

Indian Judicial System

India, as the largest democracy globally, has a unique and multi-tiered judicial hierarchy designed to adjudicate diverse legal issues efficiently and fairly.

Constitutional Foundation and Sources of Law

The Constitution of India is the supreme legal authority, forming the basis of all legislation. Other sources include statutes enacted by the Union Parliament, State Legislatures, and Union Territory Legislatures, along with customary law and judicial precedents (case law).

Supreme Court of India

At the pinnacle sits the Supreme Court located in New Delhi, headed by the Chief Justice of India along with 25 other judges (subject to variation based on Parliament's sanction).

The Supreme Court dispenses justice through benches varying from division benches (2 or 3 judges) to full benches (3 or 5 judges), and constitutional benches (5 or 7 judges), depending on the matter's complexity and constitutional significance.

It serves as the final court of appeal and guardian of the Constitution.

High Courts

Each state is served by a High Court, which is the highest court within the state and functions directly under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

Some states have a single High Court, while others have principal benches and circuit benches to enhance access to justice.

High Courts hear appeals from lower courts and have original jurisdiction in certain civil and criminal matters.

Subordinate Courts under High Courts

District & Sessions Courts:

These are the highest trial courts in a district;

District Courts handle civil cases, often appeals from subordinate tribunals or courts.

Sessions Courts primarily hear serious criminal matters.

Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals:

Specialized courts for disputes under labour laws, including claims of workers and employers.

Motor Accident Claims Tribunals (MACT):

Handle compensation claims arising from road accidents. Nearly every district has at least one MACT.

Revenue Tribunals and Appellate Bodies:

Deal with land revenue matters and related disputes per state-specific revenue laws.

Special Courts:

Established to expedite trials of heinous crimes or matters of public importance, such as anti-corruption courts, anti-terrorism courts, or cases involving organized crime.

Administrative Tribunals:

Set up per the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, these tribunals adjudicate service-related disputes of government employees both at the union and state levels.

Co-operative Courts:

Handle disputes under various Cooperative Societies laws, including appeals against decisions of Registrar and Sub-Registrar of Cooperatives.

tribunals in India

India features a range of specialized tribunals addressing various sectors to provide specialized, speedy justice:

Tribunal Name	Subject Matter
Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)	Recruitment and service conditions of government employees
Company Law Board (CLB)	Company affairs and corporate disputes
Central Information Commission (CIC)	Right to Information grievances
Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT)	Taxation objections on customs, excise, and services
Competition Commission	Competition law and anti-monopoly disputes
Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) & Appellate Tribunal (DRAT)	Recovery of debts beyond specified thresholds
Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)	Appeals under income tax assessments
Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB)	Intellectual property rights including patents, trademarks, copyrights
National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC)	Consumer protection cases

Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)

Securities and Exchange Board-related appeals

State Administrative Tribunals

Service matters for state government employees

Telecom Dispute Settlement & Appellate
Tribunal (TDSAT)

Telecom law disputes

India's judicial system effectively balances a Constitutional framework with specialized courts and tribunals to cater to the diverse and complex nature of modern disputes, ensuring access to justice across all sectors of society.

By

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