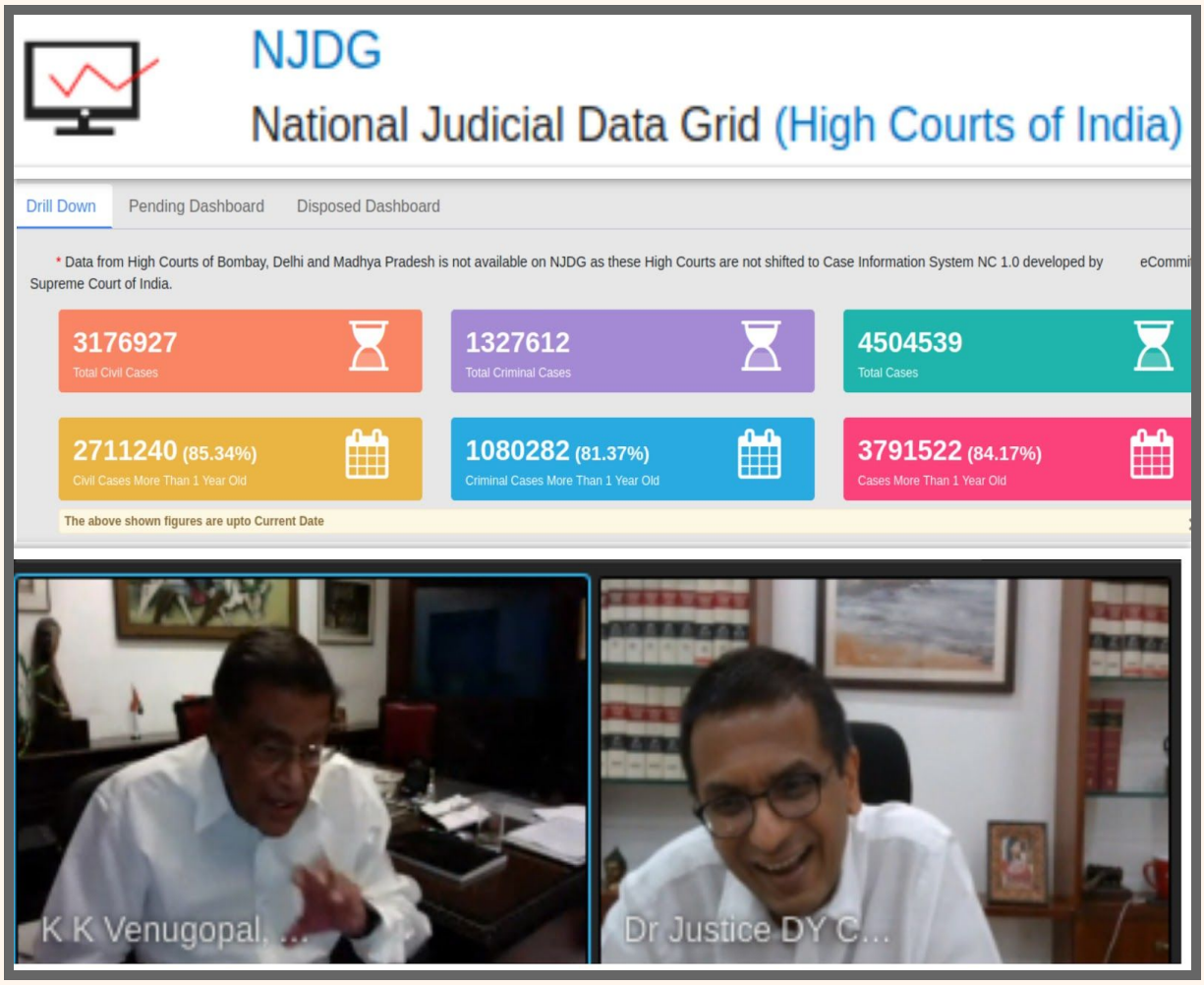
July 2020

Newsletter

e-Committee, Supreme Court of India

1.Launch of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for High Courts:



NJDG for High Courts was launched by the learned Attorney General of India, Shri. K. K. Venugopal during the e-Committee virtual meeting held on 3 July 2020. It is a digital tool for better and efficient case management in the High Courts.

Click to see the new High Court NJDG https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/hcnjdgnew/

2- Meeting of the e-Committee

The e-Committee meeting was held on 3 July 2020, through video conferencing. Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Chairperson, e-Committee chaired the meeting. Shri. K. K. Venugopal, Attorney General of India, Shri Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India, Hon'ble Shri Justice R. C. Chavan, Vice-Chairperson, e-Committee, Shri. Barun Mitra, Secretary, Department of Justice, Govt. of India, Shri. Sanjeev SudhakarKalgaonkar, Secretary-General, Supreme Court of India, Dr Neeta Verma, Director General, NIC, Shri Pravash Prashun Pandey, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice and officers from Department of Justice,

NIC, CDAC and regular members of the e-Committee participated in the meeting. The major decisions taken during the meeting are as follows: **Open API:** The data of e-Courts Project is to be shared with other government departments digitally through open API.

Open Data – Statistical Data for Researchers: A committee of High Court Judges, experts from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and other experts to be constituted to define "shareable data".

e-Payments: It was decided that letters should be written to the Chief Justices of all the High Courts to constitute a committee to frame rules for handling the sundry deposits through e-Payments.

Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS): It was decided to request the Union Home Ministry for deputation of a senior IPS Officer as a cyber-specialist to the e-Committee to achieve integration with ICJS. It was also decided that a letter should be addressed to the Home Secretary in this regard with a request to share the names of three IPS officers experienced in cyber forensics to the e-Committee for selecting one amongst them.

Steps for Encouraging Participation of the Bar in the e-Courts

(a) Creating master trainers among advocates: The Committee was informed that certain advocates would be identified and trained as master trainers for undertaking awareness programmes in three phases. The e-Committee will coordinate with the Bar Councils of each State through the Central Project Coordinators to identify potential trainer advocates based on their knowledge of computers, potential and inclination for being trainers. The short-listed advocates will be intensively trained in order to become master trainers.

(b) Step by step guides, brochures and video tutorials for e-Filing were created and uploaded to the e-Filing website help page. The manual, brochures and video tutorials were translated in many regional languages for circulation amongst advocates and litigants.

Click the link for the e-Filing help page (https://efiling.ecourts.gov.in/help).

(c) e-Courts Services YouTube channel created for social media reach: For a wider reach, e-Courts Services YouTube channel was created and all the video tutorials uploaded to the said YouTube channel. Click here to reach the

eCourts services youtube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPMHFB1lou-P_YtErFFYjgw).

The Attorney General observed that the open hearing principle should be followed in virtual court hearings and suggested that live streaming should be made operational at least for important hearings in the Supreme Court. He suggested that the Supreme Court should consider a model which combines video conferencing and live streaming. He also observed that the work done by the e-Committee during the pandemic is significant and essential. The Solicitor General observed that the work done during the pandemic period under the e-Courts Project is "historic". The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by the Vice-Chairperson of the e-Committee.

3. Inauguration of e-Governance Centre for Advocates in Nasik, Maharashtra

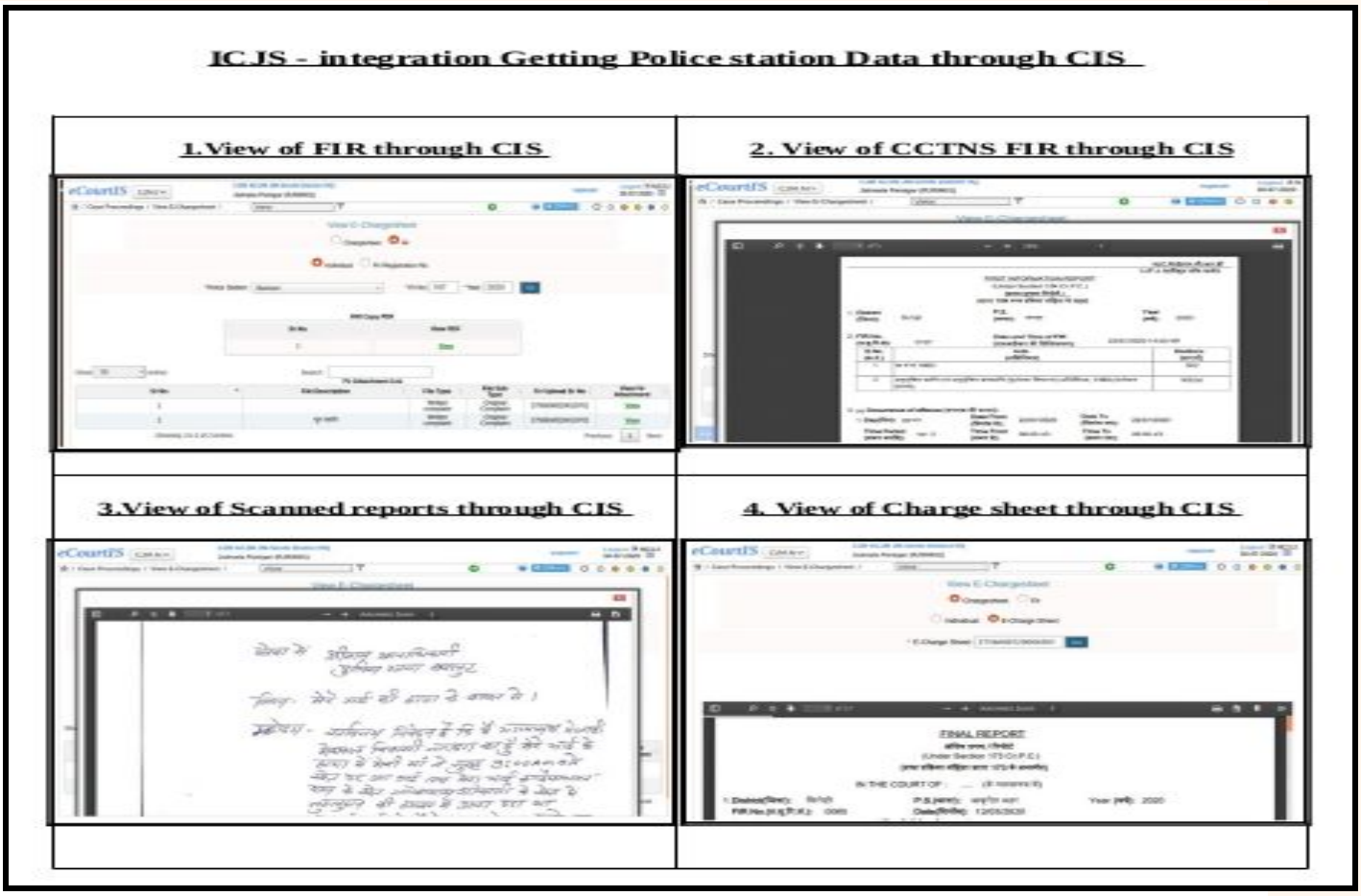
e-Governance convenience centre for litigants and advocates was inaugurated at the District Court Nashik, Maharashtra by Chairperson of the e-Committee on 25 July 2020. Mr Nitin Thakare, President, Nashik, Bar Association, delivered the welcome address. Mr Jayant Jaibhave, Member and former Chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, Mr Abhay Waghvase, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Nashik and Mr Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, Advocate General, Maharashtra State attended

the inaugural function. Hon'ble Mr Justice Dipankar Datta, Chief Justice, Bombay High Court delivered the keynote address and Hon'ble Mr Justice Nitin Jamdar, Judge, Bombay High Court proposed the vote of thanks. Six virtual court cabins and forty-two e-Filing counters were established at the e-Governance centre. A training facility is also available at the centre to explain the different e-Governance schemes to fifteen advocates at a time with a projector and a screen. Three buildings of advocate chambers in the District Court complex are connected with intranet connection. The District Government Pleader Office and Common Bar Room will also have intranet facilities for their functioning. It will be used for e-Filing of new cases and appearing in virtual courts through the cabins at the e-governance centre.

Click to view the Inaugural function https://youtu.be/X5BK39JEa3k.

4. ICJS Rajasthan- Electronic Receipt of FIR / Charge Sheet:

As a part of the integration with ICJS, all courts in Rajasthan are receiving CCTNS generated FIR copy, scanned copy of the report and its enclosures in CIS. Receipt of the charge sheet was also successfully tested in this exercise. As per this exercise, the police station data was seamlessly received in CIS, and one could view the CCTNS FIR, receive the scanned copy of the written reports and also the e-charge sheet. Here are a few screenshots of the same.



5. Nationwide - District Level Awareness Programme for Advocates on e-Courts Services in Regional Languages

The Chairperson of e-Committee inaugurated the awareness programme for advocates at district level throughout the country in regional languages in the presence of the Attorney General, Mr Manan Kumar Mishra, Bar Council of India, Chairman, Barun Mitra, the Secretary of Department of Justice, The High Court Computer Committee Chairpersons, the Secretary-General, Supreme Court of India, Vice-Chairperson of the e-Committee and many other dignitaries.

The regional language manual on "Step by Step guide for e-Filing" has been translated in eleven regional languages, which are Assamese, Bengali, Nepali, Urdu, Mizo, Tamil, Hindi, Hindi-UP, Garo, Khasi and Pnar. Brochures on (i) “How an advocate can register for e-Filing”; (ii) “How to e-File a case”; (iii) How to register in Case Information System (CIS) and (iv) e-Seva Kendra have been translated in fourteen regional languages, which are Assamese, Bengali Hindi, Nepali, Mizo, Odia, Punjabi, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi Malayalam, Tamil, Garo, Khasi and Pnar. Twelve video tutorials have been translated into seven regional languages. The virtual inaugural function, which was live on YouTube, has recorded 40,000 views! Immediately after the inaugural function, the awareness programme at district level was conducted by the