

MP Police: 'General' share at a historical low, quota vacancies drop sharply since 2018

- Women's share stagnates at 9% in HC, 7% in the police despite 33% reservation
- SCs meet reservation quotas among officers for the first time ever

10th November, 2023, Madhya Pradesh: The 2022 India Justice Report (IJR), which serves as India's only ranking of states on justice capacity in the country, was released earlier this year. The report ranked Madhya Pradesh at number 8 to place it amongst the top 10 states in justice delivery in the country.

Displaying improvements over the years, Madhya Pradesh has jumped eight ranks from 16 in 2020 to 8 in 2022. However, despite some marked improvements between 2008 and 2021 - where different governments led four terms - challenges around vacancies and diversity in the Police and the Judiciary remain as pressing concerns for efficacious justice delivery.

Ms. Maja Daruwala, Chief Editor, India Justice Report 2022, said, *"As we make efforts toward fulfilling our global commitment of ensuring strong justice institutions and accessible justice for all by 2030, the India Justice Reports provide a much-needed spur to address the deficiencies in the present-day justice system, particularly within the domains of police and judiciary. By sparking an insightful dialogue around the persistent challenges, these insights reiterate the need for both immediate and foundational reforms to our justice delivery systems, which will ultimately pave the way towards a just and equitable society."*

Police vacancies tripled since 2008; 'general' category hits historic low while reserved categories record sharp drop

While the sanctioned strength of the police grew substantially from 77,253 to 1.19 lakh from 2008 to 2021, vacancies have increased threefold from 7,031 in 2008 to a staggering 21,677 in 2021. As of 2021, the actual police strength (98,453) remains 18% below the sanctioned strength. Among officers, vacancy stands at 23%. The total number of vacant posts among constables is a staggering 15,867.

Within these vacancies, those for the 'general' category increased from '0' vacancies in 2008 to 17% (more than 10,000) in 2021. The overall share of the 'general' category reduced from 56% in 2008 to 51% in 2021. Despite 33% reservation, the share of women has grown sluggishly from 3% (2,285) in 2008 to 7% (6,697) in 2021. To meet its own reservation target of 33%, the Madhya Pradesh police needs to hire 32,774 women.



Marking some improvement in the caste diversity in the police, there has been a reduction in open vacancies in all reserved categories.

Between 2008 and 2021, there has been a marked improvement in the share of Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) in police. While the representation of Scheduled Castes (SC) has reduced marginally, the SC quota for officers has been met for the first time since 2008. From 2018 to 2021, the vacancies for SCs have dwindled from 42% to 16%; STs from 43% to 21%; and OBCs from 48% to 18% after doubling from 20% in 2008. Out of the total 21,000 odd vacancies in 2021, nearly 50% (11,000) were within the SC/ST/OBC, of which the highest were among the STs (5,017) followed by SCs (3,117) and OBCs (2,950).

High court vacancies on the rise, women judges make up only 9% of total HC strength

As of July 2022, MP has a total sanctioned strength of 2,021 judges in subordinate courts and 53 in High court. Of the 1539 judges, more than 50% (821) are from the 'general' category, followed by 16% OBC judges and 15% each SC and ST judges. The share of women judges in subordinate courts has increased marginally from 27% in 2018 to 35% (536) in 2022. Meanwhile, the share of women judges in the High Court remained stagnant at 9%, totalling to merely three women in the High Court of the state.

Overall, vacancies in these courts stand at 24% in subordinate courts and 41% in High Court as compared to 26% and 35% respectively in 2018. Of the 482 subordinate judge vacancies, the highest are among the STs, with 44% (177) vacant positions. 27% (86) positions are vacant among SCs and 10% (29) positions are vacant among OBCs. 18% (181) of positions are vacant among the 'general' category.

As per the latest data, total vacancies across Police (17%), Prisons (17%), and Judiciary (18%) amount to 23,698 vacant posts. Data from Census 2011 shows that Scheduled castes make up 15.6% of the population while Scheduled tribes account for 21% in Madhya Pradesh. As per the recent data released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Periodic Labour Force Survey (June 2022 – July 2023), Madhya Pradesh's unemployment rate stands at 4.8%, with just 54.5% of the state's population gainfully employed.

About IJR:

The India Justice Report (IJR) collective was initiated by Tata Trusts in 2019. Partners include Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS–Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and How India Lives.



The India Justice Report periodically measures and ranks each state's structural and financial capacity to deliver justice. It uses only the latest available government figures to assess the budgets, human resources, infrastructure, workload and diversity across police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid of 18 large and medium sized states with a population of over 1 crore and 7 smaller states. Data for 7 Union Territories (UTs) and 4 states is also provided.

The IJR tracks the rise and falls in capacity and provides timeline comparisons that allow for an understanding of what improvements and shortfalls have been made within each state's own pillars and themes since IJR 2019 and over 5 years. These mark out clear discernible trends and directions.

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