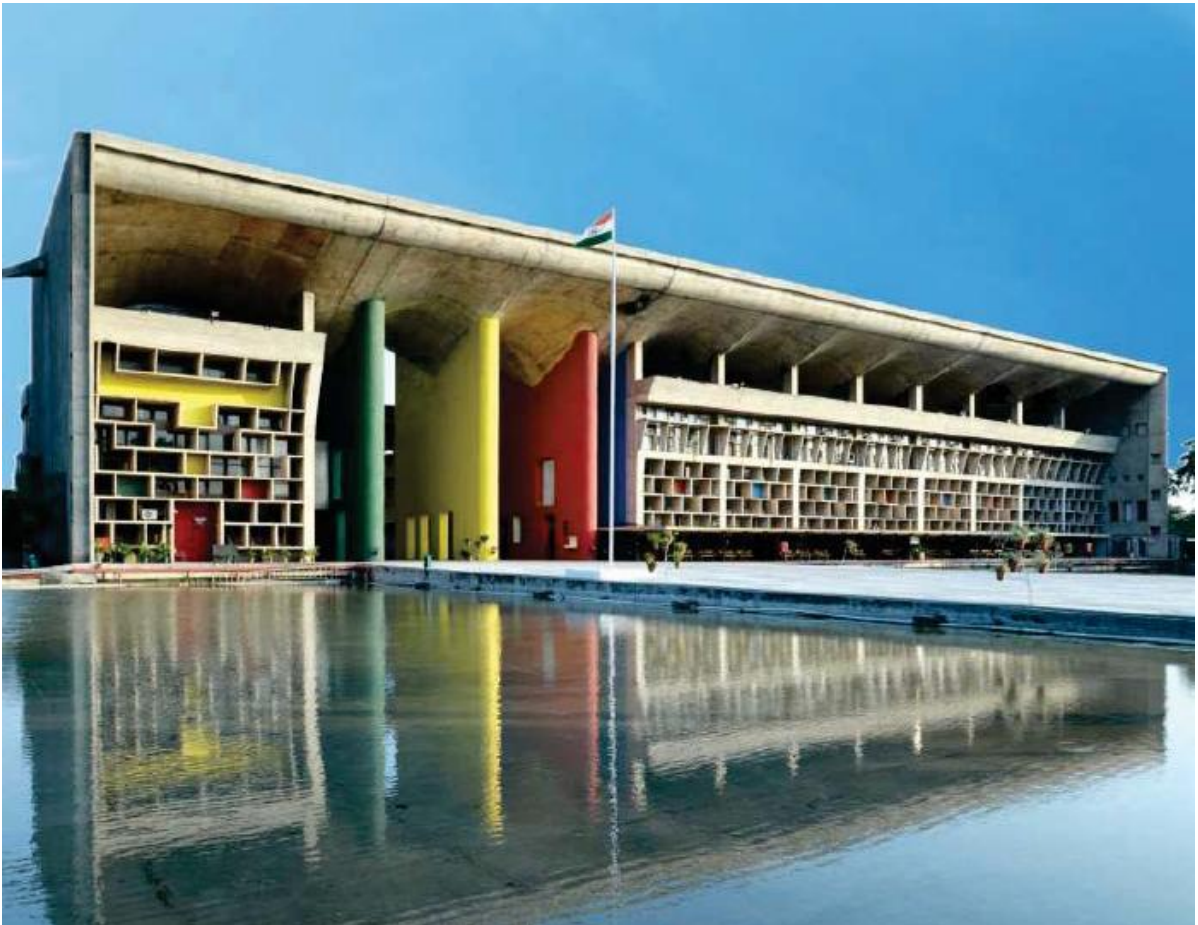




**Justice Rajesh Bindal
Chairman, Computer Committee
Punjab and Haryana High Court,
Chandigarh**



*"From the time the case is registered,
till it is disposed of with judgment,
the entire processing must take place electronically. "*

-Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India
*(12th Justice Sunanda Bhandare Memorial Lecture,
New Delhi, November 01, 2006)*

It is with this vision and mission that e-Courts project took off at the national level. Phase-I was launched in year 2007.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Punjab and Haryana High Court started efforts to computerize the records way back in year 1993 with deployment of NIC team. In year 1999, Computer Committee was constituted. In the beginning, effort was made to computerize filing, pendency and disposal of cases. During the year 2010-11 long term effort started with digitization, state of art servers, issuance of computerized certified copies, display boards, touch screen kiosks, development of static website and Local Area Network. From the year 2014 onwards, consolidation of infrastructure resulted in robust and secured platform to consolidate/launch various litigant centric services. However, with the passage of time, the project took off well with consistent efforts of Computer Committee from time to time and support and guidance from Hon’ble the then Chief Justices. Funds were also not the problem.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEW PROJECTS

As far as achievements of our High Court and the new projects and the best practices, are concerned, we have to share many experiences which made the system more user friendly and we were able to streamline our working more and as a result now ours is the only High Court Website (www.highcourtchd.gov.in), which has been rated  on National Portal of India i.e. www.india.gov.in.

HIGH COURT

DIGITIZATION:

Ours is the only High Court where entire record of the decided and pending cases has been digitized. Besides this we have also started scanning our administrative record. The figures of the work done are as under:

Digitization Statistics:

Judicial files pages scanned	14.71 Crores
Paper books scanned	26.25 Lacs
Orders scanned	59.64 Lacs
Old Copy Petitions pages scanned	10.38 Lacs
Pages of Administrative files scanned	1.21 Crores

As a result of scanning and weeding out of part of the record, about 15,000 sq. feet valuable space became available in the High Court complex. Total weeded out paper sold was 232 tonnes. Waste paper was discharged directly in the pulp tank of the paper mill, thereby eliminating any chance of misuse.

With the availability of scanned record of the old cases, requirement of more space in the High Court complex for other administrative functions, we could think of shifting record of old decided cases to a newly constructed archives building at a distance of 12 KMs. from High Court.

In addition to this all freshly filed cases are scanned before being listed for hearing in court. All the documents/applications filed subsequent to filing of the cases are also scanned by the branches concerned. On daily basis we scan about 75,000 pages.

Digitized record paved way for many unique applications.

- Issuance of certified copies directly from digitized records depository as it is digitally signed.
- Availability of records of decided and pending cases for court reference in soft form
- Facility of inspection of case files in soft copy from DMS **(e-Inspection)**
- To provide scanned paper books to the offices of Additional Solicitor General of India, Advocates General of Punjab and Haryana, and Senior Standing Counsel, U.T Chandigarh, through '*paperbook server*' on intranet.
- To provide paper books to the all e-Diary account holders.
- Use of digitized records for issuance of e-notices by court.
- To send digitally signed bail orders to the courts below and the jails for early release of the prisoners.
- In cases where notices are accepted by the State counsels in court, the officials from concerned department/districts used to be called to AG Office to collect copies of paper books. With digitization of entire record, copies of paper books are now sent through e-mail
- Any hard copy of paper book, if lost, can be reconstructed without any loss of time, if required.
- Digitization has made paperless court a reality.

VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK (VPN):

VPN connection has been provided to Hon'ble Judges of High Court for accessing DMS for scanned Paper books from their camp office or from any other place.

AGENDA FOR FULL COURT AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Paper- books of all meetings of the Full Court and other Committee meetings is circulated in soft form only. This has resulted in saving about 15 lacs pages besides labour for printing and distribution. Saving of environment is the other major benefit.

e-DIARY

e-Diary is a unique feature whereby Account holders can manage their own case portfolio and view the cases filed / represented by them. Online status of the case along with interim and final orders/judgments was made available through e-

Diary as it is linked with the High Court Server. Our High Court was the first to launch this service in the year 2013. In the year 2015 utility and scope of e-Diary account was enhanced by making provision for e-filing through this account.

Till date, 3,734 e-diary accounts have been created. But it has taken off well in the last two years with motivation of advocates and Govt. departments during this period. Regular meetings were held and training programs conducted.

No. of e-Diary Accounts

CATEGORY	2015	2016	2017
PUNJAB	187	224	239
HARYANA	70	117	242
CHANDIGARH	24	45	66
UNION OF INDIA	-	-	15
ADVOCATES	1120	2200	3172

All the identified cases of different departments such as Income Tax Department, Insurance Companies, Union of India, Advocates General of Punjab and Haryana are automatically pushed in their e-diary accounts by the High Court.

This is the only High Court which is providing digitized paper books to Advocates and Departments through their online e-Diary accounts.

In addition to e-diary system, the State Governments are in process to develop Court Cases Monitoring System (CCMS) through which they will monitor cases pending in the Supreme Court of India, High Court and other subordinate Courts. CCMS is being integrated with e-diary account.

e-FILING

Online web based e-filing module is functional for filing cases 24 X 7. e-filed cases expedite issuance of copies of orders, summons and is a step towards paperless Court regime. Lawyers are being encouraged to file more and more cases in soft copy by listing their cases for hearing on the next day. Other cases are listed for hearing after a day’s break. Step by step, it is being made compulsory to file cases on online. It is mandatory for Advocates General of Punjab and Haryana, Union Territory, Chandigarh and Income Tax department to e-file their cases.

Till date 77,535 cases have been filed online through e-filing mode. e-filing of cases is increasing day by day.

PAPER BOOK SERVER

As entire case records have been scanned we were able to provide access to softcopy thereof through ‘paperbook server’ through intra-net to offices of Advocates General of Punjab and Haryana, Additional Solicitor General of India and Senior Standing Counsel for U.T.

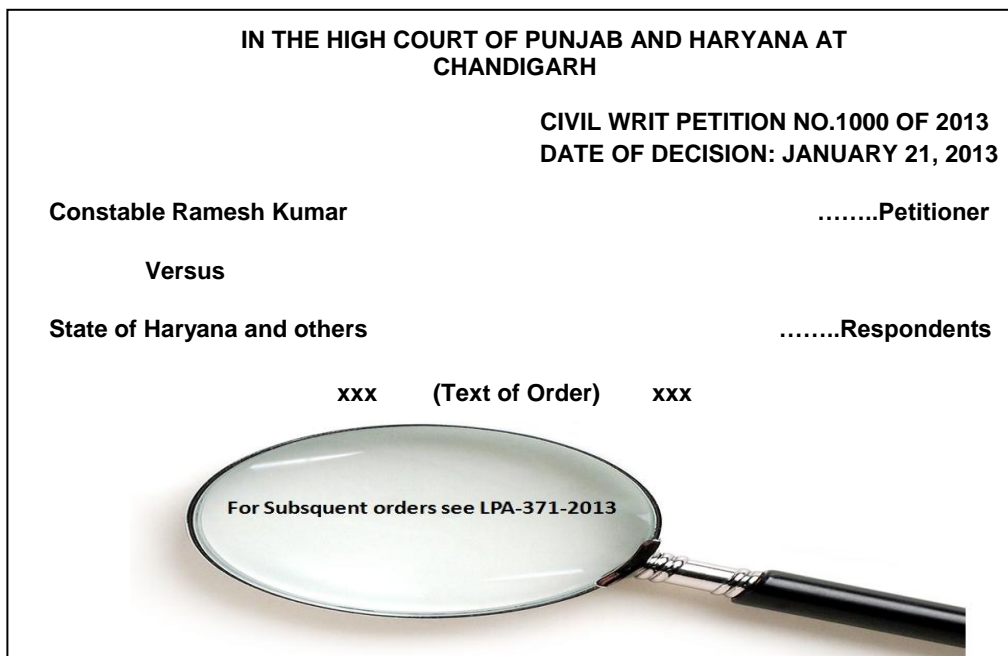
Loss of paper-books of old cases with State Counsels and non-availability due to change of counsel was one of the main reason either for non-representation or proper assistance in State cases. With the paper book server, the issue has been resolved and delay in disposal of cases has been checked.

PERSONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (PIS) FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS

In house software has been developed, which contains personal profile and service record of the Judicial Officer. Access of relevant information has been given at different levels such as Administrative Judge, Registrar General, Registrar Vigilance, District Judge and the Officer concerned. Access to some information relevant to State has been given to it also.

UPDATED INFORMATION OF CASE AFTER FINAL DECISION

Decided cases are available on website of High Court. On many occasions the Final order is reviewed / modified or challenged by filing intra-Court appeal. Status subsequent to final disposal of matter is shown as and when print out of final order is taken from website. The printout carries a message showing up-to-date status of the case.



As and when access to data of Hon'ble Supreme Court and the District Courts will be integrated, linking of all the cases from District Court level upto Hon'ble Supreme Court would be done.

SAVING PAGE IN SEPARATE DOCKET

In Bunch matters where separate dockets (containing memo of parties) are sent to departments, large number of papers are consumed for sending the hard copy of the docket. Web Link has been created and respondents are being informed through letter that docket and enclosed judgment are available on the web site of High Court for a period of 60 days from the date of issuance of letter.

This has resulted into saving of more than 8 lac pages.

MENTIONING OF UID NUMBERS IN ALL ORDERS PASSED BY THE COURTS BELOW

It has also been made mandatory for all the officers to mention their UID No. on all orders passed by them. As and when any appeal or revision will be filed against any order in High Court, it will be reflected automatically in their PIS Account under heading "Status of Case in High Court". With this the officers will remain aware of the

fact as to whether order/judgement passed by them is subject matter of challenge in High Court. SMS will also be sent to the officer concerned immediately after the order is passed by High Court. Software is pending for security audit.

MESSAGE TO COUNSELS

In Reader's module, a feature has been added through which a counsel, whose presence is required in court in a case, will be flashed SMS on his recorded mobile number, in addition to the message on display board.

e-PRISON MODULE:

With the help and guidance of High Court, the State of Haryana has developed this software. As a result now e-signed custody certificates from all the prisons are being produced in the court, containing required particulars for consideration of prayer for suspension of sentence. Copies of certificates are sent by respective jails to the Advocate General's office, which are counter signed by a Gazetted Officer and then produced in court.

As a result about 50-60 police officials who used to visit court on daily basis just to bring custody certificates, has stopped, thus saving cost and the human resource.

e-VETTING:

In consultation with the High Court, Advocate General, Haryana office has got developed a software for vetting of replies or other pleadings online, thus, reducing visit of the officials to Chandigarh from district level to the minimum required.

CATEGORIZATION OF CASES:

There is subject wise Categorization of cases e.g. Civil Writ Petition (CWP), Regular Second Appeal (RSA), Civil Revision (CR), Criminal Appeal (CRA) etc. There are **78 Main Categories** and **633 sub-categories** such as - State wise, Department wise, issue-wise etc. and in Criminal Cases- Act-wise, sentence-wise, etc.

In MACT cases, abbreviation of the names of Insurance Companies has been added with the case type for convenience e.g. FAO(CHOLA), FAO(HDFC), etc. More and more sub-categories are being added. This is helping us in proper monitoring of cases for priority listing, preparation of roster and equitable distribution of cases amongst Judges. Short matters, which can be disposed of early.

In applications also, in short subject is mentioned such as CM(POR),CM(EXEMPTION),CM(DELAY) etc.

e-TRACKING OF NOTICE:

Delay in receipt of service report results in delayed disposal. Software for e-Tracking of Notices Module has been developed in house. Entry regarding preparation and dispatch of notices is made by the concerned branches in the High Court. After the hard copy of the notice and the paper book is received by the Process Serving Agency at the district level, entry is made by it with regard to date of receipt, the Process Server to whom notice has been assigned for service. When the service report is entered in the software at the district level, the same is reflected in the case file in the High Court. Scanned copy of the summons with service report is sent to the

High Court. Hard copies are sent collectively, periodically to be attached with the respective files.

Presently, the process is being followed for monitoring service of summons from the High Court through District Courts in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. It will be introduced in the Districts for monitoring service of notices intra and inter-district. Access of the software can be given to the Process Serving Agencies in other States as well for uploading reports of service of summons in the same manner.

PUBLICATION OF NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS MODULE:

A module for **Publication of Notices in Newspaper** has been developed by this Court whereby abridged notices giving necessary details of case will be published in newspapers with complete notice on website. This will enable saving of publication cost to the litigants, besides other benefits.

DIGITALLY SIGNED SUMMONS TO POLICE FOR SERVICE:

In the State of Punjab, the process of sending digitally signed summons to police for service and its acknowledgment by police through online process is being initiated. In criminal cases, notice is served via SAANJH Kendra's which are special computerized centers opened by the Punjab government in police stations. These centers are integrated with the e-Notices system of this High court for notice service process. The SAANJH Kendra's are provided with facility to download the notices related to them and then upload the notice service report in system.

LIBRARY AUTOMATION: RFID SYSTEM:

High Court Judges' Library houses approx. 1.75 lac books. It has been catalogued through KOHA software. KOHA integrated with Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) has enabled library automation and security.

There is automated book issuance and return system through e-card. Complete physical verification of inventory has been done with hand held scanner. Furthermore, enhanced security with EAS Security Gates has ensured detection of any theft or accidental removal of books.

Digitization of ILR (Indian Law Reports(Punjab & Haryana Series))

All the volumes of ILR published since 1950 have been digitized. Online case finder web based application has been developed which is under security audit. ILR will be available online.

BOOK SCANNER:

Old books are being scanned through dedicated book scanner specially purchased for this purpose. Scanning of old books without affecting its binding is possible through this book scanner. Sharing information from rare books without its physical issuance is possible through digitization.

CUSTOMIZED SOFTWARES

FILE TRACKING:

There is bulk movement of judicial case files on daily basis from branches concerned to courts and back. File Tracking Software has been developed to track

movement of these files. This tracks inter-branch as well as intra-branch movement of files making easier to locate any file. Loss of records is minimized.

REQUISITION OF LCR MODULE:

Many times lower court record is summoned in the High Court and on account of non receipt thereof, the cases have to be adjourned. Software has been developed to monitor the same. As and when record is requisitioned by the Court, an entry in this regard is made by the Reader in ISHiCo, it would reflect in PIS account of concerned District and Sessions Judge as well as the Superintendent of the branch concerned.

MODULE REGARDING UPDATION OF STATUS OF REVISIONS AGAINST INTERIM ORDERS:

In cases where interim orders passed by the trial court are challenged by filing Revision Petition in the High Court and proceedings before the Subordinate Court have not been stayed and the proceedings continue, Software is being developed to ensure immediate intimation of final disposal of the case by the Subordinate Court to the High Court.

SERVICE APPEALS:

Scanning of record pertaining to Service Appeals by the employees is under process. A module has been developed whereby Service Appeals are being numbered and the record will be managed online. It will ensure better management of these appeals.

ONLINE COMPLAINT MECHANISM:

Online mechanism for receiving complaints and suggestions has been developed and is pending for security audit. Presently numbers of complaints are being received through e-mail.

OTHER PROJECTS UNDER PROCESS:

Compulsory filing of Memo of Parties through e-filing is being introduced for ensuring auto **generation of notices through ISHiCo**. Advocates/Parties will be required to mention relevant particulars of the impugned order including lower court case number, Court/ Authority/Tribunal, FIR No., particulars of notification in the **Memo of Parties** itself so that correct data is entered in the system. It will facilitate proper data entry and save time.

PIS FOR EMPLOYEES

Personal Information System for High Court employees as well as Subordinate Court employees is likely to be implemented by March 2018.

CASHLESS TRANSACTION

Online payment option through **Multi-Option Payment System (MOPS)** for various services is going to be provided shortly. The payments shall be accepted online through net banking, all types of bank cards, e-Wallet etc.

MODULE FOR INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Inventory of entire hardware and consumables lying in High Court and District Courts is being entered in 'Inventory Management System'. It will help in optimum utilization of resources.

MODULE FOR INFORMATION REQUIRED AT THE STAGE OF CONSIDERATION OF BAIL APPLICATION

In petitions filed for bail pending trial, number of police officials come to the court only to furnish information such as status of filing of challan, examination of eye witness, doctor or the complainant, stage of the trial etc. and the period of custody. A template is being designed vide which above required information will be available in the High Court online. The particulars will be entered by the lower court concerned. At the initial stage only static information will be available, however, subsequently High Court will have access even to the copies of PMR/MLR, lab reports and the statements as well. This will minimize visit of the police officials who come to the High Court only with that information.

GATE PASS INFORMATION

Entry of the litigants is regulated through Gate Pass. To educate the litigants about the e-Courts project message is printed on every Gate Pass.

"HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH VISITOR PASS TO ATTEND THE CASE

Name: _____
 Father's name: _____
 Address: _____
 Case No./year: _____
 Court No. : _____
 Advocate : _____
 Date & Time of issue: _____

Note: This pass is valid upto 5.00 p.m. for the date of issue.

Photo
Signature

e-Facilities to the Litigants

1. For cause list, case status, daily orders, filing procedure, legal aid procedure, forms, enactments, video conferencing facility, SMS facility, online feedback & grievances visit our website www.highcourtchd.gov.in.
2. For getting up-to-date regular information of their cases, the parties may provide their Mobile numbers with identity proof at the Gate Pass Counter.
3. For District Court Case Information, visit www.ecourts.gov.in. For android based application, download app "eCourts Services" from Google Play Store."

AUTOMATED E-MAIL SERVICE:

Data bank of Bar Enrolment Numbers, mobile numbers, addresses and e-mail IDs of Advocates is being maintained and updated regularly to communicate with them. Mobile numbers and e-mail IDs of the litigants have also been taken, wherever furnished. We have in our data bank e-mail IDs of 7,414 Advocates, 2033 Government Departments and litigants. Through automated e-mail service case information and Court notices are being pushed to them.

SMS

Messages are being sent to the advocates and litigants regarding the case status in the High Court. The figures are as under:

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of SMS	2,618	8,97,967	11,41,636	13,02,770	15,29,096

DISTRICT COURTS

UPLOADING OF INTERIM ORDERS:

The District Courts under the jurisdiction of our High Court are uploading all the interim orders as well on daily basis in addition to the final orders/judgments.

All the District Courts under the jurisdiction of this Court are achieving the target of nearly zero undated cases on regular basis. The total undated cases as on 03-01-2018 in whole of India were 10,03,619 whereas there is no undated case in Chandigarh and just 0.24% in Haryana and 0.56% in Punjab.

To ensure that there is no error in uploading of next date of hearing and the purpose for which the case has been adjourned on NJDG, it is separately required to be mentioned in the order. Purpose for which the case is adjourned is to be added by the Judicial Officer in his own hand.

“NEXT DATE OF HEARING --- (To be typed)

PURPOSE ---(To be added by the officer in hand)“

It has been made mandatory for the Judicial Officers to mention their UID nos. on all the orders passed by them, which in turn are added in their accounts.

AUTOMATED E-MAIL SERVICES:

Data bank of Bar Enrolment Numbers, mobile numbers, addresses and e-mail IDs of Advocates is being maintained and updated regularly to communicate with them. Mobile numbers and e-mail IDs of the litigants have also been taken, wherever furnished. Till date, more than 38,000 e-mail IDs of Advocates, Departments and litigants have been captured.

Through automated e-mail service case information is being pushed to the litigants & the lawyers.

SMS

SMS are being sent to the Advocates and Litigants with reference to their cases in District Courts at the time of case filing, registration and also informing about the next date of disposal. During the year 2017, a total of 81,17,319 SMS have been sent whereas 44,49,842 SMS were sent in 2016.

E-SERVICES FOR SPECIAL COMMERCIAL COURT AT GURUGRAM (HARYANA):

Vide notification dated 27th October, 2017, the Government of Haryana has constituted Special Commercial Court at Gurugram having jurisdiction throughout the State of Haryana for trial of cases specified under the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015.

Dedicated web link has been given for this purpose on the website of this Court providing services like e-Court fee, e-Cause list and e-Filing etc.

STANDARDIZATION OF PAGE MARGINS:

Typing of orders by District Courts was not in standard format and so was supply of certified copies, which sometimes were photocopies on both sides of paper. As a result, all orders were required to be retyped for production in higher Court in

any appeal or revision. To avoid this, amendment was made in the Rules providing for standardised margins and font for typing of orders. As a result, certified copy as such can be produced in higher Courts without retyping. Thus, saving labour and paper, besides no error in re-typing. The relevant amendment in the Rules is as under:

“18(A). (a) All the judgments should be typed on computer with font ‘Thorndale’ and size of font ‘14’. (b) The judgments should be typed in double space with margin of 1.26” on top and bottom of the page with 1.65” on left and 1.05” on right side. (c) The paper used should be of superior quality having 70 gsm and of legal size. (d) The judgment should be typed on one side of the paper only.”

eCOURT SERVICES / CASE INFO ON NOTICES

Web address of eCourts website (<http://ecourts.gov.in>) is being printed on the top of the notices being sent by District Courts enabling the parties to know details regarding next date, purpose of case, order and judgments as well as other case information.

In the Court of _____		
Next Date, Purpose of Case, Orders and Judgments as well as Other case information is available on http://ecourts.gov.in		
xxx	(Text of Notice)	xxx
To get Next Date and Purpose of your case through SMS, Kindly register your mobile with the Reader/Ahlmad		

ENTRIES IN BACKLOG ENTRY MODULE:

In all the cases registered prior to implementation of CIS 2.0, necessary entries regarding its registration are being made through Backlog Entry module provided in CIS 2.0 by generating CNR Number for maintaining proper record of such cases.

e-COURT FEE:

e-Court fee facility has been launched in the State of Punjab and Haryana. The pilot project has been successful in Sessions Divisions, Mohali and Panchkula. It has been implemented in the State of Haryana and will be implemented in the State of Punjab and U.T., Chandigarh soon. The memorandum of understanding is being signed for online payment through Multi-Option Payment System (MOPS) for various services in District Courts also.

MedLEaPR (WEB BASED SOFTWARE FOR PREPARATION OF MLR/PMR)

Doctors used to prepare MLR and PMR by hand, which was very difficult to read. Web-based software has been developed to automate and ensure computer generated MLR (Medico Legal Reports) and PMR (Post Mortem Reports). This Court has made it mandatory for doctors in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh to prepare MLR/PMR on MedLEaPR software. Progress is being regularly monitored by our Court.

This software being generic and developed by NIC team can be used by any State.

It provides instant access to MLRs and PMRs, removes any ambiguity in reading the reports besides ensuring its authenticity and integrity.

Reports	Haryana	Punjab	Figures in lacs
			Chandigarh
MLR	3.5	4.0	1.5
PMR	1.0	1.5	0.5

The reports are in the process of being digitally signed and integrated with the Court file.

LAB SOFTWARE (FSL#MedLEaPR)

After successful rollout of MedLEaPR and noticing that there was delay in testing and collection of reports from the Laboratories, “FSL#MedLEaPR” software was got developed through NIC team. With this module, receipt, processing, preparation of test reports has been automated. The police official concerned is updated about the status through SMS on his recorded mobile number. Status can be checked even on website (Password protected). All the laboratories in the States of Punjab & Haryana and U.T., Chandigarh have been connected. Bar coding of samples to maintain secrecy and digital signatures and linking with Court file is in progress.

e-AWARENESS:

Ever since the e-courts project was launched, we have been able to educate our Judicial Officer, staff and the advocates but there is need to educate the litigants and the general public as well. Our Court had taken this as a project.

a) BY SYSTEM OFFICERS

First initiative was by sending a letter on 25-04-2017 to all the District Judges to instruct System Officers to educate the litigants coming to the Court, twice a week in litigation hall about the e-Courts project and the benefits available. Persons at the Judicial Service Centres have been instructed to guide the litigants in this regard.

b) e-AWARENESS STALL AT INTERNATIONAL GEETA MAHOTSAV, KURUKSHETRA:

A dedicated stall for creating e-Awareness was set up from 17.11.2017 to 03.12.2017. The visitors were made aware of how to use Information Kiosks for seeking information regarding their cases and how to access information from Hon’ble the Supreme Court, High Court and NJDG portals. Pocket size cards/folders containing information as to how to access different information, were circulated. They were educated regarding unique CNR number to access information on NJDG. The staff deputed at the stall provided printed copies of the CNR numbers and copies of orders to the litigants at the spot, free of cost. On an average about 1000 persons visited the stall daily.

Some of comments given by the visitors were as under:

Comments	Suggestions
☆☆☆☆☆	It is needed in every village and block
सराहनीयकदम	It should be circulated in newspapers
Excellent Demonstration	In case there is appeal from Session Court to High Court, how do I get related information.
It's one of the best initiatives for the welfare of general Public	Publicity through social media i.e. Facebook, whatsapp etc. and also through TV and radio.
Awesome Service	Should be in different languages
Full Awareness Court strategy	District level programs should be organized
Absolutely unexpected	Need updation regarding laws.

c) MEETING WITH HEADS OF LAW COLLEGES IN THE STATES OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AND U.T CHANDIGARH

Students studying in various law colleges are the future lawyers and law officers. Many of them aspire to join judicial service as well. They are required to remain update in law not only when they join any service or start practice but even during their studies as well. To educate the law students on e-Courts project and how to access the same, a meeting of heads of Law Colleges in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.T., Chandigarh is scheduled on 10.01.2018. Request has also been made to the Chairman of Bar Council of India and Academics Committee BCI; Chairman, Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana to attend the meeting. They will be apprised about the project and persuaded to educate law students regularly about e-Courts project. If required training will be provided to the persons concerned.

d) e-AWARENESS THROUGH e-SAMPARK CENTRES:

There are more than 11,000 e-Sampark Centres in the States of Punjab and Haryana and UT Chandigarh. Access to Court related information is being provided at these e-Sampark Centres. These centres are already providing 348 services through a State agency. Initially, case related details and printouts of judgments/orders of the Courts will be available on payment of nominal fee to the litigants. Subsequently, more services may be added. Training regarding access to information on various Court related websites is being imparted to the staff manning the e-Sampark Centres.

e) FUTURE PROJECT

Feeling encouraged with the response received from the visitors during International Geeta Mahotsava, this Court is planning to put up stall in International Crafts Mela, Faridabad in February, 2018, which is visited by lakhs of people.

To give wide publicity of the e-Courts project, this Court is in process to procure 500 flex banners containing information received from Hon'ble e-Committee as well as 50,000 cards in English, 25,000 in Hindi and 25,000 in Punjabi for display/distribution in the Districts and Taluka Courts.

COMPUTER TRAINING:

With large scale computerization, requirement for I.T. trained staff increased. A number of I.T. Graduates joined as clerks in Courts. Few of them suitable for the job were selected and a special training programme was conducted for them through C-DAC and CIS Master Trainers in November-December 2017. Around 130 officials were trained, who will be available to maintain the system, provide I.T. related services and for imparting training in their respective Districts.

VIDEO CONFERENCING:

Importance of Video Conferencing as force multiplier & game changer in expediting case proceedings was identified and process to create robust infrastructure started with procurement of dedicated software based video conferencing equipments and software was initiated in 2014. At present, Punjab and Haryana High Court is the only High Court which has fully implemented software based dedicated VC solution (VIDYO) in place with recording facilities, compatible with legacy devices, multi platform and fully compatible with mobile, laptop, iPad or other such devices. Dedicated VC equipments for individual Courts have also been provided.

VC facility is being used for securing the presence of under-trials for judicial remand, securing presence of hardcore criminals during trial, for recording of evidence of doctors, Judicial Officers, outstation witnesses including NRIs/ foreign citizens and other formal official witnesses etc. This facility has resulted in enormous saving to the State in terms of cost and also man hours of the police officials, doctors and Judicial Officers etc. apart from saving their time for other official duties. The amount spent on VC facility was meager as compared to the amount saved. Our High Court took lead in setting up the video conferencing facilities in jails, hospitals, laboratories and Courts. Rules for conduct of video conferencing are being finalized. The following figures speak for itself about the advantages of rapid progress in VC system in the States of Punjab and Haryana.

INCREASE IN USAGE OF VC FACILITY FOR REMAND PURPOSE:

Although, VC facility in Courts of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh was introduced in 2013, yet regular usage of VC started in April, 2015.

VIDEO CONFERENCING (as on 31.12.2017)		
State	Under trial produced through VC upto 2015	Under trials produced through VC in 2016 & 2017
Chandigarh	264	10,880
Punjab	12,084	235,927
Haryana	11,280	105,892
Total	23,628	352,699

In a meeting of Director General of Prisons of the States of Punjab & Haryana, and U.T Chandigarh held on 02.11.2017, following standards have been prescribed for number of VC studios in each jail:

Sr.No	Jail Strength (No. of prisoners)	No. of VC Studios
1.	Upto 1000	4
2.	1000-1500	6
3.	1500-2000	8
4.	2000 and above	10

STATUS OF VC CONNECTIVITY IN HOSPITALS (as on 31.12.2017)

State	Total Sites	Functional Sites	Connectivity yet to be provided
Punjab	100	63	37
Haryana	167	119	48
Chandigarh	3	3	0

AVAILABILITY OF VC EQUIPMENTS IN MEDICAL COLLEGES

VIDEO CONFERENCING SETUP IN MEDICAL COLLEGES (including private)			
State	Total	Installed	In Progress
Punjab	9	4	5
Haryana	7	2	5
Chandigarh	1	1	0

INCREASE IN USAGE OF VC FOR EVIDENCE OF DOCTORS/MEDICAL EXPERTS:

Video Conferencing With Doctors			
State	2015	2016	2017
Chandigarh	204	2,000	3,200
Punjab	624	1,300	4,100
Haryana	468	900	1,200
Total	1296	4,200	8,500

Mechanism of evidence of doctors through video conferencing as successfully implemented in PGI, Chandigarh is now going to be followed / implemented throughout India as informed by the Minister concerned in reply to a Parliamentary question.

VC EXPENDITURE AND SAVINGS

Total amount spent for setting up VC facilities was about ₹10 crores.

Purpose of Video Conferencing	Total amount saved
Video Conferencing for production of under trials	₹35 Crore (approx. ₹1000/- per under trial)
Video Conferencing for evidence of Doctors	₹17 Crore (approx. ₹10,400/- per doctor*)
Total	₹52 Crore

* Figures as per estimation given by PGI Chandigarh excluding value of time

VC FACILITY IN LABORATORIES

State	Total Sites	Status
Punjab	5	VC installation in process
Haryana	3	Functional at Madhuban VC installation in process at 2 sites
Chandigarh(CFSL)	1	Functional

STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF VC IN DISTRICT COURTS IN THE YEAR 2017

High Court	No. of Calls	Total Duration(HH:MM)
Punjab and Haryana	1,80,000	15,000

MAINTAINING PROPER RECORDS OF VC:

In various meetings held with Officials from Jails and Hospitals, they have been impressed upon to maintain proper record of VCs held during the month. It is planned to maintain logs of VC with the case file along with audio/video recording in future.

INFORMATION REGARDING NODAL OFFICERS ON WEBSITES:

Name and Contact Number of Nodal Officer for conducting VC is available on the website of each District Court.

TELE-MEDICINE:

Jail authorities have been asked to resolve medical issues of the jail inmates by conducting VC with referral hospitals and the inmates be sent to hospitals only in case their problem is not curable by the medical advice given by the doctors. Hospital visits of jail inmates can be reduced.

PROJECTS UNDER PROCESS:

This Court is going to implement verification of antecedents of sureties through **Bio-metric system**/ ADHAAR card number / other IDs (Voter Card, Passport etc.) in all District Courts.

Through a searchable interface general public will be able to know status and pay fine for **traffic challan online**. Police module is working and Court module is being developed.

Software for maintaining database of **Expert witnesses** with information as to whether their opinion was relied upon or rejected, is being developed.

Libraries in Subordinate Courts are being automated by implementing free and open source library software 'KOHA'.

List of **Proclaimed offenders** in all the District Courts is being prepared and uploaded on the website.

Software for replacing manual fine receipts with **software generated cash receipts** is being developed.

Software for **management of case property** in Judicial Malkhana is being developed. CCTV Cameras are also going to be installed there.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We must acknowledge active support and guidance by the NIC and I.T teams in the High Court and inputs from officers of District Courts for implementation of all the projects.