



DR JUSTICE D Y CHANDRACHUD
Judge, Supreme Court of India

2 April 2021

Mr Barun Mitra
Secretary
Department of Justice

Dear *Shri Barun Mitra,*

The eCommittee of the Supreme Court has been overseeing the implementation of the eCourts Project, conceptualized under the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary-2005". The eCommittee has evolved in terms of its roles and responsibilities over the last fifteen years. The eCommittee has worked in close co-operation with the Department of Justice.

A solid foundation for the objectives of the eCommittee has been substantially achieved in the first two phases of the project. The objectives of this eCommittee include :

- (i) Interlinking of all courts across the country;
- (ii) ICT enablement of the Indian judicial system;
- (iii) Enabling courts to enhance judicial productivity, both qualitatively and quantitatively;
- (iv) Making the justice delivery system accessible, cost-effective, transparent and accountable;
and
- (v) Providing citizen-centric services.

As Phase-II will soon conclude, the Committee initiated steps for preparing a vision document for Phase-III.



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Phase III of the eCourts project in India is rooted in two central facets—access and inclusion. Phase III of the eCourts project envisions a judicial system that is more easily accessible irrespective of geographical distances, efficient and equitable for every individual who seeks justice, makes more efficient use of human and other resources, and absorbs the latest technology for a positive environmental impact.

This vision for Phase III is sought to be built on the following four building blocks:

Core Values: Phase III must strive for a modern judicial system, governed by core values of trust, empathy, sustainability and transparency which, while simplifying procedures, will maximise the positives of technology and minimise its risks and challenges.

Whole-of-system approach: Phase III must aim to make processes more efficient across all three components of dispute management i.e. dispute avoidance, containment and resolution. Each of these components will require technological integration with different institutions.

Adoption frameworks: Phase III must focus on building strong adoption frameworks. Such frameworks must include behavioural nudges, adequate training and skill set development, feedback loops, along with the requisite mandate of law.

Governance framework: From a governance perspective, while numerous judicial decisions have validated the use of technology in judicial processes, Phase III must address the accompanying administrative structures. The key goals and strategy of Phase III prioritise the creation of a core



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digital infrastructure that can enable the development of services for dispute resolution by the judiciary and services of solutions for dispute containment and resolution by the ecosystem.

With this in view a group of experts was involved in drafting a vision for phase III. After getting inputs from all stakeholders as well as civil society, the group has painstakingly presented a draft vision for phase III. Successful operationalization of these goals of Phase III will require careful planning around sequencing, budgeting, procurement, contract management, adoption and change management, and a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. This Draft Vision Document provides the blueprint for such operationalization.

I am happy to share the draft vision document with a request to give your valuable inputs and suggestions. Your knowledge, insight, concerns, and experience will help to refine the vision document and to plan its implementation.

The draft vision document may also be shared on the web-site of the Department of Justice and with expert agencies within the government so as to enable us to improve on it with their assistance.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely

Dharmaraj Chandra