E-MAIL/POST

No. 944 /Spl/ Gaz.II (14G/ 28G)

From:

The Registrar General,
Punjab & Haryana High Court,
Chandigarh.

To

All the District & Sessions Judges,
in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh.

Dated: Chandigarh, the 18-04-2026

Subject: **Action Plan 2026-27 (01.04.2026 to 31.03.2027)**

Sir/Madam,

I have been directed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Judges to convey you the following targets of Action Plan 2026-27 to be achieved regarding disposal of cases, w.e.f. 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2027.

ACTION PLAN 2026-27

There shall be no targets for the Courts of District & Sessions Judge. However, the District & Sessions Judge shall make effective supervision to get oldest pending cases in their Sessions Division disposed of on priority basis.

S.No.	Courts	Targets for disposal of old cases and cases of specified categories under Action Plan 2026-27 to be disposed of upto 31.03.2027.
1.	**Additional District & Sessions Judges**	i) All 10 year old cases. ii) Oldest Civil cases and Criminal cases in equal proportion. Subject to a maximum of 120 cases
		• All cases pending in a district headquarter/sub-division for more than ten years shall be distributed equally among all regular courts competent to try such matters. For example, if there are 100 such cases and 10 regular courts, each court shall be assigned 10 cases. • After such distribution, the district headquarter/sub-division shall determine the shortfall required to achieve the approved target of **120 cases per court**. • To make up this shortfall, the district headquarter/sub-division shall identify, from the entire district pendency, the **oldest civil and criminal cases (preferably in equal proportion)** and select such number of cases as may be necessary to meet the aggregate requirement. • The selected oldest civil and criminal cases shall then be distributed equally among all the courts so that each court ultimately has **120 oldest pending cases (including 10 year old cases)**, with civil and criminal matters (age wise) allotted in equal proportion, as far as practicable.

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No case of any category instituted on or after 01/01/2024 shall be included in Action Plan in any case. If the district has fewer no. of leftover cases instituted before 01/01/2024, then the Action Plan may be reduced proportionately under intimation to this Court.
All targeted cases must reflect on the NJDG.

Illustration: If, after distributing ten-year-old cases, each of the 10 courts has 10 such cases it would require 110 additional cases to reach the target of 120, the district/sub-division shall identify the next 1,100 oldest cases from the entire pendency in equal proportion of civil and criminal matters (i.e., 550 civil and 550 criminal cases). These 1,100 cases shall be distributed equally so that each court receives 55 civil and 55 criminal cases. Consequently, each court shall have a total of 120 cases comprising 10 ten-year-old cases and 110 additional oldest cases, with civil and criminal matters in equal proportion, as far as practicable.
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<tr><td>2.</td><td>Civil Judges-cum-Judicial Magistrates</td><td>i) All 10 year old cases.
ii) Oldest Civil cases and Criminal cases in equal proportion.
Subject to a maximum of 150 cases</td></tr>
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All cases pending in a district headquarter/sub-division for more than ten years shall be distributed equally among all regular courts competent to try such matters. For example, if there are 100 such cases and 10 regular courts, each court shall be assigned 10 cases.
After such distribution, the district headquarter/sub-division shall determine the shortfall required to achieve the approved target of 150 cases per court.
To make up this shortfall, the district headquarter/sub-division shall identify, from the entire district pendency, the oldest civil and criminal cases (preferably in equal proportion) and select such number of cases as may be necessary to meet the aggregate requirement.
The selected oldest civil and criminal cases shall then be distributed equally among all the courts so that each court ultimately has 150 oldest pending cases (including 10 year old cases), with civil and criminal matters (age wise) allotted in equal proportion, as far as practicable.
No case of any category instituted on or after 01/01/2024 shall be included in Action Plan in any case. If the district has fewer no. of leftover cases instituted before 01/01/2024, then the Action Plan may be reduced proportionately under intimation to this Court.
All targeted cases must reflect on the NJDG.

Illustration: If, after distributing ten-year-old cases, each of the 10 courts has 10 such cases it would require 140 additional cases to reach the target of 150, the district/sub-division shall identify the next 1,400 oldest cases from the entire pendency in equal proportion of civil and criminal matters (i.e., 700 civil and 700 criminal cases). These 1,400 cases shall be distributed equally so that each court receives 70 civil and 70 criminal cases. Consequently, each court shall have a total of 150 cases comprising 10 ten-year-old cases and 140 additional oldest cases, with civil and criminal matters in equal proportion, as far as practicable.
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3(i)	**Courts set up to deal with Heinous crime cases against women exclusively dealing with such cases**	i) Oldest Heinous crime against women cases instituted before 01.01.2024. Subject to maximum of **100** cases for disposal.
3(ii)	**Courts set up to deal with Heinous crime cases against women having other civil and criminal work**	(i) Oldest Heinous crime against women cases instituted before 01.01.2024 subject to maximum of 40 cases. (ii) Oldest cases of other categories as per Sr. No. 1 so as to make a total of **120** cases.
4.	**Fast Track Court to exclusively deal with rape cases,** **Fast Track Special Court to try the offences exclusively under POCSO Act,** **Fast Track Special Court for expeditious disposal of Rape and POCSO Act cases** **Fast Track Special Court to primarily try offences of rape alongwith offences under POCSO Act.**	(i) Oldest cases instituted before 01.01.2024 Subject to maximum of **100** cases for disposal. (ii) If the total number of cases is less than 100, then oldest cases of other categories as per **Sr. No.1** to make a total of **120** cases.
5.	**Exclusive NDPS Court**	(i) Oldest cases instituted before 01.01.2024. Subject to maximum of **100** cases for disposal.
6.	**Exclusive Prevention of Corruption Act Court**	(i) Oldest cases. Subject to maximum of **25** cases for disposal.
7.	**Family Court/ Courts set up to deal with Family matters.**	(i) Oldest cases instituted before 01.01.2024. * If there is more than one Family Court in a District then targeted cases must comprise of oldest cases which shall be distributed in equal proportion amongst all Family Courts in the District. Subject to maximum of **150** cases for disposal.
8(i)	**Juvenile Justice Boards having more than 100 cases**	(i) Oldest inquiries (more than 1 year old as on 01.04.2026). Subject to maximum of **100** inquiries for disposal.
8(ii)	**Juvenile Justice Boards where the Principal Magistrate is also dealing with other Civil and Criminal cases.**	(i)All the inquiries which are more than one year old from the date of filing of the report. (ii) Oldest cases of other categories as per **Sr. No.2**. Subject to the total of **150** cases for disposal.
9.	**Exclusive Courts set up under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881**	(i) Oldest cases of NI Act, 1881 instituted before 01.01.2024. * If there is more than one Exclusive NI Act Court in a District then targeted cases must comprise of oldest cases which shall be distributed in equal proportion amongst all Exclusive NI Act Courts in the District. Subject to maximum of **1000** cases for disposal.
10.	**CBI Courts**	(i) Oldest cases. Subject to maximum of **10** cases for disposal.
11.	**Dedicated Commercial Courts**	(i) Oldest cases. Subject to maximum of **100** cases for disposal.
12.	**Labour Courts**	(i) Oldest cases Subject to maximum of **120** cases for disposal.

Guidelines

1. Targets for disposal of old cases under the Action Plan pertaining to the Courts of Newly Appointed and Newly Promoted Judicial Officers of the rank of Additional District & Sessions Judges shall not be assigned in the year they commence actual court work (after completion of training etc.), and shall be allotted only from April of the following year, provided that no such Officer is given targets until completion of a minimum of six months of actual Court work, which if already completed by April, entitles them to targets from April itself.

Targets for disposal of old cases under the Action Plan shall not be assigned to newly appointed Judicial Officers in the rank of Civil Judges in the year they commence actual Court work (after completion of training etc.) nor in the immediately following Action Plan year, and shall be allotted only from April of the second following year.

2. (i) Stayed cases are not to be included in the list. In case the stay is vacated during the currency of Action Plan then the same be included in the list of Action Plan cases.

(ii) Prepare and regularly update data of old/ targeted cases that have been stayed by Hon'ble High Court and Hon'ble Supreme Court which have not been included in Action Plan or excluded therefrom being stayed/adjourned beyond date fixed.

3. The Re-arrest cases shall not be included in the cases shortlisted for Action Plan.

4. The District Case Management Committee (DCMC), headed by District & Sessions Judges shall, in consultation with Hon'ble Administrative Judge, distribute and allocate the cases targeted under Action Plan 2026-27 equally amongst the Judicial Officers to ensure that the oldest cases in the Sessions Division are properly targeted and they shall manage the work by using their administrative skills.

5. The District & Sessions Judge shall ensure uploading of the Court wise list of cases identified under Action Plan 2026-27 alongwith stage of case on the website of the Sessions Division within one week from the date of receipt of the communication from this Court and also updating of the status of such cases on monthly basis latest by **10th** of every month. The District and Sessions Judge shall ensure that the list of Action Plan cases is not changed except under his orders.

6. In case any Officer proceeds on long leave, resigns or is transferred during the period from 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2027 and no substitute is provided in place of such Officer or in the event of amalgamation on withdrawal of a Court or amalgamation of the posts, the District & Sessions Judge shall transfer the cases pending in such Court equally amongst all other judicial officers and exclude the rest of the pending targeted cases of the said Officer and the lists of Action Plan cases of such transferee Court(s) shall be modified in proportion accordingly.

7. In case an additional Judicial Officer joins after transfer during the currency of Action Plan, then the District & Sessions Judge shall fix the proportionate target under Action Plan for the said Officer from other oldest cases out of the remaining cases not included in the Action Plan 2026-27 earlier and the target for the Sessions Division be also modified accordingly.

8. The Court shall ensure that reasonable opportunity is given to the parties before passing any adverse order of closing of evidence and to ensure there is no artificial disposal of cases by dismissing in default, closing of evidence etc. and to grant adjournments even in targeted cases where reasonable cause is shown.

9. The District & Sessions Judge shall submit the Court wise figures of disposal of targeted cases selected under Action Plan 2026-27 in the following format to this Court on monthly basis on or before 10th of every month for placing the same before Hon'ble Administrative Judge of the concerned Sessions Division.

Statement showing disposal of targeted cases under Action Plan 2026-27 in _____ Sessions Division for the month of_____.

Name of the officer with designation_____						
Nature of cases targeted (category wise)	Number of cases identified as on 01.04.2026	Cases Included	Cases Excluded	Disposal at the end of the month	Balance at the end of the month	Percentage of disposal at the end of the month

*** Number of cases dismissed in default and number of cases in which evidence has been closed by orders be mentioned separately**

10. The disposal of Action Plan cases may be one of the factors to be taken into consideration at the time of recording of Annual Confidential Report of the Judicial Officers. The District and Sessions Judges shall also consider the disposal of action plan cases while writing his remarks on self appraisal reports of the Judicial Officers.

11. That civil cases where the framing of issues has been pending for over one month even after completion of pleadings be identified and action be taken to ensure that these issues are promptly framed.

12. Similarly, identify criminal cases where the charges are required to be framed as per law but have been delayed for more than one month (after appearance of the accused person) and immediate steps be taken to ensure prompt framing of charges.

13. In civil suits, any interim applications that have been pending for more than three months be given priority for disposal.

14. DCMC to identify and prepare list of civil cases pending for more than 5 years on account of non-service of summons/ notices and collaborate with all the stakeholders including officials from Revenue Department, to effectuate service of summons/notices. Such matters be prioritized and focus shall be on effecting service on the parties/ witnesses.

15. Data from Jails be called qua the under trials who have already served 1/3 rd of the maximum period of imprisonment, so that these cases may be expedited for disposal, potentially through priority listing, fast-track trials, bail hearings, plea bargaining etc.

* **Statements with regard to point no. 11 to 15 be prepared periodically and be discussed monthly during meetings convened by the Ld. District and Sessions Judge with the Judicial Officers of the respective District.**

16. Pre-Lok Adalat sittings be conducted for resolution of identified old cases.

17. Identify specific reasons for unprepared status of 'unready cases' and put in strenuous efforts to systematically reduce the number of unready cases.

18. Assign a Unique Identifier to targeted cases at the time of filing of appeal or revision in higher courts.

19. Conduct Virtual Court hearings for expedient disposal of targeted cases.

20. Use 'Urgent case feature' in the CIS to highlight the targeted/ oldest cases at the top of the cause list.

21. Priority be given to cases involving individuals with terminal illness or senior citizens.

22. Make endeavors to minimize unnecessary adjournments in targeted cases.

23. The Judicial officers shall download and make use of **JustIS app** already conveyed vide this Court's letter No.2442 Spl/CB10 dated 06/12/2022 as well as **NJDG**.

24. Targeted cases be notified on the court notice boards and to the respective Bar Associations.

25. To conduct physical verification of cases on a continual basis and to ensure that the correct data is uploaded on the National Judicial Data Grid.

26. **For Exclusive Courts:-**

(i) Set up mechanisms to track progress and identify areas for improvement.

(ii) Collaborate with stakeholders, including Bar Associations, Legal Services Authorities and law enforcement agencies.

(iii) Provide training and support to court personnel.

(iv) Regularly review progress and adjust strategies as per the unique needs.

27. DCMC to convene regular meetings to review progress, reassign targets as needed and resolve bottlenecks hindering case disposal.

28. DCMC to hold refresher meetings with Senior Police Officers and Public Prosecutors.

29. DCMC to reaffirm appointment of the designated Nodal Officer (including from the Revenue Department for decree proceedings) to oversee case specific challenges, in case such Nodal Officer has not been appointed.

You are requested to bring this communication to the notice of all the Judicial Officers working under your control for its meticulous compliance.

Aashima Sahdev 18/04/26

OSD (Gazette-II)

Endst. No. _____ Gaz.II (14G/28G) dated _____

Copy forwarded to the following for information.

- Registrar (Grouping) -cum- Principal Secretary (Administration) to Hon'ble the Chief Justice;
- Special Secretary/Secretary/Private Secretary to all Hon'ble Judges;
- Secretary/Private Secretary/Steno to all Registrars;
- Steno to all OSDs;
- Director (Admn.), Chandigarh Judicial Academy.

High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh

SD/-

OSD (Gazette-II)