025	Preparation for Phase-I Written Test is under process
						Phase-II Viva-voce	Dec'2024		
4.	P.A/ Stenographer, Grade-C, Technical Branch, Appellate Side	17	Recruitment Exam	Aug'2024	22.11.2024	Phase-I Dictation & Transcription by own hand writing	Sept'2024	01.12. 2024(vide Notification No. 10114-R(R&M) dt. 22.11.2024	*This process is kept in abeyance until further order vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025.

Sl. No.	Name of Posts (to be filled up) & Work (to be carried out)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Date of issuing Notice/ Advt.	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Date of Events (with Notification No.)	Achievement (of mission)
4.						Phase-II Dictation & Transcription by use of Computer	Nov'2024		
5.	Assistant Registrar (Court), Technical Branch, Appellate Side	29 (Revised)	Promotional Exam	Aug'2024	08.08.2024	Stage-I Dictation Stage-II Transcription by use of Computer	Aug'2024	17.08.2024	Process has been completed. Finally, 27 candidates were appointed out of 29 declared vacancies.
6.	Lower Division Assistant, Appellate Side & Original Side	291	Recruitment Exam	Aug'2024	01.08.2024	Phase-I : Prelims (OMR based)	Sept-Oct' 2024	29.09.2024 8310-R(R&M) dt. 13.09.2024	Phase-I Examination held on 29/09/2024 and 2947 candidates are found to be eligible to appear in the Phase-II Examination. (kept in abeyance vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025)
						Phase-II: Mains (Descriptive)	Nov'2024		
						Phase -III: Interview	Dec'2024		
7.	Group-D Staff, Appellate Side & Original Side	191	Recruitment Exam	Sept'2024	Nil	Phase-I: OMR based & Descriptive Test	Nov'2024		*This process is kept in abeyance until further order vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025
						Phase-II: Interview	Dec'2024		

Sl. No.	Name of Posts (to be filled up) & Work (to be carried out)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Date of issuing Notice/ Advt.	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Date of Events (with Notification No.)	Achievement (of mission)
8.	Court Keeper, Appellate Side	1	Recruitment Exam	Nov'2024	Nil	Phase-I: Written Test	Jan'2025		Notification is under process.
						Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Feb'2025		
9.	Translator, Original Side	2	Recruitment Exam	Nov'2024	10.01.2025	Phase-I: Written Test	Jan'2024	Proposed to be held on 27.07.2025	Examination of Phase-I is under process.
						Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Feb'2024		
10.	Record Arranger, Original Side	8 (Revised)	Promotional Exam	Aug'2024	19.06.2025	Phase-I: Written Test (& Reading Test)	Oct'2024	Proposed to be held on 05.07.2025	Preparation of Phase-I (Written Test & Reading Test) is under process.
						Phase-II: Interview (& Reading Test)	Nov'2024		
11.	Stamp Reporter, Original Side	1	Recruitment Exam	Dec'2024	05.03.2025	Phase-I: Written Test	Jan'2025	Scheduled to be held on 19.07.2025	Preparation of Phase-I Written Test is under process.
						Phase-II: Interview	Mar'2025		
12.	Sweeper/ Vistee, Appellate Side & Original Side	24+ 12	Recruitment Exam	Sept'2024		Phase-I: Practical Test of Sweeping, mopping, etc	Nov'2024		<i>*This process is kept in abeyance until further order vide Corrigendum No. 2217-RG dated 21.03.2025.</i>
						Phase-II: Interview	Sept'2024		

Sl. No.	Name of Posts (to be filled up) & Work (to be carried out)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Date of issuing Notice/ Advt.	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Date of Events (with Notification No.)	Achievement (of mission)
13.	Law Clerk- Research Assistant, Appellate Side	34	Recruitment Exam	July'2024	11.07.2024	Phase-I: Written Test	Oct-Nov' 2024	23.03.2025 vide Notification No.1101-R(R&M) dt. 17.02.2025	Phase-II - Interactive Session is scheduled to be held on 17.7.25, 18.7.25 & 21.7.25
						Phase-II: Interactive Session	Nov'2024		
14.	Interpreting Officer, Original Side	8	Recruitment Exam	Oct'2024	24.12.2024	Phase-I: Written Test	Jan'2025		*This process is kept in abeyance until further order vide Corrigendum No. 03-R/ HCOS/ IO(Court)/ 2025 dated 21/03/2025.
						Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Mar'2025		
15.	System Manager, System Analyst (Hardware & Networking), Appellate Side	2+3	Recruitment Exam	Sept'2024	Nil	Phase-I: Written Test	Dec'2024	Not achieved	Publication of Notification is under process
						Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce			
16.	Cook & Helper to Cook, Appellate Side	1+1	Recruitment Exam	Aug'2024		Phase-I: Practical Test of Cooking,, etc	Sept'2024		Under process
						Phase-II: Interview	Sept'2024		
17.	Special Assistant (Legal), Appellate Side	1	Promotional Exam	Nov'2024	14.05.2025	Phase-I: Written Test	Dec'2024	19.05.2025	Written Test (Phase-I) has been completed
						Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Feb'2025		

Sl. No.	Name of Posts (to be filled up) & Work (to be carried out)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Date of issuing Notice/ Advt.	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Date of Events (with Notification No.)	Achievement (of mission)
18.	Assistant Registrar (Court Recording), Original Side	14	Recruitment Exam	July'2024	14.08.2024	Tabulation of marks & preparation of result (Merit wise result)	Aug'2024	14.08.2024 vide Notification No. 7088-R(R&M) dt. 14.08.2024	Process has been completed Finally, 08 candidates were appointed against 14 declared vacancies
						Result publication (Category wise final result)	Aug'2024	04.09.2024 vide Notification No. 8084-R(R&M) dt. 04.09.2024	
19.	Joint Registrar (General Administration) & Joint Registrar (Protocol)	1+1	Promotional Exam	Dec'2024	06.02.2025 & 26.11.2024 respectively	Phase-I: Written Test	Jan'2025	18.02.2025 & 2.12.2024 respectively	Process has been completed Finally, 1 + 1 candidates were appointed
					24.03.2025 & 09.01.2025 respectively	Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Feb'2025	24.03.2025 & 16.01.2025 respectively	
20.	Deputy Registrars (Court Management & Judicial) & Deputy Registrars (Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench)	2+2	Promotional Exam	Aug'2024	12.09.2024 & 11.11.2024 respectively	Phase-I: Written Test	Sept'2024	21.09.2024 & 16.11.2024 respectively	Process has been completed Finally, 2 + 2 candidates were appointed
					04.12.2024 & 18.02.2025 respectively	Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Sept'2024	05.12.2024 & 24.02.2025 respectively	

Sl. No.	Name of Posts (to be filled up) & Work (to be carried out)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Date of issuing Notice/ Advt.	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Date of Events (with Notification No.)	Achievement (of mission)
21.	Deputy Registrar (Court)	1	Promotional Exam	Sept'2024	13.11.2024	Phase-I: Written Test	Nov'2024	22.11.2024	Process has been completed
					24.03.2025	Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Dec'2024	24.03.2025	Finally, 1 candidate was appointed
22.	Deputy Registrar (Administration), Original Side	1	Promotional Exam	Dec'2024	12.11.2024	Phase-I: Written Test	Jan'2025	22.11.2024	Process has been completed
					08.05.2025	Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Feb'2025	15.05.2025	Finally, 1 candidate was appointed
23.	Assistant Registrars (General Branch), Appellate Side & Original Side & Assistant Registrar (Protocol)	6+2+2 (Revised)	Promotional Exam	Oct'2024	16.12.2024 & 19.12.2024 respectively	Phase-I: Written Test	Nov'2024	18.12.2024 & 23.12.2024 respectively	Process has been completed
					14.05.2025 & 20.02.2025 respectively	Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Dec'2024	17.05.2025 & 05.03.2025 respectively	Finally, 6 (A.S.) + 0 (O.S.) + 2 candidates qualified for appointment
24.	Protocol Officer, Section Officer (Protocol) & Superintendent (Protocol)	1+2+2	Promotional Exam	Oct'2024		Phase-I: Written Test	Nov'2024	22.05.2025 for Section Officer (Protocol) and Superintendent (Protocol)	None applied for the post of Protocol Officer.
						Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Dec'2024		Result of Phase-I Written Test is yet to be published for Section Officer (Protocol) and Superintendent (Protocol)

Sl. No.	Name of Posts (to be filled up) & Work (to be carried out)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Date of issuing Notice/ Advt.	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Date of Events (with Notification No.)	Achievement (of mission)
25.	Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Judges, Technical Branch, Appellate Side	48 (Revised)	Promotional Exam	Oct'2024	25.06.2025	Stage-I Dictation Stage-II Transcription by use of Computer	Nov'2024	Proposed to be held on 18.07.2025	Examination is under process
26.	Superintendent (Bijan Bhawan)	1	Promotional Exam	Oct' 2024	Nil	Phase-I Written Test	Nov'2024	Proposed to be held on 31.07.2025	Notification is under process
						Phase-II: Interview/ Viva-voce	Dec'2024		
27.	District Judge (Entry Level) in WBJS Direct recruitment from Bar (DRB) Exam'2024	8	Recruitment Exam	Aug'2024	30.08.2024	Phase-I: Preliminary Exam (OMR based)	Sept'2024	22.12.2024 vide Notification No. 9272-RG dated 20.11.2024	Process has been completed No one qualified
						Phase-II: Written Competitive Test	Nov'2024	11.03.2025, 12.03.2025 and 13.03.2025 vide Notification No. 1025-RG dt. 13.02.2025 along with Corrigendum No. 1905-RG dated 10.03.2025	
						Phase-III: Interview/ Viva-voce	Dec'2024	None qualified	

Sl. No.	Name of Posts (to be filled up) & Work (to be carried out)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Date of issuing Notice/ Advt.	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Date of Events (with Notification No.)	Achievement (of mission)
28.	District Judge (Entry Level) in WBJS Recruitment from eligible Judicial Officers by Limited Competitive Exam (LCE)'2024	3	Recruitment Exam	Aug'2024	30.08.2024	Phase-I: Preliminary Exam (OMR based)	Sept'2024	22.12.2024 vide Notification No. 9273-RG dated 20.11.2024	Process has been completed Finally, 1 candidate was selected for giving appointment
						Phase-II: Written Competitive Test	Nov'2024	11.03.2025, 12.03.2025 and 13.03.2025 vide Notification No. 1025-RG dt. 13.02.2025 along with Corrigendum No. 1905-RG dated 10.03.2025	
					08.05.2025	Phase-III: Interview/ Viva-voce	Dec'2024	20.05.2025 vide Notification No. 3419-RG dt. 08.05.2025	
29.	Creation of - ' Recruitment Portal ' (for online application, web publication, etc in			July'2024		Phase-I: Renewal of Recruitment Portal domain	Aug'2024		Discussion with the stakeholders (WEBEL) is under process

Sl. No.	Name of Posts (to be filled up) & Work (to be carried out)	Vacancy	Selection Process (By way of)	*Tentative Date & Month (of Notice, Notifn. Or Advt.)	Date of issuing Notice/ Advt.	Phase/ Stage (Exams/ Tests)	*Tentative Timeline (Date or Month) (exams/ test or work)	Date of Events (with Notification No.)	Achievement (of mission)
30.	connection with different recruitments and examinations in the High Court at Calcutta)					Phase-II: Finalization of the pending process of execution of agreements with the stakeholders (WEBEL & SBI)	Aug'2024		
						Phase-III: Implementation of the Recruitment Portal	Sept'2024		
	Setting up- ' Examination Hall ' (for conducting different examinations of the High Court at Calcutta)			July'2024		Phase-I: Approval of Plan & Renovation works	Nov'2024		Mission achieved. Examination Hall is now ready for conducting examination.
						Phase-II: Completion of works	Mar'2025		
31.	Formation of ' Examination Conducting Agency ' (ECA)			Sept'2024		Preparing & Placing proposal for approval	Dec'2024		Under consideration.
32.	Upgrading the- ' Strong Room ' of the High Court & ' Disposal ' (of unused or used materials or documents)			Dec'2024		Preparing & Placing proposal for approval	Mar'2025		Steps have been taken for scrutiny and safety of the Strong Room including installation of CCTV Camera. & Disposal of unused or used materials is under active consideration.

INFRASTRUCTURE (DISTRICT JUDICIARY)

ACCOMPLISHED

Sl. No.	Integrated Name of the Project	District	Total Project Cost	Mission achieved against Vision
1.	Vertical extension of the Court Building at Barasat, District- North 24 parganas, Under Barasat Division, PWD.	North 24 Parganas	16,03,11,000/- (Civil+Electrical)	Approved. The modification suggested
2.	Construction of New 4- Storied Residential Building for Judicial Officers at Dinhata under P.W.D. Cooch Behar Division in the district of Cooch Behar	Cooch Behar	5,95,41,625/-	Under construction, 10% completed
3.	Construction of (G+5) storied Residential Quarter-I for Munsef at Barasat in the District of North 24 Parganas under Barasat Division, PWD And Electrical work for the proposed G+5 Storied Residential Munsef Quarter-II at Barasat in the District of North 24 Parganas.	North 24 Parganas	7,46,59,244/- (Civil+Electrical +Fire Fighting arrangements and fire protection works)	Under Construction, 20% completed.
4.	Construction of New Building (G+4) with foundation of (G+8) in the Court premises of Bongaon in the District of North 24 Parganas.	North 24 Parganas	18,27,78,216/- (Civil work+IT Works and Electrical Works)	Under construction, 15% completed
5.	Proposed construction of G+6 Integrated Court Complex at Alipurduar	Alipurduar	64,17,82,748	Under Construction 80% completed
6.	Proposed construction of G+5 Court Building at Amta Court	Howrah	14,71,91,665/-	Under Construction.
7.	Proposed Construction of G+6 Judicial Quarters for Judicial Officers at Amta Court Campus, in the District of Howrah	Howrah	3,19,39,873/- (Civil Works)	Under Construction 40% Completed
8.	Proposed construction of Judicial Officers Quarters at Amta, Howrah and Electrical Installation Work including AC system, Lighting protection System, Lift etc.	Howrah	86,37,269/- (Electrical Works)	Under Construction 40% Completed



View of Main Building from the lawn



APPENDIX



BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE APPELLATE SIDE

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1,979,285,000	1,969,532,000	2,067,516,000	1,871,387,568

TOTAL EXPENDITURE DURING THE PERIOD FROM 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025

EXPENDITURE HEAD	01.07.2024 - 31.03.2025	01.04.2025 - 30.06.2025	TOTAL
PAY & ALLOWANCES	710,715,641	269,485,061	980,200,702
ELECTRICITY	21,917,984	8,917,357	30,835,341
TELEPHONE	4,335,939	1,151,485	5,487,424
PETROL & MAINTENANCE OF HIGH COURT CAR AND HIRE CHARGES OF VEHICLES	21,074,656	4,027,264	25,101,920
UPGRADATION OF COMPUTER & MAINTENANCE	25,158,200	2,784,300	27,942,500
OTHER CONTINGENCIES	21,825,276	5,702,904	27,528,180
OTHER CHARGES	58,086,615	562,643	58,649,258
PUBLICATION	168,120,338	-	168,120,338
T.A./D.A.	1,074,830	603,903	1,678,733
PROFESSIONAL CHARGES	5,747,839	23,000	5,770,839
WAGES	50,470,614	18,121,078	68,591,692
MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT (07)	1,870,360	1,219,995	3,090,355
MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT (12) WBHS 2008	7,872,280	3,495,294	11,367,574
MAINTENANCE (19)		342,000	342,000
TOTAL	1,098,270,572	316,436,284	1,414,706,856

**BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE
APPELLATE SIDE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.07.2024
TO 31.03.2025 (F.Y. 2024-25)**

HEAD OF ACCOUNT	AMOUNT SANCTIONED (Rs.)	AMOUNT UTILISED (IN Rs.) FROM 01.07.2024 TO 31.03.2025
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	1,288,480,468	1,098,270,572

BREAK-UP OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

EXPENDITURE HEAD	01.07.2024 - 31.03.2025
PAY & ALLOWANCES	710,715,641
ELECTRICITY	21,917,984
TELEPHONE	4,335,939
PETROL & MAINTENANCE OF HIGH COURT CAR AND HIRE CHARGES OF VEHICLES	21,074,656
UPGRADATION OF COMPUTER & MAINTENANCE	25,158,200
OTHER CONTINGENCIES	21,825,276
OTHER CHARGES	58,086,615
PUBLICATION	168,120,338
T.A./D.A.	1,074,830
PROFESSIONAL CHARGES	5,747,839
WAGES	50,470,614
MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT (07)	1,870,360
MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT (12) WBHS 2008	7,872,280
MAINTENANCE (19)	-
	1,098,270,572

**BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE
APPELLATE SIDE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2025
TO 30.06.2025 (F.Y. 2025-26)**

HEAD OF ACCOUNT	AMOUNT SANCTIONED (Rs.)	AMOUNT UTILISED (IN Rs.) FROM 01.04.2025 TO 30.06.2025
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	582,907,100	316,436,284

BREAK-UP OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

EXPENDITURE HEAD	01.04.2025 - 30.06.2025
PAY & ALLOWANCES	269,485,061
ELECTRICITY	8,917,357
TELEPHONE	1,151,485
PETROL & MAINTENANCE OF HIGH COURT CAR AND HIRE CHARGES OF VEHICLES	4,027,264
UPGRADATION OF COMPUTER & MAINTENANCE	2,784,300
OTHER CONTENGENCIES	5,702,904
OTHER CHARGES	562,643
PUBLICATION	-
T.A./D.A.	603,903
PROFESSIONAL CHARGES	23,000
WAGES	18,121,078
MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT (07)	1,219,995
MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT (12) WBHS 2008	3,495,294
MAINTENANCE (19)	342,000
	316,436,284

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE HIGH COURT, ORIGINAL SIDE.

BUDGET OF HIGH COURT, ORIGINAL SIDE (COMPARATIVE STATUS)

2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Rs.64,91,56,000	Rs.58,88,27,000	RS.59,16,59,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURE DURING THE PERIOD FROM 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025

EXPENDITURE HEAD	01.07.2024 - 31.03.2025	01.04.2025 - 30.06.2025	TOTAL (01.07.24 to 30.06.25)
Pay & Allowances	30,55,54,027	13,63,18,900	44,18,72,927
Electricity	29,070	NIL	29,070
Telephone	5,75,415	1,95,086	7,70,501
Petrol & maintenance of High Court Car and hire charges of vehicles.	8,45,934	5,03,885	13,49,819
Upgradation of computer & maintenance	74,438	NIL	74,438
Other Contingencies	31,91,078	10,38,449	42,29,527
Other Charges (Head 14-00 and 26-00)	NIL	NIL	NIL
Publication	56,42,157	NIL	56,42,157
T.A./D.A.	75,038	51,334	1,26,372
Professional Charges	NIL	NIL	NIL
Wages	1,62,95,563,	53,10,600	2,16,06,163
Medical Reimbursement (07)	39,97,700	11,168	40,08,868
Medical Reimbursement (12) WBHS 2008	33,13,602	4,50,263	37,63,865
Allowances to Hon'ble Retired Judges (Head-50-00)	1,98,39,470	54,27,628	2,52,67,098
TOTAL	35,94,33,492	14,93,07,313	50,87,40,805

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE HIGH COURT, ORIGINAL SIDE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.07.2024 TO 31.03.2025 (F.Y.2024-25)

Head of Account	Amount sanctioned (Rs.)	Amount utilized (in Rs.) from 01.07.2024 to 31.03.2025
Administrative expenses	Rs. 47,49,33,750	Rs. 35,94,33,492

BREAK-UP OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Pay & Allowances	30,55,54,027
Electricity	29,070
Telephone	5,75,415
Telephone Petrol & maintenance of High Court Car and hire charges of vehicles.	8,45,934
Upgradation of computer & maintenance	74,438
Other Contingencies	31,91,078
Other Charges (Head 14-00 and 26-00)	NIL
Publication	56,42,157
T.A./D.A.	75,038
Professional Charges	NIL
Wages	1,62,95,563
Medical Reimbursement (07)	39,97,700
Medical Reimbursement (12) WBHS 2008	33,13,602
Allowances to Hon'ble Retired Judges (Head-50-00)	1,98,39,470
TOTAL	Rs. 35,94,33,492

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE HIGH COURT, ORIGINAL SIDE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2025 TO 30.06.2025 (F.Y. 2025-26)

Head of Account	Amount sanctioned (Rs.)	Amount utilized (in Rs.) from 01.04.2025 to 30.06.2025
Administrative Expenses	Rs. 31,78,93,000	Rs. 14,93,07,313

BREAK-UP OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Pay & Allowance	13,63,18,900
Electricity	NIL
Telephone	1,95,086
Petrol & maintenance of High Court Car and hire charges of vehicles	5,03,885
Upgradation of computer & maintenance	NIL
Other Contingencies	10,38,449
Other Charges (Head 14-00 and 26-00)	NIL
Publication	NIL
T.A./D.A.	51,334
Professional Charges	NIL
Wages	53,10,600
Medical Reimbursement (07)	11,168
Medical Reimbursement (12) WBHS 2008	4,50,263
Allowances to Hon'ble Retired Judges (Head-50-00)	54,27,628
TOTAL	Rs. 14,93,07,313

**BUDGETARY ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE JUDGES'
ACCOUNTS SECTION OF THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
(DDO CODE : CACJDA093) FOR THE PERIOD
FROM 01.07.2024 TO 30.06.2025**

Sl. No.	Expenditure Head	Head of Account	Allotment Received in Rupees	Actual Expenditure in Rupees
1	Pay & Allowances (Salary)	34-2014-00-102-001-01-C	31,03,33,000	28,34,73,469
2	Medical Reimbursement (Sitting Judges)	34-2014-00-102-001-00-07-00-C	2,70,70,000	2,88,73,629
3	Travel Expenses	34-20 14-00-102-001-00-11-00-C	1,65,90,000	1,37,51,524
4	Electricity	34-2014-00-102-001-00-13-01-C	20,25,000	28,10,923
5	Telephone	34-2014-00-102-001-00-13-02-C	16,57,000	27,12,040
6	Other Office Expenses	34-2014-00-102-001-00-13-04-C	13,47,000	16,03,309
7	Medical Reimbursement (Retired Judges)	18-2071-01- 106-00-002-50-00-C	8,00,00,000	5,80,73,467
	Total		43,90,22,000	39,12,98,361

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA**NOTIFICATION**

No. 2281-G.

Dated, Calcutta, the 2nd July, 2024.**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS DIVISION RULES OF THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA, 2023****CONTENTS**

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PREAMBLE

Whereas, upon the promulgation of the *Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021* ("Ordinance"), now the *Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021* and upon the recommendation of the Committee constituted to take steps further to the said legislation by creating an Intellectual Property Division ("IPRD") and the Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Division ("IPRAD") in the High Court at Calcutta to deal with matters relating to Intellectual Property subject matter ("IPR").

The substantive provisions governing Intellectual Property subject matter are contained in the Copyright Act, 1957, The Designs Act, 2000; The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999; The Information Technology Act, 2000; The Patents Act, 1970; The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001; The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act 2000; The Trade Marks Act, 1999 and also in common law.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 129 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and Clause 37 of the Letters Patent, 1865 and the powers conferred under the various Intellectual Property Statutes aforementioned and as amended by the said the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, the High Court at Calcutta makes the following rules hereinafter referred to as the '*INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS DIVISION RULES OF THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA, 2023*' governing the matters listed before the Intellectual Property Rights Division and the Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Division with respect to practice and procedure for the exercise of its ordinary original, appellate and writ jurisdiction, and for other miscellaneous petitions arising out of intellectual property subject matter and related statutes including anything arising out of common law.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS RULES OF THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA, 2023

CHAPTER I **PRELIMINARY**

1. Short title and commencement :

- (a) These Rules shall be called the "Intellectual Property Rights Rules of The High Court at Calcutta, 2023".
- (b) The Rules shall come into force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions and interpretations :

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,

- (a) "Acts" means The Copyright Act, 1957, The Designs Act, 2000, The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, The Information Technology Act, 2000, The Patents Act, 1970, The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act 2000, The Trade Marks Act, 1999 and such other Acts as may be notified from time to time;
- (b) "Address for service" as mentioned in the Form(s) to Schedule II shall mean the address furnished by the parties including the currently authorized trade mark agent, patent agent or other agent, and the advocate or firm before the IPO at which service of summons, notices or other processes may be effected;
- (c) "Agent" shall mean agents referred to under each of the Acts specified in Rule 2(a) above;
- (d) "Appeal" unless the context otherwise requires, shall mean an appeal filed before the High Court under the Acts specified in Rule 2(a) above and appeals arising out of proceedings instituted within the meaning of Section 2(1)(c)(xvii) of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.
- (e) "Application" unless the context otherwise requires, shall mean applications, complaints, disputes, petitions and references filed under the Acts specified in Rule 2(a) above;
- (f) "Department" means the Department to be set up for the administration and management of all proceedings under the Intellectual Property Rights Division and Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Division;
- (g) "Effective date" shall mean the date on which these Rules come into force;
- (h) "Fee" shall mean the fees prescribed in Schedule III to these Rules;
- (i) "Form" shall mean the form(s) prescribed in Schedule II to these Rules with such modifications or variations as the circumstances may require;
- (j) "High Court" shall mean the High Court at Calcutta;
- (k) "Intellectual Property subject matter proceedings" shall include all proceedings defined in Rule 2(o) below of the following subject matter :
 - i. Copyrights, Designs, Geographical Indications, Patents, Plant Varieties, Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Layout-Designs, Trade Marks, Traditional Knowledge under the said Acts and common law rights, if any, relating thereto;
 - ii. Passing off, acts of unfair competition, disparagement of goods and businesses, comparative advertising and like matters;

- iii. Protection of trade secrets, confidential information and related subject matters;
 - iv. Privacy and publicity rights arising out of intellectual property subject matter;
 - v. Data exclusivity, domain names and other matters relating to data protection arising out of intellectual property subject matter and/or arising under the Acts mentioned in Rule 2(a) above;
 - vi. Internet violations relating to any of the subject matters under Rule 2(k) (i) (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) above;
 - vii. Rights and liabilities of intermediaries, online marketplaces, and e-commerce platforms as defined in Section 2(1)(w) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 arising out of issues relating to any of the subject matters mentioned in Rule 2(k) (i) (ii), (iii), (iv) (v) and (vi) above;
 - viii. Franchising, licensing and technology development agreements relating to any of the subject matters under clauses (i) through (vii);
 - ix. Any other matter that may be notified;
- (l) "IPAB" shall mean the "Intellectual Property Appellate Board";
- (m) "Intellectual Property Office" (IPO) shall mean appropriate offices specified in the Acts defined above;
- (n) "Pleadings" shall include complaints, written statements, counterclaims, replications, applications, memorandum of appeals, disputes, references, complaints, affidavits, counter affidavits, counter-statements, petitions, reviews, replies, rejoinders, rejoinder affidavit;
- (o) "Proceedings" shall mean and include :
- i. Intellectual Property subject matter suits and proceedings arising therefrom, including those instituted under the Commercial Courts Act 2015;
 - ii. All appeals arising out of orders/judgements passed in proceedings mentioned in (i) above and including those arising out of orders/judgements passed in Intellectual Property subject matter suits filed in Courts other than the High Court and proceedings connected therewith from which an appeal lies to the High Court;
 - iii. All original, appellate and other proceedings originally filed before the IPAB and transferred to the High Court consequent to the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021;
 - iv. All applications and appeals required to be filed before the High Court consequent to the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 including revocation applications, cancellation applications, other original proceedings and petitions and all other proceedings which were hitherto maintainable before the IPAB under the provisions of the Acts as defined in Rule 2(a);
 - v. Appeals arising out of orders mentioned in (iii) and (iv) above;
 - vi. Writ Petitions under Article 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India involving, or arising out of, any action or inaction of the concerned IPOs or any orders/judgements passed in any suit and/or proceedings mentioned above in (i) to (v);
 - vii. All revision and review petitions arising out of orders/judgements passed in suits and proceedings mentioned above.
- (p) "Transferred IPAB proceedings" shall mean and include all applications, appeals and other proceedings pending before the IPAB and transferred to the High Court consequent to the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021;

3. **Applicability :**

These Rules shall govern and apply to all Intellectual Property subject matter proceedings in the High Court after the effective date.

CHAPTER II

ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISIONS

4. **Intellectual Property Rights Division :**

- (a) There shall be a Division in the High Court to be known as the Intellectual Property Rights Division (hereinafter referred to as the 'IPRD'), having two or more Benches consisting of Single Judges for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred under these Rules.

- (b) The Chief Justice shall nominate such number of Judges of the High Court, as may be necessary, to preside over the IPRD. Such Judges shall preferably have experience in dealing with intellectual property subject matter.
- (c) The IPRD shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all Intellectual Property subject matter proceedings required to be heard by a Single Judge including :-
 - i. All Transferred IPAB proceedings;
 - ii. All Intellectual Property subject matter proceedings pending in the High Court on the effective date, except those required to be heard before a Division Bench.
 - iii. All Intellectual Property subject matter proceedings filed after the effective date except those required to be heard before a Division Bench.
- (d) All Intellectual Property subject matter proceedings required to be heard by a Single Judge shall be transferred to the IPRD.

5. Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Division :

- (a) There shall be an Appellate Division in the High Court to be known as the Intellectual Property Rights Appellate Division (hereinafter referred to as the 'IPRAD'). The same shall have one or more Benches comprising of two judges for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred under these Rules.
- (b) The Chief Justice shall nominate such number of Judges of the High Court, as may be necessary, to preside over the IPRAD. Such Judges shall preferably have experience in dealing with intellectual property subject matter.
- (c) All Intellectual Property subject matter proceedings required to be heard by a Division Bench shall be transferred to the IPRAD which shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear the same.
- (d) The IPRAD shall hear all appeals against orders passed by the IPRD.

6. Intellectual Property Rights Division Department :

There shall be an Intellectual Property Rights Division Department for the administration and management of all proceedings under the IPRD and the IPRAD

CHAPTER III

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR IPR PROCEEDINGS

7. Procedure in Transferred IPAB proceedings :

- (a) All such proceedings shall be re-numbered by the Department in accordance with Schedule I to the Rules.
- (b) Upon transfer, the same shall be caused to be listed by the Department expeditiously in a warning list before the same is listed before the IPRD. Such warning list shall be published every week from the effective date.
- (c) The IPRD shall proceed with the matter from the stage at which it was transferred to the IPRD.
- (d) Upon transfer, the provisions including the timelines prescribed in these Rules shall apply to those procedures that were incomplete on the effective date. On the date of first listing, the IPRD may, however, prescribe new timelines or issue such further directions as may be necessary for a speedy and efficacious disposal of such proceedings. The IPRD shall take into account any event of default which may have occurred prior to the effective date while prescribing any new timelines or issuing any such direction.
- (e) At the time of first listing and/or soon thereafter, the IPRD shall consider grant of interim relief and/or pass such other orders and/or directions as may be necessary.
- (f) The IPRD shall endeavour to dispose of all such proceedings expeditiously.

8. Procedure in Intellectual Property subject matter suits filed prior to the effective date in the High Court and proceedings including appeals connected therewith :

- (a) All Intellectual Property subject matter suits filed in the High Court prior to the effective date and all proceedings including appeals arising therefrom, shall be transferred to the IPRD or the IPRAD, as the case may be and renumbered as per Schedule I to these Rules.

- (b) Upon transfer, the same shall be caused to be listed by the Department expeditiously in a warning list before the same is listed before the IPRD or the IPRAD, as the case may be. Such warning list shall be published every week from the effective date.
 - (c) Upon transfer of suit and/or proceedings including appeals in terms of Rule 8(a) above
 - i. The procedures and timelines prescribed in the schedule to the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 shall become applicable to such suits including those procedures that remained incomplete on the effective date.
 - ii. On the date of first listing, the IPRD may, however, prescribe new timelines or issue such further directions as may be necessary for a speedy and efficacious disposal of such proceedings. The IPRD shall take into account any event of default which may have occurred prior to the effective date while issuing any new direction. The IPRD may issue directions to bring pleadings in all such suits in compliance with the requirements of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.
 - iii. The IPRD or the IPRAD, as the case may be, shall proceed with the matter from the stage it was transferred pursuant to the notification of these Rules.
 - (d) This rule shall apply to all proceedings including appeals filed after the effective date in suits filed before the effective date.
 - (e) The IPRD and the IPRAD shall endeavour to dispose of all such suits and proceedings including appeals connected therewith expeditiously.
9. **Procedure in Intellectual Property subject matter suits filed in the High Court after the effective date and proceedings including appeals connected therewith :**
- (a) All Intellectual Property subject matter suits filed in the High Court after the effective date and proceedings including appeals connected therewith, shall be filed before and heard by the IPRD or the IPRAD, as the case may be.
 - (b) The IPRD and the IPRAD shall endeavour to dispose of all such suits and proceedings including appeals connected therewith expeditiously...
10. **Procedure in appeals arising out of judgements and orders in passed in Intellectual Property subject matter suits filed in Courts other than the High Court and proceedings connected therewith from which an appeal lies to the High Court :**
- (a) All appeals filed in the High Court prior to the effective date against judgements and orders passed by other Courts in Intellectual Property subject matter suits and proceedings connected therewith shall be transferred to the IPRAD and shall be renumbered as per Schedule I to these Rules. Upon transfer, the same shall be caused to be listed by the Department expeditiously in a warning list before the same is listed before the IPRAD. Such warning list shall be published every week from the effective date.
 - (b) After the effective date, all appeals from judgments and orders in Intellectual Property subject matter suits and proceedings against which an appeal lies to the High Court, shall be filed before and heard by the IPRAD.
 - (c) The IPRAD shall endeavour to dispose of all appeals expeditiously.
11. **Procedure in Intellectual Property subject matter Writ Petitions, Revision Petitions and Review Petitions :**
- (a) All pending civil writ petitions, civil revision petition and civil review petitions arising out of orders relating to an intellectual property subject matter proceedings or in a matter arising under any of the Acts defined in these Rules which are pending on the effective date shall be transferred to the IPRD or the IPRAD, as the case may be. The same shall be renumbered as per Schedule I to these Rules. Upon transfer, the same shall be caused to be listed by the Department expeditiously in a warning list before same is listed before the IPRD. Such warning list shall be published every week from the effective date.
 - (b) After the effective date, all civil writ petitions, civil revision petitions and civil review petitions arising out of orders passed in intellectual property subject matter proceedings or in a matter arising under any of the Acts, shall be filed before and heard by the IPRD or the IPRAD, as the case may be.

- (c) All such civil writ petitions, civil revision petition and civil review petitions shall comply with rules of the High Court applicable thereto.
- (d) Appeals from judgments and orders passed by the IPRD in such matters shall heard by the IPRAD;
- (e) The IPRD or the IPRAD, as the case may be, shall endeavour to dispose of all such proceedings expeditiously.

12. Procedure in Applications arising out of the Acts mentioned in Rule 2(a) :

- a) All applications under the Acts mentioned in Rule 2(a) above shall be in conformity with the forms prescribed in Schedule II to these rules along with all evidence/documents intended to be relied on.
- b) The concerned IPO and all contesting parties shall be impleaded as Respondents in all such applications.
- c) Such applications shall be served on all necessary and proper parties including the concerned IPO in accordance with the provisions of service prescribed in these Rules.
- d) The IPRD may direct the Registrar or Controller or any authorized representative of the IPO to be present or represented in accordance with the provisions of the Act(s).
- e) Copies of all substantive orders passed by the IPRD in all applications shall be communicated by the Department to the concerned IPO by e-mail within seven (7) days from the date of such order being passed.
- f) If interim orders are sought, an application akin to an application under Order XXXIX Rule 1 and 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 as amended by the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 may be filed setting out the grounds for such interim orders.
- g) Upon service of the application, the respondents shall file a reply with all evidence/documents intended to be relied on within 45 days from the date of service of the application unless the IPRD otherwise directs. However, in the case of applications under the Patents Act, 1970, The Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act, 2001 and The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000 the period for filing such Reply shall be 90 days.
- h) A copy of such reply shall be served on the other parties in accordance with the provisions for service prescribed in these Rules.
- i) Rejoinder, if any, shall be filed within 30 days from the date of service of reply unless the IPRD otherwise directs. However, in the case of applications under the Patents Act, 1970, the period for filing such Rejoinder shall be 45 days.
- j) Inspection of all original documents shall be provided, if called upon, within a period of 15 days from the request received by the party from whom inspection is sought or such other time as the IPRD may permit.
- k) The IPRD may permit oral evidence including cross examination, if necessary, only upon being satisfied of the necessity of oral evidence.
- l) Filing of any further affidavits or pleadings or any documents shall be permitted only with the leave of the IPRD.

13. Procedure in appeals arising out of the Acts mentioned in Rule 2(a) :

- a) All appeals under the Acts mentioned in Rule 2(a) above shall be in conformity with the forms prescribed in Schedule II to these rules.
- b) A Memorandum of Appeal shall be filed along with a certified copy of the impugned order unless leave is obtained from the IPRD to file the appeal without a certified copy of the impugned order. The same shall ordinarily be accompanied by a Paper Book containing all documents forming part of the records of the IPO.
- c) The appellant shall be required to separately apply for condonation of delay, where necessary.
- d) The concerned IPO and all contesting parties shall be impleaded as Respondents in all such appeals.
- e) Such appeals shall be served on all necessary and proper parties including the concerned IPO in accordance with the provisions of service prescribed in these Rules.

- f) Filing of reply to the appeal shall be permitted only if necessary and upon seeking prior leave of the IPRD within such time as the IPRD may direct. Rejoinder, if any, may be filed within such time as the IPRD may direct. Filing of any further pleadings shall be permitted only with the leave of the IPRD.
- g) No party shall be entitled to rely on any new or additional document which did not form part of records of the original proceedings unless prior leave is obtained for such purpose by applying for leave with cogent grounds for failure and/or inability to disclose the same before the concerned IPO and the necessity for relying on such documents.
- h) The Appellant will be entitled to apply for suitable interim reliefs.
- i) The IPRD may direct the Registrar or Controller or any authorized representative of the IPO to be present or represented in accordance with the provisions of the Act(s).
- j) Copies of all substantive orders passed by the IPRD in all appeals shall be communicated by the Department to the concerned IPO by e-mail within seven (7) days from the date of such order being passed.

CHAPTER IV

GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR PROCEEDINGS UNDER THESE RULES

14. Preliminary and Extent of applicability :

While Rules 12 and 13 are specific to appeals and applications under the Acts mentioned in Rule 2(a) above, Rule 15 to Rule 30 shall be applicable to all Intellectual Property subject matter proceedings before the IPRD and IPRAD. The same shall also apply to appeals and applications mentioned in Rule 2(a) above to the extent there is no conflict.

15. Filing of pleadings :

- (a) All pleadings/documents shall be filed electronically in a Portable Document Format (PDF) with Optical Character Recognition (OCR) enabled with image resolution of at least 300 dots per inch (dpi) and in strict accordance with the e-filing Rules, 2021 of the High Court at Calcutta, as notified on 16th December 2021 and/or any subsequent amendment thereto.
- (b) The Department shall direct the party/its advocate to take steps for the removal of the defects, if any detected upon scrutiny, within a fixed time and the Department may for reasons to be recorded in writing, decline to register the proceeding until such defect is rectified. Time for compliance may be extended by the Department on sufficient cause being shown for non-compliance within the time originally fixed for removal of defects;
- (c) The Department shall number and/or renumber the proceedings in the manner provided in these Rules;

16. Service of Pleadings, Documents and Notices :

- (a) Unless otherwise directed by the IPRD or the IPRAD, an advance copy of the pleadings shall be served upon the parties directly or on the address for service in the mode and/or manner prescribed by the High Court at Calcutta Commercial Courts Practice Directions, 2021 at least four working days in advance of the date fixed for listing of the proceeding.
- (b) At the time of filing, the Plaintiff, Appellant or the Applicant, as the case may be, shall provide the Department and the contesting parties with the address, e-mail and contact number of the Advocate/ Agent, as the case may be, authorised to receive pleadings, documents and correspondence on its behalf.
- (c) When the Defendant or Respondent, as the case may be, first enters appearance, it shall provide the Department and the contesting parties with the address, e-mail and contact number of the Advocate authorised to receive pleadings, documents and correspondence on its behalf.
- (d) The parties shall provide all subsequent change of names of Advocates or their address and e-mail ID forthwith to the Department and the contesting parties.
- (e) Service of all pleadings, documents and notices on the appointed Advocate of a party shall be treated as valid service.
- (f) The matter may be heard and disposed of after the first day of listing where the opposing party is not represented only on satisfactory proof of service being furnished.

17. Summons, Discovery and Disclosure :

The IPRD may, at any time, either of its own motion or on the prayer of any party make such orders as may be necessary or reasonable in all matters relating to:

- (a) admission of documents and facts;
- (b) discovery, inspection, production, impounding and return of documents or other material objects which may be produced in evidence;
- (c) The issue of summons to persons whose attendance is required either to give evidence or to produce documents or such other objects as aforesaid.

Suits and any proceedings arising therefrom, shall be governed by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 as amended by the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and the Rules framed under the High Court at Calcutta Commercial Courts Practice Directions, 2021.

For all other proceedings, the IPRD and/or IPRAD shall have due regard to the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 as amended by the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and the Rules framed under High Court at Calcutta Commercial Courts Practice Directions, 2021.

18. Concurrent hearings in certain cases :

- (a) While dealing with suits, the IPRD may direct all petitions seeking revocation, rectification or cancellation involving, the same subject matter be listed and heard concurrently.
- (b) While dealing with suits, the IPRD may direct any other suit or proceeding involving the same subject matter between the same parties be listed and heard concurrently or one after the other. For such purpose, the IPRD may also consolidate such proceedings.

19. Calling for records :

The IPRD or the IPRAD, as the case may be, may call for all relevant records from the concerned IPO.

20. Intervention by third parties :

- (a) Any person interested in a proceeding before the IPRD or the IPRAD as the case may be, shall apply under these rules for leave to intervene and/or be impleaded stating the nature of its interest. The IPRD or the IPRAD may refuse or grant such leave after hearing the parties concerned on such terms and conditions as it deems fit.
- (b) Where such intervention is permitted or where a party is impleaded, such person shall be entitled to require the plaintiff, petitioner, applicant or appellant, as the case may be, to supply, without charge, copies of all pleadings and documents which have been filed in the case. The documents must be supplied within 48 hours after a written request is received or within such time as may be fixed by the IPRD or the IPRAD as the case may be.

21. Recording of Evidence :

Where expedient, the IPRD may direct :

- (a) The recording of evidence at any venue outside the premises of the High Court;
- (b) The recording of evidence by a Local Commissioner,
- (c) The use of videography and transcription technology or any other form of recording evidence.
- (d) The recording of evidence of witnesses residing outside India by video conferencing;
- (e) In case of evidence by experts, the same may be recorded by resorting to procedures such as hot-tubbing or other such modes, as the IPRD deems fit and necessary.

22. Independent Experts :

- (a) If any of the parties seeks the appointment of an independent expert, the IPRD may appoint such expert if it is of the opinion that the view of an independent expert is necessary to be obtained on specific points and/or questions to be formulated by it.

- (b) If the parties are unable to agree on the name of such expert, the IPRD may appoint such Expert as it deems fit and proper. For such purpose, the parties may be required by the IPRD to submit a list of qualified experts willing to act. The objections of the parties to the experts named in such lists will be considered before appointing any such expert.
- (c) If, necessary, the IPRD may also appoint an expert who is not named in the lists submitted by the parties but from a separate list of experts registered and maintained by the Department.
- (d) The IPRD may also on its own motion appoint such expert if it is of the opinion that the view of an independent expert is necessary to be obtained on specific points and/or questions to be formulated by it.
- (e) The IPRD may give appropriate directions to enable the expert to perform any examination or inspection or experiments or tests, as may be necessary and for the costs that may be incurred for such purpose.
- (f) The IPRD will determine the terms of appointment and the remuneration of the expert appointed including the costs of attending hearings for deposing.
- (g) The IPRD shall require the expert to appear physically or through video conferencing, to be examined by the parties, if required by any of the parties.
- (h) General duties of Independent Experts :
 - i) The independent Expert shall provide a declaration that he or she has no conflict of interest with the subject matter of the dispute and will assist the IPRD fairly and impartially.
 - ii) Evidence is to be given in a written report unless the IPRD directs otherwise.
 - iii) The report must clearly state the substance of all material instructions, whether written or oral, on the basis of which the report was written.

23. Preservation of Confidential Information :

At any stage in a proceeding, the IPRD may adopt appropriate measures for the preservation and exchange of confidential information filed and/or to be filed before it. It may, also on a request by any party, direct the redaction of any information it deems to be confidential on such terms as it deems fit and proper;

24. Summary Judgement :

The IPRD shall be entitled to pass summary judgment in intellectual property subject matter suits on principles akin to those contained in Order XIII A, Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 as applicable to commercial suits under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.

25. Procedure for Fast Track Hearings :

In appropriate circumstances, the IPRD may provide for a fast track procedure for final disposal of intellectual property subject matter suits and proceedings. In such case, the IPRD may curtail the timelines normally applicable in respect of such proceedings and set the timelines and steps required for speedy disposal of the matter, including allotment of time for arguments taking into account the complexity of the case and the number of contesting parties required to be heard.

26. Translations and transliterations :

No document in a language other than English, intended to be used in any proceeding before IPRD or the IPRAD, as the case may be, shall be received by the Department, unless accompanied by :

- (a) An English translation duly certified by the translator of the Court; or
- (b) A translation generated using standard online translation software may be filed provided however that such online translation may be rejected if the other party is able to establish the inaccuracy thereof.

27. Imposition of Costs :

- (a) In proceedings under these Rules, costs may be awarded on principles akin to Section 35, Section 35A and Section 35B of the Code of Civil Procedure Code, 1908 as amended by the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.
- (b) In determining the costs, all the circumstances, including the conduct of the parties, whether a party has succeeded partly in a case, whether a party has taken a frivolous stand leading to a delay in disposal of the case and whether a reasonable offer to settle the dispute has been made by a party and refused by the other party shall be taken into account.

CHAPTER V
MISCELLANEOUS

28. Applicability of the High Court at Calcutta Commercial Courts Practice Directions, 2021 :

Unless expressly provided for under these Rules, the High Court at Calcutta Commercial Courts Practice Directions, 2021 shall be applicable to all Intellectual Property proceedings.

29. Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodations for disable persons :

The IPRD or the IPRAD, suo moto or upon a request made by way of an application, may issue direction(s) that it deems necessary for providing reasonable accommodation to such person(s) with a specified disability as recognized under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for the sole purpose of participating in any proceedings before the IPRD or the IPRAD.

30. Power to remove difficulties :

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the Rules, the High Court may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of these Rules as may appear to be necessary for removing, the difficulty.

In case of any conflict, inconsistency or repugnancy, between these Rules and any other Rules or practice directions made by the High Court at Calcutta from time to time, the Rules herein shall prevail in relation to all Intellectual Property subject matter proceedings.

SCHEDULE I
NOMENCLATURE

APPEALS UNDER THE ACTS		
1.	IPD/TMA	Appeals under the Trade Marks Act, 1999
2.	IPD/CRA	Appeals under the Copyright Act, 1957
3.	IPD/PTA	Appeals under the Patents Act, 1970
4.	IPD/GIA	Appeals under the GI of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
5.	IPD/PVA	Appeals under the Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act, 2001
6.	IPD/SCD	Appeals under The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout- Design Act, 2000
7.	IPD/AID	Appeals under the Designs Act, 2000
8.	IPD/ITA	Appeals under the Information Technology Act, 2000
ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS UNDER THE ACTS		
9.	IPD/ATM	Applications under Section 47, 57, 125 of Trade Marks Act, 1999
10.	IPD/CR	Applications under Section 50 of the Copyright Act, 1957
11.	IPD/PAT	Applications under Section 58/64/71/103 of the Patents Act, 1970
12.	IPD/GI	Applications under Section 27/58 of Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
13.	IPD/IT	Applications under Section 46(1A) of the Information Technology Act, 2000
14.	IPD/SCDA	Petition/Application under Section 40/Section 41 of The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000
OTHER NOMENCLATURE FOR PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE IPRD AND THE IPRA		
15.	IP (Com)	Intellectual Property subject matter suits
16.	WPO-IPD	Intellectual Property subject matter Writ Petitions.
17.	CC-IPD	Intellectual Property subject matter Contempt Petitions
18.	ALP-IPD	Intellectual Property subject matter Applications under Clause 13 of Letters Patent
19.	APO-IPD	Appeal from order arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
20.	TEMPAPO-IPD	Appeal from order Temp from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
21.	FA-IPD	Civil First Appeal arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
22.	FAT-IPD	Tender First Appeal arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
23.	FMA-IPD	Civil Appeal from Order arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
24.	FMAT-IPD	Admission Of Civil Appeal from Order arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
25.	CR-IPD	Civil Revision arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
26.	FA-IPD	Civil First Appeal arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
27.	FAT-IPD	Tender First Appeal arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
28.	RVW-IPD	Review arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
29.	WPA-IPD	Writ Petition arising from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding
30.	LPA-IPD	Letters Patent Appeal from an Intellectual Property subject matter proceeding

SCHEDULE II
FORMS

FORM NO. 1
IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
Special Jurisdiction
Intellectual Property Rights Division
[insert NOMENCLATURE]

APPLICATION/PETITION/COMPLAINT UNDER SECTION [insert relevant section]
OF THE [INSERT ACT]

(score out the provision not applicable)

(COURT FEES :.....)

1. Name and address of the Petitioner/Applicant :
2. Name and address of Advocate of the Petitioner/Applicant with e-mail id :
3. Name of the Respondent(s) with address :
4. Respondent's address for service with the IPO : with e-mail id :
5. Relief claimed and relevant sections :
6. Particulars of previous or parallel proceedings between the parties on the same or connected subject matter :
7. Particulars of the impugned intellectual property of the Respondent(s) :
8. Particulars of the intellectual property rights of the Petitioner :
9. Interest of the Petitioner/Applicant, in brief :
10. Grounds on which the relief is sought for :
11. Declaration : The Petitioner/ Applicant herein has stated all relevant facts and has filed all relevant documents for the purpose of deciding the instant petition/application and nothing material has been concealed here from. :
12. Prayer including any interim relief sought for :

[Name & Signature of the Petitioner/Applicant]

13. Affidavit in support
14. List of Documents

**FORM NO. 2
IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA**

**Special Jurisdiction
Intellectual Property Rights Division
[insert NOMENCLATURE]**

**APPEAL UNDER SECTION [insert relevant section] OF THE [INSERT ACT]
FROM ORDER DATED.....**

(COURT FEES :.....)

1. Name and address of the Appellant :
2. Name and address of Advocate of the Appellant with e-mail id :
3. Name of the Respondent(s) with address :
4. Respondent's address for service with the IPO with e-mail id :
5. Date of the Impugned Order and limitation :
6. Particulars of previous or parallel proceedings between the parties on the same or connected subject matter :
7. Particulars of the impugned order, in brief. :
8. Particulars of the intellectual property rights of the Appellant. :
9. Grounds on which the relief is sought for. :
10. Declaration : The Appellant herein has filed and stated all relevant facts and all relevant documents for the purpose of deciding, the instant appeal and no new or additional documents other than those filed before the IPO is filed herewith.
11. Prayer including any interim relief. :

[Name & Signature of the Applicant]

13. Affidavit in support
14. List of Documents

SCHEDULE III**FEES**

S. NO.	ACT AND SECTION UNDER WHICH FILED	NOMENCLATURE	COURT FEES PAYABLE (RS.)
1.	PETITION/APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 47/57/125 OF THE TRADE MARKS ACT, 1999	IPDATM/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	10,000/-
2.	APPEAL UNDER SECTION 91 OF THE TRADE MARKS ACT, 1999	IPDTMA/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	5,000/-
3.	PETITION/COMPLAINT/APPLICATION UNDER SECTIONS 19A/31/31A/31B/31C/ 31D/32/32A/33A/31C(5)/50 OF THE COPY RIGHT ACT 1957	IPDCR/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	10,000/-
4.	APPEALS UNDER SECTION 72 OF THE COPYRIGHT ACT, 1957	IPDCRA/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	5,000/-
5.	PETITION/APPLICATION UNDER SECTIONS 58/64/71 OF THE PATENTS ACT, 1970	IPDPAT/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	10,000/-
6.	APPEAL UNDER SECTION 117- A OF THE PATENTS ACT, 1970	IPDPTA/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	10,000/-
7.	APPEAL UNDER SECTIONS 56 OF THE PROTECTION OF PLANTS VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS ACT, 2001	IPDPVA/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	5,000/-
8.	PETITION/APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 27/58 OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF GOODS (REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION) ACT, 1999	IPDGI/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	10,000/-
9.	APPEAL UNDER SECTION 31 OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF GOODS (REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION) ACT, 1999	IPDGIA/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	5,000/-
10.	PETITION/APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 40/41 OF THE SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS LAYOUT-DESIGN ACT, 2000	IPDSCDA/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	10,000/-
11.	APPEAL UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS LAYOUT-DESIGN ACT, 2000	IPDSCD/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	5,000/-
12.	APPEAL UNDER SECTION 36 OF THE DESIGNS ACT, 2000	IPDAID/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	5,000/-

S. NO.	ACT AND SECTION UNDER WHICH FILED	NOMENCLATURE	COURT FEES PAYABLE (RS.)
13.	PETITION UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT, 2000	IPDIT/[NO.]/ [YEAR]	10,000/-
14.	APPEAL UNDER SECTION 62 OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT, 2000	IPDITA/[NO]/ [YEAR]	5,000/-

By Order of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice

Sd/-
[CHAITALI CHATTERJEE (DAS)]
Registrar General

Registered No. WB/SC-247

No. WB(Part-I)/2025/SAR-132

The

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PHALGUNA 29]

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

[SAKA 1946

PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
APPELLATE SIDE

NOTIFICATION

No. 1852- RG

Dated, 06th day of March, 2025

It is hereby notified for all concerned that the existing provision of Rule 9(2) of the Chapter II of the Appellate Side Rules of the High Court at Calcutta is amended and substituted as follows :

- "9. (2) (i) All appeals, reference or revision in respect of sentence or order of any Criminal Court;
- (ii) All bail applications at the pre-conviction stage, anticipatory bail applications, cancellation of bail applications unless otherwise prescribed by statute; shall be heard by a Single Judge.

Provided, however, that the following matters shall be placed before a Division Bench consisting of two or more Judges:

- (i) All appeals or reference relating to an order of sentence of death and sentence of rigorous imprisonment for a period exceeding 7 years including suspension of sentence/bail applications in connection therewith;
- (ii) All appeals from order of acquittal from offences where the sentence may be of death, imprisonment for life or any term of imprisonment exceeding 7 years."

This notification shall come into effect from the 1st day of April, 2025.

By Order,

Sd/-

[NABANITA RAY]
 Registrar General.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

[SAKA 1946

PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

NOTIFICATION

No. 539-G

Dated, Calcutta, the 1st March, 2025

The High Court at Calcutta, with due approval from the Government of West Bengal vide G.O. No. 1/600075/2025 dated 27.01.2025, hereby makes the following amendment to Rule V (2) of the existing Rules framed in connection with appointment of Law Clerk - cum - Research Assistants for Hon'ble Judges of the High Court at Calcutta, as promulgated under Court's Notification No. 10347-G dated 21st October, 2011.

The amendment would take effect from 01.01.2025.

AMENDMENT

Rule V (2), under the heading "**Tenure and Terms**", stands modified and be read in the following manner:

"The engagement of Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants (with the nomenclature, "Law Clerk") would be on a purely contractual basis at a fixed consolidated remuneration of Rs. 40,000/- per month, along with an annual enhancement of 3% on the 1st July every year subject to their satisfactory performance and continuation, without the engaged person having any claim as an employee of the Court".

By order:

Sd/-

[NABANITA RAY]
Registrar General,
High Court, Calcutta.

Registered No. WB/SC-247

No. WB(Part-I)/2025/SAR-146

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TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

[SAKA 1946

PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

NOTIFICATION

No. 582-GDated, Calcutta, the 5th March, 2025

In exercise of the power conferred by Article 229 of the Constitution of India and in supersession of earlier notification bearing No. 03-G, dated the 3rd January, 2013 and its amendment bearing No. 2356-G, dated the 6th May, 2013, the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court at Calcutta, with the approval of the Governor of the State of West Bengal, do hereby makes the following rules:-

Rules

1. Short title and Commencement—

- (1) These rules shall be called 'The Calcutta High Court Service of Court Manager (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2024'.
- (2) These rules shall come into force with immediate effect.

2. Definitions — In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) 'Governor' means the Governor of State of West Bengal and includes the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands;
- (b) 'Chief Justice' means the Chief Justice of High Court at Calcutta;
- (c) 'Registrar General' means the Registrar General of the High Court at Calcutta at its Principal Seat at Kolkata;
- (d) 'District Judgeship' means the Principal Civil & Sessions Judge at the Head Quarters of District Judgeship;
- (e) 'Court Manager' means the person appointed under these rules and includes any person already working as Court Manager;
- (f) 'Month' means English Calendar month.

3. Recruitment and conditions of service of Court Managers-

- (1) There shall be such number of Court Managers having pay under level-18 (Rs. 68,400/- – Rs. 1,76,200/-) as may be recruited and appointed in the manner prescribed hereunder.
- (2) The Service Rules for the employees of the High Court at Calcutta will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Court managers, not in derogation of the Rules mentioned hereunder.

4. Procedure of selection- The recruitment of the Court Managers in the High Court, Calcutta shall be made –

- (1) by direct recruitment through written examination followed by interview to be conducted by the Selection Committee consisting of three members to be constituted by the Chief Justice, or
- (2) by regularizing the Court Managers already working as such through absorption in light of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court as one-time measure.

5. Age Limit:- No person who has not attained 26 years and exceeds 40 years of his/her age, shall be considered for recruitment, nor be appointed as Court Manager, on the date of notification for selection process. However, in case of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidate, the upper age limit is relaxable by 5 years.**6. Qualification and Experience :**

Candidate for appointment to the post of Court Manager:

- (i) must be citizen of India;
- (ii) must not have been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude;
- (iii) must be possessing sound health;
- (iv) must have the basic degree of B.Tech / BE (Computer Science / IT) with Post Graduate Degree (MBA) or Advanced Diploma in general management;
- (v) must have 5 years' experience in systems and process management or IT systems management;
- (vi) must have excellent communication skill;
- (vii) must have excellent computer skill.

7. Functions and Responsibilities of Court Managers:Policies and Standards

- (a) Based on applicable directives of superior courts, establish performance standards applicable to the court (including timeliness, efficiency, quality of court performance, infrastructure, human resources, access to justice as well as for systems for court management and case management);
- (b) Carry out an evaluation of the desired performance of the court with such standards; identify deficiencies and deviations; suggest steps to achieve required performance; maintain such evaluation on a current basis through annual updates.

Planning

- (a) In consultation with the stakeholders of a court (including the Bar, ministerial staff, Executive Agencies supporting judicial functions, such as prosecutors/police/process serving agencies and court users), prepare and update annually a Five-year court-wise Court Development Plan (CDP);
- (b) Monitor the implementation of the CDP and report to superior authorities, viz., the Registrar General in the High Court at Calcutta and the District & Sessions Judge in the Court subordinate to the High Court at Calcutta, on progress.

Information and Statistics

- (a) Ensure that statistics on all aspects of the functioning of the Court are compiled and reported accurately and promptly in accordance with systems established by the High Court at Calcutta;
- (b) Ensure that reports on statistics are duly completed and provided as required.

Court Management

Ensure that the processes and procedures of the court (including filing, scheduling, conduct of adjudication, access to information and documents and grievance redressal) are fully compliant with the policies and standards established by the High Court at Calcutta for court management and that they safeguard quality, ensure efficiency and timeliness and minimize costs to litigants and to the State and enhance access to justice.

(Note: Standard systems for court management should be developed at the High Court level).

Case Management

Ensure that case management systems are fully compliant with the policies adopted and standards laid down by the High Court at Calcutta for case management and that they address the legitimate needs of each individual litigant in terms of quality, efficiency and timeliness, costs of litigants and to the State.

(Note: Standard systems for case management should be developed at the High Court level).

Responsiveness Management: Access to Justice, Legal Aid and User Friendliness

Ensure that the Court meets standards established by the High Court at Calcutta on access to Justice, legal aid and user friendliness.

Quality Management

Ensure that the Court meets quality of adjudication of the standards established by the High Court at Calcutta.

Human Resource Management

Ensure that Human Resource Management of ministerial staff in the Court complies with the Human Resource Management standards laid down by the High Court at Calcutta.

Core System Management

Ensure that the core systems of the Court are established and function effectively (documentation management; utilities management; infrastructure and facilities management; financial systems management, viz. audits, accounts and payments).

IT Systems Management

- (a) Ensure that the IT systems of the Court comply with standards established by the High Court at Calcutta and are fully functional.
- (b) Feed the proposed National Data Grid to be set up to monitor the disposal of cases in all the courts, as and when it is set up.

8. **Terms and conditions of appointment.**- The Court Managers while performing the aforesaid functions and discharging their responsibilities shall be primarily answerable to the Registrar General of the High Court at Calcutta and shall assist, cooperate and carry out all lawful directions which might be given by the Registrar General in the High Court at Calcutta and the District & Sessions Judges in the Districts. It is made clear that their primary function is to assist and cooperate with the Judges at all levels, as and when asked for. The Court Managers shall be deemed to be Public Servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

9. **Relaxation of rules.** - The High Court at Calcutta reserves the right to vary by way of either addition or relaxation of the rules, in consultation with the Governor, to meet any situation in future.

By order,

Sd/-

[NABANITA RAY]
Registrar General,
High Court, Calcutta.

[Note - It may be clarified that since initial pay of Civil Judge (Jr. Div.), Entry level, is fixed under SNJPC of Rs. 77,840/-, the initial pay of Court Managers may be at level-18 (Rs. 68,400/- - Rs. 1,76,200/-) nearest pay level of Govt. Officials in comparison of initial pay of Civil Judge (Jr. Div.), Entry level, under SNJPC.]







The newly constructed building of the Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri



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