

Changes in Gender Diversity in the District Judiciary: 2007-24

JALDI's portal, "[Women in the Judiciary](#)", traces gender diversity at all levels of the Indian judiciary. The portal provides visual data regarding the gender breakdown of judges in the district judiciary (Civil Judges and District Judges) over the years, from 2007 to 2024, to fuel ongoing conversations about gender diversity and inclusivity within the judiciary, towards the ultimate goal of a truly representative legal system.

The data presented here utilises the methodology underlining the District Judiciary section of the portal, to trace changes in gender composition of appointees to the posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division) and District Judge (Direct Recruitment) across all Indian states.

***Note:** The following states provide for reservation for women at the level of Civil Judge (Junior Division): Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttarakhand. Further, the following states provide for reservation for women at the level of District Judge (Direct Recruitment from the Bar): Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.*

The data has been collected in two phases through applications under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI). In the first phase ("Round 1"), RTI applications were filed with State Law Departments and High Courts seeking selection lists for posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division) and District Judge (Direct Recruitment from the Bar) from 2007 to 2017. This was further supplemented with selection lists for recruitment cycles for Civil Judge (Junior Division) completed as on January 2019 and which are available online. In the second phase ("Round 2"), RTI applications were filed with High Courts seeking information on the number of appointments made to the posts from 2018 to 2024.

In Round 2, requisite information was furnished by 17 states. Thus, data for recruitments conducted during 2018-24 have been provided for these states. For the States of Gujarat and Karnataka, the RTI responses only provided appointment notifications. Information from the notifications was disaggregated by gender based on the names of appointees.

Designing the Graphs

As appointments have been made in different years across different states, the data has been visualised in terms of recruitment cycles, rather than years. For the purposes of visual representation, the "recruitment cycle" is taken to be the final year in which persons were appointed to the district judiciary. However, for Rajasthan, it was noted that in some instances, the recruitment took place over a period of at least two years.

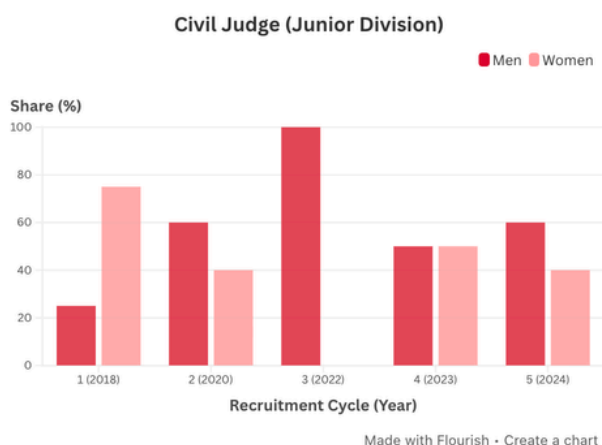
For the States that have responded in either round of data collection, we assume that no recruitments took place for the years where no data was provided during that time period.

The graphs plot the number of persons, segregated by gender, who were recruited to the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) or the District Judge (Direct Recruitment) in the respective states in the recruitment cycles for which information has been provided. The x-axis shows the recruitment cycle, and the y-axis shows the percentage of male/female appointees in comparison to the overall appointees in that cycle. For the total number of male and female appointees in a given cycle, please refer to the [webpage](#) where hovering over any bar in the graph displays the total number of male and female appointees in a cycle. Where data is available for more than eight recruitment cycles, the graphs display the data for Round 2 of the RTIs and a filter is made available on the [webpage](#) to view data from Round 1 of the RTIs.

For example, the graph representing the data for appointees to the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) in Arunachal Pradesh notes that in the recruitment cycle for 2018, 2 men (25% of total appointees in that cycle) and 6 women (75% of total appointees in that cycle) were recruited.

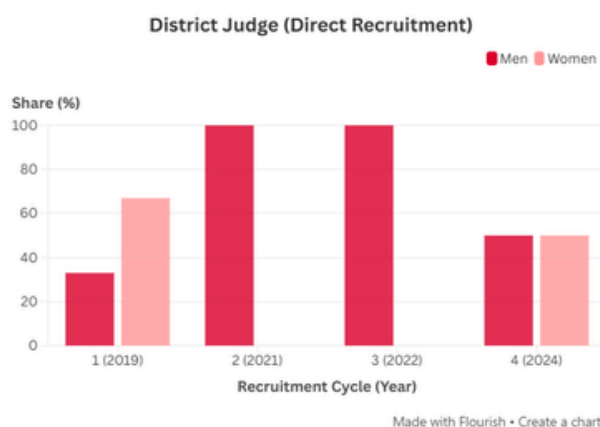
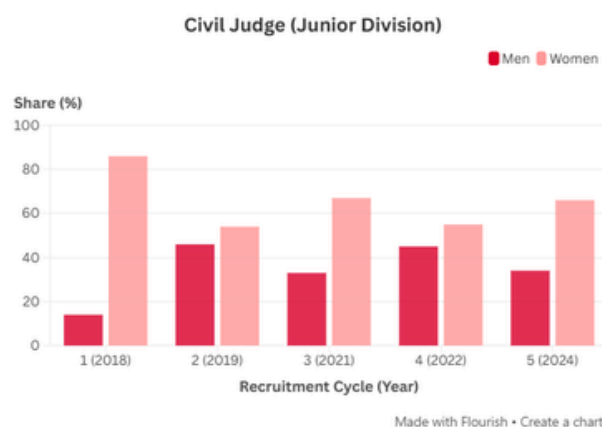
The graphs are presented below.

Arunachal Pradesh



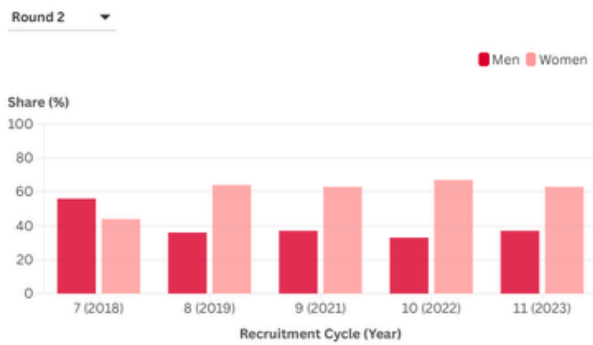
No data available for District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

Assam



Chhattisgarh

Civil Judge (Junior Division)

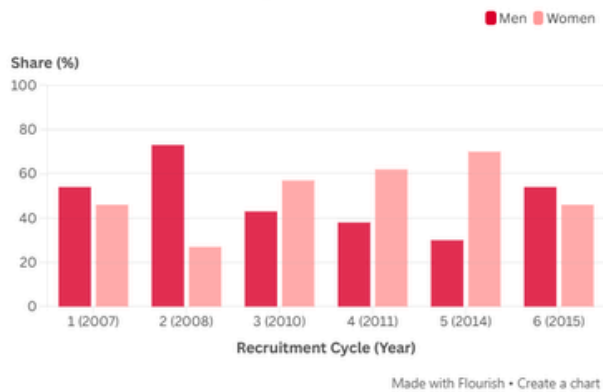


District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

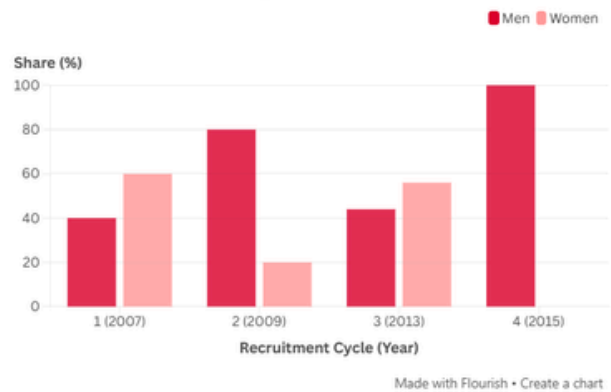


Delhi

Civil Judge (Junior Division)



District Judge (Direct Recruitment)



Gujarat

Civil Judge (Junior Division)

Round 2 ▾



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District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

Round 2 ▾



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Haryana

Civil Judge (Junior Division)

Share (%)



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District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

Share (%)



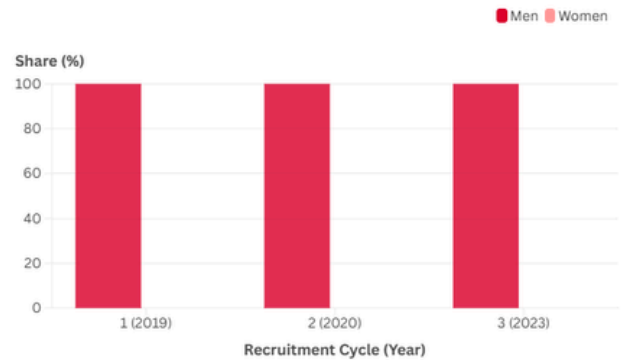
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Himachal Pradesh

Civil Judge (Junior Division)



District Judge (Direct Recruitment)



Jharkhand

Civil Judge (Junior Division)



District Judge (Direct Recruitment)



Karnataka

Civil Judge (Junior Division)

Round 2



District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

Round 2



Kerala

Civil Judge (Junior Division)

Round 2

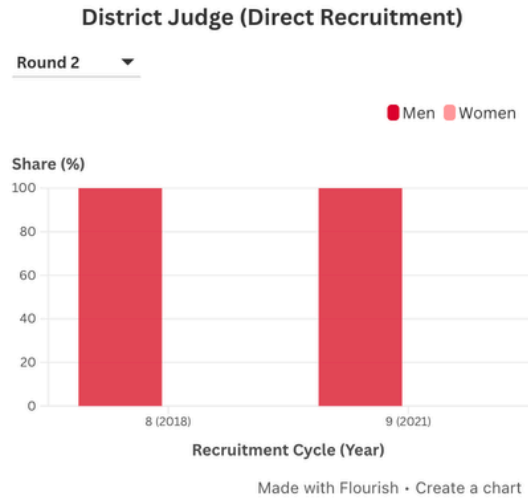
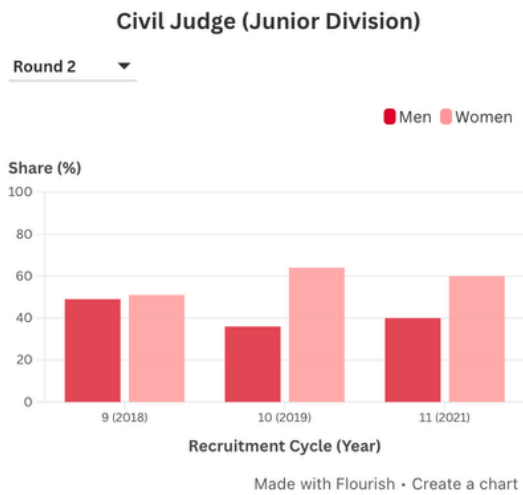


District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

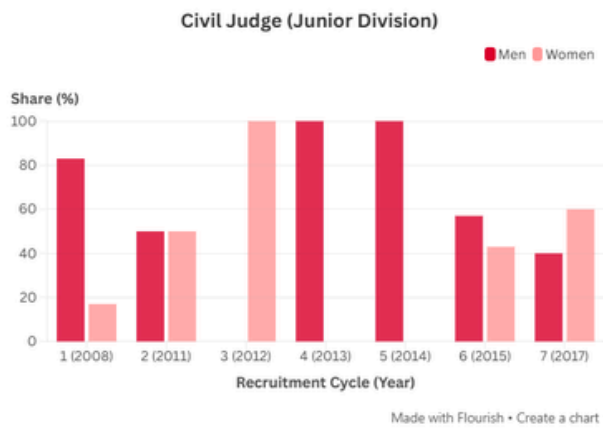
Round 2



Madhya Pradesh



Manipur



No data available for District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

Meghalaya

Civil Judge (Junior Division)



District Judge (Direct Recruitment)



Mizoram

Civil Judge (Junior Division)

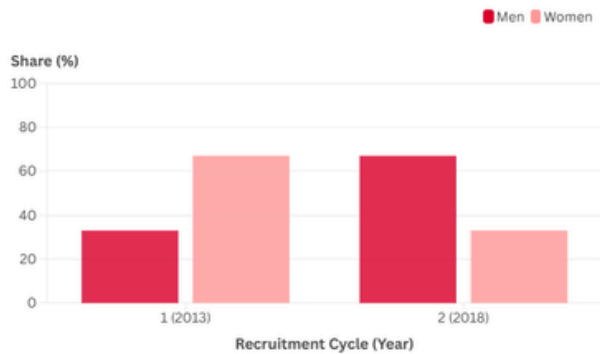


District Judge (Direct Recruitment)



Nagaland

Civil Judge (Junior Division)

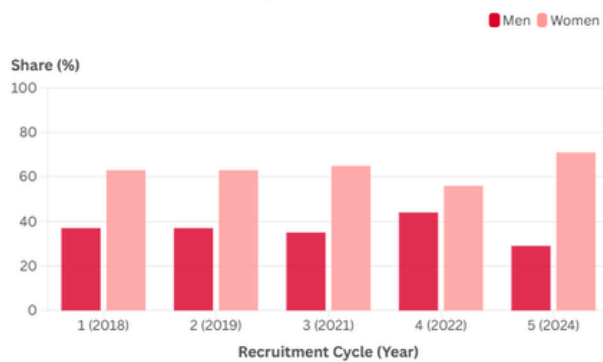


District Judge (Direct Recruitment)



Orissa

Civil Judge (Junior Division)



No data available for District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

Punjab

Civil Judge (Junior Division)

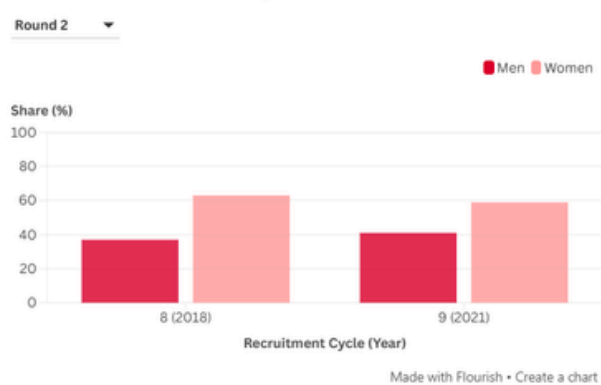


District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

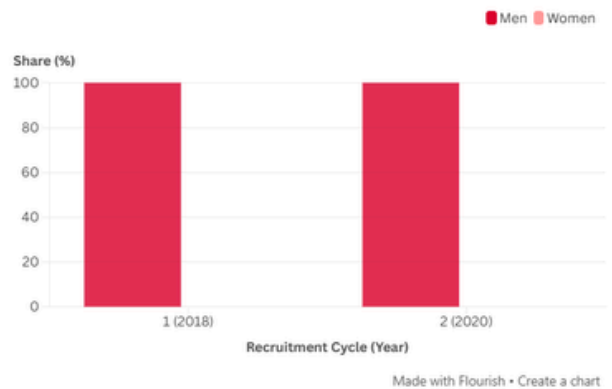


Rajasthan

Civil Judge (Junior Division)



District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

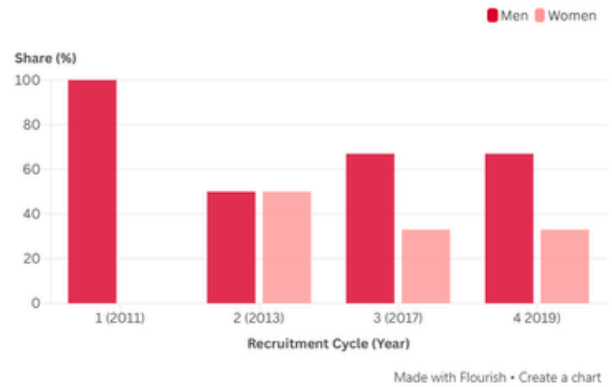


Sikkim

Civil Judge (Junior Division)



District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

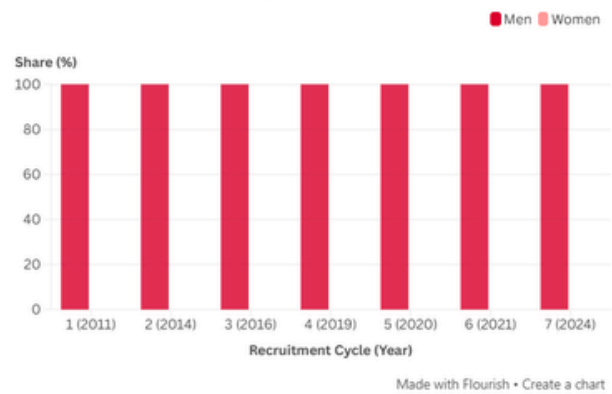


Tripura

Civil Judge (Junior Division)

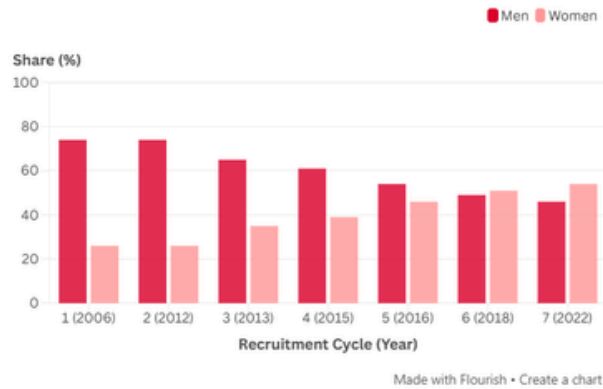


District Judge (Direct Recruitment)



Uttar Pradesh

Civil Judge (Junior Division)



No data available for District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

Uttarakhand

District Judge (Direct Recruitment)

No data available for Civil Judge (Junior Division)



Limitations

The High Courts of Allahabad, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Manipur, Meghalaya and Odisha provided only aggregate numbers and not year-wise information for the appointments made during 2018-24 to one or both of the two posts for which information was sought (Civil Judge (Junior Division) and District Judge (Direct Recruitment from Bar)).

The High Courts of Bombay and Delhi did not furnish the information on the ground that it was not maintained in the format sought. Further, the High Court of Bombay also stated that the information sought was “vague, presumptive, and interrogative in nature and cannot be termed as ‘information’ as per Section 2(f) of the RTI Act, 2005”. The High Court of Patna did not provide the requisite information on the ground that the information sought is available in the public domain on the official website of the General Administration Department, Government of Bihar. However, the appointment lists on the website pertain only to civil servants and not to judicial officers. The High Court of Telangana refused to furnish the year-wise information sought on the ground that “no larger public interest is involved”.

The High Court of Jharkhand responded noting that under Rule 3(i) of the Jharkhand High Court (Right to Information) Rules 2007, court fee stamps are the only acceptable means of payment for RTI applications. Since the JALDI team was unable to procure the relevant court fee stamps, information is not available for the State of Jharkhand for 2018-24.

No response has been received from the High Courts of Calcutta, Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, and Uttarakhand.

It must also be noted that for the State of Rajasthan in Round 1, certain figures pertaining to the number of male/female appointees to the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) for 2017 were provided. However, responses received in Round 2 additionally mentioned a varying set of figures pertaining to the number of male/female appointees for 2017, in addition to the figures for 2018-24. The present graph takes into account the figures received in Round 1.

For Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, the RTI response states that no appointments were made between 2018 and 2024 for the post of District Judge (Direct Recruitment from the Bar).

Consequently, the portal contains data for appointments for the following states and rounds of data collection:

State	Civil Judge (Jr.) Data		District Judge Data	
	Availability in Round 1 (2007-17)	Availability in Round 2 (2018-24)	Availability in Round 1 (2007-17)	Availability in Round 2 (2018-24)
Andhra Pradesh	✗	✗	✗	✗
Arunachal Pradesh	✗	✓	✗	✗
Assam	✗	✓	✗	✓
Bihar	✗	✗	✗	✗
Chhattisgarh	✓	✓	✗	✓
Delhi	✓	✗	✓	✗

State	Civil Judge (Jr.) Data		District Judge Data	
	Availability in Round 1 (2007-17)	Availability in Round 2 (2018-24)	Availability in Round 1 (2007-17)	Availability in Round 2 (2018-24)
Gujarat	✓	✓	✓	✓
Haryana	✗	✓	✗	✓
Himachal Pradesh	✗	✓	✗	✓
Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	✗	✗	✗	✗
Jharkhand	✓	✗	✓	✗
Karnataka	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kerala	✓	✓	✓	✓
Madhya Pradesh	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maharashtra	✗	✗	✗	✗
Manipur	✓	✗	✗	✗
Meghalaya	✓	✗	✓	✗
Mizoram	✓	✓	✓	✗
Nagaland	✓	✓	✗	✓
Odisha	✗	✓	✗	✗
Punjab	✗	✓	✗	✓
Rajasthan	✓	✓	✗	✓
Sikkim	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tamil Nadu	✗	✗	✗	✗
Telangana	✗	✗	✗	✗
Tripura	✓	✗	✓	✓
Uttar Pradesh	✓	✓	✗	✗
Uttarakhand	✗	✗	✓	✗
West Bengal	✗	✗	✗	✗