

# West Bengal

Rank among 18 large and mid-sized states ▶

Overall  
**12<sup>th</sup>**

Police  
**16<sup>th</sup>**

Prisons  
**4<sup>th</sup>**

Judiciary  
**10<sup>th</sup>**

Legal aid  
**13<sup>th</sup>**



## POLICE

RANK IN CATEGORY

**16<sup>th</sup>**

SCORE (out of 10)



**4.20**

**HOW TO READ THE DATA:** Since each indicator has a different unit, to enable comparison, we rebased values to score the state's performance in a band of 1 to 10. The line graphs show how the state compares, on each indicator, against the other 17 large and mid-sized states. The longer the lines, the better the state is doing. 'Worst value' and 'best value' point to the highest and lowest results in that indicator.

### Budgets

	State value	State score (out of 10)	Worst value	Best value	State rank
Modernisation fund used (% , 2016-17)	56		3	80	2
Spend on police per person (Rs, 2015-16)	546		498	1,666	17

Highest share of officers in police, among large and mid-sized states. Nearly 1 in 3 constable posts vacant.

### Human Resources

	State value	State score (out of 10)	Worst value	Best value	State rank
Constables, vacancy (% , Jan 2017)	31.3		53.0	-6.9	14
Officers, vacancy (% , Jan 2017)	26.1		62.6	8.2	10
Officers in civil police (% , Jan 2017)	27.5		8.6	27.5	1



### Diversity

	State value	State score (out of 10)	Worst value	Best value	State rank
Share of women in police (% , Jan 2017)	7.6		2.5	12.9	8
Share of women in officers (% , Jan 2017)	3.1		1.5	19.7	13
SC officers, actual to reserved ratio (% , Jan 2017)	58		32	120	13
ST officers, actual to reserved ratio (% , Jan 2017)	45		0	172	12
OBC officers, actual to reserved ratio (% , Jan 2017)	18		18	169	15

State struggled to meet its diversity quotas.



### Infrastructure

	State value	State score (out of 10)	Worst value	Best value	State rank
Population per police station (rural) (Jan 2017)	232,896		232,896	30,445	18
Population per police station (urban) (Jan 2017)	108,152		240,608	32,881	14
Area per police station (rural) (sq km, Jan 2017)	313		719	79	9
Area per police station (urban) (sq km, Jan 2017)	19		71	8	12

On average police stations serve very large populations in both rural and urban jurisdictions.



### Workload

	State value	State score (out of 10)	Worst value	Best value	State rank
Population per civil police (persons, Jan 2017)	1,209		1,663	445	17

### Trends

	State value	State score (out of 10)	Worst value	Best value	State rank
Women in total police (pp, CY '12-'16)	0.87		-0.65	1.33	2
Women officers in total officers (pp, CY '12-'16)	0.30		-0.68	1.14	8
Constable vacancy (pp, CY '12-'16)	0.39		2.35	-4.14	11
Officer vacancy (pp, CY '12-'16)	-1.52		3.39	-4.53	3
Difference in spend: police vs state (pp, FY '12-'16)	-3.92		-6.11	6.04	10

Data sources: Data on Police Organizations, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D); Combined Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Union and State Governments in India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India; Primary Census Abstract, Census 2011; Open Budgets India.

Notes: 1. Data for 'Jan 2017' is as of January 1, 2017. 2. SC: Scheduled castes; ST: Scheduled tribes; OBC: Other backward classes. 3. pp: percentage points (the difference between two percentages). 4. NA: Not available. 5. CY: Calendar year; FY: Financial year. 6. Civil police includes district armed reserve police.



# PRISONS

RANK IN CATEGORY

4<sup>th</sup>

SCORE (Out of 10)



6.12

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## Budgets

	State value	State score (out of 10)	Worst value	Best value	State rank
Spend per inmate (Rs, 2016-17)	37,224		14,683	41,849	4
Prison budget utilised (% , 2016-17)	99		77	99	1

The state was able to utilise nearly 100% of its allocated prison budget. Over 5 years, it was able to improve its utilisation

## Human Resources

Officers, vacancy (% , Dec 2016)	18.1		70.1	-0.5	3
Cadre staff, vacancy (% , Dec 2016)	20.1		71.6	1.2	8
Correctional staff, vacancy (% , Dec 2016)	32.8		100.0	0.0	5
Medical staff, vacancy (% , Dec 2016)	75.0		85.6	0.0	17
Medical officers, vacancy (% , Dec 2016)	85.0		100.0	0.0	17

Extremely high vacancies at the level of medical officers and medical staff. One medical staff served 999 inmates.

## Diversity

Women in prison staff (% , Dec 2016)	10.1		2.3	18.7	9
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## Infrastructure

Prison occupancy (% , Dec 2016)	110		190	66	6
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## Workload

Inmates per officer (persons, Dec 2016)	118		343	36	8
Inmates per cadre staff (persons, Dec 2016)	8		27	5	4
Inmates per correctional staff (persons, Dec 2016)	560		95,336	124	7

## Trends

Officer vacancy (pp, CY '12-'16)	-1.59		7.91	-3.45	3
Cadre staff vacancy (pp, CY '12-'16)	-0.95		5.60	-7.26	8
Share of women in prison staff (pp, CY '12-'16)	0.25		-0.28	1.46	9
Inmates per prison officer (% , CY '12-'16)	2.1		55.6	-9.7	7
Inmates per cadre staff (% , CY '12-'16)	1.7		14.4	-6.8	10
Share of undertrial prisoners (pp, CY '12-'16)	-0.09		1.41	-0.77	5
Spend per inmate (% , FY '13-'17)	11.4		1.2	65.3	8
Prison budget used (pp, FY '13-'17)	0.59		-2.28	4.00	6
Difference in spend: prisons vs state (pp, FY '12-'16)	-6.4		-21.8	26.3	8

Jails functioned beyond capacity. Over 5 years, occupancy has increased from 101% to 110% despite the share of UTPs declining.

Data sources: Prison Statistics India (PSI), National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB); Combined Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Union and State Governments in India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India; Primary Census Abstract, Census 2011; Open Budgets India.

Notes: 1. Data for 'Dec 2016' is as of December 31, 2016. 2. pp: percentage points (the difference between two percentages). 3. NA: Not available. 4. CY: Calendar year; FY: Financial year.



# JUDICIARY

RANK IN CATEGORY

10<sup>th</sup>

SCORE (Out of 10)



4.70

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## Budgets

	State value	State score (out of 10)	Worst value	Best value	State rank
Per capita spend on judiciary (Rs, 2015-16)	52		52	201	18

## Human Resources

Population per High Court judge (2016-17)	2,380,693		3,558,956	963,181	11
Population per sub. court judge (2016-17)	101,643		113,080	46,056	15
High Court judge vacancy (% , 2016-17)	46.5		59.8	26.1	12
Sub. court judge vacancy (% , 2016-17)	11.0		44.0	4.5	3
High Court staff vacancy (% , 2016-17)	31.1		34.9	5.5	14

Its per capita spend on the judiciary was the lowest among large and mid-sized states

## Diversity

Women judges (High Court) (% , Jun 2018)	17.9		0.0	19.6	2
Women judges (sub. court) (% , Jul 2017)	28.5		11.5	44.0	10

Vacancy among High Court judges was 47%, but such levels were not seen among subordinate court judges.

## Infrastructure

Courthall shortfall (% , 2016-17, Mar 2018)	NA		35.1	0.0	NA
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## Workload

Cases pending (5-10 years) (sub. court) (% , Aug 2018)	19.47		24.04	0.99	14
Cases pending (10+ years) (sub. court) (% , Aug 2018)	12.61		16.57	0.11	14
Average High Court pendency (years, Sep 2017)	3.7		4.3	1.7	9
Average sub. court pendency (years, Aug 2017)	6.1		9.5	3.7	11
Case clearance rate (High Court) (% , 2016-17)	101		70	102	1
Case clearance rate (sub. court) (% , 2016-17)	91		87	129	11

Its High Court cleared more cases in 2016-17 than were filed that year. An improvement in the case clearance rate was also seen over 5 years.

## Trends

Cases pending (per High Court judge) (% , FY '13-'17)	-6.8		17.1	-8.5	2
Cases pending (per sub. court judge) (% , FY '13-'17)	-2.8		6.1	-7.9	10
Total cases pending (High Court) (% , FY '13-'17)	-8.4		10.3	-9.5	2
Total cases pending (sub. court) (% , FY '13-'17)	0.0		7.5	-2.7	7
Judge vacancy (High Court) (pp, FY '13-'17)	3.53		6.71	-1.66	11
Judge vacancy (sub. court) (pp, FY '13-'17)	-1.00		3.75	-4.57	5
Case clearance rate (High Court) (pp, FY '13-'17)	3.50		-4.84	4.75	2
Case clearance rate (sub. court) (pp, FY '13-'17)	-3.32		-7.71	6.11	15
Difference in spend: judiciary vs state (pp, FY '12-'16)	-9.66		-12.59	6.77	14

Data sources: Court News, Supreme Court of India; National Judicial Data Grid; eCourts Services; Websites of High Courts; Approaches to Justice in India: A Report by DAKSH; Combined Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Union and State Governments in India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India; Primary Census Abstract, Census 2011; Application under Right to Information (RTI) Act filed by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy; Open Budgets India; Department of Justice.

Notes: 1. Data for 'Aug 2018' is as of August 23, 2018; for 'Sep 2017' is as of September 19, 2017; for 'Aug 2017' is as of August 29, 2017. 2. Sub. court: subordinate court. 3. pp: percentage points (the difference between two percentages). 4. NA: Not available. 5. CY: Calendar year; FY: Financial year. 6. Since West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands share a High Court, they have been assigned the same values for High Court indicators. 7. Courthall shortfall: Indicator not used as Court News aggregated data on sanctioned number of subordinate court judges for West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. 8. The raw data given for West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands was clubbed for 7 subordinate court indicators: population per judge; judge vacancy (2016-17 and 5-year trend); case clearance rate (2016-17 and 5-year trend); cases pending; total cases pending; judge vacancy. Hence, their values for these 7 indicators are the same.



# LEGAL AID

RANK IN CATEGORY

13<sup>th</sup>

SCORE (Out of 10)



4.64

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## Budgets

	State value	State score (out of 10)	Worst value	Best value	State rank
NALSA fund utilised (% , 2017-18)	77		50	98	9
State's share in legal aid spend (% , 2017-18)	59		0	89	14

## Human Resources

DLSA secretary vacancy (% , 2019)	0.0		34.8	0.0	1
PLVs per lakh population (number, Jan 2019)	2.0		1.6	13.8	17
Sanctioned secretaries as % of DLSAs (% , 2019)	100		100	103	1

Extremely few paralegal volunteers available in the state.

## Diversity

Women panel lawyers (% , Jan 2019)	20.5		7.4	40.4	5
Women PLVs (% , Jan 2019)	37.6		22.3	65.7	8

## Infrastructure

DLSAs as % of state judicial districts (% , 2019)	83		83	100	6
Villages per legal services clinic (number, 2017-18)	64.3		1,603.5	6.2	8
Legal services clinic per jail (number, 2017-18)	0.83		0.19	1.78	7

Lok Adalats effectively disposed of pre-litigation cases.

## Workload

PLA cases: settled as % of received (% , 2017-18)	0		0	85	17
Total LAs: Pre-litigation cases disposed (% , 2017-18) *	92.1		7.4	92.1	1
SLSA LAs: Pre-litigation in cases taken up (% , 2017-18) **	93.8		0.0	93.8	1

Data sources: National Legal Services Authority (NALSA); Primary Census Abstract, Census 2011; Prison Statistics India (PSI), National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).  
 Notes: 1. DLSA: District Legal Services Authority; LA: Lok Adalat; PLA: Permanent Lok Adalat; PLV: Para-Legal Volunteer; SLSA: State Legal Services Authority.  
 Full indicators: \* NLAs + SLSA LAs: Share of pre-litigation cases in disposed cases (% , 2017-18); \*\* SLSA LAs: Pre-litigation cases disposed as % of total cases taken up (% , 2017-18).



## About India Justice Report

The India Justice Report 2019 provides the first comprehensive quantitative index that ranks the capacity of the formal justice system operating in various states on their police, prisons, judiciary and legal aid. This ranking was supported and facilitated by Tata Trusts in partnership with DAKSH, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Common Cause, Centre for Social Justice, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and TISS-Prayas.

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Data and design: How India Lives