



D.O. No. 15011/35/2021-Jus (AU)

Dated the 16th April, 2021

I would like to apprise you of the significant events relating to the Department of Justice for the month of March, 2021.

1. Appointment of Permanent Judges in High Court:

Nine (09) Additional Judges were appointed as Permanent Judges in Allahabad High Court during March 2021.

2. Appointment of Additional Judges in High Courts:

Twelve (12) Additional Judges were appointed in various High Courts viz. Karnataka (03), Chhattisgarh (02) and Allahabad (07) during March 2021.

3. Budget expenditure of Department in 2020-21:

For the year 2020-21, the RE of the Department was Rs.1197.73 crore including Rs.971.68 crore for various Schemes of the Department. It is stated that during the year, the Department has spent 99.78% funds allocated for Schemes and the overall expenditure of the Department was 99.13 %.

4. Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs):

Rs.24.73 crore has been released as Central share (Nirbhaya Fund) to the 08 States during the month of March, 2021. Thus, 100% funds allocated under RE 2020-21 i.e. Rs.160.00 crore stood released. 635 FTSCs including 344 exclusive POCSO courts are operational in 26 States/UTs which have disposed more than 43000 cases.

5. Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project:

- A New Virtual Court has been inaugurated by Kerala Transport Department. Over 58 lakh cases (58,29,028) have been handled by 12 Virtual Courts and in more than 13 lakhs cases online fine of more than Rs. 152 crore has been realised till 30 March 2021. Presently there are 12 Virtual courts in 9 States / UTs viz.

Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.

- The e-Committee of Supreme Court has conducted 19 online E-Committee Training (ECT) /awareness programme covering 1,67,735 participants which include Advocates and Judicial Officers during the pandemic period from May 2020 to December 2020. This has helped significantly in extending the outreach of ICT developments amongst lawyers and litigants.

6. **Ease of Doing Business:**

- With the constant follow-up of the Department of Justice, the Government of NCT, Delhi has approved creation of 42 additional Judicial Officers posts for setting up of more Dedicated Commercial Courts in Delhi.
- The new e-filing version 3.0 has been successfully launched in Maharashtra. The upgraded e-filing system enables electronic filing of legal papers with several advanced features.
- The Department of Justice in collaboration with Ministry of Corporate Affairs, NIC and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India have prepared the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to enable the Commercial Courts for electronic delivery of process and serving of e-Summons through emails and SMS alert by accessing the database of companies registered with Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). This would enable auto-generated e-summons by simply specifying the commercial court case number, CIN and DIN of the company involved in the commercial litigation. The software patch developed by NIC for consuming the database of companies has been successfully tested in Mumbai and is being tested in Delhi currently.

7. **“Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India (DISHA)”:**

- Department of Justice, has redesigned and strengthened Access to Justice by formulating **“Designing Innovative Solutions and Holistic Approaches on Access to Justice (DISHA)”** for the period 2021-2026. With an outlay of Rs 250.00 crore, DISHA aims to amalgamate and merge different Access to Justice components being executed by the Department to bridge the gaps in justice delivery. It serves three key objectives that include providing quality legal aid through Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services); reduction in more than decade old pending cases through Nyaya Mitra; changes in the mindsets and attitudes of common citizens through Legal literacy and Legal awareness programmes. A pan India Action Plan has been developed under DISHA incorporating some of the best global practices on access to justice.
- Under DISHA, Tele-Law programme will be extended to 2.5 lakh+ Gram Panchayats by 2026 adding 50,000 GPs every year so as to cover more than 90

lakh beneficiaries seeking pre-litigation legal advice. Nyaya Bandhu programme aims to enlist 35,000 Pro Bono lawyers and 80 Law Schools under the Pro Bono club scheme by 2026. 80 Nyaya Mitras for pendency reduction of old cases will be engaged during the period 2021-26. For Pan India Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness programme, 55 agencies / CSOs will be engaged during 2021-26 to reach out to approximately 55 lakh population.

8. Tele-Law:

Legal advice was provided to 75,087 persons which included 23337 Women, 20987 Scheduled Castes, 16617 Scheduled Tribes and 22387 OBC beneficiaries. The total advice enabled has touched 7,22,280 cases till 31st March, 2021. 29 training and awareness sessions have been conducted in 10 states in which 688 VLEs and 618 PLVs have participated. The 2nd edition of E-booklet on Tele-Law titled "Voices of the Beneficiaries" was released on 12th March 2021, which coincided with Bharat Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

9. Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services):

58 new lawyers registered through Nyaya Bandhu mobile application/web portal during the month. Till date 2535 lawyers have registered under this programme. 71 Pro Bono lawyers enrolled by Calcutta, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Punjab & Haryana High Courts under Nyaya Bandhu Panel during the month. 411 Pro Bono Lawyers have been enrolled by 11 High Courts so far. 6 law students of National Law University, Jabalpur joined under Pro Bono Club Scheme.

10. Access to Justice in North East and UT of J&K and Ladakh:

Jammu & Kashmir State Legal Services Authority organised 280 legal awareness programmes on 08 selected laws benefitting nearly 12,000 persons.

11. National Legal Services Authority(NALSA):

- Chandigarh SLSA in coordination with Social Welfare Department, Chandigarh Administration launched the first multidisciplinary centre "Bal Kalyan Kendra - One Stop Solution Centre for Children in conflict with Law" and "Digital Library" in the Observation cum Special Home, Chandigarh.
- On the occasion of launch of Bharat Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Legal Service Institutions organized 761 Legal Awareness programmes across various districts in the country to sensitize the tribal people and marginalized communities about their legal right and remedies available. Jharkhand SLSA helped around 3961 people under Project Manavata for assisting children in need of care and protection, Single Women, Widows and uncared senior citizens.

12. **Non-compliance of ACC directions:**

NIL

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Barun Mitra)

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Barun 1/2021 (Kv)

✓ Copy to PS to Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

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