

ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVES TAKEN BY HIGH COURT OF DELHI

1.	Accessibility Committee	<p>In the High Court of Delhi, the Accessibility Committee comprises Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Chaudhary, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjeev Narula, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Girish Kathpalia and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tejas Karia,</p> <p>Coordinator: Registrar (Caretaking)</p> <p>Nodal Officer to assist the Hon'ble Accessibility Committee: Mr. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Registrar (Nodal Officer)</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.</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.</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>
5.	Sign Language Interpreters	<p>A Circular, dated 19.10.2023 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 <p>Subsequently, the above Circular has been communicated to all the Principal District Judges, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and the Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee (DHCLSC) with a request to arrange any of the empanelled Sign Language Interpreters if a request for the same is received at least one week in advance.</p> <p>Persons with hearing impairment may approach the concerned DLSA or the DHCLSC for the services of a Sign Language Interpreter and the DLSA or the DHCLSC, as the case may be, shall make payment for the services so availed from the State Fund for persons with disabilities as per the above referred Circular.</p>
6.	Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service (S3WAAS)	<p>The Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service (S3WAAS) compliant with accessibility norms and having Screen Reader has been launched for all the District Courts of</p>

		Delhi. It complies with accessibility measures prescribed by the Government of India.
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. The parking slots have been painted with yellow paint to delineate the reserved area as requested.</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> <p>(a) Creating accessible documents; and (b) Dealing with the needs of the Persons with Disabilities with appropriate care and sensitivity.</p> <p>Such trainings have been directed to be made part of the annual calendar of the Delhi Judicial Academy.</p>
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	JAWS (Job Access with Speech) software has been installed in e-Sewa Kendra, main Library for Lawyers and Judges' Library.
12.	Website/ICT as well as Physical Accessibility Audit	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.
13.	Vulnerable Witness Rooms	A Circular No. 05/Accessibility/DHC, dated 29.04.2024, 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 Divayang v State Govt. of NCT of Delhi", whereby it has been informed that the infrastructure of accessibility workstations in the e-Sewa Kendras, 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.
14.	Categorization of Cases in Cause List	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 hear such cases at a suitable time slot (preferably at 02:30 PM). Also, the Principal District & Sessions Judges of District Courts of Delhi have been directed to take similar steps.
15.	Listing of cases pertaining to differently-abled Advocates/Litigants (Repealed by Serial No. 33).	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: <i>"All the Litigants/Advocates with disabilities and Advocates dealing with the cases pertaining to Persons with Disabilities are impressed"</i>

		<p><i>upon to apprise the office of Registrar (Listing) about their ongoing cases before the concerned Bench of this Court so that they can be identified and be listed categorically in the Cause List and dispos'ed 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 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 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 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</p>

		<p>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 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.	Contact of Bar Officials being displayed on signage at entry gates for assistance to PwDs	Contact details of Bar officials have been displayed on signage at entry gates for any assistance including wheel chairs for PwDs.
22.	Special Parking Stickers for Advocates with Disabilities	Special parking stickers are being issued to the Advocates with Disabilities.
23.	Entry Pass for Assistant of Lawyers with Disabilities	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.
24.	Workshop on “Sensitization of Legal Professionals about Deaf-blindness”	Workshop on “Sensitization of Legal Professionals about Deaf-blindness” was conducted in High Court of Delhi on 23.09.2024 as well as in the Delhi Judicial Academy, Dwarka on 24.09.2024 under the aegis of Hon’ble Accessibility Committee, High Court of Delhi in which <i>Mr Zamir Dhale</i> , the Founder, Director & Consultant - Society for the Empowerment of the Deaf-blind India (SEDB) was invited as the resource person.
25.	Equal Opportunity Policy (EOP)	<i>Vide</i> Circular No. 106/Estt/EI-I/DHC, dated 16.12.2024, the Equal Opportunity Policy for Persons with Disabilities under Section 21 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 has been published on the official website of this Court.
26.	Three Tables being reserved for Persons with Disabilities in Lawyers’ Cafeteria	Three Tables have been reserved for Persons with Disabilities in Lawyers’ Cafeteria.
27.	Adjustable Height Table	Adjustable height table has been installed in Lawyer’s Cafeteria for the use of Persons with Locomotor Disability.
28.	Mechanism to indicate lawyers	A mechanism has been developed and

	with disabilities by affixing wheelchair symbol against their cases	implemented to indicate the disability of lawyers in the Cause List by affixing a wheelchair symbol next to their case number so that reasonable accommodation may be made to persons with disabilities even without requiring them to make any such request in the open Court.
29.	Incorporation of QR Code in the menu of Lawyers' Cafeteria	QR Code has been incorporated in the menu of Lawyers' Cafeteria to make them accessible to the Persons with Visual Impairment.
30.	Issuance of Notices / Circulars / Directions on providing Accessible copies of pleadings and related documents in all Delhi District Courts	All the District Courts of Delhi have issued Notices/Circular/Directions in the light of e-filing Rules framed and notified by this Court vide Notification No. 11/Rules/DHC, dated 22.02.2022 for providing Accessible copies of pleadings and related documents in an accessible format to the Persons with Disabilities.
31.	Regarding repairing and maintenance of accessibility related work near gate No. 7 of this Court	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Necessary repairs have been carried out to address the uneven road at the entrance of Gate No. 7 premises. 2. The shop entry ramp has been modified within the available space to enable wheelchair manoeuvring. 3. The ramp and railing at the entrance of Sagar Ratna have been constructed.
32.	Directions regarding involving disability organizations at the time of making any infrastructural changes in Delhi High Court or Delhi District Court	Directions have been issued to the concerned quarters of this Court and the District Courts in Delhi, with regard to involving organisations working for Persons with Disabilities [<i>PwDs</i>] while adopting any new technology or making any infrastructural changes in this Court or District Courts and/or taking the views of such organisations, be acceded to.
33.	Listing of cases pertaining to differently-abled Advocates/ Litigants	<p>Revised 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 with disabilities and Advocates dealing with the cases</i></p>

		<p><i>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 they can be identified and be listed categorically in the Cause List and disposed of on priority.</i></p> <p><i>The request[s] of Lawyers with disabilities, who want to get their case [s] prioritized, will be placed before the Accessibility Committee for consideration.”</i></p> <p>Also, the Principal District & Sessions Judges of District Courts of Delhi have been directed to take similar steps.</p>
34.	Practice direction/Rules for blind lawyers to access case file/records in a seamless and timely manner	The Practice direction has been issued by this Court vide Notification No. 170/Rules/DHC, dated 28.01.2026 to enable visually impaired lawyers to access case files/records in a seamless and timely manner.