

History Report

As per revised vision statement of Subordinate Courts for the financial year 2014-15 to 2018-2019, circulated by the Hon'ble High Court of H.P., vide Registry letter No. HHC. I(4-Comp/NCMS Committee) 2014-I-9282 dated 27.3.2015 for its implementation , five Special Courts(i.e. one Family Court, Special Court for trying the offenses against Women & Children, Special Courts under NI Act, Special Court for Traffic violation and Labour and Tribunal (in the rank of District Judge)) and 2 nos Additional court rooms and Chambers, two court rooms and chambers of Additional District Judges as well as one complete court block for Juvenile Justice Board are to be constructed. This court Complex must be consist of the following vital features as per guide lines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in the interlocutory application number 279 of 2010 in writ petition(civil) number 1022 of 1989 titled as All India Judges Association & Others Vs Union of India & Others:

I. COURT BUILDING

- Court rooms
- Judges' chambers
- Judges' residential complex
- Litigants' waiting area
- Administrative offices
- Conference Hall/Meeting Room
- Video conferencing rooms
- Mediation centre/Legal Services Authority
- Common rooms for male/female staff
- Staff canteen
- De-stress rooms for male /female staff
- Office space for Government pleader/Public prosecutor/ Advocate General/Standing Counsel for Union of India with separate cubicles for conducting conferences and including space for accommodating their Secretarial staff and files
- Support facilities like ramp, crèche, etc.

II. SPACE FOR LAWYERS/LITIGANTS

- Bar rooms for ladies and gents
- Consultation rooms and cubicles
- Stamp vendors and notary public/oath commissioner /typist /photocopy /business centre
- Library
- Canteen for lawyers and litigants
- Facilitation counter for litigants/visitors
- Support facilities

III. FACILITY CENTRE providing for common facilities for functioning of the complex unrelated to courts such as bank, post office, medical facility, disaster management, etc.

IV. UTILITY BLOCK for accommodating the utility services such as A.C. plant, electrical sub-tation, DG set/Solar panel, STP, Repair workshop, storage, garage, etc.

V. JUDICIAL LOCK-UPS.

VI.STRONG ROOM FOR RECORD PRESERVATION.

VII. ADEQUATE PARKING SPACE for judges, lawyers, litigants and other visitors.

VIII. IT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMPUTERISATION AND eCOURTS

The most fundamental basic amenities such as:

(i) Basic amenities such as adequate seating space for litigant public as well as lawyers, sufficient waiting area with seating arrangements, proper lighting and electricity, functional airconditioning/aircooling/ heating, accessible clean drinking water with Reverse Osmosis (RO) facility, clean and hygienic washrooms separate for men, women, transgenders and physically

handicapped persons, kiosk and functional canteens selling beverages and eatables at nominal rates, preferably managed by court staff are some amenities and facilities which ought to be ensured at court complexes throughout the country. If these are missing in our court complexes, it would be an appalling situation which requires immediate rectification.

(ii) We must further ensure that all our court complexes are conducive and friendly for the differently-abled and towards this end, the Court complexes must have certain features for the benefit of the vulnerable persons such as persons with disability or visually impaired persons. We have to move from disabled friendly buildings to workable and implementable differently-abled friendly court infrastructure. Ramps for such categories of persons must be operable, feasible, tried and tested. Such ramps should definitely have steelrailings and handles. The court infrastructure must also keep in view the accessibility for visually impaired persons and, therefore, court complexes must have tactile pavements and signage in braille for the benefit of visually impaired citizens. That apart, for ensuring easy movement of common citizens in the court complexes, there must be maps and floor plans of the entire court complex at entry and exit points and visible signage and directional arrows with colour coding throughout the court premises.

(iii) For saving the litigant public and other citizens from running one end to the other without any guidance in the Court complexes and for assisting them to reach their desired place, it is necessary that all court premises must establish a working and fully operational help desk at major alighting points with trained court staff to brief and guide the citizens about the layout of the court premises.

(iv) Court premises must also have sufficient number of functional electronic case display systems for litigants and lawyers with the feature of automatic update in every ten seconds.

(v) With the increase in motor vehicles, including cars and two-wheelers, it is imperative that court premises have sufficient and proper parking space to ease vehicular traffic and avoid crowding. All upcoming court complexes must have

provision for both sufficient underground and surface parking facilities segregated into four broad categories – for judges, court staff, lawyers and litigants. As far as the existing court complexes are concerned, the possibility and feasibility of constructing underground or multi level parking facilities must be explored.

(vi) The court premises must have easy access at both entry and exit points. End to end connectivity of public transport systems must be ensured for court premises by starting feeder bus service and other dedicated transport services between major public transport points and court complexes. Access to justice will forever remain an illusory notion if access to courts is not ensured.

(vii) Court premises must be armed with better crowd management arrangements along with adequate security measures. It has been seen, time and again, that at the time of court proceedings of cases which are well covered by the media, the crowd management in court premises runs into utter chaos. Measures must be taken to ensure that whenever court premises are thronged with heightened crowds, there is smooth ingress and egress of both vehicular traffic as well as citizens in the court premises.

(viii) Creche facility at nominal rates for toddlers, falling within the age group of 6 months to 6 years, of lawyers, clerks of lawyers, bar association staff and officers and employees of court registry must also be constructed. The said creche facility must not be just for the namesake, it has to be both functional as well as effective with proper space and equipment such as baby proofing and other toddler-friendly provisions. That apart, the courts should have a proper atmosphere for children and vulnerable witnesses.


Divisional Forest Officer
Mandi Forest Division
MANDI (H.P.)


District & Sessions Judge,
Mandi, Distt. Mandi (H.P.)