

**Department of Justice  
Ministry of Law and Justice**

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Guidelines of the Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms

Under the Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms, financial assistance shall be extended for undertaking action research /evaluation / monitoring studies, organising seminars / conferences / workshops, capacity building for research and monitoring activities, publication of report/material, promotion of innovative programmes/activities in the areas of Justice Delivery, Legal Research and Judicial Reforms.

**Objectives:**

The objectives of the scheme are to promote research and studies on the issues related to the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms being implemented by the Department of Justice.

**Projects/Activities eligible for financial assistance:**

Financial assistance shall be given to the eligible implementing agencies by the Department of Justice for the following projects/activities in the fields of Justice Delivery, Legal Research and Judicial Reforms:

- o To undertake action research / evaluation studies.
- o To organise seminars / workshops / conferences.
- o To undertake capacity building activity for research and monitoring activities.
- o To undertake publication of report/material.
- o To undertake promotion of innovative programmes/activities.
- o To undertake any other project/activity for the promotion of issues related to the National Mission to be decided by the Project Sanctioning Committee.

**Eligible Implementing agencies**

Indian Institute of Public Administration, Administrative Staff College of India, Indian Institute/s of Management, Indian Law Institute, National Law Universities, National Council of Applied Economic Research, National Judicial Academy, State Judicial Academies and other reputed institutions working in the field of justice delivery, legal education and research and judicial reforms.

The Project Sanctioning Committee shall be empowered to allow any Government or Government aided Institute/Organisation as eligible implementing agency, if found suitable for undertaking project/activity permissible under the scheme.

**Pattern of Assistance**

Financial assistance shall be given, on agreed terms and conditions, to the eligible implementing agency on the basis of Project Proposal submitted by such agency indicating the project cost. The financial assistance may be given in instalments and at least 10% of the project cost may be kept for payment as final instalment on acceptance of the final project report by the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, Department of Justice. The financial assistance would be limited to actual expenditure incurred by the grantee institution, subject to overall ceiling of Rs.25.00 lakhs. In exceptional cases, however, where the scope of the Project is sufficiently wide, sample size is large and Project is for longer duration, the Project Sanctioning Committee may relax this ceiling.



### **Project Proposal**

The project proposal shall be invited by the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, Department of Justice from the selected implementing agencies for identified subjects, which shall include following information as terms and conditions of the project:

- Title of the project:
- Name of the implementing agency:
- Details of Principal Coordinator (Name, Designation and Research Experience):
- Objectives:
- Methodology:
- Duration (with specific timelines for initiation of project, submission of interim progress report, presentation before submission of final report and submission of final report) :
- Project cost, with detailed break up:

### **Project Sanctioning Committee**

All project proposals shall be placed before the Project Sanctioning Committee for consideration and approval. The composition of the Project Sanctioning Committee shall be as under:

Secretary, Department of Justice	Chairman
Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, DoJ	Member
Secretary General, Supreme Court	Member
Joint Secretary and Mission Director, DoJ	Member
Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India	Member
Director, Indian Law Institute	Member
Director, National Judicial Academy	Member
Director/Deputy Secretary (National Mission), DoJ	Member Secretary

While considering the proposals from Indian Law Institute (ILI) and National Judicial Academy (NJA), the Directors of the concerned Institute / Academy shall recuse from deliberations of Project Sanctioning Committee in respect of their proposals.

### **Procedure for Approval of the Project**

The invited Proposals from the selected institutes/organisations on the identified subjects shall be placed before Project Sanctioning Committee for consideration and approval. The decision of Project Sanctioning Committee shall be final and binding. The approved Project Proposals shall then be submitted to the Integrated Finance Division of Ministry of Law and Justice for approving the project/s and release of funds. Each instalment shall be released on the approval of Integrated Finance Division.

### **Utilisation Certificate**

The implementing agency shall be required to submit Utilisation Certificate, as prescribed by the Department of Justice, for the funds received from the Department of Justice for undertaking the project.

### **Dispute Redressal**

Any dispute relating to any project shall be decided by the Secretary (Justice) and Mission Leader, National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms, Department of Justice, which shall be binding on the implementing agency.

  
(C. K. Reejonia)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

## **AN INDICATIVE LIST OF TOPICS FOR ACTION RESEARCH AND STUDIES ON JUDICIAL REFORMS WHICH COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY LAW UNIVERSITIES**

1. Study on major bottlenecks in procedural laws affecting expeditious conclusion of criminal trials and measures needed to remove such bottlenecks.
2. Study on implementation of Section 89 of Code of Civil Procedure relating to use of ADR mechanisms for early and effective resolution of civil disputes.
3. Development of a scientific framework for measuring the performance parameters of subordinate courts.
4. Impact assessment of computerization of courts in reducing pendency and improving justice delivery.
5. Identifying the bottlenecks responsible for causing delay in disposal of civil cases in courts and possible policy and procedural changes necessary for reduction of pendency.
6. A study on Court Management techniques for improving the efficiency of subordinate courts.
7. A study to identify constraints and challenges in implementation of provision relating to plea bargaining in Code of Criminal Procedure and to suggest measures for their effective implementation.
8. Re-engineering procedures of process service for reducing delays in court proceedings.
9. Improving effectiveness of Gram Nyayalayas and accelerating the implementation of Gram Nyayalayas Scheme.
10. An assessment on implementation of legislative provisions contained in Code of Criminal Procedure and other laws for protection of under trials and other marginalized sections of society.
11. Role of Clinical Legal Education in improving the quality of legal education and increasing access to justice to the marginalized.
12. Role of Audio-Video recording of court proceedings in increasing transparency and efficiency of judicial systems.
13. Study to recommend changes in the existing legal education system in India and existing system of admission of lawyers to the bar including other bar reforms.
14. Comparative study of international best practices in the role of continuing legal education in training of practicing advocates.
15. Analysis of causes for pendency and classification of cases pending in High Courts/Subordinate Courts.

