


“Justice delayed is justice denied”

On account of multiple reasons, such as a lack of an adequate number of judges, complicated legal procedures, and poor infrastructure, the judicial system in our country has a massive backlog. Look at the data from the National Judicial Data Grid given below (as of March 2025):

Number of pending cases (approximate):	
Supreme Court	81,000
High Courts	62,40,000
District and other Subordinate Courts	4,70,00,000



Note: These numbers need not be memorised.

While the number of pending cases shows part of the problem, the real issue is the long time it takes to resolve a case in court. In the High Courts, for example, nearly three-fourths of pending cases have been unresolved for over a year, and half of them have been pending for more than three years. Some cases have even remained unresolved for more than 50 years!

It is important that the people feel that their case has been heard by the court and that justice has been delivered in a timely manner. When cases are not resolved within a reasonable time, those who approach the court often feel that justice has been denied.

them arrive at a settlement through discussion and compromise, instead of engaging in lengthy court battles. Once an agreement is reached, it is presented to the court, and the case is closed.

Corruption in the Judiciary

Judges are bound by a code of conduct that governs not only their behaviour in court, but also how they conduct themselves outside it. This code, known as the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct (so named because the initial drafts were prepared in Bangalore/Bengaluru over two decades ago), emphasises that judges must be seen by the public as fair and impartial. They must avoid any action, in their personal and professional lives, that could cause the public to question their integrity.

When judges fail to uphold these standards, the judiciary has an internal mechanism to maintain accountability and ensure that judges follow the values of judicial life. There is an established procedure for receiving complaints through the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). Between 2017 and 2021, for example, over 1600 such complaints were received. In cases where the allegations are serious, the Parliament can take action and remove a judge by passing a motion of impeachment. Such a motion is considered only after a proper inquiry, during which the judge is given a fair opportunity to present their side of the case.

In a recent statement made in July 2025, the Chief Justice of India, B. R. Gavai said, “... Sadly,

