

File No. N-9/2/2013-NM (e-1982)
Government of India
Department of Justice
Ministry of Law and Justice

Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road,
New Delhi – 110011
Date: 7 August, 2026

Subject: Call for Proposals under “Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms” of Department of Justice-reg.

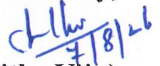
The Department of Justice had issued a Call for Proposals on 31.07.2026 under the Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms, inviting research proposals on identified themes relating to judicial reforms. In continuation of the said Call for Proposals, the Department has identified an additional research topic aimed at generating evidence-based policy interventions and strategies for improving judicial performance and reducing case pendency. The details of the additional research topics are enclosed as *Annexure*.

2. All projects sanctioned under the Scheme are subject to the approval of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC). The Guidelines of the Scheme and the prescribed proforma for submission of proposals are available on the Department of Justice website at <https://doj.gov.in/scheme-for-action-research-and-studies-on-judicial-reforms-5/>.

3. Reputed institutions are invited to submit research proposals on the aforesaid additional topics in the prescribed format for consideration by the Project Sanctioning Committee. The proposals may be forwarded to the undersigned latest by **31st August, 2026**. For any clarification regarding the Scheme or the research topic, the undersigned may be contacted.

Enclosed: List of topics/areas

Yours faithfully,


(Smitha Viju)

Under Secretary

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Copy to:

NIC, Department of Justice for hosting the notice on Department website.

Topic: Comparative Assessment of Judicial Performance in District Courts Across India: Identifying Determinants of Court Efficiency and Strategies for Reducing Pendency.

Expected Scope of Work

- Undertake a comparative assessment of judicial performance across District and Subordinate Courts in all States and Union Territories, including regional comparisons across the North, South, East, West, Central and North-Eastern regions of India.
- Analyse the Case Clearance Rate (CCR), separately for civil and criminal cases, over the last 5 years and identify States and Union Territories consistently achieving a CCR of 100% or above.
- Compare judicial performance across States and regions using indicators such as CCR, institution, disposal, pendency, age of pending cases, average case disposal time and court productivity, and identify high-performing and low-performing States and District Courts.
- Examine the reasons for variations in court performance, including judicial vacancies, disposal patterns, court-level efficiency, case-load distribution, administrative practices, judge strength, judge-population ratio, court infrastructure, support staff, adoption of technology under the e-Courts Project and other institutional factors.
- Analyse instances where States with comparatively fewer judges have consistently maintained a high CCR and identify the factors contributing to such performance.
- Assess the role of judicial administration, case-flow management, listing practices, High Court monitoring, digital interventions, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and local innovations in improving judicial efficiency.
- Undertake field studies in selected high-performing and low-performing District Courts across different regions to identify successful practices and operational bottlenecks.
- Study the performance assessment system of the District and Subordinate Judiciary and examine its relationship with case disposal rates.
- Identify best practices adopted by high-performing courts and States with regard to case disposal and develop evidence-based recommendations and a framework for improving court efficiency, enhancing case disposal and reducing pendency.

Methodology

Any methodology adopted should mandatorily include the following:

- **Data Analysis:** Analyse judicial performance data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), e-Courts Project and other official sources using indicators such as Case

Clearance Rate (CCR), institution, disposal, pendency, age of pending cases, average case disposal time, judicial vacancies, judge strength, infrastructure and technology adoption.

- **State-wise and Regional Comparative Assessment:** Compare judicial performance across all States and Union Territories, as well as across the North, South, East, West, Central and North-Eastern regions, to identify patterns, regional variations and determinants of judicial efficiency.
- **Statistical Analysis:** Undertake correlation, regression and other quantitative analyses to assess the impact of judicial, institutional, administrative and infrastructural variables on court performance.
- **Field Studies:** Conduct field visits to selected high-performing and low-performing District Courts across different regions to examine court administration, case-flow management, workflow practices, utilisation of technology, institutional innovations and operational challenges.
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** Hold consultations with High Courts, State Court Administrations, District Judges, judicial officers, Registrars General, Court Managers, Bar Associations, court staff and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Process Mapping and Best Practice Review:** Document end-to-end court processes, identify procedural bottlenecks, and review national and international best practices in judicial administration and performance management.

Expected Deliverables

- **Interim Report** within 6 weeks of initiation of the Study and Final Report within 12 months.
- **Judicial Performance Assessment Report:** State-wise and regional analysis of judicial performance indicators, including Case Clearance Rate (CCR), disposal and pendency.
- **Comparative Analysis Report:** Assessment of the institutional, administrative and operational factors influencing judicial performance across States.
- **Best Practices Compendium:** Documentation of successful administrative, technological and case management practices adopted by high-performing courts and States.
- **Court Process Assessment Report:** Identification of operational bottlenecks and recommendations for improving court efficiency.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Evidence-based recommendations and a framework for improving judicial performance, enhancing case disposal and reducing pendency.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For Undertaking Research Studies under the

“Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms”

1. Background

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was established with the objective of improving access to justice by reducing delays and arrears in the justice delivery system and enhancing accountability through institutional reforms, capacity building and performance standards.

To support evidence-based policy making and strengthen the justice delivery ecosystem, the Department of Justice invites proposals from eligible institutions for undertaking research studies under the “Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms”.

2. Invitation for Proposals

The Department of Justice invites proposals from eligible institutions for conducting research studies on the themes specified in this RFP.

3. Research Themes

Proposals are invited for the following study:

“Comparative Assessment of Judicial Performance in District Courts Across India: Identifying Determinants of Court Efficiency and Strategies for Reducing Pendency”.

Detailed scope of work, methodology requirements and expected deliverables for the study are provided in Annexure.

4. Eligibility Criteria

4.1. The following institutions are eligible to submit proposals:

- a. National Law Universities and other recognized Universities.
- b. Judicial Academies.
- c. Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).
- d. Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).
- e. Reputed research institutions, think tanks and organizations working in the field of justice delivery, legal research, public policy and judicial reforms.
- f. Any other institution considered suitable by the Department of Justice.

4.2. The proposing institution shall satisfy the following minimum eligibility requirements:

A. Institutional Eligibility

- (a) The institution shall have completed at least three (3) research studies/projects during the last five (5) years for any Ministry/Department of Central Government, State Government, Constitutional Body, Statutory Authority, Court, Tribunal, Regulatory Authority, International Organization or Multilateral Institution.
- (b) The institution shall have published at least five (5) research reports, policy papers, peer-reviewed journal articles or books in the fields of law, governance, public policy, justice delivery, digital governance, public administration or allied subjects during the last five (5) years.

B. Research Team Eligibility

1. The Project Director/Principal Investigator shall possess:
 - A postgraduate degree in Law, Public Policy, Public Administration, Economics, Statistics, Data Science, Management or any other relevant discipline.
 - Minimum ten (10) years of professional experience in research, policy analysis, programme implementation or consultancy.
 - Experience of leading at least three (3) completed research studies/projects.
2. The research team shall comprise at least:
 - One Team Leader/Principal Investigator.
 - Two Research Professionals having postgraduate qualifications and minimum three years' experience.
 - One Data Analyst/Statistician wherever primary survey or quantitative analysis is proposed.
3. Any replacement of key personnel after award of the project shall require prior approval of the Department of Justice.

5. Duration of Study

Interim Report is to be submitted within 6 weeks and the duration of each study (submission of Final Report) shall be twelve (12) months from the date of signing of the Memorandum of Agreement unless otherwise approved by the Department of Justice.

6. Scope of Proposal

The proposal shall clearly indicate:

- a. Understanding of the subject matter and objectives.
- b. Detailed methodology.
- c. Sampling framework and geographical coverage.
- d. Stakeholder consultation plan.
- e. Data collection tools and techniques.
- f. Work plan with timelines and milestones.
- g. Risk mitigation strategy.
- h. Team composition and institutional expertise.

7. Deliverables

The selected agency shall submit, as applicable:

- a. Inception Report.
- b. Baseline Assessment Report.
- c. Stakeholder Consultation Reports.
- d. Interim Progress Reports.
- e. Draft Final Report.
- f. Presentation before the Department/Project Sanctioning Committee.
- g. Final Report incorporating comments of the Department.
- h. Policy Briefs, Frameworks, Guidelines or Roadmaps as specified under the selected research theme.

8. Proposal Submission Requirements

The proposal shall contain the following:

Part A – Technical Proposal

1. Title of Study.
2. Institutional Profile.
3. Details of Principal Investigator/Project Coordinator.

4. Relevant Experience of Institution.
5. Understanding of the Assignment.
6. Objectives.
7. Scope of Work.
8. Detailed Methodology.
9. Sampling Design.
10. Work Plan and Timeline.
11. Team Composition.
12. Expected Outputs and Deliverables.
13. Details of similar assignments undertaken.

Part B – Financial Proposal

Detailed budget under the following heads:

Sl. No.	Budget Head
1	Research Personnel
2	Field Visits/Court Visits
3	Data Collection
4	Travel and Local Conveyance
5	Data Entry and Analysis
6	Workshops/Consultations
7	Report Writing and Editing
8	Printing and Dissemination
9	Contingencies/Miscellaneous

The budget shall be realistic, justified and supported by detailed calculations.

9. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals shall be evaluated by the Project Sanctioning Committee on the basis of:

- a. Institutional capability and relevant experience.
- b. Understanding of the research problem.
- c. Quality and robustness of methodology.
- d. Expertise of the proposed team.
- e. Feasibility of work plan and timelines.
- f. Value for money and reasonableness of budget.

10. Selection Process

The Department reserves the right to:

- a. Seek clarifications from applicants.
- b. Call institutions for presentation of proposals.
- c. Accept or reject any proposal without assigning reasons.
- d. Modify the scope of work, timelines or deliverables before award of the project.

11. Payment Terms

11.1. Financial assistance shall be released in installments subject to:

- a. Approval of the Department of Justice and IFD.
- b. Execution of requisite documents.
- c. Submission and acceptance of deliverables.
- d. Submission of Utilization Certificates and Statement of Expenditure as applicable.

11.2. The financial assistance shall ordinarily be released in the following manner:

First installment upon the DoJ's receipt of a copy of this Agreement signed by the Implementing Agency along with detailed work plan.	20 %
Second installment upon the DoJ's receipt of an interim- progress report confirming completion of the preparatory work for the implementation of the Assignment, including selection/ appointment of staff, preparation of surveys, questionnaires, training materials, drawing of sample, collection of data, as applicable	40 %
Third installment upon the DoJ's receipt of the final report from Implementing Agency.	30 %
Final installment upon acceptance of Final Report to the DoJ.	10%
Total	100%

Release of funds shall be subject to satisfactory performance and acceptance of deliverables by the Department of Justice.

12. Submission of Proposals

The proposal should be submitted in the prescribed format along with all supporting documents on or before the date specified by the Department of Justice.

13. Proposal Validity

The proposal shall remain valid for a period of one (1) year from the last date prescribed for submission of proposals.

14. Undertaking by the Bidder

The proposal shall contain a signed undertaking stating that:

- a. All information furnished in the proposal is true and correct.
- b. The institution is legally competent to enter into contracts.
- c. The institution has not been blacklisted, debarred or declared ineligible by any Central Government Ministry, State Government, Court, Tribunal, Regulatory Authority or Public Sector Undertaking.
- d. No conflict of interest exists that may affect execution of the project.
- e. The institution agrees to abide by all terms and conditions contained in the RFP.

15. Flexibility in Methodology and Deliverables

The scope of work, methodology and deliverables prescribed under each research theme indicate the minimum requirements of the Department.

The proposing institution may suggest additional methodologies, stakeholder consultations, surveys, analytical frameworks, outputs or deliverables which, in its opinion, would enhance the quality and utility of the study. Such additions shall clearly be identified and justified in the proposal.

16. Grounds for Summary Rejection

A proposal shall be summarily rejected if:

- a. It is submitted after the prescribed deadline.
- b. It is incomplete or lacks mandatory documents.
- c. It fails to satisfy any of the minimum eligibility criteria.
- d. It contains false, misleading or fabricated information.
- e. The financial proposal is not submitted in the prescribed format.
- f. The proposal is conditional in nature.
- g. The bidder has been blacklisted or debarred by any Government authority.

17. Clarifications

Any clarification regarding the RFP may be sought in writing through e-mail from:

Under Secretary (National Mission for Judicial Reforms)

Department of Justice

Ministry of Law and Justice

Email: smitha.viju@nic.in

No clarification shall be entertained after seven (7) days prior to the last date of submission of proposals.

18. Disclaimer

The Department of Justice reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, annul the selection process, modify the scope of work, or cancel the RFP at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the applicants.

Submission of a proposal shall not confer any right upon the proposing institution for award of the project.

19. Non-Negotiable Conditions

The successful proposing institution shall agree to the following conditions:

- i. All intellectual property rights, data, databases, reports, survey instruments and other outputs generated under the project shall vest exclusively with the Department of Justice.
- ii. No report, article, paper, presentation, publication or dissemination of findings shall be undertaken without prior written approval of the Department of Justice.
- iii. The proposing institution shall maintain confidentiality of all information, records and data obtained during the study.
- iv. The Department shall have the right to seek revisions, additional analysis or clarifications before acceptance of any deliverable.
- v. The Department may terminate the project for non-performance, breach of contract, misrepresentation or violation of applicable laws.
- vi. The proposing institution shall comply with all applicable laws, including data protection, privacy and confidentiality requirements.
- vii. The proposing institution shall preserve all project records for a minimum period of three years after completion of the project and shall provide access to such records whenever required by the Department.
- viii. The Department shall have unrestricted rights to use, reproduce, modify, publish and disseminate the outputs of the study.

20. Proposal Submission Checklist

The proposing institution shall ensure submission of the following documents:

Sl. No.	Document	Submitted (Yes/No)
1	Covering Letter	
2	Technical Proposal	
3	Financial Proposal	
4	Institutional Profile	
5	Details of Relevant Research Projects	
6	Details of Publications	
7	Curriculum Vitae of Key Personnel	
8	Work Plan and Timeline	
9	Detailed Budget with Break-up	
10	Undertaking and Declaration	
11	Any other supporting document	

Incomplete proposals are liable to be rejected.