

# BRS: Cause List V3

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose

Day to day activities and case management of the Supreme Court and the Subordinate Courts needs to be brought under the coverage of modern information and technology and thus expeditious services are being given to litigants, lawyers and relevant stakeholders.

Supreme Court has setup a full-fledged website where the daily cause list, basic information of the cases, concise statement of the cases, verdict and orders are immediately uploaded.

Daily Cause List and status of serial of case hearing are being displayed through digital screen board as immediate information. In this, details of daily activities the benches are provided in summary manner. Already Online Cause List has been introduced in the Supreme Court. Soon Cause List will be published only through online instead of printing on paper.

The new system aims to bring all the stakeholders under one single umbrella. The cause-list module that will be developed will be the key element of the entire digital judiciary system.

The new digitalized web and app-based system should feature a user-friendly interface for the judges, advocates, court staff, law enforcers, and litigants connected to the district courts, supreme, and high courts of Bangladesh. The aim is to develop a “virtual cause-list” from where users will get instant details of day-to-day hearing of the cases.

## 1.2. Background

Many measures have been taken for digitization of different procedures of the Supreme Court aiming at total digitization of the Judiciary. Among them, introduction of online cause list is the most important initiative.

Under this system cause list of both Divisions of the Supreme Court are published online. To make this system sustainable an “Operational Manual” has been drafted by the Research Unit of the Supreme Court which has been approved by the Honorable Chief Justice. The Bench Officers, Staff of the Bench section and the IT Department give input of cases and co-ordinate the publishing of the same online following the said Manual.

To make the online cause list more user-friendly IT Department converts it in PDF format and upload in the web. Through this online cause list litigant people can be informed about the result of his case even from a remote place. It is expected that online cause list system would reduce the harassment of the parties of the case drastically.

Presently, the everyday cases are filed in different Benches of the High Court Division. Different information relating to these cases are given entry to online and preserved in the server. In which

dates a particular case appeared in the cause list, information relating to this is also preserved in the server. A person who wants to know about his case can go to the website of the Supreme Court and can search for and know about the present status of his case.

The court introduced the app(cause-list) so that people, such as lawyers, litigants, and law enforcement officers, can get information on cases, such as updates and current positions, as well as results after the Appellate and High Court divisions hold hearings on them.

## 1.3. Objectives

The objectives of the cause list are as follows:

1. **Know the upcoming case hearing at a glance.**

Users of the system should be able to view the cause list without having to visit the court. Judicial officials can view all cause list at a glance through the system.

2. **Know the cases listed for the hearing (day to day) within the court(s).**

Day-wise cases scheduled for hearing will be visible to the users. They can also view the previous day's cause list if needed.

3. **Entry causes effectively & easily.**

Court staff responsible for entering the cases in the cause list should be able to effortlessly enter the cases scheduled to be addressed for the upcoming day. They should also be able to update the list if required.

4. **Store case records digitally (reduce paperwork).**

The system should have a provision to store digitized **case related** documents. Users will be able to upload digitized documents and use it for a particular case.

5. **Easy to access causes anytime, anywhere.**

Judicial staff and litigants can view the cause list through the system anytime and from anywhere. They no longer will have to be at the court premises to view the court published cause list.

6. **Facilitate other digital systems like Dashboard to get the real data.**

The dashboard should visually represent all cause list data in real time

# 2. Requirements Scope

The cause list module must have the following features:

Feature	Feature Details
Login	Cause list users can log in through the system using JISF SSO.
Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Independent Cause list that will be integrated with JISF platform or Third-party Systems.</li><li>• Cause list will be integrated with JISF (Office and Employee Info, SSO)</li><li>• Cause list will be integrated with Digital filing system (need detailed knowledge on the digital filing system</li><li>• Cause list will be integrated with KIOSK (Token ticketing system).</li></ul>

<p><b>Cause list processing history</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cause list data will be evaluated directly from the digital filing system.</li> <li>• Judiciary officers can manually enter a case (single data) from the released cause list from the court(s)</li> <li>• Judiciary officers can upload a bulk number of records by importing excel or csv files.</li> <li>• Every Judiciary officer should be able to easily track his or her cases in terms of case application date, hearing date, case number, etc.</li> <li>• Judiciary Officers can view the history of a case (e.g., date of application, hearing date, case number.)</li> <li>• Judicial Officers can view the case status (e.g., Pending, applied, Complete, etc.)</li> <li>• Consumers (Citizens or litigants) can view the cause list by the court, Division, District, Cause number, Hearing date, etc.</li> <li>• Citizens or litigants can view his/her upcoming case hearing information by KIOSK.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advanced searching module</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users shall be able to search cases in the cause list by selecting parameters such as the Year, Division, Case Category, Case Type, and Case number.</li> <li>• Provision to follow a particular case.</li> </ul>

# 3. Major Components of cause list

## 1.1. Bulk Entry Management

The vendor needs to develop a bulk cause-list upload and management system for the cause-list management Platform. Through this, the officer will be able to upload one or multiple cause lists at a time without any hassle.

**Pre-format cause-list file:** There should be a pre-format cause-list sheet for both subordinate courts and the high court. Users should pick the right format of file (CSV/Excel) for the respective court's cause list.

Cause list system will provide the format. By clicking EXPORT sample format, users can have the formatted file that should be filled before importing it to the system.

After the bulk entry is successful, the officer will be able to view all the cases in the cause list. The cases should also be viewed by the concerned stakeholders (i.e., Litigants, Lawyers, Judges, etc.), and can be filtered by the viewer using several parameters.

## 3.2 . Digital Case Number

The case number is a unique number for the lawsuit. This number usually can be found on court documents regarding the case. The case number typically will be either a string of numbers or a combination of letters and numbers along with the year it was filled, often preceded by the indicator "Case No." or "No." For example, "No. 20916/2019".

The process of cause list entry is different for supreme court and lower district courts. In lower court, the documents collected by the lawyer will first make its way to the Sheresta office.

When a person has a civil claim and go to the court to register a complaint, they become the plaintiff. The one against whom they are filing the suit will be the defendant. Before filing a suit, they have to be sure about 3 things: the location of their claim (For Territorial Jurisdiction), the monetary value of the claim (For Pecuniary Jurisdiction) and the subject matter of their claim.

Thereafter, the complaint including other necessary documents should be submitted before the concerned court officer, i.e., the Sheristadar who shall examine, inter alia, territorial and pecuniary jurisdiction and requisite court fees paid thereof.

After such examination he will put a case number of the suit and will enter the suit into a register

which is called the register of the suits. The date of filing shall also be stamped on the complaint as soon as it is filed. When all the above procedures are completed, a civil suit starts its journey.

In lower courts, the Sheristadar will enter the case in the cause list. After the case hearing takes place, the cause list will be updated by the judge secretary (Munshi).

In the supreme court, the bench officer will send all the mention slips to "Bench O Degri" section for compilation. There they will compile all the documents and papers and send it to BG Press for publishing Cause list.

In the digitalized system, the bench officer will be responsible for the case entry. Each case will have a unique digital number by following the standard guidelines of the Bangladesh Judiciary System which is subject to further analysis

**Decision:** Decision will be

1. Pre-defined: In the case of predefined decisions, the cause number will be auto-filled with the unique number.
2. Custom: In the case of custom decisions, the Judiciary officer can input case numbers manually with general (case number/yyyy) format. Keep in mind this should be unique.

### 3.3 Case History

Users of the system should be able to view the all-previous cases. Litigants and Lawyers should be able to view previous cases based on a particular date range. The case information from the start to the end of the case will be shown individually.

Litigants and lawyers will only be able to view the cases in which they are directly involved in. They will not be able to view cases un-related to them.

- **Store data:** Every entry of the cause list is either from the digital filing system- single entry or from bulk entry, all data will be saved in a database.
- **Unique case number:** Every entry there will have a unique number which will be considered a case number.
- **Accessing data:** From the system the user can view/access the stored data using a case number. The system will show the record of the case from the database.

### 3.4 Case Transfer

A case transfer is a process whereby a legal case that is before a court is transferred to another court. There are provisions in certain circumstances to transfer proceedings between the supreme, magistrate, and district courts.

A case may be transferred to another court that is outside the jurisdiction for many reasons. For

example, courts often handle only felony or misdemeanor crimes. If a case is transferred outside the jurisdiction that is receiving the grant funds because the charges were reduced or enhanced beyond what the court typically handles, then the case is eligible for transfer. Similarly, if the case is transferred outside the jurisdiction that is receiving grant funds because the case was filed in the wrong jurisdiction, the case will be transferred.

The system should have a provision of transferring the cases among the courts in the Cause-list Management system.

The system should have the provision to transfer cases in the following ways:

1. **Automatic transfer:** The case will be transferred to the court automatically if the Judiciary officer detects that the case is in the wrong court, wrong act, etc. The system will automatically transfer the respective case to the defined court (defined by the Judiciary officer)
2. **Manual transfer:** The lawyer can transfer a case from one court to another court if the lawyer faces any issue(s).

## 3.5 Notification Management

Notification interface will allow citizens to receive notifications (Email, SMS) regarding their cause-list schedule. Besides the default settings, CMS users will have the option to set a notification on/off, frequency change, and priority configuration and configure the way notification is received (email, system, and SMS).

The platform will have several types of notification systems with configurable user groups like proactive notification, configurable push notification, and auto-notification for case status, users query, and so on.

- Service admins/CMS users will be able to customize notifications within steps of the notification manager.
- All kinds of SMS and email notifications are configured with the predefined decision when the service was created.

### Number

A total of 10 notification will be visible in the notifications box at a time. The user will be able to 6 notifications at a time and the user would need to scroll to see the rest. If the user wants to see more, they can click on 'See all' to go to the 'all-notifications' page. It is likely that these numbers will vary between devices, based on the height user display -- and will be reduced for smaller screens.

### Order

Notifications will be shown in reverse chronological order, with the latest notifications shown first, based on their timestamp. The most recent notifications will remain on the notification box until replaced by newer notifications, which will push them down the stack incrementally, until they fall



off from the notification list. (The same ordering principle will be used in the all-notifications page, except that the list will be longer and separated by days: today, yesterday, all the way back to the past 7 days).

### **Scrollbar**

A scrollbar in the notification box should be supported. This will be needed in order to see up to 10 items in the notification box, which will not all fit at once in the first view of the notification box.

### **Timestamp**

The timestamp will be expressed as a 'time elapsed' indicator (e.g.: 1 min. ago, 2 hours ago, 3 days ago). It may only appear when the user hovers over the notification, to reduce clutter.

### **Push Notification**

Push notification will allow litigants or judicial officials to receive notification text messages on their phone numbers registered in the system. This way, users can receive notifications even if they are not connected to the internet.

## **3.6 Cause list publisher**

- **Publishing:** After creating a cause-list by using the case entry(from manual, bulk, or digital filing), the Judiciary admin will publish to a shared repository (i.e., Judiciary portal, dashboard, etc.)
- **Auto-generated API:** API to access the shared cause-list will be auto-generated once published.
- **Accessing the published cause-list:** Cause list system admins can access the published Cases' APIs to make use of shared Cause-list in their systems for decision support among users. The publicly shared cause list will be shown by all types of users through a web portal.

## **3.7 Advanced Searching**

There will be provision for viewing latest update of cause-list for citizen as well as judiciary officers. Case Status can be searched by various options like Case Number, Party Name, Filing Number, Relevant Act of the Case and Case Type. Initial search result of case status is displayed with Case Number and names of parties. User will be able to search cause-list through their mobile number, case number etc. which is subject to further analysis.

# 4. Case entry Process flow

The generic case entry as follow:

1. Cause list system will be able to use the shared data to process applications and support decisions among Judges/Judicial officers/NLSO.
2. Judiciary officers will log in to the Judiciary Cause-list system to track, transfer, case status, etc.
3. Judiciary officers can enter, delete, modify cases under the supervision of higher authority.

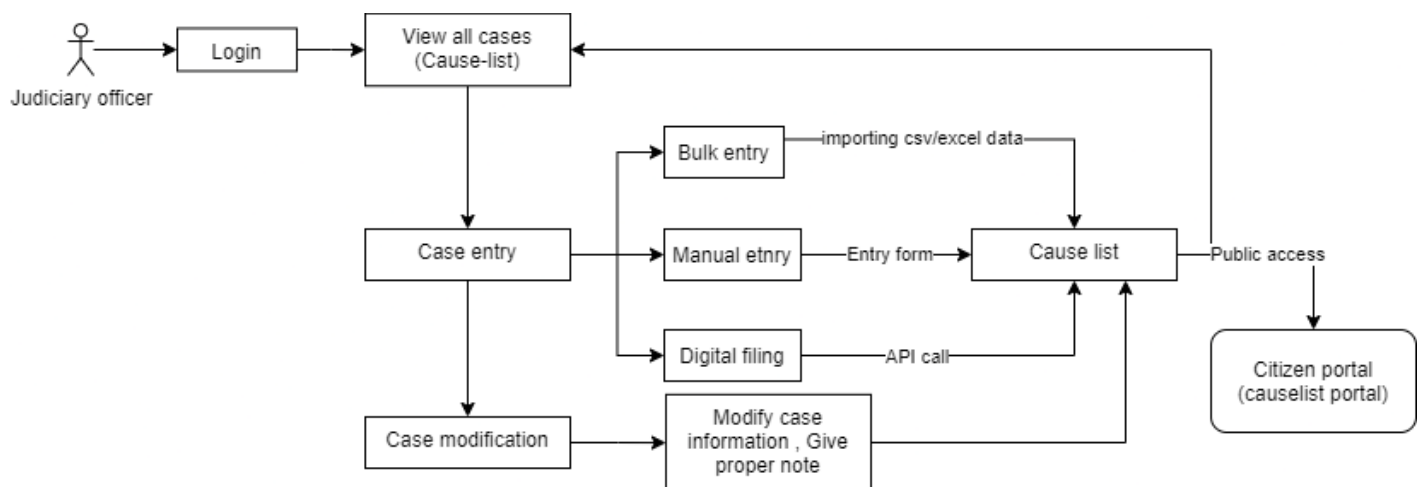


Figure: Process flow of the Cause-list module