



BACKGROUNDERS
Press Information Bureau
Government of India

The Digital Transformation of the Indian Judiciary

e-Courts Mission Mode Project

07 August, 2026

*The e-Courts Mission Mode Project has transformed India's paper-based judiciary into a digitally enabled and trackable justice delivery system. Since 2014, both **case filings and disposals have nearly tripled**, with courts consistently disposing of more cases than are filed each year. Over **753 crore pages of court records** have been digitised, while thousands of **e-Sewa Kendras** are helping bridge the digital divide by expanding access to judicial services. Together, these reforms are making the **justice system faster, more transparent, and more accessible to everyone.***

Digitising India's Judiciary

India's judiciary, which serves over a billion people, has long relied on paper records and brick-and-mortar infrastructure. Many citizens incurred excessive travel and other expenses visiting courts and other establishments for their matters and documents. This archaic system made the delivery of justice slow, cumbersome and expensive for the people it served.

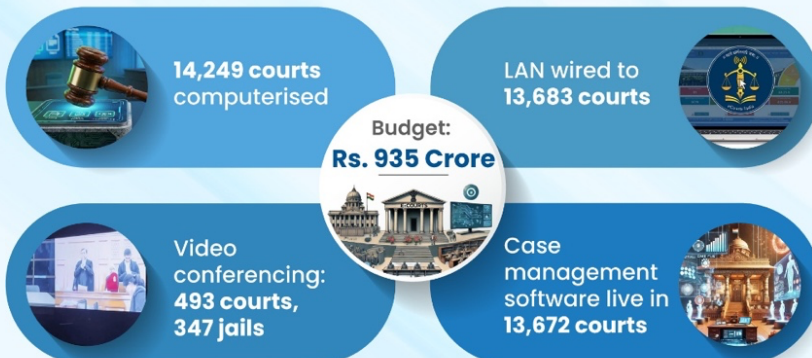
The Government launched the **e-Courts Mission Mode Project in 2007** to address these challenges. This Mission aims to systematically speed up proceedings by **digitising various court proceedings and documents**. It is also making the judicial process **more affordable, accessible and transparent** for all involved, including lawyers, judges and clerks. Now in its third phase, the Mission has transformed the judicial system using technology.

E-COURTS PHASE I: LAYING THE DIGITAL FOUNDATION

(2011–2015)



Focus: Basic Digital Infrastructure



Source: Ministry of Law and Justice

Phase I (2011–2015) laid the foundation of this Mission, by computerising over 14,000 courts and building basic network infrastructure needed to support technology-enabled judicial services.

Phase II (2015–2023) built on this with a range of citizen-centric services, introducing the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**, **eFiling**, and **eSewaKendras** (a physical help desk providing digital court services). The phase also expanded video conferencing infrastructure more than fivefold, significantly enhancing virtual access to judicial proceedings.

E-COURTS PHASE II: FROM COMPUTERS TO CITIZEN SERVICES

(2015–2023)

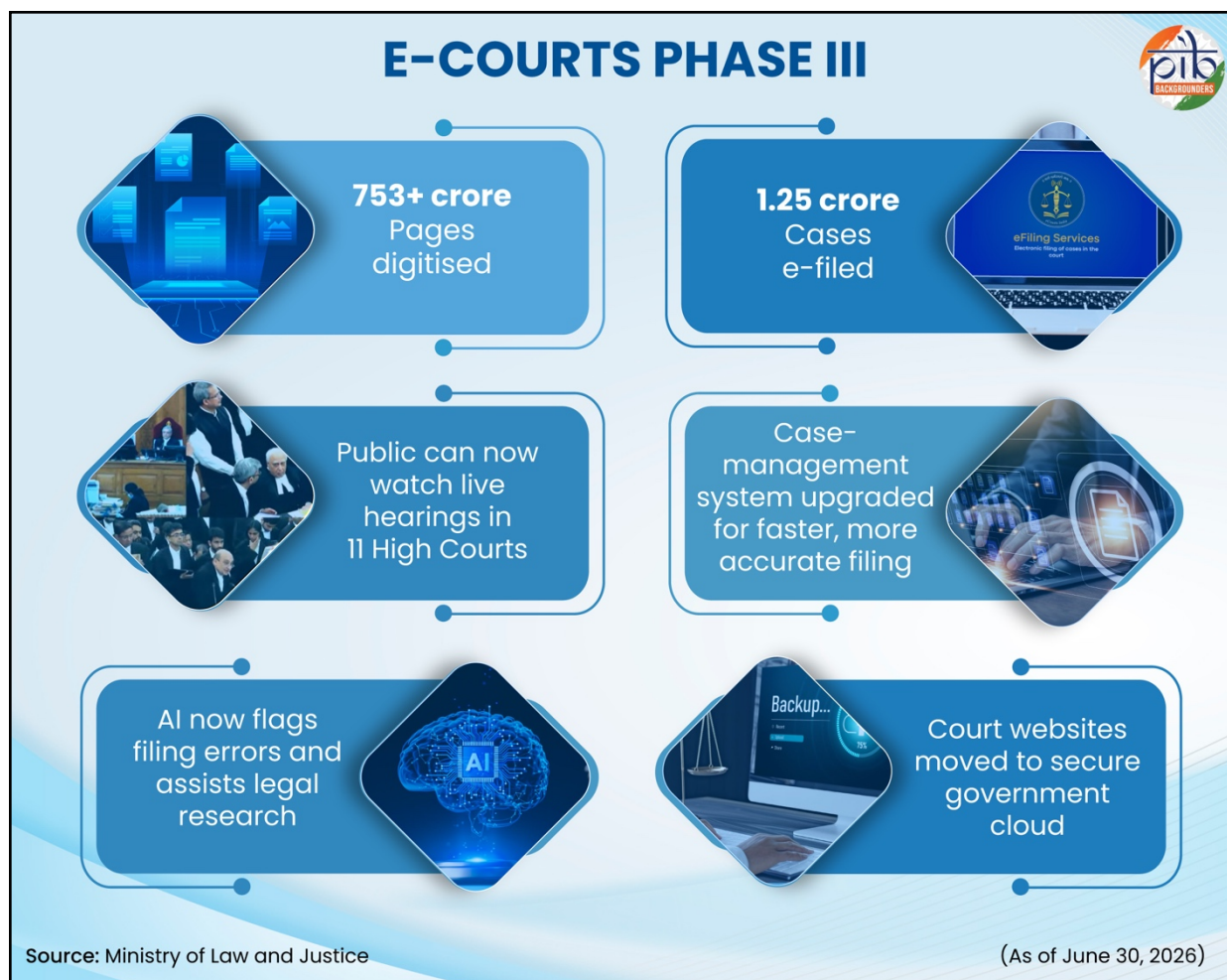


Expanding from computerisation to citizen-centric digital services

Budget: Rs. 1,670 crore



Source: Ministry of Law and Justice



The project is now in its **third phase (2023–2027)**.

This phase envisions a transition towards digital, paperless and more intelligent courts through large-scale digitisation of records, wider use of virtual hearings, deeper interoperability across justice institutions and adoption of emerging technologies including **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **analytics** and **Optical Character Recognition (OCR)**.

The two achievements of this phase are:

S.No	Component Name	Achievement
1.	Fully functional eSewa Kendras	1,806 established across court complexes
2.	Setting up the infrastructure for paperless courts	474 courts are equipped with the necessary hardware.
3.	Expansion of the Virtual Courts for hearing of court cases by creating the robust digital	538 courts are equipped

	infrastructure.	
4.	Implementation of e-filing of court case	4,519 courts
5.	Provision for enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of Video Conferencing (VC)	7,553 establishments have VC facilities including courts, jails and hospitals.
6.	Solar facilities for ensuring seamless availability of ICT infrastructure	1,626 courts complexes are equipped
7.	Providing National Service & Tracking of electronic Processes (NSTEP) facility	6,895 courts have NSTEP facility.
8.	Migration of all High Court and District Court websites to S3WAAS platform	734 courts sites migrated
9.	Additional hardware to courts and judicial officers in Phase II	18,380 courts provided
10.	Integration with Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars like courts, police, jails, forensic labs	All High Courts have implemented ICJS
11.	Training of all stakeholders	2,372 trainings held
12.	Knowledge Management	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras is developing Learning Management System (LMS)
13.	Connectivity	174 Sites connected with Software Defined Wide Area Network (SDWAN) technology

Benefits of Court Digitisation

Virtual courts, video conferencing facility, case trackers and dashboards showing pending and disposed cases, among other digital tools, have organised and sped up court proceedings. These reforms benefit all stakeholders involved.

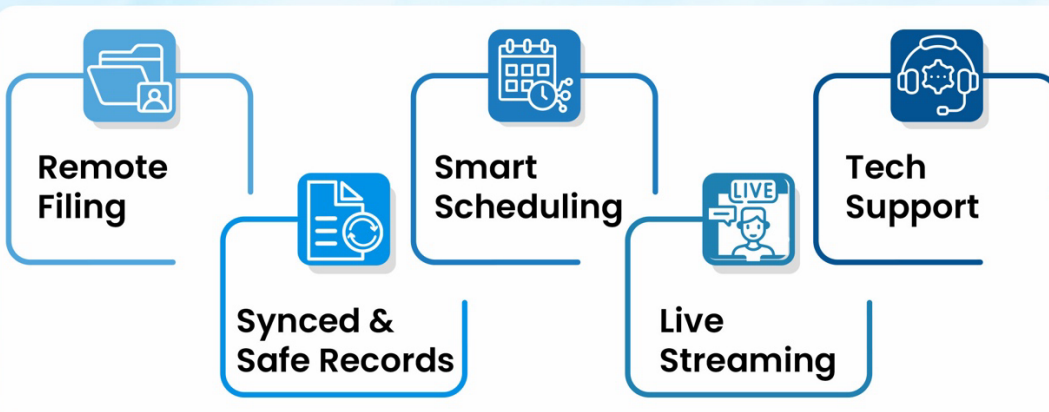
Benefits of Digital Courts



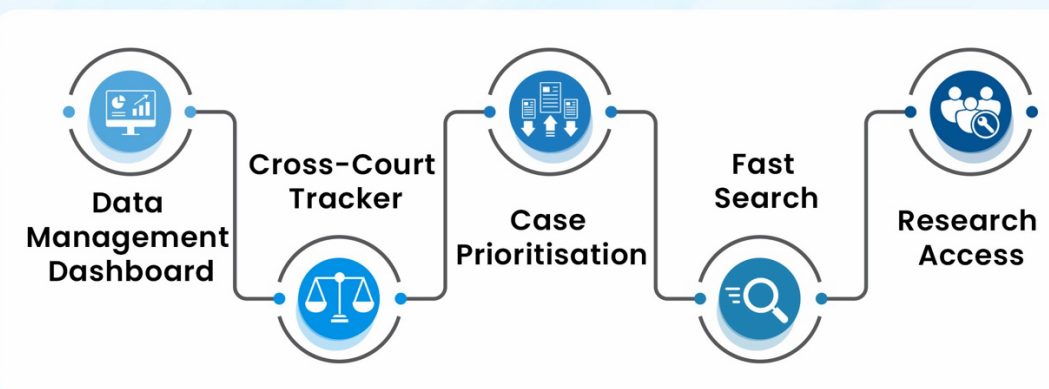
For Citizens



For Lawyers



For Judges



Source: Ministry of Law and Justice

Transparency in pending and disposed cases through National Data Judicial Grid

The **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**, launched under Phase II, is an online public dashboard that tracks court orders, judgements and case details in real time. This include spending cases across all levels of the judiciary.

The NJDG comprises three dedicated dashboards for the **Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts**. Together, they provide insightful details on the functioning of courts across the country by tracking:

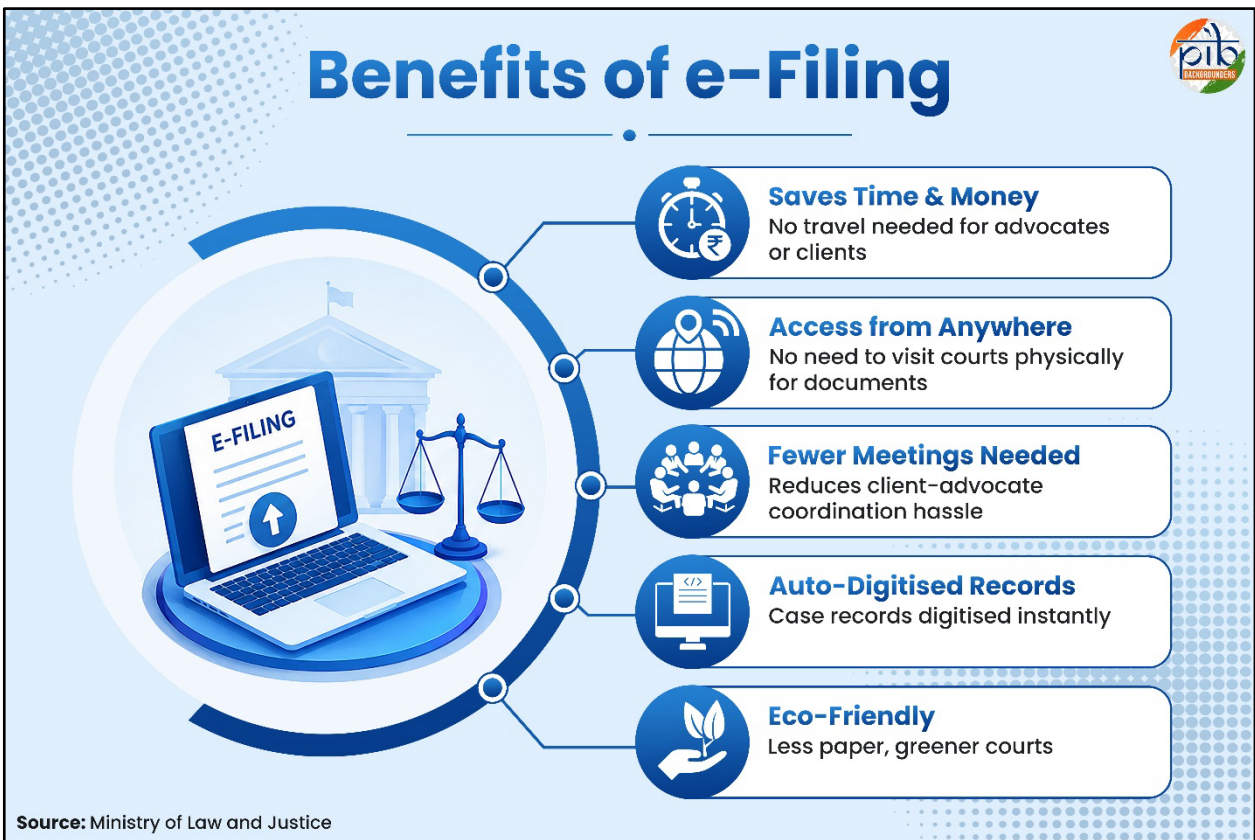
- The **number of pending and disposed cases** in High Courts and Subordinate Courts across the country.
- The **distribution of cases by category and stage of proceedings**, such as admission, hearing, judgment and disposal.
- The **reasons for case delays**, including non-availability of parties, pending documents, court stays and other procedural factors, along with the duration of such delays.

The NJDG aims to improve transparency and accountability in the system by making data on pending court cases public. It has also helped in judicial planning, monitoring and remote administration by the High Court Judges, District Judges and High Court Registry.

Speeding up of processes through e-Filing of documents

Previously, citizens and lawyers had to file court documents — such as complaints, written statements, replies and other applications — in person. The **e-Filing system** now removes this need, allowing documents to be filed online from anywhere. To make justice more inclusive, it supports English as well as regional languages, and works across District Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court.

- The E-filing system supports/provides for:
 - Online payments
 - Online submission of Vakalatnamas
 - E-signing of documents
 - Online video recording of oaths
 - Application filings
 - Portfolio management for advocates and litigants
 - Adding of colleagues, juniors etc as partners to manage cases collaboratively
 - Dashboards tracking the status of all completed/pending cases
 - Readymade templates for various commonly filed pleadings



- Since inception till June 30, 2026:
 - **More than 1.25 crore cases** have been filed through the e-filing platform.
 - The e-payments system has processed transactions worth **Rs. 1,404 crore in court fees** and **Rs. 75 crore in fines**.

Digitising legacy court records for efficient case retrieval and storage

Crores of older court records are being digitised under Phase III of the mission. This helps preserve valuable records from physical damage and makes retrieval and research faster and more efficient.

Affordable access to court proceedings through remote hearings

Litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other stakeholders can now participate in hearings remotely through video conferencing. This has eliminated the need for travel, enabling easier access to courts across cities and states and improving access to justice.

- Video conferencing facilities have been expanded across 7,553 establishments including courts, jails and hospitals.

- Courts across the nation have conducted **over 4.18 crore remote hearings** through this method.



- Livestreaming of court proceedings is operational in **11 High Courts**.

- **31 Virtual Courts** have been established to enable online adjudication of traffic challans – virtual courts have received **11.33 crore challans amounting to Rs. 1,135.79 crores**.

- **Nyaya Shruti**, launched in 2024 under the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), enables accused persons, witnesses, police officials, prosecutors, scientific experts, and prisoners appear and testify virtually via video conferencing – saving time and resources while speeding up case resolution.

Connecting Police, Courts, Prisons and Forensics

Digitisation now links the entire criminal justice chain, not just the courts.

- **ICJS (Interoperable Criminal Justice System)** – platform letting police, courts, prisons, forensics and prosecution exchange FIRs, charge-sheets, orders and reports electronically.
- **CCTNS (Crime & Criminal Tracking Network and System)** – computerises police processes from FIR to charge-sheet, with Nyaya Sanhita-linked deadline alerts for investigating officers.
- **ITSSO (Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences)** – dashboard tracking investigations in women/child sexual-offence cases against charge-sheet deadlines.
- **e-Sakshya** – secure app for capturing and managing digital evidence, preserving its integrity from collection to court.
- **e-Summons** – electronic generation, transmission and execution of court summons.
- **MedLEaPR (Medico Legal Examination and Postmortem Reporting)** – hospitals' online system for medico-legal exams and postmortem reports.
- **Nyaya Shruti** – video-conferencing platform for virtual testimony by the accused, witnesses, police, prosecutors and forensic experts.
- **e-Forensic** – end-to-end digital case handling across forensic labs.
- **e-Prison** – cloud-based national network for prison and prisoner management.
- **e-Prosecution** – digital workflow linking police and prosecution for timely legal opinions.
- **NAFIS (National Automated Fingerprint Identification System)** – centralised biometric database for real-time fingerprint matching against criminal records.

Enabling seamless tracking of judicial business through digital platforms

Lawyers, litigants, judges and others can now **track case status and updates** through digital platforms such as apps, the multilingual e-Courts Services Portal, email and SMS. These services have enhanced tracking and transparency, reducing the need for physical visits to courts and easing judicial service delivery.

- Over **4 lakh SMSs, 6 lakh emails** are sent **daily**.
- The **multilingual e-Courts services portal** records about 35 lakh hits daily.
- The **e-Courts Services mobile app** (3.84crore downloads) provides lawyers and litigants relevant information about case status, cause lists etc.
- The **JustIS app** (22,594 downloads) is a management tool for the judges, assisting them to effectively organise and monitor their judicial business.
- **National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes for GPS-tracked delivery of summons:**
 - Bailiffs use NSTEP — a centralised, GPS-enabled web and mobile app — to serve summons and notices electronically and in real time. NSTEP replaces the erstwhile slow, paper-based process with a transparent, trackable digital system, enabling faster service across districts and states.

Improved understanding of legal process through e-SEWA Kendras

E-Sewa Kendras established within court complexes serve as citizen-friendly assistance centres. It is where people can get guidance on various legal procedures and processes. These kiosks provide the following facilities:

- Answer queries on case status, next hearing date and related case details.
- Process online applications for certified copies.
- Handle e-filing of petitions — scanning hard copies, appending e-signatures, uploading to CIS and generating a filing number.
- Assist with online purchase of e-stamp papers and e-payments.
- Help litigants apply for and obtain Aadhaar-based digital signatures.
- Promote and assist with downloading the eCourts mobile app (Android/iOS).
- Book **eMulakat appointments** for jail visits with relatives.
- Answer queries on judges' leave schedules.
- Guide litigants to free legal aid via the District, High Court and Supreme Court Legal Services Authorities/Committees.
- Facilitate traffic challan disposal through virtual courts, including online compounding of challans and other petty offences.
- Explain how to set up and join a video-conference hearing.

- Share judgment/order copies via email, WhatsApp or other digital channels.
- There are **49e-Sewa Kendras** functional across all High Courts and **2,535e-Sewa Kendras** across District Courts (as on June 30, 2026).

Advancing Digital Justice through Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

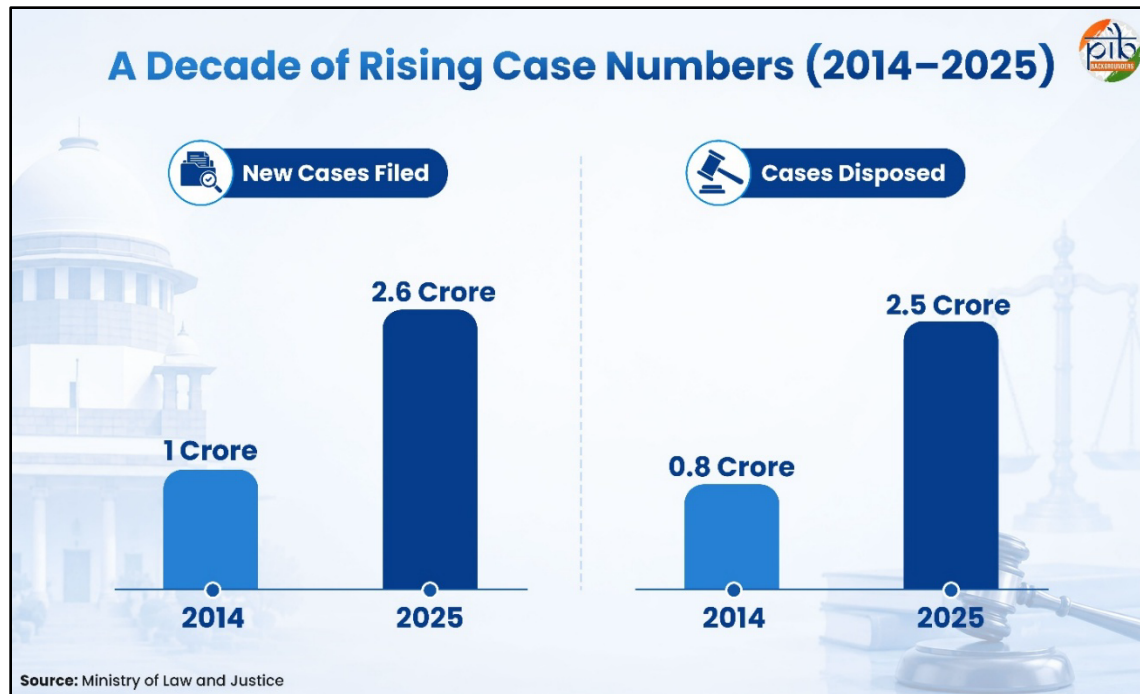
AI and Machine Learning in High Courts through 2027 is the next step under Phase III of the Mission. **Rs. 53.57 crore of the total Rs. 7,210 crore** outlay has been earmarked for this development. Legal research, case management, transcriptions, translations, and judicial decision-making support get enhanced with the integration of these technologies.

Key initiatives which are under pilot testing include:

- **AI and ML tools** transcribe oral arguments in Constitutional Bench matters, with transcripts published on the Supreme Court's website.
- **LegRAA** (Legal Research and Analysis Assistant) helps judges with legal research and document analysis.
- **Digital Courts 2.1** lets judges and judicial officers manage cases in a paperless format, giving them a single window for all case-related information and tasks.
- It includes **voice-to-text (ASR-SHRUTI)** and **translation (PANINI)** tools to assist with order and judgment dictation.
- Judgments are being translated into **18 Indian languages through the eSCR portal**, with the National Informatics Centre — **over 83,000 translated so far, including 36,344 into Hindi** (as of March 2025).
- An AI tool built with IIT Madras automatically flags defects in e-filed petitions and extracts case data/metadata; prototype access has been granted to 200 Advocates-on-Record, with integration into the e-filing system and the Court's case management software (ICMIS) underway.

An Overhauled Judicial System

The e-Courts Mission has modernised and digitised India's judicial system. It has replaced tedious processes — in-person court visits and physical paperwork — with something far easier, more trackable and more efficient. New AI tools are helping various stakeholders work more effectively. Through these interventions, anyone can access judicial services from anywhere. Justice delivery is now more transparent, faster and more affordable for the public.



A More Accessible, Transparent and Efficient Judiciary

The e-Courts Mission has transformed a traditionally paper-heavy, process-driven and opaque judiciary into a more accessible, transparent, and technology-enabled online system. The National Judicial Data Grid has made pending cases visible for the first time. Over 753 crore pages of old court records have been digitised and made searchable.

With these new tools and technology, the judiciary can handle increased caseloads in an efficient manner. As Phase III progresses through 2027, it is further advancing the vision of a justice system that works for all, regardless of their location or circumstances.

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