

Ahmedabad Mirror

Gujarat- More than 26 percent posts of Judges across state courts are vacant, HC has 40 percent vacancy

Try not to get on the wrong side of law, even for a seemingly mundane issue. You will know why, if and when the case reaches the court of law. Currently, 26 per cent posts of judges lie vacant in various courts of Gujarat, including the high court which has 40 per cent vacancy. This has led to cases piling up, with over 17.5 lakh pending in courts across State. The highest backlog has been seen in Ahmedabad courts. According to details procured by Mirror through RTI, against the sanctioned strength of 1,508 judges, only 1,111 posts have been filled up.

That leaves a deficit of 397 judges. Even the Gujarat High Court has 21 vacancies for judges. As per official figures, there are 17,58,423 cases, including 11,82,346 criminal and 5,76,011 civil cases, pending in State courts. Of these, a whopping 3,49,077 cases are pending for over 10 years. They account for almost 20 per cent of the total backlog. Right below Ahmedabad in the list of pending cases are the courts in Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot. According to official data, more than 55,000 cases are those which get adjourned for more than three months.