District and Civil Court Building, Nagpur

With the increasing activity and development on all fronts, the District Courts including Civil Courts at Nagpur have also been expanded and at present these are housed in different barracks and small structures built progressively from as early as 1866 right up to 1957. The average size of the Court hall at present is hardly 600 sq. ft. with a Judges chamber of about 150 sq.ft. and various verandahs are being used for general public waiting purposes. The present accommodation was found to be too meager for the actual needs of the courts and the other facilities available were also found to be inadequate. The Magistrates’ Courts were located in a small room with a curtain used in a corner for the chamber. The general public was also greatly inconvenienced in absence of proper waiting halls and other allied facilities.

In order to mitigate the hardships and to fulfill the need, the Government of Maharashtra decided in 1970 to have a single Court Building of adequate size with all modern Courts functioning in Nagpur and their future expansion. The actual work of the building with ground and 8 upper floors was started on 19th February 1971 at the hands of Hon’ble Shri S.P. Kotwal the then Chief Justice, Maharashtra.

Having regard to the general location of other offices and convenience to the public, the plot available in the present compound of the Courts in the Civil in the Civil Lines area, was found to be ideal for housing this new building. The site is easily approachable from various parts of the city and is surrounded by important Government offices such as All India Radio, D.D.A. & P.T. Office, Collector and Commissioner Office, etc.

The building has been planned for 33 Nos. of Courts functioning simultaneously, taking into consideration the additional 3 Nos. of Court which will come into existence in near future.
This is a multistoried framed structure having nine floors. Three wings in ‘H’ Shape have been planned in the Building.

There are 7 lifts, out of which four lifts of 13 persons capacity each, will be available to the general public and balance three lifts of 4 persons capacity each, is earmarked for exclusive use by Judges. In addition there are six staircases out of which the Judges earmarks three for use exclusively. The location of Judges chamber is so arranged that from Judges lift or staircase there is a direct access to his chamber.

11. FLOOR-WISE DETAILS:

GROUND FLOOR:
(Carpet area=2,264 sq.m.) It consists of mainly record/storage rooms. There is canteen. There is canteen provided to cater to the general public and staff.

FIRST FLOOR:
(Carpet area= 2,193 sq.m.) 4 Nos. of Courts including strong rooms, Muddemal property rooms and police prosecutors office.

SECOND FLOOR:
(Carpet area= 2,193 sq.m.) 4 Nos. of Courts including Bar room, Bar library, Bar canteen and Muddemal property room.

THIRD FLOOR:
(Carpet area= 2,193 sq.m.) 5 Nos. of Courts including Govt. Pleaders offices.

FOURTH FLOOR:
(Carpet area=2,193 sq.m.) 6 Nos. of Courts only.

FIFTH FLOOR:
(Carpet area=2,193 sq.m.) 6 Nos. of Courts only.

SIXTH FLOOR:
(Carpet area=2,193 sq.m.) 4 Nos. of Courts, including general offices of Civil Courts, ladies room, strong room.

SEVENTH FLOOR:
(Carpet area=2,193 sq.m.) 4 Nos. of Courts including general offices of District Courts, strong room.

EIGHTH FLOOR:
(Carpet area=2,193 sq.m.) It will be used for judges common hall, judges common hall, judges library and judges canteen.
HISTORY OF NAGPUR

The history of Nagpur dates back to the advent of Vedic Aryans. The scholars say that this was migration route used by Aryans. The culture of this locality is supposed to be later than that of Indus Valley. This region was initially covered by thick forest and it was known as Dandkaranya by name of its King Danda. In course of time, large kingdom was founded in this region by King Vidarbha and after him, region came to be called as “Vidarbha”. Nagpur was treated as part of Dandkaranya.

2. Tradition gives the credit for settling town of Nagpur to Gond King Bhakt Bulanda of Deogad. Nagpur was included in the kingdom of Great Ashoka. It was part of Mourya Dynasty Satavahanas ruled over this region for few centuries. Kings like Pravarasena and Nala King ruled over the region and Vakatakas also ruled over this region. Kalacuri King Buddhraja of Central India, Pulakesin – II of early Chalukya Dynasty, Rashtrakutas and later Chalukyas also ruled over this region.

3. Vakatakas were known for their art and literature, but after Vakatakas, there was no imperial ruling over Vidarbha for few centuries and the Centre of political power had shifted successfully to Mahismati, Badami, , Manyekheta and Kalyani. Bhavabhuti who rank next to Kaladiasa in Sanskrit literature was native of this region, but after the regime of Vakatakas was over, the scholars like Bhavabhuti left this region and they flourished in other regions. Trivikramabhatta, the author of Nalacampu was also required to go abroad in search of royal patronage. Vidarbha was known for beauty of its princes. Many Sanskrit and Marathi poets from
Kalidasa onwards have drawn the themes of their work from romantic lives of princes like Damayanti, Indumati and Rukmini. Vakatakas regime was there till AD 490.

4. In the last quarter of 12th Century A.D., Yadavas of Devagiri brought Vidarbha under their control. King Singhana of Yadavas was most powerful amongst Yadava Kings and his Senapati Kholesvara constructed many temples and established Agraharas in Vidarbha. Ramacandra was the last independent Hindu King of Deogiri and a fragmentary inscription of his time is built into the front wall of temple of Laxmana on the hill at Ramtek.

5. In A.D. 1204, Ala-ud-din Khilji invaded on the kingdom of Ramacandra and Ramacandra was defeated. This kingdom came to an end in A.D. 1318. During the regime of Ramcandra, his Ministers Hemadri or Hemadpant built many temples and developed peculiar style of Architecture called as Hemadpanti. Such temples can be found at the places like, Savner, Ramtek and Parseoni in Nagpur District. During the regime of Yadavas, Marathi literature also flourished. Chakradhar who propagated the Mahanubhava cult in that age used Marathi as the medium of his religious teachings.

6. From the time of fall of Yadavas till the entry of Mugals, some Gond Kings became powerful. They were living in fastness of hills and forest. Raja Gonds considered themselves as Rajputs or Kshatriyas. Gond King Jatba was founder of Deogad seat. By 1600 A.D. Koka Sah, son of Jatba succeeded to Gadi of Deogad. He had dispute with Mugals and he had hastened to Nagpur before purchasing peace with Mugals. Gond King Jatba had extended his kingdom beyond Nagpur and he had constructed a fort as a out post at Nagpur.

7. Nagpur city was founded by Gond King Bhakta Buland Shah of Devgad on the bank of river “Nag“ that is why city was named as “Nagpur“. The eldest son of Bhakta Buland Shah, Raja Chand Sultan shifted the capital of Gond Kingdom to Nagpur and he constructed three K.M. long wall around Nagpur fortage and led the foundation of planned layout for Nagpur city. He ruled over Nagpur for about 33 years. After Gond family, Nagpur was gradually dominated by Bhosale dynasty.

8. After 1600 A.D. Bhosle family emerged in Nagpur. Like Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosale, Bhosale of Nagpur considered that they have descended from Sisodiya Rajputs of
Udaypur. Their known ancestral was contemporary of Maloji Bhosale who was grand father of Shivaji. Mudhoji Bhosale was contemporary of Sahaji Bhosale, father of Shivaji. Parsoji and Sabaji were sons of Mudhoji and they served in the army of Shivaji. These two families treated each other as blood relations.

9. Parsoji Bhose rendered valuable help to Chhatrapati Rajaram, son of Shivaji and he got title of Senasaheb Subhas of Gondwana, Devagad, Canda and berar in 1699 A.D. He got more grant from Chhatrapati in the year 1707 A.D. Kanhoji was the son of Parsoji and he had no good rations with Sahu Chhatrapati. Due to dispute, Sahu Chhatrapati helped Raghuji, nephew of Kanoji in the battle which was fought for ancestral Jagir. In the battle, Kanoji was defeated by Raghuji Bhosale and from 1730 A.D. Raghuji got control over Berar, Nagpur and other eastern region. Sahu Chhatrapati conferred on Raghuji a title of Senasaheb Subha and right to collect Chauthai.

10. Raghuji became so powerful that he could dispatch large army for invasion of Bengal and he gained province of Orrisa. He had clashes with Balaji Peshava as his power increased. He helped Rani Ratan Kuwar of Deogad kingdom in the battle of successors of Gond Kingdom and Rani Ratan Kuwar granted him Sanad of 1/3rd kingdom. Raghuji won many battles in Karanataka.

11. After Raghuji, there was dispute between two sons of Raghuji viz. Mudhoji and Janoji. This made the power of Bhosale of Nagpur weak. Ultimately, Janoji decided to adopt a son of Mudhoji and for sometimes, there was peace. After the death of Janoji, house of Bhosale of Nagpur was plunged into worst family feud. Sabaji, brother of Mudhoji raised dispute for Senasaheb Subaship. Mudhoji and Sabaji then agreed to look after the administration jointly and Raghuji-II, adopted son of Janoji was made nominal ruler. Sabaji was killed in battle in Nagpur in 1775 AD out of the said dispute. The wars among the Marathas were fully exploited by the English for the expansion of their power.

12. Raghuji – II was succeeded by his son Parsoji in 1816 A.D. Parsoji was paralytic and handicap person and his mother took charge of administration. One Appasaheb Bhosale started creating his influence in the administration in those days. He was not successor of Bhosale
family and he had no claim over Gadi. He took over the control of this region and after performing
coronation of Parsoji, he got post of Regent of Raja. He entered alliance with English in 1816
A.D. and gave away independent status of Nagpur. Part of British force was then kept in Nagpur
under General Dovetone. Parsoji died in suspicious circumstances.

13. Appasaheb Bhosale had dispute with the English. Appasaheb Bhosale took help of
Arabs in the battle but ultimately, he was defeated. Appasaheb Bhosale was arrested and then
Bajiba, son of Banubai was adopted by English. Banubai was daughter of Raghuji-II. In the year
1818 A.D. Bajiba was renamed as Raghuji-III and he was only 10 years old at that time. The
entire administration was taken over by British Resident during those days. Raghuji-III died at the
age of 47 years and Yeshwantrao, son of nephew of Raghuji-III was to be adopted as the next
successor. British refused to recognize such adoption by saying that territory was conquered by
them. There was very little protest against the British action of annexation of Nagpur which took
place in 1853 A.D.

14. In the first freedom struggle of 1857 A.D. people of Nagpur showed their
participation. In the year 1861 A.D., Nagpur became capital of Central Provinces. In the year
1864 A.D., Municipality of Nagpur was established. In the year 1869 A.D. between Nagpur and
Mumbai a new train route was laid down which transformed the future of Nagpur for good. In the
year 1891 A.D. 7th All Indian Congress Session was organized at Lalbagh locality of Nagpur. In
the year 1899 A.D. there was plague and it took a heavy toll in Nagpur. In the year 1901 A.D.
Cotton Market was founded and C.P. Club was also founded. In the year 1905 A.D. Indora was
founded. In the year 1911 A.D. the English Daily, “The Hitvada“ was started.

15. In the year 1912 A.D. Foundation stone of Vidhan Sabha Bhavan was laid at
Nagpur. In the year 1920 A.D. 35th All India Congress Sessions was held in Nagpur. In the year
1923 A.D. Nagpur University was founded. In the year 1924 A.D. foundation of Ramdaspeth was
laid and subsequently, Laksharibaug, New Colony, Dhantoli colonies were developed. In the year
1934 A.D. Hindi daily “Navbharat” was launched at Nagpur.
16. In the year 1936-1938 A.D. Hindustani Lal Sena was founded in Nagpur. In the year 1940 A.D. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s “Forward Block Party” organized its 2nd All India Sessions at Nagpur. In the year 1942 A.D., Nagpur participated in “Bharat Chhodo Aandolan”.

17. In the year 1947 A.D. India got freedom from British and Nagpur participated in this celebration. In that year, All India Radio Station was founded in Nagpur. In the year 1950 A.D. Nagpur was declared as capital of Madhya Pradesh. In the year 1951 A.D. Nagpur Municipality was converted to Nagpur Municipal Corporation. In the year 1956 A.D. on Deexabhum ground, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar embraced Buddhism alongwith lacks of his followers. In the year 1960 A.D. Nagpur city and district were transferred to Maharashtra State and the city was assigned the status of the Second Capital to Maharashtra.

(The history is collected from http://nagpur.nic.in.)

(T.V.Nalawade)
Principal District and Sessions Judge,
Nagpur.