

eCourts Mission Mode Project – 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.

In order to improve the justice delivery system, the Government is implementing the eCourts project in a mission mode, since 2007. The project aimed at providing necessary hardware and software applications to enable courts to deliver e-services, and to enable the judiciary to monitor and manage the functioning of courts. The courts are envisaged to provide a host of eServices such as - case filing, certified copies of orders and judgments and case status, to litigants and public at large through the eCourts portal (<http://www.ecourts.gov.in>). Currently, litigants can access case status information in respect of over 4.4 crore pending and decided cases. Litigants and lawyers are also provided services through Judicial Service Centre at the court complexes such as Case Filing, Certified copies of orders and judgments, Case status etc. The portal has been linked to the eTaal, which is a web portal for dissemination of e-Transaction statistics of Central and State level e-Governance Projects including Mission Mode Projects, and the portal has recorded 24.11 crore transactions so far, which is among top five if not the highest among all other eGovernance Projects.

The Government has already completed approximately 95% of the previously approved activities within the stipulated timeline by 31st March, 2015. Envisaging further ICT enhancement through universal computerisation of all the courts, use of cloud computing, digitization of case records of last 20 years and enhanced availability of e-services to lawyers and litigants through e-filing, e-payment gateways and mobile applications etc., the Phase II of the project has also been proposed within the approved cost of Rs.1670 Crores in the duration of four years. The project would function in line with the Digital India program of the Government of India.

The Phase II of the project would focus not only on the computerisation of courts across the country but also help in the automation of workflow management which would enable the courts to exercise greater control over the management of

cases. The services envisaged to be taken up during Phase II, which would be at the disposal of the citizens, include installation of touch screen based Kiosks with printers in each Court Complex, fetching information through Mobile, facilitating improved performance of courts through change management and process re-engineering, installation of Video Conferencing facility at all Court Complexes and corresponding jails, use of e-filing, e-Payment and mobile applications and also for the composite set of services to be provided through the Judicial Service Centres. Further, the judiciary can also benefit from the project by provisioning of Hand held process service devices for process servers to ensure transparent and time bound delivery of court notices and summons, Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs) to Court officials to enable them to issue certified e-documents to lawyers and litigants, and provisioning of laptops and printers to Judicial Officers. The court management system would also be created under the project through digitisation, document management, Judicial Knowledge Management and Learning Tools Management. Also the use of solar energy has also been proposed at some court complexes enabling the courts to help the environment actively.

In line with the Digital India Programme of the Government of India which emphasises on Citizen centric services, the project would also focus on Digital Infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen providing Governance and Services on Demand subsequently digitally empowering the Citizens.