



Inauguration of Circuit Bench of Bombay HC

Why in News?

The [Chief Justice of India \(CJI\)](#) B.R. Gavai inaugurated the **new circuit bench** of the **Bombay High Court in Kolhapur**, making it the **fifth bench of the court**.

Key Points

- **About:** The Kolhapur Bench will include **a Division Bench and two Single Benches** serving six districts namely, Satara, Sangli, Solapur, Kolhapur, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg.
 - The Division Bench will handle [public interest litigation](#) petitions, civil writ petitions, family court appeals, contempt appeals, and civil and criminal matters while the **single Bench will hear cases** including **criminal revision applications**, bail applications and other criminal matters.
- **Significance:** It will improve accessibility for citizens in the **Konkan and Western Maharashtra regions**.
- **Bombay HC Bench Structure:** One of India's oldest [Chartered High Courts](#), it has jurisdiction over **Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli**. It already has **three main benches**:
 - Principal Bench in Mumbai.
 - Regional Benches in Nagpur (Vidarbha) and Aurangabad (Marathwada).
 - A separate Bench in Goa.

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA



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Article 231 Establishment of a common High Court for two or more States.

Process of Establishment of High Court Benches

- **Establishment of High Court Benches:** Setting up of a Bench of a High Court is considered only if a complete proposal in terms of **section 51(2) of the States' Reorganisation Act, 1956** is received from the State Government concerned, including the consent of the **Chief Justice of the High Court** and the **Governor** of the State and also if it satisfies the broad guidelines and criteria recommended by the **Jaswant Singh Commission**.
 - The State Government is responsible for **providing infrastructural facilities** and bearing the entire expenditure of the High Court and its Bench.
- **Justice Jaswant Singh Commission:** In 1981, a commission was appointed to consider demands for High Court Benches in Western districts of Uttar Pradesh.
 - The commission recommended criteria including **characteristics of the region, population size, area**, means of travel and communication, distance for litigants, pendency rates, infrastructure availability, and legal talent.
- **Supreme Court's Position:** Decisions should be based on **rational, not emotional, sentimental, or parochial considerations**.