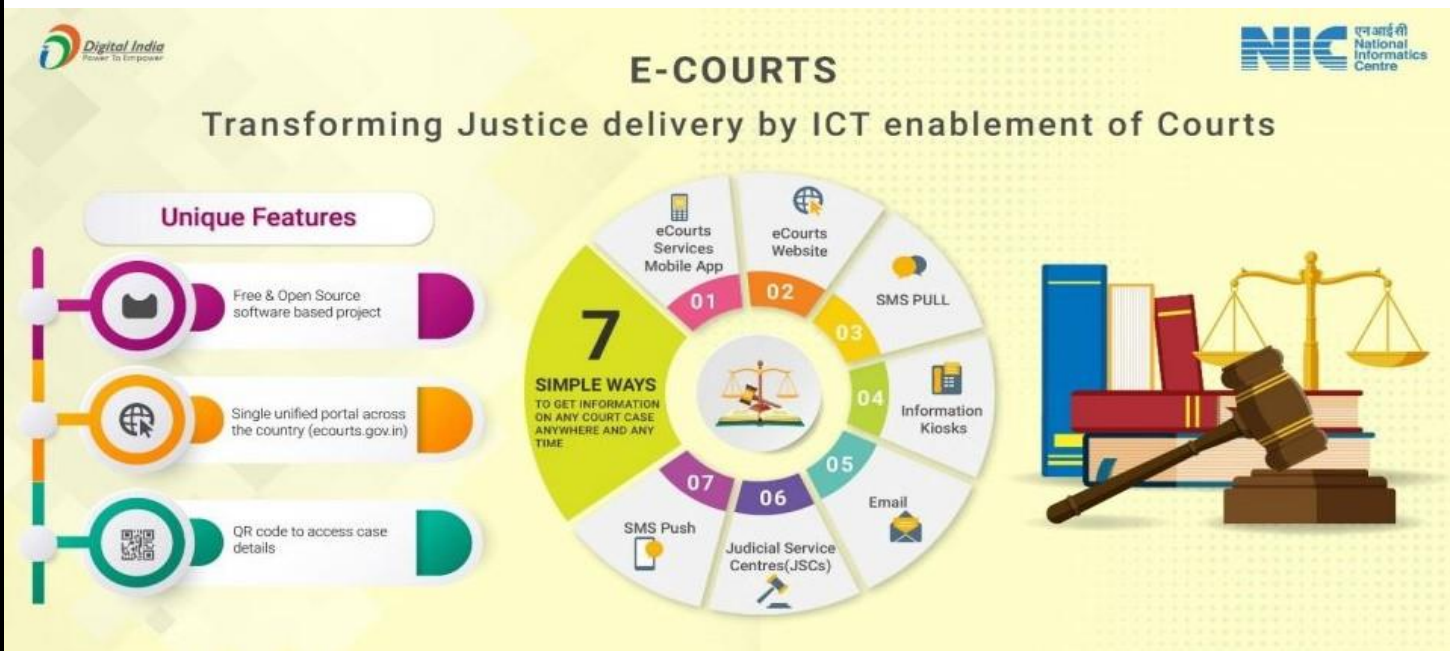


## E-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project

(Ministry of Law & Justice)

September 22, 2023

The Government has launched the **E-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project** for the computerization of District and subordinate courts with the objective of improving access to justice using technology. As part of the National e-Governance Plan, the project has been under implementation since 2007 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**”.



E-Courts project, a centrally sponsored scheme, is being implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice in association with the e-Committee Supreme Court of India Department of Justice in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. **This initiative aims to enhance judicial productivity, making the justice delivery system accessible, cost-effective, reliable, and transparent.**

**The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the e-Courts Project Phase III as a Central Sector Scheme spanning four years (2023 onwards) with a financial outlay of Rs. 7210 crore.** The Phase II of the eCourts Project has concluded in 2023.

Phase III of the e-Courts Project in India is rooted in the philosophy of "**access and inclusion**". It aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online, and paperless courts through digitization of the entire court records including legacy records, and by

bringing in universalization of e-filing/ e-Payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras. It will put in place intelligent smart systems enabling data-based decision-making for judges and registries while scheduling or prioritizing cases.

The main objective of Phase III is to create a **unified technology platform for the judiciary, which will provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants, and other stakeholders.**

## Achievements of E-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project

### 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 (Video conferencing) Enabled
- Judicial Service Centres (JSC) opened as Filing Counters

### ECourts Phase II: 2015- 2023

- Outlay: Rs. 1670 Cr. Expenditure: **Rs. 1668.43 Cr.**
- 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts computerized
- 99.4% of Court complexes connected through WAN
- 1272 Jails and 3240 Courts: VC enabled
- National Judicial Data Grid: Data Repository of orders, judgments, and case details of 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts created as an online platform under the eCourts Project.



The infographic features logos for the Ministry of Justice, G20 India 2023, and the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It highlights the project's goal to connect all District and Subordinate court complexes through a Wide Area Network (WAN). Key statistics include 2976 sites commissioned with speeds from 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps, and 99.5% of sites covered as of 16-03-2023. A photograph of satellite dishes is shown on the right side.

**eCourts Mission Mode Project**  
Aims to connect all District and Subordinate court complexes through Wide Area Network (WAN)

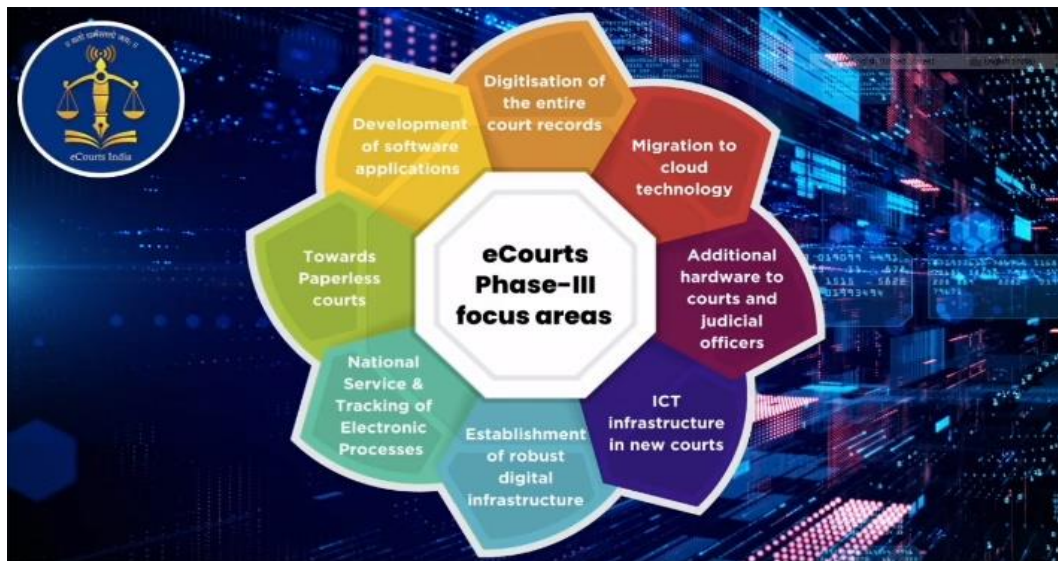
**2976**  
sites commissioned with **10 Mbps to 100 Mbps**

**99.5%**  
sites covered

(\*As on 16-03-2023)

Visit: [ecourts.gov.in](http://ecourts.gov.in)

## Focus Areas of ECourts Phase III



- Move towards paperless courts through the digitization of entire court records.
- Smart intelligent system that enables data-based decision-making for judges and registries when scheduling or prioritizing cases.
- AI-based “Smart System” for the registries enabling clubbing of cases, judgment 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.

## Components of eCourts Phase III

### 01 DIGITIZATION

- DIGITIZATION OF COURT RECORDS
- CLOUD STORAGE AND PERIPHERALS
- VIRTUAL COURTS
- eSEWA KENDRAS
- PAPERLESS COURTS
- EXPANSION OF E-FILING
- ONLINE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- LIVE STREAMING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

### 02 | INFRASTRUCTURE

- ENHANCEMENT OF VC INFRASTRUCTURE
- ADDITIONAL HARDWARE FOR COURTS
- INFRA IN NEWLY SET UP COURTS
- SOLAR POWER FACILITIES

### 03 | TECH UP

- LATEST TECHNOLOGY - AI, BLOCKCHAIN
- SEAMLESS INTEGRATION WITH ICJS
- S3WAAS PLATFORM FOR COURT WEBSITES
- NSTEP FACILITIES
- ENHANCED BANDWIDTH FOR CONNECTIVITY
- E-OFFICE APPLICATION FOR COURTS

### 04 | CAPACITY BUILDING

- TRAINING & OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS
- ICT ENABLED FACILITIES FOR DIVYANGS
- JUDICIAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
- JUDICIAL PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING

## Initiatives Taken Under eCourts Project

- Under the **Wide Area Network (WAN)** Project, connectivity has been provided to **99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994)** of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over **23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders/judgments** (as of 03.07.2023).
- Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed.
- A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management was also developed.
- As part of the eCourts project, 7 platforms have been established to provide real-time case information to lawyers and litigants through SMS (200000 sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), and a multilingual eCourts services portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service Centers) and Info Kiosks. In addition, **Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT)** have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.88 Cr. downloads till 30 June 2023) and a **JustIS app** for judges (19,164 downloads till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023).

# 10 Initiatives For Citizens eCOURTS PROJECT

## 7 Services

- SMS Pull
- SMS Push
- Email
- eCourts Services Portal
- JSC
- Info Kiosk
- eCourts Services App

## e-Filing

- New eFiling version 3.0 rolled out with advanced features like e-vakalatnama, e-signing, video recording of oath etc. in April 2021

## e-payments

- Implemented in 20 High Courts
- Court Fees Act amended in 22 High Courts (31.07.2023)

## e-Sewa Kendra

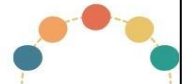
- 819 e-Sewa Kendras established to bridge the digital divide.
- Functions in all High Courts

## NSTEP

- Launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons
- Currently implemented in 28 States/UTS

## NJDG-Cases

- More than 23.81 cr. Cases and 23.02 cr. orders/judgements available



## Hearing using VC

- District Courts > 2.01 cr. Cases
- High Courts > 78.82 lakh Cases
- Supreme Court > 4.82 lakh hearings

## Live Streaming

- Started in Supreme Court and High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna and Madhya Pradesh

## S3WaaS Website

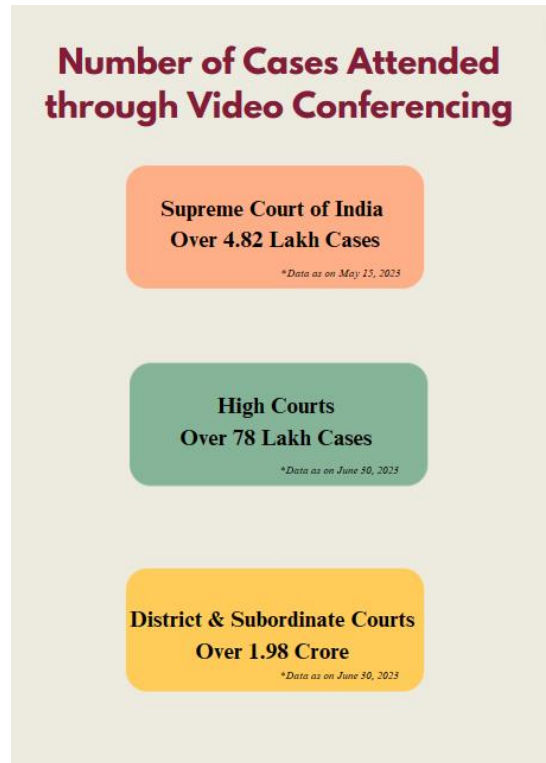
- All court websites being upgraded from the existing system to the S3WaaS platform which is secure, scalable and accessible & divyang friendly

## Search Portal

- Judgement search Portal started for providing copies of judgements/orders free of cost

Press Information Bureau

- **22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs** have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than **3.26 crore cases** have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more than **39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases online** fines of more than Rs. 419.89 crores have been realized till 30.06.2023.
- To bridge the digital divide, **819 eSewa Kendras** have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling.
- India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearings through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate Courts heard **1,98,67,081** cases while the **High Courts heard 78,69,708 cases** (totaling 2.77 Cr) till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held **4,82,941 hearings** through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
- Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- A new e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 19 High Courts has adopted the model rules of e-filing as on 30.06.2023.
- e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines, and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 30.06.2022.
- **National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP)** has been launched for technology-enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- In addition to eSewa Kendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched **Tele Law program since 2017**, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via **video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities**



**available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.**

- A new “**Judgment Search**” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date To Date, and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.
- To bring awareness to the public about the justice sector, advertising various schemes of the department and to give status of various fields to the public, 32 Justice Clocks have been installed at 21 High Courts.

#### **References:**

- [Press Information Bureau \(pib.gov.in\)](http://pib.gov.in)
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- [https://x.com/MLJ\\_GoI/status/1634089769503432704?s=20](https://x.com/MLJ_GoI/status/1634089769503432704?s=20)

**NR/HP/RK/AN/MK**

**September 22, 2023**