

Process and Functioning of eCourt Mission Mode Project

The e-Courts scheme aims ICT enablement of the lower courts across the country in their functioning. The project envisages deployment of hardware, software and networking to assist district and taluka courts in streamlining their day to day functioning.

Key functions such as case filing, allocation, registration, case workflow, orders and judgments will be IT-enabled. Causelists, Case status, orders, judgments will be available on the web and made accessible to litigants, advocates, and general public. The project aims to build a national grid of key judicial information available 24 X 7 in a reliable and secure manner.

The first phase of the e-Courts project was approved in February 2007. The duration of the phase is 2 years with a planned expenditure of Rs.442 Crore for different components of the project . Along with ICT implementation in district and taluka courts, the project will also manage and implement the ICT infrastructure upgradation at Supreme Court and all High Courts.

Key Summary of eCourt MMP

1. During Phase I of the eCourts Project, in a very large number of Court Complexes, Computer Server Rooms and Judicial Service Centres have been readied. The District and Taluka Courts as covered in Phase I of these Court Complexes have already been computerized, with installation of hardware, LAN etc. and Case Information Software (CIS). Consequently, these Courts are now providing basic case-related services to litigants and lawyers.
2. The e-Courts National portal (ecourts.gov.in) was launched by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India on 7th August, 2013. This provides cause-list, case status information in respect of more than 2.5 crore cases (pending and decided) and has sometimes reached daily 'hits' in excess of 7 lakhs

which is growing exponentially every week. This is a part of the National Judicial Data Grid that has been made operational and will be improved in a phased manner.

3. The e-Courts National portal also provides training material for judicial officers and staff, links to District Court websites and statistical reports that can be used as a judicial management information system. This portal is expected to play a key role in bringing about judicial reforms. The e-transactions services of the eCourts portal as per etaal.gov.in have crossed 2.2 Crore.
4. A large number of District Courts have launched their websites for the convenience of litigants and others have been provided with a template for easy launch of a website.
5. Change Management exercise has been successfully implemented. All judicial officers in the country have been trained in the use of computers through 218 judicial officers who had been trained as Master Trainers for continuing training programmes. 219 CIS Master Trainers (District System Administrators) have been trained from amongst the court staff in the use of the Case Information Software. These CIS Master Trainers have trained more than 4000 System Administrators in the effective use of computers and CIS.
6. All High Courts are in the process of providing unique identification numbers to all judicial officers. Punjab and Haryana High Court have already completed this exercise.
7. All High Courts have taken up Process Re-engineering exercise, thereby having a fresh look at processes, procedures, systems and Court Rules.

8. Unified National Core version 2.0 of the Case Information Software has been developed. This is in use in almost all States. The process of migration of old data into the Unified National Core CIS version 2.0 is almost complete in Punjab & Haryana High Court.
9. Back Data entry of pending cases is complete for All District & Taluka Courts of Punjab, Haryana & U.T. Chandigarh.
10. The process of implementation of the Project has shown that many new courts have come up in the last several years and many more will come up. Provision needs to be made for newly established courts and courts that will come up in the near future. Similarly, the strength of judicial officers has also increased. They too need to be provided for.
11. Wide Area Network connectivity needs immediate and effective attention to enable availability of information to litigants.
12. A large number of activities including scanning or digitizing case records, judicial and administrative automation etc. will be taken up in the next phase of the Project.
13. Cloud computing model will be implemented in the next phase of the Project.

eCourts Project: Processes

Undated Cases

- There were two challenges
 - (i) to enter all cases pending in the courts and
 - (ii) to ensure regular and timely updation. For ensuring updation of next date and purpose of cases, e-reader software was prepared to make entry of next date and purpose, user-friendly.
- Court Reader responsibility was fixed to update Cause List as and when date is fixed by the Courts.
- Monitoring cell was created and regular monitoring with report of shortcomings to concerned Judicial Officer / Nodal Officer / District Judge was duly sent on daily basis.
- This has ensured zero undated cases at district level.
- Occasional undated cases on NJDG are generally more due to connectivity issues.
- The benefit of regular updation has been passed on to Readers by exempting hardcopy of Peshi Register. A periphery software to generate Peshi Register was developed and now Peshi Register is being maintained through softcopies / printouts only.
- Another periphery software has been made to exempt various registers which in turn shall ensure complete feeding of data in CIS.

Citizen Centric Services

- The Punjab and Haryana High Court has placed great emphasis to provide Citizen Centric Services. As on date sixteen (16) Citizen Centric Services are being provided. With better infrastructure, connectivity and availability of periphery softwares, the number of Citizen Centric Services will go up.

Stock Entry

- Hardware received under e-Courts Phase-II Project has been duly accounted for and entered.
- A complete inventory of hardware under e-Court & given by High Court with State funds has been prepared and stock entry on website of NIC with due certificate stands completed.

CIS 2.0

- CIS 2.0 has been implemented in almost all Court Complexes oin the State of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh have been made.
- Periphery softwares working with CIS 1.0 have been made compatible with CIS 2.0.
- Staff has been trained to use CIS 2.0 by holding training session on dummy server.

SMS SERVICES

- ✓ SMS services informing advocates about various stages of case have been started and is functional both at High Court as well as at Districts.
- ✓ Total Sites: 117, Sites having Lease Line: 35, SMS Service Initiated: 110. By making use of SWAN / PAWAN, SMS Services has been initiated at additional 75 Sites. (SMS services can only be used with NICNET Leased lines which are available only on 35 sites. Rest of sites are being made operational by innovation of pushing of data which is being followed by others)
- ✓ Awareness information was sent to Bar Associations of Districts and Advocates through SMS.
- ✓ SMS Service will be made available for litigants as well.
- ✓ SMS NOTIFICATION FOR CASE STATUS AT HIGH COURT : Filing, Objection, Registration, Next Date
- ✓ SMS NOTIFICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY AT HIGH COURT: Application, Preparation, Objection, Ready for Delivery.
- ✓ SMS NOTIFICATION FOR CASE STATUS AT DISTRICT /TALUKA COURT : Filing, Registration, Next Date, Disposal.
- ✓ Extensive usage of SMS: After integration of SMS gateway with ISHiCo, 1,10,000 monthly messages are being pushed from our SMS server to end users from High Court Server. Inspection module is also being integrated with SMS server.

NJDG

- Data is being uploaded from 113 out of 117 sites .
- NIC-Delhi has provided National Judicial Data Grid monitoring tool to monitor the data uploaded on NJDG have been checked and various reports have been generated with the help of aforesaid tool i.e. undated cases, cases pending under registration, cases under objection, cases pending, cases disposed, cases filed by women etc., in case of any discrepancy, the concerned District & Sessions Judges have been requested to direct the concerned System Officer to rectify the same.
- CIS Monitoring Cell: Under the direction of Hon'ble Executive Committee of this Court, a CIS Monitoring Cell has been constituted in this Court to scrutinize the entire data uploaded on National Judicial Data Grid by all the District Courts and Sub Divisional Courts. For the aforesaid purpose following tools have been used.
- CIS Monitoring System (CISMS):- This CIS monitoring tool has been developed by this Court to monitor the data enter in CIS by all the Sessions Divisions/sub Divisions of the States of Punjab, Haryana & U.T. Chandigarh. Various report as per have been generated and data entry of cases have been checked with the help of this tool, in case of any discrepancy, the concerned District & Sessions Judges have been requested to direct the concerned Court Manager/ System Officer to rectify the same.
- On routine basis, with the help of aforesaid tool daily orders/judgments; cases status; undated cases; Business transacted; cause lists; data on website; List of Judges on leave, Duty Magistrate. Police Station, Posted Judicial Officer etc. are checked &

discrepancies reported to the concerned District & Sessions Judge through email to do needful.

- Websites: Every District Court in the States of Punjab, Haryana & U.T. Chandigarh is having its website. To bring uniformity in display of the District Court websites Uniform outlook of Websites have been implemented and duties and responsibility have been fixed to keep it updated.
- Daily Cause List: Cause list for all the Sessions Divisions/Sub Divisions in the States of Punjab, Haryana & U.T. Chandigarh is uploaded on aforesaid website on daily basis.
- Daily Orders/Judgments: Various instructions were issued to all the Sessions Divisions/Sub Divisions in the States of Punjab, Haryana & U.T. Chandigarh for uploading the daily orders/judgments of all the cases on National Judicial Data Grid on National Judicial Data Grid.
- Monitoring cell Operations
 - Check on Availability of Orders/ Judgements of District and Taluka Courts
 - Scrutiny of data entry for FIR Details, Under Section
 - Verification of data between Physical Register and NJDG for Case Pendency and if GAP corrective measures to reduce this gap.
 - Scrutiny of Vital Dynamic Information on Districts Web Portals so that stale data gets updated and the Litigants and Advocates gets latest current information like Cause List, Duty Roster, List of Judicial Officers Deputed

- As NJDG got public, Case details are being analyzed on Daily basis so that updated and correct information is being displayed for the Litigants Advocates.

E-FILING MODULE

- On the recommendation of this Court NIC has prepared/developed a software module i.e. 'Case Management System' (CMS) for the use of the Advocates. This software is helping Advocates
 - in managing their own portfolio,
 - managing their cases on the website of this Court,
 - view the cases filed by him/her and the cases in which he/she is representing one of the parties and
 - also have the facility to view all the cases fixed for various dates at a glance.
- In order to maintain complete confidentiality, limited access of the system has been provided to the Advocates after user's authentication. **1373 no. of advocates has been registered on e-diary system.**
- In this year, this facility has also been extended to the Departments, Boards, Corporation, Universities, institutes etc. of Government of India as well as State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh. **292 government departments have been registered on e-diary system.**
- In addition to above now e-filing Module has also been added under case management system, through this module advocate can file case online through internet.

- The Court has successfully implemented the concept of online E-filing. It has been integrated with e-diary system provided to advocates. Till 31 Mar. 2016, 3551 cases were filed and registered through online E-filing system.
- W.E.F from July 2014, High Court has implement Paperbook module for Departments like AG Punjab, AG Haryana and UOI, in this module department has been allowed to access to all paper books related to their department within LAN of the court.
- Availability of Judgments and Interim Orders: Now all judgments and Interim orders are available on website within gap of 10 minutes after its uploading by the Court. **Till date 31 Mar. 2016, total 14,85,218 IO and 6,69,670 final orders** were available on website.
- Extensive usage of SMS: After integration of SMS gateway with ISHiCo, 1,10,000 monthly messages are being pushed from our SMS server to end users. Inspection module is also being integrated with SMS server.

SERVER MANAGEMENT

A State Level CIS Backup Server has been created at High Court wherein all data pertaining to District & Taluka Courts of in the states of Punjab, Haryana and UT Chandigarh are being stored.

Daily data from all sites with connectivity is being uploaded on the above mentioned server and that uploaded data is being used for varied services viz. Disaster recovery, data authentication, data auditing, data health check and various other periphery softwares and reports time and then required by the authorities.

Dedicated staff members have been assigned to monitor the Data Entry at local sites using the data uploaded at HC CIS Server and a specialized cell named Monitoring Cell has been constituted which have resulted in check of Undated cases thus leading to proper reports both at NJDG and as well as High court level. Also many services eg dispensing off of registers have been possible only due to data correctness and authenticity.

Remote Server Management

- Virtual Machines at SDPC (Shashtri Park Data Centre) have been allocated to each High Court for uploading data and daily orders at NJDG.
- DSAs from this High Court do manage server in case of issue pertaining to Permissions, directory ownership which several times leads in Non Display of Case Status and Orders/Judgments.

DSAs BEING UTILIZED

- Number of DSA (Punjab) : 13
- Number of DSA (Haryana) : 14
- Number of DSA (Chandigarh) : 2
- Total : **28**
- DSAs are being utilized for day to day technical work hand in hand with Technical Manpower, for lodging technical complaints, providing trainings, data uploading and backup.
- Ultimate goal is that technical cadre should be created out of regular employees .
- 153 SA have been trained to assist and DSA's in computerization.

USE OF WHATSAPP/GOOGLE DOCS / CHAT GROUPS /TELEGRAPH

- Group of Nodal officers / District judges to communicate policies & action taken as well for exchange views / suggesions.
- To notify last minutes changes.

CONNECTIVITY

PUNJAB

- PWAN : 58
- NICNET : 16
- VPNOBB : 63
- BROADBAND : 63

HARYANA

- PWAN : 37
- NICNET : 18
- VPNOBB : 52
- BROADBAND : 52

CHANDIGARH

- NICNET : 1
- VPNOBB : 1
- BROADBAND : 1

PERIPHERY DEVELOPMENT

Various In-House periphery software's have been developed without disturbing the core of the CIS.

Effects of Periphery Softwares :

- Increased data accuracy
- Helped in achieving Zero Undated Cases
- Increase in uploading of Orders/Judgments
- Exemption of Manual Registers (Peshi)
- Entry of complete and correct information e.g. Address Details due to which Summons/Notices can be delivered to correct address; Mobile Number due to which SMS can be sent to Advocates / Litigants whose mobile number is updated in CIS.

SCANNING

Stats as on 31.03.2016

- **TOTAL PAPERBOOKS: 23,84,155**
- **TOTAL PAGES SCANNED: 15,90,34,290**
- **TOTAL ORDERS SCANNED: 50,07,956**

e-Courts Functioning : Punjab & Haryana High Court

Computerization in Punjab and Haryana High Court as well as Subordinate Courts of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh had started in the year 2003 but it took viable shape with initiation of e-Courts project.

- At the time of inception of e-Courts Phase-I and during Phase-I, 687 Courts were identified for computerization.
- As per policy of e-Courts Phase-I, one slim client and three thin clients for each court were provided which were duly installed.
- During this period, strength of Judicial Officers has gone up and accordingly computer, printer and UPS etc. were provided with the funding from State Governments.
- Under Phase-II, 3+784 computers have been provided for existing courts.
- Online tender process is complete and order has been placed on the L1.
- Punjab and Haryana is further issued online tender for purchase of printers as well as UPS.
- These tenders have been finalized and it has been decided to place order with L1.

- The printers are as per specifications approved by Hon'ble e-Committee.
- To facilitate proper implementation of Information Technology tools training has been most important aspect.
- All the Judicial Officers have been trained twice as per e-Committee guidelines.
- Apart from two days training prescribed by e-Committee Computer training has been made part of all refresher courses.
- One hour session has been prescribed for all computer trainees. Similarly, computer training has been made part of induction programme for new Judicial Officers both at Civil Judge as well as ADJ level.
- The vision of e-Committee to create a technology cadre from regular cadre has also been started in Punjab and Haryana High Court by training 34 Master Trainers (Judicial Officers) and 28 District System Administrators (DSAs).
- These 34 Master Trainers are being assigned duties to train other Judicial Officers.
- DSAs have further trained and created a force of 153 SAs to take up computer related issues in the districts.

- With these 28 DSAs & 153 SAs, each and every district and taluka has got more than one trained regular employee for taking up computer related issues.

Apart from these DSAs and SAs contractual System Officers (41) System Assistants (187) are also working. These System Officers and System Assistants have been employed through HCL for three years. The contract shall be ending in November 2016. The availability of trained DSAs and SAs will help in reducing dependence upon contractual employees.

To bring about efficiency in court working all the judicial Officers have not only been trained but have been provided case finders (SCC online/offline version) and Law Finder, Dragon Speech to Text Software and subscription to Magzter Online Magazine portal. These softwares would act as force multiplier by increasing efficiency and quality of judicial work.

Implementation of ICT would be incomplete if there is no reduction in paper work. To increase efficiency, transparency and ease to work, implementation of CIS along with periphery softwares has been pivotal in implementation of e-Court Project.

The KPAs of eCourt Mission Mode Project are:

- **Application Software Implementation for each Court :** CIS has been implemented in all District as well as Taluka Court of Punjab, Haryana and UTC Chandigarh.
- **Filing of Case:** Auto-generated filing number is generated by CIS for each filed case.
- **Registration of case:** Auto-generated registration number is generated by CIS for each registered case.
- **Status of case proceedings :** Daily data is being uploaded on NJDG and Online Status of Cases is available on National Judicial Data Grid.
- **Copies of Interim/Zimni:** Daily Interim Orders and Zimni Orders are being uploaded on NJDG and are available on NJDG.
- **Copies of Judgment:** Daily Judgments being uploaded on NJDG and are available on NJDG.
- **Generation of automated cause list:** Automated Cause List is generated and same is available online at NJDG Website.
- **Availability of Case status:** Online 'case status' right from filing of a case till it gets disposed
- **Website for each court:** Every District Court has its own website and data is being maintained/updated daily making use of Drupal Web templates.
- **LAN :** LAN was initially provided by eCommittee . Keeping in view many new upcoming projects LAN Norms have been revised by Punjab & Haryana High Court .
- **WAN :** Extensive use of available WAN Networks ie NICNET, SWAN &PWAN is being made for optimal utilization of available bandwidth.
- **Hardware :** In addition of Hardware provided under eCourt project, new hardware has been provided in order to enable Court Staff for effective computerization and adhere to new projects.
- **Video Conferencing:** Video Conferencing facility is available in almost all Court Complex either through Hardware or Software VC option. Extensive use of Video Conferencing is being made for Remand, Evidence and Administrative Meetings.