THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

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HCKL/7490/2025-DI-3-HC KERALA

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Sub:- Implementation of Policy Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools
in the District Judiciary - Reg.

Read: Policy Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in District
Judiciary

      For the responsible and restricted use of Artificial Intelligence in judicial functions of the District Judiciary, the High Court of Kerala has formulated "the Policy Regarding Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools in District Judiciary". All District Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates are requested to communicate the Policy document to all Judicial Officers and the staff members under their jurisdiction and take necessary steps to ensure strict compliance with the Policy.

(By Order)

Encl: as above   Suneera.P.M.
                                                     Joint Registrar

To   All District Judges and the District Judge, Kavaratti
          All Chief Judicial Magistrates

Copy to: All the Nodal officers
          All the SSOs
          The IT (Technical) Cell, High Court
          The CAs to Registrar
          The ARS, High Court

Copy submitted to   The Registrar (Computerisation)-cum-Director (IT)
          The Deputy Director (IT)

POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TOOLS IN DISTRICT JUDICIARY

1. Context and Purpose

The increasing availability of, and access to, Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, is making a profound impact on diverse fields, including law. While AI tools can be beneficial, their indiscriminate use might result in negative consequences, including, but not limited to, violation of privacy rights, data security risks, and erosion of trust in judicial decision -making. Therefore, the judicial officers and the staff of the District Judiciary are advised to exercise extreme caution while using AI tools.

In this context, this Policy aims to establish guidelines for the responsible use of AI tools in judicial work. The objectives are to ensure that AI tools are used only in a responsible manner, solely as an assistive tool, and strictly for specifically allowed purposes. The Policy aims to ensure that under no circumstances AI tools are used as a substitute for decision-making or legal reasoning. It is also envisioned that the Policy will help the members of the judiciary and staff to comply with their ethical and legal obligations, particularly in terms of ensuring human supervision, transparency, fairness, confidentiality, and accountability at all stages of judicial decision-making.

2. Scope and Application.

1. This policy applies to all members of the District Judiciary in Kerala and the employees assisting them in their diverse judicial work. The policy is also applicable to any interns or law clerks working with the District Judiciary in Kerala.
2. This policy covers all kinds of AI tools, including, but not limited to, Generative AI tools, and databases that use AI to provide access to diverse resources including case laws and statutes.
3. This policy applies to all circumstances wherein AI tools are used to perform or assist in the performance of any judicial work, without regard to the location and time of the use, and irrespective of whether they are used on personal devices or devices owned by the courts or third-party devices.

3. Definitions

1. **Artificial intelligence ("AI")** refers to a technical and scientific field devoted to developing systems that generate outputs such as content, forecasts, recommendations, or decisions based on pre-defined or learned objectives, often mimicking human cognitive processes.

2. **Generative AI ("GenAI")** refers to a subset of AI that uses large language models (LLMs) trained on extensive datasets to generate outputs in response to prompts, including, but not limited to, text, speech, and Images. The examples of GenAI include ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, and Deepseek.

3. **AI Tools** refer to any applications/ set of applications, software, or systems that use AI to perform various kinds of tasks, including, but not limited to, generating text and finding case laws or relevant statutory provisions.

4. **Approved AI Tools** refer to any AI application or set of AI applications, software, or systems that have undergone formal evaluation and received approval from the High Court of Kerala or the Supreme Court of India for use at the District Judiciary.

5. All other expressions used herein shall have the respective meanings assigned to them by the Information Technology Act of 2000.

4. Guiding principles in the use of AI tools

1. Transparency, fairness, accountability, and protection of confidentiality are integral aspects of judicial administration, which shall not be compromised by the use of AI tools. It shall be the obligation of the members of the judiciary and employees assisting them to ensure that any AI tool they use for official purposes adhere to these integral principles.

2. Most of the AI tools, including the currently popular GenAI tools such as ChatGPT and Deepseek, are cloud-based technologies wherein any information input given by the users may be accessed or used by the service providers concerned to advance their interests, including fine-tuning of their models. Submitting information such as facts of the case, personal identifiers, or privileged communications or uploading any other documents relating to the litigations to any such AI tools may

result in serious violations of confidentiality. Hence, the use of all cloud-based services should be avoided, except for the approved AI tools.

3. It is a documented fact that most AI Tools produce erroneous, incomplete, or biased results. Hence, even with regard to the use of approved AI tools, extreme caution is advised. Any results generated by approved AI tools, including, but not limited to, legal citations or references, must be meticulously verified by the judicial officers. This is applicable to all approved AI tools, including databases of case-laws and statutes that use AI tools to generate, summarise or fine-tune results.

4. When AI tools are used to translate legal texts or case laws, the outputs provided must be verified by qualified translators or **Judges themselves.**

5. While approved AI tools may be used for routine administrative tasks such as scheduling of cases or court management, human supervision is required at all times while using such tools.

6. AI tools shall not be used **to arrive at any findings, reliefs,** order or judgment under any circumstances, as the responsibility for the content and integrity of the judicial order, judgment or any part thereof lies fully with the Judges.

7. The approved AI tools shall be used only for the purposes for which they are supplied or provided.

8. Courts shall maintain a detailed audit of all instances wherein AI tools are used. The records in this regard shall include the tools used and the human verification process adopted.

9. The members of the judiciary and employees assisting them must participate in the training programs organised by the Judicial Academy or the High Court on the ethical, legal, technical and practical aspects of AI. This may help in a better understanding of the benefits, challenges, as well as risks in using diverse kinds of AI tools.

10. If any errors or other issues are noticed in the output generated by any of the approved AI tools, the same should be reported to the Principal District Court promptly and the Principal District Judge shall forward the same to the IT Department of the High Court without delay, so that appropriate safety reviews can be taken by the IT team immediately.

5. Violation.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, and rules pertaining to disciplinary proceedings shall prevail.

6. Miscellaneous

The High Court may revise the guidelines of this Policy periodically based on the technological developments in the area and the applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

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