



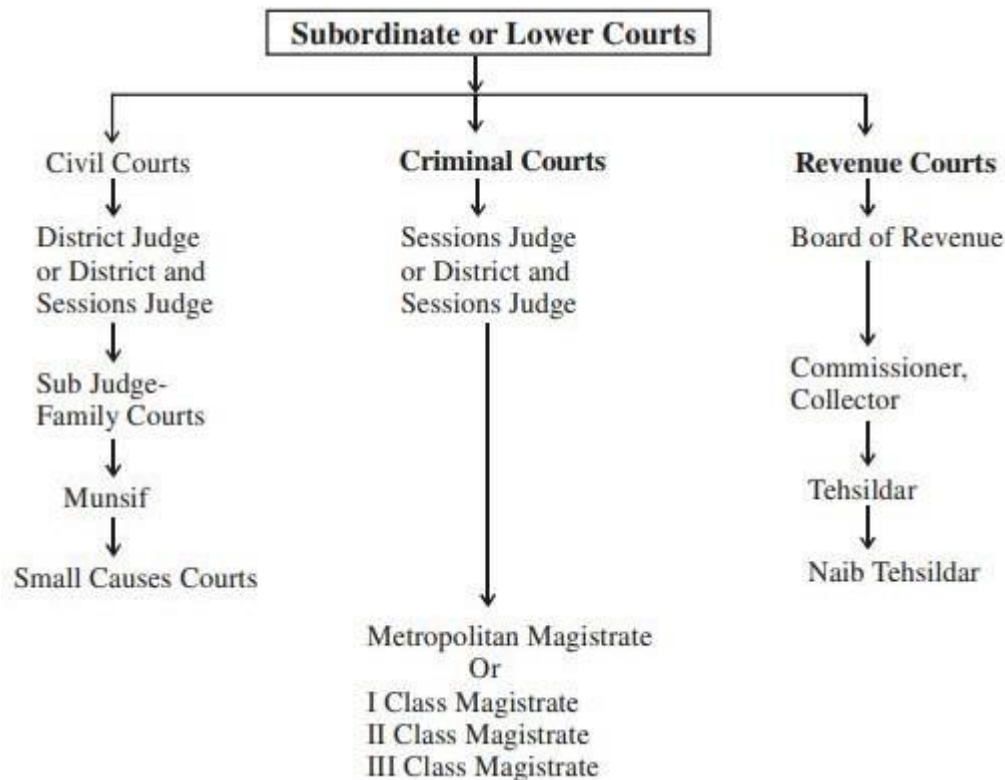
High Courts and other Subordinate Courts:

Subordinate Courts or Lower Courts

The subordinate courts are so-called because of their subordination to the state high court. In each district of India, there are various types of subordinate or lower courts. They are:

1. Civil courts,
2. Criminal courts and
3. Revenue courts.

These Courts hear civil cases, criminal cases and revenue cases, respectively.



Source – NIOS

Civil Courts

- Civil cases pertain to disputes between two or more persons regarding property, breach of agreement or contract, divorce or landlord-tenant disputes.
- Civil Courts settle these disputes. They do not award any punishment for violation of law, which is not involved in civil cases.
- The disputes relating to property, succession, ownership and other such rights come under the jurisdiction of Civil Courts, which dispose of these cases in accordance with the Civil Procedure Code.



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To read more about [Civil Courts](#), check the linked article.

Criminal Courts

- Criminal cases are related to the violation of laws.
- These cases involve theft, dacoity, rape, pickpocketing, physical assault, murder, etc. These cases are filed in the lower court by the police, on behalf of the state, against the accused.
- In such cases the accused, if found guilty, is awarded punishment like fine, imprisonment or even death sentence.
- These cases are disposed of by the Criminal Courts in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Penal Code.

To read more about [Criminal Courts](#), check the linked article.

Revenue Courts

- Revenue courts deal with cases of land revenue in the State.
- The highest revenue court in the district is the Board of Revenue.
- Under it are the Courts of Commissioners, Collectors, Tehsildars and Assistant Tehsildars.
- The Board of Revenue hears the final appeals against all the lower revenue courts under it.

Structure and Jurisdiction of Subordinate Courts

- The organisational structure, jurisdiction and nomenclature of the subordinate judiciary are laid down by the states.
- Hence, they differ slightly from state to state.
- Generally, there are three tiers of civil and criminal courts below the high court.
- The district judge is the highest judicial authority in the district. He possesses original and appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters.
- In other words, the district judge is also the **sessions judge**.
- When he deals with civil cases, he is known as a district judge and when he deals with criminal cases, he is known as a sessions judge.
- The sessions judge has the power to impose any sentence, including life imprisonment and capital punishment (death sentence).
- However, a capital punishment passed by him is subject to confirmation by the High Court, whether there is an appeal or not.
- In some states, Panchayat Courts try petty civil and criminal cases. They are variously known as Nyaya Panchayat, Gram Kutchery, Adalati Panchayat, Panchayat Adalat and so on.