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SECRETARY (JUSTICE)



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

D.O. No. 15011/27/2017-JUS(AU)

Dated the 8th September, 2017

Dear

This is to apprise you of the significant events relating to the Department of Justice for the month of August, 2017.

1. Regarding Appointment of Judges, Shri Justice Dipak Misra was appointed as Chief Justice of India. Shri Justice Surinder Singh Saron was appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court.

2. Tele Law Scheme for mainstreaming Legal Aid through 500 Common Service Centres in Bihar was launched by Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice on 6th August, 2017. This meeting was attended by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, the then Executive Chairman, NALSA, Shri Justice Dipak Misra and other dignitaries.

3. **Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project:-**

- i) A sum of Rs.94.26 crores has been released to High Courts for procurement of Video Conferencing for remaining Court Complexes and Jails, UPS for Computers provided to High Courts, and installing solar power plants in Courts Complexes under Phase-II of eCourts Project.
- ii) The first batch consisting of 28 participants for Residential Two Weeks International Training Programme on "Court Administration and Procedures" for Judicial Officers of Subordinate Judiciary is successfully initiated and the training is underway at University of California, Berkeley from 21st August onwards till 2nd September, 2017.
- iii) Department of Justice in collaboration with BSNL has prepared estimates for provisioning of internet connectivity to 529 court complexes in the country with zero connectivity; and has forwarded to eCommittee, Supreme Court of India for funding out of eCourts Mission Mode Project.
- iv) Secretaries of Central Ministries are requested for ICT enablement of all Tribunals, to streamline business processes which will assist judges / members in their efforts at expeditious reduction of case load in the country.

4. A second round of meeting with the representatives of the Central Ministries / Departments was held on 22nd August, 2017 to discuss various issues relating to "Reducing Government Litigation".

5. The Department of Justice is keen to explore options for Government Departments and Organisations and others for settlement of their disputes through alternate methods, like mediation, arbitration, conciliation, online or otherwise, etc. so that the Government litigation is reduced and Government Departments / Organisations are encouraged not to go to court

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for their disputes. This step may help Courts to concentrate on access to justice to people in better manner. For the purpose, the Department of Justice has gathered the names of few Agencies / Institutions / Organisations working in the field of such alternate methods of dispute resolution, especially providing online mediation services in various matters. A list of such Agencies / Institutions / Organisations with their contact numbers, brief profile of their activities and weblinks has been made available on the website of Department of Justice.

6. PIL on Central Selection Mechanism - To fill up the vacancies in Sobordinate Courts, hearing took place in Supreme Court on 18th, 21st, and 22nd August, 2017 on PIL. Some of the High Courts and State Governments were opposing the proposal. Now the matter is fixed on 8th Septembger, 2017 on constitutional aspects of Article 233 of the Constitution.
7. Non-compliance of ACC directions - NIL

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(Snehlata Shrivastava)

Shri P.K. Sinha,
Cabinet Secretary,
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Copy to:-

- 1) PS to Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 2) PS to Minister of State for Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

(Snehlata Shrivastava)