

Gujarat ranks 8th in India in justice delivery, says study

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Ahmedabad: A study has placed Gujarat at the 8th rank among major Indian states in its capacity to deliver justice to citizens.

The study titled 'India Justice Report' was undertaken by Tata Trusts in collaboration with the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) and various other organizations. The report was launched at the Gujarat National Law University on Saturday. The survey conducted, and the study of data received from the governments revealed that Maharashtra tops the list of 18 major and mid-size states in justice delivery.

The states' performances have been evaluated on basis of police department's performance, prison conditions and their staff, functioning of judiciary and the legal aid services prevalent in the states in last few years.

According to the report, Gujarat has fared reasonably well on the front of judiciary and legal aid securing 7th and 6th ranks respectively. But, the condition of police depart-

AT A GLANCE

POLICE Only 49% of modernization fund has been utilized

➤ Population per police station (urban) | 2,40,608

➤ Population per police station (rural) | 69,251

JUDICIARY Average pendency of cases in subordinate courts is 10 years

➤ Average increase in judiciary expenditure trailed the average increase in state expenditure

➤ Women judges in HC | 9.4%

➤ Women judges in lower courts | 15.1%

PRISONS One correctional staff for 12,438 inmates

➤ Only 5.5% women in jail staff



ment and prisons pulls it back to overall 8th rank because the functioning of police was ranked 12th and prison conditions at 9th.

The study has also ranked the states in respect of their intentions to improve as seen in last five years by analysing recent trends. In this, Gujarat ranks third with West Bengal and Maharashtra ahead of it.

Though Gujarat fares poorly on police functioning, it has been praised for improving gender ratio after 2015-16 when the Anandiben Patel-government introduced 33% reservation for women in recruit-

ment.

Gujarat still suffers from 31.5% vacancy at constabulary level with nearly one out of three positions remaining unfilled. The national average vacancy is of 21.2%. Over a period of five years, vacancies showed a declining trend.

In Gujarat prisons, 32% posts are vacant. The national average is 33%. Women representation among jail officials is the lowest at 5.5% as against the national average of 10%.

In Gujarat's judiciary, the report highlighted that only one out of 10 judges in the Gujarat high court is a woman.