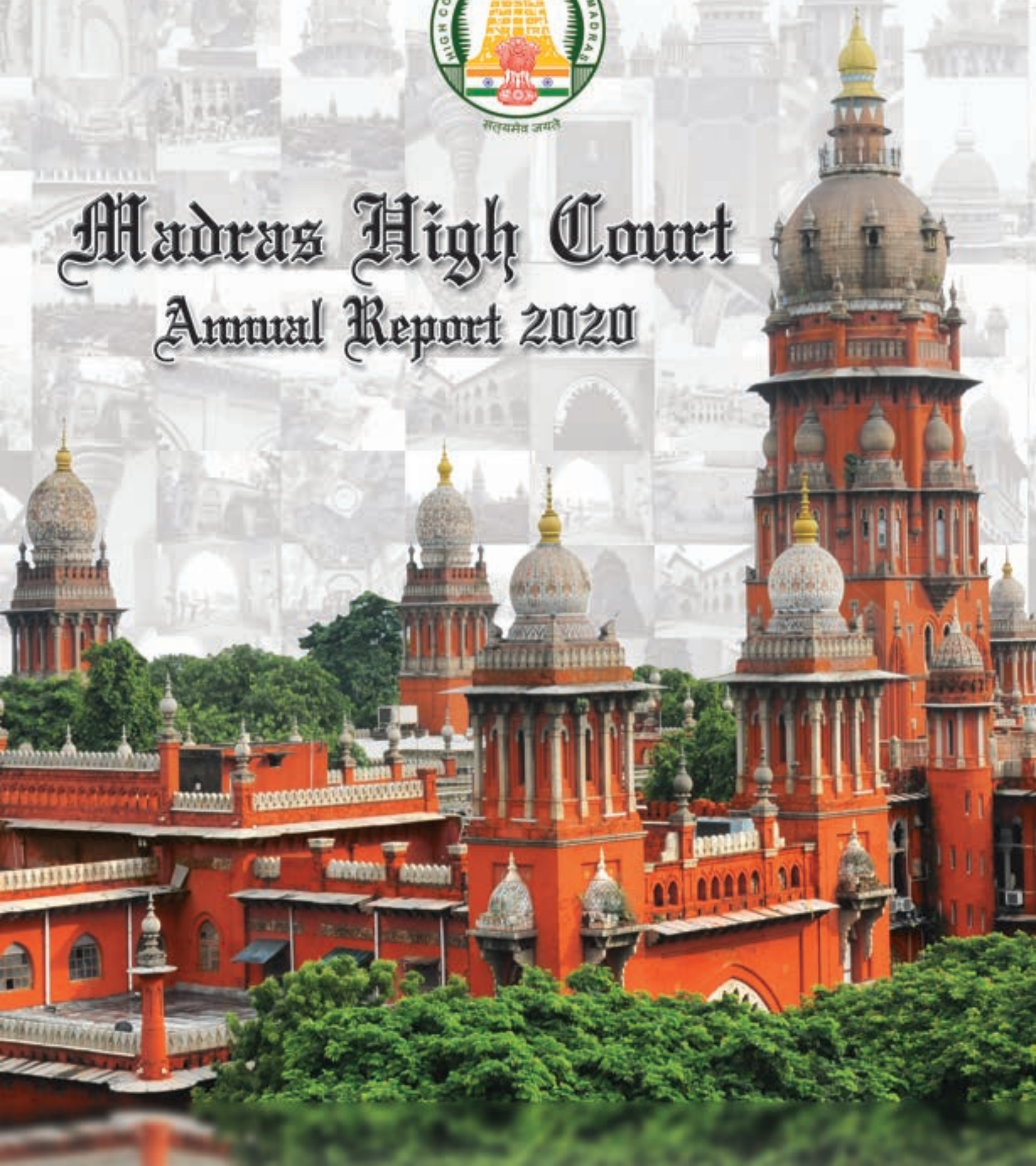




Madras High Court

Annual Report 2020





Madras High Court Heritage Building



Supreme Court of Madras 1817 - 1862
High Court of Madras 1862 - 1892

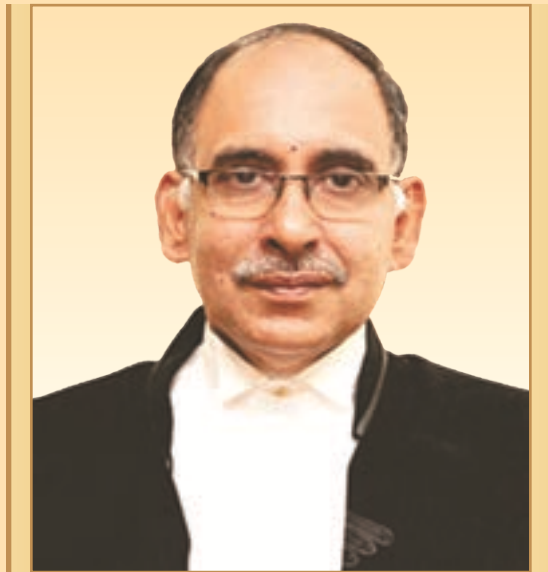


MADRAS HIGH COURT



Annual Report 2020

EDITORIAL BOARD



Mr. Justice
C.V. Karthikeyan



Mr. Justice
C. Saravanan



Mr. Justice
Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy



FROM THE **EDITORS' DESK**

With immense pleasure, we hereby present this Annual Report, 2020. The release of this Annual Report coincides with the celebration of the 75th Independence Day and commemorates the inauguration of the Principal Bench of the Madras High Court on 15.08.1862. The beautiful building that currently houses the Principal Bench was inaugurated a few decades later on 12.07.1892.

This annual report sets out information collated from records of both the Principal Seat of this Madras High Court at Chennai and the Madurai Bench of this Madras High Court. Apart from information from the High Court's archives, information drawn from the High Court's IT systems has also been presented in this Annual Report.

We have attempted to present information and data which we believe are both current and relevant. We trust this report will give the readers a flavour of the accomplishments during the year 2020 amid trying and challenging times. We have also dedicated a few pages of this Annual Report to showcase iconic heritage court buildings in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry, which were not displayed in past editions of the Annual Report. Additionally we have captured earlier Annual Reports which can be viewed by scanning the QR Code at the end of this Report.

Despite the challenges and constraints due to the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic, the judiciary in India discharged its duties admirably without compromising the quality of justice delivery. The justice delivery system in



Tamil Nadu and Puducherry was a forerunner in this regard. Our Courts made the transition with the least possible disruption in the circumstances by conducting Court proceedings through video conferencing.

The credit for the above seamless transition has to be given to all the stakeholders, including the members of the bar, the staff of the Court, the judges of this High Court both at the Principal Seat and at the Madurai Bench, as well the judges and staff of the district judiciary and, of course, the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

During this time, landmark judgments were delivered by the Hon'ble Judges of this Court while conducting Court proceedings through Video Conferencing. We have summarized some of such judgments in this Annual Report.

We hope this Annual Report is useful and provides a snapshot of the work done by the Judiciary in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry during the year 2020.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge our special thanks to the dedicated staff of this High Court who assisted in preparing this Annual Report. They have worked tirelessly and have put up with all inconveniences while preparing this Annual Report. Though we endeavoured to ensure that there are no mistakes in the presentation, we take the responsibility for any inadvertent mistake in this Annual Report and reserve the accolades to the staff for their sincerity, dedication and hard work.

We hope nature shows its mercy and restores normalcy quickly. We trust that by the time the next Annual Report is ready for being released, normalcy would have been restored on an enduring basis.

Until such time, please stay safe and adhere to Covid-appropriate behavior.

Editorial Desk

T. V. Karthikeyan

T. Saravanan

Senthil Kumar Ramamoorthy



From the Desk of the Hon'ble Chief Justice



"Chief Justice House"
23, Greenways Road,
Chennai - 600 028.

Phone : 044 - 2534 2240 (O)
044 - 2495 4222 (R)

Sanjib Banerjee

Justice is immeasurable; yet, accountability demands the continuous measurement, monitoring and improvement of the justice delivery system. The two primary resources available to a judge are his understanding of the law and the time available at his disposal. There are only so many judicial hours available in a day and the judiciary must strive to maximise output within the available judicial hours without compromising on quality. It may be better to satisfactorily decide one matter rather than dispose of ten matters in a perfunctory manner.

At the macro level, the number of judicial hours available in a year is a finite figure and may be expressed as a product of the total number of judges available to the system and the total number of working hours in a year. On the demand side would be the institution of new cases every year together with those already pending at the beginning of the year. If an assessment is made of the judicial hours necessary to dispose of all the matters in the system at any given point of time and stop the fresh institution of cases till the matters filed are conclusively dealt with, new matters may have to wait several years to be filed.

The judiciary functions within serious constraints. The numbers just do not match. The budgetary allocation for the judiciary is woefully short. The system lacks adequate infrastructure and commensurate personnel. Yet every attempt must be made to maximise output within the given constraints without allowing quality to suffer.

As the scourge of an invisible and non-living organism has thrown life out of gear over the last year and a half, the justice delivery system, like every other, has faltered and stuttered; but in this State, access to justice has been kept open all the time, even if imperfectly. The judiciary has embraced technology to a probably inconceived extent even at the start of the pandemic; it has adapted to stay relevant, but the virus has demanded a high price.

Democracy is at its best when informed choices can be made. Information as to the functioning of the organs of the State and the various public institutions has the twin impact of ensuring transparency and accountability. As much as the accounts of any public body require an annual audit, the performance of such body and the assessment of its relevance also call for all figures pertaining to its functioning being brought into the public domain. It is noted with some pride and satisfaction that the performance of the judiciary in the State of Tamil Nadu was rated the second-best of all the States in the year 2020 by the Department of Justice on the basis of several parameters that were taken into consideration. However, there is always room for improvement, and this Court remains committed in such regard.

The Annual Report of the Madras High Court furnishes accurate figures that go into determining the several indices on which performance may be assessed. The figures furnished in the Report may help researchers and academics arrive at conclusions and provide vital inputs that may help the institution improve and grow, and this Court remains open to valuable suggestions in such regard.

The proper functioning of an institution depends on those who manage it and the numerous silent and tireless workers who serve in virtual anonymity. It is time to appreciate the hard work put in by the staff in the wake of the pandemic, particularly functionaries at the lowest levels.

This High Court has taken great strides in embracing technology and modernising processes. It has attempted to create an academic atmosphere through the many programmes conducted at the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy at its headquarters and at the Madurai and Coimbatore regional centres. It leads the country in the mediation movement. The Madras High Court Arbitration Centre may not have functioned to its full extent in the pandemic year, but it remains a vibrant alternative.

I take this occasion to acknowledge the contribution of the staff, the members of the Registry, my colleagues on the Bench and, most importantly, learned lawyers, who form a part of the same judicial family. I particularly congratulate the Editorial Board for the presentation of the wealth of material in the Annual Report.

Finally, let us not forget those members of the Bar, judicial officers and members of the High Court and District Court staff that we tragically lost to the pandemic.

Jay Byrj.

August 11, 2021.

PART A

Hon'ble Judges in the Supreme Court and Chief Justices in other High Courts Hailing from Madras High Court	12
Hon'ble Judges of Madras High Court	13
Hon'ble Judges Serving in other High Courts Hailing from Madras High Court	18
Hon'ble Judges Superannuated in 2020	19
Law Officers	20
Madras High Court during the time of Pandemic by Advocate General	24
Steps taken by the High Court during COVID-19	27
Landmark Decisions	34
List of Committees	61

PART B

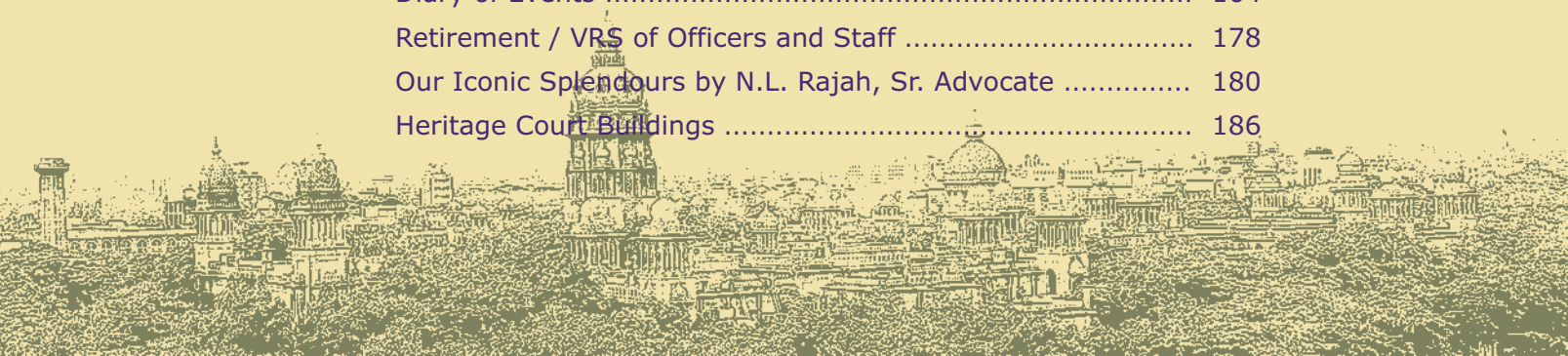
Registry	78
Recruitment Cell	86
Case Statistics	87
District Judiciary (Tamil Nadu & U.T. of Puducherry)	92
Infrastructure Development	103
Budget and 15 th Finance Commission	115
Information and Communication Technology	117
Digitization	122
Effective implementation of Juvenile Justice / POCSO	124
Chief Justices' Conference Secretariat	126
Lok Adalat	127
Important Circulars	128

PART C

Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy	130
Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority	137
Union Territory Of Puducherry Legal Services Authority (State Authority)	148
Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre	157

PART D

Diary of Events	164
Retirement / VRS of Officers and Staff	178
Our Iconic Splendours by N.L. Rajah, Sr. Advocate	180
Heritage Court Buildings	186





Ornamental over head view of the Interior Dome above quadrangle

PART - A



Muthusamy Iyer Statue





Mr. Justice AMRESHWAR PRATAP SAHI

Hon'ble the Chief Justice
(11.11.2019 to 31.12.2020)

JUDGES SERVING IN SUPREME COURT OF INDIA HAILING FROM MADRAS HIGH COURT



Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi

Born on 20.07.1955

Appointed as Judge of Madras High Court on 03.04.2003
Chief Justice of the High Court of Jharkhand on 16.11.2013
Judge of Supreme Court of India on 13.08.2014



Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian

Born on 30.06.1958

Appointed as Judge of Madras High Court on 31.07.2006
Transferred as Judge of the High Court of Telangana on 27.04.2016
Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh on 22.06.2019
Judge of Supreme Court of India on 23.09.2019

THE CHIEF JUSTICES IN OTHER HIGH COURTS HAILING FROM MADRAS HIGH COURT



Mr. Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar

Chief Justice, High Court of Manipur

Born on 14.02.1959

Appointed as Judge of Madras High Court on 10.12.2005
Transferred as Judge of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir on 18.04.2016
Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir from 15.03.2017 to
31.03.2017 and 16.03.2018 to 17.05.2018
Appointed as Chief Justice of High Court of Manipur on 18.05.2018



Mr. Justice S. Manikumar

Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala

Born on : 24.04.1961

Appointed as Judge of Madras High Court on 31.07.2006
Chief Justice of Kerala High Court on 11.10.2019

Hon'ble Judges



**Dr. Justice
Vineet Kothari**

Born on 02.09.1959
Assumed office as Judge,
Madras High Court on 23.11.2018
Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court
from 21.09.2019 to 10.11.2019



**Mr. Justice
R. Subbiah**

Born on 21.06.1959
Appointed on 24.03.2008



**Mr. Justice
M. Sathyanarayanan**

Born on 10.06.1959
Appointed on 23.04.2008



**Mr. Justice
N. Kirubakaran**

Born on 21.08.1959
Appointed on 31.03.2009



**Mr. Justice
M.M. Sundresh**

Born on 21.07.1962
Appointed on 31.03.2009



**Mr. Justice
T.S. Sivagnanam**

Born on 16.09.1963
Appointed on 31.03.2009



**Mr. Justice
M. Duraiswamy**

Born on 22.09.1960
Appointed on 31.03.2009



**Mr. Justice
T. Raja**

Born on 25.05.1961
Appointed on 31.03.2009



**Mr. Justice
P.N. Prakash**

Born on 12.01.1961
Appointed on 25.10.2013



**Mrs. Justice
Pushpa Sathyanarayana**

Born on 28.02.1960
Appointed on 25.10.2013



**Mr. Justice
K. Kalyanasundaram**

Born on 27.05.1960
Appointed on 25.10.2013



**Mr. Justice
S. Vaidyanathan**

Born on 17.08.1962
Appointed on 25.10.2013



**Mr. Justice
R. Mahadevan**

Born on 10.06.1963
Appointed on 25.10.2013



**Ms. Justice
V.M. Velumani**

Born on 06.04.1962
Appointed on 20.12.2013



**Mr. Justice
V. Bharathidasan**

Born on 07.05.1960
Appointed on 07.04.2016



**Mr. Justice
D. Krishnakumar**

Born on 22.05.1963
Appointed on 07.04.2016



**Mr. Justice
S.S. Sundar**

Born on 03.05.1963
Appointed on 07.04.2016



**Mr. Justice
V. Parthiban**

Born on 24.04.1960
Appointed on 05.10.2016



**Mr. Justice
R. Subramanian**

Born on 25.07.1963
Appointed on 05.10.2016



**Mr. Justice
M. Govindaraj**

Born on 19.05.1960
Appointed on 05.10.2016



**Mr. Justice
M. Sundar**

Born on 19.07.1966
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Mr. Justice
R. Suresh Kumar
Born on 29.05.1964
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Mrs. Justice
J. Nisha Banu
Born on 18.09.1966
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Mr. Justice
M.S. Ramesh
Born on 28.12.1963
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Mr. Justice
S.M. Subramaniam
Born on 31.05.1965
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Dr. Justice
Anita Sumanth
Born on 15.04.1970
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Mr. Justice
T. Ravindran
Born on 30.06.1959
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Mr. Justice
P. Velmurugan
Born on 09.06.1965
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Dr. Justice
G. Jayachandran
Born on 01.04.1965
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Mr. Justice
C.V. Karthikeyan
Born on 14.12.1964
Appointed on 05.10.2016



Mr. Justice
RMT. Teekaa Raman
Born on 09.06.1963
Appointed on 16.11.2016



Mr. Justice
N. Sathish Kumar
Born on 06.05.1967
Appointed on 16.11.2016



Mr. Justice
N. Seshasayee
Born on 08.01.1963
Appointed on 16.11.2016



**Mrs. Justice
V. Bhavani Subbaroyan**

Born on 17.05.1963
Appointed on 28.06.2017



**Mr. Justice
A.D. Jagadish Chandira**

Born on 15.02.1966
Appointed on 28.06.2017



**Mr. Justice
G.R. Swaminathan**

Born on 01.06.1968
Appointed on 28.06.2017



**Mr. Justice
Abdul Quddhose**

Born on 08.09.1969
Appointed on 28.06.2017



**Mr. Justice
M. Dhandapani**

Born on 15.04.1968
Appointed on 28.06.2017



**Mr. Justice
P.D. Audikesavalu**

Born on 30.12.1970
Appointed on 28.06.2017



**Mrs. Justice
R. Tharani**

Born on 10.06.1961
Appointed on 01.12.2017



**Mr. Justice
P. Rajamanickam**

Born on 31.05.1959
Appointed on 01.12.2017



**Mrs. Justice
T. Krishnavalli**

Born on 28.09.1959
Appointed on 01.12.2017



**Mr. Justice
R. Pongiappan**

Born on 12.05.1960
Appointed on 01.12.2017



**Mrs. Justice
R. Hemalatha**

Born on 01.05.1963
Appointed on 01.12.2017



**Ms. Justice
P.T. Asha**

Born on 22.08.1966
Appointed on 04.06.2018



Mr. Justice
M. Nirmal Kumar
Born on 23.11.1965
Appointed on 04.06.2018



Mr. Justice
N. Anand Venkatesh
Born on 04.07.1969
Appointed on 04.06.2018



Mr. Justice
G.K. Ilanthiraiyan
Born on 09.07.1970
Appointed on 04.06.2018



Mr. Justice
Krishnan Ramasamy
Born on 03.06.1968
Appointed on 04.06.2018



Mr. Justice
C. Saravanan
Born on 01.12.1971
Appointed on 04.06.2018



Mr. Justice
B. Pugalendhi
Born on 25.05.1967
Appointed on 20.11.2018



Mr. Justice
Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy
Born on 02.10.1966
Appointed on 22.02.2019



Mr. Justice
G. Chandrasekharan
Born on 31.05.1962
Appointed on 03.12.2020



Mr. Justice
A.A. Nakkiran
Born on 10.05.1963
Appointed on 03.12.2020



Mr. Justice
V. Sivagnanam
Born on 01.06.1963
Appointed on 03.12.2020



Mr. Justice
G. Ilangovan
Born on 05.06.1963
Appointed on 03.12.2020



Mrs. Justice
S. Ananthi
Born on 31.07.1960
Appointed on 03.12.2020



Mrs. Justice
S. Kannammal
Born on 20.07.1960
Appointed on 03.12.2020



Mr. Justice
S. Sathi Kumar
Born on 18.07.1963
Appointed on 03.12.2020



Mr. Justice
K. Murali Shankar
Born on 31.05.1968
Appointed on 03.12.2020



Ms. Justice
R.N. Manjula
Born on 16.02.1964
Appointed on 03.12.2020



Mrs. Justice
T.V. Thamilselvi
Born on 19.06.1968
Appointed on 03.12.2020

Judges serving in other High Courts Hailing from Madras High Court



Mr. Justice
M.V. Muralidaran
Born on 16.04.1962
Appointed on 07.04.2016
Transferred to High Court of Manipur on 17.03.2019



Mr. Justice
Subramonium Prasad
Born on 22.06.1967
Appointed on 04.06.2018
Transferred to Delhi High Court on 13.03.2020

Judges Superannuated in 2020



Mr. Justice

Amreshwar Pratap Sahi

Born on 01.01.1959

Appointed as Judge on 24.09.2004

Chief Justice of Patna High Court on 17.11.2018

Chief Justice of Madras High Court on 11.11.2019

Superannuated on 31.12.2020



Mr. Justice

K. Ravichandrababu

Born on 14.10.1958

Appointed on 20.12.2011

Superannuated on 13.10.2020



LAW OFFICERS

Advocate General



Mr. Vijay Narayan

Additional Advocates-General

Mr. V.S. Sethuraman
Mr. P.H. Arvinth Pandian
Mr. S.T.S. Murthi
Mrs. Narmadha Sampath

Mr. S.R. Rajagopal
Mr. A. Kumar
Mr. C. Emalias
Mr. Balaji Srinivasan

Mr. Jayant Muthuraj
Mr. M. Sricharan Rangarajan
Mr. K. Kumaresh Babu

State Government Pleader

Mr. V. Jayaprakash Narayan

Special Government Pleaders

Mr. L.P. Shanmugasundaram
Mr. A.N. Thambidurai
Mrs. Addepalli Shrijayanthi
Mr. P.S. Shivashanmugasundaram
Mr. R. Govindasamy
Mr. V. Kadhivelu
Mr. E. Manoharan

Mr. T.M. Pappaiah
Mr. E. Balamurugan
Mr. V. Shanmuga Sundar
Mr. C. Munusamy
Mr. R. Bala Ramesh
Mr. C. Thirumaran
Mr. J. Bala Gopal

Mr. J. Pothiraj
Mr. Mohammed Shaffiq
Mr. M. Karthikeyan
Mr. S.V. Vijay Prashanth
Mrs. A. Madhumathi

Additional Government Pleaders

Mr. N. Srinivasan
Mr. A. Rajaperumal
Mr. R. V.Babu
Mr. V. Anandhamoorthy
Mrs. K. Bhuvaneshwari
Mr. N. Sakthivel
Mr. N. Inbanathan
Mrs. R. Janaki

Mrs. P. Rajalakshmi
Mr. D. Suriyanarayanan
Mr. K. Ravi Kumar
Mr. D. Raja
Mrs. Thanga Vadhana Balakrishnan
Mr. D. Venkatachalam
Mr. J. Ramesh
Mr. I. Sathish

Mr. R. Udhaya Kumar
Mr. M. Hariharan
Ms. T. Girija
Mr. M. Elumalai
Mr. J. Purushothaman
Mr. M. Thamizharasan

Government Advocates

Mr. A. Zakir Hussain
Mr. R. Venkatesh
Mr. Akhil Akbar Ali
Mr. J.H. Iniyan
Mr. R.P. Prathap Singh
Mr. R.S. Selvam
Mr. S.N. Parthasarathi
Mrs. M. Lalitha
Mr. D. Balasubramanian
Mr. D. Raghu
Mr. P.P. Purushothaman

Mr. A. Devnarendran
Mr. M. Venkadesh Kumar
Mr. S. Soundhararajan
Mr. S. Jaganathan
Mr. S. Suresh Kumar
Mr. K.K. Ramesh
Mrs. P. Kavitha
Mr. B. Anandan
Mr. K.S. Suresh
Mr. G.B. Rajesh

Mr. P. Raja
Mr. E. Neelakandan
Mr. V. Prabhu
Ms. V. Annalakshmi
Mr. N. Manikandan
Mr. S. Kamaleshkannan
Mr. A. Ansar
Mr. B. Anand
Mr. Master Ganesh
Mr. K. Sathyamurthy

Additional Advocate-General (Madurai Bench)

Mr. K. Chellapandian

Special Government Pleaders (Madurai Bench)

Mr. VR. Shanmuganathan
Mr. C. Ramesh
Mr. K.P. Narayanakumar

Ms. J. Padhmaavathi Devi
Mr. K.P. Krishnadoss

Ms. S. Srimathy
Mr. M. Muthugeethayan

Additional Government Pleaders (Madurai Bench)

Mr. D. Muruganantham
Mr. A. Muthukaruppan
Mr. J. Gunaseelan Muthiah
Mr. P. Kannithevan
Mr. R. Murugan

Mr. M. Jeyakumar
Mr. C. Ramar
Mr. K. Mu. Muthu
Mr. C.M. Mari Chelliah Prabhu
Mr. M. Pandiarajan

Mr. N. Shanmuga Selvam
Mr. M. Rajarajan
Mr. K. Sathiya Singh
Mr. M. Muniasamy
Mr. P. Mahendran

Government Advocates (Madurai Bench)

Mr. M. Murugan
Mr. A. Thiagarajan
Mr. S. Angappan
Mr. M. Karuppasamy

Mr. V. Anand
Mrs. V.P.M. Vaishnavi
Mr. B. Bhagawathi
Mr. S. Dhayalan
Mr. R. Murugaraj

Mrs. J. Lakshmi Prasanna
Mr. M. Thilagar
Mr. A. Karthik
Mr. G. Arjunan
Mrs. M. Rajeswari

Additional Solicitor General of India for Southern States



Mr. G. Rajagopalan
(Till 30.06.2020)



Mr. R. Sankaranarayanan
(From 02.07.2020)

Assistant Solicitor General of India Madras High Court

Mr. G. Karthikeyan

Assistant Solicitor General of India Madurai Bench

Mr. V. Kathirvelu
(Till 23.08.2020)

Mrs. Victoria Gowri
(From 08.09.2020)

Public Prosecutor



Mr. A. Natarajan

Additional Public Prosecutors

Mr. C. Iyyapparaj
Mr. R. Prathap Kumar
Mr. K. Prabakar

Mrs. M. Prabhavathi
Mr. M. Mohamed Riyaz
Mr. M. Jothikumar
Mr. S. Karthikeyan

Government Advocates (Criminal Side)

Mrs. T.P. Savitha	Mrs. P. Kritika Kamal	Mr. M. Mohamed Muzammil
Mr. T. Shunmugarajeswaran	Mrs. S. Thankira	Mr. R. Aneesan
Mrs. V. Saratha Devi	Mr. C. Raghavan	Mr. K. Madhan
Mr. B. Arul Mozhi Maran	Mr. G. Ramar	Mr. A. Hari
Mr. G. Harihara Arun Soma Sankar	Mr. R. Surya Prakash	Mr. L. Charles Premkumar

Additional Public Prosecutors (Madurai Bench)

Mr. S. Chandrasekar	Mr. M. Chandrasekaran	Mr. R. Anandaraj
Mr. K. Dinesh Babu	Mr. K.K. Ramakrishnan	Mr. V. Neelakandan

Government Advocates (Madurai Bench)

Mrs. S. Bharathi	Mr. A.P.G. Ohm Chairma Prabhu	Mrs. M. Anantha Devi
Mr. K. Suyambulinga Bharathi	Mr. A. Robinson	Mr. R. Erottuchamy
Mr. R. Saravana Kumar	Mr. R. Srinivasan	Mr. M. Ganesan
Mrs. S.E. Veronica Vincent	Mr. M.V. Chandrasekaran	Mr. K.R. Bharathikannan
Mr. K. Karmegam		

Law Officers of Government of Puducherry

Government Pleader



Mr. A. Gandhiraj
(Till 11.05.2020)



Mrs. N. Mala
(From 20.06.2020)

Public Prosecutor



Mr. D. Bharatha Chakravarthy

Special Government Pleader

Mr. R. Syed Mustafa

Additional Public Prosecutor

Mr. V. Balamurugan

Additional Government Pleader

Mr. C.T. Ramesh
Ms. V. Usha
Mr. A.V. Ramalingam

Mr. V. Nambiselvam
Mr. D. Ravichandran
Mr. J. Kumaran

Government Advocate

Mr. Stalin Abimanyu
Mrs. S. Devie
Mrs. Djeaya rani
Mr. Viswasoundaram

THE MADRAS HIGH COURT DURING THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC – A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE BAR

A robust justice delivery system is the hallmark of any constitutional government of a welfare state, and just as the Executive and the Legislature function during times of national disasters, the Judiciary also had the responsibility to ensure that justice is rendered to the citizens of this country.

The Covid-19 pandemic, which silently and suddenly manifested itself as a full blown pandemic in February–March, 2020 threw tremendous challenges to the effective functioning of the judiciary, but the Madras High Court swiftly responded to effectively put in place the infrastructure and a system for the filing, hearing and disposal of cases.

THE CHALLENGES:

1. The sudden announcement of the initial lockdown took the whole country by surprise; the very nature of the action made it difficult for staff to commute to the High Court to receive papers that are filed every day, to examine and number them, to make the cause list, to circulate the papers to the Hon'ble Judges and to provide support for the Hon'ble Judges to perform their judicial functions.
2. An e-filing system had to be devised urgently to ensure access to courts and justice.
3. A robust infrastructure had to be put in place for virtual hearing through



Mr. Vijay Narayan

Advocate General
2020

video conferencing - finding and employing the right technology posed tremendous challenges.

4. All this had to be done in the midst of a raging pandemic, when staff of the High Court were getting infected, thus necessitating the adoption of strict protocols and standard operating procedures for ensuring the safety and health of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court and the entire staff that support them in the justice delivery system.
5. The important partner in the justice delivery system, the legal fraternity of lawyers, had to be trained and familiarised with the sudden adoption of this new technology. Normally, any change in systems would involve innumerable meetings and detailed discussions between the High Court and the lawyers but, in the prevailing circumstances, everything had to be done within a few days to ensure that there was no interruption in the judicial functioning of courts in Tamil Nadu.

6. All this had to be done not only for the High Court, but for the hundreds of subordinate courts all over Tamil Nadu, the control of which vests with the High Court under Article 235 of the Constitution of India.

The High Court did have a video conferencing system but it had very limited capabilities and was meant mainly to hear cases where Judges were stationed at Chennai or Madurai and could not be at the same physical location together. Hence, a suitable video conferencing software had to be selected for making the hearing accessible to any person who had a phone, tablet or a laptop or desktop computer. Initially, the court had selected a software application known as WebEx by Cisco but on a review being made, the court finally decided on Microsoft teams.

Full credit must go to the E-committee of the High Court, the guidance provided by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and to the E-governance department of the State of Tamil Nadu for the systems that they meticulously devised to ensure that the court functions un-interruptedly for over one year and three months as on date. The system has worked so well that there have been suggestions that some level of virtual hearing should continue in the future also.

THE VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE

In the initial days of the lock down, the High Court and the subordinate courts functioned in a highly restricted manner with a few judges hearing civil and constitutional cases and a few judges

hearing criminal cases. Lawyers were put to great financial inconvenience: unlike their salaried counterparts in other professions, to a great extent, lawyers depend upon hearing fees and, if courts are not functioning at full strength, it is obvious that lawyers would be deprived of their income.

The constant narrative in the early days, which still continues to a great extent, was that the pandemic created two classes of lawyers – lawyers who had access to superior technology and could quickly adapt to the new methods of hearing, as opposed to lawyers who could not afford to have access to the technology and did not also have the equipment to meet the challenges of the new regime.

Various Bar Associations and their leaders tried to persuade the Hon'ble Chief Justice and the Administrative Committee to open the courts for physical hearing, but given the rising number of cases, the directions of the National Disaster Management Authority, as well as the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, it was not feasible to reopen the courts for physical hearing.

On speaking with lawyers from various High Courts, the undeniable conclusion that one could safely arrive at is that Madras High Court performed exceedingly well in swiftly setting up the infrastructure to dispense justice in these difficult times.

Past experience has shown that pandemics of this nature generally move in waves, from one region to another,

peaking at some periods and ebbing at other times.

The response of the Madras High Court was highly calibrated and due credit must go to the Hon'ble Chief Justice and the Administrative Committee for carefully monitoring the situation and taking appropriate steps at the right time. Hence, when the numbers came down, the High Court opened the chambers for lawyers and also the courts for hybrid hearing. Many lawyers did stay away, either because of their age or other co-morbidities, though it is extremely difficult for a lawyer to resist the glamour of the courtroom, and the entirely different style of argument that it offers.

There are two other aspects which need to be mentioned to complete the picture. The first was the tremendous difficulties faced by many lawyers in terms of sustaining themselves during this period. Many lawyers have financial commitments in terms of vehicle loans, home loans, payment to staff, rent and household expenses et cetera and, with no social security, the pandemic put them under severe financial stress. To a great extent, the new system resulted in loss of practice and income for many lawyers. The Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry rose to the occasion and collected over a crore of rupees but, with so many lawyers who were placed in difficult circumstances, each applicant ended up getting a meagre sum of approximately Rs.4000.

Secondly, this state lost a large number of lawyers to the virus – too many to count, but it can safely be stated that the spread of the virus was not due to the functioning of the courts but because the infection came from other sources. Many High Court Judges and subordinate court Judges were also infected. Providence prevented any untoward mishap in the High Court, though a few subordinate court judges did succumb to the virus. In spite of the great risk involved, all the judges of the Madras High Court extended their wholehearted cooperation in discharging their duties.

Fifteen months have gone by since the court started functioning in this manner. Most lawyers would never have imagined that they would see anything like this in their lifetimes but in the final analysis, given the contours of this national disaster, it must be stated with satisfaction that the Madras High Court kept its flag flying high in performing exceedingly well during these uncertain times. The statistics are available elsewhere in this report but as has often been said, statistics do not tell the whole story, they paint only a part of the picture. The quality of hearings, the patient disposition of judges, the quality of the judgments rendered, and the consistently high level of performance both from judges and lawyers are all benchmarks which will never be forgotten.

STEPS TAKEN DURING THE PERIOD OF COVID 19 FOR THE WELFARE OF THE OFFICERS AND STAFF MEMBERS OF HIGH COURT

Infrastructure

- ❖ The Entry and Exit was limited to 2 Gates, out of 8 Gates.
- ❖ In both the Gates, facility for Hand wash with Foot operated tap and liquid soap were provided.
- ❖ Floor Cleaning was done in all the corridors of the High Court on daily basis with the help of a Moping Machine.
- ❖ All Sections and Doors / Knobs / Handrails of each room were disinfected every day in the morning and during lunch hours.
- ❖ The Cars of the Hon'ble Judges and Officers were disinfected daily at the entry gate.
- ❖ The Vehicles of the Staff Members (around 200 to 300) entering into the High Court campus were disinfected daily at the parking lot.
- ❖ The Sanitary Staff were trained with the disinfection protocol.
- ❖ All the Hon'ble Judges' chambers were provided with disinfectant materials with pump sprayer.
- ❖ All the rest rooms in the High Court campus were disinfected twice a day.
- ❖ The Advocate Associations, Advocate Chambers, Staff Canteen, and Advocate Canteen in the High Court campus were closed from 24.03.2020.

Officers and Staff

- ❖ Officers / Staff Members were

instructed to wear masks and keep social distancing as per the Medical Protocol.

- ❖ Masks and Sanitizers were provided to all the Officers and Staff Members.
- ❖ Thermal Scanning were done by the CISF at both the South and MBA gate for all the entrants into the High Court.
- ❖ An officer in the rank of JR/DR/AR on rotation basis were posted in both the gates to supervise social distancing and the hand washing/wearing of mask by every entrant entering into the High Court.
- ❖ All the Officers and Staff were encouraged to frequently use sanitizers and hand wash even while in the office.
- ❖ Joint Registrars were deputed to regularly go around all the sections and supervise the staff to ensure up keep of social distancing and wearing of masks during office hours.
- ❖ Registrars were directed to regularly inspect all the sections by making surprise visits.
- ❖ Staff members were directed to attend office on Rotation basis with minimum strength, not exceeding 50%.

Transport arrangement

- ❖ Duty Passes were issued to all the Officers and Staff Member, attending duty.
- ❖ Chartered Bus Transportation was arranged for the Officers

and Staff Members of the High Court from various parts of Chennai City.

- ❖ Bus services were extended to the City Civil Courts, Pay and Accounts Office, Indian Bank and Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority.

Medical Facilities

- ❖ Siddha Medicine by name "Kabasurakudiner powder" was distributed twice to all the Hon'ble Judges, Officers, Staff Members and to their family members, with the help of the Health Department.
- ❖ Homeopathy Medicine, Arsenicum Album 30c tablets were distributed twice to all the Hon'ble Judges, Officers and Staff Members, and CISF personnel with the help of the Health Department.
- ❖ Allopathic Medicine, Vitamin C and Zinc Tablets were distributed twice to all the Hon'ble Judges, Officers and Staff Members with the help of the Health Department.
- ❖ Siddha Clinic was inaugurated on 16-07-2020 by the Hon'ble Chief Justice inside the High Court campus.
- ❖ From 16-07-2020 Siddha herbal concoctions viz., Kabasura Kudineer, Nilavembu Kudineer and Adhimathuram Herbal Tea were distributed to the Officers and Staff Members on a daily basis (350 to 400 employees took the above Siddha concoctions regularly).

COVID prevention

- ❖ Staff and Staff family members having symptoms of cough, cold, fever or any

co-morbidities and pregnant women staff were advised to stay at home.

- ❖ Staff members were required to submit online self certification, to the effect that they do not suffer any Covid symptoms; not coming from containment zone; not having co-morbidities; not pregnant, and that none of their family members were infected with Covid-19 or any persons awaiting results of COVID test.
- ❖ A section was immediately closed if there was Report of any Staff member being affected and disinfection protocol was carried out by trained staff.
- ❖ Infected Officers/ Staff Members were taken care of by the High Court through the Nodal Officer, for providing better treatment.
- ❖ Staff members, depending upon the contact, viz., primary or secondary, were tested regularly and pending the release of the test result, the concerned officer/staff member was directed to stay in self quarantine.

Video Conference Details:

- ❖ Depending upon the instructions of the Hon'ble Judges, trained staff were deputed for conducting hearing through Video Conferencing.
- ❖ VC details: Between 06-07-2020 and 07-08-2020 around 24,170 cases were heard through Video Conferencing and 94,649 participants participated in those hearings.
- ❖ For conducting Video Conferencing, all the Hon'ble Judges and Registrars in the High Court were provided with

FUNCTIONING OF HIGH COURT DURING COVID – 19 LOCKDOWN

I. Between 24th March, 2020 and 16th April, 2020:

- ❖ Advocates/Parties filed case papers through e-mail to the e-mail ID of the Registrar (Judicial), who in turn forwarded the same to the respective Heads of the Branch ie., Joint Registrar/Deputy Registrar as the case may be.
- ❖ The Heads of the respective Branch forwarded the case papers received through e-mail from the Advocates/Parties to the Personal Assistants of the respective Hon'ble Benches as per Roster. After obtaining instructions, arrangements were made by the Registry to scrutinize the case papers and after assigning case number to that particular case, informed the Counsels telephonically to ensure their presence to attend Court Proceedings through Video Conferencing or otherwise.
- ❖ After hearing arguments of all concerned, the Court passed orders and the same were uploaded in the dedicated link in the High Court Website created to post Orders/Judgments during Covid-19 Lockdown period. For Orders to be communicated to the Prison, a copy of the same was downloaded from the High Court Website and sent to the Prison authorities through e-mail.

II. Between 17th April, 2020 and 31st May, 2020

- ❖ Advocates/Parties filed case papers through e-mail to the e-mail ID of the

respective Heads of the Branch ie., Joint Registrar/Deputy Registrar as the case may be. Facility of e-filing of Bail Applications in Madras High Court e-filing portal commenced from 22-04-2020.

- ❖ The Heads of the respective Branch forwarded the case papers received through e-mail to the Personal Assistants of the respective Hon'ble Benches as per Roster. After obtaining instructions, arrangements were made by the Registry to scrutinize the case papers and after assigning case number to that particular case, informed the Counsels telephonically or through Short Message Service to ensure their presence to attend Court Proceedings through Video Conferencing only. Upon directions of the Hon'ble Court, the Advocates/Parties filed Hard Copies of the case papers.
- ❖ After hearing arguments of all concerned, the Court passed orders and the same were uploaded in the dedicated link in the High Court Website created to post Orders/Judgments during Covid-19 Lockdown period. For Orders to be communicated to the Prison, a copy of the same was downloaded from the High Court Website and sent to the Prison authorities through e-mail.

III. Between 1st June 2020 and 30th June, 2020

- ❖ Advocates/Parties filed case papers through e-mail to the e-mail ID of the

respective Heads of the Branch ie., Joint Registrar/Deputy Registrar as the case may be.

- ❖ The Heads of the respective Branches forwarded the case papers received through e-mail to the Personal Assistants of the respective Hon'ble Benches as per Roster. After obtaining instructions, arrangements were made by the Registry to scrutinize the case papers and assign case number to that particular case.
- ❖ Court Wise Causelist was prepared and published in the Madras High Court Website.
- ❖ After hearing arguments the Court passed orders and the same were uploaded in the usual link of Madras High Court website which was existence prior to Covid-19 Lockdown. Preparation of Copies of the Orders passed by the Court started and were dispatched to the addressees as per the instructions of the Court.

IV. Between 1st July 2020 and 13th July, 2020

- ❖ Advocates/Parties filed case papers through e-mail to the e-mail ID of the respective Heads of the Branch ie., Joint Registrar/Deputy Registrar as the case may be.
- ❖ The Case papers so received from the Advocates were forwarded for scrutiny. After scrutiny, case number were assigned and listed before the Court concerned.
- ❖ Apart from fresh admissions, Registry started listing old cases before the Courts as per Roster.

- ❖ Court Wise Causelist was prepared and published in the Madras High Court Website.

- ❖ After hearing arguments of all concerned, the Court passed orders and the same was uploaded in the usual link of Madras High Court website which was in existence prior to Covid-19 Lockdown. Preparation of Copies of the Orders passed by the Court started and were dispatched to the addressees as per the instructions of the Hon'ble Court.

V. Between 14th July 2020 till December 2020

- ❖ Advocates/Parties filed case papers through e-mail to the e-mail ID of the respective Heads of the Branch ie., Joint Registrar/Deputy Registrar as the case may be OR by filed the case papers PHYSICALLY at the designated Counter created for the purpose.
- ❖ The Case papers received from the Advocates through E-MAIL were forwarded to the Appeal Examiners through e-mode and after due scrutiny, case numbers were assigned and listed before the Court concerned.
- ❖ The Cases papers that were received physically were allotted to the Appeal Examiners who were available in the Section concerned and after due scrutiny, case number were assigned and listed before the Court concerned.
- ❖ Apart from fresh admissions, Registry started listing old Adjourned Admission and Notice of Motion stage cases before the Courts as per Roster. Final hearing stage cases were listed

before the Hon'ble Courts only upon consent from the Parties to the Proceedings except Appeals arising from the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act, Petitions filed under Article 227 of Constitution of India and Civil Revision Petition arising from pending Suits in the Trial Courts, Petitions filed under Section 482 of Cr.PC and Writ Petitions filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India for mandamus.

- ❖ Court Wise Causelist was prepared and published in the Madras High Court Website.
- ❖ After hearing arguments, the Court passed orders and the same was uploaded in the usual link of Madras High Court website which was in existence prior to Covid-19 Lockdown. Preparation of Copies of the Orders passed by the Court started and were despatched to the addressees as per the instructions of the Court.
- ❖ Copy Applications were also entertained for the issuance of Certified copies of the Orders/Judgments passed by the Court.

FUNCTIONING OF THE SUBORDINATE COURTS IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU AND UNION TERRITORY OF PUDUCHERRY AND STEPS TAKEN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE OFFICERS AND STAFF MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE COURTS DURING THE PERIOD OF COVID-19

For effective prevention of spread of Corona Virus disease in the premises of the Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry, various advisories were issued to all the Principal District Judges periodically since mid March, 2020.

The Hon'ble the Chief Justice interacted with the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Health Secretary and requested them to issue necessary directions to all the District Collectors in the State of Tamil Nadu to coordinate with the concerned Principal District Judges to extend necessary support for effective prevention of Corona Virus Disease in the Court Premises. Consequently, the Government of Tamil Nadu issued the following directions to the District Collectors:

- ❖ To screen all the entrants in the Court campus with Thermal Scanners and to identify and isolate the suspected cases.
- ❖ To help in disinfection of the Court campuses following appropriate protocol.
- ❖ To provide hand sanitizers/hand wash/liquid soap/solution to prevent infection to the Judicial Officers and Staff Members.
- ❖ To train the Judicial Staff on infection prevention practices, particularly in maintaining cleanliness of premises and personal hygiene.
- ❖ To provide any other support required by the Judiciary to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the Court Premises.

STEPS TAKEN/DIRECTIONS ISSUED BY THE HIGH COURT FOR SUBORDINATE COURTS IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU AND UNION TERRITORY OF PUDUCHERRY

Precautionary Measures:

- ❖ To close the food stall, eateries, etc., in the court premises
- ❖ To restrict the entry of litigants and general public in the court premises in order to avoid congestion
- ❖ To follow all Standard Operating Procedures relating to Covid-19, announced by the Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu from time to time.
- ❖ To arrange for the presence of Paramedical/Medical Staff through District Administration/ Chief Medical Officer, apart from availability of Thermal Scanners, sufficient quantity of sanitizing materials, to the Courts.
- ❖ With regard to attendance of staff members - to rotate the staff in shifts in proportion to facilitate minimum presence that may be essential for court functioning.
- ❖ Whenever any report relating to infection of Officer / Staff Member is received, to ensure Standard Protocol in respect of prevention to be undertaken and further all possible medical aid be provided to the concerned Officer/Staff Member, with such other measure that may be required to keep the court premises safe.
- ❖ To close the Advocate Associations, Advocate Chambers, Staff Canteen, and Advocate Canteen in the campus from 24.03.2020.
- ❖ To issue duty passes to the Court Staff in the District Judiciary.
- ❖ On considering the reports regarding the staff affected with Covid-19, directions were issued to observe all Covid Norms; to undertake protective measures; the concerned Officer/Staff were medically well attended to in coordination with the Medical and Administrative Authorities promptly; and necessary aid including hospitalization taken care of.
- ❖ The Chief Secretary to the State Government and Health Secretary had been addressed to issue necessary instructions to the District Administration, including Medical Superintendent to provide adequate Medical facilities like Thermal Scanner, Masks, Sanitizers etc. to the District Judiciary.
- ❖ The Secretary to Transport Department was also addressed to take necessary steps to provide transport facilities to the Staff Members for attending the Courts from their residences.
- ❖ CCTV footage of all the Subordinate Courts were personally monitored by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for giving appropriate directions then and there.

Limited functioning of Subordinate Courts:

- ❖ The Hon'ble the Chief Justice periodically interacted with the Principal District Judges regarding limited functioning of Subordinate Courts through Video Conferencing, held on 07.04.2020, 27.05.2020, 05.06.2020, 18.06.2020, 02.07.2020 and 28.07.2020.
- ❖ All the Presiding Officers of the Courts in all the Districts were allowed to enter into the Court premises w.e.f. 01.06.2020 and directed to continue their work only through Video Conferencing with limited number of cases.
- ❖ On considering the inputs received from the Principal District Judges and keeping in view the number of practicing lawyers being around 75-150, w.e.f. 01.06.2020 in addition to hearing through Video Conferencing, limited physical hearing was permitted in the Subordinate Courts in 9 District Headquarters in the State of Tamil Nadu (Dharmapuri, The Nilgiris, Krishnagiri, Tiruvarur, Theni, Ramanathapuram, Nagappattinam, Karur and Sivagangai) with the presence of a maximum of 5 lawyers at a time in a Court Hall, with specific instructions not to allow litigants and others to enter into the Court premises.
- ❖ On considering the further inputs received from the Principal District Judges, physical functioning of the Taluk Courts in the above said 9 Districts in the State of Tamil Nadu was allowed w.e.f. 04.06.2020.
- ❖ On further assessment, limited physical functioning of the Courts in the District Headquarters and Taluks in 9 more Districts in the State of Tamil Nadu (Ariyalur, Perambalur, Erode, Pudukkottai, Cuddalore, Namakkal, Dindigul, Virudhunagar and Kanniyakumari) and physical functioning of Courts only in the Taluks in Tiruppur District was allowed from 08.06.2020.
- ❖ On further assessment, limited physical functioning of the Courts in the District Headquarters and Taluks in 10 more Districts in the State of Tamil Nadu and in the Courts in the Union Territory of Puducherry was allowed from 22.06.2020 (Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Villupuram and Union Territory of Puducherry).
- ❖ Hearing only through Video Conferencing was allowed in the remaining 3 Districts in the State of Tamil Nadu due to steady increase of Covid-19 cases (Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur).
- ❖ The Advocates and Litigants, who do not have access to internet were requested to utilize the services of the e-Seva centres, run by the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency. These centres provided assistance to the litigants in relation to Video Conferencing, information about their case status, obtaining orders/judgment copies, and case related information.

Landmark Decisions of 2020

1. Administrative Law – While dealing with a Writ of Mandamus under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, 1950, praying for a direction to the Tahsildar to issue Nativity Certificate for pursuing a medical course in Tamil Nadu, and challenging the order of rejection of her application for the Nativity Certificate based on the report of the Village Administrative Officer and Revenue Inspector, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "The present case is a classic example, where, the mental agony of the petitioner, a native by virtue of her parents, has been furthered, by mechanically dismissing the application of the Petitioner" and allowed the Writ Petition. The Hon'ble High Court further directed the Principal Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and the Commissioner of Revenue Administration, to suitably amend the G.O., and issue revised guidelines to meet the contingencies as that of the Petitioner. The Hon'ble High Court also directed the Revenue Department to "convene training sessions for the officials to enable them to exercise their power judiciously and take just decisions, just before the declaration of results of the public examinations leading to the filing of applications in large numbers seeking certificates like, income, nativity, etc., from the revenue officials."

- *Vardhini Parthasarathy Vs. State of Tamil Nadu Rep. by its Principal Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department, 2021 (1) TLNJ 506 (Pushpa Sathyanarayana, J.)*

2. Administrative Law – Appointment of State Election Commissioner – The Hon'ble High Court decided whether the nullification of appointment of State Election Commissioner of Union Territory of Puducherry[UTP] is constitutional and sustainable. The Court held that the appointment of the SEC, made vide a cabinet resolution, has not been authenticated by the Lieutenant Governor/Administrator as per Secs.44(1) and 46(2) of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, Rule 46(2) of Rules of Business of Government of Puducherry, 1963 read with Pondicherry Authentication (Orders and Other Instruments) Rules, 1963, and that Sec.9A(2) of the Puducherry Village and Commune Panchayats Act, 1973 and Sec.15-A of the Puducherry Municipalities Act, 1973 have not been complied with and held that the appointment of SEC is not in consonance with the statutory provisions. The Court held that the acts of the Lieutenant Governor/Administrator are in consonance with Articles 239A and 240 of the Constitution of India, holding that "Election Commissioner of the Union Territory of Puducherry (Conditions of Service and Tenure of Office) Rules, 1994 do not prescribe the manner of selection and appointment of SEC and in the light of the gap left in the Statutory Rule, it can always be filled up by way of administrative instructions". The Court held that Sec.44(1) of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 is akin to Art.166 of the Constitution of India, and

reiterated the position of law as held in T.M. Kanniyarv. Income Tax Officer, Pondicherry and Another, AIR 1968 SC 637, that "The Union Territories are centrally administered through the President, acting through the Administrator. The general power of the President to make regulations extends to all matters on which Parliament can legislate." Thus, the Court upheld the validity of the nullification and dismissed the Writ Petition.

- A. Namassivayam Vs. Union of India & 7 Ors., 2020 SCC OnLine Mad 748

(M. Sathyanarayanan, J. & R. Hemalatha, J.) D.B.

- 3. Arbitration Law** – The Hon'ble High Court decided whether the impugned order of the Sole Arbitrator is valid and whether the Respondent is entitled to claim the Petitioner's liabilities as per the terms of the impugned award of the Sole Arbitrator. The Hon'ble High Court held that the application u/S.17 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, is maintainable as "Merely because the prayer made in Section 9 Application was dismissed, the statute does not preclude the claimant or any other party before the Arbitration proceedings to seek interim relief u/S.17 of the Act". The Court held that an application u/S.17 is similar to an application under Order XXXIX Rule 1 of C.P.C, wherein interim relief is sought in a pending suit. Further, the Hon'ble High Court held that upon a reading of Clauses 9 and 10 of the Assignment of Rights agreement between the parties, the obligation of the Appellant was to make-up for the loss incurred to the

Respondent/Claimant by producing the next film of the Respondent/Claimant, and that there was no obligation under the agreement that the Appellant's next film must be produced only with the Respondent/Claimant. The Hon'ble High Court set aside the order on the interim application passed by the Sole Arbitrator and held that "It is premature on the part of the Arbitrator to fix liability and the stage of interim application itself, that too when the respondent has not proved any violation of enforceable rights of substantiated character".

- M/s. Shvedh Vs. M/s. Shraddha Entertainment CDJ 2020 MHC 2826;
(V. Bhavani Subbaroyan, J.)

- 4. Arbitration Law** - While dealing with the issue whether an Arbitrator under the Arbitration Act, 1996 is empowered to implead a party, who is not a party to the Arbitration Agreement, the Hon'ble High Court following the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Chloro Controls India (P) Ltd. Vs. Severn Trent Water Purification Inc., (2013) 1 SCC 641 held that, "In a contracted arbitration, the Arbitrator cannot travel beyond the scope of the disputes raised between the parties and attempt to decide the civil rights of the other legal heirs or the persons, who all are not signatories to the Arbitration Agreement. In this case, the question of intrinsically interlinked causes of action does not arise as there is no ancillary Arbitration Agreement to the Principal Arbitration Agreement, which is admittedly between the Appellants and Respondents 2 to 6. Thus, invoking Section 45 would not arise and the rights of all the legal heirs of late Mr. V.G.

Panneerdas is a pure civil dispute and mixed question of facts and law, which cannot be adjudicated by the Arbitrator under the provisions of the Arbitration Act."

- *Mr. V. G. Santhosam & 3 Ors., Vs. Mrs. Shanthi Gnanasekaran & 5 Ors., 2020 (1) LW 892; 2020 (5) MLJ 198 (S.M. Subramaniam, J.)*

- 5. Civil Procedure – Jurisdiction –** While dealing with the issue of maintainability of an application filed under Order VII, Rule 11 of C.P.C., the Hon'ble High Court reiterated the judgment reported in 2014 (5) LW 742 wherein it was held that, "... the facts as projected by the Defendants cannot be looked into to find out as to whether the grounds are made out for rejecting the plaint, unless such grounds projected by Defendants are also otherwise available and evident on plain reading of the plaint itself". Thus, the Court in the instant case held that, "In the plaint filed by the Plaintiff before the Court below, cause of action is clearly mentioned. Suit was filed for partition. The Plaintiff had stated in the plaint that the Defendants had denied giving a share in suit properties. Whether the Plaintiff is having a share in the suit properties is to be decided on merits. ... The Petitioner/Defendant who pleaded that, the value of the suit properties is more than the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Court had not even given the value of the property". Thus, the CRP was dismissed as not maintainable.

- *Sumathi Vs. Sivasubramanian @ Sironmani, 2020 1 TLNJ 18 (S. Ananthi, J.)*

- 6. Civil Procedure – Specific Relief –** The Hon'ble High Court decided whether injunction against the alienation of the share by a co-owner can be granted. The Court held that, "Proviso to Section 34 of the Specific Relief Act debars the plaintiff from claiming the relief of declaration alone without seeking a further relief where he or she is in a position to seek such further relief and Section 41(h) of the Specific Relief Act restrains the Court." and further held that if such a relief is granted "it will be a direct invasion by the Court on the Right to Property protected under Article 300A of the Constitution of India because Right to Property includes a right to alienate the property" and thus, held that, "a suit for bare injunction restraining the alienation cannot at all be maintained as against co-owners/co-shares".

- *S. Umamaheswari Vs. P. Murugesan, 2021 (1) MLJ 150; 2021 (2) CTC 167 (R. Subramanian, J.)*

- 7. Civil Procedure –** The Hon'ble High Court decided whether the impugned decretal order can be passed by appointing an Advocate Receiver to collect all the relevant records and accounts of the firm from P.W.1, Commissioner, Oulgaret Municipality, Income Tax Office, Pondicherry, Auditor of the firm and any other authorities, and held that, "The Court below is vested with the special power under Order XX, Rule 17 of the Code of Civil Procedure to give special direction directing the accounts to be taken, or by any subsequent order can give special direction with regard to the mode in which the account is to be taken". Consequentially the Court found no

infirmity in the orders passed by the trial court and thus, dismissed the appeals.

- *R. Kaliyaperumal @ Perumal Vs. P. Apparsamy & Ors.*, 2020 SCC Online MAD 5105

(T. Raja, J.)

- 8. Constitutional Law – Prevention of Insult to National Honour Act, 1971 –** While deciding whether the Petitioner, who had directed a documentary film touching upon the plight of the people affected by the Ockhi cyclone of December 2017, had committed offences under Sections 153-A(1)(b) and 505 (1)(b) of I.P.C r/w Section 2 of 'the Prevention of Insult to National Honour Act, 1971 for showing a picture of a mutilated Indian National Flag, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "the releasing of the film by the Petitioner herein cannot be fault with, since it is a right vested with the Petitioner to express her views. The reasonable restrictions for said freedom of expression have also not been violated in the film. ...in the absence of any of the ingredients to constitute all the three offences, for which the Petitioner has been implicated, further investigation into the complaint may not be warranted."

- *Divya Vs. State, Rep. by The Sub-Inspector of Police, Gudalur Police Station, Nilgris.* CDJ 2020 MHC 319; 2020 (2) MLJ (Crl) 247

(M.S. Ramesh, J.)

- 9. Contract Laws –** The Hon'ble High Court decided on the issue whether, time being the essence of the contract, the intention of the parties has to be ascertained on the basis of various governing factors such as

the express word used in the contract, nature of the property, nature of the contract and the circumstances governing which may be a question of fact, law or a mixed one. The Hon'ble High Court held that, "the provisions dealt with are to be read in unison. The promisor is entitled to seek for reciprocal performances from the promise, after the period of impossibility expires which prevented him from performing his part thereafter". Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, the Court found it is not appropriate to extend the period of payment as a matter of course and disposed the petition.

- *Amal Peterson Vs. The Authorized Officer, Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank Ltd, Tirunelveli and Anr.* CDJ 2020 MHC 2649

**(M.M. Sundresh, J.&
R.Hemalatha, J.) D.B.**

- 10. Corporate Laws – Arbitration Law – Insolvency & Bankruptcy Laws –** The Hon'ble High Court had to deal with an application filed under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, to answer the issue whether leave of the NCLT has to be obtained under Section 279 of the Companies Act, 2013 in Arbitral Proceedings, when a moratorium has been issued on the Respondent by the National Company Law Board, Hyderabad and subsequent to the moratorium period, liquidation was ordered and Liquidator has also been appointed. The Hon'ble High Court, held that, "It is not the Companies Act that will prevail but, it's the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 that would prevail over and thus, no leave is required to continue of pending proceedings" and

the Court also taking note of the factum of maintainability of the application under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, finally dismissed the applications.

- *M/s. Chennai Metro Rail Limited Vs. M/s. Lanco Infratech Limited and Ors., CDJ 2020 MHC 3208*

(N. Sathish Kumar, J.)

- 11. Corporate Laws** – The Hon'ble High Court had to deal with Company Applications filed, seeking to cancel the assignment deeds and to stay all further proceedings of the Sale Notice till the disposal of the Applications. While dealing with the said case, the Court framed the issue, whether an assignment which relates to disposition of properties of a company in liquidation will fall within the scope and ambit of Section 536(2) of Companies Act, 1956. The Hon'ble High Court held in the instant case that, "it is clear as daylight that disposition, if any, is only by the other secured creditors, namely three Banks (Respondents 3 to 5) and not said Company, thus putting an end to the disposition and argument predicated and posited on Section 536(2) of said Act." The Court while answering the question on whether the Company Court has powers to set aside the impugned assignments, held that, "No elaboration is required to say that these Rules are mere procedural or omnibus provisions and these rules clearly does not help the case of the applicant. However, what is of importance is there is no other provision which has been pointed out with specificity. If that had been done, the scenario may well have been different as that would tantamount to merely quoting the wrong provision or

not quoting the provision of law with specificity when the Company Court otherwise has powers. Be that as it may, as this Court is taking the view that order dated 13.12.2018 (alluded to supra) made by this Court in C.A.No.69 of 2018 pertaining to handing over of possession to ARC has attained finality and has been acted upon, the question regarding powers of Company Court setting aside the assignments of the nature of impugned assignments is left open to be tested in a case where it is imperative for deciding the proceedings."

- *Jayanthi Ramachandra, Ex-Chairman Of M/s. Vtx Industries Ltd., Coimbatore Vs. The Official Liquidator High Court, Madras as The Liquidator Of M/s. Vtx Industries Limited (In Liquidation), Chennai & Others, CDJ 2020 MHC 3763*

(M. Sundar, J.)

- 12. Criminal Law – Code of Criminal Procedure** – The Hon'ble High Court in a petition under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. to quash a private complaint under Section 500 r/w 109 I.P.C, on the file of the Judicial Magistrate, held that, "If the accused is not named in person and is merely referred to by designation, the court ought to return the complaint as defective". The Court further held that, "It has been held time and again that the trial magistrate has to keep in view the language employed in Section 202 Cr.P.C. as regards the residence of the accused at a place beyond the area in which the magistrate exercises his jurisdiction". The Court also laid down that, "The Media carrying a public question, is something that would on the very face of it fall within Exception No. 3 to Section 499 IPC" and thus, allowed the petition.

- *Grievances Redressal Officer, M/s. Economic Times Internet Ltd., & 3 Ors., Vs. M/s. V.V. Minerals Pvt. Ltd., CDJ 2020 MHC 1394,*

(G.R. Swaminathan, J.)

- 13. Criminal Law – Code of Criminal Procedure – Trial of Mentally Unsound Accused** – While deciding whether trial could be postponed till accused was capable of entering defence or mentally sound to face trial, The Hon'ble High Court held that, "What is not an offence does not require a defence. This Court is further fortified in leaning towards the contemporary school of thought by the usage of the expression "after hearing the defence of the accused, but without questioning the accused" in Section 329(2) Cr.P.C." The Court further held that the legislature recognises the legal right of a person who has been found unfit to defend himself, "to be defended by an advocate who can effectively articulate the case of the accused and place materials of sterling quality before the Court to show that even at the time of commission of the criminal act, the accused was suffering from mental illness of such a kind so as to bring him within the exception under Section 84 IPC." The Hon'ble High Court also opined that, "The enquiry under the second part of Section 329(2) Cr.P.C. will commence only after the Court gives a finding that the accused is not mentally fit to face trial. Once such a finding is given, the enquiry under the second part of Section 329(2) Cr.P.C. shall not be adversarial, but the Court should invoke the *parens patriae* principle and give a free hand to both

sides to adduce material to show that the accused was, by reason of unsoundness of mind, incapable of knowing the nature of the act, or that he was doing what is either wrong and contrary to law."

- *Kaliyappan Vs. State, (2020) 4 MLJ (Crl) 78*

(P.N. Prakash, J.)

- 14. Criminal Laws – Causing Death by Negligence** – While dealing with a Criminal Revision Petition filed by the Accused found guilty of the offence under Section 304-A, in the case of rash and negligent driving leading to the death of the victim, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "in sudden crossings, it has been repeatedly held by several Courts that the drivers could not have anticipated such sudden crossings and avoided the occurrence and in the instant case, there is no evidence on record to show that the deceased before crossing road had shown some signs indicating that he is going to cross the road". The Court also expressed its concern over the statements of witnesses that have made improvements regarding drunken driving, and also about them giving misinformation about the manner of the occurrence of the incident, and doubted whether actually they witnessed the occurrence.

- *Murali Vs. State, Rep. by Inspector of Police, Nannilam Police Station, Tiruvarur District. 2021 (1) LW (Crl) 265*

(G. Ilangovan, J.)

- 15. Criminal Laws – Code of Criminal Procedure – Anticipatory Bail** – While dealing with pre-arrest bail applications under Section 438 of Cr.P.C., the Hon'ble

High Court held that, "the discretionary power has been consciously and continuously misused by the offenders and the enforcers as well in an organised manner and this Court is of the firm opinion that the discretionary powers cannot be extended to persons indulging in illegal sand mining, smuggling and theft of sand and minerals" and thus, laid down that, "A wise exercise of judicial power inevitably takes care of the evil consequences which are likely to flow out of its intemperate use. Every kind of judicial discretion, whatever may be the nature of the matter regarding which it is required to be exercised, has to be used with due care and caution. Further anticipatory bails cannot be granted in cases of large magnitude affecting and impacting very large number of people". The Court thus, dismissed the petition and dismissed all connected batch matters relating to pre-arrest bail relating to sand and mineral theft cases.

- *Bala @ Balasubramani Vs. The State, Rep. by The Inspector of Police, Thakkolam Police Station, Vellore District, 2020 (2) LW CrI. 528,*

(A.D. Jagadish Chandira, J.)

- 16. Criminal Laws – Code of Criminal Procedure** – In an appeal in a case of rape, the Hon'ble High Court held that the Prosecution has proved neither the trespassing of the Appellant into the alleged victim's house in the Refugee Camp and taking her away, nor the unavailability of the President of the Women's Organisation - with whose assistance the complaint was filed - in the Refugee Camp and further held that "there would not have been a two-day

delay in lodging the complaint, if the Accused had indeed committed the alleged crime." The Hon'ble High Court held that, "the procedures u/s. 154(1) & 164(5-A), Cr.P.C were violated, for although the evidence was adduced that the alleged victim was mentally challenged, the Trial Court had rejected the same, and the alleged victim's statement was not recorded in the requisite manner." The Court also held that "the medical examination of the alleged victim revealed no external injuries on any part of her body, but her hymen was found torn, and that there were also discrepancies in conducting the potency test on the accused, as a result of which the Prosecution was not able to prove the capacity of accused to have sexual intercourse on the date of alleged occurrence." The Hon'ble High Court held that "Considering the totality of the evidence adduced by the prosecution, in our opinion, there is no scope to sustain the conviction and sentence imposed on the Appellant, and the Accused is to be given the benefit of doubt", and set aside the conviction and sentence recorded by the Trial Court and acquitted the Appellant of all charges.

- *Sampoornalingam vs. State, CDJ 2020 MHC 3166*

(K. Kalyanasundaram, J. & T. Krishnavalli, J.) D.B.

- 17. Criminal Laws – Code of Criminal Procedure** – On whether a Revenue Divisional Officer can under Section 145 Cr.P.C. pass an order, while a civil suit is pending with respect to the property, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "Though civil suits are pending, if public peace and

tranquillity is affected, the Revenue Divisional Officer can pass an order under Section 145 Cr.P.C.” and in instant case held that, “When there is no complaint regarding any law and order problem on that particular date, without examining any witness, without recording the statement of witness, without giving an opportunity for the petitioner, the Order passed by 1st Respondent is not maintainable in law”.

- *P. Saravanan Vs. The Sub Divisional Magistrate and Revenue Divisional Officer, Madurai & Ors., Crl. R.C. (MD) No. 287 of 2020, 9th September 2020*

(R. Tharani, J.)

18. Criminal Laws – Code of Criminal Procedure – Powers of Detaining Authority

– In a batch of Writ of Habeas Corpus, on the issue concerning the powers of the Detaining Authority, the Hon’ble Court while answering the issues held that, “criminal prosecution is not an absolute bar to an order of preventive detention. If the detaining authority has the subjective satisfaction that it was necessary to detain the petitioners to prevent them from indulging in activities prejudicial to public order, he could certainly order detention of the petitioners.” The Court further held that, “Even a solitary incident which has been detected may speak volumes about the potentialities of the detenu and merely on the ground that there were no antecedents the detention order cannot be quashed.” The Court further held that, “In the instant case the detaining authority clearly stated that although the petitioners were in jail, they were likely to be enlarged on bail...and the acts of the

detenues who chased the deceased and brutally attacked him with deadly weapons in front of the Campus of the District Collector’s Office, Office of Superintendent of Police and the District Court”, only aids in cementing the orders of detention passed by the authority.

- *S. Suganthi Vs. State of Tamil Nadu & Ors., 2020 SCC Online Mad 17237*

(K. Kalyanasundaram, J. & T. Krishnavalli, J.) D.B.

19. Criminal Laws – Code of Criminal Procedure – Powers of Investigation Officer

– While dealing with a Petition under Section 482 of Cr.P.C. praying to direct the 2nd Respondent not to interfere with the Petitioner’s civil dispute in respect of a land, the Hon’ble High Court held that, as long as the power is legitimately exercised within the frame work of Chapter XII of the Cr.P.C. “An enquiry into a non-cognizable offence or a cognizable offence is the unfettered powers of the Investigation Officers ... Though the Code of Criminal Procedure empowers the Magistrate to be a guardian in all the stages of the police investigation, there is no power envisaging him to interfere with the actual investigation or the mode of investigation”. Further, the Court issued the following guidelines: a) while summoning any person named in the complaint or any witness to the incident complained of, the police officer shall summon such person through a written summon under Section 160 Cr.P.C., specifying a particular date and time for appearing before them for such an enquiry/investigation. b) The Respondent police was directed to serve

summons mentioning the CSR number, date of complaint and the name of the complainant. c) The minutes of the enquiry shall be recorded in the general diary/station diary/daily diary of the police station. d) The police officer shall refrain himself or herself from harassing persons called upon for enquiry/investigation, and e) The guidelines stipulated for preliminary enquiry or registration of FIR by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Lalita Kumari Vs. Government of Uttar Pradesh and others 2014 (2) SCC (1) shall be strictly adhered to.

- *T. Kumaran Vs. The State, Rep. by The Superintendent of Police, Theni District & 2 Ors., 2020 (4) MLJ (Crl.) 196*

(R. Pongiappan, J.)

20. Criminal Laws – Defamation – The Hon'ble High Court in a batch of Writ Petitions, wherein several newspapers had challenged the launching of prosecution on criminal defamation against them under Section 499 I.P.C by the State Government through the Public Prosecutor under Section 199(2) Cr.P.C. The Court, relying on the Hon'ble Supreme Court's decision in Subramaniam Swamy Vs. Union of India, upheld the constitutional validity of the provisions and held that, "In defamation cases filed under Section 199(2) Cr.P.C., the Public Prosecutor plays a very vital role. The role is very special because in those matters, the Public Prosecutor plays a dual role both as a person representing the public servant/constitutional functionary as well as a public prosecutor" and that "When a specific procedure is contemplated under

Section 200 Cr.P.C., it cannot be deviated by adopting some other procedure which is not prescribed, even though it may be convenient to the Complainant. Thus, all sanction orders as well as corresponding complaints filed under Section 199(2) were quashed, on the ground of abuse of process against the Accused and the respective petitions were allowed.

- Thiru N. Ram, Editor-in-Chief, Printer & Publisher, The Hindu., Vs. Union of India, Rep. by its Secretary to Government, and 2 Ors., CDJ 2020 MHC 1428; 2020 (3) MLJ (Crl.) 289

(Abdul Quddhose, J.)

21. Criminal Laws – False Evidence – The Hon'ble High Court answered whether the charge framed under Section 193 I.P.C against A-2 and A-3 is hit by the bar under Section 195 r/w Section 340 Cr.P.C. and categorically held that, "there is no bar attracted u/s. 195(1)(b) Cr.P.C. for proceeding in the absence of a complaint u/s. 340 (1) Cr.P.C.". The Court further held that, "any document, fabricated, for the purpose of it being used in any stage of a judicial proceeding, is squarely covered u/s. 193 IPC and it cannot be construed that it is only in the course of judicial proceeding that the said document should be fabricated".

- Bhima Razu Prasad Vs. The State, Rep. by The Deputy Superintendent of Police, SBI/SPE/ACU-II, New Delhi, CDJ 2020 MHC 272; 2020 (1) MLJ (Crl.) 463

(M. Dhandapani, J.)

22. Criminal Laws – Law of Evidence – In Criminal Appeals filed for enhancement of the sentence and for setting aside the conviction and sentence filed by the

complainant and the accused respectively, the Hon'ble High Court gave a common judgment for both the prayers sought. The Court considered the submissions that what was found in Viscera report is potassium cyanide and what was seized from the Accused is sodium cyanide. Hence the Accused could not be held responsible for instigating and intentionally aiding the deceased for consumption of cyanide. The High Court held that, "the character of both potassium cyanide and sodium cyanide are almost same. Both have corrosive effect on the mouth, throat and stomach. In poisoning by cyanides, the symptoms may not occur for 10 to 20 minutes. The fatal dose is 200 to 300 milligrams of sodium cyanide or potassium cyanide. Cyanide is a prohibited item. The Accused being a doctor is well aware of the same. Further the Accused had not given any probable explanation for the custody of cyanide. It is seen that the Accused is the cause for the death of the deceased. It is clear that the materials brought on record clearly formed a complete chain of circumstances which unerringly point at the Accused being the author of the crime." As regards, the enhancement of sentence, the Hon'ble High Court found that the sentence for seven years is proper in the circumstances of the case. Thus, the appeals filed by the Accused and the de facto complainant were dismissed.

- *Rengarajan Vs. Ganesan & Anr., CDJ 2020 MHC 2963*

(M. Nirmal Kumar, J.)

23. Criminal Laws – Law of Evidence – Presumption – While dealing with a

Criminal Appeal to set aside the conviction of the Appellants A1 and A2 under section 498-A IPC and Section 304-B I.P.C, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "Merely because the deceased is found to have committed suicide within 7 years of her marriage, in this case within 170 days, from the date of marriage, when there is no clear cut, reliable and acceptable evidence, it cannot be presumed that the deceased would have been subjected to dowry demand and on that score would have committed suicide." Thus, the Hon'ble High Court did not uphold the conviction and sentence imposed on the Appellants by the trial court and set aside the same.

- *Kuppusamy & Anr. Vs. State of Tamil Nadu, Rep. By Deputy Superintendent of Police 2020 SCC Online MAD 1325*

(T. Ravindran, J.)

24. Criminal Laws – POCSO Act, 2012 –

The Hon'ble High Court dealt with a reference, regarding the jurisdiction of the District and Sessions Court in entertaining the anticipatory bail applications filed under Section 438 of the Cr.P.C, for the offences committed under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The Hon'ble High Court held that, "The Special Court designated under Section 28 of the POCSO Act alone is empowered to exercise power under Section 438 of Cr.P.C., in view of Section 31 of the POCSO Act, and the Sessions Court cannot entertain any application seeking pre-arrest bail in respect of offences under the POCSO Act.", and that this would apply even in cases where pre-

arrest bail is sought before registering the First Information Report.

- *The Additional Registrar General, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai Vs. Unknown*, CDJ 2020 MHC 4592

(V. Bharathidasan, J.)

25. Criminal Laws – POCSO Act, 2012 –

While dealing with the Criminal Appeal filed by the mother of a victim child who faced sexual abuses at the hands of her own teachers namely Respondents 1 & 2, who were acquitted by the Trial Court, the High Court held that, "Though PW10, PW11, PW12 and PW14 were turned hostile and not supported the case of the prosecution, they have clearly stated before the learned Magistrate, who recorded the statements under Section 164(5) of Cr.P.C. though they subsequently stated that under the instigation of PW13 they have stated so, the conjoint reading of the evidence of other victims and also the earlier circumstances given in the statements, it is clear that the respondents 1 and 2 have sexually assaulted the victim girls." The High Court also observed that, "...PW2 has clearly given evidence that she revealed all the facts before her parents PW3 and before the police officer, who has recorded the statement under Section 161 of Cr.P.C, similarly, they have spoken before the learned Magistrate, who has recorded the statement under Section 164(5) of Cr.P.C. and subsequently, during the trial she has substantiated the same and evidence of other witnesses PW5, PW7 and PW9 corroborates each other." And thus, the High Court, not satisfied with the learned

Sessions Judge's judgment discarding the evidence of the victim girl without any reason, convicted the Respondents 1 & 2."

- *Selvi Vs. Nagaraj & 2 Ors.*, Crl.A. No. 159 OF 2019, 20th February 2020

(P. Velmurugan, J.)

26. Criminal Laws – Rules of High Court –

The Hon'ble High Court directed the Registrar General, Madras High Court, to initiate criminal complaint against the Respondent/Plaintiff, for the offence of perjury, production of forged and fabricated documents in judicial proceedings and commission of an offence punishable under Sections 463, 464, 420, 468, 471 and 465 of I.P.C, as the said Plaintiff in the suit had obtained an ex parte decree for specific performance on the basis of a fabricated sale agreement, which is claimed to have been executed by the Applicants and the Defendants 1 to 5 and 8, when in fact the 5th and 8th defendant were dead even prior to the execution of the agreement. Following the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Sasikala Pushpa & Ors. Vs. State of Tamil Nadu* (2019) 6 SCC 477, the Hon'ble High Court held that if the allegations of fabrication are found to be true, "it is nothing but perjury as these documents have not only been filed but have also been marked as exhibits through the respondent as P.W.1...after swearing to the truth and validity of the documents."

- *P.S. Kirubakaran & Anr. Vs. Azizul Karim*, 2021 (2) MLJ 535, **(P.T. Asha, J.)**

27. Criminal Laws – Tamil Nadu Gaming Act, 1930 – The Hon'ble High Court,

while dealing with a petition under Section 482 of Cr.P.C. to quash the case, wherein the Petitioner has been arrayed as Accused No. 5 and charged under Section 12 of the Tamil Nadu Gaming Act, for allegedly playing cards near a thorny bush in a field, the Hon'ble Court as laid down in J. Raghunadhu Vs. Emperor, 1933 Mad WN 1422, and as laid down in Raman Nair & Ors. Vs. State, 1990 (2) MWN Crime 195, that, gaming is not an offence per se but it is punishable only when it is carried on in a public place for commercialisation purpose and in a common gaming house with profit motive as contemplated under the Gaming Act. However, the law enforcing agencies ignoring the marked differences between play of games in a house or club and gaming activities carried in a common gaming house indulge in endless prosecution merely harass the innocent., The High Court allowed the petition holding that "farm land is not a gaming house or common place." The Court further gave suggestions to the Govt. that, "it may pass suitable legislation for regulating and controlling online gaming through license and form a regulatory body to monitor and regulate the legal gaming activities, be it in the real world or the virtual world."

- *D. Siluvai Venance Vs. State., Rep. by The Inspector of Police, Koodankulam Police Station, Tirunelveli, 2020 (3) MLJ (Cri) 710sa*

(B. Pugalendhi, J.)

28. Criminal Laws – Unlawful Activities Prevention Act – The Hon'ble High Court dealt with a Criminal Appeal filed on the dismissal of the regular bail

application filed by the Petitioner/Accused charged under Section 307 IPC, Section 4 of Explosive Substances Act, 1908 and Sections 16 & 18 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The Court, following the decision of the Hon'ble Apex Court in National Investigation Agency Vs. Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, (2019) 5 SCC 1, held that, "Given the gravity of the offence, as rightly observed by the Trial Court, it would not be appropriate to grant bail to the Appellant when the trial is almost going to be over." Thus, the Court dismissed the appeal.

- *Kalailingam Vs. State., Rep. By The Deputy Superintendent of Police, National Investigation Agency, Hyderabad (Camp at Puducherry), CrI.A. NO. 228 OF 2020, 18th September 2020 (N. Kirubakaran, J. & R. Hemalatha, J.) D.B.*

29. Education Laws – The Hon'ble High Court held that, "As 'Bharathidasan University', Trichy, is neither a Central University nor it does get any aid from the Central Government, the UGC guidelines as well as the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers Cadre) Act, 2019 will not apply. The Hon'ble High Court following the ruling of the Hon'ble Apex Court in State Of Uttar Pradesh Vs. Dina Nath Shukla AIR 1997 SC 1095, held that, "'subject wise' recruitment should be adopted in each service or post in each cadre in each faculty, discipline, specialty or super-specialty, to avoid over-lapping in application of the rule of reservation to the service or posts as specified", Thus, the Court set aside the notification of the

University calling for application for the post of Professors, Assistant Professors etc., by treating the University as one total unit instead of treating each department as separate unit.”

- *M.S. Balamurugan, General Secretary, Association of University Teachers (Regd.), Trichy Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu Rep. By Its Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Higher Education, Chennai & Ors., 2020 SCC Online Mad 6197*

(Krishnan Ramasamy, J.)

30. Election Laws – Legislative

Procedures – The Hon’ble High Court dealt with the case of show cause notice sent by The Speaker through the Committee of Privileges alleging breach of privilege of the House, when 21 MLAs allegedly carried with them and displayed Gutkha sachets as well as photographs of the shops that had indulged in selling such banned items. The Hon’ble Court regarding the maintainability of the Writs under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, relying on decisions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court and other High Courts held that, “the ratio thereof appears to be that unless there is a pure question of law involved, then in a matter which may involve a question of fact and law, an interference by the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India would be a premature exercise” The Hon’ble Court allowed the petitions partly by concluding that the show cause notice “suffers from a foundational error of assuming the conduct of the Petitioners to be prohibited by the notification dated 23.5.2017, and the Petitioners cannot be proceeded against on the strength of the impugned notices dated 28.8.2017 by

treating their conduct on 19.7.2017 of displaying Gutkha sachets and photographs as being violative of any prohibitory law particularly the notification dated 23.5.2017”.

- *M.K. Stalin Vs. The Speaker, Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly, 2020 (8) MLJ 647, (A.P. Sahi, CJ. & Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, J.) D.B.*

31. Election Laws – Limitation period for Election Petition

– On the issue of limitation for filing an Election Petition as per Section 81(1) of the Representation of People Act, 1951, the Hon’ble High Court held that, ‘Section 10 of the General Clauses Act is applicable to the RP Act’, and concluded that, “The Election Petition filed by the 1st Respondent as against the Petitioner, on 04.07.2016 instead of 02.07.2016 is within the time limit of 45 days under the Act”, in view of the fact that the last day and the next day (02.07.2016 & 03.07.2016) falls on Saturday and Sunday and the registry was also closed on these days. Hence, there was no non-compliance of mandatory provisions by the 1st Respondent as contended by the applicant.

- *Anita P. Radhakrishnan Vs. B. Ramkumar Adityan, 2021 (2) CTC 624; 2020 (3) LW 715,*

(D. Krishnakumar, J.)

32. Election Laws – Powers of Returning Officer

– The Hon’ble High Court decided whether the Returning Officer has any power at all to cancel the declaration of the result once made and to re-issue fresh forms to a new candidate. The Court following the judgment of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in *Sohan Lal vs. Babu*

Gandhi and Ors., (2003) 1 SCC 108, and the judgment of the Division Bench of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in *M. Kumaresan Vs. The State Election Commissioner*, 2012 (2) CTC 68, held that "the Returning Officer has got powers to cancel the Form 25 Certificate issued in favour of the writ petitioner and issue a fresh Form 25 Certificate in favour of the fourth respondent, and thus allowed the writ petitions."

- *M. Devi Vs. The Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner & 5 Ors.*, 2020 SCC Online Mad 2261

(M. Duraiswamy, J.)

33. Environmental Law – While dismissing various Writ Petitions of the Petitioner Vedanta Limited, which challenged the Orders of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) rejecting the application for renewal of consent for reopening the unit, and directing closure of the unit under the Air and Water Acts, the Hon'ble High Court observed that the conduct of Petitioner in other parts of the country is of relevance while adjudging the credibility of the Petitioner and its commitment towards the environment. Further, the Court also reiterated the legal position that, the Petitioner being a company cannot claim shelter under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India, as elucidated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.*, and other decisions. The Hon'ble Court further negated to entertain the impleading petition by one person Smt. C.M. Vijayalakshmi, who claimed that she has purchased 12,000 shares in the year 2005 and subsequently, purchased 13,958 shares

in 2013 and on account of the Petitioner's unit being shutdown, her share value had dropped, therefore, she is vitally interested in the well-being of the Petitioner company.

- *Vedanta Limited, Unit: Sterlite Copper Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, CDJ 2020 MHC 2507

(T.S. Sivagnanam, J. & V. Bhavani Subbaroyan, J.) D.B.

34. Eviction Law – While dealing with the Civil Revision Petition preferred by the Lessor on the Lessee, while dealing the issue of Service of notice under Section 4(1) of the Act by the Estate Officer to the Respondent Company and individuals, the Hon'ble High Court exercising its Superintendence power under Article 227 of the Constitution of India, went into the totality of the merits of the issue and ultimately gave a verdict to the parties to the lis to amicably settle the issues between them to meet the ends of justice.

- *Life Insurance Corporation of India Vs. M.R. Elangovan & Ors.* CDJ 2020 MHC 3679; 2021 (1) MWN (CIVIL) 24,

(R. Suresh Kumar, J.)

35. Family Laws – Customary Divorce – The Hon'ble High Court summarised and held that, [1] Disciplinary Proceedings can be initiated even if second marriage is contracted with the knowledge of the first wife, also even if the first wife does not prosecute the husband for the same and hence the complaint given by the third-party alleging contract of second marriage, departmental proceedings can still be maintainable. [2] A plea of customary divorce is a valid defence in a departmental proceeding initiated for

misconduct of bigamy under Service Rules/Conduct Rules. [3] To substantiate the said plea of customary divorce, a specific plea has to be raised in the statement of defence by the delinquent officer, and has to be proved up to the degree of preponderance of probabilities, and execution of the customary divorce as projected by the delinquent.

- *Sudalaimani Vs. The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ramanathapuram Range, Ramanathapuram and 2 Ors.*, 2020 (3) TLNJ 412,

(Teekaa Raman, J.)

36. Family Laws – Domestic Violence

Law – In this case on whether Petitioner is precluded from seeking interim maintenance, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "as the Petitioner already got an order in the petition properly filed under Section 12 of the DV Act, they are not entitled to file the petition before the Family Court by invoking the provision under Section 26(1) of the DV Act, seeking interim relief". The Court also held that, "it is open to the Appellants to file petition under Section 25(2) of the DV Act for modification/variation before the concerned Court where order under DV Act was passed, or they can request the Family Court to exercise the power under Section 25(1) of the Hindu Marriage Act at the time of passing a decree in the proceedings, or they can file a regular suit and ask for charge over the property, if they are so advised."

- *Gomathi & Anr., Vs. Sacraties in CMA*, 2021 (1) CTC 801,

(M. Sathyanarayanan, J. & P. Rajamanickam, J.) D.B.

37. Family Laws – Hindu Succession Act,

1956 – Absolute Estate – While dealing with Section 14(1) of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "life interest of testator's son's wife, who was legally entitled to be maintained out of her husband's estate, enlarges into absolute estate on the coming into force of Section 14(1). The 'right to receive maintenance' is sufficient to enable ripening of possession of any property into full ownership under Section 14(1). Recitals of the 'Will' even though restricting the rights of testator's son's wife only to maintain suit property, and maintain family from income without powers of alienation, and also maintain accounts, is perverse and against law as per Section 14(1) of the Act."

- *P. Rukmini (Died) and 3 Ors. Vs. V. Balasubramaniam (Died) and 5 Ors.*, CDJ 2020 MHC 1416; 2020 (5) MLJ 103;

(G.K. Ilanthiraiyan, J.)

38. Family Laws – Hindu Succession Act,

1956 – After an exhaustive consideration of authorities, the Hon'ble High Court summarized the legal conclusions on the interpretation of Sections 14(1) and (2) of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 as [1] The Hindu female's right to maintenance may not be a right to property but, it is a right against property and the husband has a personal obligation to maintain his wife and if he or the family has property, the female has the legal right to be maintained therefrom. If a charge is created for the maintenance of a female, the said right becomes a legally enforceable one. At any rate even without a charge, the claim for maintenance is no doubt a pre-existing right so that any transfer

declaring or recognising such a right does not confer any new title but merely endorses or confirms the pre-existing rights. [2] Section 14(1) and the Explanation thereto have been couched in the widest possible terms and must be liberally construed in favour of the female so as to advance the object of the 1956 Act. [3] Sub-section (2) of Section 14 is in the nature of a Proviso and has a field of its own without interfering with the operation of Section 14(1) materially. The Proviso should not be construed in a manner so as to destroy the effect of the main provision or the protection granted by Section 14(1). [4] Sub-section (2) of Section 14 has no application where the instrument concerned merely seeks to confirm, endorse, declare or recognise pre-existing rights. In such cases a restricted estate in favour of a female is legally permissible and Section 14(1) will not operate in this sphere. [5] The words 'possessed by' in Section 14(1) are of the widest possible amplitude and include the state of owning a property even though the owner is not in actual or physical possession of the same. [6] That the words 'restricted estate' used in Section 14(2) are wider than 'limited interest' as indicated in Section 14(1) and they include not only limited interest, but also any other kind of limitation that may be placed on the transferee. Thus, the Hon'ble High Court concluded that, "The distinction between Section 14(1) and Section 14(2) can be reduced to plain terms. If a property is settled to a Hindu female, then notwithstanding the covenants in the deed, it will blossom into an absolute estate. If a property is settled to a third party and then a Hindu female is permitted to reside in the property, then

she acquires only a restricted right." The Hon'ble High Court also noted that, "the First Appellate Court did not frame points for determination as envisaged under Order XLI Rule 31 of C.P.C, but the Court however framed additional issues and answered both the issues framed by the trial Court and also the additional issues," and noted that this procedure is alien to the procedure in Order XLI Rule 31 of C.P.C.

- *B. R. R. Holding Private Ltd., and Ors. Vs. Chennai Garr Tech Ltd., and Ors., 2020 (5) MLJ 257*

(C.V. Karthikeyan, J.)

39. Human Rights Laws – Recovery of Compensation by State – In the instant case the National Human Rights Commission had directed the Government to grant financial relief of Rupees Five Lakhs to the legal heirs of the deceased Krishnamoorthy who had died by consuming poison, and who was enquired by the Petitioner in relation to a crime. In the departmental proceedings although the Petitioner was found guilty, the Petitioner approached this Court and the lis reached till the Hon'ble Supreme Court and he was given a clean chit. However, the Respondents had already started recovering the amount from the salary of the Petitioner. Thus, the Court held that, "Though, in this case, initially the Petitioner was imposed with punishment, in view of the subsequent developments, the impugned orders imposing, modifying and enhancing the punishment have already been set aside, and thus the impugned order of recovery cannot be sustained. Hence, this Court is inclined to set aside the impugned order on this ground and also to direct the

Respondents to return the recovered amount to the Petitioner with interest at the rate of 7.5% p.a. from the date of recovery till the date of realization." The Hon'ble High Court further held that, "An order is liable to be set aside on the sole ground of violation of principles of natural justice, in this case, orders passed without serving notice to the Petitioner and not hearing his side."

- *S. Karthikeyan Vs. The Home Secretary and Ors., W.P. (MD) No. 11998 of 2016, 20th November 2020*

(Nisha Banu, J.)

40. Insurance Laws – Employees State Insurance Law – The Hon'ble High Court dealt with whether the rejection of the Petitioner's claim seeking benefits under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 was tenable. The Hon'ble High Court refuted the contention that the Petitioner's claim was rejected owing to delay in filing the claim, in accordance with the ESIC Office Manual, and held that, although the Office Manual being in nature of guidelines cannot be given statutory backing, the claim should have been forwarded to the headquarters Office and not rejected at the threshold. The Hon'ble High Court cited the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Bharagath Engineering Vs. R. Ranganayaki* (2003) 2 SCC 138, and held that failure of the employer's responsibility to intimate the death of the employee to the ESIC cannot be used to deprive the dependants of legitimate benefits from the statute. With reference to the impugned order of the Employees' Insurance Court, the Hon'ble High court held that, "the refusal of ESIC to grant the benefit under the ESI Act would

constitute the 'cause of action' for making the application under Section 77 of ESI Act." The Hon'ble Madras High Court further held that, "there was no necessity for filing a petition for condoning delay and the refusal to condone delay cannot impede the right of the Petitioner's right to pursue further in the claim made under Section 77 of the ESI Act." The Court also referred to the decision of the Division Bench of the Kerala High Court in *Vasumathy vs. Employees' State Insurance Corporation* (1997) 4 LLN 756, and held that, "legislations such as the ESI Act must be interpreted keeping in mind the legislative intent of providing for social welfare.", and set aside the rejection Order.

- *S. Vimala Vs. The Manager, Branch Office, Employees State Insurance Corporation & 2 Ors., W.P No. 12255 of 2019, 1st October 2020*

(P.D. Audikesavalu, J.)

41. Intellectual Property – Trademarks –

In a Civil Revision Petition filed against the dismissal of the Defendant's petitions to frame additional issues and for grant of time to challenge the validity of trade mark registrations of Plaintiff under Sec 124 of the Trademarks Act, 1999, the Hon'ble High Court held as follows: "[1] A party who has not pleaded or raised a defence against validity or invalidity of registration of trade mark has no locus to file a petition under Section 124 of the Act. [2] After institution of a suit for infringement, Intellectual Property Appellate Board is barred from entertaining an application for rectification without Civil Court being satisfied as to the tenability of issue of validity of registration of trade mark. [3]

A party who has not challenged framing of issue or non-framing of issue with regard to invalidity of trade mark, in appeal or revision within the period of limitation prescribed or within a reasonable time and allowed the matter to settle down by subsequent pleadings, is estopped from raising additional issue. [4] A party who has acquiesced to framing of issues, and has not raised any plea or defence in the subsequent pleadings also is estopped from raising an additional issue as to invalidity of trade mark registered or to file a petition under Section 124 of the Act. [5] A party despite availability of sufficient materials to raise a plea for invalidity of registration of trade mark, fails to raise the same cannot be permitted to raise the issue in his later pleadings, which amounts to constructive res-judicata. [6] Change of legal position will not entitle a party to raise an additional issue without specific pleading as to invalidity of the trademark registration. [7] A party who has not raised additional pleadings or defence supporting the validity or invalidity of trade mark registration before framing of issue or fails to amend his pleadings with or without subsequent development after framing of issues, his action amounts to abandonment of his rights. [8] Change of legal position, bereft of specific pleadings as to validity or invalidity of registration of trade mark, cannot be a ground entitling a party or compel a Civil Court to frame an additional issue in that regard. [9] Failure to raise objections as to registration and continuance of the trade mark in the main as well as subsequent pleadings, even after filing rectification application, amount to admission of

validity of registration." Thus, the Court found no discrepancy in the Orders of the Trial Court and dismissed the Civil Revision Petitions.

- *M. Murali Vs. Sri Krishna Sweets Private Ltd. Rep. by its Chief Finance Officer and Authorized Signatory Mr. K. Venkasubramanian*, CDJ 2020 MHC 3435
(M. Govindaraj, J.)

42. Intellectual Property Laws –

Trademark Law – In a suit for passing-off under Trade Marks Act, where admittedly the Plaintiff did not have any registration for the mark, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "The Defendant is not selling goods so marked to be designed or calculated to lead purchasers to believe that they are Plaintiff's goods. The action for passing-off is premised on right of prior user generating a goodwill and is unaffected by any registration of mark under Act, and to prove and establish an action of passing-off, three ingredients are required to be proved by Plaintiff i.e., Goodwill, misrepresentation and damages." The Court further held that, "Respective labels of Plaintiff and Defendant are quite different in overall color, scheme, get up, layout and trade dress and there is no visual or ocular similarity between two wrappers, and there is no scope to infer passing-off." The Court also held that, "in a passing-off action, it is against the goods whereas in infringement action, it is in respect of the registered mark."

- *M/s. ITC Limited Vs. Nestle India Limited*, 2020 SCC Online (Mad) 1158

(C. Saravanan, J.)

43. Labour Laws – The Hon'ble High Court while deciding whether unaided private

educational institutions can be treated to be an establishment within the meaning of Section 1(5) of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, and thus be capable of being governed by notifications issued under the 1948 Act as being an establishment being covered within the word 'otherwise', held in the affirmative that, "the ESI Act can treat the private educational institutions as 'establishments' coming within the meaning of the Act and the term 'otherwise' has clearly been placed to specify that genus of establishments is not restricted to those organisations, which are industrial, commercial or agricultural only, but also includes organisations like educational institutions." by following the doctrine of ejusdem generis.

- *All India Private Educational Institutions Association, Rep. by its State General Secretary K. Palaniyappan Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu & Anr.*, (2020) 5 CTC 93, **(Pushpa Sathyanarayana, J., Anita Sumanth, J. & P.T. Asha, J) F.B.**

- 44. Land Laws – Mode of Possession** – In the dispute involving Section 24(2) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the Hon'ble High Court relying on the observation of the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that, "The possession which has to be taken in a particular mode and the payment of compensation which has been tendered/deposited in a particular mode, has not been done in the facts of the present case and therefore, there is no taking of possession and

payment/tendering of compensation in the eye of law. Therefore, the deeming provision under Section 24(2) of the Act automatically comes into play in favour of Petitioners by operation of law."

- *M. Palanisamy & Ors. Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu, Rep. by its Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department*, CDJ 2020 MHC 2928

(N. Anand Venkatesh, J.)

- 45. Land Laws – Tamil Nadu Survey and Boundaries Act, 1923** – The Hon'ble High Court in a Second Appeal decided on the correctness of dismissal of the suit for declaring the sub-divisions by the Respondents as null and void under Chapter VI of the Specific Relief Act, by quoting provision of Sec.14 of Tamil Nadu Patta Pass Book Act. The Hon'ble High Court held that, "Tamil Nadu Survey and Boundaries Act, or the Patta Passbook Act, both provide for a right of hearing of the party who is likely to be affected by the contemplated actions of the authorities concerned. When this right of hearing is not so granted, it is not only a blatant violation of the principles of natural justice, but also breach of statutory procedure for exercise of authority by the officials concerned. Hence, the same can be challenged in a civil suit, notwithstanding the statutory bar, even if any, in any of these statutes. Consequently, the suit was held maintainable." Thus, the Second Appeal was allowed.

- *G. Ramanujam Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*, SA (MD) No. 307 of 2020, 21st December 2020

(N. Seshasayee, J.)

46. Law of Limitation – While dealing with the question of period of limitation for redemption of mortgage, the Hon'ble High Court opined that, "the view expressed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Singh Ram (D) Through L.Rs. Vs. Sheo Ram and Ors., 2014 (3) TLNJ 463 (Civil), appears to be contrary to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in several other judgments and the principles reiterated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in different contexts while interpreting the provisions particularly Article 61, Sections 3 and 27 of Limitation Act and Section 60 of Transfer of Property Act." The Hon'ble High Court held that, "The cause of action for redemption arose in the year 1951. As per Article 61 of the Schedule to the Limitation Act, 1963, since the mortgage is prior to the commencement of Limitation Act, 1963, the period of limitation has to be worked out having regard to Section 30 of the Limitation Act, 1963. As per Section 30 of the Limitation Act, 1963, the suit has to be filed within seven years from the date of commencement of 1963 Act or as per the old Limitation Act, 1908 whichever is earlier, provided if the seven years period expires earlier than the period under the 1908 Act, and the said period of seven years together with so much of the period of limitation in respect of such suit under the Indian Limitation Act, 1908 as has already expired before the commencement of this Act is shorter than the period prescribed under the Limitation Act, 1963, then the suit may be instituted within the period of limitation prescribed under the Limitation Act, 1963. In the present case... the Appellant has to institute the suit for redemption within 30 years from 1951." The Hon'ble High Court thus held that,

"the suit filed in the year 2013 is hopelessly barred by limitation ... the decision of the Lower Appellate Court dismissing the suit on the ground of limitation is sustained not for the reasons stated by the Lower Appellate Court but for the reasons stated in this judgment."

- *Nachiyappan Vs. Periyakaruppan*, 2021 (1) CTC 408

(S.S. Sundar, J.)

47. Law of Trust – The Hon'ble High Court dealt with a substantial question of law as to whether it is mandatory for all the trustees to join together to institute a suit on behalf of a Trust. The Hon'ble High Court following the dictum laid by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Abdul Kayum Vs. Mulla Alibhai, AIR 1963 SC 309, and the Full Bench of the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court in Atmaram Ranchhodbhai Vs. Gulam Husein Gulam Mohiyaddin, AIR 1973 Guj. 113 and Man Mohan Das Vs. Janaki Prasad, AIR 1945 PC 623, held that, "that unless the instrument of trust otherwise provides, all co-trustees must join in filing a suit to recover possession of the property from the tenant after determination of the lease. No one single co-trustee, even he be a managing trustee unanimously chosen by the co-trustees, can maintain such a suit against the tenant without joining the other co-trustees". The Hon'ble High Court further held that, "the tenant who is the defaulter is liable to be evicted following due process of law. In this case, the suit has been laid after causing notice as per law and the Appellant has not offered any plausible reason, why he should not be evicted for default in paying the rent." and thus, dismissed the appeal by the defaulter/tenant/Appellant.

- *Narayana Iyer Vs. M/s. Anandammal Adheena Trust, Rep. By Its President, P. Selvanathan, Puducherry, CDJ 2021 MHC 626*

(G. Jayachandran, J.)

48. Motor Accidents Claim & Related

Laws – While dealing with a Civil Miscellaneous Appeal preferred by the Insurance Company under Section 173 of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "It is settled law that the finding of the Criminal Court is not binding on the Tribunal and the Tribunal is duty-bound to consider the evidence available before it and decide as to who is responsible for the accident. Even if, the judgment of acquittal or conviction is passed by the jurisdictional criminal Court, the same will not affect the powers of the Tribunal to decide the issues independently.", and thus, dismissed the appeal.

- *Branch Manager, The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd., Vs. Palaniammal & Anr., CDJ 2021 MHC 829*

(K. Murali Shankar, J.)

49. Property Laws – Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 –

While dealing with Writ Petitions filed by devotees of two temples questioning the transfer of temple lands to Government departments by Government Orders, and constructions made and entries changed in revenue records, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "Temple entitled to rights of possession and enjoyment of respective disputed lands, subject to control and administration of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) Department. Right and title over disputed lands vest with the Government which shall not utilize/alienate/assign/transfer the same and construct permanent structures for

purposes other than beneficial interests of temple as indicated in Revenue Standing Order and Act." The Hon'ble High Court further directed the HR and CE Department to take possession of remaining vacant land, secure it, and evict any other encroacher in manner known to law.

- *S. Sridhar Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu, Rep. by Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Department, Chennai & Ors., (2020) 8 MLJ 438*

(R. Mahadevan, J.)

50. Service Laws–Accelerated Seniority

– In a batch of Writ Petitions, the Hon'ble High Court decided whether the accelerated promotees who are police personnel part of a Special Task Force, are also entitled to accelerated seniority. The Court held that, "It is trite in law to hold that it is the prerogative of the legislature to amend the existing Rules in furtherance of the policies of the Government, but at the same time the manner and procedure adopted while bringing in an amendment cannot escape from the judicial review of the Constitution Court. Any act or amendment has to be tested on the touch tone of its Constitutionality and its conformity to the law declared under Article 141 of the Constitution of India." The Hon'ble High Court further found "it incomprehensible and is unable to appreciate as to how the Government could even think of over-ruling the judgment of this Court in the manner as adopted and seek to remove the primacy of the Constitutional Court as a final arbiter of interpretation of laws". The Court thus quashed the G.O. dated 24.07.2013 amending Rule 11 of the Special Rules for Tamil Nadu Police Service as unconstitutional and illegal,

holding that "The Government by coming up with a contrived remedy, ostensibly on the basis of the ill-advised cursory Amendment, has eventually proved to be proverbial remedy becoming worse than the disease itself".

- *S. Radhakrishnan & Ors. Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu, Rep. Principal Secretary, Home Department, Secretariat, W.P.No.24461 of 2020, 02.12.2020*

(V. Parthiban, J.)

51. Service Laws – Central Administrative Tribunal

– The Hon'ble High Court in Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the records relating to the impugned Order of the Central Administrative Tribunal upholding the punishment of compulsory retirement on the Petitioner, held that, "It is well settled that an order of transfer is purely an administrative one, save in cases where inter alia malafide on the part of the Authority is proved. It is also well settled that transferring an employee in public interest or exigency of administration to enforce decorum is the prerogative of the employer". The Court further held that, "Neither the punishment order nor the Order of the Appellate Authority suffers from any infirmity. Both are with proper reasoning. The Central Administrative Tribunal, Madras Bench also has been categorical in its orders giving no leverage whatsoever for such baseless allegation made by the Petitioner. The Petitioner has also exhibited his stubborn attitude even in the Inquiry Proceedings by not being present in many of the hearings." thus the Court held that, the Petitioner's 'compulsory retirement' punishment "does not smack of any bias or prejudice".

- *B. Marghabandhu Vs. Union of India & 6 Ors., (2020) SCC Online Mad 5463*

(R. Hemalatha, J.)

52. Service Laws – Salary of High Court Staff

– The Hon'ble Madras High Court dealt with Article 229 of the Constitution of India, in a Writ Petition filed by the staff of the Hon'ble Madras High Court, praying that the Govt. of Tamilnadu adopt the concept of 'equal pay for equal work', and fix their salary on par with the pay structure prescribed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court to their staff. The Hon'ble Madras High Court, regarding the Order of the Additional Chief Secretary rejecting the request of the staff of the Madras High Court, held that "the Chief Justice of the High Court is the highest Constitutional head in the State Judiciary and is the best Judge to intervene in the matter relating to salaries, pension, allowance, leave etc., payable to officers and servants of High Court. The Governor is therefore expected to reciprocate by giving approval by applying the principle of comity between two highest Constitutional functionaries of the State." The Hon'ble High Court held that it is necessary to compare the working pattern of the staff of the Madras High Court and Delhi High Court "before recommending the pay pattern of the Delhi High Court to be adopted", and directed that this Judgment shall be placed before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Hon'ble Madras High Court for constituting a Committee for this purpose before effecting the pay pattern.

- *R.N. Arul Jothi & 2 Ors., Vs. The Principal Secretary, Home Department, Secretariat, Chennai, 2020 (2) WLR 1; 2020 (3) LW 760*

**(R. Subbiah, J. & C. Saravanan, J.)
D.B.**

53. General Miscellaneous - The Hon'ble High Court, in a Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for deputation of a devoted and honest Surveyor for survey of the property, framed certain guidelines, in respect of survey of the properties by the Authorities concerned, which are as under:

- "i) On receipt of charges towards Survey or Resurvey, it should be conducted within a period of 90 days from the date of such receipt and in case of failure on the part of the authorities to do so, the cost of application shall be returned to the parties, apart from recovery of a sum of Rs.2,500/- from the salary of the concerned Officials, responsible for execution of the job and also initiation of departmental proceedings against them and those errand officers must be identified and placed under suspension and even dismissed from service for their misconduct, dereliction of duty, showing no devotion to work, lack of integrity, so as to deprive their entire gratuity and terminal benefits under the head "moral turpitude", thereby failing to maintain absolute integrity in discharging his/her official duties. The details of such Officers stated supra together with his / her Aadhar Number shall be incorporated and adverse remarks shall be entered in the Service Register of the concerned Officers, so as to deprive their further promotions in their career. In case of failure to do survey, the concerned Official / Surveyor shall be displaced to a non-sensitive post;
- ii) A Register shall be maintained, in which details, such as name of the person, who has gone for survey, area of survey, date

of survey, completion of survey, reason for not surveying the property, etc., should be entered periodically and verified by the Superior Officer. The complete details shall be available to the parties concerned or any person, when required under the Right to Information Act and Section 8 of the said Act or any other provision shall not be quoted to deprive the details to the person, who requires it;

- (iii) The Respondents 1 to 4 shall make use of Drone Technology in order to conduct accurate survey of the property, which will throw light with regard to encroachment on Government lands, like OSR, Public Roads, Parks, Lakes, Odai, etc.
- (iv) Pendency of litigation before Courts is not a bar for the authorities to conduct survey or resurvey in the absence of any stay / interim order / interim injunction from proceeding further;
- (v) In cases relating to pending civil dispute, the parties are at liberty to approach the appropriate forum for conducting Survey or Resurvey of the property in question by making necessary application and the same shall be considered by the appropriate forum in accordance with law;
- (vi) The entire process of survey or resurvey shall be photographed and videographed by the authorities concerned even in the absence of suitable orders to that effect and the copies of documents shall be furnished to the parties concerned on receipt of necessary charges;
- (vii) In the event of any public documents sought for by any of the parties in connection with the property in question, under the Right to Information

Act, duly certified copies should be provided to such parties and it should not be denied by merely quoting some provisions of the RTI Act, more particularly, Section 8 of the said Act, unless there is any interim order operating against the parties concerned in respect of disbursement of the documents sought for by the parties. The name, designation, employment number, if any Aadhar Card details, shall be furnished in the certification;

(viii) It is needless to mention that obviously, the entire charges for survey or resurvey of the property shall be paid by the parties concerned or it should be equally borne them, depending upon the facts of each case. In case of delay on the side of the Authorities, the costs should be borne by them from their personal funds;

(ix) A constant vigil at the Officials of every Revenue Departments is absolutely necessary to regulate the revenue related works and the Vigilance Department shall be brought into action to curb the demand of bribe by them, especially Surveyors;

(x) In case of request for issuance of Patta after survey, apart from the aforesaid guidelines, the directions issued by this Court in W.P.(MD) No.7746 of 2020 batch on 23.09.2020 shall have to be adhered to;

(xi) The form or application for survey and issuance of patta shall be made available in the Official Website of the Government, on payment necessary fee through online / NEFT / RTGS by the concerned parties, which will put an end to the corrupt practice being followed by some of the Surveyors. If any complaint

is given by any of the applicant with regard to the demand of bribe, a detailed enquiry should be conducted and if required, vigilance enquiry can be set in motion. Once payment for survey is made and receipt is generated, the guidelines issued by this Court shall be made available to the applicants, so that each and every citizen is informed about their rights and duties. The Government must ensure that the Department sends notice to parties, fixing the date and time of survey through Speed Post or Registered post, and, the ordinary post cannot be treated as proper service of intimation to the parties;

(xii) Whenever a person is recruited and appointed as Surveyor, the aforesaid guidelines must be brought to their knowledge, by handing over a copy of the same to them and if any vacancy arises in the cadre of Surveyor, it should be filled up by the Government with immediate effect;

(xiii) The Register containing the particulars of Survey shall be uploaded in the Website, so that the same can be verified by anyone online;

(xiv) Government is directed to issue a circular in this regard, incorporating the above additional guidelines within a period of one month from the date of receipt of a copy of this order."

- *Asaithambi vs. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Madurai, & Ors., W.P.(MD) No.13465 of 2020 dated 05.10.2020*

(S. Vaidyanathan, J.)

54. Sexual Harassment Laws – While dealing with a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus to call for records and

quash the findings of the Internal Complaints Committee, the Hon'ble High Court regarding the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, observed that, "Whenever the statute prescribes that a particular act is to be done in a particular manner and also lays down that failure to comply with the said requirement leads to severe consequences, such requirement would be mandatory.", and thus held that the Respondents have failed to prove the allegations of sexual harassment made against the Petitioner "in the manner known to law."

- *Dr. K. Karnamaharajan Vs. The Registrar, Madurai Kamaraj University and 5 Ors.*, 2020 (2) WLR 78; 2020 (3) LW 813

(V.M. Velumani, J.)

55. Tax Laws – Income Tax – In a Tax Case Appeal filed under Section 260A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, the Hon'ble High Court decided [1] Whether the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal is correct in law in sustaining the addition of the surrender value of the assigned Keyman Insurance Policy as income of the Appellant [2] Whether the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal is correct in law in not taking notice of the amendment introduced by the Finance Act, 2013, to include the assigned policies also within the ambit of Keyman Insurance Policy for the purpose of taxation with effect from 01.04.2014. The Hon'ble High Court found that, "the Key Insurance Policy taken by a limited company in favour of its key employee, the Managing Director of the Company in the present case, even though it is Life

Insurance Policy, is excluded from the ambit of exemption under Section 10(10D) by specifically mentioning the same in Clause (b) of the said exception of the provision quoted above. Therefore, any amount received under Keyman Insurance Policy is a taxable receipt in the hands of the employee concerned as perquisite." On the basis of the above finding, the Hon'ble High Court held that, "the character of the Keyman Insurance Policy does not get converted into ordinary Life Insurance Policy despite its assignment and therefore, any benefit accruing to the employee upon its surrender or encashment will be taxable in the hands of the Employee as 'perquisite'" and dismissed the appeal.

- *Shri Allu Arvind Babu Vs. The Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax [Tax Case Appeal No.522 of 2017]; CDJ 2021 MHC 610-611*

(Vineet Kothari, J & M.S.Ramesh, J) D.B.

56. Tax Laws – Income Tax – In Writ Petitions seeking to declare Section 234E of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as ultra vires to the Constitution of India, the Hon'ble High Court decided whether Section 234E, as a fee for default in furnishing TDS statements with an incrementally increasing fee for every continuing day in default is unjustifiable and whether Section 234E is in fact a "penalty" in the guise of a fee. The Hon'ble High Court relied on the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Sona Chandi Oal Committee & Ors. Vs. State of Maharashtra*, (2005) 2SCC 345, and held that, "The distinction between the tax and the fee is that tax is levied as a part of common burden while fee is payment for

a special benefit of privilege. Fee confers some advantage and is a return of consideration for services rendered.” The Court further held that, “Secretary (Revenue) is right in contending that Section 234E of the Act is not a penalty. Penalty is levied under Section 271H and is not automatic. ... On the other hand, Section 234E of the Act is only a late fee at the rate of Rs.200/- per day. As held in the judgments relied above, Section 234E of the Act is purely compensatory and is a special benefit to the advantage of the Assessee as well for belatedly filing the TDS statement.”, and thus dismissed the appeal by holding the levy constitutional.

- *Qatalys Software Technologies Private Limited & Ors. Vs. Union of India, Rep. by Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance, CDJ 2020 MHC 1134*

(A.P.Sahi, CJ & Subramonium Prasad, J) D.B.

57. Tax Laws – Income Tax – The Hon’ble High Court setting aside the impugned Orders of the Assessing Officer for reassessment under Section 147 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, sent to the Petitioner, and held that, “When all relevant, primary particulars have been produced/filed/furnished by the Assessee at the first instance before the authorities, in a transparent fashion, it is for the Officer to have appreciated the same and arrived at the necessary and appropriate inferences at that juncture. Having missed the bus at that point, the Department cannot seek to re-assess the income as culled from material already on record, as this constitutes a review of the original assessment and in the instant case admittedly, and even as per the

reasons stated, there is no new material that has come to the notice of the authorities and the impugned exercise is undertaken solely on the basis of the materials already supplied by the petitioners and available on the records of the department.”

- *Asianet Star Communications Private Limited Vs. Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, 2019 SCC Online MAD 21947; 2020 ITR 422 47; 2020 CTR 317 732*

(Anita Sumanth, J.)

58. Tax Laws – Indirect Tax – The Hon’ble High Court decided on the validity of Section 54(3)(ii) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act) and Rule 89(5) of the CGST Rules, 2017, and consequently as to whether the Petitioners are entitled to refund of the unutilised Input Tax Credit (ITC) accumulated on account of input services. The Hon’ble High Court held that the principal clause in Section 54(3) is qualified by the Proviso “making it abundantly clear that unless a registered person meets the requirements of Clause (i) or (ii) of Sub-section 3, no refund would be allowed”. The Hon’ble High Court further held that the term ‘inputs’ cannot be read to include ‘input services’ as the statutory definition and the context point in the same direction so as to exclude input services from the definition of ‘inputs’. The Hon’ble High Court thus upheld the constitutional validity of Sec.54(3)(ii), CGST Act, 2017 and the classification based on input goods and input services therein as not violative of Art.14 of the Constitution of

India. The Hon'ble High Court further upheld Rule 89(5), CGST Rules, 2017 holding that the provision is intra vires Section 54(3)(ii) and Sec.164, CGST Act as the Rule has been amended to redefine 'Net ITC' "to provide for a refund only on unutilised input tax credit that accumulates on account of input goods" whereas the unamended Rule 89(5) covered ITC availed on input services as well. The Hon'ble High Court thus dismissed the Writ Petitions seeking refund of unutilised input tax credit on account of input services.

- *TVL. Transtonnelstroy Afcons Joint Venture Vs. Union of India & Ors. CDJ 2020 MHC 2498*

(A.P. Sahi, CJ. & Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, J.) D.B.

- 59. Tax Laws** – The Hon'ble High Court, decided whether Social Welfare Surcharge (SWS) can be collected by making debit from total value of the scrips obtained by the Petitioner under the MEIS and SEIS schemes under the Foreign Trade Policy, while debiting customs duty from said scrips. The Hon'ble High Court held that the exemption of customs duty under Notification Nos. 24/2015 & 25/2015, issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs is not an exemption simplicitor, holding that "in effect, it is only the payment of such duty in cash alone is exempted and on the other hand, such duty leviable and payable has to be

debited from the value of the above scrips every time". The Hon'ble High Court decided on the effect of the recent decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Unicorn Industries Vs. Union of India & Ors.*, Civil Appeal No.9237 of 2019 dated 06.12.2019, (hereinafter Unicorn), and held that the SWS "levied under Section 110(3) of the Finance Act, 2018, is an independent levy imposed and collected under different enactment viz., Finance Act 2018.... [SWS] intended totally for a different purpose is not taking the colour of parent levy viz., customs duty". Further, the Hon'ble High Court held that as per Clause 3.02 of the Foreign Trade Policy, the duty credit scrips can be used for payment of basic customs duty, additional customs duty and central excise duties only. The Hon'ble High Court held that in light of the decision in Unicorn, the exemption under the Notifications and Foreign Trade Policy do not imply exemption from customs duty in toto, and therefore "the liability to pay the Social Welfare Surcharge is also to be discharged by the Petitioner either by way of cash or by other mode, since the scrips cannot be used for discharging such liability".

- *M/s. Gemini Edibles and Fats India Pvt. Ltd. Vs. Union of India & 3 Ors., CDJ 2020 MHC 056*

(K. Ravichandrababu, J.)

LIST OF COMMITTEES as on 31.12.2020

Hon'ble The Chief Justice is the Ex-Officio Chairperson of all the Committees

1

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

1. The **Hon'ble Chief Justice**
2. Dr. Justice **Vineet Kothari**
3. Mr. Justice **R. Subbiah**
4. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**
5. Mr. Justice **N. Kirubakaran**
6. Mr. Justice **M.M. Sundresh**
7. Mr. Justice **T.S. Sivagnanam**

2

(A) COMMITTEE ON TRANSFERS, POSTINGS, REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

(i) For District Judges

1. Dr. Justice **Vineet Kothari**
2. Mr. Justice **R. Subbiah**
3. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**

(ii) For Senior Civil Judges

1. Mr. Justice **N. Kirubakaran**
2. Mr. Justice **M.M. Sundresh**
3. Mr. Justice **T.S. Sivagnanam**

(iii) For Civil Judges

1. Mr. Justice **M. Duraiswamy**
2. Mr. Justice **T. Raja**
3. Mr. Justice **K. Ravichandrababu** (Superannuated on 13.10.2020)

(B) SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR AWARDING OF A.C.P. SCALES OF PAY TO THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS OF TAMIL NADU STATE JUDICIAL SERVICE AND PUDUCHERRY JUDICIAL SERVICE:

(i) For Senior Civil Judges

1. Mr. Justice **P. N. Prakash**
2. Mrs. Justice **Pushpa Sathyanarayana**
3. Mr. Justice **C. V. Karthikeyan**

(ii) For Civil Judges

1. Mr. Justice **P. N. Prakash**
2. Mrs. Justice **Pushpa Sathyanarayana**
3. Mr. Justice **C. V. Karthikeyan**

3

PROMOTION COMMITTEE (FROM THE CADRE OF (I) CIVIL JUDGE TO SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND (II) SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE TO DISTRICT JUDGE (ENTRY LEVEL)

1. Dr. Justice **Vineet Kothari**
2. Mr. Justice **R. Subbiah**
3. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**

4

PROMOTION COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PROMOTIONS TO THE CADRE OF JOINT REGISTRAR, DEPUTY REGISTRAR, ASSISTANT REGISTRAR AND SUB ASSISTANT REGISTRAR IN THE MADRAS HIGH COURT SERVICE FROM THE FEEDER CATEGORIES AND IF NEED BE, TO REVIEW THE PROMOTION MADE EARLIER TO THE SAID CADRE

1. Mr. Justice **T.S. Sivagnanam**
2. Mr. Justice **V. Parthiban**
3. Mr. Justice **N. Sathish Kumar**

5

COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH (i) Complaints against the staff members by the Hon'ble Judges and staff grievances, (ii) Transfers from Principal Seat to Madurai Bench and vice versa, (iii) Promotion in the High Court Service (below the cadre of Sub Assistant Registrar) and seniority

1. Mr. Justice **T. S. Sivagnanam**
2. Mr. Justice **M. Duraiswamy**
3. Mr. Justice **V. Bharathidasan**

6

PROTOCOL IN ORGANISING FUNCTIONS AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Dr. Justice **Anita Sumanth**
2. Mr. Justice **N. Seshasayee**
3. Ms. Justice **P. T. Asha**

7

COMMITTEE FOR STATEWIDE TRANSFER OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND SHERISHTADARS

1. Mr. Justice **T. Raja**
2. Mr. Justice **S. S. Sundar**
3. Dr. Justice **G. Jayachandran**

8

- (A) COMPUTER AND E-COMMITTEE FOR HIGH COURT (MADRAS & MADURAI BENCH AND SUBORDINATE COURTS)
- (B) COMMITTEE FOR PROCESS E-ENGINEERING
- (C) COMMITTEE FOR DIGITIZATION OF RECORDS AND DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS AS PER RULES
- (D) COMMITTEE FOR CAUSE LIST
- (E) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE FOR INTRODUCING, CONCEPTUALIZING, IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COURTS. (W.E.F.30.07.2020)

1. Mr. Justice **T.S. Sivagnanam**
2. Mrs. Justice **Pushpa Sathyanarayana**
3. Mr. Justice **A.D. Jagadish Chandira**
4. Mr. Justice **M. Sundar**
5. Mr. Justice **C. Saravanan**

9

COMMITTEE FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF CASE MANAGEMENT AND MATTERS PERTAINING TO COURT MANAGERS FUNCTIONING IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU

1. Mr. Justice **K. Ravichandrabaabu** (Superannuated on 13.10.2020)
2. Mr. Justice **K. Kalyanasundaram**
3. Mr. Justice **R. Mahadevan**

10

COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MODEL COURTS

1. Mr. Justice **S. Vaidyanathan**
2. Mr. Justice **R. Subramanian**
3. Mr. Justice **M. Govindaraj**

11

- (A) COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES IN THE HIGH COURT – DESIGN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BUILDINGS FOR LOK ADALAT, MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION CENTRE, ARBITRATION CENTRE AND OTHER BUILDINGS WITHIN THE HIGH COURT PREMISES – MAINTENANCE OF ALL BUILDINGS, INCLUDING ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF HIGH COURT BUILDING.
- (B) COMMITTEE FOR PROVIDING QUARTERS FOR HIGH COURT STAFF, INCLUDING IDENTIFICATION OF LAND FOR FUTURE REQUIREMENT

1. Mr. Justice **R. Subbiah**
2. Mr. Justice **N. Kirubakaran**
3. Mr. Justice **T.S. Sivagnanam**
4. Mr. Justice **M. Sundar**
5. Mr. Justice **M. Dhandapani**

12

- (A) COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES IN THE SUBORDINATE COURTS – DESIGN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BUILDINGS FOR LOK ADALAT, MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION CENTRE, ARBITRATION CENTRE AND OTHER BUILDINGS WITHIN THE COURT PREMISES – MAINTENANCE OF ALL BUILDINGS, INCLUDING ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF THE SUBORDINATE COURT BUILDINGS
- (B) COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER SPECIAL WORK RELATING TO BUILDING OF THE SUBORDINATE COURTS

1. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**
2. Mr. Justice **N. Kirubakaran**
3. Mr. Justice **T. Raja**
4. Mr. Justice **M. Nirmal Kumar**

(C) COMMITTEE TO MONITOR THE WORK OF COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION OF COURT BUILDINGS AND RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS

1. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**
2. Mr. Justice **N. Kirubakaran**
3. Mr. Justice **M. Govindaraj**
4. Mr. Justice **N. Anand Venkatesh**
5. The Registrar General, Madras High Court
6. The Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu
7. The Principal Secretary to Government, Home and P&E Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
8. The Secretary to Government, Finance Dept, Government of Tamil Nadu
9. The Secretary to Government, Law Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
10. The Secretary to Government, PWD, Government of Tamil Nadu
11. The Engineer-in-Chief (Buildings), PWD

13

HERITAGE, MUSEUM, ENVIRONMENTAL AND PORTRAIT COMMITTEE

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Mr. Justice N. Kirubakaran | - Chairman |
| 2. Mr. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam | - Member |
| 3. Mr. Justice M.S. Ramesh | - Member |
| 4. Ms. Justice P.T. Asha | - Member |
| 5. Mr. Justice N. Anand Venkatesh | - Member |
| 6. The Advocate General, Madras High Court | - Member |
| 7. The Additional Solicitor General of India | - Member |
| 8. Mr. S.T.S. Murthi, Addl. Adv. General | - Member |
| 9. The Chief Engineer (Buildings), PWD | - Member |
| 10. Mr. M. T. Arunan, Advocate | - Member |

Members on Special Invitation

1. Minister for Public Works Department
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Chennai - 600 009
2. The Additional Chief Secretary
Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Board
Government of Tamil Nadu
Chennai - 600 009

3. The Additional Chief Secretary
Public Works Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu
Chennai - 600 009
4. President of the Madras Bar Association and in his absence,
the Secretary of the MBA
5. President, Madras High Court Advocates' Association
6. President, Law Association and in his absence, the Secretary of
the Law Association
7. The Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Chennai.

14

**COMMITTEE FOR ALLOTMENT OF CHAMBERS TO ADVOCATES IN
PRINCIPAL SEAT AND TO MONITOR THE COLLECTION OF RENT**

1. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**
2. Mr. Justice **T. S. Sivagnanam**
3. Mr. Justice **P. Velmurugan**

15

**(A) COMMITTEE FOR ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO THE STAFF
MEMBERS WORKING AT MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS
HIGH COURT**

**(B) COMMITTEE FOR ALLOTMENT OF CHAMBERS TO
ADVOCATES IN MADURAI BENCH AND TO MONITOR THE
COLLECTION OF RENT**

1. **Administrative Judge**, Madurai Bench
2. Mr. Justice **S.S. Sundar**
3. Mr. Justice **G.R. Swaminathan**
4. Mr. Justice **B.Pugalendhi**

16

RULE COMMITTEE

(As per Section 123 C.P.C. and any other matter specifically referred)

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Mr. Justice K. Ravichandrababu
(Superannuated on 13.10.2020) | - President |
| 2. Mr. Justice R. Subramanian | - Member |
| 3. Mr. Justice M. Sundar | - Member |
| 4. Dr. Justice G. Jayachandran | - Member |
| 5. Mr. Justice N. Sathish Kumar | - Member |
| 6. Mr. Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy | - Member |

7. Mr. Om Prakash, Sr. Advocate - Secretary
8. Mr. Ramakrishnan Veeraraghavan, Sr. Advocate - Member
9. Mr. V. Raghavachari, Advocate - Member
10. The Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Chennai - Ex-Officio Member

17

TAMIL NADU STATE JUDICIAL ACADEMY

1. The **Hon'ble Chief Justice** - Patron-in-chief
2. Mr. Justice **R. Subbiah** - President

Board Of Governors

1. Mr. Justice **T.S. Sivagnanam**
2. Mr. Justice **M. Sundar**
3. Mr. Justice **C.V. Karthikeyan**
4. Mr. Justice **N. Sathish Kumar**
5. Mr. Justice **Abdul Quddhose**

18

COMMITTEE FOR HIGH COURT GUEST HOUSE AND PROTOCOL

1. Mr. Justice **T. Raja**
2. Mr. Justice **R. Suresh Kumar**
3. Mr. Justice **M.Nirmal Kumar**

19

COMMITTEE FOR APPOINTMENT OF LAW CLERKS

1. Mr. Justice **S. Vaidyanathan**
2. Mr. Justice **M.S. Ramesh**
3. Mrs. Justice **V. Bhavani Subbaroyan**

COMMITTEE FOR TAMIL NADU MEDIATION & CONCILIATION CENTRE (PRINCIPAL SEAT AND MADURAI BENCH)

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|-------------|
| 1. | Dr. Justice Vineet Kothari | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh | - | Member |
| 3. | Ms. Justice V.M. Velumani | - | Member |
| 4. | Mr. Justice D. Krishnakumar | - | Member |
| 5. | Mr. Justice M. Govindaraj | - | Member |
| 6. | Mr. Sriram Panchu, Senior Advocate | - | Member |
| 7. | Mr. P.H. Arvinth Pandian, Senior Advocate | - | Member |
| 8. | The Member Secretary, TNSLSA | - | Member |
| 9. | Mrs. Uma Ramanathan, Advocate | - | Coordinator |

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

(Staff Grievances redressal for the Subordinate Courts)

1. Mr. Justice **M.M. Sundresh**
2. Dr. Justice **G. Jayachandran**
3. Ms. Justice **P.T. Asha**

Subjects:

- (a) Matters of inter-se-seniority, promotion, pay fixation, probation, regularisation, confirmation, Selection Grade, Special Grade, Temporary promotions and reversions etc.
- (b) Transfer of individuals from one Unit to another Unit and from one Department to another Department; conversion of contingency employees into regular class
- (c) Review under F.R. 56(2) in TN Judicial Ministerial Service and F.R. 56(j) in U.T. of Puducherry
- (d) Appeals, Reviews and any other representation of the employees of Subordinate Judiciary in disciplinary matters.

22

COMMITTEE FOR RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

1. Mr. Justice **M. Duraiswamy**
2. Mr. Justice **V. Parthiban**
3. Mr. Justice **R. Suresh Kumar**

23

COMMITTEE FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT

1. Mr. Justice **M.M. Sundresh**
2. Mr. Justice **P.N. Prakash**
3. Mr. Justice **G.R. Swaminathan**

24

TAMIL NADU STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, LOK ADALAT ETC.

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Justice Vineet Kothari | - Executive Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. Justice V. Bharathidasan | - Member |
| 3. | Mr. Justice S. S. Sundar | - Member |
| 4. | Mr. Justice R.Subramanian | - Member |
| 5. | Mr. Justice M. Sundar | - Member |
| 6. | Mrs. Justice J. Nisha Banu | - Member |

25

UNION TERRITORY OF PUDUCHERRY LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, LOK ADALAT ETC.

- | | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Mr. Justice R. Subbiah | - Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. Justice N. Anand Vekatesh | - Member |
| 3. | Mr. Justice G. K. Ilanthiraiyan | - Member |
| 4. | Mr. Justice Krishnan Ramasamy | - Member |

26

HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, LOK ADALAT ETC.

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Mr. Justice M. Sathyanarayanan | - Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. Justice M.S. Ramesh | - Member |
| 3. | Mr. Justice S.M. Subramaniam | - Member |
| 4. | Mr. Justice RMT. Teekaa Raman | - Member |

27

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE REFORMS

1. Mr. Justice **P.N. Prakash**
2. Mr. Justice **R. Subramanian**
3. Mr. Justice **T. Ravindran**
4. Mr. Justice **M. Nirmal Kumar**

28

COMMITTEE FOR MONITORING THE PENDENCY AND DISPOSAL OF CRIMINAL CASES IN ALL SUBORDINATE COURTS (along with Portfolio Judges of respective Districts)

1. Mr. Justice **P. Velmurugan**
2. Mr. Justice **N. Seshasayee**
3. Mrs. Justice **R. Tharani**

29

NORMS COMMITTEE (To re-fix the norms for disposal of cases dealt with by the Judicial Officers in the cadre of Senior Civil Judges and Civil Judges)

1. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**
2. Mr. Justice **N. Sathish Kumar**
3. Mr. Justice **P. Rajamanickam**

30

COMMITTEE FOR THIRD PENDENCY REDUCTION DRIVE FOR WEEDING OUT OLD INFRUCTUOUS AND INEFFECTIVE CASES

1. Mr. Justice **M. Dhandapani**
2. Mrs. Justice **R. Hemalatha**
3. Mr. Justice **B. Pugalendhi**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(To monitor the effective utilisation of funds sanctioned by the Government)

1. Mr. Justice **T.S. Sivagnanam**
2. Dr. Justice **Anita Sumanth**
3. Dr. Justice **G. Jayachandran**
4. Mr. Justice **C.V. Karthikeyan**
5. Mr. Justice **Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy**

Subjects:

1. High Court (on different heads of account)
2. Construction of buildings for Courts
3. Renovation of old buildings; constitution of new Courts
4. Infrastructure for Courts
5. Stationery
6. Purchase of Computers
7. Purchase of Cars
8. Meeting expenses of the High Court
9. Travelling expenses
10. Contingency expenses – to the High Court and Subordinate Courts.

MONITORING COMMITTEE (To monitor the effective utilisation of the funds released by the Government of India for improving delivery of justice based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission)

1. Mr. Justice **K. Ravichandrabaabu** (Superannuated on 13.10.2020)
2. Mr. Justice **S. Vaidyanathan**
3. Mr. Justice **R. Suresh Kumar**
4. Mrs. Justice **V. Bhavani Subbaroyan**
5. The Registrar General, Madras High Court
6. The Principal Secretary to Government, Home and P&E Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
7. The Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
8. The Secretary to Government, Law Department, Government of Tamil Nadu

33

LIBRARY COMMITTEE FOR HIGH COURT (MADRAS & MADURAI BENCH) AND SUBORDINATE COURTS

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Mr. Justice N. Kirubakaran | - Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. Justice P.N.Prakash | - Member |
| 3. | Dr. Justice Anita Sumanth | - Member |
| 4. | Mr. Justice G.R. Swaminathan | - Member |
| 5. | Mr. Justice C. Saravanan | - Member |

34

(A) COMMITTEE TO MONITOR THE CASES BEING DEALT WITH BY THE LEGAL CELL, MADRAS HIGH COURT

(B) COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE DRAFT COUNTER AFFIDAVITS TO BE FILED ON BEHALF OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL/REGISTRARS SHOWN AS RESPONDENTS IN WRIT PETITIONS AND ALSO TO APPROVE THE DRAFT CHARGES TO BE FRAMED AGAINST JUDICIAL OFFICERS

1. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**
2. Mr. Justice **K. Ravichandrabaabu** (Superannuated on 13.10.2020)
3. Mr. Justice **V. Parthiban**
4. Mr. Justice **C.V. Karthikeyan**

35

COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST JUDICIAL OFFICERS DEALT WITH BY 'VIGILANCE CELL'

1. Mr. Justice **T.S. Sivagnanam**
2. Mr. Justice **R. Suresh Kumar**
3. Mr. Justice **N. Sathish Kumar**

36

SECURITY COMMITTEE

1. Mr. Justice **N. Kirubakaran**
2. Mr. Justice **K. Ravichandrabaabu** (Superannuated on 13.10.2020)
3. Mr. Justice **P.N. Prakash**
4. Mr. Justice **P.D. Audikesavalu**

37

COMMITTEE FOR DESIGNATION AS SENIOR ADVOCATES

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | The Hon'ble Chief Justice | - Ex-officio Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. Justice Vineet Kothari | - Member |
| 3. | Mr. Justice R. Subbiah | - Member |
| 4. | Advocate General of Tamil Nadu | - Ex-officio Member |
| 5. | Mr. R. Krishnamurthi, Senior Advocate | - Member |

THE HIGH COURT GENDER SENSITISATION AND INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE-I FOR PRINCIPAL SEAT OF MADRAS HIGH COURT. (w.e.f. 11.12.2020)

1. Mrs. Justice **Pushpa Sathyanarayana** - Chairperson
 2. Mrs. Justice **R. Hemalatha** - Member
 3. Ms. Justice **P.T. Asha** - Member
 4. Mr.R.Krishna Kumar, Secretary,
Madras High Court Advocates' Association - Member
 5. Mr.M.Baskar, Secretary, MBA - Member
 6. Ms. R. Sudha, Vice President, MHAA - Member
 7. Mrs. Louisal Ramesh, President, WLA - Member
 8. Ms. Maimoona Badsha, Advocate - Member
 9. Mrs. K. Indumathi, Registrar (Administration) - Member
 10. Dr. Sarah Karunakaran, Social Activist - Member
 11. Mrs. S. Premavathi, Advocate Clerk,
TN Advocates Clerks Association - Member
- Mrs. K. Indumathi, Registrar (Administration), Madras High Court, will also function as the Member Secretary of the High Court GSICC-I for the Principal Seat.

THE HIGH COURT GENDER SENSITISATION AND INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE-II FOR MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

1. Mrs. Justice **R. Tharani** - Chairperson
 2. Mrs. Justice **T. Krishnavalli** - Member
 3. Mrs. Justice **S. Ananthi** - Member
 4. Mrs. L. Victoria Gowri,
Assistant Solicitor General of India - Member
 5. Mr. V.S. Karthi, Advocate, Madurai Bench - Member
 6. Mr. S. Suresh Kumar Isaac Paul, Advocate,
Madurai Bench - Member
 7. Mr. R. Gandhi, Advocate, Madurai Bench - Member
 8. Mr. K. Samidurai, Advocate, Madurai Bench - Member
 9. Ms. J. Anandhavalli, Advocate, Madurai Bench - Member
 10. Mrs. C.B. Meena, Addl. Registrar (IT), Madurai Bench - Member
 11. Ms. R. Kayalvizhi, Social Activist, Madurai - Member
 12. Ms. Mercy Premila, Advocate Clerk, Madurai Bench - Member
- Mrs. C.B. Meena, Addl. Registrar (IT), Madurai Bench, will also function as Member Secretary of the High Court GSICC-II for the Madurai Bench

COMMITTEE FOR ARBITRATION CENTRE

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. The Hon'ble Chief Justice | - Chairperson |
| 2. Mr. Justice M.M. Sundresh | - Member |
| 3. Mr. Justice V. Bharathidasan | - Member |
| 4. Mr. Justice M. Sundar | - Member |
| 5. Mr. Justice C. Saravanan | - Member |
| 6. The Advocate General of Tamil Nadu | - Member |
| 7. Mr. Om Prakash, Sr. Advocate | - Member |
| 8. Mr. ARL. Sundaresan, Sr. Advocate | - Member |
| 9. Mr. M.K. Kabir, Sr. Advocate | - Member |
| 10. Mr. M.S. Krishnan, Sr. Advocate | - Member |
| 11. Mr. C. Manishankar, Sr. Advocate | - Member |
| 12. Mr. N.L. Rajah, Sr. Advocate | - Member |
| 13. Mr. J. Sivanandharaj, Sr. Advocate | - Member |
| 14. Mr. A. Abdul Hameed, Advocate | - Member |
| 15. The Addl. Registrar (Vigilance),
High Court, Madras | - Ex-Officio Member |

COMMITTEE FOR SENSITISATION OF FAMILY COURT MATTERS

1. Mr. Justice **T. Raja**
2. Mr. Justice **S. Vaidyanathan**
3. Ms. Justice **V.M. Velumani**
4. Ms. Justice **P.T. Asha**

COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE GRIEVANCES OF THE BAR

1. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**
2. Mr. Justice **M.M. Sundresh**
3. Mr. Justice **T.S. Sivagnanam**
4. Mrs. Justice **Pushpa Sathyanarayana**
5. Mr. Justice **V. Bharathidasan**

43

COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE GRIEVANCE TO SUPPLY SUFFICIENT FURNITURE TO ALL COURTS AND TO MAKE PROVISION FOR RECORD ROOMS TO KEEP THE RECORDS SAFE AND SECURE (Constituted as per Order dated 20.4.2018 of the First Division Bench in W.P. No.9138 of 2018)

1. Mrs. Justice **Pushpa Sathyanarayana**
2. Mr. Justice **R. Mahadevan**
3. Mr. Justice **D. Krishnakumar**
4. The Registrar General, Madras High Court
5. The Registrar (IT-cum-Statistics), Madras High Court
6. The Registrar (Judicial), Madras High Court

44

COMMITTEE TO REGULATE AND MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF TRIALS UNDER POCSO ACT

1. Mr. Justice **P.N. Prakash** - Chairman
2. Mrs. Justice **R. Hemalatha**
3. Mr. Justice **M. Nirmal Kumar**

45

COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER GRANT OF EXTENSION OF SERVICE OR RE-EMPLOYMENT TO EFFICIENT RETIRING EMPLOYEES

1. Mr. Justice **M. Sathyanarayanan**
2. Mr. Justice **N. Kirubakaran**

PART - B



Dr. Rajamannar Statue

REGISTRARS' PROFILE



Mr. C. Kumarappan
Registrar General

Principal Seat



Ms. R. Poornima
Registrar (Vigilance)



Mr. M. Jothiraman
Registrar (Judicial)



Mrs. K. Indumathi
Registrar (Administration)



Mrs. Deepthi Arivunithi,
Registrar (Recruitment)
(From 04.12.2020)



Mr. V. Thangamariappan
Registrar (District Judiciary)



Mr. M. Saisaravanan
Additional Registrar-I
(Vigilance)



Mr. K. Ayyappan
Director (TNMCC)



Mrs. V. Uma
Official Assignee



Mr. R. Kannappan,
Registrar-cum-Special officer (Liaisoning)
(Up to 30.04.2020) Officer on Special Duty
(Liaisoning) From 06.07.2020



Mrs. N. Saraswathi
Registrar (Management)



Mr. P. Swaminathan
Registrar (IT cum Statistics)



Mr. V. Jaisankar
Registrar-cum-Private Secretary to
Hon'ble the Chief Justice



Mrs. B.P. Rajitha
Registrar-cum-Special officer (Liaisoning)
(From 01.05.2020)



Mr. S. Ganapathisamy
Officer on Special Duty
(Recruitment)



Tmt.G. Saraswathi,
Chief Editor, Tamil Law Journal
(From 21.09.2020)



Mr. T.D. Chakkaravarthy
Associate Editor, T.L.J



Mr. V. Suresh
Officer on Special Duty
(Judicial)



Mr. S. Manoj Kumar
Master



Mr. M. Vasantha Kumar
Deputy Official Assignee



Mr. C.B. Vedagiri
Officer on Special Duty
(e-Courts)



Ms. D. Nisha,
Assistant Editor No.I, T.L.J.



Mr. M. Arunachalam
Assistant Editor No.II, T.L.J.

Madurai Bench



Mr. Swarnam J. Natarajan
Registrar (Recruitment)
High Court, Madras
(Upto 03.12.2020)
Additional Registrar General
(From 04.12.2020)



Mrs. T.V. Thamilselvi
Registrar (Judicial)
(Up to 02.12.2020)
Elevated as the Judge of
Madras High Court
on 03.12.2020



Mr. V.Devanathan
Registrar (Administration)



Mrs. C.B. Meena
Additional Registrar
(IT & Statistics)

Judicial Academy & Legal Services



Mr. G. Chandrasekaran
Director, TNSJA, Chennai
(Up to 02.12.2020)
Elevated as the Judge of Madras High Court
on 03.12.2020



Mr. K. Rajasekar
Member Secretary,
TNSLSA, Chennai



Mrs. V. Sofana Devi
Member Secretary
UTPLSA, Puducherry



Mr. A.K. Mehbub Alikhan
Additional Director
TNSJA, Chennai



Mr. S.P. Rishiroshan
Deputy Director
TNSJA, Chennai



Mr. D. Balu
Deputy Director
TNSJA Regional Centre,
Coimbatore



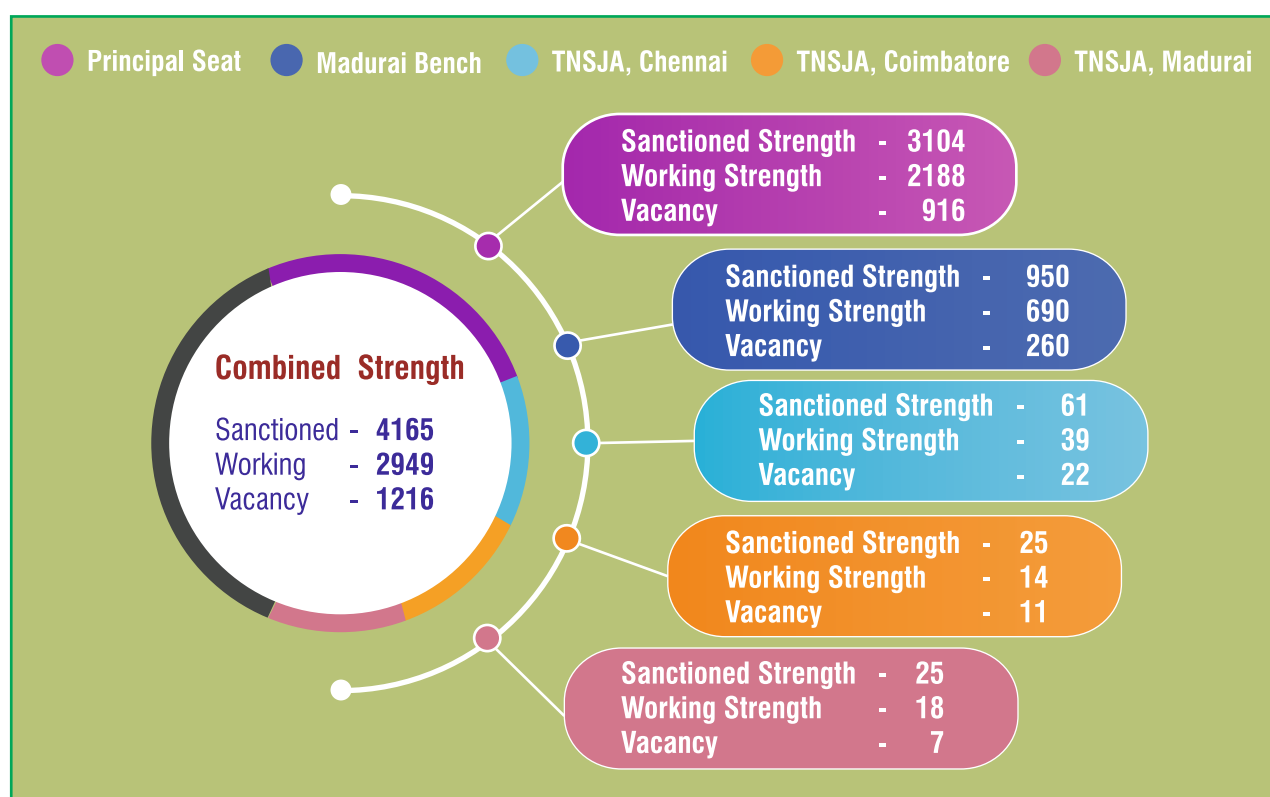
Mr. G. Muthukumaran
Deputy Director
TNSJA Regional Centre,
Madurai



Mrs. T. Jayashree
Deputy Secretary, TNSLSA
Chennai

Combined Strength of Officers and Staff as on 31.12.2020

Place	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
Principal Seat	3104	2188	916
Madurai Bench	950	690	260
TNSJA, Chennai	61	39	22
TNSJA, Coimbatore	25	14	11
TNSJA, Madurai	25	18	7
Total	4165	2949	1216



Appointments

- ❖ One Sweeper and two Office Assistant were appointed on Compassionate Grounds in the year 2020.

Additional Posts Sanctioned

- ❖ One post of Programmer and one post of Assistant Programmer for the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court were sanctioned.

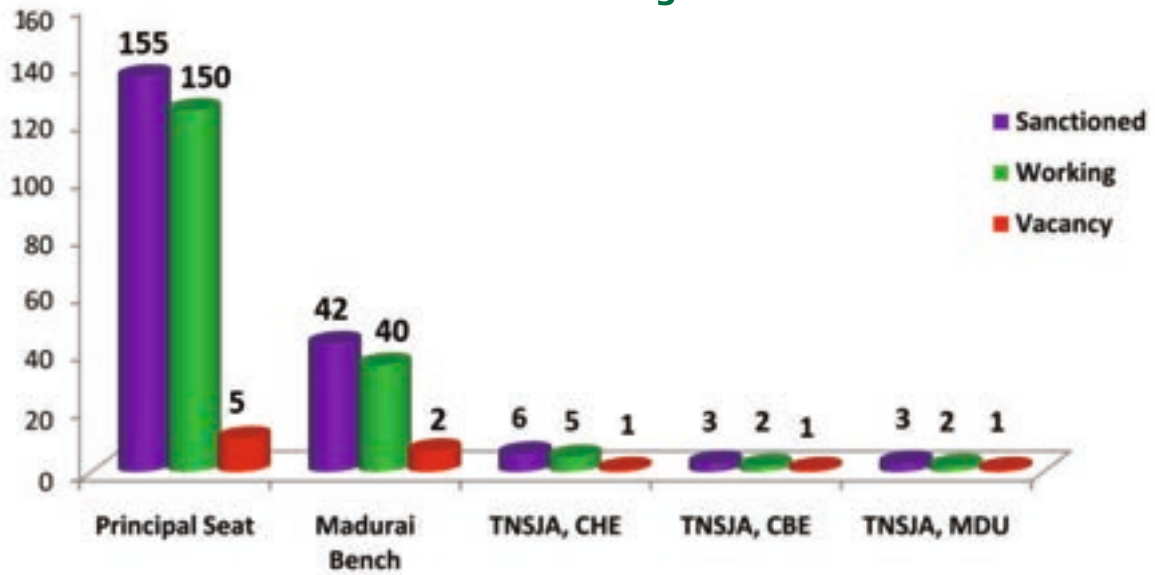
Promotion

- ❖ 244 Non-Gazetted posts were filled up by way of Promotion during the year 2020.

Officers Strength as on 31.12.2020

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Principal Seat			Madurai Bench			TNSJA, CHE			TNSJA, CBE			TNSJA, MDU		
		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	REGISTRAR GENERAL	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR GENERAL	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	REGISTRAR (including Additional Registrar)	11	10	1	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	DIRECTOR, TNSJA	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	ADDL. DIRECTOR, TNSJA	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	DIRECTOR, TNMCC	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	CHIEF EDITOR, TLJ	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TNSJA	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
10	MASTER	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	JOINT REGISTRAR	10	10	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	DEPUTY REGISTRAR	17	16	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	ASSOCIATE EDITOR, TAMIL LAW JOURNAL	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	DEPUTY OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	ASSISTANT REGISTRAR	48	48	-	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (e-Courts Project in the cadre of Civil Judge)	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	ASST. DIRECTOR, TNSJA	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
18	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, TNSJA	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	COURT MANAGER	2	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	CHIEF LIBRARIAN	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICER	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	SENIOR SYSTEM MANAGER	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	SUB ASSISTANT REGISTRAR	49	48	1	13	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	ASSISTANT EDITOR, TAMIL LAW JOURNAL	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	LIBRARIAN	5	5	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
26	ACCOUNTS OFFICER	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	155	150	5	42	40	2	6	5	1	3	2	1	3	2	1

Officers Strength

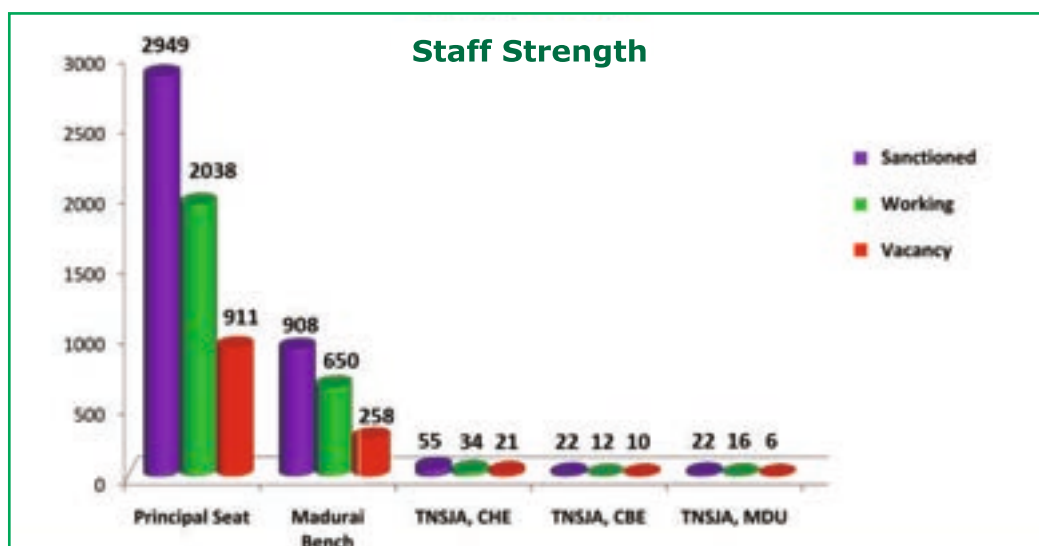


The Rajamannar Hall

Staff Strength as on 31.12.2020

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Principal Seat			Madurai Bench			TNSJA, CHE			TNSJA, CBE			TNSJA, MDU			OVERALL SANCTIONED	OVERALL WORKING	OVERALL VACANCY
		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy			
1	CO/SO/AE	321	294	27	94	87	7	3	3	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	422	388	34
2	P.A. To The Hon'ble Judges	231	181	50	70	54	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	301	235	66
3	P.S. to RG	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
4	Interpreter	11	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	7
5	System Analyst	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1
6	Technical Assistant to Librarian	4	1	3	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	9	5	4
7	Asst. Section Officer	459	362	97	123	115	8	7	5	2	4	2	2	4	4	0	597	488	109
8	Assistant Librarian (In the Cadre of ASO)	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
9	Superintendent (Catering)	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
10	Overseer	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1
11	Personal Assistant to Registrar	15	10	5	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	22	14	8
12	Record Keeper (In the Cadre of ASO)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
13	System Officer	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
14	Programmer	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
15	Asst. Programmer	8	2	6	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	7
16	Senior Typist	32	26	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	32	6
17	Personal Clerk to Deputy Registrar	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	3
18	Computer Operator	125	44	81	43	21	22	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	172	67	105
19	Library Assistant	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
20	Assistant	250	209	41	79	75	4	3	3	0	2	2	0	2	1	1	336	290	46
21	Head Bailiff	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
22	Junior Bailiff	24	24	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31	0
23	Sergeant	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
24	Driver	111	106	5	31	28	3	5	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	149	139	10
25	Cashier	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
26	Reader / Examiner	156	145	11	49	43	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	205	188	17
27	Record Assistant	11	11	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	0
28	Typist	216	16	200	67	5	62	3	0	3	2	0	2	2	0	2	290	21	269
29	Telephone Operator	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
30	Court Keeper	4	4	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	0

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Principal Seat			Madurai Bench			TNSJA, CHE			TNSJA, CBE			TNSJA, MDU			OVERALL SANCTIONED	OVERALL WORKING	OVERALL VACANCY
		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy			
31	Binder	19	19	0	5	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25	0
32	Gollah	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
33	Jamedar	3	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0
34	Xerox Operator	7	7	0	4	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	11	1
35	Lift Operator	10	9	1	3	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	16	15	1
36	Record Clerk	100	100	0	24	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	124	0
37	Bearer	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1
38	Watch & Ward	50	17	33	36	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	17	69
39	Duffadar	13	1	12	6	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	2	17
40	Book Binder	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
41	Library Attendant	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
42	Book Restorer	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
43	Chobdar	32	0	32	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	40
44	Gardener	15	15	0	13	13	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31	0
45	Office Assistant	428	182	246	133	70	63	9	3	6	3	0	3	3	3	0	576	258	318
46	Residential Assistant	148	139	9	32	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	180	171	9
47	Sweeper	67	55	12	23	20	3	3	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	95	80	15
48	Sanitary Worker	43	40	3	20	17	3	3	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	68	62	6
49	Waterman	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
50	Cook	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
51	Room Boy	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	5	1	4
52	Watchman	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	4	1	3
TOTAL		2949	2038	911	908	650	258	55	34	21	22	12	10	22	16	6	3956	2750	1206



JUDICIAL RECRUITMENT CELL

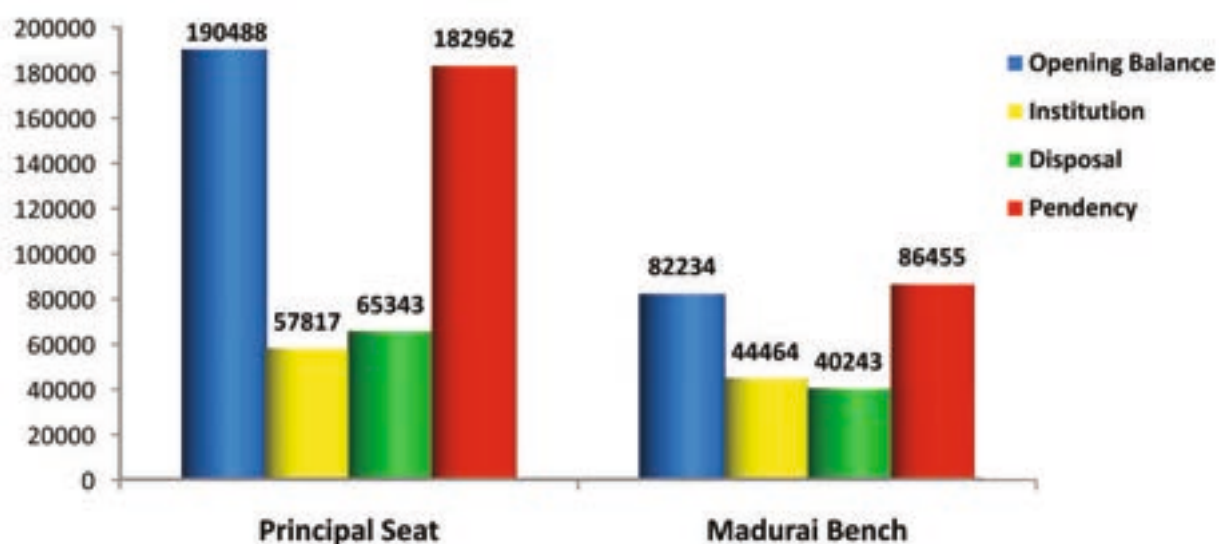
- ❖ The Judicial Recruitment Cell vide Notification No.2/2019 dt.12.02.2019 invited application by direct recruitment for filling 32 vacancies to the post of District Judge (Entry Level) in the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service.. "Preliminary Exam" was held on 01.11.2020 at three centres namely, Chennai (1031 candidates), Madurai (1032 candidates) and Coimbatore (399 candidates).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) along with the Judicial Recruitment Cell of this Court vide Notification No.25/2019, dt. 09.09.2019 invited applications for filling 176 vacancies to the post of Civil Judges in the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service. "Preliminary Exam" was held on 24.11.2019. Thereafter, the "Main Exam" was held on 17.10.2020 and 18.10.2020.
- ❖ With the assistance of the Establishment Section of the Madras High Court, an Official Memorandum was issued in R O C . No.18/2020/Con.Estt-I, dt. 08.09.2020 for filling vacancies in various categories to the post of (i)Personal Assistant (to the Hon'ble Judges); (ii)Personal Assistant (to the Registrars); and (iii)Personal Clerk (to the Deputy Registrars)from in-service candidates. A skill test was conducted on 14.09.2020. 14 candidates participated from the Principal Seat and 6 candidates from the Madurai Bench in the skill test.
- ❖ Notification No.159/2020, dt. 24.12.2020 was issued and published in two dailies (i) The Times of India (All India Edition) and (ii) Daily Thanthi (Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Editions) for filling 77 vacancies in various categories of(i) Personal Assistants (to the Hon'ble Judges); (ii)Personal Assistants (to the Registrars); and (iii) Personal Clerk (to the Deputy Registrars). Applications were received through on-line recruitment portal.
- ❖ The Recruitment Cell of the Madras High Court published Notification No.127/2019 dt.01.07.2019 for recruiting (i) 119 Assistants; (ii)142 Readers/ Examiners; and (iii) 7 Xerox Operators for the Madras High Court. A "Preliminary Exam" was held on 22.09.2019. The "Main Exam" was held on 09.11.2019. Finally, Certificate Verification and Oral Test were held from 06.01.2020 to 08.01.2020. 117 Assistants, 137 Reader / Examiner and 7 Xerox Operator were appointed..
- ❖ Notification No.152/2020 dt.16.12.2020 was issued and hosted in the Recruitment Portal of the High Court, Madras (www.mhc.tn.gov.in) to fill a vacancy to the post of a Research Fellow and to fill 3 vacancies to the posts of a Research Assistant in the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy (TNSJA). A link in the website (www.tnsja.tn.nic.in) of the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy was provided for the prospective applicants to upload their applications.

CASE STATISTICS

Institution, Disposal and Pendency for the Year 2020

Place	Opening Balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
Principal Seat	190488	57817	65343	182962
Madurai Bench	82234	44464	40243	86455
Total	272722	102281	105586	269417

Institution, Disposal and Pendency in the Principal Seat and Madurai Bench of Madras High Court for the year 2020



Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in the High Court (both in the Principal Seat and Madurai Bench) for the Year 2020

BEFORE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

	OPENING BALANCE AS ON 01.01.2020			INSTITUTION (From 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020)		
	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
Principal Seat	170169	20319	190488	12860	8580	21440	17087	9696	26783
Madurai Bench	74819	7415	82234	8175	6037	14212	7336	6241	13577
TOTAL 244988	27734	272722	21035	14617	35652	24423	15937	40360	

DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

	INSTITUTION (From 01.04.2020 to 31.08.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.04.2020 to 31.08.2020)		
	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
Principal Seat	6172	7533	13705	6807	8287	15094
Madurai Bench	5602	4658	10260	4443	4384	8827
TOTAL	11774	12191	23965	11250	12671	23921

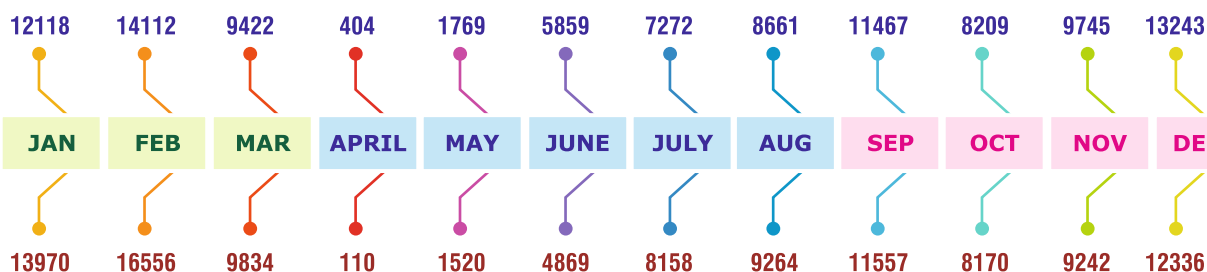
DURING COVID-19 UNLOCKING

	INSTITUTION (From 01.09.2020 to 31.12.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.09.2020 to 31.12.2020)			CLOSING BALANCE AS ON 31.12.2020		
	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
Principal Seat	13172	9500	22672	14912	8554	23466	163567	19395	182962
Madurai Bench	12083	7909	19992	10279	7560	17839	78621	7834	86455
TOTAL 25255	17409	42664	25191	16114	41305	242188	27229	269417	

Month Wise Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in the High Court - 2020

INSTITUTION

OPENING PENDENCY - 272722



DISPOSAL

CLOSING PENDENCY - 269417

PRINCIPAL SEAT
Category Wise Institution, Disposal and Pendency of
Cases From 01.01.2020 To 31.12.2020

CIVIL CASES

Sl. No.	NATURE OF CASES	Case Category	Opening as on 01.01.2020	Institution from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Disposal from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Pendency as on 31.12.2020
ORIGINAL SIDE						
I	SUITS					
	(i) Civil Suits	CS	5427	418	1461	4384
	(ii) Testamentary Original Suits	TOS	518	28	23	523
	(iii) Matrimonial Suits	OMS	1	0	0	1
II	INSOLVENCY CASES	IP	160	12	17	155
III	COMPANY MATTERS					
	(i) Company Petitions (winding up)	CP	452	0	33	419
	(ii) Company Petitions(Amalgamation)	CP	419	0	0	419
	(iii) Company Petition (sec.463) Show cause notice		53	0	9	44
IV	ARBITRATION MATTERS					
	(i) Petitions for interim relief	OA	6699	776	643	6832
	(ii) Petitions under Section 34 of 1996 Act	OP	665	358	516	507
	(iii) Others	A	23	0	0	23
V	ORIGINAL PETITIONS					
	(i) Original Petitions (Indian Succession Act)	OP	1291	227	150	1368
	(ii) Original Petitions (Guardian & Wards Act) & Other Original Petitions	OP	395	93	82	406
VI	EXECUTION PETITIONS	EP	1895	36	38	1893
VII	ELECTION PETITIONS	ELP	16	0	5	11
VIII	CONTEMPT OF PETITIONS (SINGLE)	CONT P	3232	1003	1286	2949
	CONTEMPT OF PETITIONS (DIVISION BENCH)		1024	228	228	1024
IX	OTHER MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS					
	(i) Applications for Leave to sue as an Indigent person	A	11	0	0	11
	(ii) Applications under court fees Act for Valuation of the Estates	A	38	0	0	38
	TOTAL		22319	3179	4491	21007

Sl. No.	NATURE OF CASES	Case Category	Opening as on 01.01.2020	Institution from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Disposal from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Pendency as on 31.12.2020
APPELLATE SIDE						
1	First Appeals	AS	4220	985	1131	4074
2	Original Side Appeals & LPA	OSA & LPA	655	305	214	746
3	Writ Appeals	WA	6321	1189	1053	6457
4	Second Appeals	SA	12194	697	1052	11839
5	Appeals Against Order	CMA	12700	1981	4453	10228
6	Appeals Against Appellate Order	CMSA	282	33	50	265
7	Company Appeals	COM.APEL	77	0	0	77
8	Civil Revision Petitions	CRP	12179	2298	3327	11150
9	Tax Cases	TC	6287	546	1108	5725
10	Referred Cases	RC	95	0	0	95
11	Special Tribunal Cases	STA	11	117	0	128
12	Contempt Appeals	CONT.APEL	12	78	2	88
13	Referred case petitions	RCP	10	0	0	10
14	Review Applications	REV.APPL	1382	131	146	1367
15	Cross Objections	CROSS OBJ	451	50	67	434
	TOTAL		56876	8410	12603	52683
WRIT JURISDICTION						
16	Writ Petitions	WP	89408	20491	21642	88257
17	Review Application	REV.APLW	1566	124	70	1620
	TOTAL		90974	20615	21712	89877
	GRAND TOTAL (CIVIL CASES)		170169	32204	38806	163567

Sl. No.	NATURE OF CASES	Case Category	Opening as on 01.01.20	Institution from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Disposal from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Pendency as on 31.12.2020
CRIMINAL CASES						
1	Referred Trials	RT	3	2	1	4
2	Criminal Appeals	CRL.A	3222	554	337	3439
3	Criminal Original Petitions	CRL.OP	12818	21171	22838	11151
4	Criminal Revision Cases	CRL.RC	3546	1283	1089	3740
5	Habeas Corpus Petitions	HCP	729	2603	2272	1060
6	Criminal Reference	CRL.REF	1	0	0	1
	TOTAL (CRIMINAL CASES)		20319	25613	26537	19395
	GRAND TOTAL (CIVIL & CRIMINAL)		190488	57817	65343	182962

MADURAI BENCH
Category Wise Institution, Disposal and Pendency of
Cases from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020

Sl. No.	NATURE OF CASES	Case Category	Opening as on 01.01.2020	Institution from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Disposal from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Pendency as on 31.12.2020
CIVIL CASES						
1	Writ Petitions	WP	44148	20083	17502	46729
2	Second Appeals	SA	11551	778	417	11912
3	Civil Revision Petitions	CRP	5298	1204	1808	4694
4	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals (Appeals Against Order)	CMA	5443	748	560	5631
5	Writ Appeals (Single Bench to Division Bench)	WA	3241	1307	699	3849
6	Contempt Petition	CONT P	2080	1354	730	2704
7	First Appeals	AS	1731	222	133	1820
8	Tax Cases	TC	121	0	15	106
9	Review Applications	REV APLC	602	78	103	577
10	Appeals Against Appellate Order	CMSA	230	26	4	252
11	REV.APLW	REV.APLW	183	52	73	162
12	Cross Objections	CROS.OBJ	127	8	13	122
13	Special Tribunal Cases	STA	39	0	0	39
14	Contempt Appeals	CONT A	19	0	1	18
15	Letter Patent Appeals	LPA	6	0	0	6
16	Company Appeals	COMP A	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL		74819	25860	22058	78621

Sl. No.	NATURE OF CASES	Case Category	Opening as on 01.01.2020	Institution from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Disposal from 01.01.20 to 31.12.20	Pendency as on 31.12.2020
CRIMINAL CASES						
1	Criminal Original Petitions	CRL. OP	4066	16160	15738	4488
2	Criminal Revision Cases	CRL. RC	1344	767	752	1359
3	Criminal Appeals	CRL. A	1446	429	399	1476
4	Habeas Corpus Petitions	HCP	559	1244	1295	508
5	Referred Trials	RT	0	2	0	2
6	Review Applications	REV. APCR	0	0	0	0
7	Criminal Reference	CRL. REF.	0	2	1	1
	TOTAL		7415	18604	18185	7834
	GRAND TOTAL (CIVIL & CRIMINAL)		82234	44464	40243	86455

DISTRICT JUDICIARY - TAMIL NADU

Strength of Judicial Officers as on 31.12.2020

Cadre	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
District Judge	333	273	60
Senior Civil Judge	342	275	67
Civil Judge	623	501	122
Total	1298	1049	249

Staff Strength as on 31.12.2020

Sl. No.	District	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength		Vacancy
			Male	Female	
1	Ariyalur	446	158	184	104
2	Chennai	2192	738	763	691
3	Coimbatore	1079	341	431	307
4	Cuddalore	955	353	354	248
5	Dharmapuri	527	177	171	179
6	Dindigul	734	228	251	255
7	Erode	818	260	266	292
8	Kancheepuram	806	262	256	288
9	Kanniyakumari	726	234	325	167
10	Karur	437	162	169	106
11	Krishnagiri	611	251	197	163
12	Madurai	1070	356	361	353
13	Nagapattinam	500	186	189	125
14	Namakkal	622	184	208	230
15	The Nilgiris	421	144	124	153
16	Perambalur	308	61	115	132
17	Pudukottai	484	130	147	207
18	Ramanathapuram	523	156	140	227
19	Salem	1094	391	346	357
20	Sivagangai	640	195	199	246

Sl. No.	District	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength		Vacancy
			Male	Female	
21	Thanjavur	839	277	246	316
22	Theni	507	155	160	192
23	Thoothukudi	651	206	225	220
24	Tiruchirappalli	952	364	329	259
25	Tirunelveli	1125	423	364	338
26	Tiruppur	835	249	247	339
27	Tiruvallur	791	318	220	253
28	Tiruvannamalai	684	250	228	206
29	Tiruvarur	483	174	184	125
30	Vellore	1150	574	365	211
31	Villupuram	1082	381	363	338
32	Virudhunagar	723	256	204	263
	Total	24815	8594	8331	7890

**Sanction of Additional Staff to the Subordinate Courts
from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020**

S. No	Subject	G.O. No. and date	No. of Post
1.	Sanction of Additional Staff (Typist/Copyist – 2, Senior Bailiff – 3, Record Clerk – 1) to the District Munsif Court, Jayankondam in Ariyalur District	G.O.(Ms.) No.10, Home (Cts – III) Dept, dated 06.01.2020	6
2.	Sanction of Additional Staff (Sherishtadar (District Court Level) -1, Junior Assistant -1, Office Assistant – 1, Night Watchman – 1 and Masalchi – 1) to the III Additional District and Sessions Court (PCR), Madurai.	G.O.(Ms.) No.27, Home (Cts – II) Dept, dated 10.01.2020	5
3.	Sanction of 5 posts of Night Watchman for certain Courts in Tirunelveli District on regular basis instead of contract basis in modification of earlier order.	G.O.(Ms.) No.104, Home (Cts – III) Dept, dated 19.02.2020	5
4.	Sanction of 1 post of Driver to the Additional District Court, Tiruvannamalai	G.O.(Ms.) No.264, Home (Cts – II) Dept, dated 30.07.2020	1
		Total	17

CASE STATISTICS OF TAMIL NADU

Institution, Disposal and Pendency as on 31.12.2020

Opening Balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
1137332	557347	429767	1263758

Institution, Disposal of Civil and Criminal Cases BEFORE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

OPENING BALANCE AS ON 01.01.2020			INSTITUTION (From 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020)		
CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
647805	489527	1137332	75359	109485	184844	68612	97944	166556

DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

INSTITUTION (From 01.04.2020 to 31.08.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.04.2020 to 31.08.2020)		
CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
51780	51298	103078	24219	29903	54122

DURING COVID-19 UNLOCKING

INSTITUTION (From 01.09.2020 to 31.12.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.09.2020 to 31.12.2020)			CLOSING BALANCE AS ON 31.12.2020		
CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
92179	177246	269425	55818	153271	209089	717710	546048	1263758

**Institution and Disposal of Cases in the State of Tamil Nadu and
U.T. of Puducherry for the Period From 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020
(BEFORE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN)**

Principal Seat Jurisdiction

Name of the District	OPENING BALANCE AS ON 01.01.2020			INSTITUTION (From 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020)		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
ARIYALUR	6714	4181	10895	968	1135	2103	1246	855	2101
CHENNAI *	67945	70905	138850	8449	16043	24492	8171	15747	23918
COIMBATORE	39172	30696	69868	4319	8725	13044	3264	7535	10799
CUDDALORE	32030	17139	49169	3183	2725	5908	2945	2400	5345
DHARMAPURI	12515	5430	17945	1224	2121	3345	1072	2123	3195
ERODE	20393	13911	34304	3084	2748	5832	3297	2420	5717
KANCHEEPURAM	36828	24308	61136	2528	3288	5816	2272	2803	5075
KRISHNAGIRI	14164	8753	22917	2749	1941	4690	2413	1977	4390
NAGAPATTINAM	9817	6964	16781	1106	2628	3734	1148	1961	3109
NAMAKKAL	14923	8141	23064	1680	2437	4117	1780	2234	4014
NILGIRIS	3565	4494	8059	386	1196	1582	367	1002	1369
PERAMBALUR	7283	2259	9542	518	689	1207	509	623	1132
SALEM	30362	16910	47272	2862	4319	7181	3175	3801	6976
TIRUPPUR	26930	19333	46263	3305	3667	6972	2567	2980	5547
TIRUVALLUR	29202	17630	46832	3172	3440	6612	2359	2664	5023
TIRUVANNAMALAI	20807	10953	31760	1367	1567	2934	1388	1448	2836
TIRUVARUR	5514	6045	11559	835	1974	2809	442	1638	2080
VELLORE	27539	13455	40994	3156	6809	9965	3403	5871	9274
VILLUPURAM	33052	14684	47736	3435	2557	5992	2661	1788	4449
U.T. of PUDUCHERRY	14185	15909	30094	2152	1332	3484	2240	1063	3303
Total	452940	312100	765040	50478	71341	121819	46719	62933	109652

NOTE: * AFTER PHYSICAL VERIFICATION

Madurai Bench Jurisdiction

Name of the District	OPENING BALANCE AS ON 01.01.2020			INSTITUTION (From 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.01.2020 to 31.03.2020)		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
DINDIGUL	19546	15745	35291	2140	3850	5990	2010	3741	5751
KANNIYAKUMARI	12404	17802	30206	1441	2070	3511	1194	1640	2834
KARUR	12301	7059	19360	1561	1124	2685	1369	1017	2386
MADURAI	32873	26362	59235	3841	6091	9932	3988	6316	10304
PUDUKKOTTAI	12526	7190	19716	1460	1096	2556	1458	875	2333
RAMANATHAPURAM	5365	7816	13181	602	1451	2053	678	1341	2019
SIVAGANGAI *	9157	12814	21971	1352	1713	3065	1047	1982	3029
THANJAVUR	16312	13460	29772	2151	2081	4232	2133	1900	4033
THENI	9601	9021	18622	1103	2255	3358	1141	2197	3338
THOOTHUKUDI	10193	17874	28067	1822	2087	3909	1162	1770	2932
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI	27340	16141	43481	4721	4148	8869	3651	3629	7280
TIRUNELVELI	28327	29127	57454	3492	6238	9730	2976	4251	7227
VIRUDHUNAGAR	13105	12925	26030	1347	5272	6619	1326	5415	6741
Total	209050	193336	402386	27033	39476	66509	24133	36074	60207
Grand Total	661990	505436	1167426	77511	110817	188328	70852	99007	169859

NOTE: * AFTER PHYSICAL VERIFICATION

**Institution and Disposal of Cases in the State of Tamil Nadu
and U.T. of Puducherry for the Period From 01.04.2020 to 31.08.2020
(DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN)**

Principal Seat Jurisdiction

Name of the District	INSTITUTION (From 01.04.2020 to 31.08.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.04.2020 to 31.08.2020)		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
ARIYALUR	1024	1065	2089	476	235	711
CHENNAI *	1273	12688	13961	631	11755	12386
COIMBATORE	3195	2028	5223	1134	529	1663
CUDDALORE	3056	397	3453	1320	397	1717
DHARMAPURI	1354	372	1726	604	96	700
ERODE	1664	2079	3743	790	1585	2375
KANCHEEPURAM	722	279	1001	331	111	442
KRISHNAGIRI *	1526	936	2462	424	565	989
NAGAPATTINAM	1419	790	2209	495	604	1099
NAMAKKAL	2813	2461	5274	1852	2979	4831
NILGIRIS	292	579	871	140	83	223
PERAMBALUR	525	258	783	512	189	701
SALEM	3141	2617	5758	857	764	1621
TIRUPPUR	2238	1901	4139	722	204	926
TIRUVALLUR	1749	644	2393	1081	96	1177
TIRUVANNAMALAI	1343	559	1902	560	239	799
TIRUVARUR	474	1710	2184	124	259	383
VELLORE	1994	861	2855	658	496	1154
VILLUPURAM *	5695	570	6265	4041	173	4214
U.T. of PUDUCHERRY	1471	715	2186	443	93	536
Total	36968	33509	70477	17195	21452	38647

NOTE: * AFTER PHYSICAL VERIFICATION

Madurai Bench Jurisdiction

Name of the District	INSTITUTION (From 01.04.2020 to 31.08.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.04.2020 to 31.08.2020)		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
DINDIGUL	1578	726	2304	634	206	840
KANNIYAKUMARI	934	1430	2364	315	491	806
KARUR	1364	704	2068	666	280	946
MADURAI	1512	892	2404	843	512	1355
PUDUKKOTTAI	1266	2784	4050	893	2340	3233
RAMANATHAPURAM	432	691	1123	290	438	728
SIVAGANGAI	838	953	1791	369	151	520
THANJAVUR	1778	1316	3094	726	812	1538
THENI	889	1803	2692	680	1377	2057
THOOTHUKUDI	565	449	1014	209	146	355
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI	2514	1792	4306	668	183	851
TIRUNELVELI *	1594	4193	5787	799	1363	2162
VIRUDHUNAGAR	1019	771	1790	375	245	620
Total	16283	18504	34787	7467	8544	16011
Grand Total	53251	52013	105264	24662	29996	54658

NOTE: * AFTER PHYSICAL VERIFICATION

**Institution, Disposal and Pendency of Cases in the State of Tamil Nadu and
U.T. of Puducherry for the Period From 01.09.2020 to 31.12.2020
(DURING UNLOCKING)**

Principal Seat Jurisdiction

Name of the District	INSTITUTION (From 01.09.2020 to 31.12.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.09.2020 to 31.12.2020)			CLOSING BALANCE AS ON 31.12.2020		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
ARIYALUR	958	1823	2781	582	1927	2509	7360	5187	12547
CHENNAI *	8617	37465	46082	4031	35936	39967	73423	73666	147089
COIMBATORE	5249	12578	17827	2781	11152	13933	44756	34811	79567
CUDDALORE *	4172	4902	9074	2766	4142	6908	35411	18168	53579
DHARMAPURI	2066	3380	5446	1323	3138	4461	14160	5946	20106
ERODE	3856	5661	9517	2433	4956	7389	22477	15438	37915
KANCHEEPURAM	3323	3837	7160	1683	3234	4917	39115	25564	64679
KRISHNAGIRI	2406	3580	5986	2008	2923	4931	16000	9746	25746
NAGAPATTINAM	1582	1993	3575	1116	2099	3215	11165	7711	18876
NAMAKKAL	2076	4045	6121	2014	2807	4821	15846	9064	24910
NILGIRIS	553	1453	2006	437	1456	1893	3852	5181	9033
PERAMBALUR	838	611	1449	862	386	1248	7281	2619	9900
SALEM *	4293	9986	14279	1888	8851	10739	34732	20416	55148
TIRUPPUR *	3636	2442	6078	2050	1939	3989	30365	22220	52585
TIRUVALLUR *	4920	5262	10182	3169	3714	6883	32457	20505	52962
TIRUVANNAMALAI	1889	2240	4129	761	2051	2812	22697	11581	34278
TIRUVARUR	921	3448	4369	377	3648	4025	6801	7632	14433
VELLORE	3830	9357	13187	2133	8199	10332	30325	15916	46241
VILLUPURAM	4534	4126	8660	3198	2429	5627	36816	17435	54251
U.T. of PUDUCHERRY	2267	1972	4239	1574	1120	2694	15818	17652	33470
Total	61986	120161	182147	37186	106107	143293	500857	346458	847315

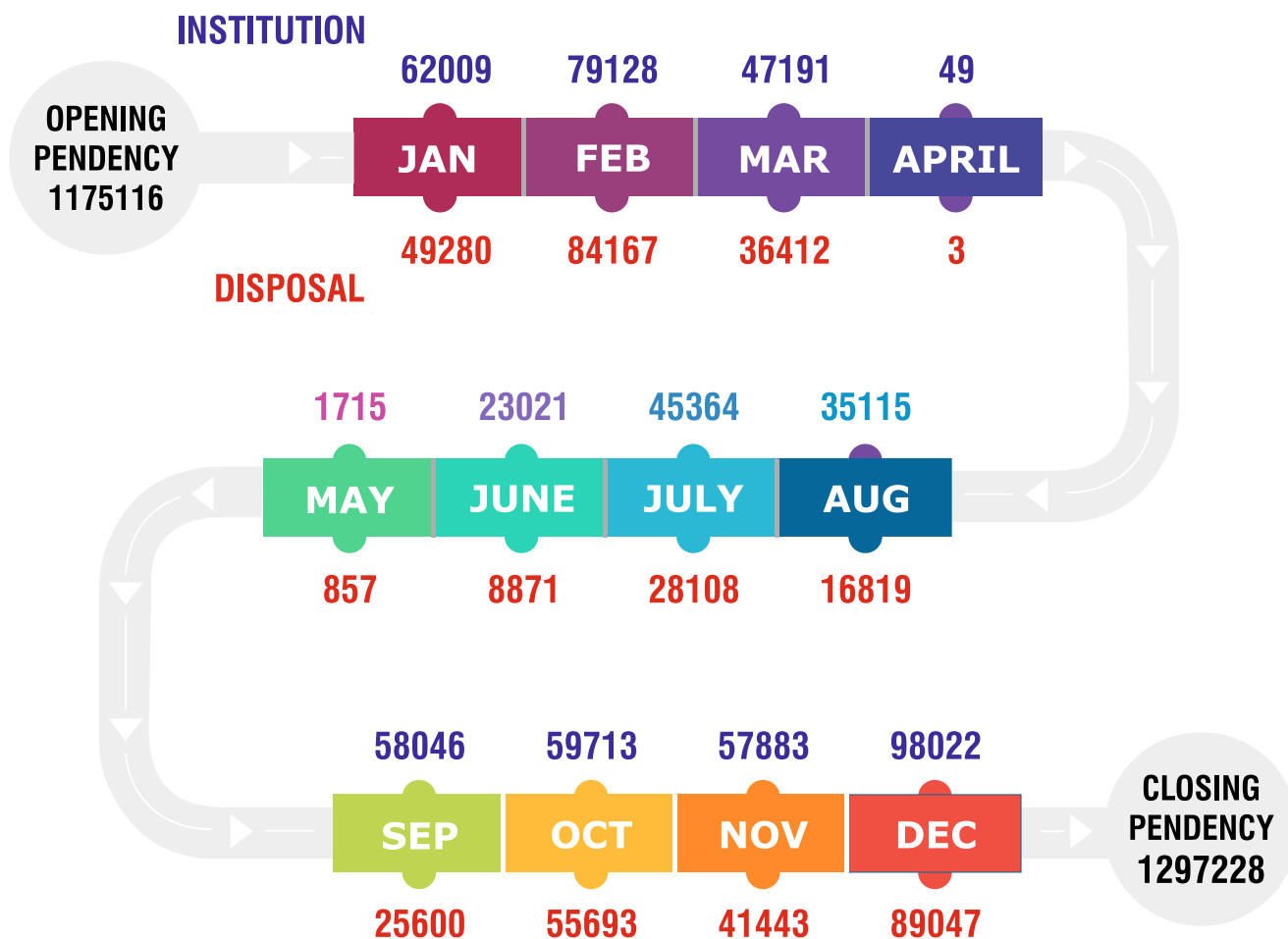
NOTE: *AFTER PHYSICAL VERIFICATION

Madurai Bench Jurisdiction

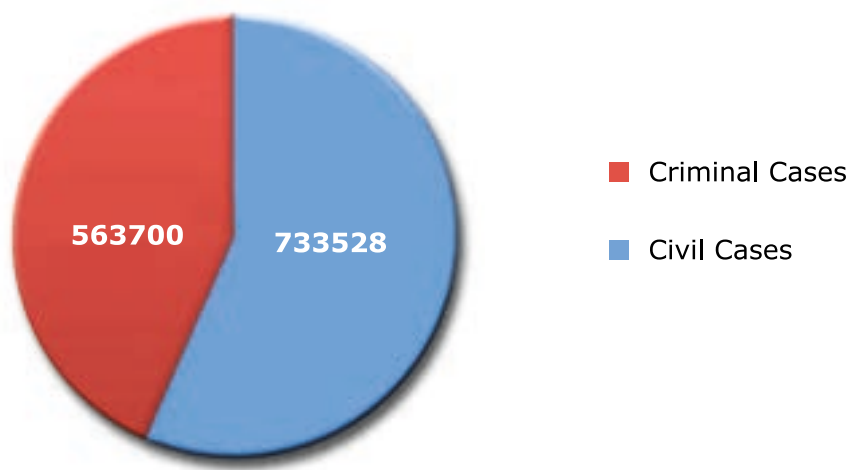
Name of the District	INSTITUTION (From 01.09.2020 to 31.12.2020)			DISPOSAL (From 01.09.2020 to 31.12.2020)			CLOSING BALANCE AS ON 31.12.2020		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
DINDIGUL *	3112	3208	6320	1606	2701	4307	22124	16881	39005
KANNIYAKUMARI	2720	3329	6049	2113	2220	4333	13877	20280	34157
KARUR	1911	1495	3406	925	1219	2144	14177	7866	22043
MADURAI	4391	9636	14027	2996	8837	11833	34790	27316	62106
PUDUKKOTTAI	1895	3860	5755	1148	3346	4494	13648	8369	22017
RAMANATHAPURAM	970	2297	3267	800	2043	2843	5601	8433	14034
SIVAGANGAI *	1558	2886	4444	976	2209	3185	10489	14064	24553
THANJAVUR	2915	2190	5105	1855	1666	3521	18442	14669	33111
THENI	1651	4956	6607	1543	4612	6155	9880	9849	19729
THOOTHUKUDI	1703	2021	3724	742	1127	1869	12170	19388	31558
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI	3673	5105	8778	1687	3253	4940	31919	20444	52363
TIRUNELVELI	3358	11782	15140	2165	9429	11594	30831	35705	66536
VIRUDHUNAGAR	2603	6292	8895	1650	5622	7272	14723	13978	28701
Total	32460	59057	91517	20206	48284	68490	232671	217242	449913
Grand Total	94446	179218	273664	57392	154391	211783	733528	563700	1297228

NOTE: * AFTER PHYSICAL VERIFICATION

Monthwise Institution, Disposal of Cases in the Subordinate Courts - 2020



Pendency as on 31.12.2020



DISTRICT JUDICIARY UNION TERRITORY OF PUDUCHERRY

Judicial Officers as on 31.12.2020

Cadre	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
District Judge	8	6	2
Senior Civil Judge	8	0	8
Civil Judge	10	5	5
Total	26	11	15

Staff Strength as on 31.12.2020

Place	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength		Vacancy
		Male	Female	
U.T. of Puducherry	421	192	100	129

CASE STATISTICS U.T. OF PUDUCHERRY

Institution, Disposal and Pendency as on 31.12.2020

Opening Balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
30094	9909	6533	33470

Institution and Disposal of Civil & Criminal Cases

Institution		Disposal	
Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
5890	4019	4257	2276

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Number of Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.12.2020

Sl.No.	DISTRICT	DISTRICT JUDGE CADRE	SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE CADRE	CIVIL JUDGE CADRE	TOTAL AVAILABLE
1	Ariyalur	4	6	9	19
2	Chennai	49	67	15	131
3	Coimbatore	15	10	29	54
4	Cuddalore	9	12	26	47
5	Dharmapuri	5	6	13	24
6	Dindigul	6	7	19	32
7	Erode	8	9	23	40
8	Kancheepuram	8	8	26	42
9	Kanniyakumari	7	8	21	36
10	Karur	3	4	11	18
11	Krishnagiri	7	7	13	27
12	Madurai	17	12	25	54
13	Nagapattinam	5	4	14	23
14	Namakkal	5	6	19	30
15	Nilgiris	3	3	11	17
16	Perambalur	4	2	7	13
17	Pudukkottai	5	4	12	21
18	Ramanathapuram	6	4	13	23
19	Salem	11	11	30	52
20	Sivagangai	6	5	15	26
21	Thanjavur	11	8	20	39
22	Theni	6	4	13	23
23	Thoothukudi	7	4	19	30
24	Tiruchirappalli	8	11	24	43
25	Tirunelveli	10	11	32	53
26	Tiruppur	7	8	20	35
27	Tiruvallur	8	8	25	41
28	Tiruvannamalai	7	7	19	33
29	Tiruvarur	3	3	12	18
30	Vellore	11	11	31	53
31	Villupuram	11	14	32	57
32	Virudhunagar	7	7	18	32
	Total	279	291	616	1186

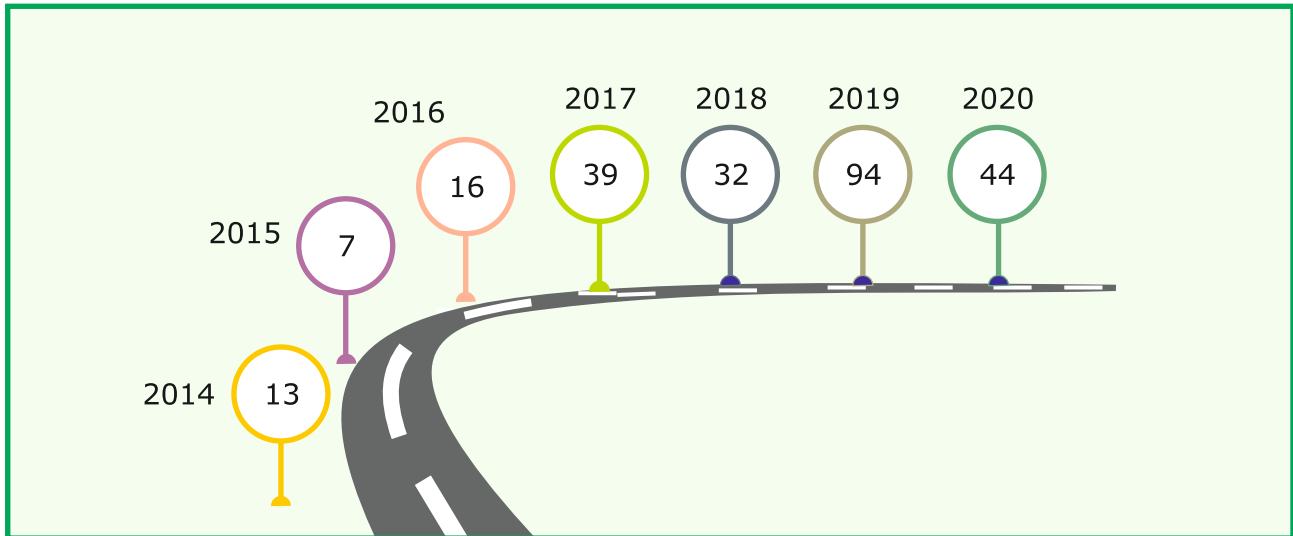
CONSTITUTION OF COURTS

Number of Courts Sanctioned and Constituted District-wise during 2020

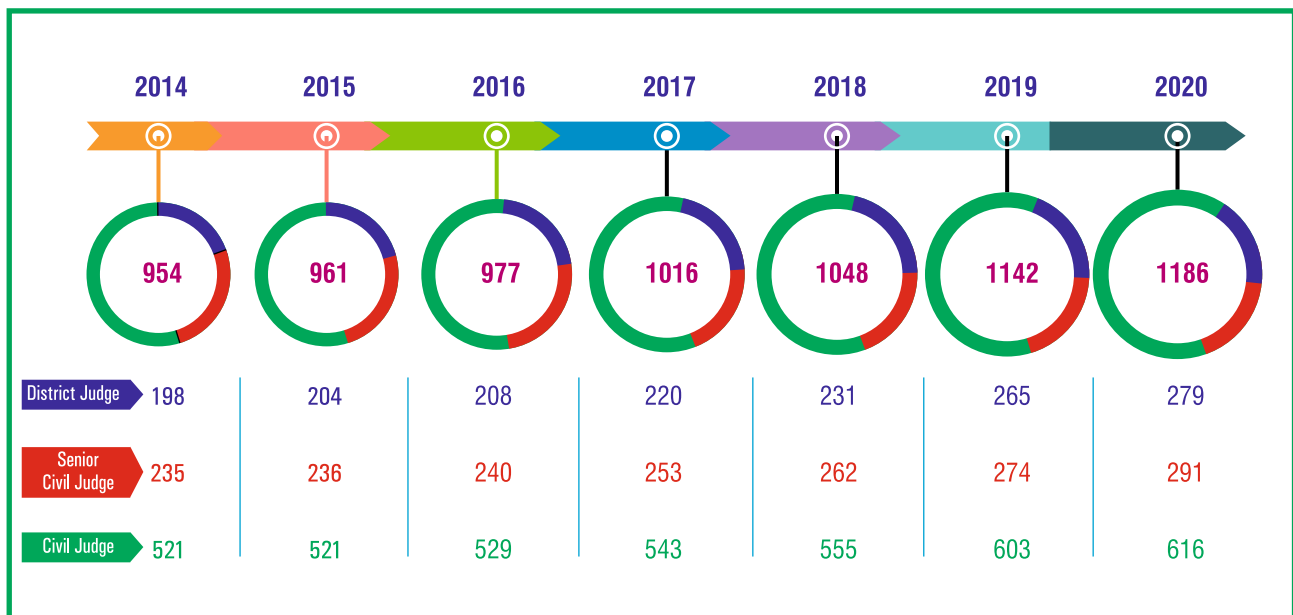
Name of the District	No. of Courts Sanctioned			No. of Courts Constituted		
	DJ	SJ	DM/JM	DJ	SJ	DM/JM
Ariyalur	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chennai	1	-	-	4	10	-
Coimbatore	1	1	2	-	-	1
Cuddalore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dharmapuri	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dindigul	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erode	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kancheepuram	1	1	2	-	1	2
Kanniyakumari	-	-	-	1	-	-
Karur	-	-	1	-	-	1
Krishnagiri	-	1	-	-	-	-
Madurai	1	1	-	1	-	-
Nagapattinam	-	-	1	-	-	-
Namakkal	-	-	-	-	-	4
Nilgiris	-	-	1	-	-	-
Perambalur	-	-	1	2	-	-
Pudukkottai	-	-	2	-	-	-
Ramanathapuram	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salem	1	1	1	-	-	-
Sivagangai	-	-	1	-	-	-
Thanjavur	-	-	1	-	-	2
Theni	-	-	-	2	-	-
Thoothukudi	-	-	1	1	-	-
Tiruchirappalli	1	1	1	-	-	-
Tirunelveli	1	1	1	-	1	-
Tiruvannamalai	-	-	1	1	1	1
Tiruvallur	-	1	1	-	1	-
Tiruppur	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tiruvarur	-	-	1	-	-	-
Vellore	-	1	-	1	-	-
Villupuram	-	-	-	-	1	-
Virudhunagar	-	-	1	-	1	1
Total	7	9	20	14	17	13
OverAll	36			44		

Number of New Courts Constituted from 2014 to 2020

Sl. No.	CADRE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1.	District Judge	3	6	4	12	11	34	14
2.	Sub Judge	7	1	4	13	9	12	17
3.	DM/JM/MM	3	-	8	14	12	48	13
	TOTAL	13	7	16	39	32	94	44



Number of Courts functioning in Tamil Nadu as on 31st December



New Courts Constituted in 2020

Name of the District	Name of the Court	G.O.No. and date	No. of courts	Cadre	Date of constitution
Karur	Additional Mahila Court, Karur	G.O.(Ms).No.298, dated 05.4.2017 (First Phase). G.O.(Ms).No.212, dated 16.03.2018 and G.O.(Ms).No.222, dated 08.05.2019.	1	JM	04.01.2020
Madurai	POCSO, Madurai	G.O.(Ms).No.554, Home (Courts.II) Dept, dated 18.10.2019	1	DJ	25.01.2020
Theni	Family Court, Theni	G.O.(Ms.)No.1249, Home (Courts-II) Department, dated 31.08.2018.	1	DJ	30.01.2020
Theni	SC/ST (POA) Court, Theni	G.O.(Ms.)No.334, Home (Courts-II) Department, dated 06.04.2017 & G.O.(Ms).No.1704, Home (Courts-II) Department, dated 03.10.2018.	1	DJ	30.01.2020
Ariyalur	Additional Mahila Court, Ariyalur	G.O.(Ms).No.298, dated 05.4.2017 (First Phase). G.O.(Ms).No.212, dated 16.03.2018 and G.O.(Ms).No.222, dated 08.05.2019.	1	JM	14.02.2020
Villupuram	Additional Sub Court, Kallakurichi	G.O.(Ms).No.405, Home (Courts III) Department dated 05.08.2019.	1	SJ	23.02.2020
Dindigul	Additional Sub Court, Palani	G.O.(Ms).No.297 Home Department, dated 05.04.2017	1	SJ	28.02.2020
Virudhunagar	Additional Mahila Court, Srivilliputhur	G.O.(Ms).No.298, dated 05.4.2017 (First Phase). G.O.(Ms).No.212, dated 16.03.2018 and G.O.(Ms).No.222, dated 08.05.2019	1	JM	13.03.2020
Tiruppur	Family Court, Tiruppur	G.O.(Ms.)No.1249, Home (Courts-II) Department, dated 31.08.2018.	1	DJ	13.03.2020
Thanjavur	Additional Mahila Court, Thanjavur	G.O.(Ms.)No.1705 , Home (Courts.II) Department, dated 03.10.2018	1	JM	20.06.2020
Thanjavur	Additional District Munsif Court at Thanjavur	G.O.(Ms.)No.297, Home (Cts.III) Department, dated 05.04.2017	1	DM	20.06.2020
Namakkal	2 DMC at Sendamangalam and Kumarapalayam	G.O.(Ms.)No.503, Home (Cts.III) Department, dated 25.05.2019	2	DM	18.07.2020
Namakkal	2 JMC at Sendamangalam and Kumarapalayam	G.O.(Ms.)No.391, Home (Cts.II) Department, dated 01.08.2019	2	JM	18.07.2020
Tiruvallur	Additional Sub Court, Ponneri	G.O.(Ms.)No.297, Home (Cts-III) Department, dated 05.04.2017	1	SJ	29.07.2020
Perambalur	SC/ST (POA) Court, Perambalur	G.O.(Ms.)No.334, Home (Courts-II) Department, dated 06.04.2017 & G.O.(Ms.)No.502, Home (Cts-II) Department, dated 24.09.2019	1	DJ	03.08.2020
Perambalur	Family Court, Perambalur	G.O.(Ms.)No.322, Home (Cts-II) Department, dated 24.06.2019	1	DJ	03.08.2020
Tiruvannamalai	Family Court, Tiruvannamalai	G.O.(Ms.)No.322, Home (Cts-II) Department, dated 24.06.2019	1	DJ	17.08.2020

Name of the District	Name of the Court	G.O.No. and date	No. of courts	Cadre	Date of constitution
Kancheepuram	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Cheyyur	G.O.(Ms.)No.319 Home (Cts.III) Department, dated 06.04.2017	1	DM/JM	12.09.2020
Vellore	SC/ST (POA) Court, Vellore	G.O.(Ms.)No.334, Home (Courts-II) Department, dated 06.04.2017 & G.O.Ms.No.502, Home (Cts-II) Department, dated 24.09.2019	1	DJ	23.09.2020
Thoothukudi	SC/ST (POA) Court, Thoothukudi	G.O.(Ms.)No.334, Home (Courts-II) Department, dated 06.04.2017 & G.O.(Ms.)No.502, Home (Cts-II) Department, dated 24.09.2019	1	DJ	15.10.2020
Tirunelveli	Sub Court, Nanguneri	G.O.(Ms.)No.569 Home (Cts-III) Department, dated 29.10.2019	1	SJ	16.10.2020
Tiruvannamalai	Sub Court, Chengam	G.O.(Ms.)No.669 Home (Cts.III) Department, dated 22.11.2019	1	SJ	04.11.2020
Tiruvannamalai	DM-cum-JM Court at Thandarampattu	G.O.(Ms.)No.50, Home (Courts-III) Department, dated 22.01.2020	1	DM/JM	04.11.2020
Virudhunagar	Sub Court, Sattur	G.O.(Ms.)No.670, Home (Courts-III) Department, dated 22.11.2019	1	SJ	20.11.2020
Kanniyakumari	Additional District Court, Kuzhithurai	G.O.(Ms.)No.397, Home (Cts-III) Department, dated 02.08.2019	1	DJ	09.12.2020
Coimbatore	District Munsif Court, Mettupalayam and Judicial Magistrate Court, Mettupalayam by bifurcating the existing DM-cum-JMC, Mettupalayam	G.O.(Ms.)No.81, Home (Cts-III) Department, dated 05.02.2019.	1	DM	10.12.2020
		G.O.(Ms.)No.940, Home (Cts-III) Department, dated 26.12.2016.	-	JM	10.12.2020
		G.O.(Ms.)No.80, Home (Cts-III) Department, dated 05.02.2019.	-	JM	10.12.2020
Chennai (14 courts)	4 Additional Courts in the cadre of DJ and 10 Additional Assistant Courts in the cadre of SJ	G.O.(Ms.)No.297, Home (Cts.III) Department, dated 05.04.2017	14	DJ(4)/ SJ(10)	17.12.2020
Kancheepuram	Sub Court, Alandur	G.O.(Ms.)No.577, Home (Cts-III) Department, dated 09.08.2016.	1	SJ	26.12.2020
	District Munsif Court, Sriperumpudur	G.O.(Ms.)No.297, Home (Cts-III) Department, dated 05.04.2017.	1	DM	26.12.2020
	Judicial Magistrate Court, Sriperumpudur by bifurcating the existing DM-cum-JMC, Sriperumpudur	G.O.(Ms.)No.781, Home (Cts-III) Department, dated 16.11.2016.	-	JM	26.12.2020

Government Orders Sanctioning new Courts from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020

Sl.No.	G.O.No. and date	Name of the Court	No. of courts	Cadre
1.	G.O.(Ms).No.30, Home Department, dated 10.01.2020	Additional District Munsif Court, Tiruppathur	1	JM
2.	G.O.(Ms).No.29, Home Department, dated 10.01.2020	Sub Court at Denkanikottai	1	SJ
3.	G.O.(Ms).No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Annur	1	DM/JM
4.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Perur	1	DM/JM
5.	G.O.(Ms).No.50, Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Tiruporur	1	DM/JM
6.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Kilvelur	1	DM/JM
7.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Manamelkudi	1	DM/JM
8.	G.O.(Ms).No.50, Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Avudaiyarkoil	1	DM/JM
9.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Yercaud	1	DM/JM
10.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Peravurani	1	DM/JM
11.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Kundah	1	DM/JM
12.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Ottapidaram	1	DM/JM
13.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Thottiam	1	DM/JM
14.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Palayamkottai	1	DM/JM
15.	G.O.(Ms.)No.49 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	Sub Court at Ambattur	1	SJ
16.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Kodavasal	1	DM/JM
17.	G.O.(Ms.)No.53 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	Sub Court at Katpadi	1	SJ
18.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Thandampattu	1	DM/JM
19.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Kunnam	1	DM/JM

Sl.No.	G.O.No. and date	Name of the Court	No. of courts	Cadre
20.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Tiruchuli	1	DM/JM
21.	G.O.(Ms.)No.50 Home Department, dated 22.01.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Krishnarayapuram	1	DM/JM
22.	G.O.(Ms.)No.123 Home Department, dated 25.02.2020	Judicial Magistrate Court, Manamadurai by conversion of ADM - cum - JM	-	JM
23.	G.O.(Ms.)No.148 Home Department, dated 11.03.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Maduravoyal	1	DM/JM
24.	G.O.(Ms.)No.146 Home Department, dated 11.03.2020	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Pallavaram	1	DM/JM
25.	G.O.(Ms.)No.165 Home Department, dated 17.03.2020	Judicial Magistrate Court at Karaikudi by converting Additional District Munisif Court, Karaikudi	-	DM
26.	G.O.(Ms.)No.451 Home Department, dated 07.11.2020	Constitutioin of one Commercial Court at Chennai in the cadre of DJ instead of designation of Principal Judge, CCC, Chennai ; 6 Commercial Courts in the cadre of SJ; 6 Commercial Appellate Courts in the cadre of DJ and Mediation centre in six places viz., Kancheepuram @ Chengalpattu, Thiruchirapalli, Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli for the cluster of Judicial Districts.	13	DJ/SJ
27.	G.O.(Ms.)No.506 Home Department, dated 22.12.20	Additional Sub Court at Krishnagiri by converting the existing Additional Special Court at Krishnagiri	-	SJ

NEW COURTS SANCTIONED DURING THE YEAR 2020 :

DISTRICT JUDGE CADRE	:	7
SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE CADRE	:	9
CIVIL JUDGE CADRE	:	20
TOTAL	:	36

COURT BUILDINGS
Details of Own, Government and Rental Court Buildings
in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.12.2020

ACCOMMODATION OF COURTS AS ON 31.12.2020

Sl.No.	DISTRICT	TOTAL COURTS	IN OWN BUILDINGS	IN GOVT. BUILDINGS	IN RENTAL BUILDINGS
1	Ariyalur	19	8	1	10
2	Chennai	131	96	35	0
3	Coimbatore	53	45	8	0
4	Cuddalore	47	42	2	3
5	Dharmapuri	24	22	0	2
6	Dindigul	31	27	1	3
7	Erode	39	35	0	4
8	Kancheepuram	41	37	1	3
9	Kanniyakumari	36	35	1	0
10	Karur	18	17	0	1
11	Krishnagiri	27	19	7	1
12	Madurai	53	43	7	3
13	Nagapattinam	23	12	7	4
14	Namakkal	29	23	0	6
15	Nilgiris	17	8	4	5
16	Perambalur	13	12	0	1
17	Pudukkottai	21	16	3	2
18	Ramanathapuram	23	18	4	1
19	Salem	51	49	0	2
20	Sivagangai	26	24	1	1
21	Thanjavur	39	38	1	0
22	Theni	23	21	0	2
23	Thiruchirappalli	42	37	0	5
24	Thoothukudi	30	30	0	0
25	Tirunelveli	52	41	8	3
26	Tiruppur	35	26	6	3
27	Tiruvallur	41	26	3	12
28	Tiruvannamalai	33	29	4	0
29	Tiruvarur	18	12	2	4
30	Vellore	53	50	2	1
31	Villupuram	56	52	0	4
32	Virudhunagar	32	32	0	0
	TOTAL	1176	982	108	86

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION AS ON 31.12.2020

Sl. No.	District	Total	Owned By Judl. Dept.	Owned By Govt.	Rental	Rental Accommodation			No. of Units under Construction
						District Judge	CJM / Sub Judge	District Munsif/ Judicial Magistrate	
1	Ariyalur	21	4		17	5	6	6	5
2	Chennai	172		105	67	28	32	7	
3	Coimbatore	59	12		47	14	8	25	28
4	Cuddalore	49	33	1	15	4	4	7	
5	Dharmapuri	26	19		7	1	2	4	
6	Dindigul	34	20	1	13	6	1	6	
7	Erode	43	22	1	20	6	4	10	
8	Kancheepuram	44	16	2	26	8	4	14	
9	Kanniyakumari	38	25		13	7	2	4	
10	Karur	20		10	10	3	3	4	
11	Krishnagiri	29	17		12	4	3	5	3
12	Madurai	59	23		36	16	10	10	2
13	Nagapattinam	25	17		8	3	1	4	
14	Namakkal	32	17		15	4	3	8	6
15	Nilgiris	19	6		13	3	3	7	
16	Perambalur	15	4		11	4	2	5	4
17	Pudukkottai	23		8	15	5	3	7	
18	Ramanathapuram	25	8		17	6	3	8	1
19	Salem	55	29	1	25	9	6	10	
20	Sivagangai	28	13	1	14	5	3	6	
21	Thanjavur	41	25		16	8	2	6	
22	Theni	25	18		7	4	1	2	
23	Thiruchirappalli	46	29		17	5	6	6	1
24	Thoothukudi	33	19		14	5	4	5	
25	Tirunelveli	56	40		16	3	5	8	6
26	Tiruppur	38	2	7	29	8	9	12	2
27	Tiruvallur	43	20		23	4	4	15	3
28	Tiruvannamalai	35	23	2	10	4	1	5	1
29	Tiruvarur	20	3		17	3	2	12	1
30	Vellore	56	42	1	13	7	3	3	4
31	Villupuram	59	36		23	9	7	7	4
32	Virudhunagar	34	22	3	9	6	2	1	
	TOTAL	1302	564	143	595	207	149	239	71

AUGMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Developments in the year 2020:-

❖ **TRANSIT OF LAND BY THE PACHAIYAPPA'S TRUST TO THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT:**

The State Government has issued G.O.(Ms)No.197, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Land Disposal wing, (LD-2(1) Section, dated 17.04.2020 and has transferred land to an extent of 3.34 acres of Pachaiyappa's Charities in V.O.C. Nagar, Purasaiwalkam Taluk, Chennai, to the Judicial Department, free of cost on requisition from the Registrar General, High Court, Madras.

❖ **IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLAR LIGHTING FACILITY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR ROOF TOP POWER PLANT AT THE MADRAS HIGH COURT CAMPUS:**

The State Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs.74,37,000/- (Rupees Seventy Four Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand only) for implementation of Solar Lighting facility in the Madras High Court vide G.O.(D)No.1190, Home (Courts-IV) Department, dated 13.10.2020.

❖ **FURNITURE IN THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED CHAMBERS IN THE MULTISTORIED BUILDING:**

The State Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs.3,13,63,018/- (Rupees Three

Crore Thirteen Lakh Sixty Three Thousand and Eighteen only) for providing amenities in the Hon'ble Judges Chambers/ offices in the newly constructed multistoried building vide G.O(D) No.1215, Home (Courts-IV) Department, dated 16.10.2020. Procurements are under progress.

❖ **SIDDHA AND NATUROPATHY CLINICS:**

The High Court has allotted two rooms measuring an extend of 204 sq.ft. and 182 sq.ft. respectively in the ground floor of the Annex Building, near High Court Dispensary, to house Siddha and Naturopathy clinics and the same are functioning from 16.07.2020.

❖ **DR. AMBEDKAR GOVERNMENT LAW COLLEGE:**

The buildings, including the heritage building, where the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College was functioning earlier has been assigned to the High Court.

The High Court has sent a proposal to the Government for funds to renovate the heritage building.

The State Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.202.40 Crores for construction of a new multi-storied building in the place of the existing building located near the heritage building of the Law College.

- ❖ During the year 2020, the State Government sanctioned Rs.139.85 Cr.to the State Judiciary for construction of 28 Court Halls, 20 Judicial Officers Quarters, in 6 places, construction of a Centre for Examination of Vulnerable and Child Witnesses, Conservation and Renovation of old Heritage Buildings and other infrastructure facilities.

Construction of Court Halls and Judicial Officers Quarters Sanctioned in 2020

Sl.No.	Name of the Place	No. of Courts	No. of Quarters
1.	Pollachi (Coimbatore)	10	5
2.	Vanur (Villupuram)	1	1
3.	Hosur (krishnagiri)	8	8
4.	Pallipattu (Tiruvallur)	1	1
5.	Sivagangai	4	-
6.	Manamadurai (Sivagangai)	4	4
7.	Ranipet (Vellore)	-	1
	Total	28	20

Centre for examination of Vulnerable Witnesses and Chid Witnesses Court Halls

Sl. No.	Name of the Place	No. of Court Hall
1.	Krishnagiri	1

Conservation, restoration and renovation of old Heritage Buildings

Sl.No.	Name of the Place
1	Renovation of Old Labour Court(Heritage Building) at Salem
2	Renovation of Judicial Magistrate Court Building at Kancheepuram
3	Conservation, renovation and restoration of Heritage Building (Old District Court) at Nagercoil in Kanniyakumari District.
4	Conservation and restoration of the Kuthiraivandi Court Building (Old Labour Court) at Coimbatore
5	Renovation of Principal District Munsif Court (Heritage Building)at Tirukoilur

52 Court Halls, 19 Quarters and One Centre for Examination of Vulnerable and Child Witnesses were inaugurated during the period from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020.

Sl. No.	Place	No. of Courts	No. of Quarters	Centre for Examination of Vulnerable & Child Witnesses Court
1.	Arakkonam (Vellore)	2	-	-
2.	Harur (Dharmapuri)	-	3	-
3.	Tiruvannamalai	-	6	-
4.	Thanjavur	18	-	-
5.	Orathanadu (Thanjavur)	1	-	-
6.	Tirukoilur (Villupuram)	4	2	-
7.	Polur (Tiruvannamalai)	2	2	-
8.	Arcot (Vellore)	1	1	-
9.	Tiruvannamalai	-	-	1
10.	Ambasamudram (Tirunelveli)	4	-	-
11.	Panruti (Cuddalore)	2	-	-
12.	Tiruppur	16	-	-
13.	Sriperambudur (Kancheepuram)	2	2	-
14.	Cuddalore	-	2	-
15.	Kallakurichi (Villupuram)	-	1	-
	Total	52	19	1

Construction Work Initiated during the year 2020

Sl. No.	Place	No. of Courts	No. of Quarters	Centre for Examination of Vulnerable & Child Witnesses Court
1.	Sholinghur (Vellore)	2	2	-
2.	Paramathi (Namakkal)	3	3	-
3.	Coimbatore	-	26	-
4.	Karur	-	-	1
5.	Vanur (Villupuram)	1	1	-
6.	Pollachi (Coimbatore)	10	4	-
7.	Salem	-	-	1
8.	Tiruvallur	-	-	1
	Total	16	36	3

BUDGET DETAILS - FINANCIAL YEAR - 2020-2021

Sl. No.	Head of Account	(Rupees in Crores)	
		Allocation	Expenditure
1	Madras High Court	264.84	207.84
2	Madurai Bench of Madras High Court	54.95	46.91
3	Subordinate Judiciary in the State	1110.5	984.14
4	Legal Services Authority	26.99	21.12
5	Judicial Academy	6.65	5.59
	TOTAL	1463.93	1265.6

15th FINANCE COMMISSION

The High Court in its D.O.Letters.No.41-A/2019-Spl.Cell (15th F.C), dated 09.08.2019, 24.10.2019 & 19.02.2020 has recommended the following proposals to the Government of Tamil Nadu for necessary sanction and such sanction is awaited :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Proposal	Funds earmarked by 15th F.C (Rs. In Crore)	Remarks
1	Supporting Fast Track Courts for Expeditious Justice Delivery	236.25	3.75 crore per court for 63 FTCs
2	Increasing access to legal information in district and subordinate court complexes and making them more people friendly by constructing information centers and installing Justice Clocks. Information Centers	45.39	16.62 Lakhs / district and subordinate court complex for 273 such court complexes in the state
3	Installing Justice Clocks	35.49 (The High Court drawn up a proposal for Rs.39.24 crores)	13 Lakhs per court complex for all 273 district & subordinate courts

Sl. No.	Name of the Proposal	Funds earmarked by 15th F.C (Rs. In Crore)	Remarks
4	Increasing access to Justice for persons from marginalized categories Increasing Access to Justice for Women and Children by providing Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers (VWDCs) at all District and Subordinate Court Complexes	136.50 (The High Court drawn up a proposal for Rs.133.77 crores)	50 Lakhs per VWDC. One VWDC for each of the 273 district and subordinate court complexes
5	Legal services clinics at village level for legal assistance to persons from marginalized categories	31.56	1,27,500/- Clinic for 2475 clinics.
6	Upgrade front offices of Legal Services Authorities in district and sub division, into one stop centers for legal aid.	2.21	182 front offices will be upgraded at the rate of 36 offices per year. 1 lakh/unit at 1,27,500 unit.
7	State Legal Services Center	3.49	5000 sq.ft area to be 3.49 crores per center with an inflation of 5% per year.
8	Legal Literacy Clubs in Schools	20.89	Rs.92000 for 2271 clubs.
9	Lawyers' halls at the district and subordinate court complexes	80.00(The High Court drawn up a proposal for Rs.108 crores)	80 lakhs per hall for 100 Lawyers Halls.
10	Mediation Centers for Pre-Institution Litigation	21.60	1.7 crore per mediation center for 12 such centers.

The High Court in its D.O.Letter.No.41-A/2019-Spl.Cell (15th F.C), dated 17.06.2020 has recommended the following two proposals for necessary sanction & implementation in the Union Territory of Puducherry Judiciary:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Proposals	Funds Recommended by the High Court (Rs. In Lakhs)	Remarks
1	Information Centers	66.51	-
2	Installing Justice Clocks	60.82	-

HIGH COURT OF MADRAS

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Enablement

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

HIGH COURT:

The following ICT Projects are implemented during the Year 2020

Sl. No.	Description	Amount in Rs.
1	Purchase of High Speed Ink Jet Printers (Black and White) – Riso Printer for the use in Principal Seat and Madurai Bench of Madras High Court	57,01,927/-
2	e-notice board with way finder facility to Advocates and Litigant Public to easily navigate the Court Halls, Sections (both Judicial and Administrative), Information Center, R.O. water, Rest rooms, Lift, etc.,	14,16,944/-
3	Norms software for assessment of Judicial Officers developed by In-house Software Team. The Module captures the details of the Judge/Court, Period of Post, Norms fixed for any particular Court,	
-	Number of working days wasted due to lawyers Boycott, Nature and Year wise disposal of cases along with the Institution and Actual pendency of the Court.	
4	Upgradation of leased line connectivity in the Principal Seat and Madurai Bench of Madras High Court - 100 MBPS Leased Line connectivity has been upgraded to 1 GBPS in the Principal Seat, Chennai and 50 MBPS has been upgraded to 250 MBPS in Madurai Bench of Madras High Court to cope up with the increased volume of users in the day to-day work both in Administrative and	93,88,000/-
	Judicial Sections.	
5	"The Madras High Court Video Conferencing in Courts Rules, 2020" was framed. It was notified and published in the Tamil Nadu	-
	Government Gazette on 15.07.2020.	
6	"Madras High Court e-filing Rules 2020" was framed. It was notified and published in the Tamil Nadu Government	-
	Gazette on 18.11.2020.	

IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COURTS PROJECT IN THE SUBORDINATE COURTS

E-FILING

As per the direction of the Hon'ble e-Committee of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the e-filing facility has been implemented. Initially only bail cases both at the Principal Bench at Chennai and at the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court were listed for e-filing from the month of April 2020 due to the lockdown and movement restriction in wake of the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Similarly, in the Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and in the Union Territory of Puducherry, e-filing was implemented from the month of May 2020. 507 Cases were filed from April 2020 to December 2020 in the Madras High Court and 3977 Cases were filed from May 2020 to December 2020 in the District Courts.

E-PAYMENT

As per the direction of the Hon'ble e-Committee of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the High Court of Madras has entered into a MoU with the State Bank of India for enabling e-payment of Court fee, Fine, Penalty and Judicial deposits by integrating the Case Information System with SBI ePay payment gateway. Payment of Court Fees through eStamps has been implemented from 2018 in the Principal Seat at the Madras and at the Madurai Bench, through the Central Record Keeping Agency, M/s. Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited.

The State Government has amended the Tamil Nadu Court Fees and Suit Valuation Act, 1955, by promulgating an ordinance "Tamil Nadu Ordinance 2020" to enable e-payment of Court Fees.

As per the direction of the Hon'ble Computer Committee, Court fees procurement through eStamp has been extended to the District Judiciary as well.

SMART PHONES TO THE PROCESS SERVERS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NSTEP APPLICATION

Under the Phase-II of e-Court Project, 2906 Android Smart Phones through GeM portal and 2906 SIM cards from BSNL were procured for the Process Servers (Senior and Junior Bailiff) across the courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry.

Madras High Court has implemented the National Service Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) across the Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry on 17.09.2020. N-STEP was earlier inaugurated by the Hon'ble Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud, Chairman, Hon'ble Judge and Chairman, Hon'ble eCommittee, Supreme Court of India in the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi, the then Hon'ble Chief Justice, Madras High Court. It came into effect from 01.10.2020.

DIGITAL SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE TO THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Digital Signature Certificates (DSC) were procured for 899 Judicial Officers working in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry to avoid tampering of Judgments and Order for being uploaded by each of the Judicial Officer as suggested by the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India. The Hon'ble Computer Committee of the High Court is in process of training the officers to use the Digital Signatures procured.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC FROM MARCH 2020-DECEMBER 2020

VIDEO CONFERENCING LICENCES

24.03.2020 was the red letter day in the annals of history of this High Court. Though Video Conferencing of hearing of contempt cases and review petitions was already in practice, it was on 24.03.2020, the Principal Seat of Madras High Court started regular hearing of cases through Video Conferencing.

Initially, two Division Benches and 5 Single Benches sat between 24.03.2020 and 09.04.2020 in terms of Notification No.110/2020 dt. 23.03.2020 at Principal Seat of Madras High Court and followed by the same arrangements for succeeding weeks and the number of Courts were increased thereafter. By June 2020, all the Courts started functioning through Video Conferencing.

For making justice accessible right from the inception of the lockdown on account of outbreak COVID-19 pandemic, Court proceedings through Video Conferencing was implemented with existing CISCO Webex software licences on trial basis without disruption of the Court proceedings. Later 100 Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing Licenses were procured for the Hon'ble Judges and for the Registrars of the High Court. Still later, 1068 Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing Licenses were procured for all the Judicial Officers in the State and Union Territory of Puducherry. Additionally, 3 CISCO Webex were procured for conducting administrative meetings, A sum of Rs.20,29,384/- was

expended for procuring these licenses. As per the Video Conferencing Statistics published in the December 2020 Newsletter of the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, the Madras High Court has conducted 3,54,792 case hearing through the Video Conferencing from 24.03.2020 to 31.12.2020.

VIRTUAL COURT

The Madras High Court has implemented the Virtual Court facility (online disposal of the cases on payment fine online) to dispose petty traffic offences in the XXI and XXII Metropolitan Magistrate Courts (Mobile Courts) in the Chennai District on 26.05.2020. The facility enables Traffic offenders of Petty Cases to pay the fine amount online through SBI payment gateway using SBI ePay. 6,291 traffic challan cases were disposed and fine amount of Rs. 2,99,18,300/- (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Nine Lakh Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Only) was collected online through SBI e-Payment gateway as on 31.12.2020. Steps are being taken to extend the facility to the other Districts in co-ordination with NIC.

HELP DESK COUNTER FOR SUBORDINATE COURTS

The Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, was informed that the establishment of Help Desk Counter for e-filing would be useful for advocates and Litigants. The Registry has procured and supplied 105 scanners and Web-Camera

for implementation of Help Desk Counter in 56 Court Complexes as per the direction of the Hon'ble Computer Committee, High Court Madras.

E-SEWA KENDRA

As per the direction of the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, eSewa Kendra was established at the Principal Seat at Madras High Court and in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on 15.05.2020. As a part of extending the facility to Districts, eSewa Kendra was also established in Yercaud Taluk, Salem District on 17.09.2020 as a pilot location. In the said e-Sewa Kendras, following services are being offered viz., Handling enquiries about case status, next date of hearing and other details, Publicize and assist in downloading the Mobile App of eCourts for Android and IOS to Advocates and Litigant Public. Fund allocation is awaited from the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India for implementing eSK in Other Court Complexes of the State.

BIOMETRIC ATTENDANCE IN DISTRICT JUDICIARY

As directed by the Hon'ble Computer Committee, Madras High Court, the Registry has procured 407 numbers of Biometric Machines for all Court Complexes situated in the District Judiciary.

The Biometric Attendance System in the District Judiciary had been virtually inaugurated by the Hon'ble Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman, Hon'ble eCommittee, Supreme Court of India in the august presence of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi, the then Hon'ble Chief Justice, Madras High Court, the Hon'ble Chairperson, Computer Committee, High Court of Madras and the Hon'ble Members of the Computer Committee on 17.09.2020. The Biometric attendance system has been made compulsory to all the Staff Members in the District Judiciary with effect from 01.10.2020.



ADVOCATE MASTER TRAINING

As per the direction of Hon'ble E-Committee, Supreme Court of India, Online training programme for 934 nos. of Advocates in the State of Tamil Nadu

was conducted on 25.07.2020 by the Master Trainers posted across the State covering topics viz., eFiling and eCourts Services. The said training programme was live streamed through Youtube

Channels and an estimated number of 5,175 persons viewed the training programme.

CCTV AGGREGATION

The Registry has aggregated the CCTV footage of the District Courts at the Principal Seat, High Court of Madras. This

enabled the Registry to have single terminal to view all the CCTV footages of District and Taluk Courts. This facility has been extensively used by The Hon'ble Administrative Committee, High Court of Madras to assess the COVID 19 pandemic situation in the District Courts.

PROJECTS UNDER PROGRESS

1. Automated Case Information Printing Kiosk with Coin Acceptor
2. Self Service Entry Pass Printing Kiosk
3. All-in-one Desktop Computers for Hon'ble Judges
4. All-in-one Desktop Computers for Registrars
5. Apple ipad 11 pro to the Hon'ble Judges
6. Digital Display Board in the law association and law officers' block
7. Replacement of 5 years old IT peripherals in various sections in the Registry
8. Replacement of 35 nos. of Laptop provided to the Court Managers
9. Court Cases Monitoring System (CCMS) - Integration of Madras High Court's Case Information System (HC-CIS) with Court Cases Monitoring System (CCMS) for the purpose of sharing of Court data and documents pertaining to State Government.
10. Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) - Integration of Case Information System (CIS 3.2) of the Subordinate Courts with that of Police data and other stake holders of the Criminal Justice System.
11. VC Cabin to Subordinate Court Complexes in the State of Tamil Nadu and U. T. Of Puducherry
12. Document Visualizer to Subordinate Court Complexes in the State of Tamil Nadu and U. T. Of Puducherry
13. Additional VC Equipment to Subordinate Court Complexes in the State of Tamil Nadu and U. T. Of Puducherry
14. Scanners to Subordinate Court Complexes in the State of Tamil Nadu and U. T. Of Puducherry

A BRIEF ACCOUNT ON DIGITIZATION IN THE MADRAS HIGH COURT

DIGITIZATION OF LEGACY RECORDS

In the realm of Judiciary, the Madras High Court is the custodian of records of nearly 158 years, some of which have historic value. The legacy records, approximately estimated at 50 lakh records (20 crore pages) are being digitized. The task, having been outsourced, digitization commenced in the year 2017. A state of art Digitization Centre was created in the Records Building, High Court, Madras.

Digitization of Court records, a pivotal initiative of the e-Courts project of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, aims at making the records more accessible and retrievable, easier and cost effective to store and making the justice delivery system transparent and accountable.

The required staff strength of 108 regular time posts and 378 posts on contract basis for the project had been sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu by G.O. Ms. No. 264, Home (Cts-IV) Department, dated 30.05.2019. Out of the total number of 50 lakh case records, 10,49,373 case records were made ready for digitization. The space saved by weeding out the disposable parts of records (417 tonnes) is 8578 sq. Ft. and

3,20,080 case records (89,62,766 pages) have so far been digitized.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 37 crores for digitization of the entire records in all the courts in the State of Tamil Nadu. So far, Rs.7.89 crores have been spent.

DIGITIZATION OF CURRENT / FRESH CASE RECORDS IN THE PRINCIPAL SEAT (CCMS)

Digitization of fresh cases filed in the Writ Wing of the Registry was taken as a pilot project and for the consecutive two months from November 2020, the trial run was successful.

The Government, vide G.O.(2D)No.290, Home (Courts-IV) Dept., dated 18.11.2020, sanctioned a sum of Rs.2,22,20,318/- for procurement of IT peripherals for implementation of Court Case Management System (CCMS) and Purchase Orders for procurement of Rack Servers, Desktop Computers, Scanners and Cloud Servers were placed with ELCOT.

DIGITIZATION OF MADURAI BENCH

The digitization of records in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court is under process. Retired officials of the

Madurai Bench are doing the preparatory works and the quantum of records to be digitized is approximately 5,39,721 cases, out of which, so far 1,91,977 cases and 34,108 cases have been weeded out and paginated, indexed & ready for digitization, respectively.

DIGITIZATION IN DISTRICT JUDICIARY

The total number of pages to be digitized in the subordinate judiciary is quantified at 55.15 crore pages.

SELECTION OF MADRAS HIGH COURT FOR PILOT PROJECT OF E-COMMITTEE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, taking note of the growing importance of digitization and also the fact that the result of digitization will end in voluminous data, thought it fit to evolve

mechanisms to avoid problems in administrative and judicial functioning, in addition to loss of valuable information, intellectual property and heritage owing to technological obsolescence. In order to ensure that the digital records that require to be retained for long duration are preserved as per the international best practices and standards, the Hon'ble e-Committee felt it necessary to institutionalize a structure. A Sub-Committee was formed for preparing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for scanning, storage, retrieval, digitization of court records and preservation of legacy data of the judicial domain, with a working group of domain experts. However, before rolling out the project all over the country, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has desired to test it at few selected High Courts as pilot project and the Madras High Court has been nominated as one of the five High Courts to run the pilot project.



Weeding Out



EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT, 2015

The Juvenile Justice Committee in co-ordination with various stakeholders has been monitoring the Effective Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. The Committee comprised the following Hon'ble Judges from 9.3.2020 onwards.

- 1. THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH ... CHAIRMAN**
- 2. THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE P.N. PRAKASH ... MEMBER**
- 3. THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE G.R. SWAMINATHAN ... MEMBER**

1. RE-CONSTITUTION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARDS:

The Committee had taken measures to re-constitute the Juvenile Justice Boards in Perambalur, Trichy, Tiruvannamalai and Tiruvallur Districts. As a result, the JJBs were reconstituted vide G.O.(D) Nos.165 to 168, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme (SW8) (1) Department, Dated 08.12.2020.

2. RE-CONSTITUTION OF CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE:

The Committee had taken measures to re-constitute the Child Welfare Committees of Karur, Krishnagiri and Thanjavur Districts vide G.O.(D) Nos.4, 102 & 112, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme (SW 5) (1) Department, dated 7.1.2020, 21.8.2020 and 17.9.2020, respectively.

3. CREATING AWARENESS ABOUT THE TAMIL NADU JUVENILE JUSTICE FUND:

On the initiation of the Committee, advertisement board for "the Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Fund" appealing the public to make voluntary donations was displayed on 50 Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) Buses, which was plying on 19 different routes in Chennai City for a period of three months,

4. ACADEMIC ESTABLISHMENT RELATED TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT, 2015:

The Committee had made awareness for the Judicial Officers/Officers and Staff of the High Court concerned about offering of the Diploma Course in Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Psychology offered by the University of Madras by way of directing the Registry to issue circular in that regard.

Effective Implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

The POCSO COMMITTEE in co-ordination with the stakeholders has been monitoring the implementation of the POCSO Act 2012. The Committee comprised the following Hon'ble Judges from 9.3.2020 onwards.

1. **THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE P.N. PRAKASH** ... **CHAIRMAN**
2. **THE HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE R. HEMALATHA** ... **MEMBER**
3. **THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE M. NIRMAL KUMAR** ... **MEMBER**

1. CREATION OF CHILD FRIENDLY ROOMS:

The POCSO Committee had taken stern measures to create Child Friendly Rooms for the Special Courts for exclusive trial of cases under the POCSO Act as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Courts of India and as a result, the Government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned a sum of Rs.2,38,86,000/- (Two Crore Thirty Eight Laksh and Eighty Six thousand only) vide G.O.Ms.No.430, Home (Ctc-III) Department, dated 27.10.2020, for establishment of Child Friendly Rooms in 11 Districts viz., Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Virudhunagar @ Srivilliputtur, Vellore, Sivagangai, Kancheepuram @ Chengalpattu, Thoothukudi, Kanniyakumari @ Nagarcoil and Nagapattinam.

2. MEASURES TAKEN FOR EXPEDITIOUS DISPOSAL OF CASES REGISTERED UNDER THE POCSO ACT:

In order to ensure expeditious disposal of cases, the Committee had a discussion with the Judicial Officers of all 16 Exclusive Fast Track Special Courts for POCSO Act Cases to have a monthly interaction with the Joint Director of Health Services, Superintendent of Police and Investigating Officer concerned to avoid delay at any point. The Investigating Officers are directed to file final Report/Charge Sheet directly to the Judicial Officers concerned to avoid any delay in taking the cases on file. Similarly, the Committee directed the Presiding Officers of the Exclusive Fast Track Special Courts for POCSO Act Cases to comply with Rule 25 of the New Criminal Rules of Practice 2019. Apart from that, in order to ensure expeditious disposal of POCSO Act Cases, the Committee is closely monitoring the cases where stay is granted by the POCSO Courts as well as High Court.

3. THIRD PARTY EVALUATION STUDY OF THE SCHEME ON FTSCs:

Third Party Evaluation Study of the Central Government Scheme on Fast Track Special Courts for exclusive trial of cases under POCSO Act by the National Productivity Council was permitted by the Committee and the Presiding Judicial Officers of such Courts was requested to co-operate with the National Productivity Council (NPC) Study Team during their Field Survey.

4. COMPENSATION TO THE VICTIMS:

On the earnest initiation of the POCSO Committee, "The Tamil Nadu Child Victim Compensation Fund under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012" was created with an initial amount of Rs.2 Crore by the Government of Tamil Nadu, for awarding Interim Compensation and Compensation to the Victim Children under the POCSO Act.

CHIEF JUSTICES' CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

The Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court, Madras has constituted a Committee consisting of three Hon'ble Judges of the High Court,

- 1) HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M. SATHYANARAYANAN**
- 2) HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH**
- 3) HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE T.S. SIVAGNANAM**

for monitoring the implementation of the resolutions passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held on April, 2016.

A Conference Secretariat headed by a Registrar (Special Cell), in the cadre of District Judge, was also formed to assist the Hon'ble Committee. The Special Cell consists of officers in the cadre of Deputy Registrar, Assistant Registrar and the requisite section staff as per G.O.Ms.Nos.312 & 46, Home (Courts-II) Department, dated 06.04.2017 and 25.1.2018, respectively.

The Conference Secretariat is updating, on quarterly basis, online reports on the web server of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Hon'ble Monitoring Committee meets from time to time to implement the resolutions passed in the Chief Justices' Conference. Effective steps have been taken for reduction of pendency of old

cases in the District Judiciary in the State of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

To improve the infrastructure in the Judiciary, a mechanism was evolved to review all the pending proposals with the State Government/PWD. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu with his team of officials participated in the Monitoring Committee meetings held periodically.

The Hon'ble Monitoring Committee convened a meeting on 09.01.2020 with the Chief Secretary of Union Territory of Puducherry, his team of officials, Chief Judge, Puducherry, Police Officials and Jail Officials to review pending proposals.

LOK ADALAT

STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISPOSAL OF CASES IN PERMANENT AND CONTINUOUS LOK ADALATS I AND II (ON EVERY HIGH COURT WORKING DAY) PRESIDED OVER BY HON'BLE JUDGES (Retd.) OF HIGH COURT, MADRAS FOR THE YEAR 2020

Month	No. of Cases in the List	No. of Cases settled in Lok Adalat	Amount settled in Lok Adalat Rs.
Jan - 2020	819	22	14179829
Feb - 2020	835	22	36256107
Mar - 2020	520	11	19397584
Total	2174	55	69833520

STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISPOSAL OF CASES IN NATIONAL LOK ADALAT FOR THE YEAR 2020

Conducted on	Presided over by	No. of Cases Listed	No. of Cases disposed	Amount settled (Rs.)
08.02.2020	Four Hon'ble Sitting Judges	599	110	101665483
	Total	599	110	101665483

Important Circulars issued in the year 2020

Sl. No.	SUBJECT
1.	Order dated 02.12.2019 passed in A.S.No.235/2007 – To reduce the pendency in issuance of notice in the Appellate Side Notice Section – Instructions issued (P.Dis.No.31/2020)
2.	Direction issued by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice/Hon'ble Committees/Hon'ble Portfolio Judges to call for explanation/report/remarks/certain particulars from the Judicial Officers – Not complied with by the Judicial Officers – Delay in sending reminders/not sending reminders and not placing the files before the Hon'ble the Chief Justice/Hon'ble Committees/Hon'ble Portfolio Judges – Noticed – Instruction issued. (P.Dis.No.35/2020)
3.	Constitution of Rent Tribunals in the State of Tamil Nadu under Section 35 of the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act, 2017 – Assignment of Nomenclature for Rent Tribunal in respect of Rent Control matters – Circular issued (P.Dis.No.59/2020)
4.	Interim Order passed in W.P.No.30750/2018 – Direction issued to the Registry to issue a Circular to the Subordinate Courts with regard to dealing of applications filed u/s.12 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 - Direction issued (P.Dis.No.74/2020)
5.	Order passed by the Hon'ble Division Bench in H.C.P.No.2520 of 2019 dated 23.03.2020 – Regarding taking of blood samples for DNA test – Standard Operating Procedure formulated – Communicated for compliance.(P.Dis.No. 92/2020)
6.	Counsellors of the Family Courts requesting to enhance the Honorarium – Proposal forwarded to the Government for enhancement of Sitting Fee – Government Order issued - Enhancing the Sitting Fee from Rs.400 to 600 per day. (R.Dis.No.1812/2020)

PART - C



Manu neethi Cholan Statue



Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy

Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy conducted a two-day conference and several training programmes in 2020.

CONFERENCES



A two-day National Conference on Speedy and Effective Trial of Offences against Women and Children was held on 15th and 16th February 2020, at TNSJA Headquarters, Chennai. Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court, High Court, Directors of State Judicial Academies and

District Judges, in all 171 participants, from across the country, participated in the Conference. The conference was split into five working sessions on various topics on offences against women and children, besides the inaugural and valedictory sessions.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMMES

As the main objective of the TNSJA is to impart training to the judicial officers to make them competent and sensitive, by keeping them updated on the law, and also help them to face and overcome challenges in their day-to-day work, Professional Development Programmes

and Webinar sessions for District Judges, Senior Civil Judges, and Civil Judges, were organized, periodically, as per the Annual Calendar, at the Headquarters at Chennai, and the Regional Centres at Coimbatore and Madurai.



Online Training for Judicial Officers

1) DISTRICT JUDGES

Sl. No.	Place	Date(s) of Training	Number of Participants
1	Headquarters, Chennai	05.07.2020	221
		08.08.2020	219
		09.08.2020	219
		26.09.2020	101
		27.09.2020	101
		11.10.2020	111
		31.10.2020	47
		22.11.2020	126
		28.11.2020	47
		06.12.2020	47
		19.12.2020 and 20.12.2020	72
2	Regional Centre, Coimbatore	22.02.2020 and 23.02.2020	45



Professional Development Training for District Judges

2) SENIOR CIVIL JUDGES

Sl. No.	Place	Date(s) of Training	Number of Participants
1	Headquarters, Chennai	27.06.2020	157
		28.06.2020	157
2	Regional Centre, Coimbatore	09.02.2020	63
		03.10.2020	158
3	Regional Centre, Madurai	09.02.2020	89
		19.09.2020	107
		20.09.2020	107
		26.09.2020	160
		27.09.2020	160
		10.10.2020	104
		11.10.2020	104
		08.11.2020	67
		22.11.2020	66
		28.11.2020	66
		29.11.2020	66
		19.12.2020	65
		20.12.2020	66



Professional Training Programme for Senior Civil Judges

3) CIVIL JUDGES

Sl. No.	Place	Date(s) of Training	Number of Participants
1	Headquarters, Chennai	09.02.2020	62
		20.06.2020	127
		21.06.2020	127
		11.07.2020	122
		12.07.2020	118
		24.10.2020 and 27.10.2020	213
2	Regional Centre, Coimbatore	26.07.2020	247
		19.09.2020	199
		20.09.2020	199
		26.09.2020	144
		27.09.2020	144
		10.10.2020	196
		11.10.2020	195
		08.11.2020	123
		22.11.2020	122
		06.12.2020	122
		13.12.2020	121
		19.12.2020	122
		20.12.2020	123
3	Regional Centre, Madurai	22.02.2020 and 23.02.2020	59



Professional Development Training for Civil Judges

SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

- ❖ One day "Seminar on Laws Relating to Children: Emerging Trends" was held on 08.03.2020 at the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, Regional Centre, Madurai. The Hon'ble High Court, Madras had nominated 93 Judicial Officers in the cadre of District Judges, Senior Civil Judges and Judicial Magistrates from all over Tamilnadu.
- ❖ A one-day "Workshop on Family Court Matters" was held on 15.03.2020 at Headquarters, TNSJA Chennai, and in the programme 56 judicial officers in the cadre of District Judges participated.
- ❖ The first programme of the year 2020-2021, "Symposium on Judicial District Administration: Challenges and Solutions for Principal District Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates" was held on 13.06.2020 through CISCO Webex application.
- ❖ The first-ever "Evaluation programme on Judgment Writing and Enhancement of Judgment Writing Skills", Phase-II was organised between 18.06.2020 and 30.06.2020 for Civil Judges of the 2015 Batch through CISCO Webex application.
- ❖ In furtherance of its objective to give continuous in-service training to all the Judicial Officers, The Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, Regional Centre, Coimbatore, conducted a one-day Webinar Session on 18.07.2020. The Hon'ble High Court had nominated 57 District Judges from Family Courts, POCSO Courts and Mahila Courts. Further, 116 Civil Judges were also nominated, out of it 28 Civil Judges were from Mahila Courts.
- ❖ "Recent Trends in Motor Accident Claims with specific reference to Injury cases, Assessment of Disability and Compensation" was conducted on 19.07.2020 through the CISCO webex platform, from the Regional Centre at Madurai. In total 233 Judicial Officers including 157 Judicial

Officers in the cadre of Senior Civil Judges, nominated by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature, Madras joined the webinar session from all over Tamilnadu.

- ❖ In furtherance of its objective to give continuous in-service training to all the Judicial Officers, The Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, Regional Centre, Coimbatore, conducted a one-day Webinar Session on 26.07.2020. The Hon'ble High Court had nominated 247 Civil Judges to participate in the said Webinar Session.
- ❖ The judicial officers in the cadre of District Judges, Senior Civil Judges and Civil Judges participated in the Webinar Session on "Recent Trends in Cyber law, Cybercrime and Cyber Security" that was organised on 29.08.2020 through CISCO Webex application.
- ❖ A one-day webinar session on "The Child as a Witness: Developmental

and Mental Health Implications for Eliciting Evidence under POSCO Act, 2012", was held on 06.09.2020 at the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, Headquarters, Chennai. The Hon'ble High Court, Madras had nominated 260 Judicial Officers in the cadre of District Judge, Presiding Officer of POCSO Courts, Presiding Officer of Mahila Courts, Presiding Officer of Family Courts, Chairperson of Juvenile Justice Boards, Presiding Officer of Additional Mahila Courts, Senior Civil Judge and Civil Judge from all over Tamilnadu.

Webinar on "Inheritance Under Muslim Law" was conducted on 12.09.2020 through the CISCO webex platform from the Headquarters, Chennai. In total, 203 Judicial Officers, in the cadre of District Judge, Senior Civil Judge and Civil Judge were nominated by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature, Madras and joined the webinar session from all over Tamilnadu.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR ADVOCATES

It is the endeavour of the TNSJA that advocates, being important stake holders in the justice delivery system, are imparted training to ensure that the justice delivery system works effectively.

A plan was drawn and a mechanism devised to revitalise and update the members of the bar with practice for up to 10 years, grouping them under two categories – those who have bar

experience of up to five years and those who have bar experience of more than five years and up to ten years.

Two one-day training programmes were conducted at the District Headquarters on 14.03.2020 and 10.10.2020 considering the needs of the young lawyers with sessions on several important topics.



Training Programme for Advocates

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE STAFF

TNSJA conducted training for staff of the High Court of Judicature, Madras, staff of the district judiciary and court administration for Court Managers through webinar session through Cisco Webex in 2020.

Training Programmes Conducted by The Judicial Academy during the Year 2020

Headquarters, Chennai		Regional Centre, Coimbatore		Regional Centre, Madurai		High Court Staff		District Judiciary Staff	
No. of Programmes	No. of Participants	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants
34	6732	18	2963	18	1659	2	220	8	9957



Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority

Legal Literacy/Legal Awareness Camps/Programmes Conducted during the year 2020

No. of Programmes held during the year	3,097
No. of Persons attended	3,63,180

ONE STOP CRISIS TEAM – HUMAN TRAFFICKING :

Under the NALSA (Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation) Scheme 2015 the team headed by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority with District Social Welfare Officer, officials from Revenue & Labour, panel lawyers, law college para legal volunteers, social workers and representatives / nodal officers from Anti Human Trafficking Unit rescued 356 Bonded Laborers during the year 2020.

NUMBER OF 5 YEARS AND
ABOVE OLD CASES
SETTLED BEFORE THE
NATIONAL LOK ADALATS
ON 8.2.2020 & 12.12.2020

820

REGULAR LOK ADALAT

Number of Benches Constituted : 992

Pending Cases

Number of Cases Taken up	24,324
Number of Cases Settled	7,746
Settlement Amount	209,15,25,155

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

Number of Benches Constituted: 855

Pending Cases

Number of Cases Taken up	2,23,457
Number of Cases Settled	80,853
Settlement Amount	696,88,29,889

Pre-Litigation Cases

Number of Cases Taken up	13,507
Number of Cases Settled	6,952
Settlement Amount	79,50,33,179

Pre-Litigation Cases

Number of Cases Taken up	50,035
Number of Cases Settled	4,298
Settlement Amount	43,93,76,916

Permanent Lok Adalat conducted during the year 2020

No. of Sitzings	173
Number of Cases Received	161
Number of Cases Settled	52
Settlement Amount	48,02,117

Pension Adalat conducted during the year 2020

No. of Adalat held	3
No. of Cases Taken	60
No. of Cases Settled	4
Settlement Amount	9,02,860

Particulars from the LEGAL SERVICES CLINICS DURING THE YEAR 2020

No. of persons visited	9,449
No. of persons provided assistance	3,133

Prison Adalat conducted during the year 2020

No. of Adalat held	12
No. of Cases Referred	205
No. of Cases Disposed	160

Juvenile Justice Board

No. of persons visited	503
No. of persons provided assistance	85

Number of Saplings Planted during the year 2020	3,989
---	-------

Community Centres

No. of persons visited	1,398
No. of persons provided assistance	101

Number of Cases Settled in counselling centre during the year 2020 (Civil, Matrimonial Disputes)	718
--	-----

STATISTICAL INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF VICTIM COMPENSATION SCHEME DURING THE YEAR 2020

No. of Petitions Received	No. of Petitions Awarded	Award Amount
544	124	2,58,36,000

Villages

No. of persons visited	2773
No. of persons provided assistance	177

**Statistical Information in respect of Training programmes
conducted during the year 2020**

Sl. No.	Training programme conducted	No. of training Programmes conducted during the year 2020	Subjects	No. of Participants
1	Judicial Officers	60	Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage, Victim Compensation, Scheme, Juvenile Justice and Child Rights, Bonded Labourers & Human Trafficking, Sensitization Programme, Combating Human Trafficking to Bonded Labour, Human Rights, Accessing Justice for Mentally ill Persons	1,560
2.	Panel Lawyers	121	Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage, Observation of Constitution Day, Victims of POCSO, Women Rights and Law on Transformation of Society, Skill Development of Legal Services, Orientation Programme, TOT Programme, Juvenile Justice, Cardinal Philosophy of Indian Evidence Act, Maintenance in Cr.P.C. and Domestic Violence Act NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016, Bonded Labour, Improve the quality of their service including conducting criminal cases, Disaster Management Act, 2005	4,470
3.	Para Legal Volunteers	82	Training for Trainers (Convict PLVs), Basic Training, Induction Programme, Orientation Programme, Refresher Course	1,668
4.	Police Officials	2	Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage	84
5.	Staff Members	9	Basic Training	50

National Legal Services Day



National Legal Services Day was celebrated at TNSLSA. In the said programme Special Address was delivered by Thiru.K.Rajasekar, Member Secretary, TNSLSA. Tmt.T.Jayashree, Deputy Secretary, TNSLSA, and Staff Members participated

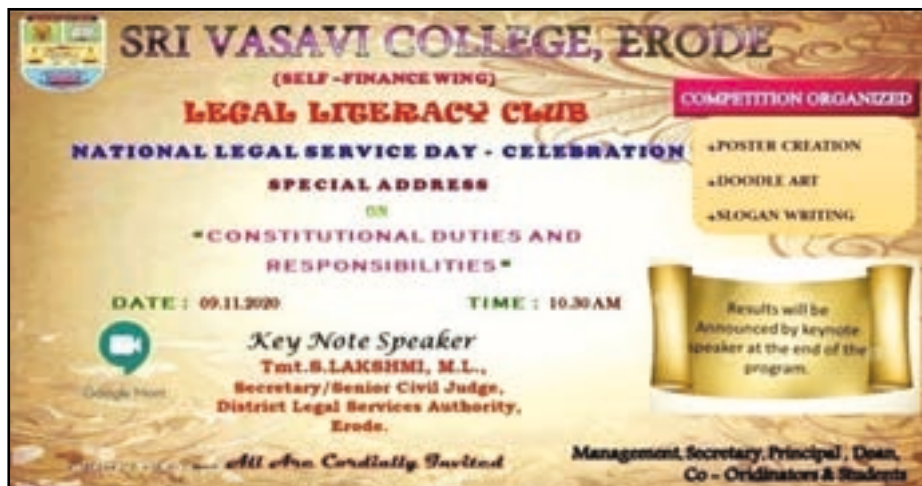


On the celebration of National Legal Services Day, The Chairman DLSA, Chengalpattu provided wheel chairs to differently abled Persons in coordination with NGOS

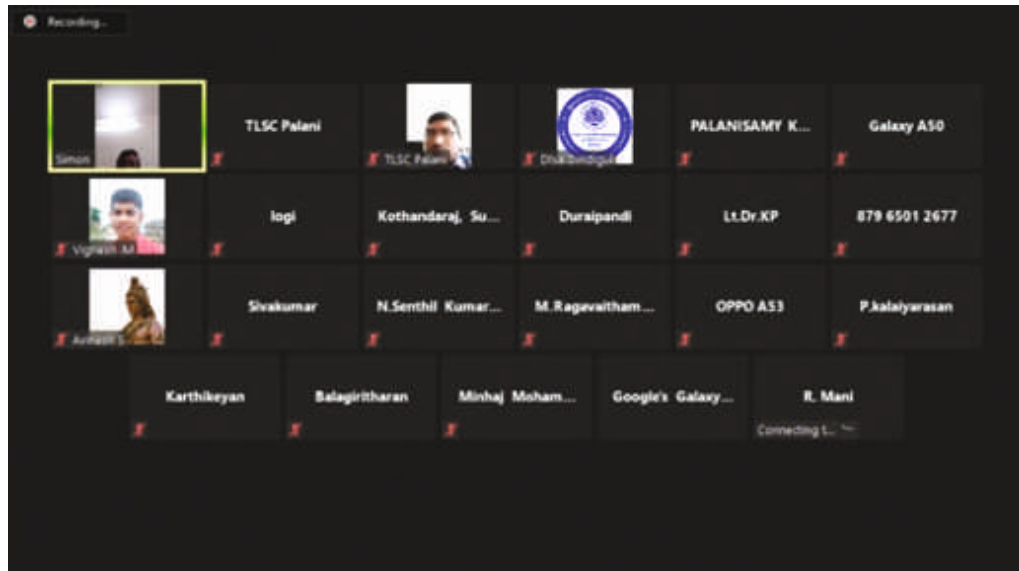
DLSA, Erode

District Legal Services Authority, Erode, organised a Webinar along with Legal Literacy Club of Vasavi College for 205 students on "Constitutional duties and responsibilities of the students". Around 75 students participated in competitions on Doodle Art, Slogan Writing and Poster Making.

WEBINAR:

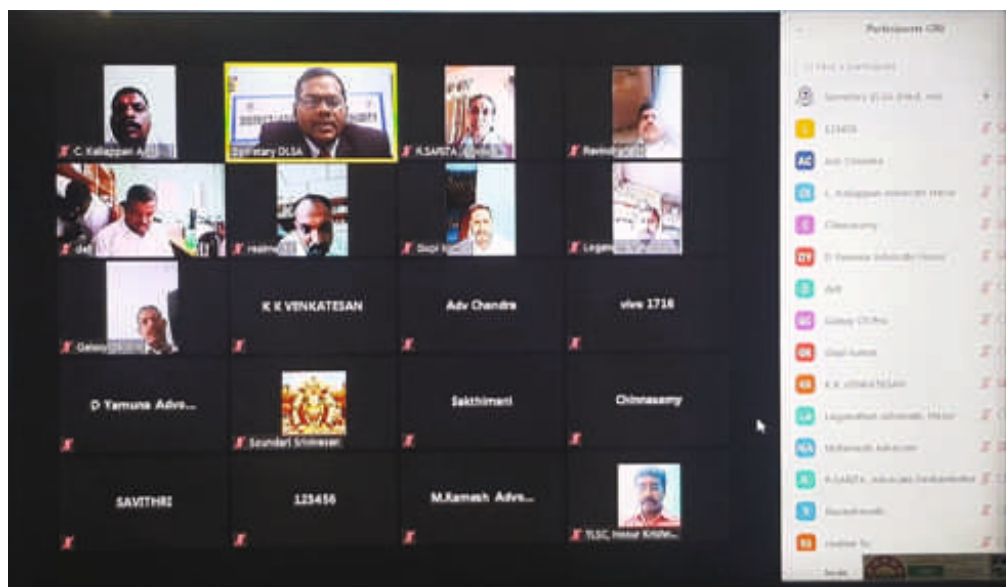


DLSA, Dindigul



DLSA, Dindigul, conducted an awareness Programme through Webinar on Fundamental rights and fundamental duties Constitutional Values and Fundamental Principles of the Indian Constitution for Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers and students.

Quiz Competition



DLSA, Krishnagiri conducted Quiz Competitions among Panel Lawyers to promote Constitutional Values

Rescued Bonded Labourers



One Stop Crisis Team, Salem rescued 16 bonded laborers from brick kiln work at Koonandiyur Village Mettur Taluk on 3.12.2020

ACTIVITIES DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ACROSS THE STATE FROM 25.3.2020 TO 31.8.2020

The TNSLSA, distributed essential commodities to the public through the Chairman/Principal District Judges, Secretaries, DLSA and other Judicial Officers, PLVs, NGOs. The expenses were borne by Judicial Officers, NGOs and Others.

S.No.	Scheme Wise	Number of Persons Benefitted
1.	Poverty Alleviation	1,44,531
2.	Unorganised Labourers	6,252
3.	Children Homes	650
4.	Mentally ill and Mentally Disabled persons	402
5.	Scheduled Tribe (Gypsy People)	6,713
6.	Senior Citizens	7,786
7.	Transgenders & HIV Patients	789
8.	Physically Challenged Persons	5,048
9.	Sri Lankan Refugees	1,296
10	Migrant Workers	7,954
11	Legal Awareness Programme (through Webinar)	27,626
Total		2,09,047

Cost of the Essential Commodities and Medical kits distributed to vulnerable persons for the period from 25.3.2020 to 31.8.2020

Sl. No.	Name of the DLSAs	Amount Rs.
1	Ariyalur	8,93,270
2	Chennai	1,24,000
3	Chengalpet	5,50,000
4	Cuddalore	1,60,625
5	Dharmapuri	76,125
6	Dindigul	25,89,390
7	Erode	10,78,314
8	Kanyakumari	1,44,000
9	Karur	2,11,250
10	Krishnagiri	5,75,000
11	Madurai	3,45,000
12	Nagapattinam	75,000
13	Namakkal	1,34,000
14	Nilgiris	15,000
15	Perambalur	1,19,000
16	Ramanathapuram	70,68,970
17	Salem	22,63,500
18	Sivaganga	3,86,600
19	Thanjavur	1,05,000
20	Theni	31,65,951
21	Tiruppur	32,000
22	Thiruvallur	8,00,000
23	Thiruvarur	1,89,935
24	Tiruchirappalli	23,25,000
25	Tirunelveli	22,65,083
26	Tiruvannamalai	58,700
27	Thoothukkudi	10,33,050
28	Vellore	2,82,825
29	Villupuram	68,250
30	Virudhunagar	2,25,200
	Total	2,73,60,038

Total Value Rs. 2.73 Crore

Sl. No.	Scheme Wise	Essential Commodities				Medical kits	Number of Persons Benefitted
		Rice Bags (in Numbers)	Groceries Bags (in Numbers)	Vegetables Bags (in Numbers)	Food Packets (in Numbers)	Masks, Sanitizers, etc. (in Numbers)	
1	Poverty Alleviation	19,616	13,375	7,639	41,561	38,686	1,44,531
2	Unorganised Labourers	1,406	1,142	556	1,221	135	6,252
3	Children Homes	379	415	37	145	170	650
4	Mentally ill and Mentally Disabled persons	278	146	-	124	300	402
5	Scheduled Tribe (Gypsy People)	2,036	1,797	805	205	400	6,713
6	Senior Citizens	199	118	290	6,690	298	7,786
7	Transgenders & HIV Patients	669	524	236	-	160	789
8	Physically Challenged Persons	1,500	1,266	866	280	100	5,048
9	Srilankan Refugees	432	382	25	-	-	1,296
10	Migrant Workers	352	2,268	437	3,498	30	5,796

Legal Services Institutions provided Legal Assistance to Prisoners at remand stage across the state during the Lockdown Period from 25.3.2020 to 31.8.2020

No. of Persons provided legal representation at remand stage	2,818
No. of bail applications filed of such persons at remand stage	732
No. of such bail applications allowed	1,669

LEGAL LITERACY/LEGAL AWARENESS CAMPS/PROGRAMMES conducted for the period from 25.3.2020 to 31.8.2020 (Through Webinar)

No. of Programme conducted	No. of Persons Participated	Subjects
396	27,626	NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection) Scheme 2015, NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation) Scheme-2015, Legal Literacy Classes, Anti Ragging Laws, International Justice Day, Women Rights, NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016, women and children in need of care and protection to create awareness.

Domestic Violence – Help Line

During the lockdown period from 25.3.2020 to 31.8.2020, legal assistance was provided by District Legal Services Authorities through Telephone/Online for Domestic Violence Cases. The particulars are as follows:-

Number of Domestic Violence Cases Received	Number of Cases Legal Assistance Provided	Number of Cases Settled through Counselling
162	142	78

E-Pass Services

Number of Persons Benefitted	2,158
------------------------------	-------

Webinar on Migrant Crisis and COVID 19

TNSLSA and International Justice Mission organised a webinar on “Migrant Crisis and COVID 19” on 18th June 2020.

Participants

The Webinar was attended by more than 350 participants and 250 Judicial officers across the State. All the Chairperson of District Legal Services Authorities, Secretaries of District Legal Services Authorities, Chairperson and Members of Permanent Lok Adalat, Chairman of Taluk Legal Services Committee, Members of Mentoring and Monitoring committee and Panel Advocates participated.

Hon’ble Dr. Justice Vineet Kothari, Judge, High Court of Madras, the then Executive Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority shared various examples of how Legal Services Authority is assisting migrants during this crisis in Tamil Nadu.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES (through Webinar) Conducted for the period from 25.3.2020 to 31.8.2020

Training programme conducted	No. of training Programmes conducted	No. of Participants Subjects	Subjects
Judicial Officers, Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers	90	3,071	Victim Compensation, NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016, Victim Compensation, Human Rights, Refresher Training on Juvenile Justice, Improve the quality of their service including conducting criminal cases, Permanent Lok Adalat etc., Domestic Violence Act, Migrant Workers, Child Marriage Prevention Mechanism

Helping hand to Migrant Workers

During the lockdown period around 2,158 stranded peoples approached Legal Services Institutions seeking to return to their states or home town.

In this regard the District Legal Services Authorities took steps in coordination with District Administration and NGOs.

Details of the assistance provided with regard to travel:-

Home States :1,414 Number of persons benefitted

Sl. No.	Travel Particulars	No. of Stranded People
1.	Coimbatore to Kerala	152
2.	Coimbatore to Madhya Pradesh	25
3.	Salem to Manipur	20
4.	Sivagangai to Madhya Pradesh	53
5.	Tiruvallur to Bihar	512
6.	Tiruvallur to Orissa	277
7.	Tiruvarur to West Bengal	9
8.	Tirunelveli to Jharkhand	75
9.	Tirunelveli to Andhra Pradesh	1
10.	Bihar to Madurai	21
11.	Varanasi to Madurai	14
12.	Madurai to Manipur	27
13.	Madurai to Andhra Pradesh	4
14.	Namakkal to Chhattisgarh	140
15.	Thanjavur to Rajasthan	20
16.	Palakad to Mayiladuthurai	64
	Total	1,414

(Within Tamil Nadu State) : 744 Number of Persons Benefitted



Union Territory of Puducherry Legal Services Authority

ACTIVITIES OF UTPLSA 2020

CONTINUOUS LOK ADALAT:

Continuous Lok Adalats are conducted every Friday.

SPECIAL LOK ADALATS:

Special Lok Adalats are organized to enable Banks (Nationalized and Private), Insurance Companies, Telephone / Mobile Companies etc. settle pre-litigation cases.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS – ADR CENTERS, PERMANENT LOK ADALATS/ LOK ADALATS/ MEDIATION.

The Mediation Centre functions in the premises of UTPLSA.

Combined Lok Adalat Statistics: 2020

Lok Adalat	Continuous Lok Adalat/ Special Lok Adalat
No of cases settled	261
No. of MACTOP cases	55
Amount settled in MACTOP cases	25,718,913
Cases Settled in National Lok Adalat Held in 2020	2766
Amount Settled in National Lok Adalat	123,180,461
Total Cases Settled	2040
Total Amount	148,899,374

LEGAL AID & LITERACY CAMPS:

Statistics of the Legal Awareness Camp Conducted in 2020

Year	Total of Legal Awareness camp/ Legal Literacy Camps	Total No. of beneficiaries
2020	118	9280

CONCILIATION CELL:

Six Conciliation Cells function in the Puducherry Region. They are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Conciliation Cell No.	Functioning in every month	Venue
1.	I	Every Wednesday	UTPLSA premises
2.	II	Every Tuesday	UTPLSA premises
3.	III	Every Thursday	Block Development Office Complex, Villianur
4.	IV	Every Friday	Block Development Office Complex, Karikalampakkam
5.	V	Every Monday	Government General Hospital complex, Puducherry
6.	VI	Every Friday	Dr.Ambedkar Government Law College, Puducherry

Apart from the above, one each in Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions function fortnightly.

VILLAGE LEGAL CARE AND SUPPORT CENTRE:

About 55 Village Legal Care and Support Centers are functioning in various villages in the entire U.T.of Puducherry. A Village Legal Care and Support Centre comprises a Panel Lawyer and one Para Legal Volunteer trained by this Authority and they will advice and help people on any legal or non-legal issue.

Sl. No.	Region	No of Village Legal Care and Support Centre
1.	Puducherry	39
2.	Karaikal	12
3.	Mahe	2
4.	Yanam	2
	Total	55

They function in School premises / Panchayat Offices in villages every 3rd Saturday of the month between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm.

NOMINATION OF DUTY COUNSEL/RETAINER ADVOCATE:

This Authority has nominated a Duty Counsel / Retainer Lawyer for all the regions in the U.T of Puducherry.

NOMINATION OF REMAND ADVOCATES:

Advocates/ Legal Aid Counsels have been nominated in all District Sessions Courts and Magistrate Courts to give legal assistance to accused during remand.

Name of the Court	No. of Remand Advocates
Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pondicherry	1
Judicial Magistrate – I, Pondicherry	1
Judicial Magistrate – II, Pondicherry	1
Judicial Magistrate – III, Pondicherry	1
Judicial Magistrate – IV, Pondicherry	1
Special Court, Puducherry	1
District Session Court, Karaikal	1
Judicial Magistrate, Karaikal	1
Judicial Magistrate, Mahe	1
Judicial Magistrate, Yanam	1

TOLL FREE HELP LINE:

The UTPLSA has started “Toll Free Help Line” for the general public to seek advice over phone. The number is 18004258831. People can contact this number between 9.00 a.m and 6.00 p.m on all working days. The advocates nominated exclusively for the purpose would render advice to the general public who seek advice.

Total no. of Calls Received in 2020 - 123

DOORDARSHAN PROGRAMMES:

The Union Territory of Puducherry in co-ordination with Doordarshan, Puducherry started telecasting “NEEDHIMANDRA SEIDIGAL” every Friday from 6.00 p.m to 6.15 p.m on Podhigai TV.

Total No. of Programmes	10
Total No. of Programmes in Radio	1

Details of Jail Clinic Visits in the year 2020

Year	Total No. of Visits	No. of persons visited the Jail clinic	Advocates appointed	Advice / Counselling	Other Legal Assistance
2020	37	252	20	87	79

MEDIATION

An Online Mediation Training programme was conducted from 23-08-2020 to 25-08-2020 for 9 Advocates from Pondicherry Region and for 2 Advocates from Karaikal Region.

Total No. of Mediators	45
------------------------	----

Mediation Data for the year 2020

Year	Total No. of Cases	
	Referred	Settled
2020	92	11

THE LEGAL AID TO POOR AND DETAILS OF THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

Year	SC	ST	BC	Women	Children	Industrial Workmen	In custody	General others (PH)	Others	Total
2020	12	-	-	65	104	1	187	58	3	430
Total	12	-	-	65	104	1	187	58	3	430

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED FOR PANEL ADVOCATES AND PARA LEGAL VOLUNTEERS 2020

Sl. No.	Training programme conducted	2020
1	Panel Lawyers	6
2	Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs)	8
3	Others (Pl. specify) , Seminars, Training Programmes , Webinars	14

Total No. of Webinars	14
-----------------------	----

Total Number of Panel Lawyers (PUDUCHERRY)	Male	Female
260	187	73

Total Number of Panel Lawyers (U.T of Puducherry)	Male	Female
295	213	82

❖ **COVID PROGRAMMES 2020**

On the announcement of Corona outbreak in India and based on the Advisories issued by the Government, Guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble High court of Madras, UTPLSA in co-ordination with an NGO stitched cotton masks and supplied 350 numbers of re-usable cotton masks to inmates and staff of Central Prison, Kalapet, Puducherry.

- The UTPLSA in co-ordination with an NGO distributed food to the out patients, their attendants and outsourced Sanitary Workers of the JIPMER Hospital in the JIPMER campus.
- The UTPLSA in co-ordination with Special School Management distributed dry ration comprising of rice, pulses, cooking oil, flour etc., to the physically challenged at their door-steps.
- The UTPLSA in co-ordination with an NGO distributed bread loaves to the boys in a Children Home at Puducherry.
- On 25-06-2020, the UTPLSA distributed face masks to the Public in the quarantined area of Poornakuppam Village, Ariankuppam Commune, Puducherry.
- Distribution of Hand Gloves and Homeopathy Medicine, Arsenic Album-30, to the staff of UTPLSA.
- Kabasura Kudineer Powder from TAMPCOL to Chairman & Secretary DLSA, Puducherry and Chairman TLSC, Karaikal, and in turn the same was distributed to the lawyers and staff of the District Court Karaikal by the Chairman, Taluk Legal Services Committee, Karaikal.
- On 23-07-2020, 5 Legal Services Camps were organised by this Authority in five villages of the Puducherry region. The Pamphlets containing guidelines for safety measures were distributed to the general public. Panel Advocates and Para Legal Volunteers were involved in the Camps

- On 11-09-2020, masks and Kabasura Kudineer (a traditional formulation used by siddha practitioner) were distributed to the staff and Para Legal Volunteers of UTPLSA and to general public.
- TLSC, Karaikal has issued "Kabasura Kudineer" to the Judicial officers, Judicial staff and Public for boosting their immune system in guarding against COVID-19, continuously from 10/08/2020 to 14/08/2020.
- In addition to Kabasura Kudineer decoction, to boost immunity, TLSC Karaikal has given "ThiriKaduga Theneer" (A Decoction containing Siddha ingredients formulated by Siddha practitioner) to the Judicial officers, Judicial Staff, and Public from 17/08/2020 to 21/08/2020 as safety measure against COVID-19.
- On 12-10-2020, this Authority organised Jan Andolan for Covid Campaign, as per the instructions of the NALSA
- This campaign emphasizes "Unlock with Precautions" i.e., COVID -19 appropriate behavior in the New Normal. The Key Messages highlighted are – "Wear Mask, Follow Physical distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene".
- The COVID- 19 Pledge was taken in the conference hall of the UTPLSA, and the above mentioned pledge was read out by the Member Secretary, and the Staff of the UTPLSA took the pledge.
- On 16-09-2020, 6 Legal Services Camps were organized by this Authority in five villages of the Puducherry region. The Pamphlets containing guidelines for safety measures were distributed to the general public. Para Legal Volunteers of UT of Puducherry Legal Services Authority were involved themselves in the Camps.
- On 06-11-2020, the U.T of Puducherry Legal Services Authority has conducted Legal Services camps in various places of Puducherry. The Pamphlets containing the guidelines for safety measures to be under taken by THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND SENIOR CITIZENS during the COVID-19 Pandemic period were distributed to the general public, explaining the precautions to be taken during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- On 11-12-2020 This Authority distributed the Covid pamphlets to the general public in the villages of Puducherry Region.

Total no. Covid-19 related programmes	22
---------------------------------------	----

1. Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence during Covid-19 lockdown

No. of cases relating to domestic violence received by LSIs	2
No. of such cases in which legal aid and assistance was provided	1
No. of petitions filed in courts through Legal aid under DV Act	-
No. of cases resolved through counselling/mediation	-
The types of domestic violence reported such as physical, emotional, etc.	physical, emotional and financial

2. Complaints related to denial of wages/ Salaries during Covid-19 lockdown:

No. of grievances related to denial of wages/salaries received by LSIs	5
No of such grievances in which legal assistance provided	5 Letter addressed to the Labour Commissioner, Labour Department, Government of Pondicherry.

3. Assistance to arrested person / prisoner during COVID-19 Lockdown

Remand Stage	
No. of persons provided legal representation at remand stage	1
No. of bail applications filed of such persons at remand stage	1
No. of such bail applications allowed	-
Undertrials	
No. of Undertrials represented during trial through legal assistance	-
No. of bail applications filed for undertrials	1
Convicts	
No. of convicts provided legal assistance in	-
(i) Filing of Appeals	-
(ii) Parole/Furlough	-

4. Assistance provided through Legal Aid Helpline during COVID – 19 lockdown

	Total calls received	No. of persons provided legal advice
Legal aid and assistance provided through State/ District helpline numbers	19	3

5. Use of webinars and Social Media Tools

No. of programmes conducted through webinars:	
(i) For panel lawyers (training programmes)	9
(ii) For legal awareness	-
(iii) Programme related to legal aid	Webinar for staff of the District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Committee with regard to Legal Services Management System.

6. Help to stranded people/migrants/Senior citizens

No. of cases in which assistance was provided to migrants in coordination with District Administration in terms of transit, food etc.	613
No. of people assisted with regard to shelter problem/ lack of money	2
No. of people assisted for travelling to home states or home districts	113
No. of senior citizens helped	4
Types of assistance provided to senior citizens	civil and rental issues

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

Month	Pre-litigation				Pending Cases		
	No. of Benches	Total Cases Taken	Total Disposal of Cases	Total Settlement Amount	Total Cases Taken	Total Disposal of Cases	Total Settlement Amount
09-02-2020	12	2905	85	8245465	1767	625	44084470
12-12-2020	12	654	78	7506000	1542	950	27919213



National Lok Adalat held on
09-02-2020



National Lok Adalat held on
12-12-2020

CONFERENCES



An International Conference on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Environment, Ecosystem & Sustainable Development ICIAEESD-2020 was held on 22-02-2020.



Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre

ACTIVITIES OF THE TAMIL NADU MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION CENTRE

1. 40 Hours Mediation Training Programme :

The Advocates of Erode, Chennai and the Nilgiris were given 40 hours of Mediation Training Programme in the months of January and February 2020. 27 Advocates from Erode, 37 Advocates from Chennai and 30 Advocates from the Nilgiris participated in the said training. Ms. G.Saseedhevi and Mr.S.Arunachalam, Senior Trainers conducted the training programme at Collectorate Building, Erode from 3rd to 7th January, 2020. Mr.A.J.Jawad and Mr.D.Bharatha Chakravarthy, Senior Trainers conducted the training programme at ADR Centre, Chennai from 30th January to 3rd February 2020 and Mrs.Rathna Thara and Mrs. Sudharshana Sunder, Senior Trainers

conducted the training programme at ADR Buildings, the Nilgiris from 20th to 24th February 2020. Mrs. Sujatha was nominated to assist the Senior Trainers in the training programmes held at Erode as well as the Nilgiris and Ms.V.Ahalya was nominated to assist the Senior Trainers in the training programme held at Chennai.

It is relevant to mention that Hon'ble Mr.Justice D.Krishnakumar and Hon'ble Mr.Justice M. Govindaraj, Members, Committee for TNMCC monitored the training programme held at Chennai and Hon'ble Mr.Justice M.Govindaraj also conducted one session at the end of the Training Programme, and His Lordship distributed "Mediators Badge" to the participants, who completed the training successfully.



Nilgiris



Erode

2. Certificate of Completion of Training:

On 10th February 2020, the Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre organized a function at Madras High Court to issue Certificates to the Trained Mediators, who had completed 40 Hours Mediation Training Programme. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.P. Sahi, the then Chief Justice, High Court, Madras graced the occasion and issued the Certificates to the Hon'ble Sitting Judges, who had completed the

said training. On behalf of the Judicial Officers/Registrars of Madras High Court Mr. C. Kumarappan, the then Registrar General, received the certificates from Hon'ble the Chief Justice. Mr. R. Selvakumar, Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Chennai, received the certificates on behalf of all other Judicial Officers and a representative from nine districts received the certificates on behalf of Advocates/Mediators of the districts.



3. Orientation Programme:

During Covid-19 pandemic, the Hon'ble Committee for Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre decided to implement online Mediation, on a trial basis, in the form of a pilot project in the State of Tamil Nadu. As an initial

measure, online Orientation Programme was conducted to the Seniors as well as Potential Trainers of TNMCC on 16th August, 2020. Mr. A.J. Jawad, who has rich experience in online Mediation conducted the training programme in which 17 Mediators/Trainers participated.



4. 12 Hours Online Mediation Training Programme:

The Mediators/Trainers, who have participated in the Orientation Programme on 16th August 2020 have conducted 12 Hours Online Mediation Training from 23rd to 25th August 2020 to 202 Mediators. As a token of appreciation

for the efforts taken by the Trainers to train the Mediators throughout the State of Tamil Nadu, "Certificate of Recognition" was awarded to Trainers. Similarly, the Mediators, who have undergone 12 Hours Online Mediation Training from 23rd to 25th of August 2020, were also issued "Certificate of Training"



5. Distribution of Accreditation Certificate issued by MCPC, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi :

During October 2020, Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre distributed Accreditation Certificates

issued by the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee to 194 Mediators, who had undergone 40 hours of Mediation Training Programme, under the aegis of MCPC and successfully mediated 10 disputes under the supervision of an expert mediator.



6. Launch of Exclusive Website for TNMCC:

Though the idea of developing an exclusive website for Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre was envisaged long back, it was made a reality only under the support and guidance of Hon'ble Dr.Justice Vineet Kothari, the then Chairman, by handing over the same to the Tamil Nadu e-Governance. The website was successfully launched on 15th December 2020 by Hon'ble Mr.Justice A.P.Sahi, the then Chief Justice of Madras High Court. During the welcome address, the Chairman explained the salient features of the website.



In the inaugural address, the Hon'ble Chief Justice said:

"Western Philosophers and Indian Philosophers all alike have said that knowledge is power. In India, we have witnessed and we have read about Chanakya and his teachings and he also was of the opinion that knowledge is power. But, what is knowledge? It is collection of information, reading good literature, having experience and not the least, the company of good men. All these resources lead to what is known as a composite element of knowledge which you utilize in life. But, there is one more thing, apart from this information, experience and all these things, which I think, in my short experience of 39 years of practice and as a Judge and as a Chief Justice, that if you utilize this knowledge, this experience with a sense of focused clarity, it is that clarity which is power. Why, because it is that which makes an impact on the human mind. It is that which makes you feel that whatever the person is communicating is correct. Mediation and Conciliation requires this clarity because you are dealing with human minds and these human minds, they are full of problems. Mediation and Conciliation is a Centre for solution of all these problems and therefore, that clarity of solution gives the utmost satisfaction and that results in what is known as the success of mediation. This Website, according to me, will be providing that useful foundation, for that information, for that clarity and for the immediate disposal of any such problems."

Hon'ble Mr.Justice M.M.Sundresh, Member, TNMCC delivered the vote of thanks.

The link for Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre website is <https://tnmcc.tn.gov.in>

**7. STATISTICS OF THE CASES REFERRED TO THE MEDIATION CENTRES IN
THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU AND UNION TERRITORY OF PUDUCHERRY
FROM JANUARY 2020 TO DECEMBER 2020**

Sl. No.	Name of the Mediation Centre / District	No. of Mediators	Referral	Settled	Un settled	Non - Starters	Connected Cases
1	Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, High Court, Madras.	193	493	78	322	95	88
2	District Mediation Centre, City Civil Court - Chennai.		242	40	210	19	15
3	Labour Court Mediation Centre, Chennai.		13	4	9	2	0
4	Family Court Mediation Centre, Chennai.		731	125	378	42	42
5	Egmore Mediation Centre, Chennai.		0	0	0	0	0
6	TNMCC, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.	68	242	30	107	116	56
7	U.T. of Puducherry	46	94	12	57	44	0
8	Coimbatore	57	327	58	114	127	25
9	Tiruchirapalli	43	388	23	64	114	0
10	Namakkal	12	158	1	5	141	0
11	Tirunelveli	42	221	36	97	0	0
12	Salem	40	213	28	52	249	0
13	Thanjavur	39	183	11	51	16	0
14	Chengalpattu	8	134	19	76	14	2
15	Karur	12	83	14	57	54	0
16	Krishnagiri	16	104	9	31	23	0
17	Dharmapuri	12	171	41	150	0	1
18	Cuddalore	17	174	28	62	85	6
19	Perambalur	12	83	15	37	35	1
20	Sivagangai	17	172	11	130	0	0
21	Tiruvannamalai	16	187	11	36	102	3
22	Nagapattinam	14	13	1	2	2	0
23	Villupuram	47	87	9	71	14	3

Sl. No.	Name of the Mediation Centre / District	No. of Mediators	Referral	Settled	Un settled	Non - Starters	Connected Cases
24	Virudhunagar District at Srivilliputthur	15	135	11	28	61	1
25	Ramanathapuram	15	143	3	5	98	0
26	Pudukkottai	8	114	14	26	109	0
27	Theni	17	155	35	71	16	0
28	Erode	59	140	37	68	53	14
29	Madurai District Bar	76	200	59	230	0	2
30	Vellore	58	257	14	127	38	0
31	Dindigul	20	137	3	144	46	0
32	Thoothukudi	8	147	42	75	55	9
33	Kanniyakumari at Nagercoil	30	154	39	98	68	4
34	Tiruvallur	26	83	12	41	95	0
35	Nilgiris District	41	98	7	41	39	0
36	Tiruppur	23	133	25	3	173	0
37	Tiruvarur	2	36	4	0	49	0
38	Ariyalur	7	32	9	30	3	0
	TOTAL	1116	6477	918	3105	2197	272

PART - D



DIARY OF EVENTS
Republic Day Celebration 2020





Quarters at Harur in Dharmapuri District Inaugurated on 11.03.2020



Inauguration of Virtual Courts on 26.05.2020



Court Buildings at Thanjavur and Orathanadu in Thanjavur District
Inaugurated on 20.06.2020



Inauguration of Court Building and Quarters at Thirukoilur in Villupuram District
on 25.07.2020

Independence Day Celebration 2020





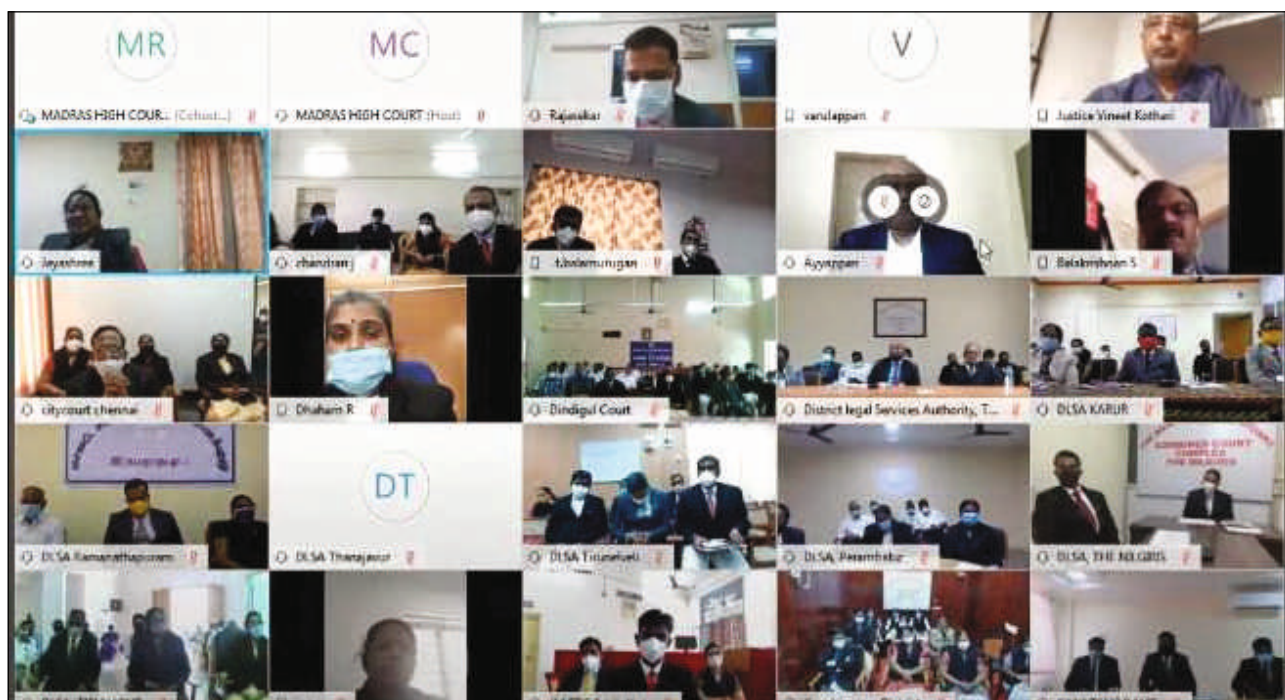
Inauguration of Court Building and Quarters at Polur in Tiruvannamalai District on 17.08.2020



Inauguration of DM-cum-JM Court at Cheyyur in Kancheepuram on 12.09.2020



Inauguration of Special Court at Vellore, DM-cum-JM Court Building and Quarters at Arcot in Vellore on 23.09.2020



Inauguration of State Wide Micro Level Regular Lok Adalat on 03.10.2020



Induction / Refresher training-Selected Convict Para Legal Volunteers-Valedictory Function on 09.10.2020



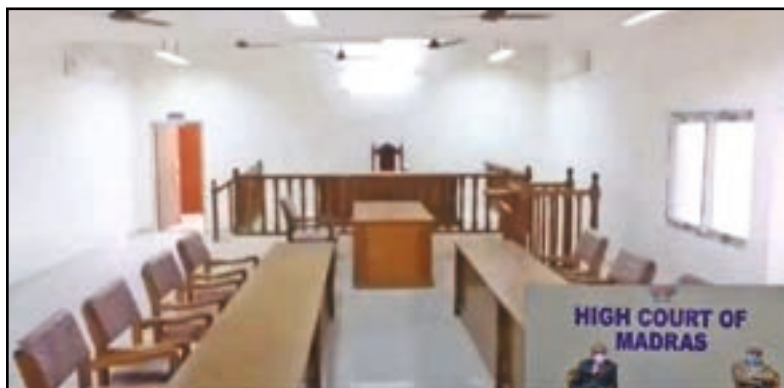
Inauguration of Court Building and Quarters at Karaikal in
U.T. of Puducherry on 10.10.2020



Inauguration of Special Court for Trial of Cases under SC/ST (POA) Act 1989 in Thoothukudi District on 15.10.2020



Inauguration of Sub Court at Nanguneri in Tirunelveli District on 16.10.2020



Inauguration of Centre for Examination of Vulnerable and Child Witnesses at Tiruvannamalai, Sub Court at Chengam and District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court at Thandrapattu in Tiruvannamalai District on 04.11.2020

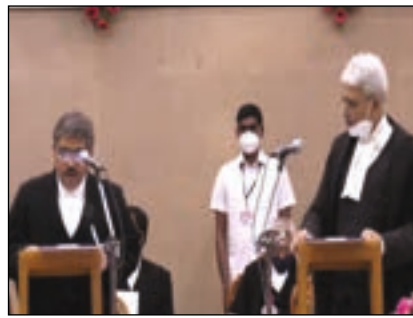


Inauguration of Court Building at Ambasamudram in Tirunelveli District on 05.11.2020



Inauguration of Sub Court at Sattur in Virudhunagar District on 20.11.2020





Hon'ble Judges Swearing in
Ceremony in Madras High Court
on 03.12.2020



Inauguration of Additional District Court at Kuzhithurai in Kanniyakumari on 09.12.2020



Inauguration of 4 Additional Courts in the Cadre of District Judge and 10 Additional Assistant Courts in the Cadre of Sr. Civil Judge in Chennai on 17.12.2020



Inauguration of Court Building at Tiruppur on 19.12.2020



Inauguration of Court Building and Quarters at Sriperambudur and Sub Court at Alandur in Kancheepuram District on 26.12.2020



Farewell to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court Madras on 31.12.2020

Retirement/VRS of Officers and Staff during the year 2020

January



S. Chinnadurai
Sub Assistant
Registrar



S.K. Deva Arul
Sub Assistant
Registrar



S. Kumudhavalli
Court Officer



M. Nagarathinam
Office Assistant



K. Dhayalan
Office Assistant

February



N. Balasubramanian
Section Officer



N. Anandan
Driver

March



D. Devaraj
Sub Assistant
Registrar



V. Selvaraj
Section Officer



**S. Navaneetha
Krishnan**
Overseer

April



R. Kannappan
Registrar



M. Muthumahesan
Assistant Registrar



R. Pappudurai
Assistant Registrar



V.M. Jothivadivu
Appeal Examiner

April



D. Thangavel
Section Officer



M. Aajah Mohideen
Driver



T.K. Sudhakaran
Office Assistant

June



M. Loganathan
Office Assistant

July



V. Bagyanathan
Office Assistant

August



N. Raveendran
Office Assistant

September



T. Lakshmanan
Sub Assistant
Registrar



R. Janakavalli
Court Officer



B. Singaravelu
Office Assistant

October



V. Mohanbabu
Office Assistant

December



**R. Ram Kishore
Thakur**
Office Assistant



K.S. Bhagavathi
Office Assistant

OUR ICONIC SPLENDOURS



N.L.Rajah
Senior Advocate,
Madras high Court.

Mr. Rajah has published a book on the history of the Madras High Court titled "A 150 year journey from a crown court to a people's court" as also a book on the architectural value of the Madras High Court building titled "An iconic splendour".

He was one of the contributors to the book 'Courts of India' published by the Supreme Court.

The State of Tamil Nadu, in general, is blessed with a great many monuments of immense heritage value. Court buildings and structures associated with the administration of justice are part of this rich corpus. There are close to at least 82 court buildings in Tamil Nadu that are more than a hundred years old. Each of these structures are a living testimony to the architectural, engineering and creative skills of our planners, craftsmen, artisans and builders. Besides, these are institutions that serve to remind us of the narrative of the grand march of the rule of law through the ages. It is therefore imperative that we revere these institutions and preserve the edifices.

During the 125th year celebrations of the Madras High Court buildings the court brought out a book titled "An iconic splendour" as a tribute to the magnificent edifice that houses the Madras High Court. While there is no doubt at all that the Madras High Court building is the brightest jewel there are several court buildings in Tamil Nadu that are also iconic and splend.

On account of many periodical directions issued by the Heritage Committee of the Madras High Court, the public works department of the government conserves these structures with utmost care and they are not permitted to effect any substantial changes to these structures without the permission of Heritage Committee of the High Court.

The Heritage Committee of the High Court is also taking active steps to restore many of these buildings to their original glory. For instance, the Metropolitan Magistrates court at Egmore has been completely revamped and renovated. The renovation activity, which began two years back, was carried out by the PWD under the supervision of the Heritage Committee of the Madras High Court in consultation with the National Centre for Safety of Heritage Structures for a sum of Rs 5 crores. It was completed in the end of March 2019.

In some cases, even when the courts are in a badly dilapidated form still, they are taken up for renovation by the

Heritage Committee since they are of historical significance. For instance the great freedom fighter V.O.Chidambanar was first produced before the "Kuthiraivandi court" at Coimbatore after he was accused of sedition. The Magistrate's court at Tuticorin where he ought to have been produced was in a dangerous state of turmoil following his arrest and the British did not therefore choose to produce him there but produced him before the "Kuthiraivandi Court" at Coimbatore from where he was remanded to judicial custody. The said court commenced hearings in 1863 and was originally functioning as a Munsiff court. The court was so called because it levied a fine on drivers of horse carts for violation of rules during the British rule and so got its name. This court is being renovated at cost of Rs.8.0 crores because of its historic significance though it has not been in use for the last 15 years and was last functioning as a labour court.

Another marvellous heritage structure that has been renovated recently is the old court building at the promenade at Pondicherry which was completed at a cost of Rs.5 crores. This building was originally completed in 1870. The two-storey building with load bearing masonry structure and lime mortar functioned as a Court of Appeal and then as a law school during the French Rule of Pondicherry. Originally in 1766, Hotel De La Marine stood at the site where the court now stands. Later it was the Hotel de Commandant du genie in 1788 and the Court d appeal from 1884 to 1955. It functioned as a court till 2008.

Ootacamund again has a marvellous heritage Court building. The history of this building can be traced to 1848. Fredrick Price in his book, "Ootacamund- a History" refers to the now existing cluster of buildings as "comprising court complex and post office". Some of the special features of this court are a clock tower, a canopy over the seat of the judge and the litigant's gallery. Interestingly the canopy over the seat of judge in this court is very similar to the canopy over the seat of the judge at the second court hall in the Madras High Court buildings.

It is heartening that in recent times the local bar who practice in these heritage structures, are realising the impressive value of these buildings and are celebrating their anniversaries. In 2019, the Trichy district bar celebrated the centenary of the court building. The foundation stone for the building was laid on 28th April 1917 by Justice J.G. Burn who was the District Judge then. The building was thrown up for use as a District Court on 16th August 1919 by the same Justice J.G.Burn. The marvellous wooden staircase, a clock imported from London and fixed on the façade of the court are some unique features of the building. The court itself is modelled on the lines of the London District and Sessions court.

Likewise, the Udumalpet Bar, celebrated the centenary of their court building on 30.01.2015. This court is quite unique for it has records that reveal that the details relating to the cases in that

court were entered in Tamil even in 1885 when the country was under colonial rule.

Currently the District Court at Coimbatore, another iconic heritage structure is undergoing renovation.

Recently in December 2020 the Government of Tamilnadu took a decision to renovate 29 heritage buildings at a cost of Rs.80 crores. Of them, 8 were heritage court buildings, which included district court, Munsiff court and Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in districts such as Dharmapuri, Nagapattinam, Trichy and Theni.

The District Court at Pudukkottai is a grand heritage edifice that fills one with a deep sense of admiration for the Maharaja of Pudukkottai who took great pains to put up a structure that almost equals the Madras High Court building in grandeur though not in scale.

Then of course we have the Madras High Court building, which is truly the pride of not only the legal fraternity but every heritage lover.

Soon after the Sepoy mutiny in 1957 the British Crown took direct control of the governance of India. With such assumption of direct control of India, the need for a vast number of civic and public buildings arose across the country. Even as the buildings came to symbolise the vision that the British had of themselves as rulers, they realised that styles more familiar to the native population, which symbolised power, had to be used. Thus, these two imperatives – the need to

project the imperial power and the necessity of incorporating the local – led to the British creating a distinct form and style that has come to be known as Indo Saracenic. These buildings attempted to integrate the best of Hindu and Islamic styles of architecture (the British referred to the Muslims as Saracens, hence Indo Saracenic). The Madras High Court Building remains one of the grandest expressions of the Indo Saracenic form of architecture.

Leading practitioners of the Indo Saracenic style of architecture at Madras were RF Chirsholm, Henry Irwin and Charles Mant.

The initial design of the High Court building by J.W. Brasington was later developed and detailed by Henry Irwin. Minor modifications to the design, were done by the supervising engineer J.H.Stephen. The building work which started in 1889, took four years to complete and cost about thirteen lakhs. Documents in the museum of the High Court shows that the size of the Court was extended and increased after work on the initial design had commenced.

The Indo Saracenic style

As the book “Iconic Splendour” points out, “The Indo Saracenic was ultimately “an architecture of the facades.” Trained as the architects were in the “classical” style, the basic design, and especially the plans of the buildings, followed the proportion and symmetric principles of the genre. Most civil

buildings were large halls linked by wide passages and impressive stair cases with colonnaded exterior verandahs. The insides were either austere or grand depending on whether it played a perfunctory functional role or needed to impress visitors. From simple black cuddappah flooring, plain white lime plastered walls with little or no ornamentation and madras terrace roof to elaborate Italian tile or marble flooring, multi coloured plaster and motif designed walls, intricate stained glass windows, imported glazed tile wall dido and painted wooden false ceilings- the details varied depending on the target audience. "

The high court campus

The High Court campus was initially designed to accommodate the High Court and the Small Causes Court. This is why it was initially referred to as the world's second largest court complex after the Chancery Courts in England. The complex included rooms for the press and chambers for the Barristers, Attorneys and vakils. Later, the Law College was also accommodated in the campus. Today, it has several other courts- City Civil Court, Labour Court, Family Court, Tamilnadu State Legal Services Authority and also the Tamilnadu Mediation and Conciliation centre to name a few.

The exterior

The exteriors, while consistently imposing, were also a riot of detail- walls of exposed brick work projecting pilasters and cornices, corners with curved turrets

crowned with plastered and painted domes, colonnaded exterior passages, impressive tall entrance opening of Rajput/ Mughal archways in decorative plaster and stone, other opening with semi circular scalloped arches covered with terracotta jali of the traditional figurines and designs, projecting stone balconies, sloped stone chajjas (sun shade) supported on stone brackets and stone parapets; interestingly these external features were all 'Indian' in detail.

The interior

Once again the book "An Iconic Splendour" gives a graphic description of the beauty of the court's interiors.

"Set on a high plinth the eyes of the visitor, entering the ground floor through the portico of the west block, travels through the entire length of the building, some three hundred and odd feet in length, through a series of arch openings to see the trees beyond the portico of the Eastern Block. A series of arches of different widths periodically spans the long corridor. Similar axial North- South entrance passages from the porticos on the opposite ends are designed to provide visual continuity. So too do another pair of entrances, not easily spotted, link a passage on the north and south in the Eastern Block.

Natural light pierces the black cuddappah floor passage from cross passages running East- West or from the sunlight streaming through the staircase courtyard dispelling darkness.

Such is the sensitivity in the design, that, in the first floor, the junction and ends are visible from many points. Thus along the East- West axis the Rajamannar Hall, the Muthusamy Iyer's statue in the main staircase core, the octagonal lobby with cupola, and the portrait of Ambedkar in the Lawyer's Chambers are all in line."

The central octagonal

At the central octagonal landing space on the first floor sits the marble statue of Justice T.Muthuswami Iyer, the first Indian judge of the High Court. The name of the sculptor, George Wade is to be seen in a corner at the base. The four wooden pillars, supporting the steel "I" section below this statue in the ground floor, would have been introduced to take the load of the statue when it was installed.

The court halls

The ten court halls on the first floor are the original ones planned for the Court Complex that included the small Causes Court. It is likely that the two in the ground floor of the Eastern Block were later converted to accommodate the Small Causes Court. The other court halls currently located in the building have been established to meet the current demands. This explains the size and grandeur in the former and the stark simplicity of the later.

Even as they are highly decorated, there is impressive diversity in the design

of the ten court halls. This reinforces the suspicion that the décor was decided and done by local artisans. The lack of uniformity does not decrease the charm- the attractive finishes of the wall dado, the delicate plaster work, the colourful false ceiling, the rich woodwork and the vivid stained glass panels amaze the viewers.

The libraries

The Madras High Court has three main library spaces- The Judges Library, The MHAA library and the MBA library in addition to the library court hall.

The MHAA library near the advocate's chambers, which incidentally was originally a court hall, is by far the grandest and largest of the three. While the large doorways with pointed arch wooden fanlights allow for natural ventilation to the room, a row of clerestory glazed windows reflecting the character of the arched fanlights is to be seen at a higher level. A gallery for additional storage, between the top level of the fan light and sill level of the clerestory has been possible because of the height. Displaying the rich ornamentation of the court halls, it has an attractive black and white false ceiling of the same paperboard and wood as found elsewhere. The rich decorative silver coloured plaster work has been done to give richness to the interior. In contrast are the dark wooden book shelves and tables. These make the library truly unique and captivating.

The old light house

The old lighthouse, inside the High Court campus, is a fluted granite doric column with a stone gallery and glass lantern room on top. When the work on the High Court building was started in or about 1889 it was shifted from an earlier position in the site and rebuilt at the place where it stands today - an amazing work of relocation. It today houses a photographic exhibition about the City of Madras as also the High Court.

The column sits on a high square base of over 8 feet and is accessed by steps with gait risers. The stone for the construction is from the nearby suburb of Pallavaram. An inner spiral staircase leads up the tower to the lantern room some 135 feet above the ground.

The base of the lighthouse has stones that indicate the year of its construction (1838-44), the Standard Bench Mark and the High and Low water recorded as also the Mean Sea Level.

The new light house

The piece de resistance of the domes is the lighthouse that rises majestically from the centre of the High Court building. The central landing of the main public staircase core is crowned with this gigantic dome that towers 175 ft and is over 32 ft in the outer diameter. It originally served as a lighthouse, fired by kerosene, which, it was said, could be seen from a distance of 20 miles.

Of course, today both light houses are not functional but they truly are unique features of the Madras High Court.

The advocates' chambers

The Advocates Chambers block is linked to the High Court's West Block through a common portico. A "T" shaped block, it displays much of the character of the High Court – external verandahs, the arcade façade with a different type of arch at each level, the square towers with balconies and domes, corner circular columns with turrets and domes, similar parapet details and three floor arch at strategic positions.

The heritage structures of court buildings in Tamil Nadu are invaluable treasures. It therefore becomes the bounden duty of the government and courts to preserve them and to ensure their proper upkeep. This will not be possible without the active cooperation of the judiciary, the legal fraternity, the staff and the litigants. This sacred obligation it is our duty to ever remember and to effectively discharge.

Heritage Court Buildings in the State of Tamil Nadu



Additional District Court, Periyakulam, Theni - More than 100 years



District Munsif Court, Coimbatore -1863



District Munsif Court, Srivaikuntam, Thoothukudi - 1862



District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court, Keeranur, Pudukkottai -1880



District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court, Perundurai, Erode



Judicial Magistrate Court No.II, Gobichettipalayam, Erode - 1901



Judicial Magistrate Court No.1, Kancheepuram -1901



Judicial Magistrate Court No.2, Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi - 1914



District Munsif Court, Tirukoilur, Villupuram -1894



District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court, Papanasam, Thanjavur - 1914

Team of Officers and Staff Members who assisted the Editorial Board



Further information

Contact Information

Madras High Court

Registrar General,
Madras High Court,
Chennai – 600 104.
(Tel) 91 - 044 -25301349
(Fax) 91 - 044 -25341829
regrgenl@nic.in

Madurai Bench

Additional Registrar General,
Madurai Bench of
Madras High Court,
Madurai.
(Tel) 91 - 0452 -2433075
(Fax) 91 - 0452 -2433333
mdubench@nic.in

Designed & Printed by
SVGA Graphics,
No.108/123, Dr. Besant Road,
Royapettah, Chennai - 600 014.
Phone : 9500116410, 044-28486410,
e-mail : svgakan76@gmail.com

Published by
Madras High Court
The Softcopy of this book
is available at
www.hcmadras.tn.nic.in

© **All Rights Reserved**

Related Links

High Court Website:

<http://www.hcmadras.tn.nic.in/>
<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/recruitment/login>
<https://efiling.ecourts.gov.in/tn/>

Judgement Information System:

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis/>

Case Status:

<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/main.php#>

District Courts Website:

<https://districts.ecourts.gov.in/tn>

Supreme Court Website:

<https://main.sci.gov.in/>

Ministry of Law and Justice Website:

<https://lawmin.gov.in/>

Department of Justice Website:

<https://doj.gov.in/>

Government of Tamil Nadu Website:

<https://www.tn.gov.in/>

Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy:

<http://tnsja.tn.gov.in/>

Tamil Nadu Legal Service Authority:

http://www.tnlegalservices.tn.gov.in/state_authority.htm

Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre:

<https://tnmcc.tn.gov.in/>





Madurai Bench of Madras High Court

