eCourts Mission Mode Project

A. eCourts Mission Mode Project (Phase-I):

In the year 2007, the CCEA approved the computerisation of 13,348 district & subordinate courts over a two year period at the cost of Rs.441.80 crore. In the year 2010, in the light of cost and time over-runs, CCEA approved the computerisation of 14,249 district & subordinate courts (12,000 courts by March 2012 and 2,249 courts by March 2014) with an enhanced scope and a revised budget of Rs.935 crore.

The objective of the eCourts Project is to provide designated services to the citizens as well courts by ICT enablement of all district and subordinate courts in the country through provision of the following components:

a) **Core components**: Site preparation, Computer Hardware, Local Area Network (LAN), internet connectivity through WAN, installation of standard application software, data entry of cases, technical manpower and service initiation.

b) **Other components**: laptops and printers with internet for judges, ICT upgradation at Supreme Court and High Courts, power back-up (UPS and DG sets), digital signatures, district court websites, central data centre and video-conferencing facility.

c) **Enabling components**: change management and process re-engineering initiatives.

d) **Outcome**: services delivery and National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

The services being delivered to citizens include status of registration of cases, Case status, Case list, daily order sheets and final orders/judgments.
Progress of the Project

As on 1st March, 2016, more than 95% of the mandated activities have been completed. Status of implementation as on 1st March, 2016, for main components of the project is given as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Status as on 1.03.2016</th>
<th>% Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sites readiness</td>
<td>14249</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hardware installation</td>
<td>13436</td>
<td>94.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>LAN installation</td>
<td>13683</td>
<td>96.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Software deployment</td>
<td>13672</td>
<td>95.95</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to above, ICT infrastructure of the Supreme Court and High Courts has also been upgraded. Progress on other activities of the project as of 1st March, 2016 is given below:

I. **Laptops to Judicial Officers**: Laptops have been provided to 14,309 judicial officers.

II. **Software**: A unified national core application software - Case Information System (CIS) software - has been developed and made available for deployment at all computerised courts. Entry of data regarding past cases has been initiated, and data in respect of over 5.5 crore cases is available online.

III. **Judicial Service Centre**: Judicial Service Centre (JSC) have established at all computerised courts which serves as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants/ lawyers as also obtaining information on ongoing cases and copies of orders and judgments etc.

IV. **Change Management and Training**: As part of the Change Management exercise, over 14,000 Judicial Officers have been trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux OS and over 4000 court staff have been trained in CIS software.

V. **Process Re-engineering**: eCommittee has initiated the Process Re-engineering (PR) exercise; PR Committees have been set up in all High Courts to study and suggest simplification in existing rules, processes, procedures and forms.

VI. **Video Conferencing** facilities in courts and jails: Based on experience of pilot, it was decided in consultation with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India to provide VC facilities for 488 Court complexes and 342 jails out of which equipment has been delivered at 667 locations.
VII. **Service Delivery and National Judicial Data Grid:** The national e-Courts portal (http://www.ecourts.gov.in) has become operational and has been opened for public access. The portal provides online services to litigants such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgments. Currently, litigants can access case status information in respect of over 5.59 crore pending and decided cases and more than 1.93 crore orders/judgments pertaining to district and subordinate Courts. NJDG data will also help the judiciary in judicial monitoring and management and the Government to get data for policy purposes.

B. **eCourts Phase-II:**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister gave its approval for Ph-II of eCourts Mission Mode Project. It envisages enhanced ICT enablement of court through universal computerisation, use of cloud computing, digitisation of case records and enhanced availability of e-Services through e-filing, e-payment gateways and mobile payments.

Based on the Policy Document prepared by the eCommittee of Supreme Court in consultation with all the High Courts in the country and approved by Hon’ble the Chief Justice of India, Department of Justice is in the process of implementing eCourts Phase-II project. The project has been approved for the duration of four years or until the project is completed, whichever is later, at the cost of Rs.1670 crores. The following are the targets proposed to be achieved under eCourt Phase II:

i. Computerisation of around 5751 new courts

ii. Enhanced ICT enablement of existing 14,249 computerised courts with additional hardware.

iii. Connecting all courts in the country to the NJDG through WAN and additional redundant connectivity, equipped for eventual integration with the proposed interoperable criminal justice system (ICJS).

iv. Citizen centric facilities such as Centralised Filing Centres and touch screen based Kiosks in each Court Complex.

v. Provision of laptops, printers, UPS and connectivity to Judicial Officers not covered under Phase I and replacement of obsolete hardware provided to Judicial Officers under Phase I.

vi. Installation of Video Conferencing facility at 2500 remaining Court Complexes and 800 remaining jails.

vii. Computerisation of SJAs, DLSAs and TLSCs.

viii. Creating a robust Court Management System through digitisation, document management, Judicial Knowledge Management and learning tools management.
ix. Installation of Cloud network and solar energy resource at Court Complexes.

x. Facilitating improved performance of courts through change management and process re-engineering as well as improvement in process servicing through hand-held devices.

xi. Enhanced ICT enablement through e-filing, e-Payment and use of mobile applications.

xii. Citizen centric service delivery

A consolidation of all the initiatives and measures proposed to be taken up and installation of the components planned in Phase-II of the project will result in multi-platform services for the litigants under the Charter of Services. These services include, *inter alia*, case registration, cause lists, daily case status, and final order/judgment uploading which have been provided in Phase I.

Further, e-filing of cases, e-payment of court fees, process service through email and through process servers having hand held devices, receipt of digitally signed copies of judgments are some of the services to be added in Phase II. The Charter of Services will serve as a guiding baseline to make Phase-II of the Project as litigant service centric as possible. Lawyers will get daily cause list through SMS, email and on the website. One of the primary advantages of computerization of courts will be the ‘automation of workflow management’. This would enable the courts to exercise greater control over the management of cases in the docket.

The services envisaged under the project will thus cater to all stakeholders including the judiciary, litigants and lawyers. ICT enablement will make the functioning of courts efficient and transparent, which will have an overall positive impact on the justice delivery system. It is envisaged that as the project progresses and technology develops, necessary additions will be made to the Charter of Services.