**

**IMPROVING JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS IN REVENUE COURTS – THE RAJASTHAN EXPERIENCE**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Land - the summum bonum of rural existence, and agricultural structure is the most important determinant of India’s development. As land is the critical income generating asset of rural India, effective administration of land is a vital function of the State. The critical Land Reforms legislations are the Land Ceiling Act, the Tenancy Act and the Land Revenue Act. The implementation of India’s Land Reforms policies is mandated on 2 critical institutions – the Board of Revenue and the District Collector/ Sub-Divisional Officer. The Boards of Revenue in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar were established in the years 1944 - 1949 as the apex appellate authorities and were led by ICS officers in pre-independence years. These institutions of governance will continue to exist for another 100 years as critical pillars of Indian democracy. It is important that they are strengthened and remain vibrant.

**THE BOARD OF REVENUE FOR RAJASTHAN**

The Board of Revenue for Rajasthan is amongst the greatest Institutions of democracy of Rajasthan, with a 68-year institutional legacy of excellence and a reputation for upholding justice. It is amongst the oldest Boards of Revenue in India – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, all of which were established pre-independence in 1944. It is the largest in terms of number of members and currently handles 65000 revenue cases. The Rajasthan Taxation Tribunal was separated from the Board of Revenue in 1984 and was further upgraded as the Rajasthan Tax Board in 1999.

The Rajasthan Board of Revenue Ordinance,1949 was promulgated under which the Board of Revenue for Rajasthan was constituted. Later on the Ordinance was repealed and the Board of Revenue was created under the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act and governed by Chapter II of the Act of 1956. A separate set of Rules known as the Rajasthan Land Revenue (Qualification and Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members of the Board) Rules 1971 were notified by the State Government to regulate the service conditions of the Chairman and Members of the Board of Revenue.

The Board of Revenue is the Chief Controlling Revenue Authority under all enactments in force. Being the Chief Controlling Revenue Authority, it acts as a limb of the State Government exercising powers vested in it under the various enactments. It is the highest Revenue Court of Appeal, Revision and Reference in Rajasthan having wide powers of general superintendence and control over all subordinate courts. In 1974, the State Government has delegated its Revisional powers in cases of a non-judicial nature, and not connected with Settlement. The Land Records work has also been entrusted to the Board which is administrative in nature and a very important responsibility.

The various Sections of the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act, 1956 dealing with the Board of Revenue are the following:

1. **Section 4 – Establishment and Composition of the Board**: The Board of Revenue for Rajasthan consists of a Chairman of the Board and 20 members.
2. **Section 5 – Tenure of the Members**: All members of the Board shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor
3. **Section 6 – Place of Sitting**: The Board of Revenue shall be at Ajmer but by general or special orders of the State Government, it shall be lawful for the Board to sit at any place within its jurisdiction.
4. **Section 7** – **Ministerial Officers**: The Ministerial officers of the Board of Revenue are the Registrar, the Additional Registrar and 3 Deputy Registrars. They exercise such powers and discharge such functions as the Board may direct.
5. **Section 8 – Powers of the Board:** The Board is the highest revenue court of appeal, revision and reference in Rajasthan. The Board of Revenue exercises 3 kinds of powers (a)Appeal, (b) Revision and (c) Reference.

These powers are exercised subject to the provisions of

1. Rajasthan Land Revenue Act 1956 - Sections 74 to 87 for Appeal, Revision, Reference and Review; Sections 53-55 for transfer and consolidation of cases and Section 261 (1) for making rules under the Act.
2. Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1955 – Sections 222 – 228 for Appeals, Section 230-231 for Revision and Section 232 for Reference, Section 233 for Transfer of Cases and Section 258 for making rules thereunder.

It may be further borne in mind that the Board of Revenue is Court under Article 375 of the Indian Constitution and Section 5(35) of the Rajasthan Tenancy Act with full powers to initiate contempt of court proceedings for breach of orders issued by it.

1. **Section 9 – General Superintendence of Subordinate Revenue Courts**: The Board exercises general supervision and control over all Revenue Courts and all such Courts and Officers shall be subordinate to it. There is a similar provision under the Rajasthan Tenancy Act Section 221 – Subordination of Revenue Courts – The General Superintendence and control over all revenue courts shall be vested in and all such courts shall be subordinate to the Board; and subject to superintendence, control and subordination.
2. **Section 10 – Jurisdiction of Board how exercised**: The jurisdiction of the Board is exercised by the Chairman or any other member of the Board sitting singly or by a Bench of the Board, consisting of two or more members. There are two modes to exercise jurisdiction – (i) by Single Bench or , (ii) by Double Bench or More Members. The class of cases to be heard by Single and Division Benches are laid down in the Rajasthan Revenue Courts Manual Rules.

***Rule 8*** - Single Benches hear and dispose second appeals under Section 76 of the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act, 1956, applications for transfer of cases, revisions, references etc.

***Rule 9*** - The Division Benches of the Board hear and dispose cases of all decrees and orders coming under the consideration of the Board on appeal except those specified under Rule 8. When a case is heard by a Bench of the Board, the decision of such a case shall be in accordance with the opinion of the Members.

***Special Appeal*** - A party aggrieved by the decision of a Single Member shall have the right to make a special appeal to a bench consisting of 2 or more members of the Board within one month if the member who passed the judgment declares the case as a fit one for appeal. It is only the member who passed the judgment who is competent to grant permission for special appeal and no other member is competent to do so. Special Appeal does not lie against interlocutory order of the Single Bench and decision does not include order of Board passed under revisional jurisdiction.

1. **Section 11 – Power to Refer to a Bench**: The Chairman or any Member sitting singly for the disposal of any case or proceeding may, if he thinks fit, for reasons to be recorded in writing, refer any question of law or custom having the force of law for the opinion of a Bench and the case shall be disposed of in accordance with such opinion. Further case law indicates that powers of this Section have been enlarged to cover a reference made by a Double Bench to a Larger Bench or Full Bench.
2. **Section 12 – Power to refer question to High Court**: If in any case it appears to a Bench that any question as is referred to in Section 11 is of Public Importance and that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the High Court thereon, the Bench may refer the question to that Court. The High Court may after such hearing, as it thinks fit, may record the opinion on the question so referred and the decision of the case shall be in conformity with such opinion.
3. **Section 13 – Decision in case of Difference ofOpinion**: Where a case is heard by a Bench of the Board, the decision of such case shall be in accordance with the opinions of the majority of members who hear it. Where the members are divided in opinion as to the order to be made in the case, the case shall be referred to another member and made in accordance with the opinion of the majority of the members including such other members who hear it.
4. **Section 14 – Registers of the Board**: The Board shall cause to be kept and maintained such registers and accounts as may be prescribed or as may be necessary for the transaction of its business. A list of Registers prescribed by the Board under its various sections is prescribed under the Section.

**LAND REFORMS IN 21ST CENTURY**

Major structural reforms are envisaged in current day administration in the field of land reforms. These include the following:

1. Digitization of land records in a single standardized format across various departments
2. Overhauling litigation in land with reduced timelines and fast tracked courts and judicial processes
3. Rationalizing stamp duty and reducing the burden of stamp duty.
4. Streamlining property registration system and linking land records to stamp registration
5. Streamlining the process to seize collateral under the SARFAESI Act
6. Providing easy access to Government data and other land related information.

The emphasis on timely and updated land records for a farmer to use land as collateral is of critical important. Farm loan lending by banks - both short term and long term is based on land being registered as collateral. In the absence of timely updation of land records through mutations and entries in record of rights the access to credit can be limited.

**LAND RIGHTS AND SECURITY OF TENURE**

 “Land Rights and Security of Tenure” is a subject critical to determination of tenancy rights, common lands, land allotment to landless peasants. The Rajasthan Land Revenue Act 1956 and the Rajasthan Tenancy Act 1955 represent powerful instruments in the hands of the State to ensure Land Rights and Security of Tenure. It is the State’s job to protect Land Rights and ensure security of tenure. Rajasthan’s Revenue Administration needs to ensure that tenants with secure land rights are encouraged to make investments in land – commitments in the form of better seeds, soil improvements, and irrigation so that moneys spent on these investments will boost agricultural productivity and yields. The march to a New Age India is dependent on how well the revenue administration in States implement land reforms. There are certain specific sections of the Rajasthan Tenancy Act that I wish to deliberate upon with you.

***Section 63. Tenancy when extinguished*** *– The interest of a tenant in his holding or a part thereof as the case may be shall be extinguished –*

*(iv) when he has been deprived of possession and his right to recover possession is barred by limitation.*

The Board of Revenue has ruled that the Revenue Courts have no powers to grant khatedari rights on adverse possession. Once a tenancy is extinguished under this section, the Courts must repose the Khatedari rights in some other person, khatedari rights will not remain *“in medio” –* in the State as Landholder*.*

Another Section that I wish to discuss is Section 212 of the Rajasthan Tenancy Act.

 ***S.212. Provision for injunction and appointment of a receiver*** *– (1) If in the course of any suit or proceeding under this Act, it is proved by affidavit or otherwise –*

1. *That any property to which such suit or proceeding relates is in danger of being wasted, damaged or alienated by any party thereto, or*
2. *That any party to such suit or proceeding threatens or intends to remove or dispose of the said property in order to defeat the ends of justice.*

*The Court may grant a temporary injunction and if necessary appoint a receiver.*

In deciding Temporary Injunctions, Revenue Courts are required to ensure compliance of the principles governing the grant of temporary injunction namely

1. That the Plaintiff has a prima facie case
2. That the Court’s interference is necessary to protect the party applying for temporary injunction from irreparable damage before his legal right is established by the trial and
3. Balance of convenience which is likely to arise from granting the injunction.

Ordinarily a Temporary injunction cannot be granted against a recorded Khatedar Tenant.

The status of deity under the Rajasthan Tenancy Act is an important area of legal interpretation. In several cases being pleaded in the Board of Revenue, Khatedari rights are being claimed on lands held by deity. It imperative that Revenue Courts are fully knowledgeable about the legal provisions of lands held by deity. In several instances, lands held by Deity have got recorded in the name of the Pujari and thereafter transfers have been made to third parties. The Deity is a minor in perpetuity and Revenue Courts must see that wherever such mutations and records of rights entries exist, necessary action for initiating References under Section 82 must be initiated. It is not for the Revenue Courts to determine who the Pujari is for a particular Deity. That is left to the civil courts to decide.

The Board of Revenue has emphasised on equal rights to women while sanctioning mutations. All mutations of inheritance must be opened not only in the names of widow and male heirs but also contain the names of daughters with effect from the date of applicability of amendments to the Hindu Succession Act – September 1, 2005.

**BOOSTING INDUSTRIALIZATION – BHILWADA DISTRICT**

The two major steps that Revenue Administration has pursued for boosting industrialization and ease of doing business are the following:

1. All Revenue Courts of Bhilwada to be fully digital institutions
2. Effective linkage between Sub-Registrar Offices and Tehsils to ensure timely mutations and entries in record of rights.

**Revenue Courts as fully Digital Institutions**

Rajasthan has taken steps toward Revenue Courts being fully digital institutions on November 2, 2017. We have commenced placing judgments of all Revenue Courts upto Sub-Divisional Officer/ Assistant Collector online. Industrialized Districts like Bhilwada, Pali and Alwar need to take it forward by extending the process upto Tehsil Courts. Further the process of monitoring of stage wise pendency of Court Cases in Revenue Courts can be made online. The pendency of cases in most SDO Courts and Assistant Collector Courts has crossed 2000 cases, when the Fast Track Court case loads are also added - Revenue Litigation is at an all time high. The District Collectors have to give particular attention to Court Sittings and timely disposal of cases. Particular emphasis has to be placed on timely service of summons. A campaign for ensuring service of summons could be launched for the SDO Courts of Bhilwada and Mandal. Monitoring of stage wise pendency will add to the overall impact of case disposal.

**Effective Linkages between Sub-Registrar Offices and Tehsils**

Bhilwada districtis witnessing 2 ½ times the number of registered documents as compared to neighbouring Chittorgarh District. The process of sanctioning mutations and entries in record of rights can be expedited. With 70 percent mutations being mortgage based mutations, a significant delay in sanctioning a mutation after registration has high transactional costs. Currently Revenue Officers meetings have an agenda on the pendency status of mutations. This agenda may be extended to include the number of documents registered by the Sub-Registrar and the number of mutations sanctioned and entries made in record of rights. The district could bring down the time period between registration of a document and sanction of a mutation/ entry in record of rights to as low as 48-72 hours with improved monitoring as compared to the current period of 30+ days when there is a monthly exchange of documents between Sub-Registrar and Tehsil Offices. The DILRMP does have a component for a digital integration of Sub-Registrar Offices and Tehsils, and Badnor is amongst the 6 Tehsils where Sub-Registrar Office has been integrated with the Tehsil. This process needs to be streamlined further to have optimum impact.

**CHALLENGES IN LARGE AGRARIAN DISTRICTS – NAGAUR DISTRICT**

The big challenge which in large agrarian districts of Rajasthan like Nagaur is to ensure updation of land records to ensure that benefits of development reach farmers on a timely basis. The vast geographical spread of Nagaur, with 1700 villages, a largely agrarian economy necessitates large deployment of Revenue Officials. The expansion of Sub-Divisional Officers and Tehsildars to cope with the huge workloads of the District in Revenue Administration is a significant step forward taken by State Government. In 1990, Didwana and Parbatsar sub-divisions were unwieldy and large as also Merta. These sub-divisions have since been bifurcated by creation of new sub-divisions and Tehsils which makes for simpler governance models.

One of the fastest methods for developmental financing to reach the farmers is through timely credit availability. The massive expansion of financial inclusion under Jandhan and Aadhar based mandatory linkages for availing bank loans has necessitated consistency in recording of entries in land records. There is huge litigation that is being filed for correction of entries in Khatauni Jamabandis under section 136 Rajasthan Land Revenue Act 1956. Thousands of cases have been decided during the Revenue Campaign and in regular court sittings for corrections of entries. The Act of 1956 entails that no error shall be corrected unless a show cause notice has been issued to the parties. It is to be further borne in mind that the correction of entries in case of division of holding can be made only when the division is complete. All transfers of rights shall only be made in accordance with the provisions of the Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1955.

In a district ofthe size of Nagaur, the presence of an effective Revenue Administration is best felt through efficiency at the Patwari level. This improvement in systemic efficiency can be brought about by timely inspections of Patwaris by Tehsildars, of Tehsil offices by Sub-Divisional Officers and of Sub-Divisions by District Collector. Inspections and night halts are the most effective way of improving field level governance.

Agrarian districts are witnessing large number of cases for division of holdings. Division of holdings should be between co-tenants. Although the expression co-tenant is not defined in the Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1955, the Board of Revenue initially interpreted it that co-tenant should be recorded. By 1977, it was held that the interpretation was more administrative in nature than judicial. The Board of Revenue recognized subsequently that the widow of a deceased co-tenant is a co-tenant even though she is not recorded. While Section 53 provides for division of holdings between co-tenants, it nowhere provides that division shall be amongst recorded co-tenants. It is for the Assistant Collector / Sub-Divisional Officer to determine whether a particular person is a co-tenant or not. The procedure for division of holdings entails passing of 2 decrees, preliminary and final, which is the preferable course of action, while not compulsory. Partition of holdings in should be done by meats and bounds and recorded appropriately in the revenue map.

**GROWING URBANIZATION & TENANCIES OF CHAMBAL COMMAND – KOTA DISTRICT**

Kota is amongst the important districts of Rajasthan witnessing rapid Urbanization. It also faces the complex challenge of tenancies in Chambal Colonization lands. The Rajasthan Tenancy Act Section 15-AA Non-Accrual of Khatedari rights in Chambal Project Area governs tenancies of Chambal Command Areas. Khatedari rights in Colony areas shall accrue only in accordance with the provisions of the Rajasthan Colonization (Chambal Project Government Lands Allotment and Sale) Rules 1957. There are a number of Gair-Khatedar Tenants in Digod (1769), Pipalda (1790) and Ladpura (979) who are yet to accrue Khatedar rights despite being in possession for nearly 30 years.

SDO Kota has 8 Patwar circles in the urban limits where agricultural lands are being developed for urban needs with residential plots being developed. The number of cases for partition of holdings in the court of SDO Kota and ACM Kota reflect the trends of growing urbanization. Revenue courts must partition holdings by meats and bounds so that rights can be clearly delineated in the field. The challenge of ejectment of trespassers from charagah lands in urban limits has been identified as a major challenge. The Rajasthan Tenancy Act Section 16 Land in which Khatedari rights shall not accrue makes it clear that Khatedari rights shall not accrue in pasture land. The UIT is a party to several court cases in SDO Court, Kota.

**CHALLENGES IN IGNP COMMAND – BIKANER DISTRICT**

The IGNP is one of India’s largest and most complex irrigation systems, with 15 lac hectares of command lands in the Thar desert. The terrain is very harsh with high sand dunes, sand storms and most of the canal submerged in sand during summer. One can drive a 100 kilometers in phase II IGNP and not see a single settlement except the IGNP officials. Land Allotment in IGNP was the responsibility of the Colonization Department. Considering that land allotment targets ranged upto 50,000 hectares per annum by the Colonization department, the challenges faced in creating land rights in the IGNP areas of the Thar desert was similar to establishing a new civilization.

For effective revenue administration, SDO’s and Tehsildars must visit the IGNP command area to get familiar with the IGNP. They need to familiarize themselves with warabandi practices, irrigation/ CAD department’s patwaris and engineers, Colonization department’s officials and above all meet settlers who have cultivated and transformed the IGNP. The Area Development Commissioner (ADC) was the coordination authority for the IGNP. The ADC was to convene meetings between IGNP, Irrigation, CAD and Colonization to determine water distribution for every crop season. The ADC post has since been merged with Divisional Commissioner. The Colonization Department has transferred most lands to the Revenue Department. Coordination meetings between Colonization-Revenue, Colonization-Revenue- CAD- IGNP-Irrigation are necessary for efficient day-to-day administration.A large number of temporary cultivation cases have been transferred from Colonization department to Revenue department. These cases are being seen in Pugal (250 cases) and Bikampur (136 cases). Temporary cultivation does not confer rights. Temporary Cultivation rules of Colonization department enable permanent allotments to these tenants. That said, Revenue department may exercise due diligence in making such permanent allotments.

**A 21ST CENTURY VISION FOR REVENUE COURTS OF RAJASTHAN**

Let me outline a 21st Century Vision for Revenue Courts of Rajasthan. The current scenario represents Revenue Administration at the zenith of its expansion, with Sub-Divisional Officer Courts at every Tehsil of Rajasthan. This large deployment of manpower has to perform with optimum efficiency to meet the twin objectives – (a) timely justice and (b) timely updation of land records. In my visits to several districts, and meetings with the Revenue Bar Associations, the common refrain was for consistency and periodicity of court sittings in SDO Courts.

**The First Digital Revolution in Revenue Courts Administration**

It has been my constant endeavour to modernize the Revenue Court functioning with digitization. Digitization brings transparency into the system and removes a lot of red tape. As part of the “Digital Rajasva Mandal” mission, the Board of Revenue has placed online all court judgments being pronounced in the Board. This historic step was followed with all Subordinate Courts placing judgments online creating a Rajasthan Revenue Courts Grid. The response and support that this initiative of Rajasthan Revenue Courts Grid received has been phenomenal.

**The Rajasthan Revenue Courts Grid**

The Board of Revenue envisages 21st Century Revenue Courts of Rajasthan have to be developed as Fully Digital Institutions with the Litigant as the centrality of the entire legal system. The Rajasthan Revenue Courts Grid was launched on November 2,2017 and has been implemented in all subordinate courts upto Tehsil level. Almost 2 lac judgments have been placed online. It would be further developed to encompass the detailed stage wise monitoring of case pendency. Further the time consuming process of service of summons and calling for file records has been digitalized.One of the significant monitoring initiatives would be to ensure that cases move the cases forward through the various stages in a timely manner so that the number of cases that can be heard by the bench in arguments increase. This would be the most effective way of reducing the timelines for Revenue Litigation in Rajasthan.

**IMPROVING JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS**

It is a challenging endeavour for improving the Justice Delivery Systems in Revenue Courts of Rajasthan given the challenges of high levels of pendency, predictability and consistency in court sittings of Trial Courts and the sheer length of time that Revenue Litigation has been taking to reach a final stage of adjudication. For the past several months, I have spent 21 days/ month on the bench with an average of 3-4 hours a day. I have also visited 15 districts of Rajasthan and met District Revenue Bar Associations in each of the Districts. I have interacted with the Revenue Appellate Authorities, the Divisional Commissioners, the District Collectors and the Sub-Divisional Officers. I will share my understanding of the Revenue Court work of Rajasthan.

There are legacy issues for the high levels of litigation including the challenges in integration of Tenancy Acts of Princely States into the Rajasthan Tenancy Act 1956, the challenges in according khatedari rights in Chambal and IGNP commands where temporary cultivation rights have been given when these lands were unirrigated lands, and the quality issues in sanctioning mutations/ updation of record of rights at the Tehsil level resulting in litigation in higher courts. We are currently witnessing high levels of litigation at the trial court level of SDO Courts, the first Appellate Authority level and at the 2nd Appellate Authority level of the Board of Revenue. I notice that it takes about 5 years for a suit to be decided at the Trial Court level, 2 years at the first appellate level and 15 years at the 2nd Appellate level – the total journey is taking 22 years.

**Transformational Changes introduced in the Board of Revenue**

At the Board of Revenue, the transformational changes introduced include streamlining the work of the Registry, placing high emphasis on reference cases of common lands and mandir lands, increasing the disposal of appeals being heard by Double Benches, implementing the Digital Rajasva Mandal in mission mode and operationalizing the Rajasthan Revenue Courts Grid. Improved Justice Delivery system necessitates breaking down the various judicial processes to individual actions and ensuring effective action on each one of these processes. The Bench has maintained cordial and courteous relations with the Rajasthan Revenue Bar Association seeking their constant consultation for every major reform that was undertaken.

The Board of Revenue has decided 1026 cases in January 2018 as compared to 545 cases decided in August 2017. This doubling of decisions in a short period of time was possible with the streamlining of the work of Registry by (a) ensuring the number of completed cases to be listed before the Double Benches are significantly enhanced (b) intense follow-up on the cause lists of reference cases of common lands and mandir lands. A Larger Bench of the Board of Revenue clarified in December 2017 in the case of Ali Sher vs State of Rajasthan that the judgment of the Hon’ble High Court in the Abdul Rehman vs State of Rajasthan would be binding on Revenue Courts. This has enabled the Board of Revenue’s Single Bench hearing Reference cases to decide hundreds of cases for protection of Rajasthan’s common lands in January 2018. The Double Benches of the Board of Revenue have been persuaded to decide an average 5 second appeals/ sitting. This has enabled the decision making capacities of the Board of Revenue as the decision from the Double Benches were quite limited hitherto. Further in the Double Bench, priority has been accorded to protection of rights of women, simplifying the interpretations of the Hindu Succession laws and the Transfer of Property Act. Placing the litigant at the centrality of the Justice Delivery System, the Board has heard arguments in several afternoon sittings, sending out the message that if the Counsels are ready to argue their cases, the Bench will always be available to hear them for speedy justice.

**Predictability and Consistency of Court Sittings**

While the Board of Revenue and the Revenue Appellate Authorities have been holding sittings in continuum, there have been questions raised on the predictability and consistency in Court sittings at the Trial Court level. It is important to recognize the sheer expansion of SDO courts in the State. In 1989, Rajasthan’s 25 Districts had 60 SDO Courts, in 2018 – 33 Districts have nearly 300 SDO Courts. SDO courts have been advised to conduct sittings from Monday to Wednesday 1030 am to 1.30 pm, cause lists must contain 90-100 cases (with 20 cases in arguments, 20 cases in miscellaneous applications for Legal Respondents, 10 cases in evidence, 10 cases for framing issues, 10 cases in preliminary decrees, 10 cases of temporary injunction applications and 10 cases for final decrees). SDO’s have been further advised to ensure sittings if cause-lists have been issued and cases must move forward if there is a regular sitting. Evidence must be recorded in all cases where witnesses attend Court.

**Improving the Quality of Judgment Writing**

To improve the quality of judgment writing in Trial Courts, SDO’s have been advised to ensure that in all Suits the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) must be followed. Judgment writing must be in accordance with Order 20 Rule 5 of CPC and issue based judgments must be given. In all cases where citations have been presented by the Advocates, the Trial Court must give a specific para on the citation so that the interpretation being made is clear to both the Plaintiff and the Defendant. The Board of Revenue is in consultation with the Department of Personnel and the HCMRIPA for conducting a workshop on Judgment Writing for SDO’s as several officers promoted from Rajasthan Tehsildar Service to the Rajasthan Administrative Service working as SDO’s have expressed a felt need for such a workshop.

**Conclusion**

The Rajasthan Revenue Courts Grid has been launched on November 2, 2017 and currently covers 902 Revenue Courts. Nearly 2 lac judgments have been placed online. The Board of Revenue has placed 2265 judgments online. The response to this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive. Following the streamlining of the Registry and the launch of the Rajasthan Revenue Courts Grid, the Board of Revenue has taken up the 2nd phase of the Digital Rajasva Mandal including SMS facility for Advocates / Litigants, the issue of summons to tehsils by email, and calling for file records by email from subordinate courts. These steps are being replicated in all 33 districts of the State.

The litigant has to remain the centrality of the journey in Revenue Courts. Consistency and predictability of sittings and intense commitment to the cause of land reforms have enabled the Board of Revenue for Rajasthan to help millions of litigants of the State while ushering in radical reforms, transformational changes in governance, enabling the march to New India 2022.

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