

Jumping the Queue

A Landscape Review of Case
Prioritisation Practices in India

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About DAKSH: DAKSH is a Bengaluru-based civil society organisation working on judicial reforms and access to justice. We are focused on solving the problem of pendency of cases in the Indian legal system. We approach the problem from the perspectives of data, efficiency, process, technology and administration.

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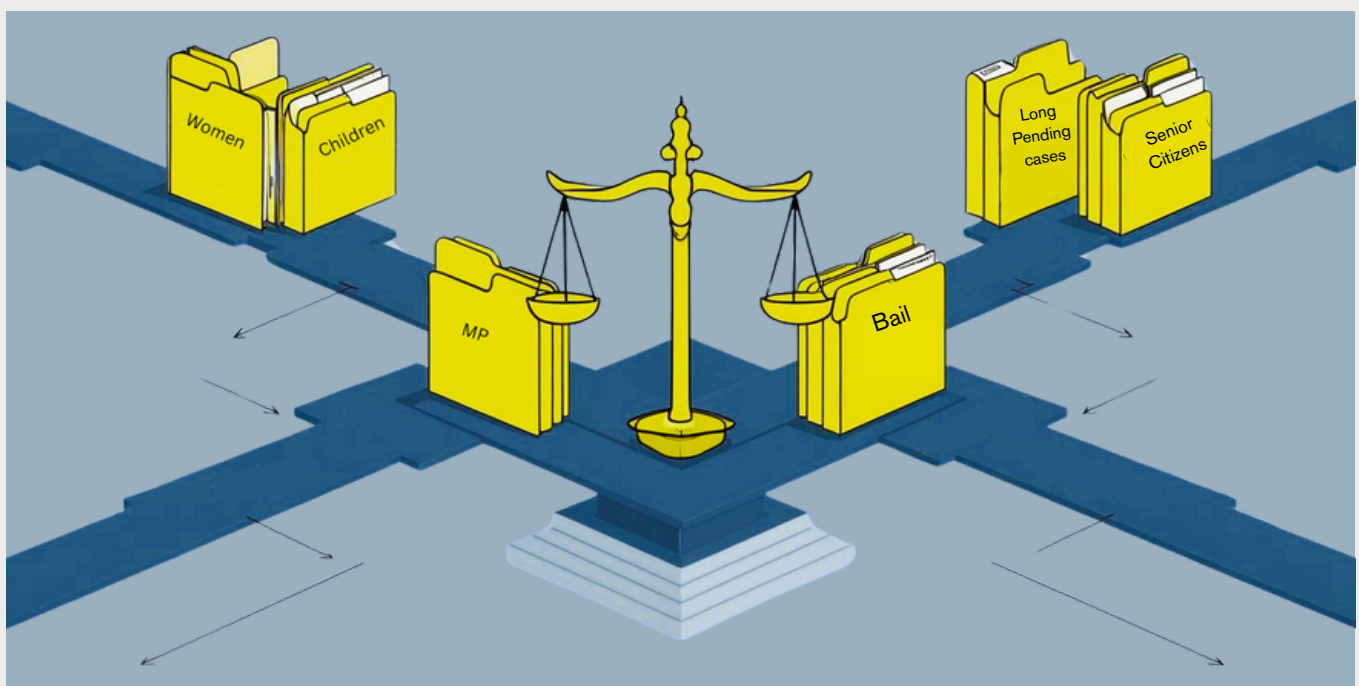
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Case prioritisation as a concept has gained considerable judicial attention in recent years. Case prioritisation refers to the expedited disposal of certain cases based on their nature or the characteristics of the litigants. Resolutions passed in multiple Chief Justices' Conferences have emphasised the importance of prioritising certain case types (such as offences against women and corruption cases) and cases involving specific categories of litigants (such as senior citizens and children). The courts and legislature in India have created a framework for case prioritisation through judgments, legislation, Case Flow Management Rules, and administrative orders such as circulars, office memoranda, and practice directions. This working paper provides a landscape review of how case prioritisation is carried out in India by examining the various mechanisms that support it.

This paper reviews the track system for cases proposed in the model Case Flow Management (CFM) Rules laid down in the *Salem Bar Association* case and their adoption by various states, and the High Court Rules of various states. It discusses issues with the current CFM framework, including inconsistent implementation, the lack of a scientific basis for determining tracks, and the limitations of using case type as the sole factor in assigning tracks. It advocates for a more evidence-based approach, suggesting that case complexity and urgency should determine prioritisation rather than case type alone.

The paper then explores how Indian courts have shaped the discourse on prioritisation by identifying specific types of cases and litigants for priority through judicial decisions and administrative orders. The paper also looks into various legislative policies to understand the cases where the legislature has expressed the need for prioritised disposal.

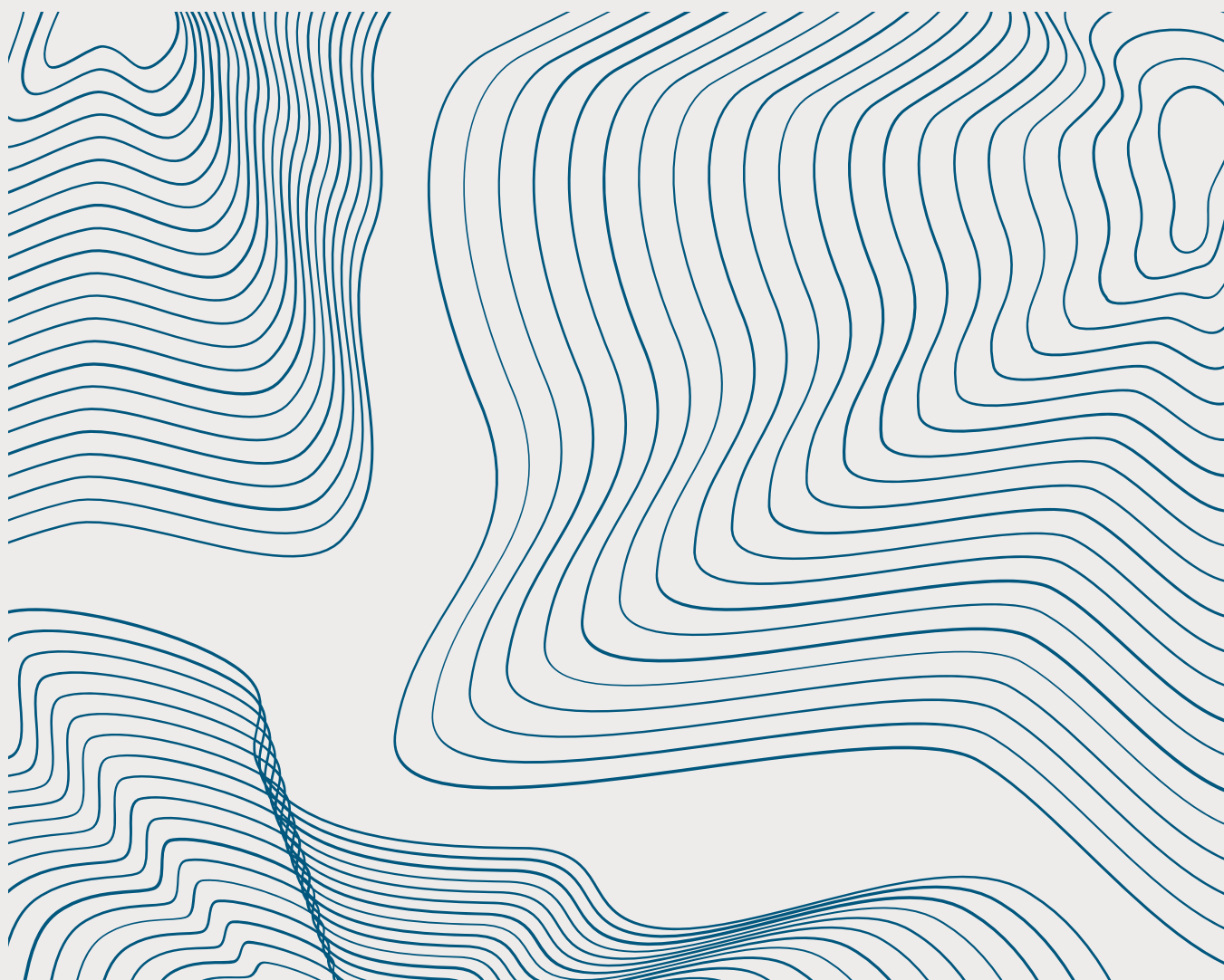


To provide a comparative perspective, the paper reviews international practices for managing cases based on their complexity and urgency. These include Germany's Pebbsy system, Romania's point-based complexity scoring, the Netherlands' work-sampling method, the USA's three-track DCM plan and case-weighting system, Moldova's fixed and variable complexity components, and Bulgaria's judicial questionnaire-based system. These models offer more refined methods for assessing and managing case complexity.

The paper also discusses the 2024 NCMS Sub-Committee's recommendation to incorporate case complexity into judicial scheduling and its proposed Case Load Management Model (CLMM), which moves beyond traditional case-type-based categorisation.

This paper evaluates the effectiveness of case prioritisation as a case management strategy and calls for a data-driven, continuously evolving system that ensures fairness and minimises the risk of strategic manipulation by litigants and legal practitioners.

This paper intends to serve as a background paper which could spark further discussion, research and debates around the topic of case prioritisation.





CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Case pendency has long plagued the Indian judicial system. At the time of the writing of this paper, 3,46,39,969 criminal cases and 1,08,94,019 civil cases remain pending across various district courts in India.¹ Of these, 10% have been pending for over a decade, while 21% have remained unresolved for five to ten years.² Both the legislature and the judiciary have attempted various solutions to address this crisis. Fast-track courts were established to expedite the disposal of certain categories of serious criminal cases, but faced challenges due to inconsistent funding and a shortage of judges.³ Lok Adalats and mediation mechanisms have sought to divert cases from formal courts, yet their effectiveness has varied based on jurisdiction and the willingness of parties to settle.⁴

In light of the continuing challenge of growing caseloads, case-flow management has emerged as a critical tool to address case pendency as well as the movement of cases through the system. Case-flow management in courts refers to the systematic organisation and oversight of cases to ensure their timely and efficient resolution.⁵ Effective case management involves organising cases based on urgency, allocating appropriate resources, and monitoring progress throughout the judicial process.⁶ It aims to streamline court proceedings and reduce delays, ensuring that cases move forward without unnecessary hindrances.

Within the framework of case management, prioritisation of cases plays a crucial role.⁷ In this context, prioritisation could mean that certain cases are heard ahead of others, such as through more frequent listings or priority placement in the cause list. The underlying rationale is that specific types of cases or certain categories of litigants warrant preferential treatment, either due to the nature of the case or the vulnerable position of the litigant.

The judiciary has consistently stressed the importance of prioritising certain cases involving specific groups of litigants. The Supreme Court's Arrears Committee Report (1989-90) had recommended giving priority to cases based on their subject matter.⁸ More recently, resolutions from multiple editions of the Chief Justices' Conferences have echoed this concern, urging courts to prioritise and expedite cases related to offences against women, children, differently-abled persons, senior citizens, marginalised groups, motor accident claims, prevention of corruption, under-trial prisoners, and cases that have been pending for long durations.⁹ It has also been suggested in the conference that cases must be categorised on the basis of urgency and priority.¹⁰

Courts in India have created frameworks for case prioritisation through various mechanisms, including judgments, Case Flow Management (CFM) Rules, and administrative orders like circulars, office memorandums, and practice directions. However, the implementation of these frameworks has often been ad hoc and inconsistent. There have also been legislative efforts to expedite case disposal through statutes mandating accelerated procedures for specific categories of cases and the establishment of special courts dedicated to their resolution. Even though the courts and

legislature prioritise certain cases, these efforts do not form part of a coherent case management framework.

This paper aims to systematically compile and analyse the various rules, policies, and mechanisms employed by courts and legislatures in India to prioritise cases. Understanding these approaches is particularly relevant because prioritising certain case types or litigants is inherently a policy choice, reflecting broader societal, economic, or administrative priorities. Such prioritisation can be contentious, especially within a judiciary where an overwhelming number of cases compete for limited judicial resources. The act of prioritisation inevitably raises questions of fairness and equity, as emphasising certain categories of cases may inadvertently marginalise others that are equally deserving of timely resolution. Therefore, it is essential to examine how the judiciary and legislature in India have approached case prioritisation and to assess whether these efforts are consistent, transparent, and equitable.

The second and third chapters of this paper review the Model Case Flow Management Rules, their adoption by various States, and the High Court rules related to case prioritisation. The fourth chapter critically examines the current prioritisation framework provided in these rules and highlights key issues, including: (a) the lack of a scientific basis for determining case tracks, (b) challenges in the implementation of the rules, (c) the absence of standardisation across jurisdictions, and (d) the limitations of using case type as the sole factor for prioritisation.

The fifth chapter explores how Indian courts have prioritised cases through judicial pronouncements and administrative orders.

The sixth chapter examines legislative policies to identify the areas where the legislature has expressed the need for prioritised disposal. To provide a comparative perspective, the seventh chapter examines how other countries have adopted more nuanced methods of managing cases based on their complexity, moving away from case-type-based prioritisation. The eighth chapter discusses the 2024 NCMS Sub-Committee report on case management, which recommends incorporating case complexity into judicial scheduling and proposes a Case Load Management Model (CLMM) that moves beyond traditional case-type-based categorisation. The paper concludes by synthesising key insights and by critically assessing the effectiveness of case prioritisation as a case management tool.



OBJECTIVE

This paper examines and analyses how courts and the legislature approach case prioritisation in India. It consolidates relevant rules, policies, and mechanisms that influence case prioritisation. The paper provides a foundation for further research, policymaking, and the development of implementation frameworks.

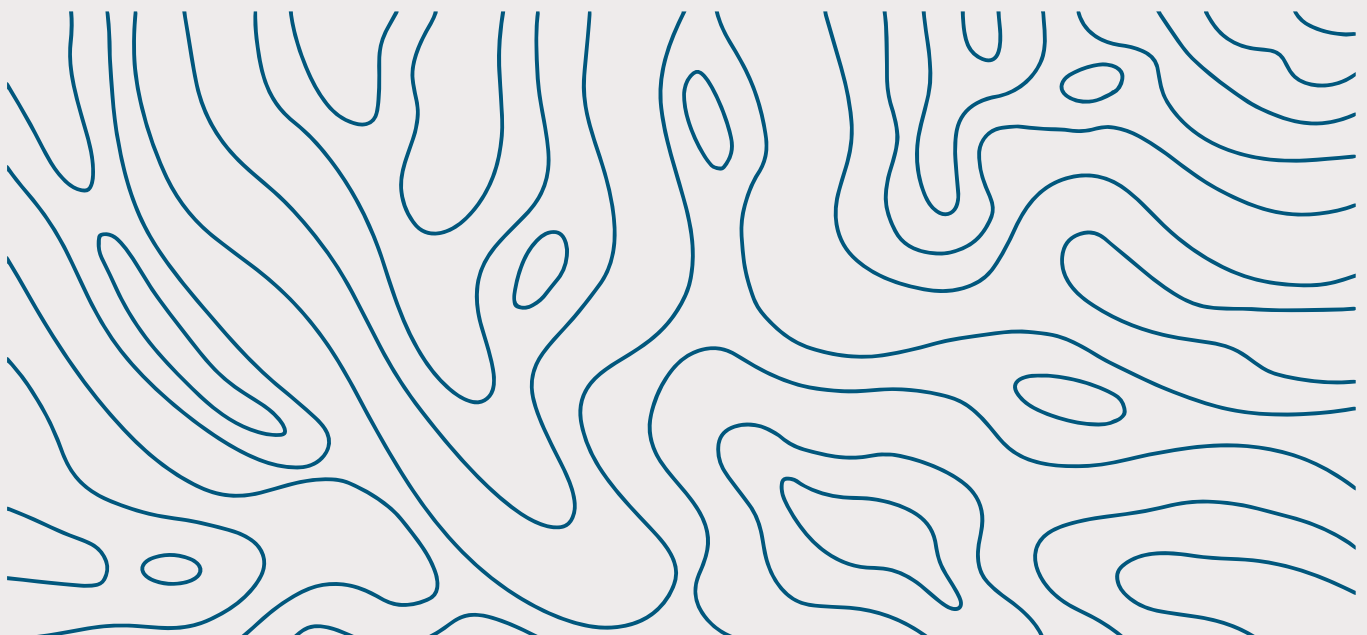
SCOPE AND LIMITATION

This paper focuses on identifying and analysing the existing legal and institutional framework for case prioritisation in India. It considers various instruments such as CFM rules, court judgments, circulars, orders, practice directions, and relevant legislation. However, it does not contain an exhaustive compilation of all rules and policies governing case prioritisation in India. Several court circulars and regulations remain inaccessible to the public or are difficult to locate due to the absence of proper tags or headings on court websites. Additionally, some documents related to prioritisation found on court websites could not be included, as they lacked identifying details, such as an order or notice number or the signature of a relevant authority, making it impossible to verify their authenticity.

Furthermore, this study does not propose specific reforms or solutions to the challenges of case prioritisation in India. Rather, it serves as a preliminary literature review that highlights key issues and gaps and aims to lay the groundwork for future research on this subject.

METHODOLOGY

This paper draws on a qualitative review of publicly available documents, including judgments, legislation, CFM rules, high court rules, and administrative orders of the court. It engages with secondary sources to analyse international practices regarding differential handling of cases.



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CHAPTER II

CASE FLOW MANAGEMENT RULES

CHAPTER II: CASE FLOW MANAGEMENT RULES

CFM Rules have been the most systematic effort at devising a method to schedule and manage case lifecycles in Indian courts. In *Salem Advocate Bar Association v. Union of India*¹¹, the Supreme Court noted that though legislative provisions had been introduced to settle disputes to reduce litigation, these had not resulted in the reduction of the burden on courts. The Court suggested that it would be prudent to establish a committee to devise a case management formula and model rules to ensure that the amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure, challenged in the case, would be effective and lead to quicker disposal of cases.¹² In response, a committee chaired by Justice M. Jagannadha Rao was tasked with this exercise. This Committee drafted the Model Case Flow Management Rules 2003 and proposed categorising cases into different “tracks” based on their nature.¹³ These tracks were designed to allocate judicial resources efficiently, reduce backlogs, and facilitate the timely resolution of cases. The Model Rules provided the framework for CFM for both the district judiciary (original suits and first appeals) as well as High Courts (writ petition, civil/criminal appeals). The Supreme Court thereafter, in *Salem Advocate Bar Association (II) v. Union of India*, asked High Courts to examine the report and consider adopting it, with or without modification, within four months.¹⁴

A. Model Rules for District Judiciary

The Model Rules for the district judiciary categorise cases into different tracks based on their nature and assign specific timelines for their disposal. However, it is not clear on what basis these timelines were calculated.

Civil Cases

Civil cases are classified into four tracks based on the type of dispute.

Track	Case Type	Target Disposal Time
Track 1	Family matters (divorce, child custody, adoption, maintenance)	6 months
Track 2	Money claims(negotiable instruments, document-based suits)	9 months
Track 3	Partition, property, and Intellectual property disputes	12 months
Track 4	Rent, lease, and eviction cases	18 months

Criminal Cases

Criminal cases are classified into five tracks based on the nature of the offence, sentence severity, and custody status of the accused.

Track	Case Type	Target Disposal Time
Track 1	Capital punishment cases	6 months
Track 2	Cases where the accused is in jail without bail	9 months
Track 3	Cases with a broad public impact (mass cheating, economic offences, illicit liquor tragedies, food adulteration, sensitive cases like rape)	12 months
Track 4	Cases under special laws (POTA, TADA, NDPS, Prevention of Corruption Act)	15 months

Adoption of the Model Rules by the District Judiciary

While the Court in *Salem Bar Association* stated that the Model Rules can be adopted by the states with or without modification, most states have adopted the Model Rules as is. However, there are some variations between states. Most significantly, almost all states have increased the timelines for case disposal in the civil and criminal tracks.¹⁵ Additionally, cases related to rape, sexual offences, and dowry deaths have been included under Track I of the criminal track by most states, signifying the urgency accorded to these cases.¹⁶ Some other significant variations from the Model Rules by the states are as provided below.

- Gujarat has adopted a track system that further divides Track 1 into further tracks (A-F) with varying timelines for different case types.¹⁷ For example, within Track 1, the timeline for disposal of an Interlocutory Application or a Review Application is 30 days, whereas the timeline for disposal of the case of a senior citizen is 9 months.¹⁸
- CFM Rules in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, have a more extensive list of case types within the different tracks compared to the model rules. For example, Tamil Nadu lists 15 civil case types in Track I, 9 in Track II, and 14 in Track III.

B. Model Rules for High Courts

Similar to the rules for the district judiciary, the Model Rules for Case Flow Management for High Courts¹⁹ also categorise cases into different tracks. Additionally, these rules prescribe timelines for serving notices and documents. According to these rules, upon admission to the High Court, writ petitions (excluding habeas corpus petitions) and civil appeals are to be classified into fast, normal, and slow tracks based on urgency.

The rules also mandate that cases involving interim orders of stay or injunctions regarding tax liability, demolition, or eviction from public premises, as well as all matters involving tenders, shall be placed in the Fast Track. According to the Model Rules, the cases in the Fast Track shall be disposed of within 3 months, cases in the Normal Track within one year, and cases in the Slow Track within two years.

The Rules also categorise criminal appeal cases into five tracks based on the nature of the offence, the length of the sentence, and whether the accused has been released on bail or not. The Rules mandate that capital punishment cases be placed in Track 1, cases where the accused is not granted bail in Track 2, and cases affecting a large number of persons—such as mass cheating, economic offences, illicit liquor tragedies, food adulteration cases, and sensitive cases including rape—under Track 3. All other cases are classified as Track 4. The Rule provides that the “endeavour” should be to complete Track 1 cases within 6 months, Track 2 cases within 9 months, Track 3 cases within 12 months, and Track 4 cases within 15 months.

Adoption of the Model Rules by High Courts

Fifteen High Courts in India have adopted CFM rules based on the Model Rules for Case Flow Management (Appendix I). The Model Rules require a court or designated judges to monitor the stage of each case.²⁰ To implement this provision, most High Court CFM rules assign a senior officer of the High Court, like the Registrar, to oversee the progress of cases.²¹

Most High Court CFM Rules more or less adhere to the track categorisation and timelines as outlined in the Model Rules. However, there are some notable deviations. Unlike the Model Rules, which prescribe a three-month timeframe for completing civil cases and writ petition cases in the Fast Track, all High Court CFM Rules extend this period to six months. Additionally, while the Model Rules restrict Track I to cases involving capital punishment, some High Court CFM Rules expand Track I to also include cases of rape, sexual offences, and dowry deaths.²²

The only High Court CFM Rules which notably expand on the Model Rules are the Tripura High Court's Case Flow Management Rules, 2017. These Rules specify different tracks within case types like service cases, civil appeals, and criminal cases based on the relief sought in the case.²³ For example, the service cases in which suspension or transfer are under dispute are included in the fast track, while cases of promotion are in the slow track.²⁴ The Tripura Rules also require certain cases in the Fast Track to be disposed of quicker than the mandated six months. For example, petitions for bail, parole, or applications for furlough are directed to be disposed of within 3 months, while Miscellaneous Civil Applications for Restoration are to be disposed of within 3 weeks.²⁵ However, the Rules provide no specific timelines for some cases, even though they are listed under the Fast Track. For example, in cases of criminal appeals where the imprisonment is less than 7 years and bail has been granted, the Rules state that such cases can be decided 'in due course,' despite being listed under the Fast Track.²⁶

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16. See for example Rule 1C, Rajasthan Subordinate Courts Case Flow Management Rules, 2006; Rule 15, Uttarakhand Case Flow Management (For Subordinate Courts) Rules, 2009; Rule III(b), Case Flow Management Rules 2006 in the Subordinate Courts.
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CHAPTER III

HIGH COURT RULES

CHAPTER III: HIGH COURT RULES

Beyond the CFM Rules, individual High Court Rules also play a significant role in streamlining case prioritisation. In states like Kerala, where there are no CFM Rules for the High Court, the High Court Rules act as the primary framework for prioritising cases.²⁷ In contrast, states such as Madhya Pradesh have a dual framework where both the CFM Rules of the High Court and the High Court Rules prescribe rules for the prioritisation of cases. In addition to the cases prioritised under the Madhya Pradesh High Court CFM rules, the Madhya Pradesh High Court rules provide for expediting criminal cases involving accused persons in custody for over five years, women prisoners with children, senior citizens, and part-heard matters, etc.²⁸

Some of the common case types and litigant types prioritised in the High Court Rules across India are:

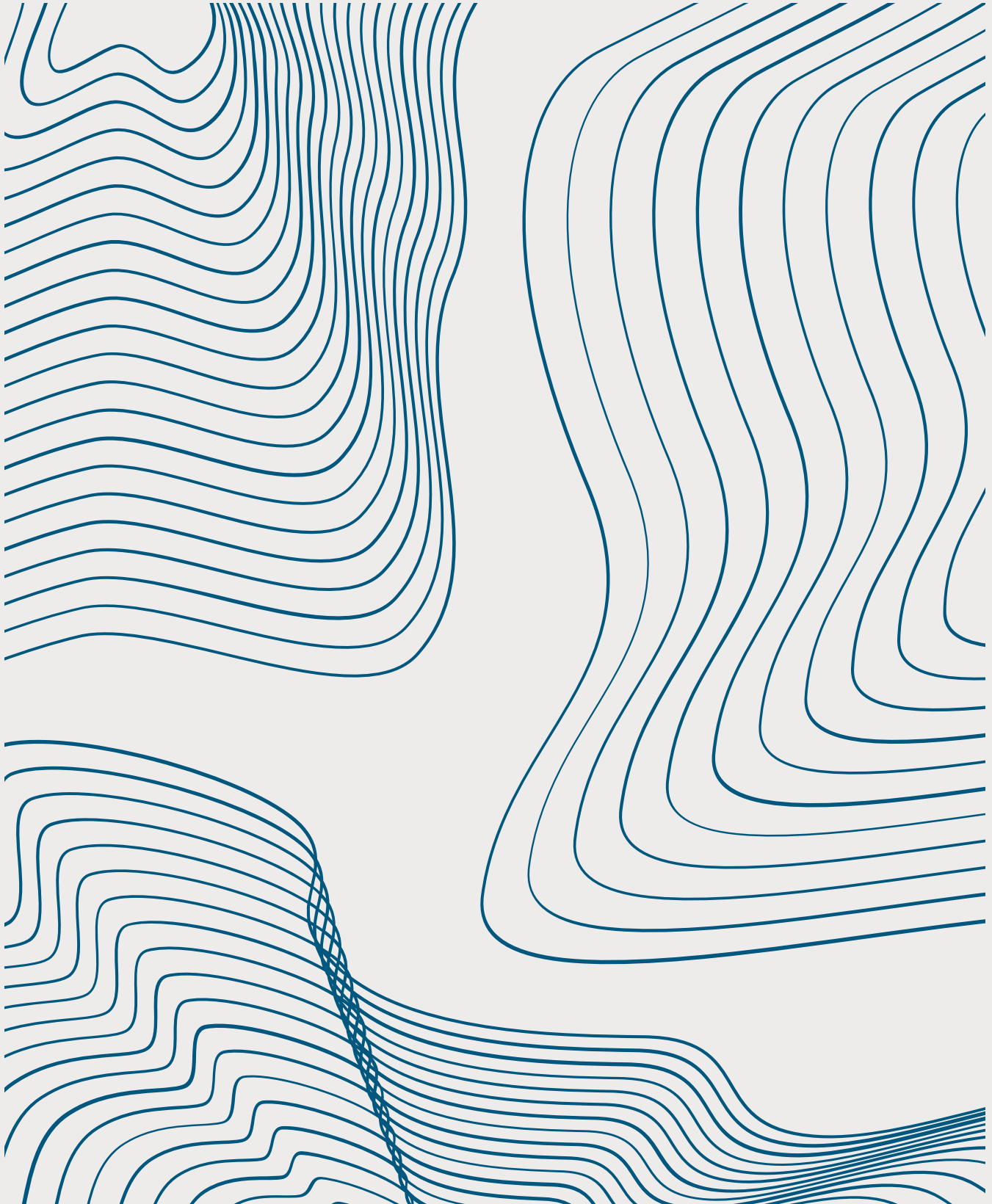
High Court Rules	Habeas Corpus	Stayed Cases/Cases delaying district court proceedings	Matrimonial Cases	Senior Citizen	Women
Madhya Pradesh	Yes			Yes	
Odisha	Yes	Yes			
Manipur	Yes				
Punjab & Haryana	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Tripura	Yes				
Jharkhand	Yes				
Gujarat	Yes				
Kerala		Yes	Yes	Yes	
Karnataka		Yes	Yes		
Andhra Pradesh		Yes			
Bombay			Yes		
Allahabad		Yes			

High Court Rules	Widows	Disabled	Probate & Succession	Land Acquisition	PIL/Matters of Public Importance	Military personnel
Punjab & Haryana		Yes			Yes	Yes
Kerala	Yes		Yes	Yes		
Karnataka			Yes	Yes		
Andhra Pradesh			Yes	Yes		
Bombay						Yes
Rajasthan					Yes	
Delhi						Yes

Some High Courts also prioritise the listing of certain cases in the cause list. Some examples of prioritisation in the cause list are provided below:

- Kerala High Court Rules mandate that part heard cases, referred trials, cases in which the accused persons have been produced in Court, cases in which reports have been called for or findings have been submitted, cases which have been directed to be posted to a specific date or on the expiry of a specified period, and cases in which the hearing has been directed to be expedited or advanced to be placed at the top of the daily cause list.²⁹
- The Scheme for Rationalisation of Case Listings by the Madhya Pradesh High Court states that priority should be assigned to final hearing cases listed in the cause lists before the Single Bench and the Division Bench.
- The prioritisation list published on the basis of the scheme categorises cases into civil, criminal, writ, and election matters and prioritises them based on their nature or the status of the litigants.³⁰ For instance, top priority across all categories is granted to cases expedited by the Supreme Court, followed by those expedited by the High Court. The prioritisation list grants preference to specific litigants, such as senior citizens, differently-abled persons, street vendors, and women in jail with children.³¹ Additionally, the list establishes a structured hierarchy of prioritisation within various case types, depending on the nature of the relief sought. For example, in matrimonial cases, the highest priority is given to prayers for dissolution, followed by restitution, separation, maintenance, child custody, and other related matters.³² A similar prioritisation structure is applied within other case types, such as quashing of FIRs, accident claims, educational matters, service matters, appeals against conviction, etc.³³

- Tripura High Court Rules provide that part-heard matters should be placed at the top of the stage to which the said case belongs, in the Daily Cause List.³⁴ Similarly, the Rajasthan High Court rules also provide for part-heard cases to be listed in priority in the cause list.³⁵



References

27. See for example Rule 94 of Kerala High Court Rules, 1971 which provide for expediting cases in which other proceedings are stayed, cases causing delay in disposal of cases pending in lower court, appeals in matrimonial cases etc.
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CHAPTER IV

REVIEWING CASE FLOW MANAGEMENT AND HIGH COURT RULES

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A. Lack of scientific basis

The Model CFM Rules and their adaptations by individual states seem to have been formulated without a comprehensive empirical analysis of the actual time required to resolve different types of cases. As a result, the classification of cases into various tracks appears to be based more on their perceived gravity or societal impact, rather than on a practical understanding of the time necessary for their resolution. Furthermore, these rules fail to account for other critical factors that influence case timelines, such as the existing workload of a court, resource availability, and the complexity of individual cases. Case-flow management needs to be more localised and based on a scientific understanding of each court's specific context, including its jurisdiction, the types of cases it handles, and other relevant factors. In line with this, the Madras High Court has repeatedly emphasised that orders for speedy disposals cannot be made "in the absence of total pendency particulars and work burden of that particular Court".³⁶ By not considering these real-world variables, the CFM Rules become impracticable and fail to ensure timely and efficient case disposal across all categories.

B. Issues with categorisation as per case type or litigant type

Case prioritisation in CFM Rules and the High Court Rules is based on the nature of the case (case type) or the status of the litigant. Timelines for disposal are then prescribed according to these categories. However, this approach is overly simplistic, as it fails to consider various factors affecting cases within the same case type that can significantly impact the timeline for their disposal. These factors include the number of accused, the nature of evidence, the specific relief sought, the number of witnesses, the case load of the court and other complexities.

The examples below demonstrate how cases within the same type can vary greatly in terms of disposal timelines:

- **Illustration 1:** The judicial time needed for intellectual property infringement cases will vary depending on the nature of the case. A straightforward copyright infringement involving the unauthorised reproduction of a literary work can be resolved relatively quickly. In contrast, a complex patent infringement case involving technical specifications, expert testimonies, and analysis of prior art requires significantly more time and resources.
- **Illustration 2:** An eviction suit filed by a landlord against a tenant for non-payment of rent under a straightforward lease agreement can be resolved quickly. However, an eviction suit involving claims of adverse possession demands, detailed examination of evidence, legal arguments, and often multiple hearings, resulting in a lengthier process.

- **Illustration 3:** Murder cases also differ in complexity. A murder case involving multiple accused persons, extensive forensic analysis, and conspiracy allegations will require considerably more time than a straightforward case where the evidence is direct and undisputed.

These examples illustrate that relying exclusively on case type or litigant status for prioritisation overlooks crucial nuances that affect disposal timelines. Instead, a more refined system is necessary—one that accounts for various factors such as the number of accused persons, the presence of forensic evidence, case load of the court, specific relief sought (case sub-types and sub-sub-types already developed by courts for listing can be used for this), the number of witnesses, death of a party, etc.

While it is important to develop a nuanced approach to case prioritisation, it is also essential to acknowledge that no system can capture all possible complexities. Outlier cases will inevitably arise where disposal timelines cannot be accurately predicted.

For example, the Kerala actress assault case serves as a clear outlier. Unlike a typical rape trial, which is expected to conclude within a reasonable timeframe under statutes like the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, this case has encountered prolonged delays due to complications such as witness tampering allegations, judicial recusals, and procedural hurdles.³⁷ As a result, it has remained pending in the trial court for over seven years.

However, policies should not be formulated based on extreme or exceptional cases. Instead, they should be designed to accommodate the majority of cases while allowing for flexibility in handling unique or particularly complex matters.



C. Issues with Implementation

The CFM Rules and the timelines mentioned in the High Court Rules have largely not been implemented across states. In a resolution passed during the Chief Justices Conference held in April 2016, it was noted that efforts must be made to strengthen the CFM Rules.³⁸ In *Yashpal Jain v. Sushila Devi*, the Supreme Court observed that, while High Courts have established committees to monitor the implementation of CFM Rules, their “effective implementation seems to have gone into oblivion.”³⁹

One significant obstacle to implementation is the unrealistic timelines mandated under the track system. Imposing timelines that cannot be uniformly followed by all courts leads to their inconsistent application and undermines the credibility of the framework. Compounding this issue are vague directives in certain High Court Rules that require cases to be disposed of “expeditiously” without specifying a clear timeframe.⁴⁰ Given the already heavy caseloads faced by most Indian courts, expecting them to prioritise certain matters in the absence of defined deadlines is impractical. Such ambiguity not only makes implementation uneven but also creates confusion within the district judiciary. However, unrealistic and vague timelines are not the only reason for the poor implementation of the timelines mentioned in the CFM and High Court Rules.

The CFM Rules have also not been implemented because they do not provide a framework for such implementation. Given the unfamiliarity of judges and court staff with the practices of case management, it is necessary to train them on the implementation of case management. Such implementation will include scheduling case management hearings, changes in the process of listing of cases, and establishing guidelines for lawyers. Additionally, the software being used by courts (Court Information Systems or CIS) will need to embed these practices by scheduling hearings automatically, tracking case milestones and alerting judges and staff when such milestones are missed.

However, even if realistic timelines are established and a framework for implementing CFM rules is put in place, effective implementation would also ultimately depend on the realities faced by the key stakeholders in the district judiciary. Judges at this level often operate under systemic pressures that compromise their ability to adhere to these schedules. For instance, they are frequently required to prioritise certain cases based on directions from higher courts, which mandate the disposal of specific cases within a set timeframe. Additionally, directives from the High Court to target the disposal of particular case types exacerbate the issue. This forces district courts to allocate disproportionate resources to expedite certain cases, disrupting scheduling and causing delays in others. Although the Supreme Court has held in cases such as *Abdul Rehman Antulay & Ors. v. R.S.*⁴¹ *Nayak & Anr., P. Ramachandra Rao v. State of Karnataka*,⁴² and more recently, *High Court Bar Association, Allahabad v. State of U.P. & Ors.*⁴³ that it is impermissible to impose fixed timelines for trial completion, this practice persists. The lawyers and litigants also play a role in the court’s inability to adhere to strict timelines.

For many lawyers and litigants, obtaining a stay can often be perceived as a victory, especially in civil matters where a stay order may prevent immediate adverse action.⁴⁴ Consequently, once a stay is granted, there is often little incentive for the lawyer or litigant who asked for the stay to actively pursue the case. Instead, they may prolong the proceedings simply by seeking periodic extensions of the interim order.

While in many cases, it has been recognised that trial courts should follow timelines provided in CFM rules with regard to disposal,⁴⁵ there seems to be confusion regarding the need for implementation of CFM Rules. In a petition before the Madras High Court seeking appropriate steps to frame rules for CFM in the High Court and to monitor all cases handled by courts in Tamil Nadu, the Court observed that merely formulating rules or guidelines would be ineffective unless the number of judicial officers, staff, and other infrastructure is increased.⁴⁶ In a writ petition filed in 2015, the petitioner prayed for a direction to the Delhi High Court to adopt the model CFM system mentioned in the *Salem Bar Association* case. The Court observed that the Delhi High Court Rules already contain most of the provisions found in the model CFM Rules. However, it directed the Registrar to examine whether there is a need to adopt the model rules in their entirety.⁴⁷ A committee was constituted by the Delhi High Court to consider the implementation of CFM Rules. However, the committee has not yet formulated any such rules for the Delhi High Court.

Despite this lack of uniform adoption and clarity, there are instances where High Courts have actively relied on CFM Rules to streamline judicial processes at the district level. The Calcutta High Court, in multiple cases,⁴⁸ has directed the trial courts to dispose of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) cases within 9 months from the submission of the charge sheet, as these cases are listed as Track 1. The Madras High Court itself has, in various cases, cited the CFM Rules for the district judiciary to direct trial courts to dispose of cases according to the timelines mentioned in the CFM Rules.⁴⁹

Thus, there is an inconsistency in the implementation of CFM rules between High Courts. The reasons for this inconsistency could stem from the impracticality of adhering strictly to the prescribed timelines or from a lack of awareness and sensitisation within the judiciary regarding CFM Rules.

Therefore, even if timelines for disposal are based on empirical data, their effectiveness depends on the proper sensitisation of the judiciary and the establishment of an oversight mechanism to ensure consistent implementation.



D. Standardisation of CFM Rules

Even though some states have made minor changes to the Model CFM Rules, most have adopted them almost verbatim. The standardisation of CFM tracks and rules across India may not be prudent due to the diverse needs and conditions prevalent in different states and districts.

India's vast socio-economic and cultural diversity means that the legal landscape can vary significantly, even within a single state. For instance, in states with a high incidence of bootleg liquor-related deaths, there might be a need to prioritise such cases with specific tracks and shorter timelines. The caseload in courts also varies significantly depending on the location of the court. Therefore, as discussed earlier, before the implementation of such specialised tracks, it is essential to conduct scientific studies to ascertain the actual volume of these cases, their complexity, and the time realistically required for their resolution. Merely reacting to public pressure or perceived importance without a data-driven understanding could lead to inefficiencies and misallocation of judicial resources. Moreover, imposing uniform rules might overlook the local legal and administrative context, leading to a one-size-fits-all approach that could be counterproductive. Without such a scientific approach, there is a risk of creating tracks that either overburden the system or fail to address the nuances of local legal landscapes. Even though most state CFM rules follow the Model Rules, the Supreme Court in *Salem Bar Association* saw the Model Rules as merely a framework which could be then adopted by states according to their needs. Thus, CFM rules which are adaptable to local conditions are necessary to ensure that justice is delivered in a timely and contextually appropriate manner.



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CHAPTER V

INDIAN COURTS ON CASE PRIORITISATION

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Courts in India over the years have, in their judgments and administrative orders, directed that certain types of cases and litigants need to be handled differently from others. This section discusses the subjects that the courts have prioritised through their judgments and administrative decisions.

A. Matters affecting personal liberty

The Supreme Court and high courts have recognised the right of a person in custody to a speedy trial in a series of judgments.⁵⁰ In these judgments, the Courts recognised an undertrial's right to a speedy trial as part of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.⁵¹ The Supreme Court, in its recent judgment in *Javed Gulam Nabi v. State of Maharashtra*, also emphasised that the right to a speedy trial is even available to persons accused of serious crimes like UAPA.⁵²

The Supreme Court, in the case of *Mahesh Kumar Chauhan v. Union of India*⁵³ has observed that a detainee facing deprivation of liberty must have their representation considered and resolved promptly. Any undue delay in addressing such representation could make the detention unlawful, violating the constitutional mandate under Article 22(5) of the Constitution. If a delay occurs, the concerned authority must provide a satisfactory explanation to the Court.

The Supreme Court has also highlighted the necessity of swiftly resolving bail applications, directing district courts to aim for a decision within a week and High Courts within two to three weeks whenever feasible.⁵⁴ Furthermore, the Supreme Court has stressed the urgent need for courts to expedite the disposal of criminal appeals involving individuals who have been in custody for over five years.⁵⁵ Thereafter, the Court in the case of *Satender Kumar Antil v. CBI*⁵⁶ has also directed courts to dispose of bail applications within a period of two weeks and anticipatory bail applications within a period of six weeks unless there is an intervening application.

B. Elected Representatives

The Supreme Court has, in its decisions, directed the swift disposal of cases involving elected representatives due to the impact of the outcome of such cases on electoral democracy. The Supreme Court in the case of *Public Interest Foundation v. Union of India*⁵⁷ held that trials of sitting MPs and MLAs who have charges framed against them for the offences under the Representation of People Act, 1951 should be concluded as expeditiously as possible, and in no case later than one year from the date of framing charges. The Court also held that if the trial court cannot complete the trial within one year, the court would have to submit a report to the Chief Justice of the High Court indicating special reasons for not adhering to that timeline.

The Supreme Court in the case of *Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay v. UOI*⁵⁸ also issued a set of directions to expedite the cases involving elected representatives. The Supreme Court, in this case, directed the high courts to constitute special benches in their court and special courts at the district level for the expedited disposal of criminal cases against MPs/MLAs. The Supreme Court also directed that the designated court dealing with the cases of MPs/MLAs give priority to the criminal cases against MPs/MLAs punishable with death or life imprisonment, and then to cases punishable with imprisonment for more than 10 years and then to other cases. The High Courts have followed this directive and have directed that all criminal cases of MPs/MLAs pending before them be given priority.⁵⁹

C. Senior Citizens

The Andhra Pradesh High Court, in the case of *Pelluri Venkata Hanumantha Krishna Murthy Sharma v. Pelluri Venkata Lakshmi Narasimha Rao*, observed that the courts have a duty to see that the cases of senior citizens are given priority for early disposal to enable them to enjoy the fruits of the litigation during their lifetime.⁶⁰ It further observed that respect for senior citizens must not only be shown by giving concessions in public transport but also by rendering speedy justice to them.

The Bombay High Court has also issued a circular directing the High Court and district courts to prioritise cases where one of the parties is aged 65 years or above. The Bombay High Court in the case of *Tulijo Narayandas Lakhani v. State of Maharashtra*⁶¹ cited the aforementioned circular to prioritise the disposal of a criminal case where the main witness was 77 years old.

D. Commercial cases

In the period after economic liberalisation, Indian courts have been more mindful of the impact of judicial decisions on the economy.⁶² In the case of *Shivashakti Sugars Limited v. Shree Renuka Sugar Limited*,⁶³ the Supreme Court observed that in a developing country like India, the court is duty-bound to conduct an economic analysis and understand the economic impact of its decisions. The Court also observed that the judiciary must do its part in helping India become a developed country.

With the passage of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, to ensure quicker resolution of commercial disputes, the courts have also passed judgments aligning with the objectives of the Act. In the case of *SCG Contracts India Pvt Ltd v. K.S. Chamankar Infrastructure Pvt Ltd*,⁶⁴ the Supreme Court held that a written statement would not be taken on record in commercial suits if it is not filed within 120 days from the date of service of summons. While the requirement to file a written statement within 120 days in regular suits has been treated as a guideline, the same requirement under the Commercial Courts Act has been deemed mandatory. This reflects the Court's emphasis on expediting proceedings in commercial suits.

The Supreme Court in the case of *Chopra Fabricators and Manufacturers Private Limited v. Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited*,⁶⁵ while dealing with the high pendency of commercial arbitration cases in the state of Uttar Pradesh, observed that commercial disputes not being decided/disposed of at the earliest may ultimately affect the economy of the country and spoil business relations between the parties. In the case of *Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd. v. Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp*,⁶⁶ the Supreme Court directed the Local Commissioner under Article 142 of the Indian Constitution to record evidence on a day-to-day basis. The Court justified this unusual direction by stating that the said case falls under the category of “highly contested commercial case”, and this category of cases requires the immediate attention of the court. It was observed that such cases should be disposed of expeditiously to ensure a suitable commercial environment, which is vital to national interest.

The Supreme Court has also, in its judgments, prioritised the speedy disposal of intellectual property matters. The Court in the cases of *Shree Vardhman Rice and Gen Mills v. Amar Singh Chawalwala*,⁶⁷ and *Bajaj Auto Ltd. v. TVS Motor Co. Ltd*,⁶⁸ held that the matters relating to trademarks, copyrights and patents should be finally decided expeditiously by the trial court instead of merely deciding on injunctions. The Court also held that in intellectual property matters, there should be daily hearings and the final judgment should be given normally within four months from the date of the filing of the suit.

E. HIV Patients

The Supreme Court of India in the case of *CPL Ashish Kumar Chauhan(Retd.) v. Commanding Officer*⁶⁹ directed every court and quasi-judicial body to strictly comply with the provisions of Section 34 of the HIV Act 2017. This section mandates that in any proceeding concerning or relating to an HIV-positive person, the court must take up and dispose of the proceeding on a priority basis.⁷⁰

F. Rent Cases

In *Hameed Kunju v. Nazim*,⁷¹ the Supreme Court held that eviction matters should be prioritised at all stages of litigation as the Rent Control Acts were enacted to ensure the swift resolution of disputes between landlords and tenants.

G. Cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act

Data from 2021 revealed that cheque bounce cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 comprise 8.81% of the criminal cases pending in trial courts.⁷² In response, the Supreme Court registered a suo motu writ petition and appointed an amicus curiae to understand the reasons for delays in disposing these cases. The amicus curiae in his report pointed to issues like a) delays in serving summons to the accused, b) mechanical conversion of summary cases to summons cases by the Judicial Magistrates,

c) divergent judicial opinions on the inherent powers of the Magistrate to review or recall the issuance of summons in cheque bounce cases, and d) conflicting judicial opinions on the applicability of Section 202 of CrPC (this section deals with the inquiries to be conducted before issuing summons) when the accused resides outside the court's jurisdiction.⁷³ Considering the said report, the Supreme Court held that a) The High Courts need to issue practice directions to the Magistrates to record reasons before converting trial of complaints under Section 138 of the Act from summary trial to summons trial, b) that in the inquiry under Section 202 of CrPC, the evidence of witnesses on behalf of the complainant shall be permitted to be taken on affidavit, c) the High Courts shall issue practice directions to the trial courts to treat service of summons in one complaint forming part of a transaction, as deemed service in respect of all the complaints filed before the same court relating to dishonor of cheques issued as part of the said transaction, and d) the Magistrate can restrict the inquiry to examination of documents without insisting on examination of witnesses.⁷⁴

H. Administrative Decisions

Cases in Indian courts are also prioritised based on committee reports, practice directions and office memoranda issued by the High Courts and Supreme Court. The circulars and practice directions issued by the High Court directing the district courts are often issued based on directions in the judgments of the Supreme Court/the respective High Court, or from directions/recommendations in committee reports. Most of these circulars merely direct the judicial officer to dispose of pending case types expeditiously. However, the circulars of some courts have set a particular date or timeline for disposing of cases.

This section compiles the publicly available committee reports, practice directions, and office memoranda that address the prioritisation of cases based on the nature of the case, type of litigant or the duration it has been pending.

a. Old Pending Cases

A perusal of committee reports and action plans of the judiciary reveals that the disposal of old pending cases has long been an important focus of the judiciary. A Rajasthan High Court circular, which dates back to 1973, warns District and Sessions Judges against transferring old and stagnant cases to Additional District and Sessions Judges⁷⁵. The circular exhorts the judges to dispose of old and complicated cases as soon as possible.⁷⁶ There have been similar circulars issued by various High Courts directing the district courts to dispose of old pending cases with priority.⁷⁷

The most recent initiative by the court to reduce the pendency of the old pending cases was the action plan by the Supreme Court-appointed Committee for "Model Case Flow Management Rules for Trial Courts, District Appellate Courts, High Courts, and to Suggest a Plan for Reduction of Arrears in the High Courts and District Courts". The committee in 2024 released a report titled *Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary*.⁷⁸

The report outlines a three-phase plan to address case arrears in district courts by prioritising the disposal of long-pending cases.

In the first phase, the report recommends the establishment of District Case Management (DCM) Committees to implement the proposed action plan. Each committee is to be chaired by the Principal District Judge, Principal City Civil and Sessions Judge, or District Judge.⁷⁹ Other members include.⁸⁰

1. A senior Additional District Judge,
2. A Judge of the Family Court, and
3. The senior-most Civil Judge (Senior Division), Chief Judicial Magistrate, or Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

One of the primary functions of the District Case Management (DCM) Committee is to equitably distribute long-pending cases among judges.⁸¹ The committee is expected to consider factors such as the existing caseload of judges, the complexity of cases, and their nature while distributing these cases.⁸² However, the current system used to calculate the caseload of a court relies solely on the number of pending cases by type, without accounting for the individual complexity of those cases. This approach creates a significant limitation: if the DCM Committee allocates cases based solely on the calculated caseload (which reflects only the number and type of pending cases, and not their complexity), the resulting workload distribution may not be equitable. For instance, two judges may be assigned the same number of cases, but the actual effort required to resolve them could vary greatly depending on the complexity of the individual cases. Moreover, the report does not outline any method for the DCM committee to scientifically assess the complexity of a long-pending case before assigning it to the judge. If committee members are required to manually review old case files to determine complexity, it could prove to be an onerous task.

In the second phase, the committee recommends reducing the pendency of long-standing cases by setting district-specific targets based on the number of such cases in each district.⁸³ For instance, in districts where there are between 150 and 300 cases pending for over 30 years, the report suggests disposing of all cases that are older than 30 years and at least 80% of cases pending for 20–30 years by December 2024.⁸⁴ In districts with fewer than 150 cases pending for more than 30 years, the committee recommends resolving all cases older than 20 years by the same deadline.⁸⁵

Despite these ambitious plans, an analysis of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) data, as of the date of this paper, reveals limited success in achieving these targets. For example, Prayagraj district in Uttar Pradesh had over 1,400 cases pending for more than 30 years, while Patna district in Bihar had more than 1,200 such cases.⁸⁶ It is questionable how effective it is for the Supreme Court or the High Courts to set targets for the district judiciary to dispose of a certain number of cases within a particular date without having a mechanism to assess the complexity of the cases pending before these courts.

b. Prioritising Litigant Types

Circulars and practice directions of high courts and the Supreme Court have also provided for prioritising cases filed by certain types of litigants. The types of litigants prioritised by various administrative orders are provided below:

Category of Cases Prioritised	Source of Prioritisation
Cases of offences against women, children, differently-abled persons, senior citizens, and marginalised sections	Circulars issued by several High Courts ⁸⁷ on the basis of resolution adopted at 2015 Chief Justice's Conference, ⁸⁸ notice issued by High Court of Punjab and Haryana. ⁸⁹
Cases of terminally ill persons and senior citizens	Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (Supreme Court, 2024), ⁹⁰ office order by Himachal Pradesh High Court, ⁹¹ notice issued by High Court of Punjab and Haryana. ⁹²
Cases of military personnel	Madras High Court circular. ⁹³
Cases of members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	Allahabad High Court circular ⁹⁴ issued on the basis of a circular issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.
Cases relating to convicts in jail	Office Order of Himachal Pradesh High Court ⁹⁵
Cases of differently abled litigants and lawyers	Circular of High Court of Delhi. ⁹⁶
Cases relating to HIV-affected persons	Notice issued by High Court of Punjab and Haryana. ⁹⁷

Even though these circulars and practice directions provide for prioritising these litigants, it is unclear whether these directives are actually implemented. The Punjab High Court in a notice has mentioned that persons belonging to Schedule Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes (other than creamy layer), landless labourers, and persons below the poverty line can file a proof along with the affidavit stating that they belong to these marginalised sections of society to get priority. However, the e-filing portal used for filing cases in the district judiciary across India currently does not record litigant information like terminal illness, HIV+, or caste. Adding an option to record such information and submit the required proof would help in developing a system that could automatically prioritise and list cases using such information. However, since some of these are sensitive in nature, the court should also implement mechanisms to protect the privacy of the litigant.

c. Prioritising Case Types

High Courts have issued circulars to prioritise cases where personal liberty is affected.⁹⁹ For example, the Gauhati High Court issued a circular stating that all cases of undertrials where the custody period of the accused is more than 2 years should be disposed of within 6 months.¹⁰⁰ However, the directions in these circulars are rarely implemented. A look at the number of undertrial prisoners in Assam as of 2022 reveals that 137 prisoners have been in prison for 3-5 years, while 45 for more than 5 years.¹⁰¹ Another example is the circular issued by the Karnataka High Court dated 4 December 2020, directing the judicial officers in the state to dispose of all pending bail applications under Sections 438 and 439 filed up to 1 November 2020 before 19 December 2020.¹⁰² However, a perusal of the District Courts NJDG data of Karnataka at the time of writing this report indicates that more than 12,000 bail cases filed before 2020 are still pending before the district courts in Karnataka.¹⁰³

The Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary also recommends prioritising the resolution of long pending cases in the family courts, commercial courts, juvenile justice boards, POCSO courts, courts exclusively handling offences against women, courts dedicated to the Prevention of Corruption Act cases, Negotiable Instruments Act cases, land acquisition cases, and motor accident claim cases.¹⁰⁴ However, the Action Plan does not provide any detailed analysis as to why these case types need to be prioritised.



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CHAPTER VI

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

CHAPTER VI: LEGISLATIVE INTENT

This section examines legislative policies to understand the types of cases the legislature has deemed important to prioritise for disposal. Not all the policies mentioned here are examples of case/litigant-type prioritisation in the sense used in this paper; some relate instead to broader efforts at improving case management. Nonetheless, they are included to highlight the areas where there is a clear legislative intent to ensure faster resolution of cases.

The backlog of commercial dispute cases and cases involving women and children has remained a key focus of legislative efforts for several years. Thus, the legislature has, through its policies, tried to prioritise the resolution of these cases. To ensure quicker resolution of commercial disputes, the government enacted the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, and made amendments to the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the Arbitration Act 1996 and the Specific Relief Act, 1963.¹⁰⁵ The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, provided for the establishment of commercial courts to expedite the resolution of commercial disputes. This Act introduced strict timelines with respect to the filing of pleadings, framing issues and dealing with discovery or document production requests.¹⁰⁶ The 2018 amendment of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, also introduced provisions for case management hearings.¹⁰⁷ Under these provisions, the court should hold case management hearings not later than four weeks from the date of filing of the affidavit of admission or denial of documents by all parties.¹⁰⁸ In these hearings, the court may issue an order that sets deadlines for filing written arguments and holding oral arguments.¹⁰⁹ The court is also given the power to dismiss the plaint or allow the suit if the parties do not comply with the order passed in case management hearings.¹¹⁰

The union government has also enacted special legislations like the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), and has also made amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code (now BNSS) to ensure quicker resolution of cases involving violence against women and children.¹¹¹ The government has also prioritised the disposal of cases of litigants such as persons with HIV and military personnel through the HIV Act 2017 and the Army Act 1950.¹¹²

Pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the union government has also set up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive courts for expeditious trial and disposal of rape cases and case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in a time-bound manner. As per the data provided by the government, the FTSCs had disposed of over 2,53,000 cases till May 2024.¹¹³ However, these courts have not been very successful in ensuring expeditious disposal of cases. According to the 2018 NCRB data, 69% of the 17,155 cases disposed of by the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) courts in 2019 took between one and ten years, even though the POCSO Act mandates that trials be completed within one year of taking cognisance of the offence. Moreover, the rate of setting up FTSCs has also been slow, forcing the Government to drastically revise its target of establishing 2,600 FTSCs by 2026 to 790.¹¹⁴

In accordance with the proposal of the report of the 114th Law Commission of India, the union government had also set up Gram Nyayalayas to provide inexpensive justice to the people at the village level. Gram Nyayalayas are deemed to be a Court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class with both civil and criminal jurisdiction to settle petty disputes in villages.¹¹⁵ As of August 2024, fifteen states in India have set up Gram Nyayalayas.¹¹⁶ However, according to government estimates, though over 16,000 Gram Nyayalayas are required, only around 450 have been set up, and about 300 are actually functional.¹¹⁷

In 2017, the union government also launched the Nyaya Mitra scheme to dispose of cases pending in the district judiciary for 10 to 15 years. Under this scheme, a retired judicial officer, or an executive officer with judicial experience, will be put in charge of assisting the court in disposing of long-pending cases.¹¹⁸ Since the start of the programme, 39 Nyaya Mitras have been appointed in the various district courts of Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal.¹¹⁹ According to the latest government figures, the Nyaya Mitras have helped dispose of 3495 long-pending cases.¹²⁰



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CHAPTER VII

PRACTICES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

CHAPTER VII: PRACTICES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Case prioritisation in India has largely been approached in an ad hoc manner, without being integrated into a comprehensive case management strategy. In contrast, many countries have adopted more structured and nuanced methods for handling cases, grounded in a scientific assessment of the judicial time required for their disposal, based on factors such as the complexity of cases, urgency, and the case load of courts. The two most prominent approaches in this context are case weighting and differentiated case management (DCM).

Case weighting involves assigning scores to different case types or specific events within a case (e.g., framing of charges, examination of witnesses) after evaluating the complexity and workload associated with each of them.¹²¹ This approach helps determine the judicial time and effort needed to process each stage of various case types. Case weighting is commonly used for judicial resource allocation, budgeting within the judiciary, and measuring judicial efficiency.

DCM, on the other hand, moves beyond the traditional first-in, first-out scheduling system. It categorises individual cases based on their complexity, urgency, and resource requirements, and assigns each case to a distinct procedural track with predefined timelines and milestones.¹²² This enables courts to allocate judicial time more efficiently and process cases in a more targeted and effective manner.¹²³

While both case weighting and DCM aim to improve the allocation of judicial resources, they differ in their approaches. Case weighting is primarily a tool for long-term planning and resource distribution, whereas DCM focuses on real-time case flow management. Despite these differences, both systems are complementary and have been implemented in several countries, which have developed tailored frameworks to assess case complexity and streamline case processing. Some of these systems are discussed below.





A. Germany

Germany uses a case weighting system known as the "Pebbsy System" (Personalbedarfsberechnungssystem, meaning Personnel Requirements Calculation System) to calculate the required number of judges in different jurisdictions.¹²⁴ In this system, Germany conducts periodic time studies, wherein judges, judicial officers, and non-judicial staff meticulously track and report the time they spend on various work activities for each case.¹²⁵ Participants documented their work time for six months, on a time log attached to each file they handled.¹²⁶

Instead of assigning individual weights to each case type, this system groups case types that require a similar amount of work time into one category.¹²⁷ These categories are defined by a working group of representatives from the justice ministries in different German states. For instance, the case category "RL011" might include medical malpractice, construction, and company dispute cases.¹²⁸

The heart of the Pebbsy System is the calculation of the "Pebbsy Number" or "basic number," which represents the average processing time (in minutes) for a given case category.¹²⁹ The method for calculating the pebbsy number is not relevant to this paper. The pebbsy number calculated for each category of cases is then used to calculate the necessary number of judges in a particular jurisdiction.¹³⁰

Even though the pebbsy number is effective in estimating overall judicial needs, the Pebbsy System is not designed for tasks like individual judge performance evaluations or case distribution within a court.



B. Romania

Romania's case-weighting system uses a unique approach that sets it apart from the time-study methodologies used in countries like Germany. Instead of directly measuring the time spent on cases, Romania assigns a complexity score to each individual case, calculated using a point-based system.

Every case is categorised based on its "main object", which is essentially the primary cause of action or case type (e.g., divorce, contract dispute).¹³¹ Each main object is assigned a complexity grade on a scale of 1 to 10. The complexity grade was based on the conclusions of the working groups convened in 2005-2006.¹³² Similarly, "secondary objects" represent sub-categories within the main object and also receive a complexity grade. For instance, a "child custody dispute" might be a secondary object within the "divorce" (main object) category.¹³³

Besides these fixed grades, the system considers other dynamic factors that contribute to a case's complexity. These include: **a) Number of parties involved:** Cases with more

parties are generally considered more complex. **b) Number of tomes (case volume):** A higher number of tomes indicates a more voluminous case, implying greater complexity. **c) Number of witnesses (future implementation):** The system is designed to include the number of witnesses exceeding 10 as a complexity factor, although this hasn't been implemented yet due to technical limitations.¹³⁴

The system uses specific formulas to calculate the final complexity score for each case, incorporating the grades of the main and secondary objects and the values of the dynamic factors.¹³⁵ These formulas assign different weights (percentages) to each component to reflect each one's relative contribution to the overall complexity.¹³⁶ For instance, the complexity grade of the main object is given more weight than the aggregate complexity of the secondary objects.¹³⁷



C. Netherlands

Netherlands' case weighting system uses a combination of the work-sampling method and the time-study method.¹³⁸ In the work-sampling phase, a representative sample of judges, judicial officials, and support staff are randomly prompted throughout their workday to record their current activity using a smartphone/tablet app.¹³⁹ By analysing these

snapshots, the system calculates the percentage of a judge's available work time dedicated to different legal areas, like criminal or civil law.¹⁴⁰

To determine the weightage of individual case types, the judges from different levels of courts meet in focus groups dedicated to specific legal areas, such as criminal law or family law.¹⁴¹ They receive data from the work-sampling, case volume statistics, and use their professional knowledge to determine the weight of individual case types within their area.¹⁴² The work-sampling data shows, for example, that 5% of a judge's time is spent on criminal cases. The focus group then takes that 5% and divides it further into the weights of individual case types based on their complexity.¹⁴³ This process results in a weight assigned to each specific type of case.¹⁴⁴ This weight represents the average time a judge needs to handle that kind of individual criminal case types, like theft, assault, or fraud, based on their complexity.¹⁴⁵



D. USA

The US Federal Courts have been using DCM since the 1960s to distinguish between individual cases on the basis of the attention they require and the pace at which they can reasonably proceed to a conclusion.¹⁴⁶ Even though DCM practices vary between different courts across the USA, broadly, the DCM plans have three tracks:

a) Cases requiring minimal court oversight, such as those with simple issues and no discovery,

- b) Cases requiring judicial conferences or hearings, but which are otherwise not exceptionally difficult,**
- c) Cases demanding significant and ongoing judicial involvement, either due to complexity, the number of parties involved, or novel legal issues.¹⁴⁷**

In recent years, the US courts have also started using case weighting systems for optimal allocation of judges to various courts. This model consists of three elements.¹⁴⁸

- **Case filings:** This involves counting the number of cases filed within a year, categorised by distinct case types.
- **Case-weights:** This element quantifies the average time, measured in minutes, that a judge or judicial officer is expected to dedicate to each case type.
- **Judge-year value:** This represents the total minutes available to a judge or judicial officer for case-related work within a year, considering factors like vacation time and training days.

The case weights are determined by the time-study method, whereby judges document the amount of time they spend working on each case every day for a set period.¹⁴⁹ Following the completion of the time study, the initial weights in the U.S. model were determined using one of the event-based formulas.¹⁵⁰

The events-based formula uses a four-step process to determine case weights:¹⁵¹

- **Identifying Case-Related Events:** The first step involves pinpointing common events applicable to most case types that require judicial work time. The formula does not include specific or unusual events, individual work habits of judges, or special circumstances.
- **Determining Average Event Frequency:** Next, statewide data obtained from the case management system or manually sampled cases is used to determine the average frequency of each event for each case type.
- **Collecting Work-Time Data:** Judges then use self-reporting, via the Delphi method or a time study, to provide data on the amount of time they spend on each event for each case type.
- **Calculating Event Weight:** Finally, the average time judges need for each event is multiplied by the average number of times that event occurs in each case type to determine the weight of each event. The sum of all event weights for a case type represents the initial case weight.

EVENT-BASED FORMULA USED TO CALCULATE THE INITIAL WEIGHT FOR DIVORCE AND FELONY CASE

	Felony case			Divorce case		
Event type	Work-time per event	Event Frequency	Event weight	Work-time per event	Event Frequency	Event weight
Initial Appearance	5	1.05	5.25	30	0.05	1.5
Preliminary Hearing	17	0.63	10.71	---	---	---
Arraignment	7	0.64	4.48	---	---	---
Scheduling/Pre-trial	15	0.03	0.45	15	0.44	6.6
Pre-trial Hearing/Motions	15	1.83	27.45	30	0.49	14.7
Default Judgment/Plea Acceptance	15	0.85	12.75	15	0.47	7.05
Court Trial	47	0.01	0.47	30	0.36	10.8
Jury Trial	480	0.05	24	---	---	---
Post Judgment/Verdicts	15	0.18	2.7	20	0.05	1
Disposition/Sentencing	18	0.73	13.14	20	0.61	12.2
Bench Warrant	5	0.39	1.95	3	0.02	0.06
Appeal/Review	5	0.33	1.65	30	0.05	1.5
Initial weight in minutes per Felony case			105	Initial weight in minutes per Divorce case		55.4

Source: Case Weighting in Judicial Systems CEPEJ Studies No. 28, P.37

This data is then validated by focus group discussions, surveys, interviews, and on-site visits.¹⁵² The validation process helps adjust the initial weights to reflect the work required to process each case type accurately.¹⁵³

Once the final case weights are determined, they are used to calculate the number of full-time judge positions required to manage the current caseload.¹⁵⁴ This is done using the following formula: (annual filings of each case-type * weight assigned to that case-type) / The number of minutes a judge has available for case-related work each year.¹⁵⁵



E. Moldova

In Moldova, case complexity is determined by a fixed and a variable component. The fixed component represents the primary subject matter of the case, scored on a scale of 1 to 10.¹⁵⁶ This score remains constant throughout the procedural stages. The variable component considers factors like the number of parties, trial bundles, witnesses, orders passed, and whether mediation was used.¹⁵⁷

The electronic case management system automatically adjusts the case weight score if new complexity factors emerge during the proceedings.¹⁵⁸ The final complexity score is calculated differently based on the type of judgment. For instance, a full judgment results in the primary subject matter score being multiplied by 0.20 (20%), while a dismissal order leads to a multiplication by 0.75 (75%).



F. Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, a judicial case weighting system was developed and implemented in 2015 by the Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Bulgaria.¹⁵⁹ The method was developed using a nationwide judicial questionnaire for judges and with inputs from a group of experienced judges. Questionnaires were sent to all judges at different levels to gather information on the duration and frequency of events related to case processing.¹⁶⁰ The judicial questionnaire used a retrospective approach to determine how much time judges spent on different types of cases, asking them to estimate the time needed for specific actions (e.g., preparations for court hearings) for less and more time-consuming cases.¹⁶¹

The survey results were then compiled and analysed, and a series of Delphi sessions (focus groups) were held with experienced judges to arrive at a set of judicial case weights. The case weighting system of Bulgaria allows for adjustments during the life of a case to accommodate early settlements, the number of pages of evidence, multiple defendants, the number of witnesses, and the use of experts.¹⁶²

The methods used to calculate case weights in the above-mentioned countries are not without criticism. For instance, the time study method employed in countries like Germany and the expert panel method used in countries like Romania have both been criticised for their inaccuracy.¹⁶³ The time study method is often viewed as too resource-intensive, while the expert panel method has been criticised for overestimating the time required to dispose of cases by focusing disproportionately on outlier cases.¹⁶⁴ Therefore, it is essential that the adoption of these methods be analysed with these criticisms in mind and with the understanding that case weights must be continually refined and updated.

The first attempt in India to propose a model that considers case type and stage-wise case weights for judicial resource allocation was in the 2024 NCMS Report on Case Management.¹⁶⁵ The next section will examine the model proposed in the report, along with its recommendations to incorporate case complexity as a key factor in case management.

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CHAPTER VIII

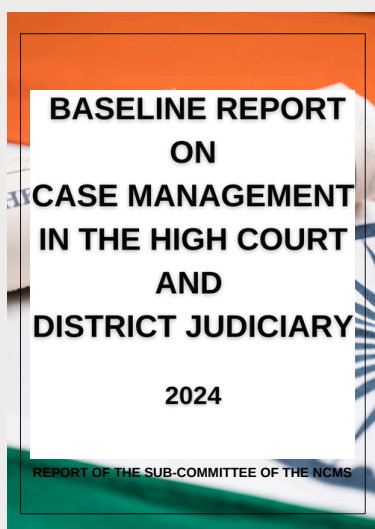
NCMS REPORT ON CASE MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER VIII: NCMS REPORT ON CASE MANAGEMENT

The National Case Management System (NCMS) was a body established in 2012 pursuant to the directions of then Chief Justice of India, with the objective of enhancing the timeliness, efficiency, and quality of court systems across India.¹⁶⁶ As part of its mandate, the NCMS constituted a Sub-Committee on Case Management to advance case management practices within the Indian judiciary. In 2024, the Sub-Committee released its report, in which it highlighted the need to consider case complexity as a key factor in effective case management.

In the report, the Sub-Committee has recommended moving away from the current track system in the CFM Rules to a system where factors which can prolong or shorten the life cycle of a case should be considered for determining a timeline for the disposal of that case. For civil cases, the report recommends considering complexity factors like the number of parties, the number of documents, statutory timelines, pecuniary value, public interest, litigation history of the plaintiff, amendments to the plaint, substitution of legal heirs, scientific evidence, number of bundles in the case, order of a higher court, etc.¹⁶⁷ For criminal cases, the report recommends considering complexity factors like the number of witnesses, cases in which bail has not been granted, statutory timelines, cases affecting law and order or sovereignty, evaluation of competency of accused (mental health or juvenility claims), witnesses turning hostile, scientific evidence, order of a higher court, etc.¹⁶⁸

The report also recommends moving away from the unit system,¹⁶⁹ which is now used to measure judicial workload for the district judiciary, to a new system that considers factors like case complexity and stage-wise complexity of a case for measuring judicial workload. In the unit system, units are assigned to different case types to measure judicial workload. For example, in the unit system in force in Kerala, a district judge has a target of 130 units per month.¹⁷⁰ A sessions case under Section 302 of the IPC with up to 25 witnesses is assigned 12 units, and when the number of witnesses is between 25-50 units, 14 units are assigned, and if witnesses are above 50, 16 units are assigned.¹⁷¹

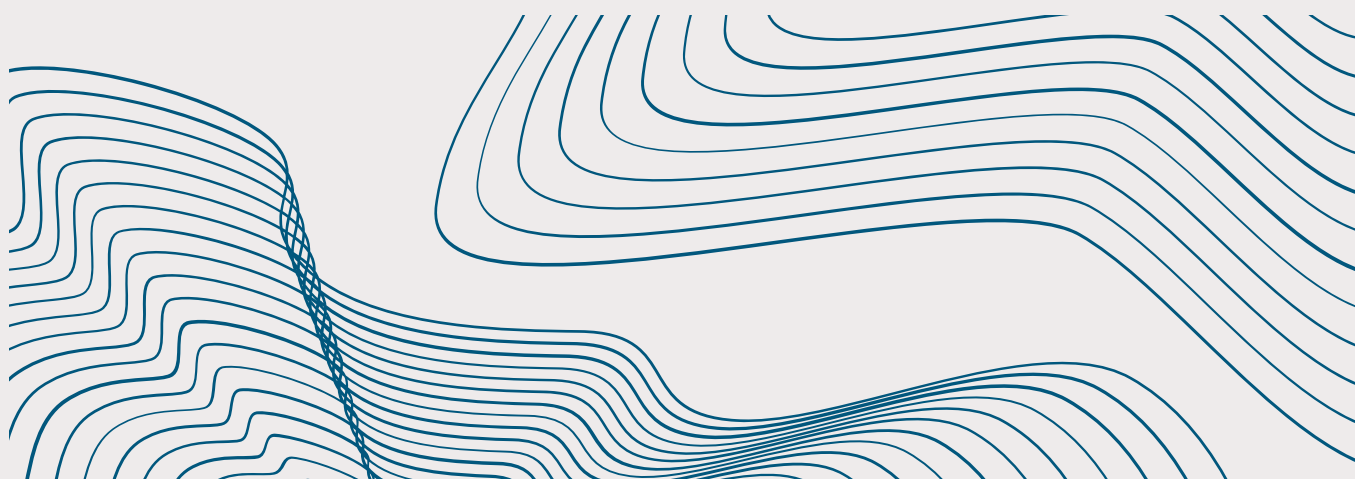


The model proposed in the report for resource allocation is called a Case Load Management Model (CLMM), which is designed to act as a comprehensive approach to calculating the caseload of courts. The CLMM model could be potentially used for allocating cases to courts and even as a tool for evaluating judicial performance. The proposed CLMM model uses a three-pronged approach, incorporating Case Type Load (TL), Stage Load (SL), and Complexity Factor (CX) to determine the overall caseload of a court.¹⁷² TL quantifies the complexity of different case types by assigning scores between 1 and 10, ensuring that each case type is appropriately weighed according to the time, effort, and judicial resources it demands.

For example, a sessions case might be assigned a TL value of 10, reflecting the higher complexity, whereas a first appeal may be assigned a TL value of 2.¹⁷³ SL considers the various stages of a case, from filing to disposal and assigns a numerical value between 0.1 and 1.0 based on the workload involved in that stage.¹⁷⁴ For example, stages like preliminary hearing, summons, and appearance might be assigned a lower SL value, while stages like evidence or final hearing may be assigned a higher SL value.¹⁷⁵ The SL dynamically shifts to a lower value, reflecting the reduced workload for the court at that time, if, for example, a party does not promptly bring a document on record, making the case unready for further proceedings.¹⁷⁶ CX assigns a numerical value between 1 and 10 to a case based on the number of accused and the number of witnesses in the case.¹⁷⁷ TL, SL, and CX are all added together to determine the caseload value of a case, which is used for judicial resource allocation.¹⁷⁸ The major factor that distinguishes the CLMM model from the existing unit system is the calculation of stage-wise load (SL). The CX value in its currently proposed form only takes into account the number of accused and the number of witnesses to calculate case complexity, which is already done in the unit system used in Kerala.

The CLMM model, though innovative, needs further refinement. The report does not specify the method that will be used to determine case-type and stage-wise load scores. As discussed in the previous section, other countries have adopted methods such as time log studies, expert panels, or a combination of both to arrive at similar metrics. Therefore, there needs to be greater clarity on how the courts plan to generate these scores.

Additionally, the model primarily focuses on pre-litigation complexities and does not look into complexities that can arise during the course of litigation, like the death of a party, or problems with the service of notice, etc. The CX value in its current form also only takes into account two factors of complexity. However, there are other relevant factors like the presence of scientific evidence and orders from higher courts, which also complicate a case. Some of these drawbacks are addressed in the report itself, and the report has recommended future refinements to the model. A future model which rectifies these drawbacks and comes up with TL and SL values based on a scientific approach would help schedule and manage cases better in the trial courts.



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166. NCMS. 2024. National Court Management Systems Policy and Action Plan. New Delhi: Supreme Court of India, p.2-3. Available online at <https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3ec0490f1f4972d133619a60c30f3559e/uploads/2024/11/2024111250.pdf> (accessed on 10th April, 2025).
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168. Id at p 110.
169. "Unit system" refers to a method of assessing and grading the work performance of judicial officers in the district judiciary, typically based on the number of cases disposed of, with different case types carrying varying "unit" values.
170. Supreme Court of India. Baseline report on case management in the High Court and District Judiciary,p.57.
171. Supreme Court of India.Baseline report on case management in the High Court and District Judiciary,p.59-62.
172. Supreme Court of India.2024. Baseline report on case management in the High Court and District Judiciary, p.59-62.
173. Id at 59.
174. Id at p.60.
175. Ibid.
176. Supreme Court of India.2024. Baseline report on case management in the High Court and District Judiciary, p.60.
177. NCMS.2024. Baseline report on case management in the High Court and District Judiciary.Supreme Court of India, p.61-62. Available online at <https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3ec0490f1f4972d133619a60c30f3559e/uploads/2024/11/2024111326.pdf> (accessed on 05th February, 2025).
178. Id at p. 423-429.

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

Courts and lawmakers have introduced various measures to deal with piling case backlogs, one of which is the prioritisation of certain cases. While this seems like a logical approach, prioritisation based solely on case types or litigants cannot solve the broader issue of court delays. The judicial system is complex, and multiple factors—from procedural inefficiencies to resource constraints—determine how quickly (or slowly) cases move through the system.

The effectiveness of prioritisation depends on multiple factors, both internal and external to the judiciary. Internally, factors such as judicial infrastructure, the availability of judges, the efficiency of case management systems, and procedural bottlenecks play a crucial role. Even with a strong prioritisation framework, delays will persist if there are not enough judges or procedural requirements that slow down hearings. Additionally, prioritisation needs to align with case complexity and the incentives of judges and lawyers to be effective.

There are also broader systemic and social factors that influence case management. The volume of litigation, driven by any changes in the law, can strain judicial resources. Attempts by litigants and lawyers to game the system to expedite or delay cases based on strategic considerations further complicate the operation of any prioritisation framework. If a specific complexity factor results in delays, parties might seek to introduce it to prolong proceedings to their advantage. For instance, in commercial litigation, parties may deliberately introduce jurisdictional challenges or additional claims to complicate matters and extend timelines. Similarly, if a certain type of case is supposed to have expedited hearings, such as cases in which parties are senior citizens or where there are medical emergencies, litigants might attempt to frame their disputes within that category to gain faster adjudication, even if the case does not genuinely meet the criteria. Political and administrative decisions, including funding for the judiciary and legislative reforms, also play a role in determining how efficiently cases move through the courts. Given these interconnected factors, prioritisation must be regarded as one component of a larger judicial reform strategy rather than a standalone solution. A fair and effective case management system should account for both internal court dynamics and external influences.

For litigants and lawyers, their every case is paramount. The knowledge that certain cases receive preferential treatment may create perceptions of unfairness and undermine trust in the judiciary. For instance, a litigant in a long-pending case may find it difficult to accept that while their matter remains unresolved for years, a case of another litigant is getting heard on priority. Such disparities can lead to a legitimacy crisis in judicial institutions. This perception can be addressed by broadbasing reforms such that there is a secular shift in disposal timelines across all types of cases.

Prioritisation is necessary but insufficient tool for case management. Its implementation must be carefully designed to prevent strategic manipulation, unintended judicial incentives, and take into account ethical concerns regarding fairness. A data-driven, continuously evolving approach—tested through pilot studies and refined through real-world feedback- is essential to ensure that prioritisation mechanisms serve their intended purpose without compromising justice.

APPENDIX I

Existing CFM Rules

State	High Court Rules	Subordinate (Civil) Court Rules	Subordinate (Criminal) Court Rules
Andhra Pradesh/ Telangana	Not passed	Case Flow Management in Subordinate Courts Rules, 2012 (https://tshc.gov.in/documents/gazette08072016apso.pdf)	Not passed
Assam/ Arunachal Pradesh/ Nagaland/ Mizoram	Gauhati High Court Case Management Rules, 2007 (https://ghcitanagar.gov.in/Rules/GHC(CM)Rules2007U.pdf)	Trial Courts and First Appellate Subordinate Courts (under the Gauhati High Court) Case Management Rules, 2007 (https://ghconline.gov.in/Document/Appendix26)	Trial Courts and First Appellate Subordinate Courts (under the Gauhati High Court) Case Management Rules, 2007 (https://ghconline.gov.in/Document/Appendix26)
Bihar	Bihar (Case Flow Management in High Court) Rules 2008 (https://patnahighcourt.gov.in/getfile/MTg=-sqMHnqHGKMg=)	Bihar (Case Flow Management in Subordinate Court) Rules 2008 (https://patnahighcourt.gov.in/getfile/MTk=-34z)	Bihar (Case Flow Management in Subordinate Court) Rules 2008 (https://patnahighcourt.gov.in/getfile/MTk=-34z3)
Chhattisgarh	High Court of Chhattisgarh Rules, 2007 https://highcourt.cg.gov.in/rule/cghc_rules2007(as_on14072015).pdf (Rule 158, pages 85-91)	Case Flow Management Rules for Trial Courts and First Appellate Subordinate Courts, 2007 (https://cgslsa.gov.in/Mediation/mediation_rules.pdf) (pages 13-19)	Case Flow Management Rules for Trial Courts and First Appellate Subordinate Courts, 2007 (https://cgslsa.gov.in/Mediation/mediation_rules.pdf) (pages 13-19)
Delhi	Not passed	Not passed	Not passed
Gujarat	Gujarat High Court Case Flow Management Rules, 2016 (https://gujarathighcourt.nic.in/hccms/sites/default/files/rules_files/cfm_Rules_25317.pdf)	Gujarat High Court Case Flow Management (Subordinate Courts) Rules, 2016 (https://gujarathighcourt.nic.in/hccms/sites/default/files/rules_files/CFM (SUB.CTS.) RULES 2016-Gazette Copy.pdf)	Gujarat High Court Case Flow Management (Subordinate Courts) Rules, 2016 (https://gujarathighcourt.nic.in/hccms/sites/default/files/rules_files/CFM (SUB.CTS.) RULES 2016-Gazette Copy.pdf)

Haryana/ Punjab/ Chandigarh	<p>Model Case Flow Management Rules in High Court Punjab and Haryana High Court Rules, 2007</p> <p>(https://highcourtchd.gov.in/sub_pages/left_menu/Rules_orders/high_court_rules/Vol-V--PDF/chap4partIV5.pdf)</p>	<p>Punjab and Haryana High Court Case Flow Management Rules, 2007</p> <p>(https://highcourtchd.gov.in/sub_pages/left_menu/Rules_orders/high_court_rules/vol-I-pdf/chap1partPV1.pdf)</p>	<p>Punjab and Haryana High Court Case Flow Management Rules, 2007</p> <p>(https://highcourtchd.gov.in/sub_pages/left_menu/Rules_orders/high_court_rules/vol-I-pdf/chap1partPV1.pdf)</p>
Himachal Pradesh	<p>High Court of Himachal Pradesh Case Flow Management (High Court) Rules, 2005</p> <p>(https://hphighcourt.nic.in/rules/The_High_Court_of_Himachal_Pradesh_Case_Flow_Management_High_Court_Rules_2005.pdf)</p>	<p>High Court of Himachal Pradesh Case Flow Management (Subordinate Courts) Rules, 2005</p> <p>(https://hphighcourt.nic.in/rules/High_Court_of_Himachal_Pradesh_Case_Flow_Management_Subordinate_Courts_20Rules_2005.pdf)</p>	<p>High Court of Himachal Pradesh Case Flow Management (Subordinate Courts) Rules, 2005</p> <p>(https://hphighcourt.nic.in/rules/High_Court_of_Himachal_Pradesh_Case_Flow_Management_Subordinate_Courts_20Rules_2005.pdf)</p>
Jammu & Kashmir	<p>Jammu & Kashmir High Court Case Flow Management Rules, 2010</p> <p>(https://jkhighcourt.nic.in/cir_old/hc-mg-rules.pdf)</p>	<p>Jammu & Kashmir Trial Court and First Appellate Subordinate Court, 2010</p> <p>(https://jkhighcourt.nic.in/cir_old/lc-mg-rules.pdf)</p>	<p>Jammu & Kashmir Trial Court and First Appellate Subordinate Court, 2010</p> <p>(https://jkhighcourt.nic.in/cir_old/lc-mg-rules.pdf)</p>
Jharkhand	<p>Jharkhand High Court Case Flow Management Rules, 2006</p> <p>JHARKHAND https://jharkhandhighcourt.nic.in/pdfview.php?pdfnm=rules/rules (page 133-136)</p>	<p>Jharkhand High Court Case Flow Management In The Subordinate Courts Rules, 2006</p> <p>https://jharkhandhighcourt.nic.in/pdfview.php?pdfnm=rules/rules (page 136-141)</p>	<p>Jharkhand High Court Case Flow Management In The Subordinate Courts Rules, 2006</p> <p>https://jharkhandhighcourt.nic.in/pdfview.php?pdfnm=rules/rules (page 136-141)</p>

Karnataka	Not passed	Karnataka (Case Flow Management in Subordinate Courts) Rules, 2005 (https://karnatakajudiciary.kar.nic.in/govtNotifications/gonotfn5.pdf)	Not passed
Kerala	Not passed	Kerala Civil Courts (Case Flow Management) Rules, 2015 (https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3ec037a4bf9ba2bd774068ad50351fb89/uploads/2023/06/2023060290.pdf)	Not passed
Law Commission Consultation paper of case flow management	https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3ca0daec69b5adc880fb464895726dbdf/uploads/2023/01/2023010663.pdf	https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3ca0daec69b5adc880fb464895726dbdf/uploads/2023/01/2023010663.pdf	https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3ca0daec69b5adc880fb464895726dbdf/uploads/2023/01/2023010663.pdf
Madhya Pradesh	High Court of Madhya Pradesh Case Flow Management Rules, 2006 (Not available online)	Madhya Pradesh Case Flow Management in the Trial Courts and First Appellate Subordinate Courts (Civil) Rules, 2006 (Not available online)	Madhya Pradesh Case Flow Management in the Trial Courts and First Appellate Subordinate Courts (Criminal) Rules, 2006 (Not available online)
Maharashtra/Goa	Not passed	Not passed	Not passed
Manipur	High Court of Manipur Case Management Rules, 2015 https://hcmimphal.nic.in/Documents/EOG_457_08-02-2019.pdf (page 289-293)	Not passed	Not passed
Meghalaya	Not passed	Not passed	Not passed
Odisha	Not passed	Not passed	Not passed

Rajasthan	Rajasthan Case Flow Management Rules, 2006 (https://indiankanoon.org/doc/159125116/)	Rajasthan Subordinate Courts Case Flow Management Rules, 2006 (https://www.latestlaws.com/bare-acts/state-acts-rules/rajasthan-state-laws/rajasthan-subordinate-courts-case-flow-management-rules-2006)	Rajasthan Subordinate Courts Case Flow Management Rules, 2006 (https://www.latestlaws.com/bare-acts/state-acts-rules/rajasthan-state-laws/rajasthan-subordinate-courts-case-flow-management-rules-2006)
Sikkim	High Court of Sikkim Case Flow Management Rules, 2006 (https://hcs.gov.in/hcs/sites/default/files/rules/rule%20249.pdf)	Subordinate Courts of Sikkim Case Flow Management Rules, 2006 (https://cdnbbsr.s3.amazonaws.com/s3ec022b45e8d6abf59038a975faeeb6dc/uploads/2023/03/2023031763.pdf)	Subordinate Courts of Sikkim Case Flow Management Rules, 2006 (https://cdnbbsr.s3.amazonaws.com/s3ec022b45e8d6abf59038a975faeeb6dc/uploads/2023/03/2023031763.pdf)
Tamil Nadu / Puducherry	Not passed	The Tamil Nadu (Case flow Management in Subordinate Courts) Rules, 2007 (https://www.courtktuchehry.com/Acts/Home/LegalActsDownload?Id=23031&Name=Tamil%20Nadu%20(Case%20Flow%20Management%20In%20Subordinate%20Courts)%20Rules,%202007)	Not passed
Tripura	Case Flow Management Rules, 2017 https://thc.nic.in/notification/thc_rule_05_2023.pdf (page 321-331)	Not passed	Not passed
Uttar Pradesh	Not passed	Not passed	Not passed

Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand Case Flow Management (For High Court) Rules, 2009 (https://cdnbbsr.s3waa.s.gov.in/s3bc7f621451b4f5df308a8e098112185d/uploads/2025/03/20250307420647616.pdf)	Uttarakhand Case Flow Management (For Subordinate Courts) Rules, 2009 (https://cdnbbsr.s3waa.s.gov.in/s3bc7f621451b4f5df308a8e098112185d/uploads/2025/03/20250307729917691.pdf)	Uttarakhand Case Flow Management (For Subordinate Courts) Rules, 2009 (https://cdnbbsr.s3waa.s.gov.in/s3bc7f621451b4f5df308a8e098112185d/uploads/2025/03/20250307729917691.pdf)
West Bengal	Case Flow Management Rules High Court Rules 2006 (https://www.calcuttahighcourt.gov.in/Notice-Files/gazette-notification/5820)	Case Flow Management Rules 2006 in the Subordinate Courts (https://indiankanoon.org/doc/154780315/)	Case Flow Management Rules 2006 in the Subordinate Courts (https://indiankanoon.org/doc/154780315/)



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