

## JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN STATES – OVERVIEW

The **Judiciary in the States** is an essential part of the Indian judicial system. It ensures justice, upholds the Constitution, and interprets state and central laws within the state.

### Structure of the State Judiciary

The judicial system in each state is **hierarchical**, with the **High Court** at the top, followed by **district and subordinate courts**.

#### 1. High Court

- **Highest court in a state**
- Constitutional authority under **Article 214** of the Indian Constitution
- Every state has its own High Court, or may share one with other states (e.g., Punjab & Haryana High Court)

##### ▪ Composition:

- **Chief Justice** of the High Court
- Other **judges** appointed by the President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and Governor

##### ▪ Jurisdiction:

- **Original Jurisdiction:** Certain cases can be filed directly in the High Court (e.g., writs under Article 226)
- **Appellate Jurisdiction:** Hears appeals from lower courts
- **Supervisory Jurisdiction:** Supervises all subordinate courts
- **Writ Jurisdiction:** Can issue writs to protect **Fundamental Rights** (Article 226)

#### 2. Subordinate Courts

These function under the supervision of the High Court and are divided into **civil and criminal courts**.

##### ▪ District Court

- **Headed by:** District Judge (Civil cases), Sessions Judge (Criminal cases)
- **Jurisdiction:** Civil and criminal cases at the district level

##### ▪ Other Subordinate Courts:

Court Type	Function
<b>Chief Judicial Magistrate Court</b>	Handles serious criminal cases
<b>Munsiff Court / Civil Judge (Junior Division)</b>	Handles civil disputes involving small sums

<b>Court Type</b>	<b>Function</b>
<b>Judicial Magistrate (First &amp; Second Class)</b>	Handles minor criminal offences
<b>Family Courts</b>	Handle cases related to marriage, divorce, child custody