

Inauguration of 'Over the Counter' payment facility of Judicial Stamp Duty at High court, Mumbai

An Extension Counter of Bank of India is scheduled to be inaugurated in the premises of High Court, Mumbai with assistance from the Department of Registration and Stamps, Govt of Maharashtra and National Informatics Centre, Pune for providing the facility of 'Over the Counter Payment' of Judicial Stamp Duty (Court Fees) as well as Non Judicial Stamp Duty by the litigants and advocates.

Until now for the payment of Judicial Stamp Duty, citizens were required to purchase Judicial Stamp Papers from the General Stamps Office Counter at Mumbai High court premises or from Licensed Stamp vendors or from Treasury/Sub-Treasury. This was very time consuming and inconvenient to the payers. Understanding the difficulty faced by the litigants and advocates, Hon. High Court has made available their premises for establishing an extension counter of Bank of India , Mumbai Main branch for the above purpose.

Finance Department of the Government of Maharashtra has set up Virtual Treasury through which Government Receipt & Accounting System (GRAS) has been established whereby Government of Maharashtra's taxes and other fees are collected for 16 departments. Department of Registration and Stamps has started the facility of e-payment of Judicial Stamp Duty and Court fee. But this facility could not be exploited fully by the citizens as it required internet banking account. So, Department devised a new methodology; 'Over the Counter Payment' which was hybrid of online and manual payments.

In the Over the Counter method of payment, citizen has to visit GRAS website (<https://gras.mahakosh.gov.in>), fill the form, select suitable bank and generate draft challan. Then this challan has to be submitted at Bank of India's counter situated at Mumbai High Court premises along with physical payment of Judicial Stamp Duty and/or Court Fee (Cash, Cheque or DD).

Currently this facility is already available at Andhra Bank counter in Nagpur High Court bench premises and at State Bank of Hyderabad counter in Aurangabad High Court premises. It is being made available at Bank of India's counter in Mumbai High Court premises from 5th May 2014.

Over the counter payment facility will have many advantages as compared to existing traditional methods of payment.

1. Payment without any ceiling
2. Payment of exact Judicial Stamp Duty
3. Minimum payment of Rs. 300 possible at bank counter

4. No problem of shortage of Judicial Stamp Paper
5. No queuing or unnecessary waiting
6. Safe and easy mode of payment
7. Possibility of making payment of Non-Judicial Stamp Duty at same counter