

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, Mandi, HP.**

No.DSJ(MND)CM/DCMC/Action Plan/2024/-

Dated: Mandi the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

**OFFICE ORDER**

In pursuance to the Registry letter No.HHC/VIG/STAT/Action Plan/2017-11573, dated 25.04.2024 and as per the structure laid down in the 'Action Plan for Arrear Reduction in District Judiciary (APAaR-DJ)' prepared by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, a "District Case Management Committee" (DCMC) Committee, comprising of the following members is hereby constituted in respect of this Civil & Sessions Division.

S.No.	Designation of the nominated Members	Chairperson/ Member
1.	District & Sessions Judge, Mandi, H.P.	Chairperson
2.	Principal Judge Family Court, Mandi, H.P.	Member
3.	Additional District & Sessions Judge-I, Mandi, H.P.	Member
4.	Senior Civil Judge-cum-CJM, Mandi, H.P.	Member
5.	Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Mandi, H.P.	Member

The members of the Committee shall frame the strategy for Arrear Reduction as per the functions laid down in the 'Action Plan for Arrear Reduction in District Judiciary (APAaR-DJ)'. Further the Committee shall submit its report to the Chairperson in the first week of every month.

- Bd -  
(Rajesh Tomar)  
Chairperson  
District & Sessions Judge,  
Mandi, Distt. Mandi H.P.

Endst.No.DSJ(MND)CM/DCMC/Action Plan/2024/ 3123 Dated : 27.04.2024  
Copy forwarded to:-

1. The Worthy Registrar General, Hon'ble High Court of H.P., w.r.t. his letter referred to above for information, please.
2. All the Members of the Committee for information and necessary action along with the copy of 'Action Plan for Arrear Reduction in District Judiciary (APAaR-DJ)'.
- ✓ 3. The Assistant Programmer of this office with a direction to upload the same on the Website of this Court.
4. Guard File.

(Rajesh Tomar)  
Chairperson  
District & Sessions Judge,  
Mandi, Distt. Mandi H.P.

# Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (APAaR-DJ)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The persistent issue of arrears in the judiciary has consistently garnered significant attention. Numerous steps have been taken in an endeavour to address and manage these arrears effectively. The challenge of backlog is not only a matter of administrative concern but also a critical aspect affecting the delivery of justice. This situation necessitates a proactive and continuous effort from the judiciary to find innovative and practical solutions.

Upon examination of the data pertaining to the district judiciary, the Committee<sup>1</sup> has observed a deeply concerning trend: a considerable number of cases have been pending for long periods, some for over two and even three decades. This situation calls for an effective approach to address the issue of delays. It also noticed that a substantial number of cases are currently in 'unready' state for various procedural reasons, thereby delaying their resolution. Additionally, the prevalence of cases that are stayed by higher courts adds another layer of complexity to the challenge of reducing pendency.

This prolonged accumulation of cases not only strains the judicial system but also has profound implications for the timely delivery of justice. The Committee recognizes the gravity of this situation and the potential erosion of public confidence in the judiciary that can arise from such delays.

The Committee is conscious of the diverse and complex nature of challenges faced by district judiciary across different states. The diversity extends to the nature and volume of cases, and the variations in human resources and infrastructure facilities.

Recognizing that several High Courts have their case management rules and that guidelines/action plans are periodically issued to meet changing needs. this Action Plan is designed to complement, not override, those measures. The

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<sup>1</sup> 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" constituted in the Supreme Court of India.

Committee understands that one size does not fit all in the realm of judicial administration.

With this understanding, the Committee has endeavoured to create a framework that may serve as a guiding beacon. **This Action Plan lays out fundamental principles and a flexible action plan. It is intended to be adaptable, allowing High Courts and district judiciary to tailor the guidelines to their specific circumstances. The scheme should not be construed as interference with the day-to-day functioning of the Trial and District Courts.**

## 2. PRINCIPLES ADOPTED IN THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan for managing and reducing case arrears in district judiciary incorporates the following principles:

- a) **Prioritization of Long-Standing Cases:** Special emphasis on identifying and resolving cases that have been pending for excessively long periods, such as over 10, 20 or 30 years. ✓
- b) **Accelerating the Progression of Cases to Finalization:** This principle emphasizes the urgency of moving cases towards a timely conclusion. It involves not only prioritizing the resolution of long-standing cases, particularly those over 10, 20 or 30 years old, but also ensuring that newer cases do not age into these categories. ✓ *Top Priority*
- c) **Equitable Case Distribution:** Ensure a balanced distribution of cases among judges, taking into consideration the complexity and nature of cases, to prevent overburdening and promote efficient resolution.
- d) **Effective Handling of Unready & Stayed Cases:** Implement strategies for expediting and managing cases that are unready or are stayed by Higher Courts.
- e) **Effective Utilization of Alternative Dispute Resolution:** Encourage the use of mediation and Lok Adalat to resolve disputes with more effective pre-lok Adalat sittings in old cases.
- f) **Use of Technology:** Leverage NJDG and related tools for better case management, including case tracking systems, to enhance efficiency.
- g) **Managing Undated Cases:** Address the issue of 'undated' cases. Implement measures to ensure that cases do not remain without a scheduled date, facilitating their timely progression and resolution. ✓ *undated cases*
- h) **Adequate Human Resources Support to Judicial Officers:** Strengthen the district judiciary by providing sufficient ministerial staff support to judicial officers. This includes ensuring that courts have stenographers, and