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Room No. 204, Receipt & Issue Branch (Court)
Office of the Principal District & Sessions Judge (HQ)
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DISTRICT AND SESSIONS COURTS EMPLOYEES
WELFARE ASSOCIATION: DELHI(REGD.)

Room No.28A, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.

No. 12/DSC-EWA/2024

Dated: 01.07.2024

To

Ld. Principal District & Sessions Judge (HQs)
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.

Sub: Digitization of Decided Judicial Files.

Ref: Cir. bearing F.No.01/CDC-DDC/THC/2024/35826-37026 dt. 07.06.2024.

Respected Sir,

This has reference to the captioned circular dated 07.06.2024 whereby the Asstt. Ahlmads / Ahlmads were directed to undertake the process of digitization of the decided files from 01.01.2024 to 31.05.2024. Your lordship would be gracious enough to appreciate that Delhi District Courts is reeling under acute shortage of staff. The recent statistics notified by your good office reveals that a total of 1904 vacancies are still lying vacant in this establishment out of which about 1114 of posts are of General Cadre thereby overburdening the ancillary staff in the courts as well as branches. Ironically, the posts for the administrative strength i.e. ancillary staff for branches has not been sanctioned since a decade despite a considerable rise in number of courts/judicial officers/staff for courts, which should have been granted in adequate ratio with each sanction..

No doubt, digitization of the Delhi District Courts is a revolutionary project and we all exorbitantly welcome this move as, it will not only ease working conditions for the Judicial Officers, Litigants, Lawyers but also for the employees of District Judiciary. However, it is a bitter truth that in the absence of adequate staff / manpower directions for carrying out the digitization to the pre-overburdened staff is putting them in a very precarious situation. *Needless to reiterate that the staff is already giving beyond their capability despite all odds vis-à-vis apart from their day-to-day regular court work they had also been handed over additional work by various Orders/Circulars issued by your good office such as preparation of certified copies, working as substitute of stenographers, handling more than two courts as Asstts., carrying charge of decided files which ought to have been consigned to Record Room etc. etc. (Ref: Copies of circulars attached for ready reference please.)* Needless to state that the additional work thus assigned causes undue hindrance in their regular court work compelling them to overstay in the evening.

In past several years, heavy workload, shortage of staff, lack of infrastructure and other circumstances is leading to mass departure in this establishment. In these compelling situations, the practice of seeking VRS by senior officials has escalated manifold in the recent past. When key officials resign due to deteriorating working

environment, the new entrants also wonder to see greener grass elsewhere especially when they see their peers making the move.

The adverse working atmosphere and reducing working strength of the staff is making the remaining court staffer to work too hard beyond their capability which is poorly impacting their mental and physical health. The court staffers are bound to remain on their toes because they are advanced time-bound additional task most often that too without adequate manpower & proper infrastructure and they are expected to keep themselves aplomb. To wriggle out of the present situation there is dire need of additional Ahlmad staff in the courts to deal with the regular day-to-day court work. It becomes more imperative when they are additionally assigned the work of stenography, copying agency, record room, etc., as narrated above.

Delhi District Court is having about 700 courts including DHJS & DJS officers for dealing with more than 12 lacs cases (Ref:NJDG Data) in Delhi. **The prerequisite for digitizing the judicial record of such a large establishment is deployment of adequate number of ancillary staff / manpower.** Moreso, the digitization / scanning is totally a technical job to be undertaken by the experts in this field. Therefore, it is earnestly requested to **kindly engage and depute at least one Data Entry Operators and JJA (Technical) in each court** as are being appointed in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for undertaking all such type of tasks such as updation of data on the server and scanning / digitization of the record / uploading – downloading of digital record and its maintenance including the work assigned to the newly created post of troubleshooters in Digital Courts.

It is learnt that scanning / digitization of the judicial record of District Courts is going on since long on contractual basis. Hence, till the appointment of regular technical staff i.e. DEO and JJA (Technical) takes place, as an alternative, the services of the expert agencies (*or existing contractual staff for scanning / digitizing*) may kindly be expanded for digitization of the current record as well, which has been directed to be undertaken by the Ahlmad Staff vide circular dated 07.06.2024.

The scanning may kindly be ordered to be undertaken by such outsourced interim measure in concerned Ahlmad Room only under supervision of the Ahlmad to increase precision in digitization of the file because the Ahlmad staff is already short of time and would not be in a position to go to scanning room and get scan his file in his presence or to sign the certificate of correctness blindly.

In view of the above submissions, it is beseeched to kindly recall the circular dated 07.06.2024 with the further request to kindly initiate process to **engage and depute at least one Data Entry Operator and JJA (Technical) in each court** with complete infrastructure (*as are being appointed in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi*) for undertaking all such type of tasks such as scanning / digitization of the record, updation of data on the server / uploading – downloading of digital record and its

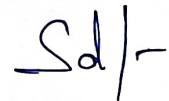
maintenance including the task assigned to the newly created post of troubleshooters in Digital Courts.

AND till the appointment of regular technical staff i.e. DEO and JJA (Technical) takes place, as an interim measure, the services of the expert agencies *(or existing contractual staff for scanning / digitizing)* may kindly be expanded for digitization of the current record as well, which has been directed to be undertaken by the Ahlmad Staff vide circular dated 07.06.2024.

We shall be highly grateful for this kindness.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully



(DEEPAK BHARDWAJ)
President

Encl: As above.