

**Information Required for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology under Resolution 6(iii) of the Chief Justices' Conference, 2016:**

**1. Establishment of E courts**

*Q1. Number of E courts established under your High Court. Elaborate the process and functions of E courts.*

In the first Phase of the e- Court project, 405 Subordinate Courts including three courts in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep have been covered in the project and they were provided with hardwares, LAN, Power Backup, Installation of System Software and Application Software and Laptops to Judicial Officers. ICT Training were imparted to both Judicial Officers and court staff. Technical Manpower were provided to each district for trouble shooting. The following initiatives were completed in the first phase of the project.

1. Video Conferencing
2. Connectivity
3. Creation of Websites of District Courts
4. NJDG
5. CIS Ver. 2.0
6. Technical Manpower
7. SMS
8. Training of Judicial Officers and Court Staff

In the Phase II of e- Courts Project, computers were provided to 339 Courts so far for which fund has been sanctioned.

Steps are being taken to invite E- tender for supplying and commissioning of LAN in Subordinate Courts.

High Court has identified 8 Court complexes (5% of the Court complexes in the State) for generating electricity entirely through solar energy with the help of ANERT, which is the implementing agency for solar power projects in the State.

KSWAN connectivity has been provided to 70 courts in the State. However, the same is not functional in most locations. The matter has been brought to the notice of the Kerala State IT Mission and has been requested to furnish a report on providing KSWAN (Kerala State Wide Area Network) connectivity to all the Court Complexes in the State.

VPNoBB connectivity has been provided to 117 court complexes in the state.

Leased line connectivity has been provided to 19 court complexes in the state. In the districts of Ernakulam and Kozhikode leased line connectivity has been provided to 4 and 3 court complexes respectively.

Additional fund is required for providing VPNoBB connectivity in the Court Complexes in the State. The State Government was requested to provide the additional fund from the unutilised fund available under the e-Courts project.

Accordingly, the Government have accorded Administrative Sanction for incurring additional expenditure of Rs. 3,20,376/- for providing VPNoBB connectivity to 38 Subordinate Court Complexes as part of the eCourts Project.

## ***II. Updation on National Judicial Data Grid***

*Q2. Mention the data and categories that are uploaded in the NJDG. Specify the problems encountered during updation on NJDG for High Court and subordinate courts. The solutions/ remedial action if any taken by your court.*

455 Courts are uploading data on NJDG portal on daily basis. The High Court monitors the data uploaded on the NJDG on a daily basis.

Case status, daily proceedings, Cause lists, Orders and Judgements are uploaded to the NJDG. Daily uploading of data is being affected by various connectivity issues like frequent changes in IP addresses and connection failure. The issues have already been brought to the notice of BSNL for remedial measures.

Steps are also being taken to provide KSWAN(Kerala State Wide Area Network) connectivity to all the Court Complexes in the State.

## ***III. Uniform nomenclature***

*Q3. Specify the process for adopting, if any, for uniform nomenclature of case type used in your State.*

In the CJs Conference, 2015,with respect to item No. 3(ii), it was resolved that the High Courts will endeavour to evolve a uniform nomenclature for all categories of cases in coordination with the e- Committee for the entire country. Accordingly, the High Court had addressed the e-Committee on the subject. But no reply has been received from the e-Committee. In the meanwhile, in the CJs' conference, 2016, it is resolved that a uniform nomenclature for all cases be adopted under the auspices of the National Court Management System, since the process is interlinked with the development and standardization of CIS for the High Courts. It is not known whether NCMS has initiated the process as directed in the

resolution.

#### ***IV. Cadre of Technical Manpower***

*Q4. Enumerate the strength of Technical Manpower in the High Court and subordinate courts. Specify the procedure for recruitment and training programme, if any, to the new recruits.*

In order to support ICT enabled in the State Judiciary, the technical manpower deployment was entrusted to IHRD for a period of one year from 14th October 2015.

At present a total of 1 SSO(Sr. System Officer), 15 SO(System Officer) and 30 SA(System Assistant) have been deployed at the District Courts and at the High Court.

The issue regarding cadre of Technical Manpower came up for discussion during the Conference and it was resolved, inter-alia, to move the State Governments with the highest priority to provide technical manpower support, by provisioning resources for courts made available in the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. It was also resolved to move the State Government to immediately resolve issues pertaining to sanctioning of posts for technical manpower , provide funds for annual maintenance contracts and upgradation of hardware.

The High Court has been consistently addressing the State Government since May 2014, for the creation of a permanent it cadre in the high court.

But the Government had informed that due to financial constraints the creation of new posts cannot be considered and suggested the High Court to contact the concerned office of the NIC to make arrangements to train the existing staff in the Court to make them IT enabled.

Subsequently, the High Court had informed the Government that the aforesaid posts require persons with higher technical qualifications and the Government's suggestion of training the existing staff does not appear to be viable considering the nature / duties / higher responsibilities of the proposed IT Cadre.

Later, the Government once again informed inability to reconsider the stance on the matter citing financial constraints and ban on creation of posts. Thereafter, the High Court had addressed the Government for treating the issue more favourably and take necessary steps for creation of a Permanent IT Cadre in the High Court.

In the light of the resolutions adopted in the Chief Justices' Conference on the matter, the State Government was again addressed stressing the need for creation of a

permanent I.T. Cadre in the High Court. The reply from the Government is awaited.

Action plan relating to augmenting technical manpower support for ICT enabled courts had already been launched. A total manpower of 54 is accounted for 480 Courts including Lakshadweep. When estimate is prepared in accordance with the remuneration mentioned in the DoJ's proposal i.e., Rs 50,000/- per month and total training cost Rs. 17,500/- per person for one time, the total financial commitment for 5 years is Rs. 16,31,61,000/- which exceeds the estimate framed by DoJ (Rs. 12,99,24,500/-). Therefore, a proposal for deployment of 54 personnel for 5 years with a reduced salary component, Rs 40000/- per person per month and training cost Rs. 2500/- per person for one time, amounting the total financial commitment to Rs. 12,99,51,000/- has been submitted.

12 Judicial Officers were identified for imparting training to other Judicial Officers in Ubuntu and CIS in the State Judiciary and they had undergone intensive training held at various centres in the country. The High Court has conducted district level training in Ubuntu 14.04 and CIS to Judicial Officers in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Training programme in Libre Office Writer was imparted to 1245 Stenographers and Typists in the Subordinate Courts during 2015.

#### ***V. E- Filing and Video Conferencing***

*Q5. Mention the procedure for e- filing and the rules governing it. Enumerate the type of activities/ process done through video conferencing.*

The e- Committee has provided the test version of CIS 1 core software for the High Courts and it is being examined and tested by the NIC High Court Team. The development of module for e- filing will be considered as part of periphery development process of the CIS 1 core software, once the testing is over.

Video Conferencing facility in the High Court was installed by the state PWD and this facility is being used for holding video conference with the E- committee, National Judicial Academy, NALSA and the Hon'ble Supreme Court. A 32 Mbps internet connection is used by the High Court for its internet band video conferencing facilities.

Hardware based Video Conferencing facility implemented by the Jail Department is functional at three court complexes in Thiruvananthapuram district at Thiruvananthapuram, Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara. VC facility based on software technology has been implemented by Jail department in 5 courts in Ernakulam district as a pilot project which has been discontinued in May, 2016 for non payment of bills by the State Government. Installation

of video conference facility initiated by the e- committee, Supreme Court of India has been completed in 6 District Courts at Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Palakkad, Manjeri, Kozhikode, Kasaragod and 3 District Jails at Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Hosdurg. Installation of VC facility in the District Jail, Kozhikode and 2 Courts & 3 Jails in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep are in progress. The facility is now functional in the Districts of Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Kasaragod.

In addition to above, VC facility has been implemented in Munsiff- Magistrate Court, Kolencherry using hardware technology with the assistance of PWD.

## **VI. Scanning and Digitisation**

*Q6. Specify the procedure for scanning and digitalisation at different levels. Also provide the digitization rules and process of verification if any. The different levels may also include: Scanning for fresh filing, scanning for pending files, scanning for daily disposal of cases and scanning of old cases.*

Currently no scanning and digitisation is being done in the High Court as part of the work flow. Digitisation Rules have not been framed. As a pilot project 10,00,000 pages of 24843 files of 1991 and 1992 were digitised in 2013. The work was done through NICSI. The scanned images are stored in the Local Server. The document Management System used is DSpace. The judgements were also uploaded to judis.nic.in for public access.

The process of scanning and digitisation are yet to be started in the subordinate courts. However, preparatory measures are already taken in this regard and all the District Courts have been directed to furnish the details regarding number of pages to be scanned. No rules are framed for the digitisation yet.

As per the Policy & Action Plan document of the Phase – II of the e-Courts project, it is proposed to digitize the case records of the disposed cases which has undergone the basic weeding process. In the meeting of Chairpersons of High Court Computer Committees held on 19 – 20 September 2015 at Supreme Court, it was requested to ensure action on the following preparatory measures for District Judiciary case records:

- A. Finalization of meta-data for digitisation of case records.
- B. Weeding of physical case records as per rules so that only the portion which is to be preserved in the record room is left for scanning and digitisation.
- C. Follow up with State Government for allocation of resources from 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission for scanning and digitization of case records. The details are awaited from the courts.

Accordingly, instructions have been issued to all the District Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates to take urgent steps to complete the physical weeding process, quantify and furnish the details of case records with respect to the Courts under their control.

The e Committee, Supreme Court of India has shared through email the scanning work-flow software as being used in the Supreme Court scanning cell and the Document Management System (DMS) software DSPACE as customized for Supreme Court meta-data. The same was forwarded to the Technical Director, NIC for further action.

The High Court has taken the initiative for digitization of court records as part of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project. It is proposed to archive and preserve digitally the case records of the subordinate courts and destruct the physical case files except those records which needs to be preserved. As it was felt that necessary amendments will have to be made to the Records Destruction Rules, the matter has been referred to the Rule Committee, High Court. Further action will be taken on receiving the recommendations of the Rule Committee.

*Q7. Whether the digital signature is in use by your court? If yes, then specify the process and its utility.*

Digital signature is not used in the High Court for Judicial purposes. On the Administrative side, it is used for e- Tender process.

Steps are already initiated to obtain digital signature certificate for the Judicial officers in the Subordinate courts.

*Q8. Whether there is any security for preservation of data scanned and uploaded? If yes, then specify the procedure through which it get affected?*

No security protocol has been implemented. The scanned images of 10,00,000 pages of 24843 case files of 1991 and 1992 digitised in 2013 are stored in the Local Server. It has not been opened up for users.

The process of scanning and digitisation has not yet started in the subordinate courts.

*Q9. Which Citizen centric Services have been started by your High Court?*

Cause List, Case Status and Judgements have been made available through the website. Touch screen kiosk has been set up in the Enquiry Counter in the High Court.

The following Citizen Centric Services are provided to the Lawyers and Litigants in the Subordinate Courts in the state. Efforts are being taken to increase the number of services.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b><i>Citizen Centric Services</i></b>
1	Filing at Judicial Service Centre and generation of receipt containing filing number.
2	Scrutiny objections on the District Court website.
3	Push SMS facility on filing, registration, listing and disposal of case.
4	Single Window at JSC for filing of process fee and collection of dasti summons. Email summons can be generated in E- filing cases.
5	Judgement on Internet Website with search facility.
6	Automatic Caveat checking.
7	Cause list on Internet(with searchable fields)
8	Court diaries and court calenders to be generated automatically.
9	Performance Assessment Reports to be generated on set parameters accessible to the Judge himself and his inspecting judges.
10	Case status on Internet: 1) Case Number 2) Case Title 3) Advocate Name 4) Court 5) Location of Court 6) Next date of hearing 7) Purpose of hearing 8) How many times listed for same purpose? 9) Lower court details, if matter is pending in higher court. 10) If matter is pending in lower court then information as to whether any appeal/ revision has been filed against an order/ judgement.
11	Orders are to be stored in the Server, which can be accessed by authorised persons from court or copying agency etc.
12	Daily orders on Website.
13	Website for each District Court
14	Complete court fee structure on the district court website.

*Q10. Has the SMS Delivery Service been launched? If yes, since when?*

SMS Delivery Service has not been launched in the High Court for Judicial purposes. From 2012, SMS service was launched for the benefit of the candidates using the online Recruitment Portal.

SMS services are provided to advocates and litigants which was commenced in the subordinate courts in the year 2014. At present SMS services are being provided in 21 court complexes covering 214 courts in the subordinate courts.(13 districts except Kalpetta, where white listing of IP address is in progress.)

*Q11. What are the data presently being uploaded on NJDG Portal? What is the time frame for uploading the material?*

High Court CIS (Case Information System) is yet to be linked to NJDG Portal.

The case details entered in CIS Software in the Subordinate Courts are being uploaded on NJDG and the same is uploaded on daily basis (on all working days).

*Q12. Is the District Court Website functional? Specify its utility to the stakeholders.*

Yes. District Court websites are functional in all 14 districts and also in District court Kavaratti, Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The stakeholders can access the Case status, daily proceedings, cause lists, Orders and Judgements through web portal.

Sd/-

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