

## Family Courts

The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for establishment of Family Courts by the State Governments in consultation with the High courts with a view to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for matters connected therewith. Under Section 3(1)(a) of the Family Courts Act, it is mandatory for the State Governments to set up a Family Court for every area in the State comprising a city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States, the Family Courts may be set up if the State Governments deems it necessary.

2. The main objectives and reasons for setting up of Family Courts are:

- (1) To create a Specialized Court which will exclusively deal with family matters so that such a court may have the necessary expertise to deal with these cases expeditiously. Thus expertise and expedition are two main factors for establishing such a court;
- (ii) To institute a mechanism for conciliation of the disputes relating to family;
- (iii) To provide an inexpensive remedy; and
- (iv) To have flexibility and an informal atmosphere in the conduct of proceedings.

3. In March, 2015, it was decided to converge the Family Court Scheme (Plan) with the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for infrastructure facilities for Subordinate Judiciary. The Family Court (Non-Plan) Scheme under which Rs.2296.43 lakh was given to States as requested for the same, has been discontinued from 2016-17 as this is the responsibility of the State concerned. The States have been informed vide letter number 11021/4/2015-Jus-II dated 12.11.2015 which may be seen at Annexure-I. The amount is in fraction due to adjustment of unspent balance of previous year release. There was provision of release of Rs.5.00 lakh per court under this scheme.

5. As per the reports received from the State Governments, 438 Family Courts are functional in the country at present as given below:-

**NUMBER OF FAMILY COURTS FUNCTIONAL**

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Name of the State</b> | <b>Number of Family Courts functional in the State</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1            | Andhra Pradesh           | 14   |
| 2            | Arunachal Pradesh        | -  |
| 3            | Assam                    | 03   |
| 4            | Bihar                    | 39   |
| 5            | Chhattisgarh             | 19   |
| 6            | Delhi                    | 15   |
| 7            | Goa                      | -  |
| 8            | Gujarat                  | 17   |
| 9            | Haryana                  | 07   |
| 10           | Himachal Pradesh         | -  |
| 11           | Jammu & Kashmir          | -  |
| 12           | Jharkhand                | 21   |
| 13           | Karnataka                | 27   |
| 14           | Kerala                   | 28   |
| 15           | Madhya Pradesh           | 44   |
| 16           | Maharashtra              | 22   |
| 17           | Manipur                  | 05   |
| 18           | Meghalaya                | -  |
| 19           | Mizoram                  | 04   |
| 20           | Nagaland                 | 02   |
| 21           | Odisha                   | 17   |
| 22           | Punjab                   | 7  |
| 23           | Puducherry               | 01   |
| 24           | Rajasthan                | 28   |
| 25           | Sikkim                   | 04   |
| 26           | Tamil Nadu               | 14   |
| 27           | Telangana                | 12   |
| 28           | Tripura                  | 03   |
| 29           | Uttar Pradesh            | 76   |
| 30           | Uttarakhand              | 7  |
| 31           | West Bengal              | 02   |
|              | <b>Total</b>             | <b>438</b>   |