

Justice in Limbo: Examining the Ripple Effects of Delayed Criminal Trials on Prisoners, Overcrowded Prisons, and Rehabilitation in India

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ABSTRACT

Justice is often delayed in India's criminal justice system, leading to dire consequences for undertrial prisoners, overcrowded prisons, and inadequate rehabilitation. Despite constitutional guarantees under Article 21, thousands of prisoners remain incarcerated without conviction due to prolonged trials. As per **Prison Statistics India 2022**, 75.5% of India's prison population comprises undertrials, a sharp increase from previous years. Delayed trials not only violate human rights but also contribute to prison overcrowding, leading to inhumane living conditions and inadequate access to rehabilitation programs. The Supreme Court, in **Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1980)**, reaffirmed that a speedy trial is integral to the right to life and liberty, yet judicial vacancies, frequent adjournments, and police inefficiencies continue to obstruct timely justice. Overcrowding strains prison infrastructure, further diminishing the effectiveness of correctional programs and increasing recidivism. This paper critically examines the systemic inefficiencies causing delays in criminal trials and their cascading effects on prisoners, the penal system, and societal reintegration. It also proposes judicial, procedural, and policy reforms, including enhanced judge-population ratios, fast-track courts, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and improved investigative procedures. Urgent interventions are necessary to uphold justice and ensure that incarceration serves its intended purpose—rehabilitation, not indefinite punishment.

Keywords: Overcrowding, Criminal Trials, Rehabilitation

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“punishments like imprisonment — mere loss of liberty — has never functioned without a certain additional element of punishment that certainly concerns the body itself: rationing of food, sexual deprivation, corporal punishment, solitary confinement... There remains, therefore, a trace of ‘torture’ in the modern mechanisms of criminal justice.”

-Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison

Introduction

Justice, in its broadest sense means that people get what they “deserve”. In the Criminal Justice system,

the idea of justice is not just limited to the victim, but also extends to the perpetrator or accused. As the age-old saying goes “justice delayed is justice denied”, it is fair to interpret that delay in criminal trial can be seen as denial of justice. This delay undermines the very principle of fairness and equity on which the Criminal Justice System is supposed to operate.

In India, the consequences of delayed criminal trials are far-reaching, impacting the lives of undertrial prisoners, as well the prison institutions that is meant to rehabilitate the offenders. According to the latest available Prison Statistics India, 2022 published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)¹, there are 63502 undertrial prisoners who have been confined for more than 1 year in the jails of the country . The number of undertrial prisoners is a direct reflection on the delay in criminal trials as these prisoners are often waiting for the case to conclude and either get acquitted or convicted.

This delay in criminal trial also leads to overcrowding in prisons, inhumane conditions and denial of basic rights. This further leads to compromising the purpose of incarceration which is to rehabilitate and reform the offenders. The repercussions of delayed trials ripple through society, eroding public trust in the judiciary and also violating the constitution guarantees of life and liberty under Article 21 of The Indian Constitution. There is no doubt that the machinery of justice needs to be efficient as well as speedy to ensure the best results for all the stakeholders involved. This article seeks to analyse the profound impact of delayed criminal trials on prisoners, prisons, and rehabilitation in India.

Magnitude of Delayed Criminal Trials

The number of people lodged in Indian prisons as under trials increased at a faster rate between 2001 and 2019 than those convicted².

Despite the promise of Article 21, that no person shall be denied life or liberty except by the due process of law, the NCRB data reveals that the number of those dying in prison as they await their trials is only going up. According to the Prison Statistics India, 2019³, the number of Convicts, Under trial inmates and Detenues were reported as 1,44,125, 3,30,487 and 3,223 respectively accounting for 30.11%, 69.05% and 0.67% respectively at the end of 2019. The number of under trial prisoners has increased from 3,23,537 in 2018 to 3,30,487 in 2019 (as on 31st December of each year), having increased by 2.15% during this period.

Similarly, according to the Prison Statistics India, 2022,⁴ the number of Convicts, Undertrial inmates, and Detenues were reported as 1,39,488, 4,33,003, and 1,865 respectively, accounting for 24.3%, 75.5%, and 0.3% of the total prison population at the end of 2022. The number of undertrial prisoners increased from 3,30,487 in 2019 to 4,33,003 in 2022 (as on 31st December of each year), marking an increase of approximately 31% during this period.

The Supreme Court has made speedy trials an important part of the Fundamental Rights by reading it as a part of Article 21 in the *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India*, (1978)⁵ case and again in *Hussainara Khatoon*

¹ National Crime Records Bureau. (2023). *Prison Statistics India 2022*. Ministry of Home Affairs. <https://www.data.gov.in/catalog/prison-statistics-india-psi-2022>

² The Hindu. (2020, September 10). *Data | 70% prisoners in India are undertrials*. Retrieved January 20, 2025, from <https://www.thehindu.com/data/data-70-prisoners-in-india-are-undertrials/article32569643.ece>

³ National Crime Records Bureau. (2020). *Prison Statistics India 2019*. Ministry of Home Affairs. <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/prison-statistics-india-2019>

⁴ National Crime Records Bureau. (2023). *Prison Statistics India 2022*. Ministry of Home Affairs. <https://www.data.gov.in/catalog/prison-statistics-india-psi-2022>

⁵ Supreme Court of India. (1978). *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India*, AIR 1978 SC 597.

v. *State of Bihar*, (1980)⁶. In *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar*, (1980) Justice P.N Bhagwati said- "There is also one other infirmity of legal and judicial system which is responsible for this gross denial of justice to the under trial prisoners and that is the notorious delay in disposal of cases. It is a bad reflection on the legal and judicial system that the trial of an accused should not even commence for a long number of years. Even a delay of one year in the commencement of the trial is bad enough; how much worse could it be when the delay is as long as 3 or 5 or 7 or even 10 years. Speedy trial is of the essence of criminal justice and there can be no doubt that delay in trial by itself constitutes denial of justice"

In *State of Maharashtra v. Champalal Punjaji Shah*⁷ the court observed that: "The right to speedy trial is implicit in the right to fair trial which has been held to be part of the right to the life and liberty guaranteed by Art. 21 of the Constitution. A delayed trial is necessarily an unfair trial if nothing is shown. . ." Further, in the *Sheela Barse and Ors. v. Union of India and Ors*⁸, it was re-affirmed that the "right to speedy trial is a fundamental right implicit in Article 21 of the Constitution".

Krishna Iyer in *Babu Singh And Ors vs The State Of U.P*⁹ said "Our justice system even in grave cases, suffers from slow motion syndrome which is lethal to 'fair trial' whatever the ultimate decision. Speedy justice is a component of social justice since the community, as a whole, is concerned in the criminal being finally punished within a reasonable time and the innocent being absolved from the inordinate ordeal of criminal proceedings."

Impact of Delayed in Criminal Trials

"Law should not sit limply, while those who defy it go free and those who seek its protection lose hope"¹⁰
The Indian Criminal Justice System is that of an Accusatorial type, which means the benefit of doubt is given to the accused and he/she is "presumed to be innocent, until proven guilty". However, the rising number of cases that keep the accused in jails while the cases wait to reach their final verdict puts a major question on this type of criminal justice system and its true meaning. It is the obligation of the Criminal Justice System to do right by the people who come to it with hope for the redressal of their issues. In failing to do so, they not only allow people to lose hope in the system, but also take away their right to have free, fair and quick justice. Here, it is important to note that delay in criminal trial not only causes victims to suffer, but also the accused as they lose their right to life and liberty as the case remains pending.

IMPACT ON SOCIETY

Pending cases also impact the society as a whole as people often lose trust in the system. There is a feeling of insecurity and fear. In such cases, the citizens might take law in their own hand. Cases of mob justice are an example of this. Delays in criminal trials also has an impact on the correction and rehabilitation of the offender. Due to lack of proper attention to the prisoner in the prison due to overcrowding, which is caused because of delays in criminal trials, no proper correction and rehabilitation programmes are run on the prisoner. The prisoner after being released from prison then engages in the life of crime once again. This is proven from the fact that the recidivism rate is 4.8% according to the Crime In India, 2020¹¹. This creates a havoc in the social order of the society.

⁶Supreme Court of India. (1979). *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar*, AIR 1979 SC 136

⁷ National Crime Records Bureau. (1981). *State of Maharashtra v. Champalal Punjaji Shah*, AIR 1981 SC 1675.

⁸ Supreme Court of India. (1986). *Sheela Barse & Anr. v. Union of India & Ors.*, AIR 1986 SC 1773.

⁹ Supreme Court of India. (1978). *Babu Singh and Others v. State of Uttar Pradesh*, AIR 1978 SC 527.

¹⁰ *Jennison v. Baker*, (1972) 1 All ER 997 (UK)

¹¹ National Crime Records Bureau. (2021). *Crime in India 2020: Statistics*. Ministry of Home Affairs. <https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/CII%202020%20Volume%201.pdf>

The victims are the most affected by the delays in criminal trials. In cases of sexual abuse, the prolonged trials leads to “re-victimisation and ignominy” for the victims.

IMPACT ON THE ACCUSED

The undertrials in prisons are not only denied their liberty and freedom while their fate is being decided but are also at a disadvantage because their imprisonment itself has many negative impacts. If a case drags on for years and the accused is later found not guilty, they have already lost hope in the justice system and suffered financially, socially, and psychologically. In many cases, the accused is the sole breadwinner, and delays not only impact them financially but also harm their family members.

Today, prisons are viewed as correctional institutions, and the years spent in jail should be with a view to providing rehabilitation to the prisoner after the sentence is over. However, undertrials, even after spending years in jail, may not undergo proper rehabilitation or reformation programs. The pendency of criminal trials and the overuse of pre-trial detention lead to prison overcrowding, making effective rehabilitation nearly impossible.

Impact of Overcrowding on Rehabilitation and Welfare

The Prison Statistics 2020¹² states that the occupancy rate in Indian prisons is 118%, carrying 74,478 prisoners beyond its actual capacity. The number of undertrial prisoners increased from 3,30,487 in 2019 to 4,33,003 in 2022, marking a 31% increase. Due to delayed criminal trials, undertrial prisoners remain in jail longer, increasing overcrowding. As a result, rehabilitation programs suffer, prisoners are denied basic amenities, and officials fail to carry out welfare measures effectively. Overcrowded prisons also create administrative problems, making it difficult to maintain security and provide essential services.

The failure to separate undertrials from hardened criminals, despite mandates in the Model Prison Manual, further worsens rehabilitation efforts. Incarcerated individuals often lack access to proper medical care, hygienic conditions, and adequate food, leading to severe human rights violations. Thousands of prisoners die every year due to neglect, yet prison authorities are rarely held accountable.

Rehabilitation Efforts and Challenges

In 2020, a total of 1,09,516 prisoners were released, but only 1,490 convicts were rehabilitated, and 1,213 prisoners received financial support on release¹³. NGOs working in prison welfare struggle to provide attention to all prisoners, and their presence is uneven across states. For instance, Delhi had 30,252 NGOs working in 2020, whereas states like Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Telangana, and Manipur had none. This disparity leaves many prisoners without proper support upon release, making reintegration into society difficult.

As court cases continue to pile up, more individuals are denied timely justice, leading to severe violations of fundamental human rights. Delayed trials result in an increasing number of undertrial prisoners, exacerbating prison overcrowding and preventing correctional reform. Without systemic changes to reduce trial delays, prisoners remain trapped in a cycle of ineffective rehabilitation, making reintegration into society even harder and increasing the likelihood of reoffending.

Issues leading to delays in criminal trials

¹² National Crime Records Bureau. (2021). *Prison statistics India 2020*. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/prison-statistics>

¹³ National Crime Records Bureau. (2021). *Prison statistics India 2020*. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/prison-statistics>

The rising number of undertrial in our prisons is a direct indication of a major flaw in the Criminal Justice System of our country. Delayed trials are cases that have spent more time in the courts than they typically should have. One of the major reasons for this rising trend is the delays in criminal trials. Cases drag on for years and years without any easy resolution and the under trials are forgotten in the prison. There are structural and procedural bottlenecks in our criminal justice system that have not been corrected despite the recent concerns and demands from various stakeholders including the apex court.

ISSUES IN THE JUDICIARY

• *Large number of vacancies in the courts*

In the early years of 1958, the 14th Report of the Law Commission of India¹⁴ on “Reform of Judicial Administration”, mentioned that the “root cause” of problem that causes delay was the inadequate judge strength. Currently, there are more than 327 posts lying vacant against the collective sanctioned strength of 1114 judges¹⁵. This leads to a judge population ratio of 21 judges per million people in 2024, according to answer given by Ministry of Law & Justice in The Parliament¹⁶. One judge is available for an area of 157 sq. kilometres of the Indian territorial land. Whereas, a country like China has 300 judges per 1 million population, Australia has 60 per million and United States has 110 per million. In the 120th Report of the Law Commission of India¹⁷, it was stated that India needed 50 judges per one million population to be able to meet the demands of the people. The overburdened justice system causes undue delays that has led to reduced trust of the citizens in the entire judicial process. Such delays in the criminal cases adversely affects the life of the victims who is in dire need of immediate relief as well as the accused who is languishing in prison and has his/her liberty and freedom curtailed. The inadequate number of judges also extends the trial inevitably and leads to the accused suffering due to the same. This also has an impact on the undertrials who are in the need of bail but cannot avail the same due to paucity of judicial officers.

• *Lengthy Arguments and Frequent Adjournments*

P.Sathasivam, Former Chief Justice of India had remarked “*Time and again it has been pointed out that unduly long oral arguments are the prime reasons for delay in disposal of cases... A time limit on oral arguments would encourage crisp and brief arguments and would coerce the lawyers to be better prepared with their cases*” Arguments that stretch on without time limit often increases the time taken to resolve a case. Frequent adjournment of cases for have are most stressful and frustrating reasons for why a case drags on for years. More than 50% cases do not follow the procedure of maximum three adjournment per case as stated in the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure), 1973. In Shiv Cotex v. Tirgun Auto Plast Private Limited and others¹⁸, it was held that “*It is high time that courts become sensitive to delays in justice delivery system and realize that adjournments do dent the efficacy of the judicial process and if this menace is not controlled adequately, the litigant public may lose faith in the system sooner than later. The*

¹⁴ Law Commission of India. (1958). *Reform of judicial administration (14th Report, Vol. I & II)*. Ministry of Law, Government of India.

¹⁵ Supreme Court Observer. (2024, February 25). *High Court vacancies remain unaddressed: Only three out of 25 functioning at full strength*. Supreme Court Observer. <https://www.scobserver.in/journal/high-court-vacancies-remain-unaddressed-only-three-out-of-25-functioning-at-full-strength>

¹⁶ Lok Sabha Secretariat. (2024). *Unstarred question no. 1335: High court vacancies* [PDF]. Government of India. Retrieved from <https://sansad.in/getFile/loksabhaquestions/annex/1715/AU1335.pdf?source=pqals>

¹⁷ Law Commission of India. (1987). *120th report on manpower planning in judiciary: A blueprint* [Report]. Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. Retrieved from <https://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/reports/120Report.pdf>

¹⁸ Shiv Cotex v. Tirgun Auto Plast Private Limited & Others, (2011) 9 SCC 678.

courts, particularly trial courts, must ensure that on every date of hearing, effective progress takes place in the suit.”

- **Poor infrastructure**

Inadequate infrastructure in terms of number of courts and overcrowded courtrooms coupled with fewer judges, adds to the growing problem of delays in criminal trials. According to “Subordinate Judiciary- Access to Justice 2016” a report by the Supreme Court of India, ¹⁹“the subordinate judiciary works under severe deficiency of 5,018 court rooms.” The lack of proper courtrooms force the judges to work in undesirable condition. In 2000, the 11th Finance Commission had recommended the establishment of Fast Track Courts to bring down “pendency in the district and subordinate courts over the next five years”. However, the number of pending cases have not come down and have increased over the years. The Department of Justice in 2019 came up with a scheme of setting 1023 fast track courts to ensure quick disposal of rape and POCSO cases. However, it has been seen that there are still over 240,000 pending cases of rape and POCSO. The issue of poor infrastructure becomes even more worrisome as the Indian Judiciary has not yet taken full advantage of the technological advancement and gadgets that are now available. The Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS) is an online web portal created by Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice as a part of the e-governance initiative. It is used to monitor cases involving the Central Government of India. This is an important initiative as the Government is one of the biggest litigants in India. According to the LIMBS website, there are currently 520854 cases pending in the courts related to the Government. The website is a comprehensive and updated method of keeping track of cases as well as reducing the amount of pendency. The number of pending cases have reduced from the year 2018 and have been falling every year, showing how technology can actually curb the number of pending cases. It is important that a portal such as LIMBS with its advanced methods and technologies be rolled out for all the cases in the various courts of India.

ISSUES IN INVESTIGATION

The job of the police is to prevent and detect crime. The Indian Police Act, 1861 defines the job and roles of a police officer. However, the overall conduct of the police is often seen in a negative light. The two major issues of “police inaction” and “police in action” is of importance. At one hand, police might not even register FIRs, complete investigation, file chargesheet on time and on the other, they step beyond their rights, torture, take bribes or are corrupt. The Jessica Lal Murder Case or the Manu Sharma v. State is a vital case to understand the inaction of police and how they failed to perform their duty in the first place. It was not the only case that highlighted the highly corrupt nature of police officials. Other than low motivation to solve cases and highly rampant unethical ways that lead to delay in criminal trials or even in proper conviction, there are some fundamental and technical issues that also lead to the delay in criminal trials.

- **Low police population**

The ratio of police personnel per lakh persons is 152.80²⁰ in India (Hindustan Times, 2023), which has been highlighted in the various police reform committees that have been formed and all have suggested

¹⁹ Centre for Research & Planning, Supreme Court of India. (2016). *Subordinate Courts of India: A Report on Access to Justice*. New Delhi: Supreme Court of India.

²⁰ Hindustan Times. (2023, April 6). *Police-public ratio stands at 152.80 per lakh person, govt informs Parliament*. Hindustan Times. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/police-public-ratio-stands-at-152-80-per-lakh-person-govt-informs-parliament-101680162971094.html>

filling the number of vacancies in the police force. This leads to delayed investigation and late filing of charge sheet. This delay then translates into long drawn trials that drag on for years, while the Under trials languish in the jail.

- ***Lack of modern equipment***

There are also infrastructural problems in investigation because the police forces lack the important equipment, cameras etc. that are needed for proper investigation. Even though the Government of India through its e- Governance programme of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) has attempted to ensure that every police station is digitally connected and use information technology for better delivery of citizen centric services, it has not been very successful. Most of the times the internet does not work and the FIRs/ reports are not fed into the computer network promptly.

- ***Frequent transfers of Investigating Officers***

Frequent transfers and postings of the Investigating Officers also acts as a major destabilizing factor that leads to pendency of cases. This also compromises the quality of investigation that may further have an impact on the trial in the courts. According to the report “Problems in the criminal investigation with reference to increasing acquittals: A Study of Criminal Law and Practice in Andhra Pradesh” the frequent transfers of Investigating Officers also act as a hindrance in the criminal investigation causing unnecessary delays.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE WITH CHANGING NATURE OF CRIME

The nature of crime has undergone drastic change over the years and the changing nature of crime has made it difficult for proper progression of the investigation as well as the trial as the stakeholders lack the correct expertise and knowledge of the crime. The current upsurge in the number of cyber-crimes have shown to be a major challenge for the police as well as the judiciary. According to data by NCRB, the pendency rate for cyber crime is about 67.8%.

The conviction rate in cybercrime cases continue to be abysmally low, further reinforcing the need for the judiciary and police to have proper knowledge and understanding of the nature of new forms of crime that are no longer bound to a particular geography. There is also a dearth of cyber experts in police stations that add to the problem of understanding the modalities of this new form of crime.

- ***Lack of training***

An important factor to ensure that the trial is carried out smoothly and expediently is that the investigating officers as well as the judges are well trained. Use of faulty investigation methods lead to more harm and delays. A major shortcoming of the investigation process is also not availing the services of a forensic experts. Forensic experts are crucial in any case and it is often their collection and analysis of evidences that can help in putting up a strong case in front of the judge. It is also important that the judge is well versed in the technicalities of forensic evidences and use his/her better judgements when considering such evidences.

There is also a dearth of forensic science laboratories and the few that exist are often overburdened and cannot give timely support to the police officers.

Recommendations and Solutions to decrease delays in Criminal Trials and increase Rehabilitation

Despite delay in criminal trial being a violation of the fundamental rights of the citizen it is still a major issue that has not been solved. Initiatives by the Judiciary, Executive and other stakeholders of the Criminal Justice System have failed to ensure that cases are dealt speedily and in a fair manner. Speedy trial is an essential part to the Criminal Justice world and has been guaranteed in the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Keeping in mind the need to have a reliable and justiciable Criminal Justice System, the following suggestions and solutions should be implemented in order to reduce the pendency of criminal trials. Reducing delays in criminal trials can result in better focus on the rehabilitation process of the criminals. Additionally, better reformation models can be formulated that result in true rehabilitation.

- The Judge- population ratio needs to be enhanced. The need of the hour is to increase the number of judges in the courts. With backlog vacancies and newer vacancies, a proper assessment should be done to fulfil the gap. The Judge- population ratio must be brought to the level of European and American countries.
- More money should be invested in improving the infrastructure of the courts. Additionally, the capital should be used to add newer infrastructure. With only 25 high courts in a country like India, it is important to make sure that more high courts are established. The condition of the courtrooms should also be improved to ensure that more cases are heard and resolved simultaneously. High courts should also have benches set in important areas of the state so that justice truly reaches each and every person. The Supreme Court currently only sits in Delhi, however it is allowed to have more benches as stated in the Constitution of India. Hence, Supreme Court should also set more benches so that the pending cases can be resolved.
- Alternative Dispute Redressal should be used to decide petty offences. Minor cases can be easily resolved through mediation and compromise. This will help reduce the burden of the courts and also allow them to pay more attention to cases that are more serious in nature.
- The parties often plead frequent adjournments to prolong the case on one pretext or the other. These adjournments are not at all good for the criminal justice system. With the passage of time, witness may die, the accused may die, things fade out of the memory of the witnesses, the influential accused will get enough time to threaten or persuade the accused to turn hostile etc. Thus the court shall not allow adjournments as a routine matter without applying mind.
- It is often reported that the police is not an independent body and comes under pressure particularly when they are investigating the cases of high profile and influential accused. Thus the police personnel should be given protection in case if they fail to carry on the unjustifiable orders of their bosses and political leaders.
- Another way to speed up trial is to allocate cases to judges according to their specialization. A judge who has good experience of criminal law should take up criminal cases and those with experience in taxation matters shall take up taxation matters and like that. This will again lead to speedy disposal of cases as a person who is a master in his field can decide a matter without delay.
- The practice of plea bargaining as provided in the Criminal procedure Code is very seldom put into practice by the judiciary as well as the advocates. All the advanced countries, plea bargaining has become a very popular concept and in India also, the concept of plea bargaining should be encouraged. If the parties are willing for plea bargaining, it will save the time of the court to a great extent.
- There must be an effective computer training programme for not only the judges of subordinate courts in different parts of the country but also for the entire staff of the subordinate courts so as to make justice delivery system at the base level speedier and timely.

- There is a need for effective case management system so as to control the rising number of new cases for this purpose Fast Track Courts should be extended to the level of Magistrates and all existing vacancies in courts across the country should be filled up on top priority.
- Gram Nyayalay system dealing with petty disputes at the village level should resolve the cases amicably and such courts should not be allowed to reach the complicated legal stages and procedural delays are avoided.
- The concept of pre-trial meeting to restrict issues and admissible evidence should also be taken to meet out the long and complicated procedural hurdles of the evidentiary law.
- There is an urgent need to create deterrent effect on the witnesses who do not turn up in the courts of law for evidence. Punishment for absconding witnesses should be imposed and there should be strict enforcement deadlines and restrictions on the length of arguments so as to ensue speedy trial in criminal justice system. The criminal justice system machinery must also meet the challenge of effectively dealing with the emerging forms of crime.
- India has an acute shortage of modern scientific laboratories for the timely analysis of various samples for chemical and other scientific examination. This eventually contribute to the delay in criminal trial and the courts are not in a position to speed up matters even if they want to decide the case in a time bound manner.