

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE WORKSHOP ON E-COURTS PROJECT**  
**HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2008 AT 10:00 AM**  
**IN JAISALMER HOUSE, NEW DELHI.**

1. The list of participants is enclosed.
  
2. Shri Rajiv Agarwal, Additional Secretary, Department of Justice welcomed all the participants and stated that the e-Courts Projects is one of the Mission Mode Projects of Central Government and is being implemented with a very high priority. He mentioned that National Informatics Centre (NIC) is implementing this Project and has so far provided laptops to Judicial Officers under the Project, has also appointed a training agency which is presently training the Judicial Officers and court staffs in the use of ICT tools and has signed an agreement with BSNL to provide Internet connectivity to all the Judicial Officers through broadband/dial up connectivity. However, the critical component of the Project is site preparation for which Department of Justice had requested the High Courts to appoint a Committee preferably under Registrar General with Secretary, PWD and NIC State Informatics Officers as members, to select an Executing Agency for site preparation and to supervise the site preparation work. He informed that such Committees have already been formed in most of the High Courts and a number of High Courts have also selected the Executing Agency also. NIC has also circulated the site preparation specifications and guidelines to its State Informatics

Officers on the basis of which site preparation lay out and estimates are to be prepared. He requested the participants especially CPCs/ other officers of High Courts to give highest importance to the site preparation activity so that it could be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2008. He pointed out that unless site preparation done in time, computer hardware cannot be deployed and it would adversely affect the progress of the Project.

3. Dr. B.K.Gairola, DG, NIC informed that NIC is implementing the Project in consultation with e-Committee. He also highlighted the need to complete the site preparation in time to ensure timely completion of the Project.

4. Shri Ramesh Abhishek, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice and Mission Leader, e-Courts Project, made a Presentation on the Project. He informed that this Project was approved by Central Government on 8.2.2007 at a cost of Rs. 442 crores to be implemented in 2 years. The Project aims at computerization of the District and Subordinate Courts and upgradation of ICT infrastructures of Supreme Court and High Courts. The Government appointed NIC as the implementing agency for the Project which is doing so in consultation with e-Committee. The Government has also decided that application software would be developed by NIC under guidelines of e-Committee. Every court complex would have servers and 4 clients per court along with printers and scanners. In addition, one laptop is to be given to every Judicial Officer. There will be Local Area Network (LAN) in every court complex and Internet connectivity would be provided initially through broadband/dial up and ultimately through State Wide Area Network (SWAN).

There will be proper power back up through UPS and DG sets. Capacity building of Judges and court staff in the use of ICT tools is a crucial part of the Project. The Project would also provide hand-holding support for 2 years through technical support staff @ 4 per High Court and 3 per Judicial District. The target dates of various key activities of the Project were also mentioned. Broadly, site preparation has to be completed by 30.6.2008 and deployment of hardware and technical support staff, development of application software and video conferencing facilities are to be completed by 30.9.2008. The Project aims to cover all the sites and services by 31.12.2008. The activities undertaken so far were also mentioned. It was also stated that Rs. 44 crores have been provided in the Project for upgradation of ICT infrastructure of Supreme Court and High Courts for which NIC has been asked to prepare DPRs. High Court Officers were requested to supervise the preparation of DPRs for the upgradation work in their High Courts so that this component can be implemented soon. All the participants were also provided copies of site preparation guidelines and technical specifications and the target dates for various stages of key activities as prepared by NIC.

5. Shri CLM Reddy, Sr. Director, NIC made a Presentation on Project implementation Plan and various project activities.

5.1 During the presentation, to Shri. Reddy's query on the number of Laser printers to be provided to the courts, majority of the members of the view that for the present, the number of Laser Printers should be equivalent to number of laptops which have already been provided. Hence NIC would place orders for procurement of laser printers equivalent to Laptops.

5.2 With regard to delivery of hardware items by NIC to the courts, it has been agreed upon that first the hardware items will be delivered directly at the District/Tehsil courts, as per the list approved by the High Courts. After delivery, the vendor will submit copies of delivery challans duly signed by the District/taluka courts to the high Courts. Based on these documents the High Court will make entry in stock register. A copy of the stock register will be forwarded to NIC for its record purpose.

5.3 It has been clarified to the CPCs that the Broadband connectivity at the court complex is temporary till NIC provides 2 Mbps leased line connectivity at each court complex either through its own District Centres or through State Wide Area Network (SWAN).

5.4 Shri.Reddy informed that for the purpose of project monitoring, a web enabled application has been developed and the District/Taluka courts need to update the status of various activities. This will help the High Courts and other concerned agencies in monitoring the project effectively.

5.5 The CPCs have been requested to provide details of the District courts which have installed videoconferencing(VC) facility in the state. This will enable NIC to place orders for VC equipment in the remaining locations.

5.6 In the meeting NIC circulated draft 'Services and Service level' of the project. The CPCs have been requested to send their views on the services and service levels, if any to NIC. If no response is received by NIC within 10 days, it will be taken as accepted.

5.7 NIC proposed that a meeting of all District Judges in the state may be called by the High Courts to brief them on the significance of the project, various

project activities and more importantly role of District Judges in the successful implementation of the project. Representatives of NIC and DoJ may also participate and provide necessary inputs in the meeting.

6. Shri Kukreti, Sr. Director, NIC made a presentation on the software strategy for the Project (... to be filled in by Shri Kukreti).

7. Thereafter, a number of specific Project components were taken up for detailed discussion.

#### 7.1 Connectivity

On behalf of BSNL Shri [Bhagavati Prasad](#) was present. In a number of States, complaints of non-availability of software and routers were reported. In case of Mumbai and Delhi, MTNL has been asked by NIC to provide Internet connectivity but Shri CLM Reddy stated that MTNL is not forthcoming so far. RG, Orissa High Court stated that BSNL is not providing connectivity to phones which have pending Bills. AS (J) suggested that it may be advisable to clear the pending Bills. In Uttarakhand, majority of the Districts have not been provided any connectivity so far. In Gujarat, the shortages of routers and software have been reported. It was reported from Karnataka and a few other States that Internet charges have been added in the phone bills through separate Bills are to be raised by BSNL for Internet connectivity and presented to BSNL centrally. CPC, Karnataka High Court mentioned that the Internet speed is very slow in the home offices of the Judges and in some places, the courts are being asked by the BSNL

to provide routers. It was clarified that providing routers is the responsibility of BSNL. A number of High Courts complained that laptops provided to the Judges are not configured for dial up connectivity. The representative of HP and Red Hat, who has supplied the operating system, were directed to sort out this matter wherever it has come up.

7.2 The details of Internet connectivity provided so far has been given by BSNL and it is annexed with the Minutes.

8. It was pointed out by a number of High Courts that often the names of Judicial Officers and telephone numbers need to be changed which is taking a long time. After discussion, it was agreed by all present that request for providing Internet connectivity and making of any change of names etc. may be communicated by the High Courts to the NIC headquarters which would then forward the same to BSNL for necessary action. BSNL was also requested to appoint Nodal Officer for every State who would be in touch with CPC and would sort out issues at the local level. CPC, Patna High Court pointed out that very few Judicial Officers in the State have phones and, therefore, are not able to get Internet connectivity. It was decided that Department of Justice would take up with the State Government the issue of providing phones to all the Judicial Officers so that they can get Internet connectivity and can make full use of ICT tools being provided under the project. The officer from Madras High Court informed that their list of Judicial Officers with their phone numbers, is pending with e-Committee. He was advised to send the list to NIC headquarter who would do the needful in the

matter. CPC, Chhattisgarh High Court informed that no Internet connectivity has been given in a number of Districts and, therefore, this needs to be speeded up particularly, at the Taluka level. CPC, Madhya Pradesh further mentioned that the report of providing 687 connections is actually not correct as BSNL has only provided the cables and routers but has not connected the same in all cases. He also mentioned the need for HP's help to configure the laptops for dial up connectivity. A number of High Courts mentioned that Internet connectivity with Wi-Fi facility has been provided in the chamber of Principal District Judge and other Judges in the complex do not have such facility. It was decided that this matter would be sorted out by the NIC at the earliest. It was also mentioned that CDMA/WLL connectivity should be given wherever available to which BSNL officers readily agreed. CPC, Rajasthan High Court mentioned that the Judicial Officers working in High Court also needs to be provided Internet connections. It was clarified that all the Judicial Officers who have been given laptops are to be given Internet connectivity also. The officer from Andhra Pradesh High Court also said that there is shortage of routers because of which 26 connections have not been given yet. CPC, Goa wanted to know if Judicial Officers deputed to tribunals and Secretariat etc. would also be given Internet connectivity. It was decided that such decisions may be taken up by the High Court and NIC should be informed accordingly. AS (J) asked the Department of Justice to write to all the North-Eastern States and Union Territories like Andaman & Nicobar to ascertain status of providing Internet connectivity in their jurisdiction.

8.1 Rajasthan High Court is also facing difficulties in configuring the laptops for dial up connectivity. HP had been asked to attend the problem.

## 8.2 Laptops

CPC, Punjab & Haryana High Court mentioned that Mozilla Web Browser and open office software cannot be upgraded in the laptops given to Judicial Officers. On enquiry by DG, NIC the representative of Red Hat clarified that because of the configuration of a customized scheme under the supervision of E-Committee, the OS does not accept any upgradation of the existing software. DG, NIC expressed concern that Judicial Officers are facing this difficulty and directed that the necessary technical measures should be done to ensure that browsers, open office, tools and other software provided in the laptops can be upgraded without any problem.

9. CPC, Karnataka mentioned that the call center of HP is not responding to the complaints made by courts. He also stated that even complaints made on e-mail are not being attended to by HP. Many High Courts mentioned similar problems and also that the toll free number given by HP is always busy. DG, NIC expressed concern at this problem and directed HP representative to ensure that their call center and toll free number are easily accessible by users and that their complaints are attended to promptly as per the service agreement. He also directed his officers to regularly monitor the complaints that have been made to HP and their disposal by the company.

9.1 Registrar of Orissa High Court pointed out that laptops provided to them is not compatible with the Projector and also many High Courts reported that [the laptop hangs while booting](#). The Red Hat representative clarified that hanging problem is also because of the customarization of screen of the laptop. Number of High Courts complained that they should not have been given Linux operating system in the laptops as it is not compatible with the number of external devices and it is also not possible to upgrade the OS or any other software provide in the

machine. DG, NIC clarified that NIC was in favour of providing Windows OS. However, E-Committee decided that Linux Red Hat OS will be given in the laptops.

9.2 Officer from Kerala High Court complained that HP took 3 months to replace parts. NIC was asked to look into this.

### 9.3 Training

The representatives of High Courts of Punjab & Haryana, Orissa, Uttarakhand, Gujarat complained that the trainers appointed by the vendor of New Horizons were not knowledgeable about Linux [Operating System](#) and hence training being imparted by them is not at all useful. There were also complaints that trainers were not paid in time especially in Allahabad High Court and Uttarakhand High Court. CPC, Karnataka complained that the coordinator of the vendor of Karnataka was not good. He also mentioned that since the court staff are working on Windows [Operating System](#), training on Linux system is not useful. Since the representative of Himachal Pradesh and Chattisgarh High Court stated that training has not started in majority of the locations. It was also pointed out by some that training was difficult [to conduct](#) without [having](#) a Projector. At present the vendor was using Projector only if there were 10 or more Judicial Officers in one location. It was also mentioned that even the Judicial Officers working in the [High Court](#) Registry should be trained. It was clarified that all the Judicial Officers are to be given laptops as well as training in use of ICT tools.

### 9.4 Site preparation

It was ascertained that most of the High Courts have already formed Committees for approval and monitoring of site preparation work in the States.

9.5 CPC, Punjab & Haryana High Court informed that PWD has been asked to estimate the cost of site preparation and is likely to be ready in 15 to 20 days.

9.6 CPC, Uttarakhand informed that they had already submitted estimates for site preparation in 57 cores to NIC but had not received any response. They were advised to examine if the estimates have been made according to the site preparation guidelines and specifications circulated by NIC.

9.7 Gujarat High Court has asked the District courts to provide the requisite information.

9.8 CPC, Karnataka informed that the various locations have been divided into 8 categories. He informed that Committees have formed for this purpose would be meeting soon to decide on taking further action.

9.9 Himachal Pradesh High Court- the estimates are available and PWD has been asked to prepare their estimates.

10. Registrar, Bombay High Court informed that the estimates are likely to be ready by end of January.

10.1 CPC, Patna High Court informed that site preparation has been done in 6 district [Courts](#) under the earlier Project. However, work has not started in respect of other places.

10.2 In Madras High Court, PWD has been asked to prepare estimates which are expected to be received by end of January.

10.3 In Madhya Pradesh, the Monitoring Committee is shared by Hon'ble Judge of High Court, PWD has been selected an executing agency and plans and estimates are expected to be received by 15<sup>th</sup> January.

10.4 In Calcutta High Court, the estimates are ready and would be submitted soon.

10.5 In Gauhati High Court, the Committee has not met yet but the information has been received from 11 districts.

10.6 In Orissa High Court, the Committee is consist of Hon'ble Judge, technical specifications have been given to PWD, Secretary and estimates are expected to be received soon. RG, Orissa High Court stated that District PWD and NIC officers should coordinate while preparing ~~of the laptops and~~ cost estimates. DG, NIC mentioned that wherever required DIOs will assist the courts. However District Courts are responsible for preparation of the cost estimates. ~~would be issuing suitable instructions to its DIOs in this regard.~~

10.7 In Rajasthan High Court, the Committee is headed by Sr. High Court Judge but has not met yet. However, estimates are under preparation.

10.8 In Goa, the server of the existing court has been placed in another location. Additional Secretary (Justice) requested Registrar General, Bombay High Court to find out if this information has been considered by or is available with Bombay High Court.

11. Additional Secretary (J) informed all participants that the cost estimate of site preparation has to be considered and approved by the High Courts Committees and then should be sent to NIC headquarter for transfer of funds. He informed that in case, new rooms are required to be constructed, such proposals may be submitted to the Departments through the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Infrastructure Development under the 15% of the cost would be provided by the Centre.

12. Joint Secretary (Justice) suggested that it may be difficult to get the cost estimates of all the sites simultaneously. Therefore, it may be more practical to do it in phases in case of large States. This would ensure that the process of approval and execution will go on simultaneously till all the sites are covered.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.