

ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVES TAKEN BY HIGH COURT OF DELHI

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| 1. | Accessibility Committee | <p>In the High Court of Delhi, the Accessibility Committee comprises Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Shakdher (Chairman), Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Narula, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Girish Kathpalia.</p> <p>It has also taken on board specially-abled Advocates and other stakeholders for assistance and guidance.</p> |
| 2. | Accessibility Committees in all District Courts of Delhi | <p>Accessibility Committees have been constituted in all the District Courts of Delhi. Their details have been published on the official websites of the respective District Courts.</p> |
| 3. | Nodal Officers (Accessibility) in the High Court of Delhi & District Courts of Delhi | <p>Details of Nodal Officers have been published on the official websites of the concerned Courts.</p> |
| 4. | <i>e-Sewa Kendra</i> | <p>Details of <i>e-Sewa Kendra</i> have been published on the official websites of the High Court of Delhi and all the District Courts of Delhi.</p> <p><i>e-Sewa Kendra</i> in the High Court of Delhi and all the District Courts of Delhi have been directed to provide assistance to specially abled/visually impaired Advocates / Litigants-in-Person in converting non-OCR files to accessibility compliant format free of cost <i>vide</i> Circular, dated 28.08.2023 (available here).</p> <p>The helplines of <i>e-Sewa Kendras</i> of the High Court of Delhi and all the Districts Courts of Delhi are being utilized as the accessibility helpline for escalating the request/grievance, received from the Persons with Disabilities, to the concerned branches for rendering necessary assistance <i>vide</i> Circular, dated 23.11.2023 (available here).</p> <p>Similar directions have been issued to all the District Courts of Delhi.</p> <p>Accessibility workstations have been set up in all the newly constructed <i>e-Sewa Kendras</i> in the High Court of Delhi, all the District Courts of Delhi and Jail No. 2, Tihar Jail Complex.</p> <p>Hybrid <i>e-Sewa Kendra</i> facility has been introduced in the High Court of Delhi w.e.f. 25.05.2023.</p> |

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| 5. | Sign Language Interpreters | <p>A Circular, dated 19.10.2023 (available here) has been issued whereby it has been directed that till the finalization of a comprehensive panel of Sign Language Interpreters, the services of the following persons may be utilized on provisional basis for sign language interpretation in the High Court of Delhi and all the District Courts of Delhi on payment of lump-sum fee per case at the rate of Rs.7,500/- per diem:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Saurav Roy Chowdhary: 8974102200 2. Mr Atul Kumar: 7037093131 3. Mr Shivoy Sharma: 9560616334 4. Ms Manisha Sharma: 9582125754 |
| 6. | Secure, Scalable and Suganya Website as a Service (S3WAAS) | <p>The Secure, Scalable and Suganya Website as a Service (S3WAAS) compliant with accessibility norms and having Screen Reader has been launched for all the District Courts of Delhi. It complies with accessibility measures prescribed by the Government of India.</p> |
| 7. | Web Accessibility Compliant Cause List | <p>Web Accessibility Compliant Cause List has been designed to facilitate easy access for visually impaired lawyers, litigants and the general public.</p> <p>This feature enables the seamless utilization of various accessibility text-to-speech softwares to navigate through the Cause List of the High Court of Delhi.</p> |
| 8. | Dedicated Parking | <p>Dedicated Car parking slots for the Persons with Disabilities have been earmarked in the Automated Multilevel Underground Car Parking and in front of Lawyers Chamber Block-I in the High Court of Delhi.</p> <p>Dedicated Two-wheeler parking slots for the Persons with Disabilities have been earmarked near column No.B-09-level-B2 near ramp in the 2nd Basement of 'S' Block of the High Court of Delhi.</p> |
| 9. | Training program for Lawyers, Judges and Court Staff | <p>Directions have been issued to the Delhi Judicial Academy to conduct regular training programmes for lawyers and court staff, in coordination with the relevant courts, for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Creating accessible documents; and (b) Dealing with the needs of the Persons with Disabilities with appropriate care and sensitivity. <p>Such trainings have been directed to be made part of the annual calendar of the Delhi Judicial Academy.</p> |

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| 10. | Regional Digital Accessibility Training | <p>Regional Digital Accessibility Training in four (04) batches was conducted for visually challenged Court staff under the aegis of Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India at Delhi Judicial Academy from 01.09.2023 to 15.09.2023.</p> <p>25 computers were provided to the Delhi Judicial Academy by the High Court of Delhi to successfully conduct the program.</p> |
| 11. | Software | <p>JAWS (Job Access with Speech) software has been installed in <i>e-Sewa Kendra</i> and Judges' Library.</p> |
| 12. | Website/ICT as well as Physical Accessibility Audit | <p>Directions have been issued for conducting physical and website/ICT accessibility audit in the High Court of Delhi and physical accessibility audits of all District Courts complexes of Delhi.</p> |
| 13. | Vulnerable Witness Rooms | <p>A Circular No. 05/Accessibility/DHC, dated 29.04.2024 (available here), has been issued in terms of the Judgment, dated 24.08.2023 passed by the High Court of Delhi in W.P.(CRL.) 2500/2022 & CRL.M.A. 21701/2022 titled as "Rakesh Kumar Kalra Deaf Divyang v State Govt. of NCT of Delhi", whereby it has been informed that the infrastructure of accessibility workstations in the <i>e-Sewa Kendras</i>, set up in the High Court of Delhi and all the District Courts of Delhi in addition to the Vulnerable Witness Rooms, be utilized as the room for accused Persons with Disabilities to attend the hybrid hearings in various Courts in Delhi.</p> |
| 14. | Categorization of Cases in Cause List | <p>Directions have been passed to the Listing Branch of the High Court of Delhi to categorize and highlight the cases involving differently-abled persons by using case code "5300" in the Cause List so as to assist the Hon'ble Courts to list such cases at a suitable time slot (preferably at 02:30 PM).</p> <p>Also, the Principal District & Sessions Judges of District Courts of Delhi have been directed to take similar steps.</p> |
| 15. | Listing of cases pertaining to differently-abled Advocates/Litigants | <p>Directions have been issued to the Listing Branch of the High Court of Delhi to publish the following matter in the Cause List for the purpose of awareness among the Advocates/Litigants with Disabilities and for dealing with cases pertaining to PwDs and for proper categorization of those cases:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"All the Litigants/Advocates with disabilities and Advocates dealing with the cases pertaining to Persons with Disabilities are impressed upon to apprise the office of Registrar (Listing) about their ongoing cases before the concerned Bench of this Court so that</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>they can be identified and be listed categorically in the Cause List and disposed of on priority.”</i></p> <p>Also, the Principal District & Sessions Judges of District Courts of Delhi have been directed to take similar steps.</p> |
| 16. | Special Courts and Special Prosecutors under the RPwD Act, 2016 | <p>Directions have been issued for transferring all the cases, pending in various Courts under the RPwD Act, 2016 to the Special Court (ASJ-02) in each District for their expeditious disposal.</p> <p>Further, the Delhi Judicial Academy has been requested to hold necessary training for the Judges, Special Public Prosecutors and staff members of Special Courts under the RPwD, 2016 Act in consultation with the Accessibility Committees of all the District Courts of Delhi.</p> |
| 17. | OCR enabled Documents | <p>Necessary Circular, dated 14.05.2024 (available here) has been issued by the Filing Branch of the High Court of Delhi in the Cause List directing that at the time of e-filing, all the documents must be OCR enabled, for which assistance from the <i>e-Sewa Kendra</i> may be sought in converting non-OCR documents into OCR format.</p> |
| 18. | Availability of e-True copy | <p>Circular, dated 10.05.2024 (available here) has been issued to ensure that e-True copy shall be made available to entitled Persons with Disabilities in all cases, in strict compliance with the Rule 4.5 of Notification No. 29/Rules/DHC, dated 22.04.2024.</p> |
| 19. | Availability of Wheelchairs at all public entry gates of the High Court of Delhi and all the District Courts Complexes in Delhi | <p>Directions have been issued to the Facilitation Centre of the High Court of Delhi as well as to all the District Courts of Delhi to ensure availability of wheelchairs at all public entry gates and to install necessary signages/display boards giving contact details of the wheelchair facility at conspicuous places.</p> |
| 20. | Directions for e-Filing of documents i.e. Petitions, Appeals, Applications etc. by concerned Advocates/Litigants | <p>A Circular, dated 26.07.2024 (available here) has been issued whereby all the concerned Advocates/Litigants have been directed that all the Plaints, Petitions, Appeals, Applications, Documents, etc. being filed in the High Court of Delhi through online e-Filing system must be prepared by the concerned Advocate/Litigant as per “e-Filing Rules of the High Court of Delhi, 2021” as also other applicable Rules & Directions and it shall be specifically ensured that the PDF file is in Optical Character Recognition (OCR-enabled) searchable PDF or PDF/A format and scanning of all the pleadings, pages or documents have been done by using an image resolution of</p> |

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| | | <p>300 DPI in OCR searchable mode.</p> <p>The Advocates/Litigants have been directed not to upload any screenshots of any pleading/page/document.</p> |
| 21. | Initiatives taken by the Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHCBA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Special parking stickers are being issued to the Advocates with Disabilities. ii. Three (03) tables have been reserved for PwDs in DHCBA Canteen. iii. Contact details of Bar officials have been displayed on signages at entry gates for any assistance including wheel chairs for PwDs. |
| 22. | Entry Pass for Assistant of Lawyers with Disabilities | <p>Directions have been issued to the 'General Administration-II' Branch of the High Court of Delhi for issuance of entry pass to people (limited to 01 person) who assist lawyers with disabilities, initially to be issued for 6 months, renewable further at request.</p> |