



Supreme Court's Remarkable Case Disposal Surge in 2023

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Why in News?

In a notable development, the [Supreme Court\(SC\) of India](#) has disclosed a **substantial increase in the disposal of cases** during the year 2023, surpassing the **number of cases registered** during the same period.

What are the Factors that Contributed to the High Disposal of Cases?

- The SC disposed of 52,191 cases between January 1 and December 15, 2023, compared to 49,191 cases registered during the same period.
- The **Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS)**, implemented in 2017, played a crucial role in achieving the highest disposal numbers.
- The [Chief Justice of India](#) streamlined the filing-to-listing timeframe, ensuring cases were **listed within five days**, compared to the previous 10-day requirement.
 - Matters related to [bail](#), [habeas corpus](#), [demolition](#), and [anticipatory bail](#) were processed within a day and promptly listed in courts, prioritizing the right to liberty.
- Special Benches were constituted, including those dealing with the death penalty.

What is Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS)?

- ICMIS is a next-generation hybrid **database** adopted by the SC. It integrates various information sources related to cases, such as case status, orders, judgments, appeals, etc.
- ICMIS enables litigants **to access and retrieve information online through a user-friendly** interface. It also provides real-time updates on the progress of cases.
- ICMIS helps reduce manipulation and delay in case filing and disposal. It also facilitates the online filing of cases and documents through e-filing portals.

What are the Other Initiatives Related to Reduce Pendency of Cases?

- **e-Courts:**
 - The Government of India has initiated the [e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode](#) Project to **computerize District and subordinate courts**, enhancing access to justice through technology.
 - Launched in 2007 as part of the [National e-Governance Plan](#), it collaborates with the **e-Committee Supreme Court of India and the Department of Justice**.
 - The project progressed in two phases, with **Phase I from 2011-2015 and Phase II starting in 2015**, focusing on the computerization of District and Subordinate courts.
- **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs):**
 - [FTSCs](#) were established to expedite **trials for sexual offenses**, especially those under the [Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act \(POCSO Act\)](#), addressing delays

in regular courts.

- Enacted through the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act in 2018**, operates under the **Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice**.

▪ **Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE):**

- **SUPACE**, a tool designed for judges, functions as a **fact and law collection system**, providing relevant **information for decision-making**. While it doesn't make decisions itself, it processes facts for judges seeking input in decision-making.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. With reference to the Indian judiciary, consider the following statements: (2021)

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with the prior permission of the President of India.
2. A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (c)

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