



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

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

1. Appointment of Chief Justice in High Court:

The Chief Justice of Manipur High Court was appointed vide notification dated 12.02.2021.

2. Appointment of Permanent Judges:

Four (04) Additional Judges were appointed as Permanent Judges in Karnataka High Court vide notification dated 22.02.2021.

3. Appointment of fresh Permanent Judges and Additional Judges in High Courts:

Two (02) fresh Permanent Judges and four(04) Additional Judges were appointed in Delhi and Kerala High Courts respectively vide notifications dated 22.02.2021.

4. Extension of tenure of Additional Judge:

Tenure of Smt. Justice Pushpa Virendra Ganediwala, Additional Judge of Bombay High Court was extended for a fresh period of one year w.e.f. 13.02.2021 vide notification dated 12.02.2021.

5. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructure Development:

A sum of Rs. 6.37 crore has been released to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary during this month.

Revised Guidelines were issued on 28.01.2021 for implementation of CSS for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary, to simplify the mechanism for allowing flexibility to meet local court infrastructure needs and requirements.

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6. Gram Nyayalayas :

An online portal for monitoring the Gram Nyayalaya Scheme was started and the URL, Login ID and Password shared with the States/UTs, for uploading data on monthly basis. The portal facilitates online reporting of data including Utilization Certificates, Case Disposal Statistics and other relevant data in respect of operational Gram Nyayalayas in 12 States.

7. Fast Track Special Courts:

Rs. 45.26 crore was released as Central share (Nirbhaya Fund) to various States during this month. 616 FTSCs have become functional (including 330 exclusive POCOS courts). Minister of Law and Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Maharashtra and Kerala and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the respective High Courts for their intervention in operationalisation of FTSCs.

8. Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project:

Through virtual hearings, High Courts conducted 24,55,139 hearings and Subordinate Courts conducted 51,83,021 hearing totalling more than 76.38 lakh hearing in this manner till 31st January, 2021. Since the Covid outbreak 59,309 matters were heard through video conferencing in Supreme Court of India till 15th February, 2021.

Wide Area Network connectivity has been provided to 2938 court complexes out of a target of 2992 complexes. The Technically Not Feasible (TNF) sites have been reduced from 58 in November, 2019 to 11 in February, 2021 by working on a mission mode with BSNL. These sites by using alternative means of connectivity has led to a notional saving of Rs.95.45 crore to the national exchequer. Moreover an online dashboard and WhatsApp group has been created to monitor connectivity bottlenecks and has reduced the time taken in restoring connectivity faults.

9. Ease of Doing Business:

The High Court of Madras has constituted Special Bench (Commercial Appellate Division and Commercial Division) for resolving high value commercial disputes i.e. above Rs 500 crore. On 06.02.2021, the High Court of Karnataka inaugurated the new Commercial Court Complex which accommodates all nine Dedicated Commercial Courts in Bengaluru City.

As a result of constant follow-up, the Committee constituted on Simplification of Rules and Forms relating to Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement has prepared the first draft of the simplified Commercial Courts Rules, 2021 including rationalisation of fees.

The Committee on e-Summons has developed a new Software patch for consuming email database of companies registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and provide the same to the commercial courts in Mumbai and Delhi to facilitate sending of online summons in commercial disputes.

Three Sub-Committees were set up with representatives from Law Firms to suggest reforms and implementation modalities on Time Standards and Delays, Pre-Institution Mediation & Settlement and eCourt services. Meetings have commenced to expeditiously submit their recommendations.

10. Tele-Law:

Legal Advice was provided to 65,913 persons which included 19,668 Women, 18,248 Scheduled Castes, 14,271 Scheduled Tribes and 20,987 OBC Beneficiaries. Total advice enabled is 6,47,193 cases till 28th February, 2021. 29 Training and awareness sessions have been conducted in 10 states in which 688 VLEs and 618 PLVs participated.

11. Nyaya Bandhu (ProBono Legal Services):

107 new lawyers registered themselves through Nyaya Bandhu mobile application. Till date, a total of 2477 lawyers have registered under this programme. 54 new Pro Bono lawyers were enrolled by Calcutta, Kerala and Patna High Courts under Nyaya Bandhu Panel Programme. 29 Law Schools have associated with the Pro Bono Club Scheme till now.

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

Fifty Legal Aid Clinics were established in UTs of J&K by SLISA, J&K. 342 Legal Awareness programmes were organized during the month covering 08 selected laws which benefitted 17,860 citizens. SLISA Arunachal Pradesh established 10 Legal Aid Clinics in Arunachal Pradesh in 10 districts.

13. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

E-Lok Adalats were organized by all the 24 DLSAs wherein 1945 cases including 133 pre-litigation cases were disposed off.

Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalat through hybrid mode was scheduled on 27.02.21 at the High Court and District Court level by Madhya Pradesh SLSA wherein 2161 cases were disposed off.

14. Non-compliance of ACC directions:

NIL

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(Barun Mitra)

Shri Rajiv Gauba
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16/3/2021

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

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