

**e-INITIATIVES AND BEST PRACTICES – BIHAR**

**PATNA HIGH COURT, PATNA**



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**JUDGE, PATNA HIGH COURT, PATNA**

Broadly speaking, there are four elements which have hugely influenced the e-initiatives in various High Courts and the Civil Courts in the country, viz;

- a. Vision and the creativity at the High Court level, simplicities,
- b. Acceptability and adaptability of the stake holders which include general perspective and motivational issues,
- c. And the compulsions arising out of COVID 19 Pandemic
- d. And the most importantly, a proactive, prescient, forward looking Supreme Court's e-Committee, promoting, overseeing and encouraging computerisation as a movement in courts at all levels, immensely contributing to the easy access to justice and ease of business in the justice delivery system.

We must acknowledge that the Pandemic significantly triggered and intensified our resilience potential, in the justice delivery system, with the phenomenal increase in the use of technology.

### **Initiative regarding Listing of cases:**

- Patna High Court is pioneer in taking e-initiative, we can say it with a sense of pride that computerised listing system of cases in the High Court had begun three decades ago in year 1992 under the guidance of Hon'ble Late Justice G.C.Bharukha.
- We have a fully computerized system of sorting and listing of matters before the Benches as per categorization of cases/roster. The nature of cases has been classified, sub-classified and further categorised which enables assignment of matters before the benches with minimal human interference and at computer speed with utmost ease.
- In Patna High Court, there are 40 Groups in Civil Jurisdiction and 21 Groups in Criminal Jurisdiction with each group further categorized enabling grouping of cases of different nature.
- Under the instructions of Hon'ble the Chief Justice, the roster of Hon'ble Judges is prepared and each Bench has assigned matters as per subject categorization.

### **eFiling**

- e-filing 1.0 of cases started for the first time in Patna High Court on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020. E-filing of 3,26,577 cases have been done on the filing portal of Hon'ble Patna High Court including Test and Live Servers. The total 4166 Advocates have been registered on the e-filing portal.
- e-filing 3.0 in the District Courts of Bihar was inaugurated by Hon'ble the then Chief Justice on dated 04-02-2023.

### Status of E-filing at a glance:

Establishment	Status of e-Filing	Total no. of cases e-Filed so far	Total no. of Advocates Registered on e-Filing Portal so far
Patna High Court	Implemented	3,26,577	4166
District Courts	Implemented	77	307

### Digitization Initiatives

- It is a common knowledge that digitization and scanning of Court records involve three kinds of records; disposed of records, pending records and current High Court's records.

We initiated digitization of records by identifying a vendor in the year 2015 which culminated in actual digitization starting in 2016.

Being associated with the process of digitization from early days, I can say from experience that the space crunch for maintaining disposed of physical records was one of the biggest issues at that time and for that reason we started digitisation with primary focus on digitizing the disposed of records. Digitization of pending records was the next step. Back then digital filing was not an immediate concern, let alone e filing,

The initiatives very soon assumed large proportion requiring extra space for the process of digitization. We thus got constructed a two-storey digitization centre using pre-fabricated material. This centre, has till date yielded digitized records of about two crores and twenty five lakh (2,25,00,000) pages.

Just prior to the pandemic, the High Court faced some issues with the vendor. While we were in the midst of resolving the issue, the pandemic gave a big blow to our efforts, bringing our digitisation efforts to a virtual halt. Our efforts, however, were not dampened in the least. We utilised the services of the then sub vendor to continue digitization, though at a comparative lesser pace. The very same pandemic, at the same time gave an impetus compelling us to resort to virtual hearing and e-filing which then for first time became the need of the hour.

- **Status of scanning & digitization (High Court) at a glance:**

Sl. No.	Nature of files	Total no. of files	Total no. of pages
1	Pending	26824	2117974
2	Disposed off	958986	20397533
	<b>Total</b>	<b>985810</b>	<b>22515507</b>

- The digitised files of pending cases are uploaded on the special portal available on the website and each Hon'ble Judge and the Court Master have been provided credentials to access such documents online. The Technical

Assistants attached with the Court Masters have been trained to prepare a master e-Document to facilitate the functioning of the eCourts.

- Digitization is also under process for District and the Sub-divisional Courts.
- Patna High Court is in process of initiating the Digitization of Judicial Records as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) received from eCommittee. The process of selection of suitable Vendors and technical manpower alongwith establishment of physical and technical infrastructure has been initiated.

### **Paperless Courts:-**

- Paperless Court Proceedings started in the Patna High Court on 24-11-2022 in 4 Courts i.e. the Court of (i) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah (ii) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Kumar (iii) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madhuresh Prasad (iv) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohit Kumar Shah. The proceedings of these 4 Courts have also been live-streamed. These are well equipped with Wacom Display, Digital Display Boards, e-Causelist, e-Paperbook and Ld. Lawyers have also used the Digital infrastructure for their submission.

### **Uploading of Data (Orders/Judgments) on NJDG and website of Patna High Court**

- **13,18,362 Judgments and Orders of our Court have been uploaded and are available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and the same are available on <https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in/pdfsearch/index.php>.**
- Status of uploading orders/judgment so far:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>High Court/District Court</b>	<b>No. of Orders uploaded on NJDG</b>
1	Patna High Court	13,18,362
2	District Courts of Bihar	18,24,268
3	Apart from above, Interim Orders are available on the High Court's website	17,02,456 (approx.)

### **Video Conference Hearings**

- **To keep the wheels of Justice moving during pandemic, we at Patna High Court were the first to start Hearing of cases using a Studio Based Video Conference infrastructure on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**
- On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020, a **Special Help Line Service** was started for technical assistance to the lawyers in joining the court proceedings through Video Conference.
- From 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 onwards, all the Courts of Patna High Court started virtual hearing of cases.

- Since 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, **2,74,892** cases have been instituted, **5,58,013** cases have been heard and **2,40,354** cases have been disposed of in High Court. The data has also been reflected on the official website of the Patna High Court.
- “Microsoft Teams” Video Conferencing Software has been provided to all the Judicial Officers of Bihar for e-hearing of proceedings through Video Conferencing in view of Covid-19 Pandemic situation.
- “Microsoft Teams” and “Cisco Web-ex” Software have been provided to all the Judges of this High Court for e-hearing of proceedings through Video Conferencing in view of Covid-19 Pandemic situation.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 the facility of “**Studio Based e-Courts**” was extended to District Courts as well, with two “Studio Based e-Courts” in each District and one in each Sub-Division of the State of Bihar to facilitate the Virtual Court proceedings and **narrow down the Digital Divide**.

### **Hybrid Hearing**

- The Courts where Hybrid Hearing may be done are the Courts where one party may join physical court proceedings through virtual mode while others continue in physical court.
- These Courts are required to be equipped with Video Conference (VC) and Computer Systems to facilitate Hybrid Hearing.
- All the Courts in Patna High Court are Hybrid Hearing enabled to allow hybrid hearings to anyone desirous of using the facility.

### **INTEGRATION of CIS with LAND RECORDS**

- Recently, an email on dated 27-03-2023 has been sent to all the Judgeships with a direction to ensure that Volume Number and Page Number in consonance with “Jamabandi Panji” (sample also enclosed in email) should be entered during filing of land related civil cases so that advantages of linking of land records with CIS could be maximized.
- It is also informed that Patna Judgeship has been selected as pilot location for a period of one month of implementation of this project.
- Further, SOP for integrating Land records information in CIS received from Hon<sup>ble</sup> eCommittee is also shared through email to all the Judgeships.
- District Court Patna and Danapur Sub-divisional Courts have been selected as “Pilot Locations” and linking of Land Records with eCourts for these locations have been initiated.

### **E-Lok Adalat**

- On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - **E-Lok Adalat** organized in the District Courts of Bihar in which 40655 Pre-Litigation Cases and 4605 pending cases disposed.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – **31,091** Pre-Litigation Cases and **8,593** pending cases of District Courts disposed in **e-National Lok Adalat**.

## Live-streaming

- **Live streaming of the Court Proceedings of Patna High Court** started on 10/12/2021 without spending a single penny, utilising the Hardware and expertise of Technical Team under the guidance of Hon'ble the Chief Justice. The Court Proceedings of Hon'ble Courts are being live streamed on YouTube channel of Patna High Court. Presently, proceedings of 2 Court are being live streamed on daily basis on YouTube channel of Patna High Court.
- An email on 15th December, 2022 has been sent to the Secretary, IT Dept., Govt. of Bihar regarding Web Casting and Creation of new media streaming platform for High Court, Patna which will soon become operational.
- 4 Courts have been selected on pilot basis.

## Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS)

- In June, 2020, ICJS (Integrated Criminal Justice System) has been implemented in all Districts and we have consumed FIRs and Charge Sheet data in CIS application of all **894 Police Stations**. All **59 prisons** and **3 FSLs** are also integrated with ICJS.

FIR Consumed	Charge Sheet Consumed
4,99,767	95,558

## e-Payment

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021, **ePayment facility for online Courts Fee payment** has been enabled for Hon'ble High Court and the District Courts with successful integration with OGRAS. **5023** e-transactions have already taken place amounting to **Rupees 9,94,605/-**.

Parameters	Court Fees	Judicial Deposits	Fine	Penalty
Vendor	OGRAS	-	OGRAS	OGRAS
Development & Integration	Initiated	-	Initiated	Initiated
Implemented	Yes	-	Under Process	Under Process
Transactions	5023	-	-	-
Amount	994605	-	-	-
Remarks	Completed	-	-	-

## NSTEP

- On August, 2020, the facility of **NSTEP** has been enabled in District Courts to enable real time tracking of service of notices and summons by Courts. 340 Smart phones for Process Servers/Bailiffs have been procured and total **3,70,074 NSTEP Summons** have been Consumed and **134,852 have been delivered** in various Judgeships of Bihar.

NSTEP Summon Consumed	NSTEP Summons Delivered
3,70,074	1,34,852

## Websites

- Websites of Juvenile Justice Secretariat (JJS), Bihar Judicial Academy (BJA), High Court Legal Services Committee, Patna (HCLSC) and Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BSLSA) have been developed and hosted on their respective URLs. The special tabs are also available on the website to access the same.
- Website of Hon'ble Patna High Court made transparent and user friendly by providing special links accessible to all, for –
  - Judicial orders passed during pandemic
  - Status of Criminal Stamp Reporting and Civil Stamp Reporting.
  - Status regarding Covid 19 testing in High Court.
  - Status of Mentioning Slips filed.
  - Status of total e-filing, hearing and disposal.

## Other e-Initiatives

- On 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2020- **SECLAN 2.0** was made operational, which provides **2.04 GBPS** internet speed to the users in the Patna High Court premises along with Wi-Fi facility. The work of the extension of SECLAN 2.0 will also start shortly in Centenary building.
- Facility of **Online e-Pass Generation** has also been initiated for the entry of the Ld. Advocates, Litigants and Staff in order to follow the Covid-19 Guidelines. The same has been synchronised with the Cause List Data so that necessary stakeholders can generate the e-Passes.
- **Web Based VC:** MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) connectivity with Broadband facility has been provided by Airtel as secondary connection and by BSNL as primary connection. MPLS connectivity with speed of 8 MBPS to 34 MBPS has been provided to the each court of the Districts and Taluka to improve the Digital infrastructure.
- During the pandemic period, the Administrative meetings of various Committees of Hon'ble High Court Patna, were conducted online and continues to be done. The Registrars have also been provided with Cisco Webex Licenses. The Full Court references have also been conducted Online through Virtual mode.
- In October'21 **Biometric Attendance System** has been initiated and Officers & Staff Management Information System has been inaugurated for effective administration.

## **Inauguration of e-Registry Software and e-Filing 3.0**

- Inauguration of e-Registry Software and e-Filing 3.0 in the District Courts of Bihar at Hon'ble Patna High Court by Honorable Mr. Justice Sanjay Karol Chief Justice, Patna High Court and His Companion Judges, held on 04-02-2023.

## **FASTER**

- An App called the Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER) was developed and deployed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with the overarching object of expeditiously transmitting e-authenticated copies of the records of the proceedings/orders, through a secured network to the duty-holders of the Justice system. Till date, 779 users from the District Courts and 1065 users from Jails have been registered on this platform, besides Nodal Officer of this Hon'ble Court and at the State level for Jails. This dedicated, secure and swift system is being utilized by this Hon'ble High Court to transmit orders to duty-holders for securing compliance of Judicial directions.
- Recently, a team of delegates comprising of three Officers of this Hon'ble High Court have visited Hon'ble Supreme Court to gain a first-hand understanding of the functioning of FASTER system.

## **Justice Clock and e-Justice Clock:-**

- Justice Clock and e-Justice Clock have also been inaugurated in the Patna High Court on 24-11-2022 which displays vital statistics of Justice Delivery System to "Maximise outreach and Visibility" of the work done by the State Judiciary and Hon'ble Patna High Court. Statistical information such as Institution, Disposal and Pendency of the Cases, Manpower, Strength and Vacancy of Judges in various Courts are also displayed. The Virtual avatar is also available in the website portal of Hon'ble Patna High Court. The relevant information and useful videos etc. are also displayed.

## **POSH Website:-**

- The POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Work Place) Website of Patna High Court has also been inaugurated on 24-11-2022 which facilitates easy registration of complaint through online mode.



## Multi-Level e-Sewa Kendra

- e-Sewa Kendras have been now established and functional at **41** locations.
- A Virtual Display Wall has also been installed in the eSewa Kendra for the digital Display of Case Status in all the Court Rooms of the Hon'ble High Court Patna.
- eSewa Kendra has also been started functioning in virtual mode where eSewa Kendra started functioning physically. Litigants and the Advocates can easily access the virtual eSewa Kendra through VC link and Google form available at the District Court Official website.
- Facility of E-Filing with free of cost scanning is also being provided in the eSewa Kendra of Patna High Court.

Establishment	eSewa Kendra Established
Patna High Court	1
Districts	37
Panchayat	2
Sub-divisional Courts	1
<b>Total =</b>	<b>41</b>

## JustIS App and GIMS App

- JustIS App and GIMS App have been installed by all the Judicial Officers of Bihar.

Total District and Sub-ordinate Judges	Downloads (Android)	Percentage
1347	1347	100%

## Linking of eCourts with CSC

- Steps are being taken to provide necessary facilities related with eCourts to be provisioned from Commom Service Centre (CSC)

## SUVAS

- Recently, a SUVAS Cell has been created which is equipped with IT Infrastructure, i.e six Computer Systems along with one printer and network connection has been provided in the newly created SUVAS Cell. 2 Data-Entry-Operators is deputed exclusively for uploading the translation on SUVAS.
- Nearly **1017** Judgments/orders have already been translated using SUVAS Software, so far.
- Recently we have also translated the contents of the website of the Hon'ble eCommittee, Supreme Court of India into regional language "Maithili".

- Since the prime objective of usage of SUVAS is providing judgments of Constitutional Courts to the entire stakeholders and it is also concerned with the legal literacy and related aspects of access to justice to all, the secretaries, DLSA (District Legal Services Authority) have been requested to provide translated copy of relevant case law on monthly basis. The relevant judgments have been identified with the help of BSLSA (Bihar State Legal Services Authority) and provided to each districts for the needful.

### **S3WaaS**

- S3WaaS is a cloud service developed for government entities to generate Secure, Scalable & Sugamya (Accessible) websites. It enables government entities to choose from various themes for generating websites as well as customizing and managing the content easily, thus empowering them to maintain their online presence. Government entities requiring websites that are primarily informational can use S3WaaS framework to generate and host the website under GOV.IN or NIC.IN domain. In the view of ensuring transparency, accessibility and seamless dissemination of information to the public, the Hon'ble eCommittee, Supreme Court of India approved the migration of all District Court websites to the new S3WaaS platform and 14 pilot district court websites were also launched on 26th November 2022 on the occasion of the Constitution Day. We have identified 6 (six) districts from Bihar Judiciary namely Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Bhojpur, Samastipur, Bettiah and Madhepura for migration of their District Court Websites on S3WaaS platform.

**Apart from the aforementioned, 66 other Software has been developed in-house, for various Judicial and administrative need in the march towards paperless Court. The brief details and functionality of these Software are as follows:**

1. **File Movement & Tracking System (e-Karyalay):-** This software aims to achieve the target of Paperless Courts. In this software each and every file along with the notes and orders are moving digitally. The highlights are as under:-  
All the "Noting" will move digitally.
  - Each and every Administrative file is computer traceable.
  - Keeps track of time elapsed by every individual in performing the work.
  - Contains a digital seal of each and every user, thus making the signature legible and identifying the Person who has prepared/made notes/minutes.
  - Obviated the need of digitization of administrative files wherever same has been implemented.
  - Contains dashboard for Registry Officers which shows which employee has done how much work on dailybasis.
  - Helps enormously in efficient use of resource & manpower management.
2. **Judicial File Tracking System:** - Many times, it happens that the dealing assistant is full day busy in search of a particular file and is

very tough to locate. This software can keep track of every movement of Judicial Files. It also maintains the history of when and where the file has actually moved. Hence, any Judicial File can be located on a single button click, thus, saving time and manpower.

3. **e-Dakiya:** - This is an android based application meant for Process Serving. This application is directly connected with GPS. Major features are as following:-
  - Process server can take the digital (computerized) signature on the hand held device / mobile.
  - Can take Photograph of the person being served.
  - GPS position i.e. Latitude & Longitude are automatically captured in the back end.
  - Data could be saved easily on the server.
  - Concerned authority can know as to when and where the Process Server has actually delivered/visited for Process Serving.
  
4. **e-Meeting:** - All the meetings of various committees of Patna High Court can be traced from anywhere inside the premises. Provision for digital storage of all the Agenda and its compliance as well printing of Minutes has also been made to keep a digital copy of the all the meetings held in High Court. The features of the software are as following:-
  - Centralized booking of meeting, hence, minimizing the possibility of multiple meetings being fixed for same member, time and location.
  - Paperless meetings can be held where the respective Sections can upload Agenda, additional Agenda if any and Minutes for any specific meetings.
  - Progress of steps being taken by registry in respect of specific minutes can be monitored.
  - Search for Agenda or Minutes possible by single click.
  
5. **Patna High Court Employee Management System:-** This is a web based application, which contains the details of all the employees of Patna High Court viz.:-
  - Personal Details
  - Professional background
  - Family details
  - Leave details
  - Annual Career Progression
  - Increment details
  - Pay slips
  - Annual confidential reports
  - Permanent confidential reports
  - Allegations & proceedings if any
  - Promotion Details
  - Transfer & Postings

- Chronological memo issued
- Terminal benefits etc.

6. **e-HR:** - This application is hosted on LAN network of Patna High Court, which provides many facilities as mentioned below:-

- All the employees can mark their attendance online.
- Keeps track of time elapsed by an employee in Patna High Court premises.
- Can mark their auto generated application for leave request online.
- Auto forwarding / rejection of leave applications at different hierarchy levels.
- Auto generation of Daily, Weekly and Monthly working hours report of each and every employee.
- Dashboard for Registry Officers by which sitting in their Chambers, they can see which employee is present in which department and the time of marking attendance and can analyse the working hours of them which may assist them to a great level in maintaining discipline at work of employees with regard to timely presence in office and working hours.
- Eliminated the use of manual attendance registers and leave applications. Hence, an effort towards paperless Courts.

7. **Comprehensive Budget Management & Information System:** - This software is one stop solution of all the budget related information of Patna High Court. This software has various features like:-

- Auto generated centralized bill number generation.
- High Court expenses Passbook which contains all the details of expenses, head details, money credited for High Court budget, etc. in Patna High Court just as in banks.
- Auto pay bill generation for pay expenses. Travelling allowance details claimed by various officials.
- Conveyance allowance details.
- GPF details.
- LTC details.
- Leave Salary.
- Office expenses.
- Liveries expenses.
- Gratuity.
- GIS.
- Electric charges expenses.
- Sumptuary expenses etc.

8. **Comprehensive Section Management & Information System:** - This software provides inter-departmental communication system with various other features to cater the needs of various departments of Patna High Court:-

- Inter department mailing facility
- Centralized Index Register
- Roaster details of all the employees
- Duty Chart of employees
- Ongoing works/projects, etc.

9. **Vigilance Automation System:-** We were facing many problems as to many complains/allegations are received of same type against same officer out of which some are exactly the same and due to this our manpower had to take extra and multiple efforts for the same complaint/allegation. We made a software which keeps track of all the pending and disposed allegations against a particular officer and reflects whether any similar allegation has been filed against the said officer or not and if yes then its current status. Hence, saving time and efforts of manpower. It also helps in instant generation of vigilance report against a particular officer as and when required.

10. **Online Grievance Redressal System:** - This software logs the grievances and the same is directly reflected on the dash board of respective department / officer who in-turn takes necessary step towards redressal of the grievance and replies back within the stipulated time.

11. **District Court Infrastructure Management System:-** This is a software which keeps track of all the relevant details of District Court Infrastructure:-

- Condition of Court buildings
- Condition of Court Rooms
- Condition of Toilets
- Condition of Drinking Water Facility
- Condition of Litigant Shed
- Franking Machine
- Server Room
- Information Centre
- Filing Centre.
- Ramp for Handicapped
- Lifts/Canteen, etc.
- Availability of Land
- Availability of Canteen
- Condition of Quarters, etc.

12. **Automated Quarter allocation system:** - This software contains the details of each and every quarter under High Court Pool viz. its occupancy details. This also reflects unoccupied quarters as well as the quarters which are going to get vacated in near future. Also, contains complete waitlist for the candidates and the wait listed applicants may tentatively know the prospective quarter which may be assigned to them.

13. **Protocol Automation:** - Protocol department deals with the travelling of all the Judges and Registry members. This software helps maintain the log and all particular travelling details. This software contains the features of auto generation of letters to be communicated to various authorities with respect to travelling of Hon'ble Judges and Registry members. Also, capable of tracking complete history of travel itinerary incurred in the same.
14. **E-Statistics:** - This is a web based software having facilities of auto generation of graphical statistics of High Court. Various kinds of report generation viz. filing, pendency, disposal, old cases, etc. on various parameters viz. Nature wise, Subject wise, Time Period wise, Hon'ble Judge wise, etc.
15. **Online display board:** - This software helps people know especially sitting in the outside world to know which case is currently being taken up in which Court.
16. **Android Application for Online Display Board:-** Using this software, the Court's Progress, Cause list and case status can be viewed on mobile phone itself.
17. **Online Cause Title:-** Facility for filing Online Cause Title has been provided to Ld. Lawyers and the said data being fed by the A.G. (Advocate General) Office is also being fetched in the system directly hence reducing work pressure of data entry operators involved.
18. **Advocate & their Clerks MIS:** - This software contains all the particulars of the Advocates including their mobile number and e-mail address via which various communications are made and the registered clerks associated to them. Also, with the help of this software, Identity cards are issued to the registered advocate clerks and it automatically flashes the list of advocates without clerks and the details of the clerks whose registration has expired or is going to expire in near future.
19. **Patna High Court Online Recruitment Management System:** - This is a comprehensive recruitment management system whereby the recruitment process is completely automated. Each and every stage of recruitment is fully computerized:-
  - Publication of Advertisement.
  - Online filling up of forms.
  - Online Payment of application fees.
  - Online Scrutiny of applications.
  - Auto generation of selected and rejected list after scrutiny.
  - SMS & E-mail of every step to respective candidate.
  - Auto generation of Admit Card.

- Auto & Random generation of Roll Numbers.
- Auto allocation of Examination Centers.
- Auto generation of attendance sheets.
- Final Publication of Result.

20. **Online Typing Test:** - This is a web based application and by using this, we have successfully conducted many examinations. This application not only logs the data typed by the candidate, but also gets locked itself at the end of time line provided and generates instant result on the screen of the candidate so that he/she gets to know his performance as soon as he ends the examination bringing complete transparency in the recruitment system. Also, we are using this software to give training to our already recruited stenographers and data entry operators.

21. **Online Objective Test:** - This is web based software. We have successfully conducted examinations through this software. Examination containing objective type questions can be conducted. The questions get randomly generated on each Computer Screen. After the end of examination, the software is capable of auto generation of Results, Merit List, etc.

22. **KOHA (Provided by E-Committee, New Delhi):** - This software as recommended by E-Committee, New Delhi is in use in Patna High Court for the Integrated Library Management System. All the cataloguing of books is being currently done in the software. Soon we are going to implement the same full-fledged i.e. for all kinds of library related activity like requisition of book, issue of book, etc.

23. **E-Court Monitoring System for E-Committee, New Delhi:** - Hon'ble E-Committee Supreme Court of India requires quarterly data of the progress of E-Court Project in the state of Bihar. For that they have provided a format which consist of 55 Columns in the excel Sheet. That Excel Sheet is communicated to each and every district and every district send their report and at High Court the excel sheet is again consolidated and sent to Hon'ble E-Committee, Supreme Court of India. To save time and manpower and having records, we developed a software via which the district courts can feed the data online which will be consolidated automatically and can be downloaded in the specified format. We can also share the view only right with Hon'ble E-Committee for viewing the same online.

24. **SMS Log System:-** This is the module via which we can keep track of the number of SMSs sent from different District Courts of Bihar which will help us in payment of the said SMSs.

25. **Quarterly Transmission to Supreme Court:** - This is a software which keeps track of all the relevant details of District Court Infrastructure:-

- Details of Owned Court Halls

- Details of Owned Court Halls on Rent
- Details of Owned Court Halls under Construction
- Details of owned Court Complexes
- Details of Court Complexes on Rent
- Details of Court Complexes under Construction
- Details regarding up gradation of Court Complexes
- Details of Owned Residential Accommodation for Judicial Officers
- Details of Residential Accommodation on Rent
- Details of Residential Accommodation under Construction.
- Details of Funds Allocated for Infrastructure
- Details Regarding Monitoring of Infrastructure Creation.

26. **Vacancy Monitoring in Subordinate Courts:** - This is a software to keep track of all the relevant vacancy details of District Court.

27. **Judicial Officers Database Management System:** - This application keeps comprehensive details of all the Judicial Officers of the state Judiciary. Following information are available for all the Judicial Officers:-

- Judicial Officers of Bihar Judiciary
- Personal Details
- Professional background
- Trainings Undergone
- Transfer & Posting History
- Allegations if any
- Proceedings if any
- Awards & Recognitions if any
- Leave details
- Auto generated list of Judicial Officers due for transfer.

28. **Patna High Court Payroll Management System:** - Payroll software facilitates generation of salary slips for Hon'ble Judges, Officers of registry and employees of Patna High Court. It incorporates all the 6th Pay Commission guidelines into Payroll software for employees of Patna High Court. The features of the software are as following :-

- Auto generated computerized pay slips.
- Auto calculation of Arrears.
- Complete details of loans or advance of employees.
- Auto deduction of taxes.
- Auto calculation of income tax etc.

29. **Centralized Letter Receiving System:** - This is a single window portal for all the communications for instance, letter, case diary, etc. to Patna High Court by any means, viz. Post, Fax, E-mail, Special Messenger, etc. Each any every communication to and from the Hon'ble Court is traceable electronically. This has helped enormously in reducing the delay especially in Judicial departments as any judicial



communication like lower court record, case diary, etc. is immediately flashed on the dashboard of dealing assistant and is reflected on the websites as well for information to lawyers and litigants as and when it is received in the High Court.

30. **On Window Automated Certified Copying System:** - This software instantly delivers the certified copies of all the judgments and orders since computerization, on window on a nominal payment on per page basis. This software automatically calculates the amount to be paid for each judgment or order, hence, eliminating manual calculation. This has got a great response and has enormously saved the time and effort of Courts manpower and litigants.
31. **Computerized Decree Management System:-** All the decree prepared in Patna High Court are now computerized and are easily available on LAN and can well be integrated on public portal for public viewing.
32. **Automated file allocation system for Stamp Reporting:** - This is an application which runs in the back end and allocates the files randomly to stamp reporters, hence bringing the transparency in the Court's work.
33. **E-mail of Judgment & Order:** - All the Judgment & Orders are communicated to lower courts with the help of automated software. As soon as the Order is uploaded, with a single button click it is communicated to lower courts via e-mail with computerized signature of attesting authorities, thus eliminating the delay in communication and saving the time and manpower effort.
34. **Auto generated Computerized Order Sheets:** - Initially there was a traditional practice whereby the Order-sheets were printed and then the case particulars were written in hand. We eliminated this manual intervention and now the Order-sheet is directly printed containing all the relevant case particulars with the notes, seal and computerized signature of the dealing assistant.
35. **Auto generated Computerized Case File Stickers-** As per traditional practice, files were printed and on the top of the file case particulars are written in hand. We eliminated this manual intervention by introduction of stickers and a module which prints all the relevant particulars and same gets pasted on the case file top.
36. **Centralized Memo Management System:** - With the help of this software, all the memos/letters issued are electronically generated with a unique centralized number to them. Hence, any issued memo or letter can be viewed any time with a single click and the same is displayed on the dashboard of Issue section who delivers the same as per the generated particulars as well as is visible on the dashboard of respective departments.

37. **Fax Section Information Management System** :- The special features of this module are
- Capturing of fee receipt details
  - Capturing of additional fee receipt details (if any)
  - Generation of list for additional fax fee holders
  - Ready List of cases ( to be sent through fax)
  - Defective List of cases (fee + disposal date /order date mismatch etc.)
  - Printing of Judgments / Orders ( to be sent through fax)
  - Acknowledgement of ready cases sent through fax
  - Generation of List of Judgments / Orders already sent through fax
  - Defective List of cases (Non pronounced judgments / orders etc.)
  - Update facility for fee receipt information
  - Query Facility
  - Message to Concerned Secretaries / PA's for pronounce of Judgments/ Orders which are yet to be pronounced.
38. **Online Requisition of Stationary Items** : - This is software hosted on LAN of Patna High Court. It facilitates all the Hon'ble Judges, Officers of Registry and Staffs of Patna High Court to make requisition for stationary items online and the same is reflected on the dashboard of Purchase Cell which in turn against the requisition made provides the Stationary to all the concerned.
39. **Automated Visitor Pass System** : - All the litigants who come to court for hearing of their cases now get photograph included visitor pass for entering into the court.
40. **E-mail of respective Cause list to AOR's**:- This software is used to send daily cause list to respective A.O.R.'s of this Court only for there respective case listed.
41. **E-mail of Reminders to District Courts**:- This software automatically generates reminders and express reminders in the prescribed format and sends through e-mail to respective District Courts for non-receipt of various documents. Recently, e-mail ids of ADC, DM and SP has also been incorporated in the said software.
42. **Computer and Peripheral Inventory Management Software for High Court & District Courts**:- This software can keep track of all the computer hardware and peripheral purchased in Patna High Court or supplied to the district courts with details such as date of issue, to whom issued, serial number, date of return if any, availability of stock, etc.
43. **Judgment Writing and Information System**:- This software mainly aims to enable PA's / Stenographers to write the Judgments and orders dictated to them by Hon'ble Judges to type the judgments and

orders so dictated in the prescribed format as specified by the Hon'ble Court, mail it to respective district court and upload the same on the website of Hon'ble Patna High Court.

44. **Case Indexing and File Movement:** - This software enables the departments to index the Judicial Files and keeps track of the files which are being sent to the Digitization department from Record rooms so that the files can't get misplaced and a proper record can be maintained.
45. **Writ Disposal Automated System:** - This software is designed to ease work of the staffs of Writ Disposal Department to eliminate manual redundant work and save their time.
46. **Software to assist Standing Committee:** - A unique and one of its kind software which has been developed to assist Hon'ble Standing Committee in evaluation and Transfer Posting of Judicial Officers which has brought a great transparency in the whole procedure and is currently in its phase of implementation.
47. **E-Court Project Monitoring System:-** This is a software developed for pin pointed monitoring of E-Courts project viz. software that contains the details of each and every aspect of E-Courts implementation, issues arising and its resolution thereof with graphical analysis of the overall progress.
48. **Issue tracker:** - A comprehensive software to keep track of the ongoing projects, current developments and future steps to be taken with accountability.
49. **Library Information System:** - This is software developed which makes ready available data of the books, journals, etc. in the district courts. Challenges and Bottlenecks:- Although Patna High Court has marched ahead a long way in terms of computerization but still, it is necessary to keep motivating staffs of Patna High Court to continue with the pace and usage of computerization and motivating the older generation for the usage of computerization.
50. **POCSO Module:-** This software has been developed to facilitate Juvenile Justice Boards across the State to submit online data related to pendency, disposal, etc. for submitting before Patna High Court.
51. **Interactive Digitized Register:-**This software was developed to facilitate maintenance of digital Register in the district courts for data regarding details of accused against whom warrants have been issued or who are absconding.
52. **Online Questionnaire module:** - Many times, it happens that we need to seek different types of data from Judicial Officers of the State.

This software enables online data fetching from judicial officers to reflect onto the dashboard of respective department.

53. **Criminal Appeal Module:** –Earlier various types of forms were sent manually to the district Courts relating to release from jail, etc. This software enables auto generation of various forms related to criminal appeal department for needful.
54. **Online JWIMS:** –With the outbreak of global pandemic, it was getting difficult for PA’s / Secretaries to come to the Court premises and upload Judgments and Orders. Therefore, we developed a system through which PA’s / Secretaries are uploading the Judgments and Orders directly from their home on to the website of Patna High Court.
55. **Patna High Court Official Mobile Application:** –With the growing usage of mobile phones and need for mobile app, a dedicated mobile app exclusively for Patna High Court has been developed with limited features for advocates and litigants so that they are not be required to go over again and again on the website for information but can get it from a resident app in their own mobile phones.
56. **SUVAS Tracker:** – A Software has been developed in-house by the Programmer Team of Hon’ble Patna High Court to keep track of various Judgments/Orders uploaded on the SUVAS Software to facilitate active monitoring.
57. **Leave Management System for Officers and Employees of Patna High Court:** - Leave Management System was developed and implemented for all the Officers & Staff of Patna High Court for paperless e-approval of leave at various levels in Patna High Court.
58. **Supreme Court e-Register :-** As per the direction of the Hon’ble Apex Court, a software called Supreme Court e-Register was developed to keep track of the cases and various compliance in this regard.
59. **Virtual e-Sewa Kendra :-** Virtual e-Sewa Kendra was developed and is live through the Patna High Court Website to provide citizen-centric services to Ld. Lawyers and Litigants which includes, under a single window, information about Case Status, Cause List, Judgments & Orders, E-Filing, Android Application, E-Court Fee, Online Display Board, E-Pass, etc.
60. **Officers and Staff Management & Information System (OSMIS):-** Software for effective and efficient e-Administration of Hon'ble High Court namely OSMIS was developed. This software

contains all the details of all the Officers & Staff of the Patna High Court including their basic details, posting history, leave details, GPF details, family details, emergency contacts, departmental proceedings, salary details, Promotion details, Increment details, ACR / PCR, etc. and the generation of all kinds of reports for administrative purposes.

**61. District Information, Report & Communication Tracker**

**(DIReCT):-** This software was developed with an aim to prove another milestone in achieving the goal of paperless, transparent, and efficient administration of Justice. This software solves the problem of physical data management and has been developed to facilitate tracking of the relevant information by the Judicial Officers. It is very helpful as all the relevant data/report related with the Monitoring Cell of Judgeships as well as that of individual Judicial Officers will be available in electronic form. The Judicial Officers can also raise issues related with High Court Administration and track the progress online.

**62. Free Text Search Module for Patna High Court Website:-**

Free Text Search module for the information available on the Patna High Court Website was developed to save the time of the visitors on the Patna High Court website to locate desired information available on the portal with just a single click.

**63. Online Institution Register: -**

The software was developed under the request of the Civil Filing department who maintained manual Register for civil cases. With the introduction of this software, the work has been fully automated and saves time. The software carries various details like district court details, suits / appeals filed / pending, particulars of claims, date fixed for appearance, value, effect of judgment of lower court's decree, disposal date, etc.

**64. Web Portal for Disclosure under Section – 4 of the RTI**

**Act: -** An exclusive portal for the disclosures of the High Court was developed for facilitating the disclosures by the High Court under Section – 4 of the RTI Act.

**65. Diary Management for A.D. (Misc.) Department: -**

All the letters, Memos, documents, applications, etc. received in the documents were managed manually. With the introduction of the said software, all the documents are managed electronically and digital footprints of the movement of all such documents are available which makes it easier for the department to search for any such matter in just a single click.

66. **Uniform Letter System:** - To maintain a uniform format across the High Court Registry / Departments, a Uniform Letter System was launched whereby a Uniform Letter format can be downloaded and generated for all the Registry officers of Patna High Court.

## **Challenges faced during implementation of certain ICT related services:**

### **E-Filing:-**

#### **Challenges**

- 1) Training of Ld. Lawyers and other Stakeholders in the Districts for ensuring effective and wide usage of the e-filing V 3.0.
- 2) Wallet payment on E-filing V 3.0

### **Video Conferencing:-**

#### **Challenges**

1. Lack of High-Speed Internet and wi-fi at end of the Ld. Lawyers at distant and different locations.
2. In complex matter, where long hearing is required, there is reluctance in the Bar to adopt technology.

### **Online Certified Copy Mechanism:-**

#### **Challenges**

Integration of e-pay with CIS for payment of the fees for Certified Copies of Orders/Judgments is a major challenge in extending this facility throughout the State of Bihar and in this regard Patna High Court has already sought guidance of NIC, Pune and E-Committee, Supreme Court of India. The matter is pending at the end of NIC, Pune.

### **NSTEP (National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes**

#### **Challenges:**

1. To maintain parity between the Summons Consumed and Summons Delivered.
2. To extend the application of NSTEP to criminal cases as well.

### **Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) between Police Station, Court and Prison**

#### **Challenges:**

- 1) Non-availability of facility of entering data in Hindi is an issue since many Police stations continue to enter metadata in Hindi in spite of several communications.

2) The ICJS needs to provide a drop down menu containing an option of locating the documents in stages of investigation by nomenclature in usage by Police in State of Bihar as ICJS does not recognise Charge Sheet as Final Report etc. or an option be given by periphery software.

3) The platform has to be extended to include other stakeholders like Government Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Prosecution Offices etc.

4) Timely entering of data by Police Stations and other stakeholders.

5) Lack of active and full Co-operation from the State-stakeholders, which matter is being regularly pursued by the High Court through the Law Secretary and District Level Monitoring Cell (DLMC).

### **Virtual courts**

#### **Challenges:**

1. Virtual Courts are not functional since in Bihar Traffic Challan are not submitted in Courts.

2. In meeting of e-Committee of Patna High Court dated 30th November 2020, it was resolved that since in Bihar, Virtual Court is not feasible for traffic challan cases, in view of the suggestion in the letter dated 13.08.20, the Virtual Court may be extended to cover relevant offence under the Railways Act.

3. After a joint virtual meeting dated 15th December 2021 with NIC, Pune and e-Committee, Supreme Court of India and several telephonic consultations thereafter, it has been decided that since Virtual Courts are required to be asynchronous and since the offenders apprehended under the Railways Act are not likely to pay the fine virtually, it may not be possible to start Virtual Court for Railways Courts. It has emerged from discussions that once e-Filing is implemented in Districts, Patna High Court may start Digital-Virtual Courts for Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act.

### **Digitization of judicial records (both legacy and pending)**

#### **Challenges:**

1. Infrastructural and manpower constraints in Districts considering huge volume of case records to be digitized.

2. Digitization of records lying with District Collectorate.

3. Non-availability of suitable vendors.