eCourts Mission Mode Project (An Overview)

Introduction

- Implemented under the partnership of Dept. of Justice and e-Committee, Supreme Court of India in decentralized manner through the respective High Courts.

- As part of National eGovernance Plan, the project is under implementation for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary".

- Vision to transform the judicial system of the country by ICT enablement of courts

- Aims to enhance judicial productivity, making justice delivery system accessible, cost effective, reliable and transparent
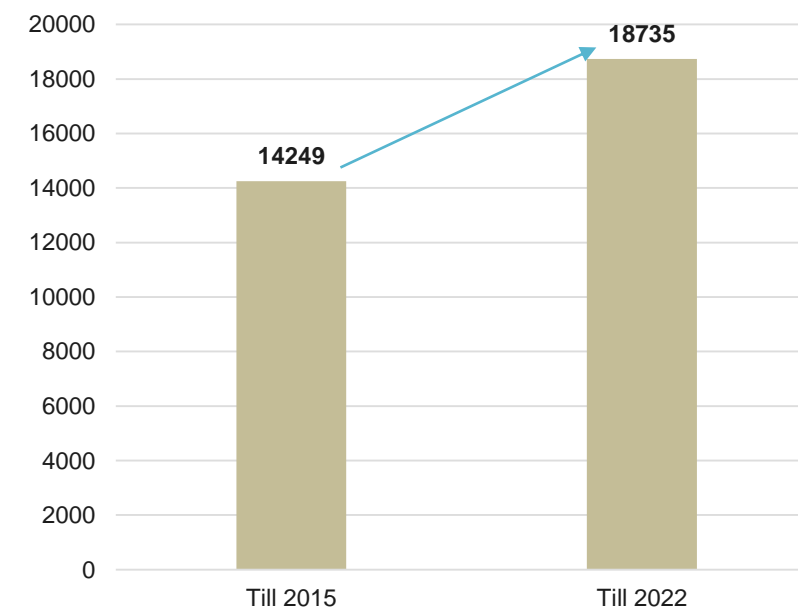
eCourts Phase - I

- eCourts Phase-I (2011-15)

- Outlay: Rs. 935 cr. Expenditure: Rs. 639.41cr.

- 14,249 District and Subordinate Courts computerized.

- 13,683 Courts : LAN Installed

- 13,672 Courts : Software Enabled

- 14,309 JOs : Laptop provided

- 347 Jails and 493 Courts : VC Enabled

- Judicial Service Centres (JSC) opened as Filing Counters

- Implementing Agency : NIC

eCourts Phase - II

- eCourts Phase II (2015- 2023)

- Outlay: Rs. 1670 Cr. Expenditure: Rs. 1668.43 Cr.

- 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts computerized

- 99.4% Courts complexes connected through WAN

- 1272 Jails and 3240 Courts: VC enabled

- Free and Open-Source Software based CIS versions 2.0 & 3.0 etc. developed which formed the basis for expansion of eCourts services.

- NJDG : Data Repository of orders, judgments and case details of 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts created as an online platform under the eCourts Project.

- HC made implementing agency – greater decentralization

Number of computerized district and subordinate courts

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Initiatives for Citizens

7 Services	e-Filing	e-Payments	e-Sewa Kendra	NSTEP
• SMS Pull • SMS Push • Email • eCourts services Portal • JSC • Info Kiosk • eCourts Services App	• New eFiling version 3.0 rolled out with advanced features like e-vakalatnama, e-signing, video recording of oath etc. in April 2021	• Implemented in 20 High Courts • Court Fees Act amended in 22 High Courts (31.07.2023)	• 819 e-Sewa Kendras established to bridge the digital divide. • Functional in all High Courts	• Launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons • Currently implemented in 28 States/ UTs.

Initiatives for Citizens

NJDG – Cases / Judgements	Hearing Using Video Conferencing	Live Streaming	S3WaaS Website	Judgment & Order Search Portal
• More than 23.81 cr. Cases and 23.02 cr. orders/ judgments available	• District Courts >2.01 crore cases • High Courts >78.82 lakh cases • Supreme Court >4.82 lakh hearings	• Started in Supreme Court of India and High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna and Madhya Pradesh	• All court websites being upgraded from the existing system to the S3WAAS platform which is secure, scalable and accessible & divyang friendly	• Judgment Search Portal started for providing copies of judgments/ orders free of cost

Initiatives for Judges

JustIS App	Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) for Judges	Covid-19 Software Patch	Initiatives for Commercial Courts	Trainings
• To assist Judges for case and court management • Total downloads – 19,225 till 31st July 2023	• Enables Order preparation • Generate Cause lists • Tools for Court management • Generation of statistics/data • Case laws made available	• Smart scheduling of cases thus enabling judicial officers to prioritize the cases	• Automatic random allocation of cases in commercial courts • Colour coding to indicate number of adjournments	• Trainings and awareness programmes on ICT services conducted covering nearly 5,35,558 stakeholders including Judges

eCourts Phase – III – Revolution in Justice Delivery

- Move towards paperless courts through digitization of entire court records

- Smart intelligent system that enables data-based decision making for judges and registries when scheduling or prioritising cases

- AI based "Smart" system for the registries enabling clubbing of cases, judgement support system for judges and automatic translation & transcribing etc

- Bridging the digital divide through saturation of eSewa Kendras in all court complexes

- Improved transparency through Live Streaming of cases

- Use of cloud technology for easy and efficient access to real-time case information anytime and anywhere

- System that integrates alternative means of dispute resolution into the judicial process

- Digitization of the court records

- Cloud storage and peripherals

- Virtual courts

- eSewa Kendras

- Paperless courts

- Enhancement of VC Infrastructure

- Expansion of e-filing

- Online Dispute Resolution

- Latest Technology (AI, Blockchain etc.)

- Solar power facilities

- Additional Hardware for courts

- Seamless integration with ICJS

- Infrastructure in newly set up courts

- Migration of Court websites to S3WAAS platform

- Training and outreach campaigns

- NSTEP facilities

- ICT enabled facilities to the persons with disabilities

- Software development

- Judicial knowledge management.

- Project Management Unit

- Enhancing the bandwidth for the connectivity

- Judicial process re-engineering

- e-Office application for courts

- Live streaming of court proceedings

Phase III- Financials

S.No.	Scheme Component	Physical Units	Total Units	Cost Estimate (Rs. in Cr.)
1	Scanning, Digitization and Digital Preservation of Case Records	Number of pages digitised (in Cr.)	3108	2038.40
2	Cloud Infrastructure	Total centralised storage capacity	25PB	1205.23
3	Additional hardware to existing courts	Number of courts	18735	643.66
4	Infrastructure in newly set up courts	Number of courts	2500	426.25
5	Expanding the scope of Virtual Courts	Number of virtual courts	1150	413.08
6	eSewa Kendra	Number of court complexes	4400	394.48
7	Paperless Court	Number of paperless courts	1000	359.20
8	Software Development	Number of etransactions/eservices (In Cr.)	1746.4	243.52
9	Solar Power Backup	Total units of electricity generated (kWH) (in Cr.)	11.892	229.50
10	Enhancing and upgrading existing Video Conferencing Infrastructure	Number of videoconference equipment	10200	228.48
11	e- filing	Number of courts e-filing implemented	18000	215.97
12	Enhancing the bandwidth for the Connectivity	Number of Court Complexes	409	208.72

Phase III- Financials

S.No.	Scheme Component	Physical Units	Total Units	Cost Estimate(Rs. in Cr.)
13	Capacity Building	Number of training programmes	272	208.52
14	CLASS (Courtroom Live-Audio Visual Streaming System)	Number of courts	300	112.26
15	Human Resources (PMU)	Percentage of project targets achieved	100%	56.67
16	Future Technological Advancements	Number of technical manpower	188	53.57
17	Judicial process re-engineering			33.00
18	Disabled friendly ICT enabled facilities	Number of human resources	300	27.54
19	NSTEP	Number of Court Establishments.	8000	25.75
20	Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)	Number of ODR instances made live	3700	23.72
21	Knowledge Management System	Number of judgements	290000	23.30
22	e-Office for High Courts & District Courts	Number of district courts and High Courts	700	21.10
23	Integration with Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)	Number of courts in where ICJS module implemented	16000	11.78
24	S3WAAS platform	Number of websites	752	6.35
25	**TOTAL**			**7210**

Benefits of eCourts Phase – III (Citizens)

- Seamless data flow - Real-time updation of all case information.

- Online availability of all case records – Easy to search.

- e-Sewa Kendra to bridge digital divide.

- Virtual Courts – Expanding ease of Justice.

- Video Conferencing and Paperless Courts - Reduce cost and time of litigation.

- Live streaming - Increase transparency in the system.

- e-filings and e-payments - Reduce legal and travel costs.

- Platform for ODR – Provide an alternate to litigation.

- S3WaaS website platform (Secure, Scalable & Sugamya) – Accessible to all

- Awareness and outreach campaigns – Empowering citizen.

Benefits of eCourts Phase – III (Lawyers)

- Seamless filings, service of summons and appearance from anyplace will bring time and cost efficiencies.

- Real-time changes made in Digital case file will reduce the need for inspection.

- Appearance in multiple courts through digital platform simultaneously.

- Digital hearings and e-filings – Increasing efficiency and inclusivity for women and differently abled lawyers.

- Greater access to information about cases – Ease in crafting legal arguments and strategies.

- Training – Judicial services and new e-initiatives.

Benefits of eCourts Phase – III (Judges)

- Digitization of court records – Online availability of all case documents.

- Digital Judicial data - Greater ease to search, track, and index digital documents.

- Unified digital platform – Seamless data flow across all the pillars of criminal justice system.

- Intelligent scheduling - Prioritisation of cases as well as time management.

- Greater access to information and research tools.

- Judgement support system using AI/ML etc.

- Platform for ODR – Reduce workload.

- e-Office – Better administrative management.

- Reduction in case disposal time – Case pendency reduction.

- Training – ECMT tools and emerging technologies.

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Benefits of eCourts Phase – III (Courts)

- Upgrading the existing ICT Infrastructure – Strengthening the new e-initiatives.

- ICT Infrastructure for new courts – Enhanced digital capacity.

- Enhanced WAN bandwidth – Better delivery of judicial services.

- Cloud Storage - Cost efficiency, Scalability, Security, Data Backup and Recovery, Analytics.

- Solar Power Backup – Ensuring uninterrupted online services.

- Automating processes for scrutiny and review of filed documents.

- Smart scheduling - Optimise time, minimise errors and increase the effectiveness of the Registry.

- Smart design of case management systems – Reduction in workload of court staff

- Judicial Process Re-engineering:- Weeding out/modifying obsolete procedures.

- Training and outreach campaigns

Thank You