

COMPUTERISATION AT HIGH COURT MADRAS

I) Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

a. Infrastructure :-

Hon'ble Judges

The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court are equipped with

- Desktop Computers of latest configuration (one each in the Chambers and Home Office of the Hon'ble Judges)
- Laptops (Dell) and laser printers
- Apple ipads
- SCC Online Journal
- dual LAN cards for the systems installed in the Chambers to facilitate the use of intranet and internet simultaneously.
- Multi function device (MFD) in the Chambers
- Broadband Connections (in the Chambers and Home Office of the Hon'ble Judges)

Registrars

- All the Registrars are provided with latest version of Laptops and desktops with Broadband Connection and Joint Registrars are provided with Desktop computers.

Registry

- All the sections of the Registry have been provided with desktop computers interconnected through LAN.

- Desktop Computers have also been installed in all the Court Halls, interconnected through LAN.
- High End Servers are installed in High Court, Madras to keep pace with the latest technology and for storage of data and for creation of software.
- 11 nos. of High End scanners have been installed in various Judicial and Administrative sections thereby enabling the Madras High Court to Scan and Digitize all the current cases being filed and the administrative files thus heralding the era of Digitization.
- Video Conferencing facility between the Principal Seat and the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court is available.

b. Software Modules :-

Software modules for the Judicial Wing of the High Court Civil side, Criminal Side, Writ Side, Original Side and Judicial side) are developed by NIC and the Software module of the Administrative wing are developed by the In-house Software team.

Software Modules for the Judicial Wing

The comprehensive Case Information System (CIS) developed by NIC

- maintains the itinerary of cases – from the stage of filing till the disposal and consignment of case files to record room.
- Preparation of Daily cause lists
- Status of Cases

- The final orders inclusive of orders passed in Bail and interim applications are maintained in the Judgment Information System (JIS).

Software modules to Administrative Wing

As a part of the paperless administration, In-house Software team consisting of System Officers and Assistants deployed under the e-courts project have developed software modules for various Administrative sections by which the following functions of the Registry are maintained and regulated :

- **Judicial Officers Management System** : Maintenance of profiles, transfer and postings, leave particulars of the Judicial Officers along with the complaints against them. Development of program pertaining to the disposal statistics and performance of the Judicial Officers is underway.
- **Attendance Management System** : Personal and official data of the Officers and Staff of the Registry is maintained under this system
 - Profile of Officers and Staff Members of the High Court are entered, incorporating biometrics (Finger Print) through which attendance is marked and maintained.
 - Officers and Staff Members of the High Court can generate/ edit/ view their leave letters.
 - Approval of leave letters and leave particulars are maintained using this Application.
- **Inventory Management System** for the IT peripherals purchased by the High Court under various projects.

- **Tapals Management System** for the distribution of all Tapals received by the High Court to various sections in the Registry. Maintenance of RTI applications and appeals and the details thereof are also maintained under this system.

- **Visitors Management System** for issuance of visitors pass to litigants and law college students with bar code and photo capture features. The said details of the visitors, such as their name, ID Proof, Address, purpose of visit, etc are entered and Visitor Pass is issued, which is also stored for future verification. Maintenance of details of ID cards issued to advocates under the comprehensive security system

- **Hon'ble Judges P.As Management System** : Ensures equitable work allotment and also instant availability of PAs' to attend urgent court halls and track the work executed by them per day and also their pendency .
 - Based upon attendance, the available PAs' are allocated to attend the Court.
 - Court Diary is entered by PAs'.
 - Availability of PAs', Work done by PAs are monitored by Sub-Assistant Registrar through various reports generated through the application.

- **Recruitment Software** : Used by the Recruitment Cell for processing the applications received from the prospective candidates for the posts of Judicial Officers.

- **Chamber allotment Software** : Maintenance of the particulars relating to the chambers allotted to Advocates .

c. Digitization of case records

From July, 2016, the High Court of Madras has commenced **Digitizing of Current/Fresh Cases** which are being filed in the filing sections of the High Court, Madras from July 2016. Scanners have been installed in the four departments of High Court viz., 1) Judicial department, 2) Criminal Section 3) Writ Section and 4) Original Side and they are scanning Admission cases being filed and the said scanned documents are available for retrieval by the Hon'ble Judges while hearing the cases. On-site training has been imparted to the staff of the concerned departments to scan and store the papers of all fresh cases. Steps are being taken to install Wacom boards in the Court Halls to enable the Hon'ble Judges to view the Admission case papers.

With regard to Administrative Section, scanners have been installed in the various administrative sections.

Digitization of Old/Disposed Case Records:

There are more than 1 crore old/disposed case files and Administrative files in High Court, Madras which are to be scanned, digitized and stored for integrated Retrieval. Hence to Scan and digitize the same, a proposal was forwarded to the Government of Tamil Nadu on 21.01.2015, for provisional sanction of funds. The Government, have accorded administrative sanction for a sum of Rs.9,42,87,753/- (Rupees Nine crore forty two lakhs eighty seven thousand seven hundred and fifty three only), under G.O. Ms. No.314, Home (Courts IV), dated 17.03.2016 and requested to send separate proposals for release of said funds based on the progress of work.

To commence the Digitization Process of Old records, the High Court, Madras had requested for release Rs. 1,03,86,693/- (Rupees One crore three lakhs eighty six thousand six hundred and ninety three only) towards Site preparation and provision of infrastructure facilities i.e. Tender Publishing, Civil Works, Electrical Works and purchase of necessary IT peripherals such as Servers, Computers, LAN connectivity. The Government in its G.O. Ms. No.431 Home (Courts IV) Department, dated 30.05.2016, has released the requested amount of Rs.1,03,86,693/- (Rupees One crore three lakhs eighty six thousand six hundred and ninety three only) . For expending the said amount, the following activities are in Process -

Site Preparation:

The Public Works Department (PWD) was addressed for plan and estimate for Site Preparation and installation Electrical peripherals thereof.

The Estimate from PWD Electricals has been received for a sum of Rs.50,30,000/- (Rupees Fifty lakhs and thirty thousand only) towards the provision for

- Electrical installations,
- Hi Wall mounting split A.C. units,
- Fire alarm and
- CC TV system and others

in the proposed Digitization Wing.

The Estimate from PWD Civil has been received for a sum of Rs.50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty lakhs only) towards the provision

- Gyp board false ceiling
- Vinyl flooring
- Fixing of glass doors

- Storage cupboard,
- Computer tables, long table, Chairs
- Zebra blind with necessary control unit with accessories, etc.,

in the proposed Digitization Wing.

Selection of Vendors:

On approval of the Hon'ble Digitization Committee, Process of Selection of Vendors for Scanning, Digitizing and storing for integrated retrieval of old/disposed of cases and Administrative files, will commence by calling for open tenders for Technical Bids and Financial Bids.

Thus, the High Court of Madras is in a fast forward mode for ushering the Era of Digitization.

d. Citizen Centric Services

Services Provided in High Court Madras

- **Touch Screen Kiosks(2 Nos.)** have been installed to enable the litigant public and the advocates to know the status of the case
- **LED Display Boards** with state of art technology have been installed in all the Court Halls at Principal Seat and Madurai Bench to enable litigant public and the advocates to access the serial number of the case being heard at Court Halls. The Government of Tamil Nadu has further sanctioned Rs.10,07,782/- towards installation in Madras Bar Association, Madras High Court Advocate's Association and Women Lawyer's Association.

- As a proactive disclosure, cause lists, judgments, orders, and the status of the cases are all being hosted on the **High Court website**, everyday (www.hcmadras.tn.nic.in)
- **SMS services** are initiated to know the stage of the cases at SR stage and listing of the cases.
- **Online Display system** is being hosted live on the High Court Website to enable the public to know stage of cases being heard in Court Halls.
- High Court **Information Centres** disseminate the case status information to the litigant public through Enquiry Counters.
- **Citizen charter** is hosted in the High Court website for the use of the public to know the location of the Madras High Court and the entry points, jurisdiction, functions and services available in the premises.

Services Provided in Subordinate Judiciary

- Automatic Caveat checking
- Generation of automated Cause List
- Generation of Court diaries
- Scrutiny of Plaints, Original Petitions etc.,
- Push SMS facility on filing, registration, listing and disposal of case
- Case status and Cause List(with Searchable Fields) on Internet
- Judgement on internet website with search facility
- Online generation of daily orders
- Website for each District court

e. Training Centre for staff of High Court:

Training Centre (fully air conditioned room) with 12 desktop computers and Projector with screen was started with a purpose to impart training to the staff members of the High Court in the field of Computers to improve their skills, to cope up with the latest technology and to be efficient in the software developed by the NIC officials as also the In house software team of High Court, Madras. Training was also imparted

- to the staff concerned for entry in new version of CIS software, rolled out by the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India.
- to the staff concerned for scanning and digitising current case records.

f. Implementation of e-Courts Project:

The e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project is one of the National e-Governance Projects for achieving uniform National Policy on implementation of Information and Communication Technology (Computerisation) in Indian Judiciary with appropriate phasing for time bound execution.

- **The Hon'ble e-Committee** with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Patron- in- Chief and the Hon'ble Judge In-Charge together with regular members is the apex body at the National Level for performing the task of overall monitoring and policy formulation.

- **A High Court Computer Committee** of each High Court consisting of Hon'ble High Court Judges is overseeing the implementation of Computerisation and ICT enablement at the respective High Court and also for recommending various policy measures.
- **Central Project Co-ordinator (CPC)** in the rank of District Judge is co-ordinating the implementation of various modules/ tasks of the Project.
- **District Computer Committees** headed by the Principal District Judge/ District Judges heading units is monitoring project implementation in the District- level and Taluk -level.
- **Nodal Officer** is the Judicial Officer designated to each Court Complex for day to day contact with CPC to follow up the project progress and resolve implementation issues.
- **National Informatics Centre** is functioning in co-ordination and in accordance with the requests/ recommendations of the Hon'ble e-Committee.
- In the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T. of Puducherry there are 1047 **sanctioned Courts out of which 988 Courts are functioning.**
- **Action Plan** - The Hon'ble e-Committee has devised implementation in Phases

Phase - I

- As envisaged in Phase I all the Hon'ble Judges have been provided with Desktop Computers, Laptops with Broadband Connectivity for discharging the Judicial and Administrative functions.

- All the Judicial Officers including all newly recruited Judicial Officers, in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry are provided with latest version of laptops and printers. 729 Laptops (Dell Latitude 3450 with i5 processor, 500 GB Hard Disk, 4 GB RAM, Built in Speaker and Web Camera) and Laser Printers (Samsung SLM 2826 ND duplex with network facility) were purchased and handed over to the Judicial officers during 2015.

- **Awareness and Hands on training** have been provided
 - on Ubuntu Operating System (14.04 version) and Case Information System (2.0) software to all the Judicial Officers in the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T. of Puducherry.
 - 27 Ubuntu Master Trainers (Judicial Officers) have been selected by the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, in the State of Tamil Nadu, to impart training to other Judicial Officers in the State.
 - 30 Staff Members have been trained as Master Trainers on CIS Software, who, in turn, are imparting training to other staff members.
 - As on date 1366 staff in the subordinate courts have undergone training in the new version of CIS software.

- **Computer based environment in Judicial System** has been created by giving
 - Unique Identification Numbers and e-mail IDs have been provided for all the Judicial officers.
 - All the Districts have been provided with technical manpower (one System Officer and two System Assistants)
 - All the Courts have been provided with computers, printers, diesel generator sets and UPS units from e-Courts project and State government funds.
 - Broadband connectivity has been provided to the residences of all the Judicial Officers and the same being renewed annually.
 - VPN over Broadband connectivity have been provided in all the District and Taluk level Court complexes and the same being renewed annually.
 - Apart from VPN over broadband connectivity leased line connections have been provided in 42 district Court complexes.
 - Computer server rooms and Judicial Service Centres have been provided in all Court Complexes.

- **Video Conferencing between Court and Prison –**

Under the e-Courts Project though only 23 Court Complexes and 8 Central Prisons are provided with Video Conferencing facility, the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, has proposed to connect all the courts with Prisons through the said VC facility.

The details of the availability of VC equipments in the State are as follows:-

VIDEO CONFERENCING FACILITY AVAILABLE IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU AND THE U.T OF PUDUCHERRY			
S.NO	VC EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY	CONNECTIVITY TYPE	NO OF COURT COMPLEX
1	Tamil Nadu Prison Department	ISDN TECHNOLOGY	135
2	E-Committee	IP TECHNOLOGY	23
3	Puducherry Government	ISDN TECHNOLOGY	4
4	Tamil Nadu Social Defence & Vigilance Department	ISDN TECHNOLOGY	2

- **Creation of National Judicial Data Grid**

- the Case Information System Software (CIS 1.1 Pune version) developed by NIC, Pune under the aegis of the Hon'ble e-Committee, has been rolled out in 796 Courts, Out of the 985 Courts covered under the e-Courts Project.

- Data entry of old cases is nearing completion in all the District and Taluk Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T. of Puducherry.

- The case details entered in 747 Courts, in the CIS software are replicated in National Judicial Data Grid Portal through which public can access the case particulars through the Web Portal in "e-courts.gov.in".

- Migration of data from CIS 1.1 to CIS 2.0 software is completed in 378 CIS establishments(out of the total 466 establishments) in the District and Subordinate Courts.

- Public access portal of National Judicial Data Grid Portal was inaugurated at the Supreme Court of India on 19th September 2015.
- Filing, scrutiny, registration, allocation of cases, cause-list generation, hosting of judgments, etc., are done using the CIS software and the Courts are now able to provide basic case related services to litigants and lawyers.

Phase II

As envisaged in Phase II of the e-courts Project:

- **Additional Hardware and Computerisation of all courts**
 - The Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, has sanctioned an amount of Rs.10.24 crores for procurement of 2,284 computers for 571 Courts and the process of procurement of the above said IT peripherals through ELCOT, Chennai, is underway.
- **Technical Infrastructure in existing and new Court Complexes**
 - The above said amount of Rs. 10.24 crores is to be utilised for 3426 additional LAN Points through ELCOT, Chennai and the process is underway.
- **Replacement of obsolete Laptops and provision of laptops and other IT peripherals to all Judicial Officers**
 - 695 Laptops and Laser Printers supplied in the year 2007 to the Judicial Officers of Tamil Nadu have been replaced by the State Government in the year 2015 by sanctioning Rs. 4,36,23,218/-.

- Towards the replacement of 157 Laptops and Laser Printers supplied to the Judicial Officers in the Year 2010, the State Government has now sanctioned Rs.91,71,422/- and the process of procurement is underway.
- **Computerisation of DLSA's and TLSC's**
 - As per Policy and Action Plan Document, Phase II of the e-Courts Project, there is a proposal to provide Computers and other IT peripherals to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and the Talukka Legal Services Committee (TLSC) in the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T. of Puducherry. At present there are 30 DLSAs and 152 TLSCs in the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T. of Puducherry
- **Cloud Connectivity** – This activity has not yet been initiated.
- **WAN connectivity** - A proposal for Rs.59,65,69,458/- (Rupees Fifty Nine crore sixty five lakhs sixty nine thousand four hundred and fifty eight only) has been sent to the State Government towards provision of Tamil Nadu State Wide Area Network (TNSWAN) connectivity to all the District and Taluk level Court Complexes (271 Court Complexes) in the State of Tamil Nadu for implementation of the e-Courts Project and other administrative work.
- **Solar Energy in 10% of Court Complexes** –
 - In response to the directions from the e-Committee, all the Chairpersons of the District Computer Committee have been asked to identify one court Complex and submit an estimate for installation of Solar Power Plant there. So far 28 court Complexes have been identified in 22 Districts.

- so far estimates from 15 Court complexes have been received from various Districts and the same have been forwarded to the Government of Tamil Nadu to enable them to prepare a Draft Project Report for furnishing the same to the Government of India, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Justice.

- **Change Management**

- All the Court Staff in the Subordinate Judiciary are being trained regularly to bring about a change in their mindset and reduce the resistance to computerisation. As of now around 2,000 staff in the State of Tamil Nadu and U.T. of Puducherry have been given hands on training on using computers.

- **Judicial Process Re-engineering**

- The Hon'ble Process Re-engineering Committee, High Court, Madras has sent a report on 23.01.2014 to the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, identifying the areas which require Process Re-engineering.

- The Hon'ble e-Committee, accepted the Report and directed its implementation. Accordingly, implementation of Process Re-engineering is done in five courts namely Judicial Magistrate Court – III, Thanjavur; District Munsif Court, Pattukottai; Judicial Magistrate Court –IV, Vellore; Principal District Munsif Court, Vellore and VIII

- Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Chennai for a period of one month on trial basis.

- The progress is being monitored in those five districts. In the meantime, there was a shift from CIS NCv1.1 to CIS NCv2.0.

- As directed by the Hon'ble Computer Committee four Ubuntu Master Trainers were instructed to examine the compatibility of the Master Registers designed by the PR committee with the CIS NCv 2.0 software developed by the Hon'ble e-Committee.
- In the meanwhile as directed in the Process Re-engineering workshop held on 11th June 2016 by the Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Justice at New Delhi, **draft rules** on the subjects allocated to the Madras High Court viz., "Court and Office Administration", "Right to Information", "Library" were forwarded to the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India on 26.07.2016.
- **Judicial Knowledge Management System (JKMS)** - as directed by the Hon'ble e-committee, Supreme Court of India, High Court library management system at the Principal Seat and Madurai Bench have been integrated with KOHA, the free and open source software (FOSS). Cataloguing data is being made available to the Supreme Court Judges library
