

## **DELHI HIGH COURT: NEW DELHI**

### **Statement of various ICT initiatives of Delhi High Court**

#### **e-Court:**

Delhi High Court launched its first paper-less e-Court system on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 on pilot basis and after successful functioning of e-Court and overwhelming support of the initiative by all the stakeholders more and more courts were converted into e-Court and as of March, 2020, twenty courts of Delhi High Court were functioning as e-Courts.

In e-Courts, the case files are provide in digital/PDF format (in the form of portfolios) and the Hon'ble Judge(s) presiding over e-Court view the case files on Wacom Cintiq Pro 32 system and also use 'Stylus Pen' and 'OneNote' to make notes.

In effect, since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in India in March, 2020, all the courts of Delhi High Court have been functioning as e-Courts and have been conducting the court proceedings through video conference, in addition to physical hearings from time to time as per roster.

The technical infrastructures of e-court system have been used to conduct the court proceedings through video conference by using Cisco Webex software during the pandemic.

#### **Hybrid system of hearing:**

Delhi High Court has also introduced a hybrid system of hearing alongside physical hearing for the benefits of Advocates/litigants. During the physical hearings, the willing Advocates/litigants are provided the facility to join the physical hearings through video conference from the comfort of their homes/offices enabled by 'Hybrid System of hearings' wherein one

Advocate/party may join the court proceedings through virtual mode while the other is present physically in the court room.

**Online e-Filing System:**

‘Online e-Filing System of Delhi High Court’ was e-inaugurated on 13th June, 2020 by Hon’ble Mr. Justice D.N. Patel, Chief Justice, Delhi High Court whereby the Advocates/parties-in-person can e-file fresh cases as well as applications, replies, rejoinders, documents, etc. in pending cases from the comfort of their homes/offices at any time convenient to them.

To facilitate smooth e-filing of cases, ‘e-Filing Centres’ are available in Delhi High Court for Advocates/litigants.

Besides, ‘e-Filing Centres’ of Delhi High Court have also been established at all the District Court Complexes of Delhi and the Advocates/litigants can take recourse to these Designated Counters.

Presently, all the cases in Delhi High Court are filed through ‘Online e-Filing System’ only.

However, vide Circular No. 16/Filing/DHC/2022 dated 05.01.2022, it has been directed as under:

“In view of Covid-19, presently all the cases in this Court are being filed through E-filing Module only. However, it is hereby circulated for information of all concerned that Hon'ble the Chief Justice on the recommendation of the Hon'ble IT Committee, has been pleased to make the E-filing compulsory in Delhi High Court from 17th January 2022 for the Central Government, State Government, Local Government/Bodies all Instrumentalities of the State, all

PSUs, in respect of all cases/petitions, appeals and revisions against the judgment/order of the subordinate courts even after the physical filing is resumed in this Court.”

Presently, e-filing is done as per e-filing practice directions. However, “e-Filing Rules of the High Court of Delhi 2021” have been approved by the Hon’ble Full Court and further approval has also been obtained from Hon’ble Lt. Governor of NCT of Delhi and the same will be notified shortly.

It is pertinent to mention here that intranet-based e-filing system was launched in Delhi High Court on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 and e-filing was mandatory in Company, Taxation and Arbitration jurisdictions.

**Link for Urgent Mentioning:**

A separate web link has been launched by Delhi High Court for the purpose of mentioning of urgent matters and obtaining ‘Reference Number’ for urgent listing of matters.

**e-RTI Portal:**

Delhi High Court has recently launched its e-RTI portal to file RTI applications/first appeals online in Delhi High Court along with payment gateway. Payment can be made through internet banking of SBI & its associate banks, debit cards and BHIM UPI. Through this portal, RTI applications/first appeals can be filed by Indian Citizens for High Court of Delhi only.

**Telepresence system:**

The state-of-the-art Telepresence facility was inaugurated in Delhi High Court on 25th April, 2019, thereby making it the first High Court in the country

to have such high-tech video teleconferencing tools for conducting judicial proceedings.

To demonstrate the potential of the system, the inauguration of Telepresence room was conducted by simultaneously connecting it from different locations of the Court. Some Hon'ble Judges were connected from 'Judges' Lounge', whereas some persons were connected from other locations through different devices, i.e. Mobile, Laptop, Tablet, etc.

The Telepresence room is also fitted with the camera/document visualizer for sharing any document with the participants. The system can easily integrate with the traditional video-conferencing system, IP phones and smart devices like desktops, laptops, tablets and mobile phones, using the hardware and software capabilities.

In the past, the Telepresence system was used for conducting court proceedings, including recording of evidence of witnesses residing anywhere in the world in pursuance of orders of the Courts, as also virtual meetings.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to court proceedings, the Telepresence facility has also been used to its full potential to organize virtual meetings of Hon'ble Full Court and various Hon'ble Administrative Committees of the Court, including online interactions with District & Sessions Judges and Judicial Officers for administrative works and ACR recordings.

The Telepresence system is also used to organize online training to Advocates as well as conducting webinar on various topics.

### **Digitization:**

Delhi High Court started scanning and digitization of case files way back in 2006, initially with decided cases and later on digitization of pending cases

was also started. Till now, more than 17 Cr. pages have been scanned and digitized.

The availability of case records in digital format was proved to be very helpful during the virtual hearings.

### **Helpline Number 14611:**

A dedicated Helpline Number '14611' has also been started by Delhi High Court to ensure quick resolution of any complaint or query from the Advocates/litigants related to Online e-Filing as well as video conferencing.

### **New software for uploading of orders/judgments:**

New softwares for uploading of orders and judgments have been developed whereby Private Secretaries/Addl. Private Secretaries/Senior Personal Assistants/Personal Assistants attached with the Hon'ble Courts can upload orders and judgments on the website of Delhi High Court from the comfort of their homes.

Delhi High Court has also introduced a new feature of uploading of orders and judgments in txt format on the website w.e.f. 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, in addition of pdf format.

### **Virtual Display Board:**

A new 'Virtual Display Board' system has been developed in-house to display the status of matters being heard through video conferencing by the Hon'ble Courts, in addition to 'Physical Display Board'.

### **e-Sewa Kendra:**

e-Sewa Kendra has been inaugurated in Delhi High Court on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 to provide various types of information to Advocates/litigants

as also provide assistance in availing of various ICT enabled initiatives of the Court e.g. e-Filing, Video Conference, etc.

### **Justice Clock:**

Delhi High Court has installed its 'Justice Clock' at opposite Gate No. 7, Delhi High Court for the benefit of the citizens/lawyers/litigants.

### **QR Code-based Entry Pass System:**

Delhi High Court has initiated the QR code-based digital entry pass system for lawyers who are entering the courtroom premises and attending physical hearings from January 25, 2021. QR code-based digital passes are generated and issued digitally by the High Court Registry one day in advance on the basis of listing of cases before the benches holding physical hearings. The Passes are received by all the concerned advocates and parties-in-person, who have got their mobile numbers and email IDs registered in the 'Case Information System' of the Court. The QR pass is sent as an attachment (PDF file) through email and SMS. The concerned advocate and party-in-person is required to download the attached digital entry pass (PDF file) on her or his Mobile/Laptop/Tablet/iPad from the email or SMS link, and show such downloaded QR Pass to the security personnel at the Entry Gate(s) of respective court building(s) while entering as well as making exit. There is no requirement of generating any printout of such QR Pass and it is valid for the day for which it is issued and can be used only once that day.

### **e-Court Fee:**

Delhi High Court had opened a counter for sale of e-court fee and stamp papers through M/s. Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd. on 20.11.2012.

Thereafter, e-court fee counters have been opened in all the District Courts for sale of court fee and stamp papers. The facility of purchase of e-court

fee online from the website of M/s. Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd has also been provided w.e.f. 22.07.2013. The Online e-Filing System of Delhi High Court is integrated with the portal of M/s. Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd and all the e-court fees filed in Delhi High Court are locked by the Registry through software so that it couldn't be re-used.

### **Mobile App:**

This Official Mobile App of Delhi High Court was launched on 26th September 2019 by Hon'ble the Chief Justice D.N. Patel. The Mobile App provides Case Status, Display Board, Cause List, Supreme Court Display Board and Access to important links of Delhi High Court website etc. The Mobile App also provides some special features under 'Advocate Login' option for advocates already registered with Delhi High Court e-Filing software e.g. Advocate Diary, Case Status of own cases, Application for e-Inspection, Request/Approval of Online Gate Pass, etc. Anyone can access the app even as a guest user. This App is useful to citizens, litigants and Advocates. In the App, services are given under different captions viz. Case Status, Display Board, Cause List, Advocate Login, etc.

### **SMS Services:**

Delhi High Court provides various types of information to the concerned Advocates/litigants via SMS e.g., Diary Number, Defects information, Pass for registration information, Listing information, etc.

### **e-Cause List:**

Delhi High Court sends e-Cause lists in PDF format via email to more than six thousands registered Advocates on daily basis.

### **Case Management System:**

This application is used for managing case files from filing to disposal and to complete all its related processes. The Case Management System keeps the records of all the cases filed in Delhi High Court. The system has following features: Filing of Case, Caveat matching, Allocation of case, Daily Case Proceedings, Notice Generation, Case Transfer, Case Status Search, Report, etc.

### **Online Gate Pass Registration System:**

The visitors can register their requests for visiting High Court of Delhi online at <https://www.evisitordhc.gov.in/evisitordhcweb/>. The visitors are required to register online by clicking on the option for the “Registration” available in the said portal. After successful registration, the registration number and approval status are communicated to the visitor through SMS/email. Then, the registration is verified by the concerned Advocate for the case mentioned by the proposed visitor through SMS/email. The current status of the visit can be ascertained from the menu “Status & Print” by entering the registration number. The status of the visitor approval can also be ascertained by entering the registration number. In cases, where the concerned Advocate for some reason could not approve the proposed visit, the intending visitor can take a print-out of the request from “Status & Print” option and get the same approved at the Gate Pass Counter of the High Court of Delhi. The registration number/print-out of the registration is required to be presented by the intending visitor at the Gate Pass Counter of High Court of Delhi, along with the original proof of identity. After verifying the documents and capturing the photograph of the intending visitor, visitor pass is issued by the Gate Pass Counter. Another benefit of the facility is that on subsequent visits, the visitor can use the same registration number for the issuance of the visitor pass/gate pass.



### **e-Post Office in Delhi High Court:**

The facility of delivery of Summons/Notices/Documents etc. of the Delhi High Court through e-Post was inaugurated on 3rd February 2014. A counter has been opened in the Despatch Branch of this Court by the Postal Department. Specially designed envelopes with box type jacket have been printed and are available for sale on this counter. After the summons/notices are signed and sealed in the specially designed envelopes, the same are booked at the Extension Counter itself with acknowledgement i.e. Proof of Delivery (POD) specially designed for Delhi High Court and are dispatched on the same day through speed post across the country. After the articles are delivered, a scanned copy of the POD is sent to Delhi High Court immediately through e-mail address of the concerned officer of the Despatch Branch, who forwards the same to the concerned Judicial Branch. POD is duly signed by the recipient with name and relation with the addressee, if the notices are received by other than the addressee. The Advocate/litigant can also track the status of the notices online and file the affidavit of service with the track report. The POD in original is also received thereafter.

### **Dashboard for Hon'ble Judges:**

This software provides a compendium of information related to the Hon'ble Judges in a safe and secure manner and which can be accessed through intranet by the authorized persons only having login credentials.

### **Online Recruitment System:**

Delhi High Court has designed and developed an online recruitment system whereby all the processes related to the departmental examinations i.e. registration of applications, scrutiny of applications, issuance of admit cards, etc. are done online.

### **Contingency Bills Management System:**

This software is used by the Cash Branch of Delhi High Court to prepare contingency bills and maintain records of contingency fund allocation.

### **Legal News:**

The software provides a compendium of legal news to the Hon'ble Judges collated by the Library Section and related to Supreme Court of India, Delhi High Court and subordinate Courts in a duly indexed and searchable pdf format.

### **JUDICIAL OFFICERS' INFORMATION SYSTEM:**

This application is used by the Gazette Branch of Delhi High Court for maintenance of all types of details of the judicial officers of Delhi District Courts viz: Personal details; Postings; ACRs; Attached Inspection Committee etc.

### **e-Meeting:**

Delhi High Court has developed a paper-less e-Meeting software. In paperless meetings, all the noting of agenda and decisions are documented and archived on digital media, including the Action Taken Report and simultaneous search option for all the previous agenda, noting, decision and action taken report is also available in the software for the benefit of the Registry.

### **PERSONNEL INFORMATION SYSTEM:**

This software is used by the different branches of the Registry for multiple purposes, including maintenance of all types of details of the personnel, circulation of pay-slip, dissemination of Circulars, Orders, Notices, etc. and updated from time to time by the concerned Branches.

## **Automatic Bail Allocation System:**

This software is used by the Listing Branch of Delhi High Court for automatic allocation of bail applications to different Hon'ble Courts as per the roster.

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## **Statement of ICT Initiatives : Delhi District Courts**

### **1. Introduction of LAYERS:**

LAYERS(stands for Linked Applications and Extended Reporting System) is a base platform created for organizing several software applications through a single login. The centralized login of LAYERS provides role based access to different software applications developed under this platform to all the Employees and Ld. Judges of Delhi District Courts. The menu of the LAYERS application changes dynamically for the users as per the postings and privileges.

The LAYERS is hosted centrally at Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi and caters to all the districts of Delhi through NIC Net.

### **2. Introduction of Digital Court Software on LAYERS platform**

Digital NI Act Courts have been established and disposing of all fresh NI Act complaints filed w.e.f. 17.12.2020 onwards in a totally paperless digital environment through LAYERS software where:

- (a) Filing of fresh NI Act Complaints are being done exclusively through e-filing portal of Delhi District Courts.
- (b) Hearings are being taken place exclusively by way of video conferencing.
- (c) Documents, case history and other information of cases are being accessed by Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate on LAYERS 2.0 through webVPN from their home office.
- (d) Orders and other case information are being posted on online for information of the Litigants and Lawyers.

### **3. HRMS**

Human Resource Management System, this software is core part of LAYERS platforms where all the Judicial Officers and Employees of Delhi District Courts get registered.

The software maintains the personal record, manages postings and transfer of the Judicial Officers and Employees of Delhi District Courts which helps the LAYERS system to understand the role and privilege for providing the desired access.

### **4. UNIT Software**

A software designed for calculating the Units earned by Ld. Judicial Officers on the basis of their daily work performance. At the end of every quarter, the software reflects the unit of every Judicial Officer posted at Delhi District Courts. This software also works under LAYERS platform.

## **5. Inventory Management System**

Inventory Management System has also been developed under LAYERS platform to maintain the purchase and distribution of goods including online request by the end user and online approval of requested items by the administrators.

## **6. Circular Management System**

This software has been created with a view to post all the circulars on a platform where the circulars can be distributed electronically to all the concerned and the same can be viewed online.

The user gets all the designated circular in their respective My Circular section on LAYERS platform, however, all the circulars without restricted circulation can be viewed by all the Employees and Judicial Officers.

## **7. UDRS (Unified Documents Repository System)**

UDRS is service, it is not a software, this system is reducing time consumed in development of software by providing readymade document management for all the softwares developed under LAYERS platform, the developed just need to pass the document upload to UDRS through a service which reverts with an identification number eliminating the need to repetitive code writing to upload, store, locate and retrieve the folder and files.

In the background, the software manages, stores and provide the documents stored through UDRS based on the application which send files to it and nature/type of the document.

## **8. Migration of CIS Servers of Rouse Avenue Courts Complex on Cloud.**

w.e.f. 25.04.2020, all the establishments of CIS version 3.2 i.e. DJ, CMM and POLC & POIT of Rouse Avenue District Courts, New Delhi was migrated to NIC Cloud and the CIS has been working on cloud since then.

## **9. Introduction of NSTEP**

National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) is an Android OS App developed for service and delivery of Court Processes. This App is being used by Bailiffs of the Courts for delivery of processes. CIS (Case Information System) software is deployed across all Courts in Delhi. CIS provides facility to generate electronic processes in PDF format. Once the electronic processes are generated, process admin of the respective Court will assign the delivery of processes to Bailiffs through NSTEP Software.

The NSTEP software provides transparency and tracking of status of summons resulting in effective monitoring and management of Bailiff and Process servers are delivery management of summons.

## **10. Introduction of Document Management System (DMS) for Digitization Project.**

A software-based document management system for the files scanned in digitization project has been implemented at all district court complexes at Delhi District Courts. The Software has a facility to upload the digitally signed, bookmarked pdf document and enter the case details and retrieve the same.

### **11. Creation of IT Cell**

New IT Cell has been created in Delhi District Courts in order to centralize the activity of software conceptualization, software development, software testing, its implementation and maintenance and matter of technical activities.