July, 2021

Newsletter

e-Committee, Supreme Court of India

Table of Contents

Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, formally Launches Live Streaming of Court Proceedings of Gujarat High Court……..3

e-Committee's special accessibility drive makes all High Court websites with accessible captcha……..5

Justice Clock Web Version Launched by High Court of Tripura……..9

'District Judiciary Record Room Application Software' Launched by High Court of Tripura…..10

NSTEP Electronic Process Delivery started in Muzaffarpur District, Bihar……..12

E-initiatives of the High Court of Punjab & Haryana for July 2021:.....13

Online Training on Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) & CIS / Ubuntu at High Court of Chattisgarh……..14

Workflow-based e-solution for Naziratte Section by High Court of Kerala:.....15

Development of Family Court Case Management Module:……15

e-Initiative at District Court Ernakulam……16

VC Remote Points at 35 District Headquarters & Online scheduling of VC by High Court of Rajasthan……..17

e-Sewa Kendra was inaugurated at Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu.……...19

Know the Best Practices of High courts……...20

e-Courts Statistics……21

Status of implementation of the Rules of Video Conferencing in High Courts…….. 21

Number of Cases dealt through Video Conferencing in High Courts/District Courts during the Lock-Down as of 31 July 2021……22

Training/Awareness programmes during June & July 2021……24

Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, formally Launches Live Streaming of Court Proceedings of Gujarat High Court.

On 17 July 2021, live streaming became a reality through a live broadcast of the Gujarat High Court proceedings inaugurated by Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana in the presence of the Guest of Honor and e-Committee Chairperson, Justice DY Chandrachud; Special Guest and Supreme Court judge, Justice M.R. Shah; Gujarat High Court Chief Justice, Vikram Nath, along with other judges and lawyers. As a milestone towards ensuring transparency in the delivery of justice, Gujarat High became the first to live-stream its court proceedings. During

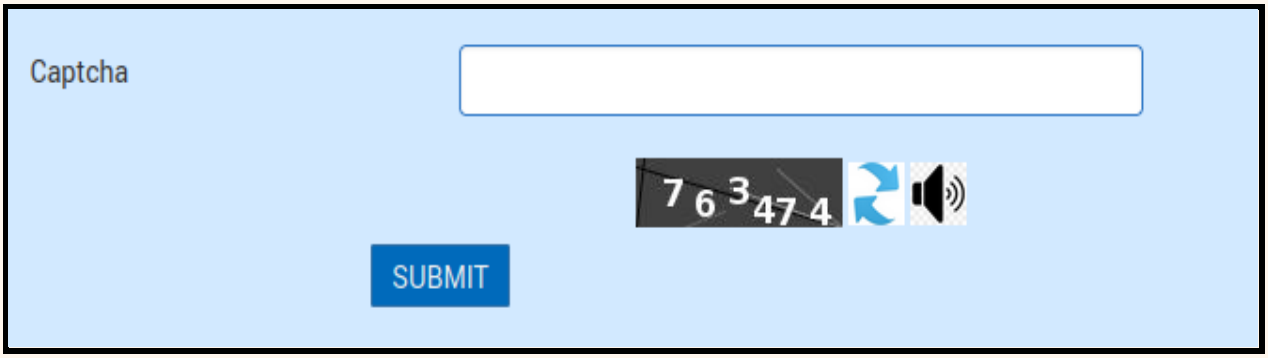
the inauguration, Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana, mentioned how disseminating information is sacred to free speech and live-streaming of court proceedings is pivotal. He shared the desire to introduce live-streaming of court proceedings in a cost-effective system and widen the ambit of the open court system to demystify 'justice' which will give people of India the right to be informed about the institutions playing a vital role in serving them. While putting forth the objective of live-streaming of proceedings, the Chief Justice of India cautioned the judges to not get deterred by popular opinion since a judge, as the repository of people's faith, must keep their objectivity intact. He mentioned that the Draft Rules will play an important role in maintaining the privacy of parties in order to ensure the security and safety of victims and witnesses. He suggested that the lawyers look after their clients' interests rather than jostling for publicity. Lastly, he brought forth the prospect of live-streaming of Supreme Court proceedings once the logistics have been figured out and a full consensus of the court is reached.

The Supreme Court e-Committee released Draft Model Rules for Live-Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings intending to introduce live-streaming of court proceedings and eliminate any misconception prevailing among the people due to loss in transmission caused by the media. The e-Committee Chairperson invited feedback from Chief Justices of the High Courts and emphasised that the right of access to justice guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India also "encompasses the right to access live court proceedings".

Click here to watch the Inaugural function

https://youtu.be/lr6dxEA3Q

e-Committee's special accessibility drive makes all High Court websites with accessible captcha



The e-Committee, Supreme court of India's special initiative to Make the Digital Infrastructure of the Indian Judiciary More Accessible to the Disabled The task of making the digital infrastructure of the Indian judicial system more accessible to persons with disabilities has been a core component of the work of the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, in the last few months. The e-Courts project implemented by the e-Committee is the mission mode project of the Department of Justice. In a letter dated 16th December 2020, the Hon'ble Chairperson of the e-Committee, Dr Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, exhorted all High Courts to make their digital infrastructure accessible to persons with disabilities in conformity with the constitutional and statutory entitlements of the disabled. The letter contained a series of structural interventions for all High Courts to undertake in this regard.

Pursuant to this letter, the e-Committee formulated an action plan to ensure the accessibility of the digital interface of all High Courts' websites in Phase 1 of this project. Six parameters were devised to determine if the website of a given High Court was accessible. These were: Access to judgments; Access to cause-lists; Access to case status;

Contrast/ colour theme; text size [A+AA]; and screen reader access.

The e-Committee conducted a series of sessions for the Central Project Coordinators of all High Courts and their technical teams to create awareness and impart training on ensuring accessibility of the digital interface of all High Courts' websites and generating accessible PDFs.The websites of the High Courts now comply with the above parameters except for a few websites which are in the process of providing screen reader access. The status of the compliance of the High Courts with these parameters- Annexure A

A significant milestone that the e-Committee's efforts have yielded has been to ensure that all High Court websites now have accessible captchas. These captchas serve as entry points to access several essential facets of a court website, such as judgments/orders, cause-lists and checking the status of cases.

Many High Court websites were hitherto exclusively using visual captchas inaccessible to the visually challenged, making it impossible to access such content independently. In coordination with all High Courts, the e-Committee has ensured that visual captchas are accompanied by text/ audio captchas making the website content accessible to the visually challenged.

The e-Committee is also creating a Standard Operating Procedure for generating accessible court documents and will serve as a user guide to its stakeholders. This will also address the issues of watermarks, entering content by hand, improper placement of stamps and inaccessible pagination of files.

In this regard, the Chairperson of the e-Committee, Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, has addressed a letter dated 25.06.2021 to the Chief Justices of all the High Courts for their input and suggestions on creating the said SOP.

Another significant initiative undertaken by the e-Committee in collaboration with NIC is creating a judgment search portal (https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in) accessible to persons with disabilities. The portal contains judgements and final orders passed by all High Courts. The portal uses a free text search engine. In addition, the portal provides the facility of using an audio captcha, along with a text captcha. It also uses accessible combo boxes, making it easier for the visually disabled to navigate the website.

The website of the e-Committee https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/ ; and the e-Courts website https://ecourts.gov.in/ecourts_home are also accessible to persons with disabilities. The e- Committee webpage is created on the S3WAAS platform, which complies with the standards for making websites accessible for the disabled. The e-Committee's training programmes for Lawyers also sensitise Advocates to adopt accessible filing practices.

These measures, cumulatively viewed, have significantly furthered access to justice for the disabled and served as a powerful affirmation of their dignity, allowing them to participate in our justice system on equal terms.

For legal professionals with disabilities, these measures have been a significant step in enabling them to participate in the profession on the same footing as their able-bodied counterparts.

These initiatives of the e-Committee have helped transform our courts from sites of exclusion to bastions of inclusion for the disabled, and it is a way forward in creating an accessible and inclusive legal system.

S. No	High Court	Judgments/ Orders I	Cause List II	Case Status III	Contrast /Color Themes	Text Size A+ A A-	Screen reader access V
1	Delhi	No Captcha	No Captcha	No Captcha	✓	✓	No
2	Gauhati (Nagaland)	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	No
3	Himachal Pradesh	No Captcha	No Captcha	No Captcha	✓	✓	✓
4	Jammu & Kashmir	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
5	Jharkhand	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
6	Karnataka	No Captcha	No Captcha	No Captcha	✓	✓	✓
7	Kerala	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
8	Madhya Pradesh	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
9	Madras	No Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
10	Manipur	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
11	Meghalaya	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
12	Orissa	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
13	Patna	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	No Captcha	✓	✓	✓
14	Rajasthan	No Captcha	No Captcha	No Captcha	✓	✓	✓
15	Sikkim	No Captcha	No Captcha	No Captcha	✓	✓	✓
16	Telangana	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
17	Tripura	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
18	Uttarakhand	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
19	E-Committee Website	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
20	E-Courts Services Website (District Courts)	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
21	E-Courts Services Website (High Courts)	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
22	Allahabad	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
24	Calcutta	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
25	Gauhati (Mizoram)	No Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
26	Punjab & Haryana	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	No Captcha	✓	✓	✓
27	Andhra Pradesh	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	No Captcha	✓	✓	✓
28	Chhattisgarh	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓
29	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	No
30	Gujarat	No Captcha	No Captcha	No Captcha	✓	✓	No
31	Bombay	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	No
32	Gauhati (Assam)	Audio Captcha	No Captcha	Audio Captcha	✓	✓	✓

‘Justice Clock Web Version’ Launched by High Court of Tripura

To facilitate the litigants and public, in general, to access the pendency and disposal of cases for the High Court of Tripura and its District Courts, the web version of the Justice Clock was launched on 3rd July 2021. To effectively use the database created through the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and make the information available to the public, a large LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clock was installed in the High Court Tripura on 20th March 2020. The Justice Clock installed near the main building of the High Court facing the entrance displays statistical information such as institution, disposal and pendency of cases in the High Court and in the District Courts of the State of Tripura. The purpose of Justice Clock is to bring awareness to the public about the justice sector, advertise the various

schemes of the department and give the status of various fields to the public. It also displays the '*Dos & Don'ts*' of COVID appropriate behaviour for the Court employees, litigants and the advocates visiting the High Court premises and the manner of availing the various categories of citizen-centric services by the public in general. Now, all this information has been made available to the world at large by launching the web version of the Justice Clock on the official website of the High Court of Tripura.

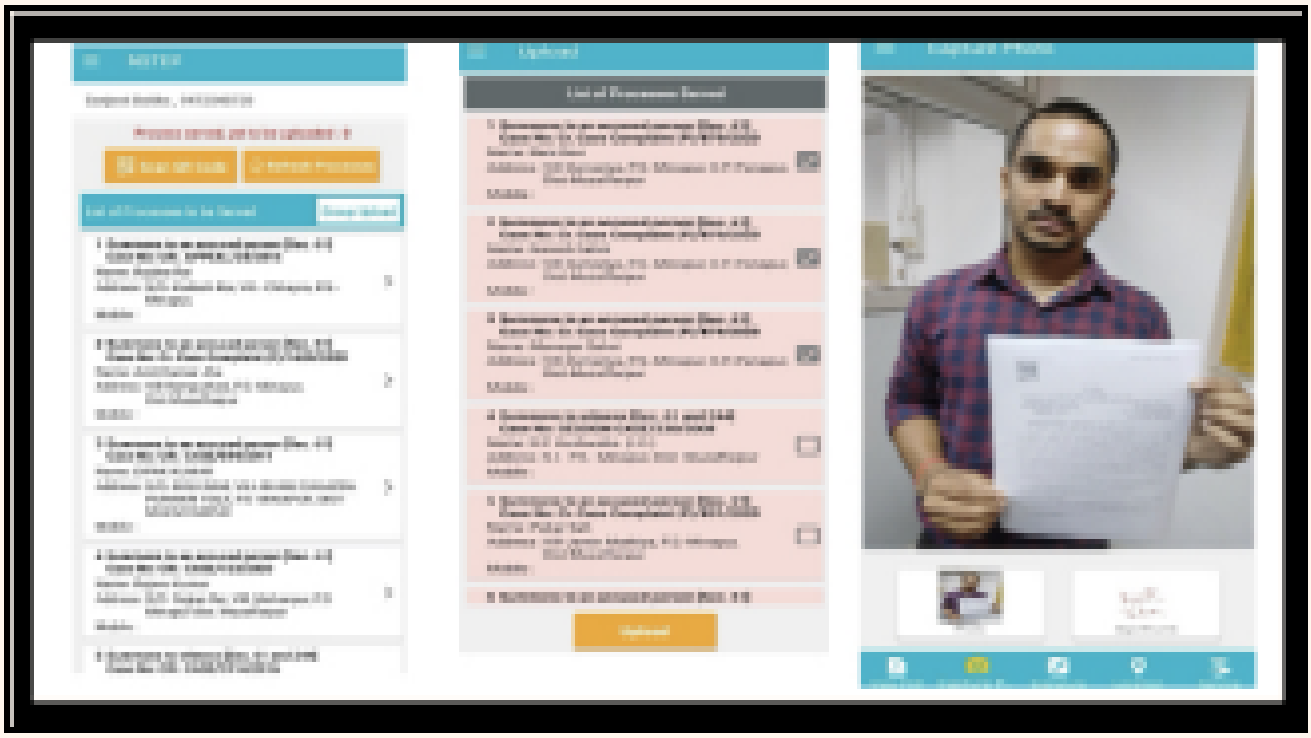
'District Judiciary Record Room Application Software' Launched by High Court of Tripura

'District Judiciary Record Room Application Software' has been designed and developed in HTML-PHP as a front-end and POSTGRESQL as a back-end. This application basically works on the data of disposed cases available in the databases of the District Court CIS NC Version 3.2. Data of disposed cases are being pulled by the "date of disposal" of the case record. This application has been developed to trace out the physical location of the disposed case record along with the rack number of the case record in the District Record Room situated at the District Court Complex of Agartala city, which is the centralised Record Room where disposed records from all over the State of Tripura are kept. Moreover, this application has been facilitated to generate a report of those disposed cases that superior Courts have called for in connection with Appeal, Review or Revision. Using this Module in the application, the Record Room staff may give necessary data entry of such disposed cases before dispatching the same to the Court that has called for that record. The same entries will be reflected in a report if the case is searched in the query menu.

This application has been facilitated with a separate module for making data entry of those cases that were disposed of quite long back before launching the eCourts Project and CIS Application Software in the District Courts. Thus, this application has the provision of adding new case entries for the cases that are not available in District Court CIS. With respect to the cases which are shown to be disposed of in the District Court CIS NC Version 3.2 and the earlier versions, data may be pulled with all the details from the database of CIS, and necessary entries may be given in the application.

- There is entry for a new case record in the Record Room module. The case records that are not available in CIS may be given data entry by this form.
- There is also the entry for case records that are available in CIS and are in disposed stage. By selecting the date of the decision, the respective case number will be displayed in the Case No. field, and on clicking the GO button, all the existing data will be populated in the fields .
- Now, the Court USER only needs to enter the Consignment No., Consignment Date, Files and TR Remarks and click on the Submit button.
- Thereafter, the entry will be populated to the next form, which is available for the Record Room USER.
- Now, on selecting the case no. from the Case No. field and on clicking the GO button, all the pre-filled data will get populated to the respective fields –
- Now USER only needs to fill in the record room details like Record Room, Rack No. and Receipt Date and to click on the Submit button.
- The query for the case record will also be displayed.

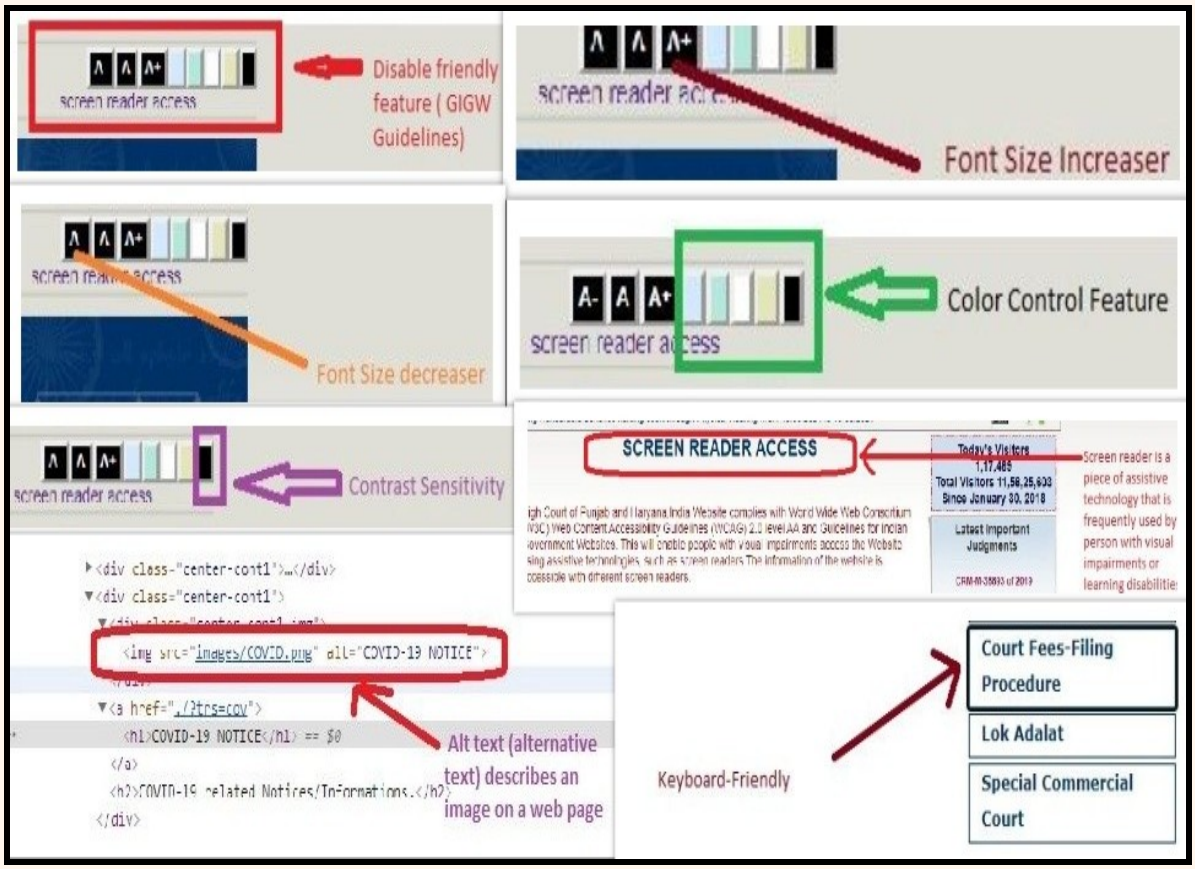
NSTEP Electronic Process Delivery started in Muzaffarpur District, Bihar



On 20th July 2021, the facility of NSTEP came into effect in District Court, Muzaffarpur. It will enable transparent tracking of service of notices and summons in real-time to the courts.

Training of all the process servers was also conducted, and they successfully delivered the summon to the people in District. The delivery of processes to other Districts will also be enabled soon.

E-initiatives of the High Court of Punjab & Haryana for July 2021:



The best practice implemented in the Punjab and Haryana High Court in July 2021 are as under:-

(i) Streamlining of online payments has been done in e-Copy/ Inspection.

(ii) Updation of the case allocation mechanism has been done as per roster requirements.

(iii) Enhanced Accessibility features of the Punjab & Haryana High Court Website

Online Training on Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) & CIS / Ubuntu at High Court of Chattisgarh

Online Training Programme for Judicial Officers of the State on Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) - cum - CIS and ubuntu OS, was organised by High Court of Chhattisgarh, in Coordination with the Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy, Bilaspur, on 17th & 18th July 2021, through blue jeans software along with, live streaming on youtube, in which 300 Judicial Officers of the State are participated and trained. 6 Master Trainer Judicial Officers have provided Three-hour training, and a total of 373 views have been received on the youtube link.

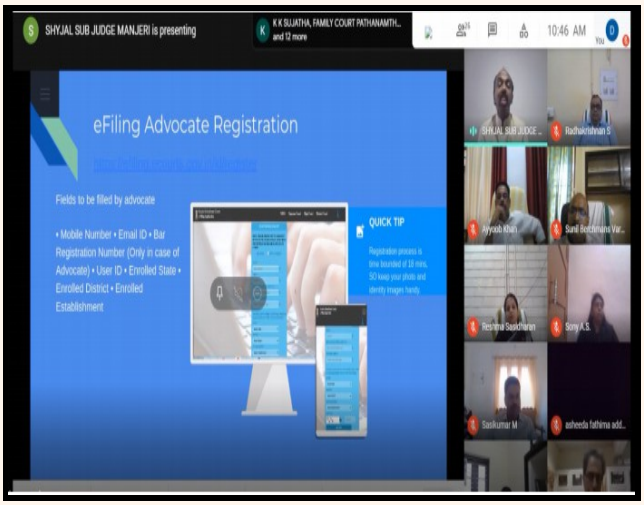
Workflow-based e-solution for Naziratte Section by High Court of Kerala:

A demo was conducted on 13th July 2021 by NIC, High Court of Kerala unit on the workflow-based solution for the functions of the Naziratte Section with role-based access for Amin, Central Nazir, Process Servers etc. The application is integrated with the NSTEP component of the eCourts project. Using local CIS application, the electronic civil process can be generated by Amin and approved & published by Central Nazir in the web portal, enabling process admin to allocate processes. Process servers can use NSTEP mobile application to serve the process, utilizing the features provided through the app, such as capturing photos, signatures, location details and uploading process status whether served or not. The status will be reflected in the NSTEP portal as well as in the local CIS. The process details are published in the local CIS application which is then moved to the NSTEP web portal where the process admins update the process to the Bailiffs. Through the NSTEP mobile app, Bailiffs will serve the process, and they upload the process status in the server, and it will get reflected in NJDG, and at the same time, the process status will be indicated to the local CIS.

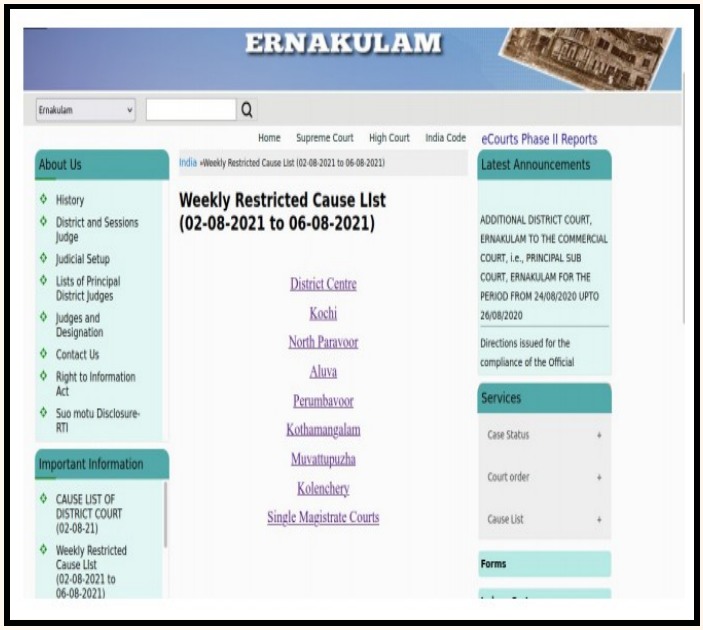
Development of Family Court Case Management Module:

A Video Conferencing was conducted on 14 July 2021 with all the stakeholders of the Family Court comprising of Advocates practising before the Family Court, Family Court Counsellor, representatives of mediators, and staff who are well versed with filling, Court fee Verification, payment proceedings, copy application and day to day functioning of Family Court. The workflow of the NIC unit is circulated to the Family Courts to call for further suggestions

E-filing & Video Conferencing hearing at District Court Manjeri



e-Initiative at District Court Ernakulam



The Court Proceedings, Roll call, hearing of Bail Applications and Remand extension were conducted through Video Conferencing. Weekly restricted cause lists are published through the website every week.

VC Remote Points at 35 District Headquarters & Online scheduling of VC by High Court of Rajasthan

In order to effectively implement Video Conferencing Rules in subordinate courts, dedicated VC hardware for each court has been procured, and VC remote points have been set up at all the 35 District Headquarters court complexes of Rajasthan wherefrom witnesses and other persons can appear before courts through Video Conferencing. For these remote points, VC Coordinators have also been nominated to assist and arrange Video Conferencing for the recording of evidence and other purposes. An online portal has also been developed to assist courts in scheduling Video Conferencing through any distant VC Remote Point. Using login & password, all courts of Rajasthan can now have a virtual view of VC Remote points and can also check the availability of empty slots before scheduling video conferencing for any witness.

This online web portal will also provide information to the Remote Point Coordinator whenever VC is scheduled at their location. Concerned Courts and Remote Point Coordinators can also generate reports about usages of VC. Information will also be sent to the witness or participant through automated SMS. In the second phase, such remote points will also be established in other court complexes and government offices, including hospitals.

Online Portal Of Rajasthan High Court to upload Covid Vaccination Certificate and to generate e-gate pass

Rajasthan High Court resumed regular functioning through Physical hearing and Video Conferencing, i.e. Hybrid System from 05.07.2021. For all stakeholders' security and safety, a decision was taken to permit entry in court premises only to the persons who have taken at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

A special online module was developed and deployed on the website of Rajasthan High Court and the facility was given to all concerned persons to upload their vaccination certificate. A mechanism was developed to verify the uploaded certificates by medical authorities and issue system-generated entry pass through automated SMS after due verification.

To enable complete paperless functioning of this module, besides SMS, the facility to download PDF entry passes has also been incorporated in the module. Persons entitled to entry may show SMS or downloaded PDF files from mobile phones to get access in court premises.

e-Sewa Kendra was inaugurated at Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Mr Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice, High Court of Madras, has inaugurated the e-Sewa Kendra in the District Headquarters at Krishnagiri District on 03.07.2021. The e-Sewa Kendra in Krishnagiri District is offering services viz., Handling enquiries about case status, next date of hearing and other case details, publicising and assisting in downloading the eCourts Services Mobile app in android and iPhone smartphones to the Advocates and Litigant Public.

Know the Best Practices of High courts

As part of the "Know the best practices of High Court" series to disseminate information about the e-initiatives and the best practices of the High Court, this month in the limelight are:-

(i)The High Court of Meghalaya

(ii) High court of Patna

(i) The High Court of Meghalaya– Click the link to read the e-initiatives and the best practices of the Meghalaya High Court.

https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/division/high-court-of-meghalaya/

(ii) The High Court of Patna

Click the link to read the e-initiatives and the best practices of the High Court of Patna.

https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/division/phc

e-Courts Statistics

Status of implementation of the Rules of Video Conferencing in High Courts as of 31.07.2021

S.No	High Court	Whether the Rules of Video Conferencing is implemented
1	Allahabad	Yes
2	Andhra Pradesh	No
3	Bombay	No
4	Calcutta	No
5	Chhattisgarh	Yes
6	Delhi	Yes
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	Yes
8	Gauhati - Assam	Yes
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	Yes
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	Yes
11	Gujarat*	Yes
12	Himachal Pradesh	Yes
13	Jammu and Kashmir	No
14	Jharkhand	Yes
15	Karnataka	Yes
16	Kerala	No
17	Madhya Pradesh	Yes
18	Madras	Yes
19	Manipur	Yes
20	Meghalaya	Yes
21	Orissa	Yes
22	Patna	Yes
23	Punjab and Haryana	No
24	Rajasthan	No
25	Sikkim	Yes
26	Telangana	Yes
27	Tripura	Yes
28	Uttarakhand	No
	Implemented	21
	Not yet Implemented	07

Number of Cases dealt through Video Conferencing in High Courts/District Courts during the Lock-Down as of 31 July 2021

S. No	High Court	Total Number of cases dealt with on video conferencing in High Court and Bench.			Total Number of cases dealt on video conferencing in District Courts.			Total
		From Date	To Date	Total Cases	From Date	To Date	Total Cases	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I=E+H
1	Allahabad	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	187938	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	1552348	1740286
2	Andhra Pradesh	3/26/2020	7/31/2021	253989	3/26/2020	7/31/2021	471375	725364
3	Bombay	8/1/2021	7/31/2021	22512	8/1/2021	7/31/2021	5028	27540
4	Calcutta	3/22/2020	7/31/2021	107053	3/22/2020	7/31/2021	32318	139371
5	Chhattisgarh	3/30/2020	7/31/2021	71116	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	25167	96283
6	Delhi	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	197562	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	1922502	2120064
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	3/22/2020	7/31/2021	2073	3/22/2020	7/31/2021	7848	9921
8	Gauhati - Assam	3/26/2020	7/31/2021	49206	3/26/2020	7/31/2021	185503	234709
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	1931	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	11388	13319
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	3/22/2021	7/31/2021	1827	8/22/2021	7/31/2021	1950	3777
11	Gujarat	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	307566	4/15/2020	7/31/2021	144903	452469

12	Himachal Pradesh	3/24/2020	7/31/2021	70123	3/24/2020	7/31/2021	30352	100475
13	Jammu and Kashmir	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	243683	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	190729	434412
14	Jharkhand	3/25/2021	7/31/2021	126632	3/25/2021	7/31/2021	522529	649161
15	Karnataka	3/24/2020	7/31/2021	413241	3/24/2020	7/31/2021	97319	510560
16	Kerala	3/22/2020	7/31/2021	93981	3/24/2020	7/31/2021	126471	220452
17	Madhya Pradesh	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	432356	3/23/2020	8/31/2021	561719	994075
18	Madras	3/26/2020	7/31/2021	864478	3/26/2020	7/31/2021	220990	1085468
19	Manipur	4/15/2020	7/31/2021	13329	4/15/2020	7/31/2021	4744	18073
20	Meghalaya	3/22/2020	7/31/2021	649	3/22/2020	7/31/2021	8502	9151
21	Orissa	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	191527	3/1/2020	7/31/2021	159170	350697
22	Patna	3/24/2020	7/31/2021	114950	3/24/2020	7/31/2021	1072889	1187839
23	Punjab and Haryana	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	313744	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	380251	693995
24	Rajasthan	3/16/2021	7/31/2021	155265	3/16/2020	7/31/2021	131971	287236
25	Sikkim	3/24/2020	7/31/2021	417	3/24/2020	7/31/2021	4448	4865
26	Telangana	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	236106	3/23/2020	7/31/2021	147567	383673
27	Tripura	3/22/2020	7/31/2021	8401	3/22/2020	7/31/2021	7655	16056
28	Uttarakhand	4/15/2020	7/31/2021	66181	4/15/2020	7/31/2021	34602	100783
	Total			**4547836**			**8062238**	**12610074**

Training/Awareness programmes during June & July 2021

High Court	Judicial Academy	Date	Participants	No.of Participants / Views
Gauhati - (Arunachal Pradesh) & (Nagaland)	National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam (NLUJAA)	26.06.2021	Advocate & Clerks	206
Gauhati (Mizoram)	National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam (NLUJAA)	28.06.2021	Advocate & Clerks	79
Gauhati (Assam)	National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam (NLUJAA)	11.07.2021	Advocate & Clerks	308
Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy	03-07-2021	Advocate & Clerks	701
Total Participants/ views				1294

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