



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
(Research Unit)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



Interoperable Criminal Justice System

Making Information Sharing in Judicial System Seamless

(Ministry of Home Affairs)

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Introduction:

The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), conceptualised by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India and implemented as a project under the Ministry of Home Affairs, seeks to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system, like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories, from one platform.¹

The ICJS system would be made available through a dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high-speed connectivity. [National Crime Records Bureau](#) (NCRB) is responsible for the implementation of the project in association with [National Informatics Centre \(NIC\)](#). The project will be implemented in collaboration with the States and Union Territories.²

Government of India has approved the Phase II of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project at a total cost of Rs. 3,375 Crore during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26. The Phase II of the ICJS project will be a step towards ensuring effective and modern policing. The project will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme.³

Background:

[The necessity of implementation of Interoperable Criminal Justice System \(ICJS\) was initiated during 2013.](#) The scope of the project mainly focused on integration of [Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems](#) (CCTNS) with e-Courts, e-Prisons, Forensic Labs, Fingerprints and Prosecution, the pillars of Criminal Justice System. Broadly, the project aims to provide search and visual analytics over various data sets and capacity to achieve “**one data once entry**” across all the pillars.

Objectives:

- Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) aims to integrate CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System) project with e-Courts and e-Prisons database in the first instance and with other pillars of judiciary like forensic labs, prosecution and juvenile homes etc. In order to build an effective criminal justice system across the country, it is essential that data across all pillars of criminal justice is interoperable and is accessible across all the pillars.⁴

¹ <https://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/online-legal-services/interoperable-criminal-justice-system#:~:text=The%20Inter%20operable%20Criminal%20Justice,like%20courts%2C%20police%2C%20jails%20and>

² <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1799232>

³ [ibid](#)

⁴ <https://thc.nic.in/user%20manual/ICJS-manual.pdf>

- Aggregation of searchable data sets in ICJS database from Court, Prison, Police and Finger prints for carrying out National search for persons of interest and property.⁵
- Development of Business Intelligence Dashboard for visualization of complete data to display the current status of metrics and Key Performance Indicators for each pillar.⁶

Structure of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System:

Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is a national platform for enabling integration of the main IT system used for delivery of Criminal Justice in the country by five pillars namely:



- *In Phase-I* of the ICJS project, individual IT systems have been implemented and stabilized; also search of records have been enabled on these systems.
- *Under Phase-II*, the system is being built on the principle of ‘one data one entry’ whereby data is entered only once in one pillar and the same is then available in all other pillars without the need to re-enter the data in each pillar.

Salient Features:

- With the aid of the ICJS platform, the metadata of FIR and charge sheet can be accessed by all the High Courts and subordinate courts.⁷
- The ICJS platform is an effective tool for the case and court management, as all the relevant information of a case will be available in real-time for use by the courts. Compliance of judicial orders and summons can also be achieved expeditiously, ensuring effective time management.⁸
- The project will enable National level crime analytics to be published at an increased frequency, which will help the policymakers as well as lawmakers in taking appropriate and timely action.⁹
- It will also enable Pan-India criminal/accused name search in the regional language for improved inter-state tracking of criminal movement.¹⁰

⁵ https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/NCRB_Journal_October_2019.pdf

⁶ [ibid](#)

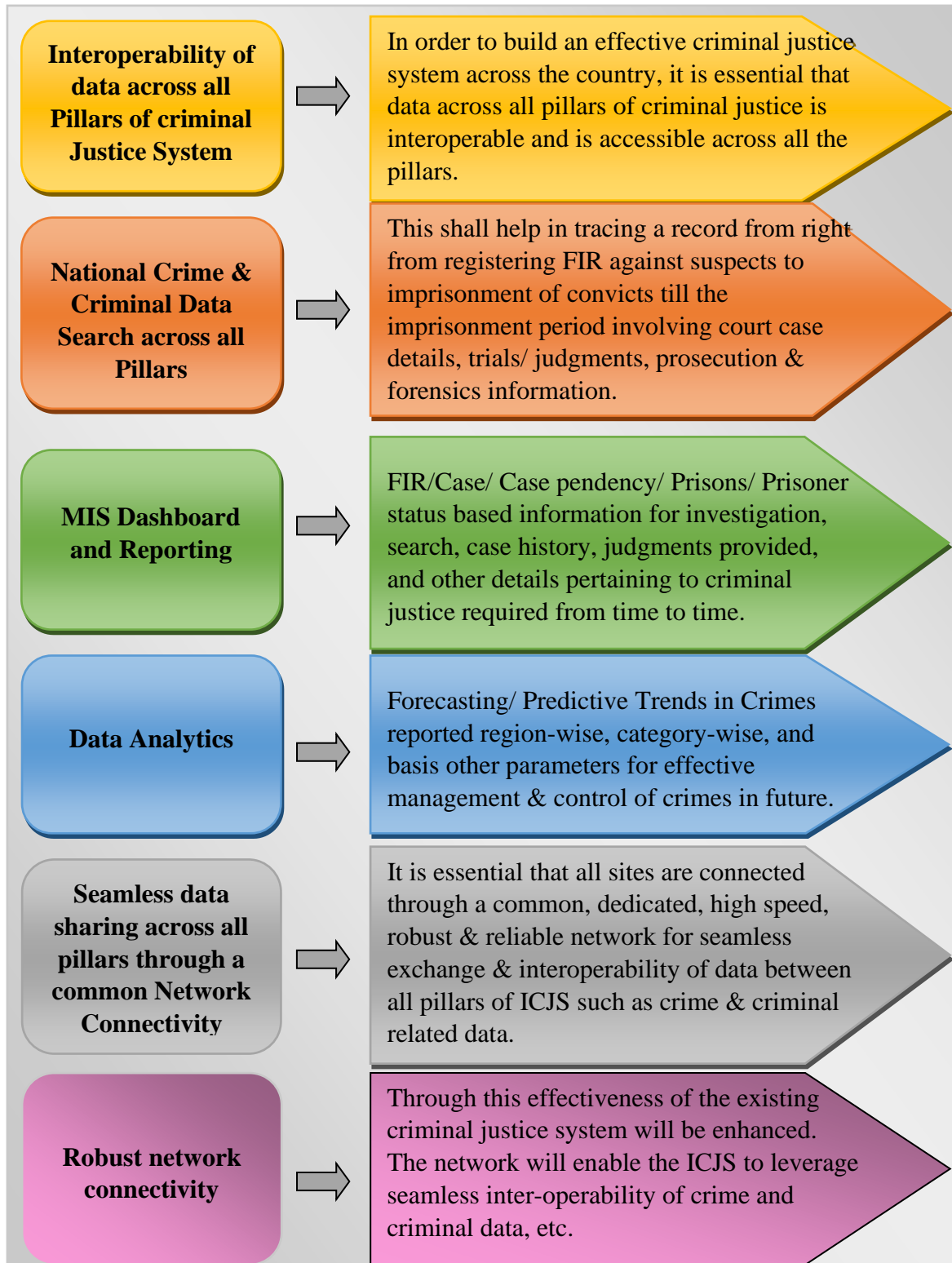
⁷ <https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/icjs/>

⁸ [ibid](#)

⁹ <https://districts.ecourts.gov.in/sites/default/files/ICJS-About-Us.pdf>

¹⁰ [ibid](#)

Major Components of Interoperable Criminal Justice System



[Source](#)

Outcomes

Once the proposed project is implemented, it is expected that the justice delivery system would become speedy, transparent and accountable. Some of the key outcomes are listed below:¹¹

- The Investigating Officer (IO) can carry out the national search across the pillars that even if the entries are wrong in one pillar (in case of historical data) other pillars assist the IO to achieve the result.
- The redundant data entry across the pillars would be reduced and the possibility of data entry errors would be nullified.
- The online availability of report reduces paper communication and wastage of time.
- As Courts fixes the hearing dates after examining the availability of Forensic experts and Prosecutors online, the possibility of frequently postponing the hearing would be drastically reduced.
- The alerts at one pillar would help the other pillar to make appropriate preparation in advance.

References:

1. <https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/icjs/>
2. <https://www.mha.gov.in/>
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4. https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/NCRB_Journal_October_2019.pdf
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7. https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/WSDivision_SheRakshaVol2_08112019pdf_0.pdf

Further Readings:

1. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/inter-operable-criminal-justice-system-gets-govt-approval/articleshow/89672333.cms>
2. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/govt-approves-project-to-connect-pillars-of-criminal-justice-system-7780642/>
3. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/feb/18/second-phase-of-inter-operable-criminal-justice-system-project-approved-2421049.html>
4. <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/151128/nation-current-affairs/article/interoperable-criminal-justice-system-soon>
5. <https://journalsofindia.com/criminal-tracking-network-and-systems-and-interoperable-criminal-justice-system/>

Tweets:

1. <https://twitter.com/pibhomeaffairs/status/1494577579827015682>
2. <https://twitter.com/digitalindia/status/662472002100334594>

AG/HP/RC/SA/PS

¹¹ https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/NCRB_Journal_October_2019.pdf