eCourts Mission Mode Project

(District & Subordinate Courts)

Phase I and Phase II

Prepared By
eCommittee, Supreme Court of India

Project Introduction

- The eCourts Project is an Integrated Mission Mode Project as part of the national eGovernance plan (NeGP) for Indian Judiciary.

- The objective of eCourts Project is to provide for ICT enablement of courts to enhance judicial productivity both, qualitatively and quantitatively as also to make justice delivery system, affordable, accessible, cost effective, transparent and accountable.

- The e-Courts project was conceptualized on the basis of the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of information and communication technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary – 2005" submitted by e-Committee (Supreme Court of India).

- Phase I of the eCourts Project was approved in February 2007 and revised in September 2010 with revised time lines of 31st March 2014. It was again extended till 31st March 2015, for completion of balance activities

eCourts Project Phase I

- FOSS (Free and Open Source Solutions): All the software solutions prepared for the eCourts Project are based on Free & Open Source Solutions (FOSS) which do not need to obtain any license or to pay subscription charges.

- An operating system based on Ubuntu (Debian based Linux) was customised at the office of the eCommittee. The eCommittee is regularly updating the Ubuntu (Linux). At present Ubuntu 16.04 (Linux) version is under customisation.

- Common Case Information software to be prepared for entire district Judiciary with Core and Periphery Models. The Core being unified for 'national' use while the Periphery as per the local requirements of each High Court.
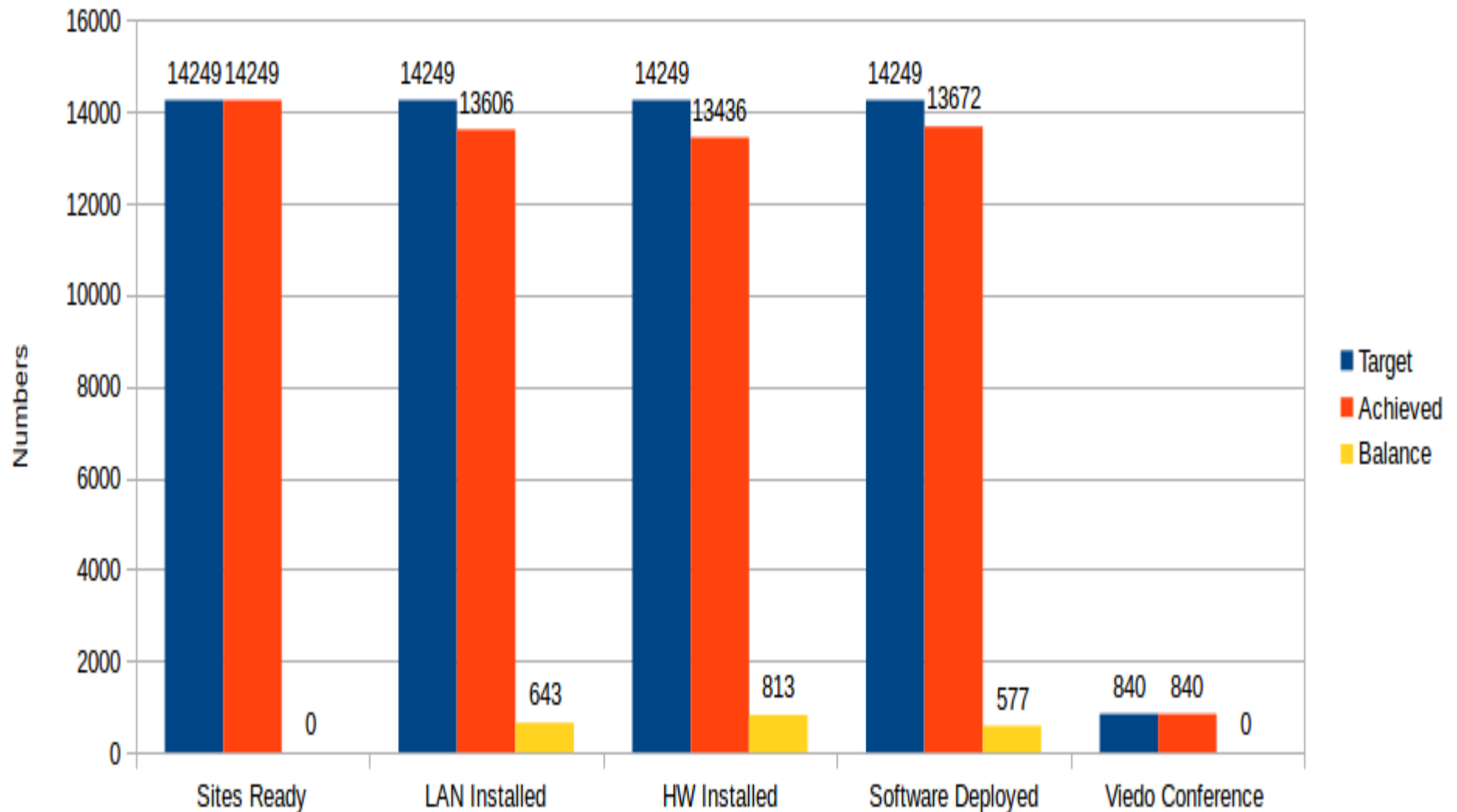
eCourts Project Phase I

ICT Training and Education:

- As part of the Change Management exercise undertaken by the eCommittee, Judicial Officers and Court Staff have been trained in the use of Ubuntu-Linux Operating System (installed in their laptops) and Case Information Software (CIS) respectively.

- Training of Trainers (TOT): The training sessions conducted as part of eCommittee's change management initiatives were based on 'Training of Trainers' (ToT) model. Almost all Judicial Officers have been trained in the use of computers by Master Trainers.

Judicial Process Re-engineering:

- The Process Re-engineering exercise was initiated for standardizing the rules and for its ICT enablement. The reports were submitted by most of the High Courts.

eCourts Phase I - Achievements...
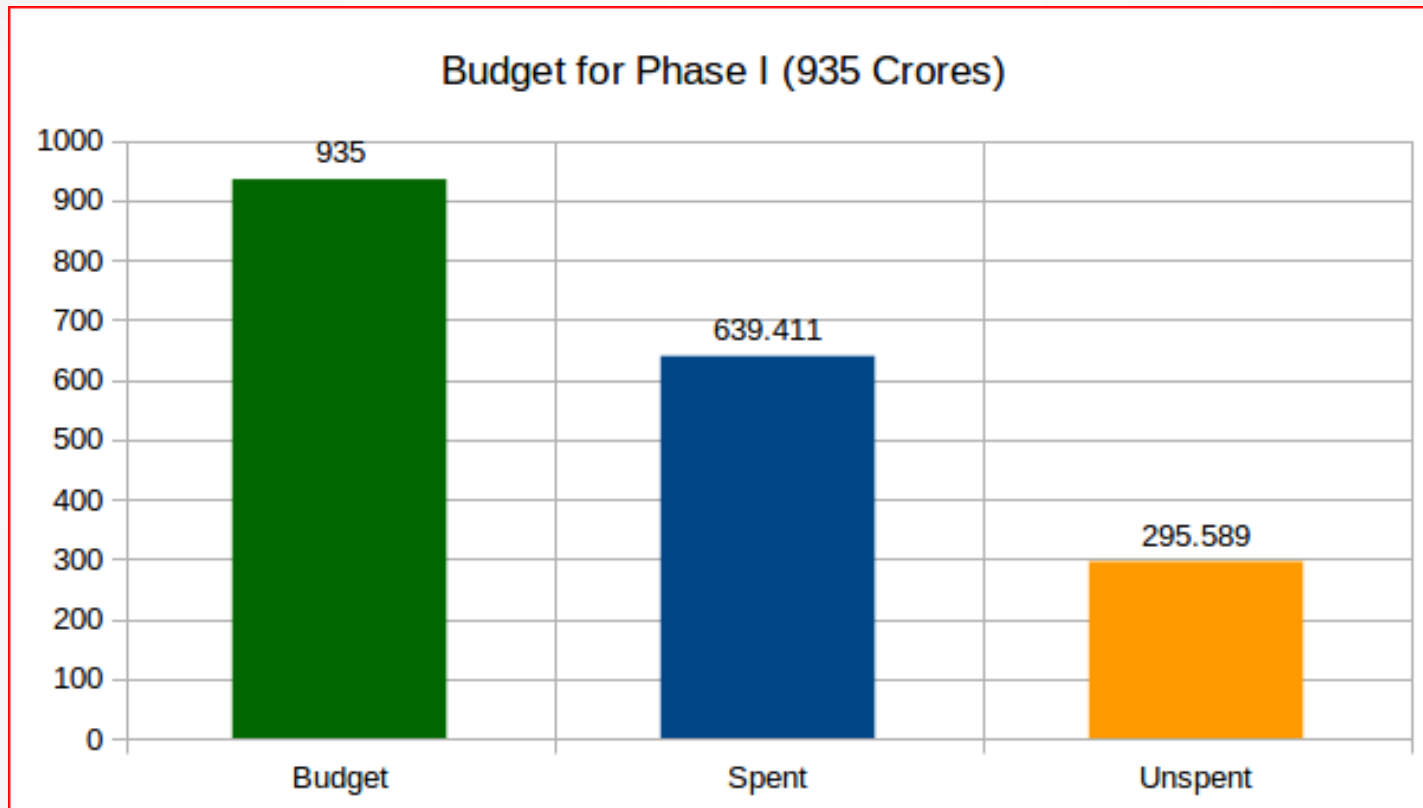
eCourts National Portal

www.ecourts.gov.in:

The e-Courts National portal was launched by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India on 7th August 2013, providing the on-line services to litigants, Advocates and Judiciary, to access:

➢ Cause list

➢ Case status:

  ➢ Case Status to be accessed by providing any of these information, they are Case Number, FIR Number, Party Name, Advocate Name, Filing Number, Act and Case type

➢ Daily orders and final judgments:

  ➢ Orders and final judgments can be accessed using any of the following information, they are Case Number, Court Number, Party Name and Order Date.

District Court websites: All the District Courts have launched their own websites to disseminate information related to District Courts using Drupal template.

eCourts Phase I- Budget

Budget for Phase I (935 Crores)

Budget: 935
Spent: 639.411
Unspent: 295.589

Government of India sanctioned ₹935 crores for Phase I. Out of which ₹639.411 Crores were spent and ₹295.589 crores were unspent due to drastic decrease in the price of hardware and vendor's reluctance to supply Hardware and LAN as per purchase orders due to variation in Dollar exchange prices.

7

eCourts Project Phase II:

- Phase II of the eCourts Project is based on the Policy and Action Plan Document of the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, approved on 8th January 2014.

- The Government of India approved the Phase II of the eCourts Project in July 2015; with project time line of four years up to 2019 and at cost of ₹1670 crore.

- The e-Committee is involved in policy planning and providing strategic direction and guidance for the effective implementation of the Project.

- Decentralization: The High Courts are now the implementing agencies for the Project in respect of the areas under its jurisdiction.

- The design and specifications of the hardware to be procured is finalized by the eCommittee in consultation with the DoJ, NIC and any other expert technical persons/entities in the field.

- The High Courts have the assistance of the High Court Computer Committee, Central Project Coordinator, District Court Computer Committees and a Nodal officer for each district.

National Judicial Data Grid:

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is intended to be the National Data Warehouse for case data including the orders/judgments for Courts across the country.

- The public access portal of National Judicial Data Grid was inaugurated on 19.09.2015 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan B.Lokur, then Judge in-charge of e-committee. The public can access the portal using the web link

  http://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/njdg_public/

- The NJDG will be useful for policy planners and policy makers to manage case loads and bring in effective case management systems.

- The data available in NJDG can also be used for

  - Data mining

  - Online Analytical Processing (OLAP)

  - Business Intelligence (B. I.) Tools

  - Integration with Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)

Case Information Software (NC CIS 2.0)

- Common software for all the District Courts.
- It is based on Free and Open Source Solutions (FOSS).
- Bilingual: In addition to English, Graphical User Interface (GUI) is available for Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Kannada and Tamil.
- Case Number Record (CNR) – Unique Case number for all the District Courts.
- National code for case types – The district courts can user their existing nomenclature but it would be mapped to National code for case type through software
- Flexibility in nomenclature of menus.
- SMS: SMS to be sent automatically to RMN (Registered Mobile Number) whenever there is change of status of the case.
- Data Health Card: This feature will inform the court user about the missing entries in CIS software.
- Hide Party Name: This option will be useful for the family court, POCSO, Juvenile and ordered for not to disclose cases.
- NC CIS 2.0 will ultimately lead to dispensation of manual registers.

E-Courts phase II – Major targets...

- Computerisation of uncoverd, additional and new courts, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and Taluka Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Computer training labs in SJAs, and additional hardware in existing court complexes.

- Enhancement of connectivity

- Service delivery through cloud technology.

- Video-Conferencing for Courts and Jails

- Judicial Process Re-engineering

- Judicial Knowledge Management System

- Services Delivery (30 services to litigants, lawyers and other stake holders through 7 platforms)

- Common Case Information software to be prepared for High Courts with Core and Periphery Models.

New Intitiatives to be taken up in Phase II

- Improving the system of serving notices and summons through hand-held authentication devices for process servers.
- Information kiosks at each court complex
- Solar Energy for Power Backup for 5% of court complexes
- Central filling Centers
- eFiling
- Integrated Library Management System
- On line Certified Copies
- Implementation of Cloud computing with Disaster Recovery and Back Up facility
- Unification and Standardization of all data including meta data.

Major Components of Phase II

S.No	Component	₹ Crores
1	Additional Hardware for 14249 Courts (1+3 Format), Computerization of new Courts (2+6 Format) and Computerization of expected Courts (2+6 Format)	745.31
2	Technical Infrastructure at existing Court Complexes and new Court Complexes	340.56
3	Replacement of obsolete Laptops provided to Judicial Officers in Phase I and provisioning of Laptops and other IT facilities to new Judicial Officers	69.07
4	Installation of VC equipment in Courts and Jails	33.10
5	Installation of hardware in Judicial Academies and training labs	4.07
6	Computerization of DLSA and TLSC	45.31
7	Cloud connectivity in all Court Complexes	73.00
8	WAN Connectivity	231.32
9	Solar Energy in 5% Court Complexes	26.20
10	Software Development	42.78
11	Change Management	20.00
12	Judicial Process Re-engineering	20.00
13	Judicial Knowledge Management System (JKMS)	19.28
	Total	**1670.00**

Achivements in Phase II till now:

Status of procurement:.

Funds released to the High Courts till now ₹263.49 Crores. Further funds proposal sent to DOJ for ₹271.72 Crores on 30.08.2016.

Sr. No	Status of Procurement	Number of High Courts	
		Computers	LAN
1	Purchase Orders issued	16	7 + Three benches of Gauhati High Court
2	Purchase Orders not issued	8	16 + Gauhati High Court (Itanagar Bench)
3	Delivery completed	7 + Three benches of Gauhati High Court	1 + Gauhati High Court (Kohima Bench)
4	Installation completed	3 + Three benches of Gauhati High Court	1 + Gauhati High Court (Kohima Bench)

Achivements in Phase II till now:

Status of Migration to CIS 2.0...

Status of Migration into Unified National Core CIS as on 31.08.2016			
Total Establishments	Migration Completed (Establishments)	Migration yet to be completed (Establishments)	Progress (%)
5196	3270	1926	62.93

S.No	Status of Migration	Number of High Courts
1	Migration completed	10
2	More than 75%	3
3	More than 50% and less than 75%	4
4	Less than 50%	7

Achivements in Phase II till now:

Capacity Building Measures:

Training of Trainers (TOT) Model:

<u>Ubuntu Master Trainers:</u> Computer knowing judicial officers have been identified and given intensive training for use of computers and Ubuntu (Linux) operating system, and designated as Master Trainers. Using these Master Trainers, computer training given to almost all the judicial officers. 236 Ubuntu Master Trainers and 233 Ubuntu cum CIS Master Trainers have been created from judical officers.

<u>District System Administrators:</u> Computer knowing court staff have been identified and given intensive training for use of case information software (CIS) and designated as District System Administrators (DSA). 490 DSA have been created till now. Using these Master Trainers, CIS training given to almost all the court staff.

<u>Screening Course of Cyber law and Cyber crime training:</u> Four out of six batches of screening courses have been completed at National Police Academy, Hyderabad. The selected Cyber law and Cyber crime trainers will be given further intensified training. They are going to train other Judicial Officers as Training of Trainers (TOT) model.

16

Targets for next 3 months:

- eFiling module to be deployed at Supreme Court of India.

- Creation of email ID for the Court establishments.

- Change Management exercise: Refresher Course for Judicial Officers and Court staff for use of Computers and Case Information System respectively.

- Replacement of new Laptops and Printers which have been more than 5 years old for Judicial Officers.

- Technical infrastructure for DLSA, TLSC, State Judicial Academies and NJA.

- Video conference equipments for Courts and Jails which have not been covered under Phase I.

Way Forward...

- Complete and accurate data entry
- Case Type Standardization and Unification
- Judicial Process re-engineering
- Horizontal and Vertical compatibility of software and interoperability.
- Delivery of all 30 services through all 7 platforms
- Less paper courts
- Coordination with NIC for achieving the targets of cloud computing
- Coordination with NIC and DOJ for stable connectivity.