eCourts Services
Harnessing Technology for Effective Justice Delivery

An initiative of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India

Ranked amongst top five mission mode projects in India

Winner of Gems of Digital India Award 2018 (Jury’s Choice) for Excellence in eGovernance by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
PROJECT BACKGROUND

eCourts is a Mission Mode Project which uses technology to make the judicial processes across over 21000 district and subordinate courts in India more efficient and speedy.

The project is being implemented under the joint partnership of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts.

Phase-I of the project was approved in 2010 and enabled computerization of 14,249 district and subordinate courts by 2015 at a cost of Rs. 639 crores.

Phase-II of this project, which envisions further enhancements, was commissioned in 2015 for a period of four years, at a budget of Rs 1670 crores.

The focus of the Phase-II is on enhancing judicial service delivery for litigants and lawyers by improving infrastructure and providing technology-enabled judicial processes. It involves improved ICT infrastructure, video conferencing, improved access across seven platforms including web portal, app, judicial service centers, kiosks, etc.

The project also includes capacity building of officers, ICT provisioning of District Legal Service Authorities, Taluka Legal Service Committees and State Judicial Academies as well as judicial process re-engineering.

FOCUS AREAS

- ICT infrastructure, technology-enabled judicial processes and wide area network connectivity across district and taluka courts

- Delivery of digital court services through the website, email, mobile app, SMS, Judicial Service Centers (JSCs), and touch screen kiosks

- Change management and re-engineering of the judicial processes
eCourts Portal (www.ecourts.gov.in) provides litigant-centric information.
- Online mechanism for stakeholders such as litigants, advocates, members of judiciary to track the court proceedings, status and judgements
- Portal is disabled friendly and responsive to all devices
- Portal records more than 1 million hits

National Judicial Data Grid (njdg.ecourts.gov.in) provides case information statistics:
- Enables transparency in tracking of pendency of case statistics
- Data from all district & subordinate courts and from High Courts is available on the grid
- Serves as a national judicial data warehouse that may be used to drive policy making and decision support
- Case information software (CIS) version 3.0 implemented in District Courts, version 1.0 implemented in High Courts

eCourts SERVICES

For Litigants and Lawyers:
- Quicker delivery of court services - Case Status Information, Case Next Date Notifications, Daily Orders / Proceedings, Online Certified Copies / Judgments, etc
- Easy and efficient access to case information anytime, anywhere

For Judicial Officers – an enhanced case management system that enables:
- Cause list generation
- Drill down calendar
- Customizable report generation with periodic statistics / statements
- ‘On the go’ help menu
- References to case laws of High Courts and Supreme Court
- Video tutorials and manuals
HIGHLIGHTS OF eCourts PROJECT

Infrastructure Improvement

- ICT infrastructure covering computer hardware, Local Area Network (LAN), Wide Area Network (WAN), information kiosks, renewable energy, UPS, power backup, etc. in all district and subordinate courts of the country

- ICT provisioning for District Legal Service Authorities, Taluka Legal Service Committees and State Judicial Academies

- Video conferencing facility connecting all courts and jails - 488 courts and 342 jails already connected

Platforms for Service Delivery

Status of any case filed in any district or taluka court can be found through these platforms:

- Web portal (www.ecourts.gov.in) to access eCourts services across the country
- eCourts Services mobile application
- SMS pull of case information by sending Case Number Record (CNR) to +91-97668-99899
- SMS push for automatic case updates after registration of mobile number
- Automated email notifications after registration
- Information kiosks to enable self service
- Judicial Service Centers at court complexes

Unique Features

- Free and open source software based project
- Single unified portal, across the country
- QR codes to enable automatic case access

Information Kiosk
NEW AND INNOVATIVE SERVICES

National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP)
- Enables serving of summons in electronic or semi-electronic mode
- Real time updates reduce inordinate delays in process serving
- Transparent tracking of service by all stakeholders
- GPS connectivity with Bhuvan (Indian geo-platform of ISRO)

ePayment
- Official payment facility for courts in India
- Enables digital payments of all fines, penalties, judicial deposits and court fees
- Payment through electronic medium, without the use of cheque or cash
- Integrated with eFiling process

eFiling
- File cases and replies
- Online filing with no (or limited) physical visits to the court registry
- Integrated with standard application software across all district and subordinate courts
- Simplified filing process for the common man

eSign
- Sign documents in a quick and secure way
- Free e-signing facility included with online filing for litigants and lawyers
- Allows citizens to sign any document remotely
- Efficient process, saves cost and time