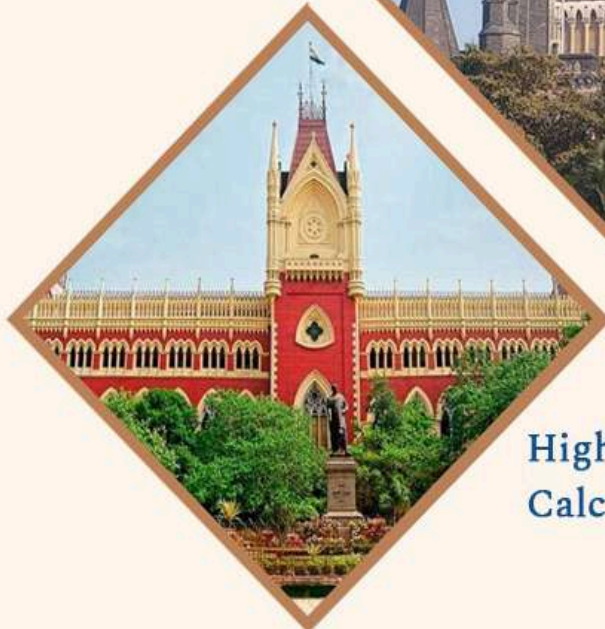# Newsletter

e-Committee, Supreme Court of India

Special
Edition

High Court Of
Bombay

High Court Of
Calcutta

e-Committee Supreme Court of India

Special Edition

**High Court of Calcutta
e-Initiatives & Best Practices**

T.S. Shivagnanam
Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court.

MESSAGE

Greetings!

IT brings me great joy to learn of the special issue of the Newsletter by the esteemed e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India, dedicated to showcasing the e-initiatives undertaken by various High Courts across the nation. This initiative provides an invaluable platform for the judiciary to exchange innovative ideas, concepts, and best practices as we collectively journey towards complete digitization. This collaborative sharing of ideas and practices serves as a powerful catalyst in steering the entire judiciary of our nation towards a unified path of digital progress.
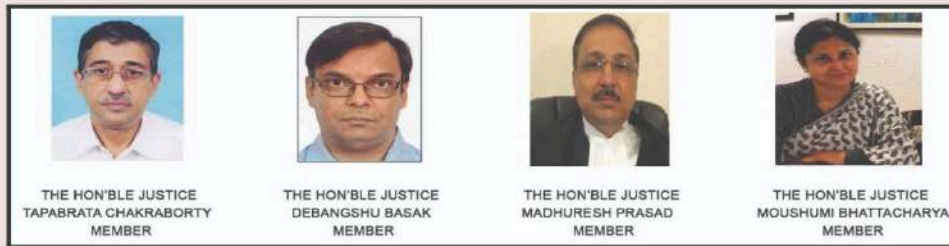
Furthermore, it creates an opportunity for each High Court to spotlight the advancements made in the digital transformation of the District Judiciary under its jurisdiction. It also facilitates the sharing of insights and practices originating from the diverse talent pool within the District Courts. Such initiatives not only foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing but also pave the way for a more efficient and technologically adept judiciary, ultimately ensuring greater access to justice for all. It gives me immense pleasure to share with you the remarkable e-initiatives undertaken by the Calcutta High Court, which have significantly transformed our judicial processes and enhanced access to justice for all.

In today's digital era, embracing technology is not merely an option but a necessity to ensure efficient and transparent dispensation of justice. Keeping this in mind, the Calcutta High Court has been leveraging digital solutions to streamline court proceedings and facilitate easier access for litigants and stakeholders. From the introduction of e-filing systems and online case status tracking to virtual court hearings and e-payment facilities, our endeavours have been aimed at making

These initiatives have not only reduced the burden of paperwork but have also expedited the resolution of cases, thereby upholding the fundamental right to speedy justice. As we continue to embrace innovation and adapt to the evolving landscape of technology, I am confident that our collective efforts will further enhance the efficacy and credibility of the judiciary while ensuring that justice remains accessible to all sections of society. I once again extend my heartfelt gratitude to the E-Committee of the Supreme Court of India for providing this platform to showcase our initiatives and exchange best practices with fellow members of the legal fraternity. I also extend my gratitude to the Hon'ble Members of the Calcutta High Computer Committee for their Constant Support and cooperation in realising the aims and objectives of the E-Courts project.

I Further Convey my Thanks to the members of the HighCourt Registry, in particular the Registrar. IT and the Central Project Coordinator, and the staff members of their establishment for their tireless effort in giving shape the objectives and targets laiddown by the Hon'ble E-Committee from time to time. Together, let us march ahead with renewed zeal and dedication towards building a judiciary that is not only just but also technologically advanced and responsive to the needs of the modern era.

| THE HON'BLE JUSTICE TAPABRATA CHAKRABORTY MEMBER | THE HON'BLE JUSTICE DEBANGSHU BASAK MEMBER | THE HON'BLE JUSTICE MADHURESH PRASAD MEMBER | THE HON'BLE JUSTICE MOUSHUMI BHATTACHARYA MEMBER |

Achievements of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the eCourts Projects

Achievements of Phase-I of eCourts Project:

In the Phase-I of the eCourts Project, the infrastructure required for computerization of Courts was made ready starting from site preparation, installation of electrical points, AC machines and DG sets, formation/identification of Judicial Service Center/Server Room, installation of LAN and hardware in the Court Complexes. Case Information System software was implemented in the Court Complexes during the Phase-I of eCourts Project. WAN Connectivity i.e. Leased Lines and VPNoBB connectivities were also installed in the Court Complexes. Some of the achievements are given here under:-

1. Site Preparation was made in 89 Court Complexes comprising 774 Courts.

2. LAN was installed in 89 Court Complexes comprising 774 Courts.

3. Hardware was installed in 86 Court Complexes comprising 770 Courts.

4. Diesel Generator Sets were installed in 76 Court Complexes comprising 732 Courts.

5. Case Information System Software was implemented at 86 Court Complexes comprising 770 Courts.

6. Leased Line Connectivity was installed at 22 District Court Complexes and VPNoBB was installed at 67 Court Complexes.

7. Video conferencing equipment was provided at 20 District Court Complexes and 19 District Correctional Homes for production of UTPs through VC.

8. All the Judicial Officers were provided with official Laptops and Printers.

9. Broadband Connectivity was also provided in the residence of the Judicial Officers for doing official works.

10. Posts of Technical Manpower (System Officers/System Assistants) were created for implementation of eCourts Project.

11. The Judicial Officers and the Court Staff were trained on Change Management and Ubuntu Operating System.

12. The national e-Courts portal (http://www.ecourts.gov.in) has become operational and has been opened for public access. The portal provides online services to litigants such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgments.

13. The NJDG has also been made operational which helped the judiciary in judicial monitoring and management and the Government to get data for policy purposes.

Achievements of Phase – II:

During the Phase-II of the eCourts Project the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta has procured different hardware equipments from the fund sanctioned by the Department of Justice, Government of India as well as from the State Government fund for modernising the IT infrastructure of the Courts in the State of West Bengal. From the fund allotted by the Department of Justice, Government of India various hardware were procured for the District and Sub Divisional Court Complexes, State Judicial Academy as well as District Legal Service Authority and Taluka Legal Service Committees in the State of West Bengal & Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The following hardware were procured during the Phase-II of eCourts Project:

(a) Desktop Computers (Core i3 and Core i5) for the Court Complexes.

(b) Information Kiosks for the Court Complexes.

(c) Desktop Computers for State Judicial Academy.

(d) Laser Network Printers and Multifunctional Printers for Court Complexes.

(e) Display Board Monitors with Thin Clients with Extra Monitor and Splitter.

(f) Desktop Computers for District Legal Service Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluka Legal Service Committee TLSCs).

(g) UPSs for the District Legal Service Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluka Legal Service Committees (TLSCs).

(h) Multifunctional Printers for District Legal Service Authorities(DLSAs) and Taluka Legal Service Committees.

(i) Justice Clock for the High Court.

(j) UPSs for Network Room in the Court Complex.

(k) Projectors with Screen and USB hard disks.

(l) LAN points for DLSAs and TLSCs.

(m) UPS for Desktop Computers.

(n) VC equipment for Sub Divisional Courts and Sub Jails

(o) Video Conferencing equipment for the CourtRooms

(p) High Speed and Flatbed Scanners for Court Complexes

(q) Hardware equipment for the eSewa Kendras

(r) Video conferencing equipment for VC Cabins.

(s) Hardware equipment for Help Desk Counters.

(t) Document Visualizers for Court Compl

Phase-II Implementation of e-Initiatives of the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India

Various e-Initiatives of the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India were also implemented during the Phase-II of the eCourts Project for strengthening the Justice Delivery System and for making the eCourts services more accessible to the Litigants, Lawyers and Public at Large. The following e-Initiatives have been implemented:

(**i**) **Implementation of Virtual Court:** Virtual Court for e-Challan traffic cases has been implemented for 4 (four) traffic guards under Kolkata Police as 'Pilot Project' at 4th Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Calcutta. The Virtual Court was inaugurated by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Calcutta on 15.09.2022.

(ii) Implementation of Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS): ICJS has been implemented in all the Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal. The metadata of the charge-sheets and FIRs are getting consumed in the CIS from the Police Stations in the State.

(iii) Implementation of Push SMS Service: Push SMS service has been implemented at 85 Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal. The Advocates registered in CIS are getting daily updates about the status of their cases at different stages.

(iv) Implementation of e-Payment: e-Payment of Court Fees has been introduced in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta and its Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri on and from 15.07.2021. e-Payment of Court Fee has also been implemented at City Civil Court, Kolkata and at 4 Commercial Courts in the State of West Bengal from 01.12.2021.

(v) Implementation of e-Filing: e-Filing version 1.0 has been implemented at the Appellate & Original Side of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta. eFiling Version 1.0 has also been implemented at the Court Complexes of the District Judiciary on and from 01.03.2023 at City Civil Court, Kolkata, Commercial Court Complex at Alipore, South 24 Parganas, Commercial Court Complex at Rajarhat, North 24 Parganas, Commercial Court Complex at Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman. The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta has also framed eFiling Rules which are applicable for Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta as well as District Courts and Tribunals over which it has supervisory jurisdiction. Testing of eFiling Version 3.0 is going on at Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta as well as at City Civil Court, Kolkata.

(vi) Implementation of eSewa Kendra: E-sewa Kendra has been set up at the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta and at District Court of Barasat, North 24 Parganas and at Commercial Court Complex at Alipore, South 24 Parganas. Esewa Kendra has also been set up at 5 other District Court Complexes in the State of West Bengal.

(viii) JustIS Mobile App: The Judicial Officers in the State of West Bengal are using JustIS mobile app through which he/she can get the overall status of cases lying pending in his/her Court. The justIS app is also made operational for the Hon'ble Portfolio Judges for monitoring the District.

On-Going Projects of eCourts Phase-III

Digitization Project:

- The project runs at two locations, one at West Bengal Judicial Academy for disposed of records & another at Calcutta High Court premises for current records.
- The project aims at scanning 80 crores of pages during the period of 3 years.
- Total pages scanned for the whole project up to 31st March 2023: 3,30,31,836 including 39,62,624 pages of current records and 2,90,69,212 pages of old records.
- Initiating scanning and digitization of legacy and pending case records of the courts in 15 identified pilot districts in West Bengal.
- Commissioning of Solar Power units in 75 identified court locations assessed as viable locations, on on-grid basis as an initial step.
- Ensuring seamless broadband connectivity of adequate bandwidth in each and every courtroom, for facilitating VC connectivity .
- Completing deployment of complete VC infrastructure compatible for holding trial proceedings in each and every courtroom.
- Setting up of VC Cabins with requisite hardware in District Judiciary of West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Provisioning ICT infrastructure in newly set up courtrooms.
- Commissioning fully functional advanced E-Seva kendras in all the identified court complexes.

- Implementation of E-Office Lite in the High Court.
- Implementation of e-filing 3.0 and e-payment facility in the District Courts.
- Implementation of e-filing 3.0 facility in the High Court.
- Migration of District Court Websites from Drupal platform to S3waas Platform.
- Implementation of CIS version 4.0 in the District Courts.
- Implementation of NSTEP
- Exchange of data of ePrison and forensic through ICJS.
- Implementation of more virtual courts for dealing with eChallan cases.
- Mechanism for Online Certified Copy
- Bail Bond – This application will empower district court users to define the capacity of the surety (for a bail) by uploading of surety documents. All transactions of the sureties and capacity availability can be monitored.
- FASTER – Transmission of electronic records of the High Court to all the stakeholders.
- Re-designing of the official website of the Calcutta High Court.
- Cloud based Paperless Court software applications.
- Introduction of 'Sarthak' module to facilitate different Departments of the State Government to track the cases filed at High Court concerning those Departments.
- Digital Signature Certificates for the Judges and Official
- Distribution of newly procured Laptops to all the officers of the District Judiciary for enhancing productivity
- Procurement and Distribution of Dictation Software to all the judicial officers for facilitating productivity.
- Revamping of LAN network in the District Judiciary
- Monitoring of uploading of judgments and orders in the CIS on a regular basis.

- Live Streaming of Court Proceedings in 14 Courts in the Principal Bench of the High Court.
- Integration of the District Judiciary with Virtual Justice Clock.

- Facilities for virtual hearing of all Circuit Bench matters by the Principal Bench when the Circuit Benches are not in session.

Best Practices (E-Initiatives) of The High Court At Calcutta

Drug Disposal Monitoring System– It is developed by the in-house IT team of the High Court for monitoring seizure, inventory, storage and disposal of narcotic substances seized by different authorities. The stakeholders are Police, NCB, Excise, Customs, DRI, Courts and the Drug Disposal Monitoring Committee of the High Court.

Inventory Management System– Through this in-house software inventory of stationary goods can be efficiently managed. There is user profile management for the Hon'ble Judges, Registrars, Courtrooms, Departmental authorities and staff.

Agenda Management System– This software facilitates efficient and flexible management of meetings at the High Court as well as efficient retrieval of records. This software serves as a digital archive for meeting agendas and resolutions of different committees.

Hardware Resource Manager– This software helps to manage all the hardware resources through the modules of Stock Intake, Distribution, Repairment, and Disposal. It also helps in hardware audit and e-waste management.

Personal Information System– This software manages details of the judicial officers having an integrated system of providing a suggested next place of posting for the judicial officers, ensuring speedy communication between the Judicial Officers and the High Court with a paperless approach to the annual confidential reports of the Judicial Officers.

Android / IOS APP– The mobile version of the High Court's official website is available in Android and IOS apps in the Smartphone.

Customised Display Board- Display Board module in CIS 1.0 has been customised, and is already functional in the Principal Bench of the High Court at Calcutta as well as in two Circuit Benches of the High Court. A mechanism has also been developed to show the data of the display board from CIS 1.0 to the website of the High Court at Calcutta.

Virtual Justice Clock– The Virtual Justice Clock provides live data about, institution, age, disposal and case clearance rate and other relevant data of the High Court.

Periodic Task Intimation– Tasks assigned to the registrars & other officials of the High Court can be monitored through this software. This helps in timely compliance of directions of the High Court & Hon'ble Supreme Court.

E-Gate Pass– This software is an online module to permit entry of the litigants, visitors and other stakeholders in the High Court premises.

Investment & Bank Guarantee Management System– A system has been developed to maintain details of the bank deposits of the Original Side of the High Court enabling to track all the details including date of maturity of different deposits of the Original Side of the High Court.

e-RTI Portal– e-RTI portal enables Indian citizens to file RTI applications through online mode and collect desired information from concerned authorities.

Vernacular Judgement– The translated Judgement in vernacular language is meant for the restricted use of the litigant to understand it in his/her language.

Neutral Citation System– Search and download Order /Judgment of disposed cases containing Neutral Citation number and QR code.

IT Infrastructure In District Judiciary of High Court of Calcutta

- Implementation of Case Information System software
- Judicial Service Centre
- Changed Management and Training
- Video-conferencing linking Courts and Correctional Homes
- Laptops for all Judicial Officers
- Service Delivery and National Judicial Data Grid
- Procurement of hardware for District Judiciary, DLSA, TLSC and WBJA

Implementation Of The E-Initiatives Of The E-Committee:

- ICJS & Virtual Court,
- Push SMS Services – Deployed at Calcutta High Court & Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench & at 84 District and Sub Divisional Court Complexes.
- E-Payment - Implemented for the High Court, Commercial Courts and City Civil Court at Kolkata.
- E-Filing - Principal Bench of the Calcutta High Court, 3 Commercial Courts and at City Civil Court, Kolkata.
- E-Sewa Kendra – Implemented at Calcutta High Court and at some District Courts.
- JustIS mobile app made operational.

****