

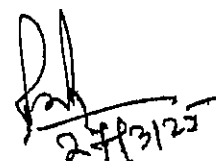
THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT AT GUWAHATI
(THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM: NAGALAND: MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

CIRCULAR

Dated: Guwahati, the 27th March, 2025

This is for the information of all concerned that the following steps are to be undertaken during Phase – III of the “**Action plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (APAaR-DJ)**” notified vide Notification No. 41 dated 07-06-2024:

- a) **Redistribution of Cases Due to non-availability of Judicial Officer:** In order to address the situation where a Judicial Officer is on long leave due to reasons such as medical issues. In such a scenario, cases classified as critical arrears or the 50 oldest cases from the affected Court, should be redistributed among other Courts. This redistribution should be conducted with careful consideration of the specific nature and complexities of each case to ensure appropriate and efficient handling. This proactive measure may help in preventing delays in the processing of these targeted cases.
- b) **Lok Adalat and Mediation:** The effective use of Lok Adalat and Mediation may help in addressing the pendency of old cases. The introduction of special pre-Lok Adalat sittings for identified old cases can significantly enhance the resolution process. These pre-Lok Adalat sessions provide an opportunity for the parties involved to discuss their issues before formally presenting them at the Lok Adalat, fostering a more conducive environment for amicable settlements. In these pre-Lok Adalat sittings, the involvement of trained mediators may be considered.
- c) **Unready cases:** In order to address unready cases, each trial Courts shall initiate a thorough review of all unready cases to identify specific reasons for their unprepared/unready status. Judicial intervention may be required to resolve procedural issues that are causing delays. The endeavour should be made to systematically reduce the number of unready cases. During the Action Plan, the percentage of unready cases be reduced significantly.
- d) **Record with the Appellate/Revisional Courts:** If the Case Management Committee finds that oldest/targeted cases, cannot be heard, because the record of the cases is with the High Court, though no stay is granted, a list of such matters shall be compiled by each District Committee and be forwarded to the Registrar (Judicial) of Gauhati High Court. Such reports shall be submitted every month. On receipt of such list, the Registrar


27/3/25

to make more informed decisions and manage their workload more effectively. To ensure the successful implementation of the Action Plan, it is imperative that all Judicial Officers utilize the Justis app and the National Judicial Data Grid.

- i) **Use of Virtual Court Hearings in Targeted Cases:** All courts are advised to consider and facilitate virtual court hearings for targeted cases. This initiative will minimize unnecessary adjournments.
- j) **Addressing the Shortage of Public Prosecutors in Courts:** In order to tackle shortage of Public Prosecutors, District Judges/ CJMS shall ensure maximum utilization of the available Public Prosecutors in order to address the shortage of Public Prosecutors in the respective Districts.
- k) **Utilization of 'Urgent Case' Feature in CIS for Action Plan Cases:** The feature in the Case Information System (CIS) that allows for marking cases as 'urgent' could be effectively used for cases encompassed by the Action Plan. This would enable such cases to be highlighted at the top of the cause list, ensuring they are given priority attention. Utilizing this functionality can be instrumental in efficiently managing and expediting the resolution of cases within the scope of the Action Plan.
- l) **Priority for Cases involving individuals with Terminal Illness or Senior Citizens:** During the implementation of the Action Plan, priority should be given to cases involving senior citizens or individuals with terminal illnesses. This approach may ensure that they receive timely justice and consideration in light of their unique circumstances.
- m) **Minimizing Adjournments and Shorter Dates in Targeted Cases:** In the cases targeted by the Action Plan, it is important to avoid granting unnecessary adjournments. Instead, shorter dates should be set for hearings to ensure a more efficient and expedited resolution of these cases.
- n) **Tailored Case Resolution Targets for Diverse Districts:** Different districts could have varying levels of case backlogs, and the caseload per judge might also differ. The primary goal should be to resolve all targeted old pending cases as well as the number of cases that are in the range of 5 to 30 years old by the end of the same period.

By Order,


REGISTRAR GENERAL


27/07/25

18. The Special Judge, Assam.
19. The Special Judge, NDPS Court, Guwahati, Assam.
20. The Special Judge, CBI & NIA, Guwahati, Assam.
21. The Special Judge, CBI, Addl. Court No. 1, 2 & 3, Guwahati, Assam.
22. The Chief Judicial Magistrates of Assam.
Bajali / Baksa / Barpeta / Biswanath / Bogaigaon / Cachar / Chirang / Charaideo / Darrang / Dhemaji / Dhubri / Dibrugarh / Dima Hasao / Goalpara / Golaghat / Hailakandi / Hojai / Jorhat / Kamrup / Kamrup (M) / Karbi Anglong / Sri Bhumi / Kokrajhar / Lakhimpur / Majuli / Morigaon / Nagaon / Nalbari / Sivasagar / Sonitpur / South Salmara-Mankachar / Tinsukia / Udalguri / West Karbi Anglong.
(He / She is requested to inform all the Grade-II & III Judicial Officers under his/her control about this Notification)
23. The Joint Registrar (), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
24. The Director, Law Research Institute, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
25. The Research Officer, Judicial Academy, Assam.
(She is requested to place this Notification before the Hon'ble Director, Judicial Academy, Assam).
26. The Deputy Registrar (), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
27. The Asstt. Registrar (), Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
28. The Project Manager, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
(He is requested to upload this Notification in the website of Gauhati High Court).
29. The Librarian-cum-Research Officer, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
30. The P.S. to Hon'ble Mr. / Mrs. Justice _____, Judge, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
31. The Administrative Officer (Judicial), _____, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.
32. The C.A. to the Registrar General, Gauhati High Court, Guwahati.


REGISTRAR GENERAL

Dula
28/3/25