MASTER TRAINER PROGRAMME FOR HIGH COURT JUDGES (e-Committee)
at the
NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY
21 August 2022
Session-1
Indian Judiciary under e-Courts Project: Overview & Contemporary Experiences

by
Atul Kaushik
Additional Secretary (Retd.)
Government of India

Structure

- Introduction

- Phase-wise Overview & Way Forward

- National & International Perspective

INTRODUCTION

Technology offers courts a crucial commodity—information —that can help the justice agencies make better and quicker decisions, and track case outcomes

Technology integration helps courts

Technology empowers courts:

- to meet core purposes and responsibilities, particularly when they work with constraints
- to reduce hours of operation
- to optimize court locations

Pre-requisites to harness technology:

- Identify needs of judges, lawyers and litigants
- Examine process re-engineering opportunities
- Migrate from document to content management

This improves the quality of justice, access to justice, and public trust and confidence in the court as a public institution

Court computerisation in India

- GOI computerising courts since early 1990s
- SC and HCs started using IT to some extent by the start of the millennium
- Policy Document on eCourts Phase I in 2004
- National Policy by e-Committee in 2005 launched eCourts Project for district courts
- eCourts Phase II launched in August 2015
- eCourts Phase-III Vision Document under consideration: https://doj.gov.in/page/phase-iii

PHASE-WISE OVERVIEW OF THE E-COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT AND THE WAY FORWARD

eCourts Phase I – The Basics

Project Module	Status in August 2015	
	No. of Completed Courts	Percentage
Sites Ready	14,249	100
LAN Installed	13,686	95.7
HW Installed	13,436	94.3
Software Deployed	13,672	95.9

- Budget: Rs 935 crore; utilized: Rs 639.41 crore (68 %)
- The e-Courts portal (http://www.ecourts.gov.in)
- District Court websites
- Case status information online - orders/judgments online
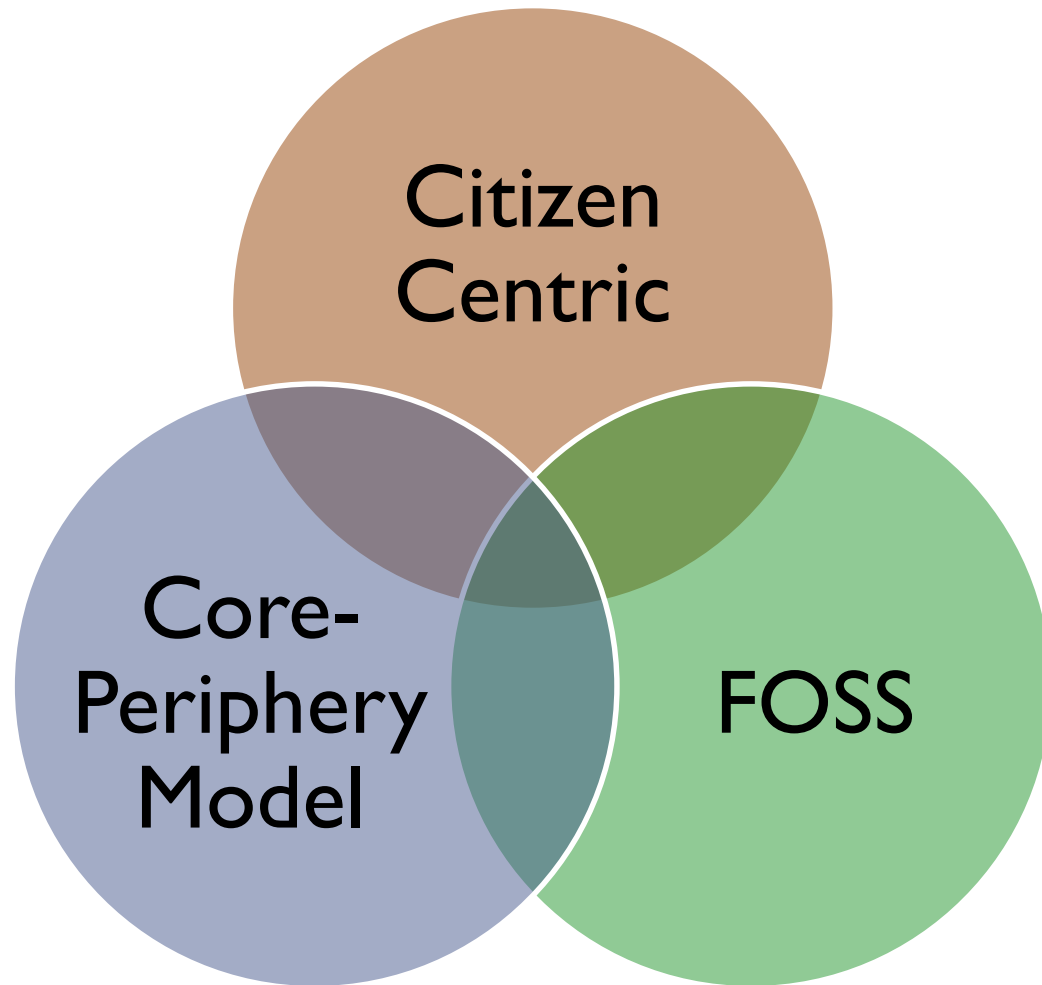- NJDG
- Laptops to 14,309 JOs

Original objectives of the eCourts Mission Mode Project

- To enhance judicial productivity both qualitatively and quantitatively, to make the justice delivery system affordable, accessible, cost-effective and transparent
- To make policy for managing case loads; for effective Court Management and Case Management System
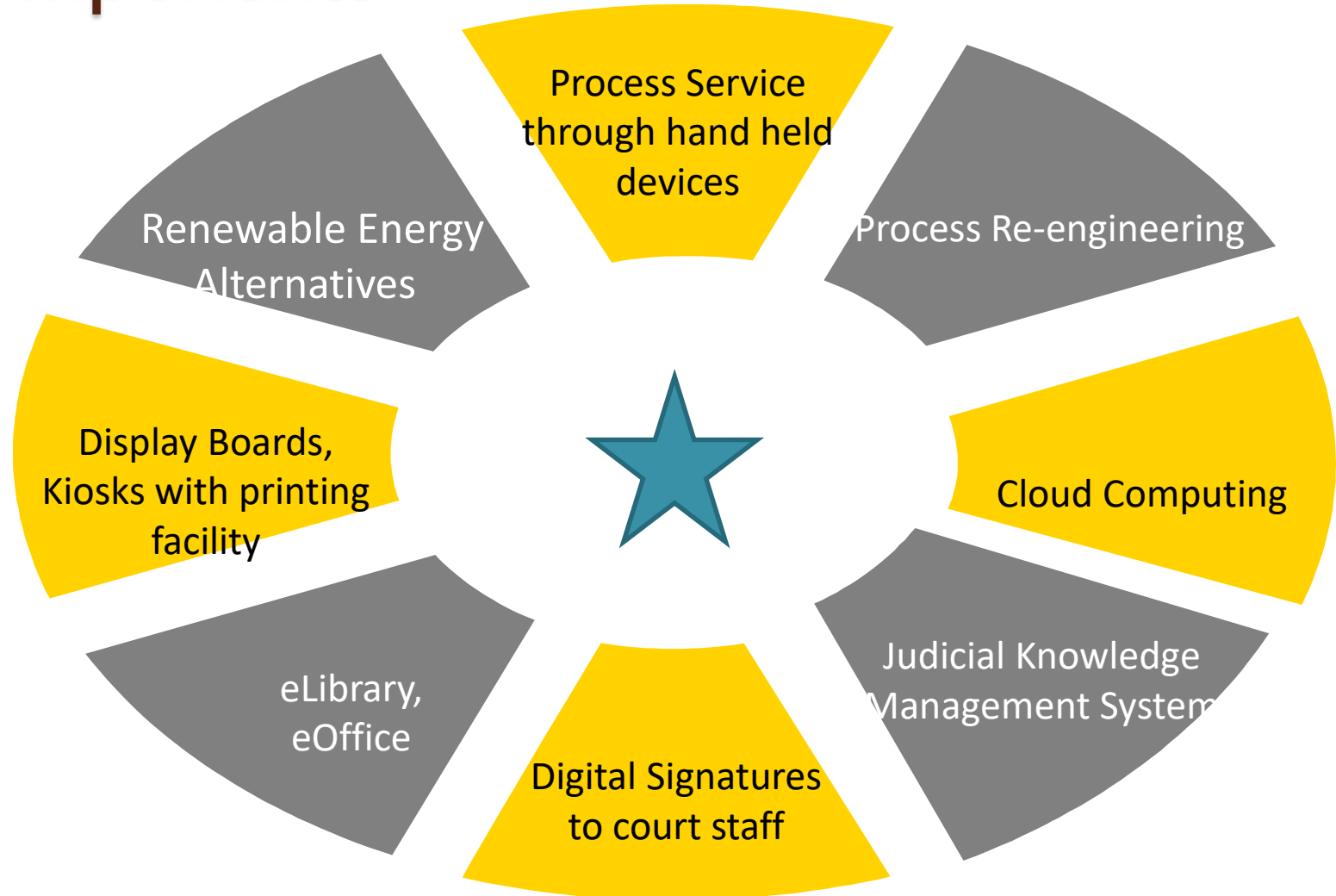- To provide efficient and time-bound citizen centric service delivery

Original objectives of the eCourts Mission Mode Project– Contd.

- To provide interoperability and compatibility with National Court Management System, Inter-operative Criminal Justice System, National Legal Service Authority, Prisons, Forensic labs, and other programmes to enhance the quantity and quality of the justice delivery system

- To develop, install and implement decision support systems in courts

- To automate the processes to provide transparency of information access to its stakeholders

Key strategies behind eCourts Phase-II Project

Citizen Centric

Core-Periphery Model

FOSS

eCourts Phase II – Key Additional Components

- Process Service through hand held devices
- Process Re-engineering
- Cloud Computing
- Judicial Knowledge Management System
- Digital Signatures to court staff
- eLibrary, eOffice
- Display Boards, Kiosks with printing facility
- Renewable Energy Alternatives

Ecourts Phase-II - Financials

- Sanctioned project – Rs 1670 crore
- Expenditure – Rs 1668.43 crore (31.03.2022)
- Courts computerised: 18735
- Rs 317.96 crore released to provide WAN connectivity; 2972 of 2992 court complexes (99.3% sites) have been provided with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed using various technologies like OFC, RF, VSAT (31.03.2022)

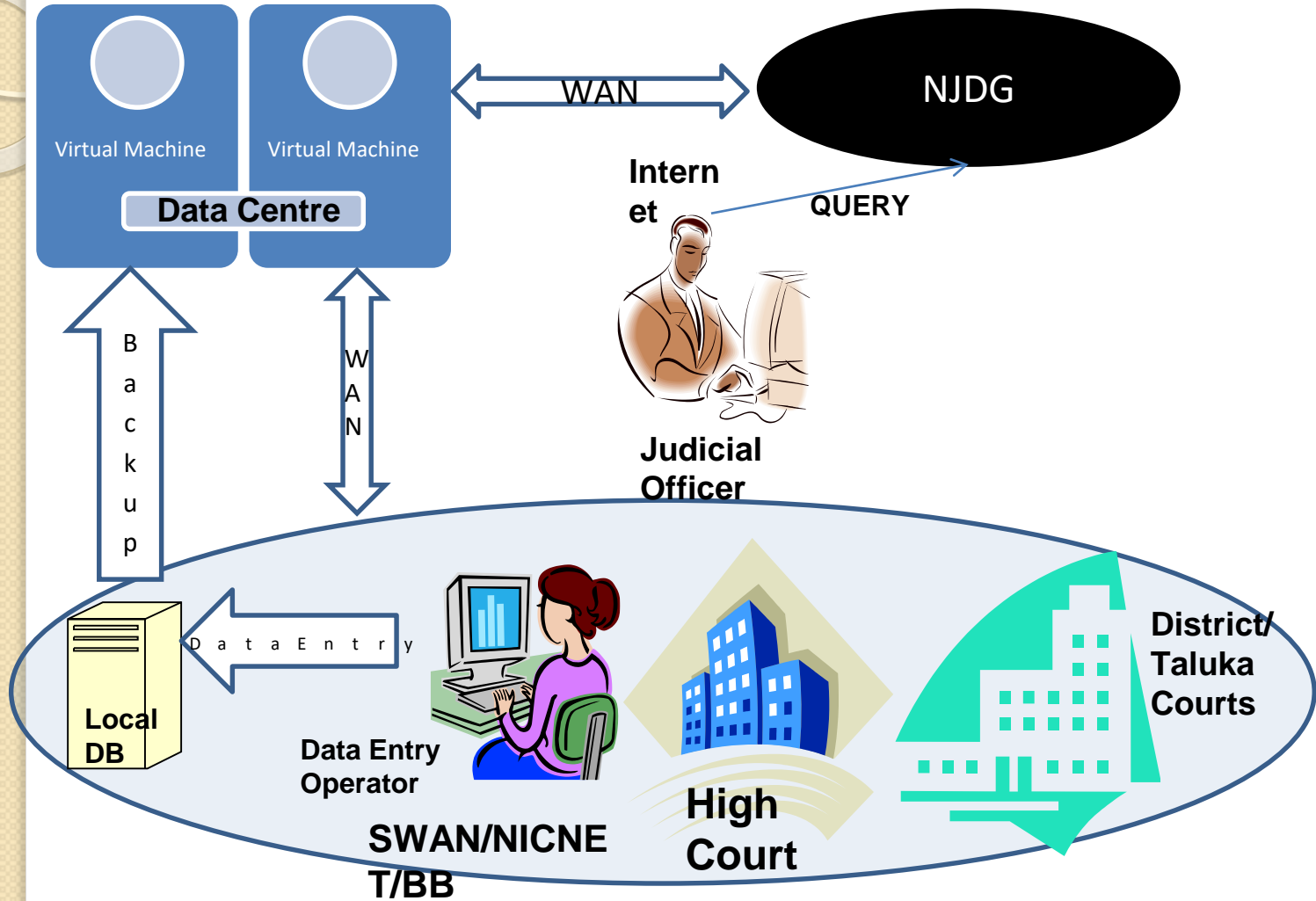# Proposed objectives of the eCourts Mission Mode Project in Phase -III

- interlinking of all courts across the country;

- ICT enablement of the Indian judicial system;

- enabling courts to enhance judicial productivity, both qualitatively and quantitatively and to make the justice delivery system accessible, cost-effective, transparent and accountable.

Currently under consideration of the eCommittee of the Supreme Court

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

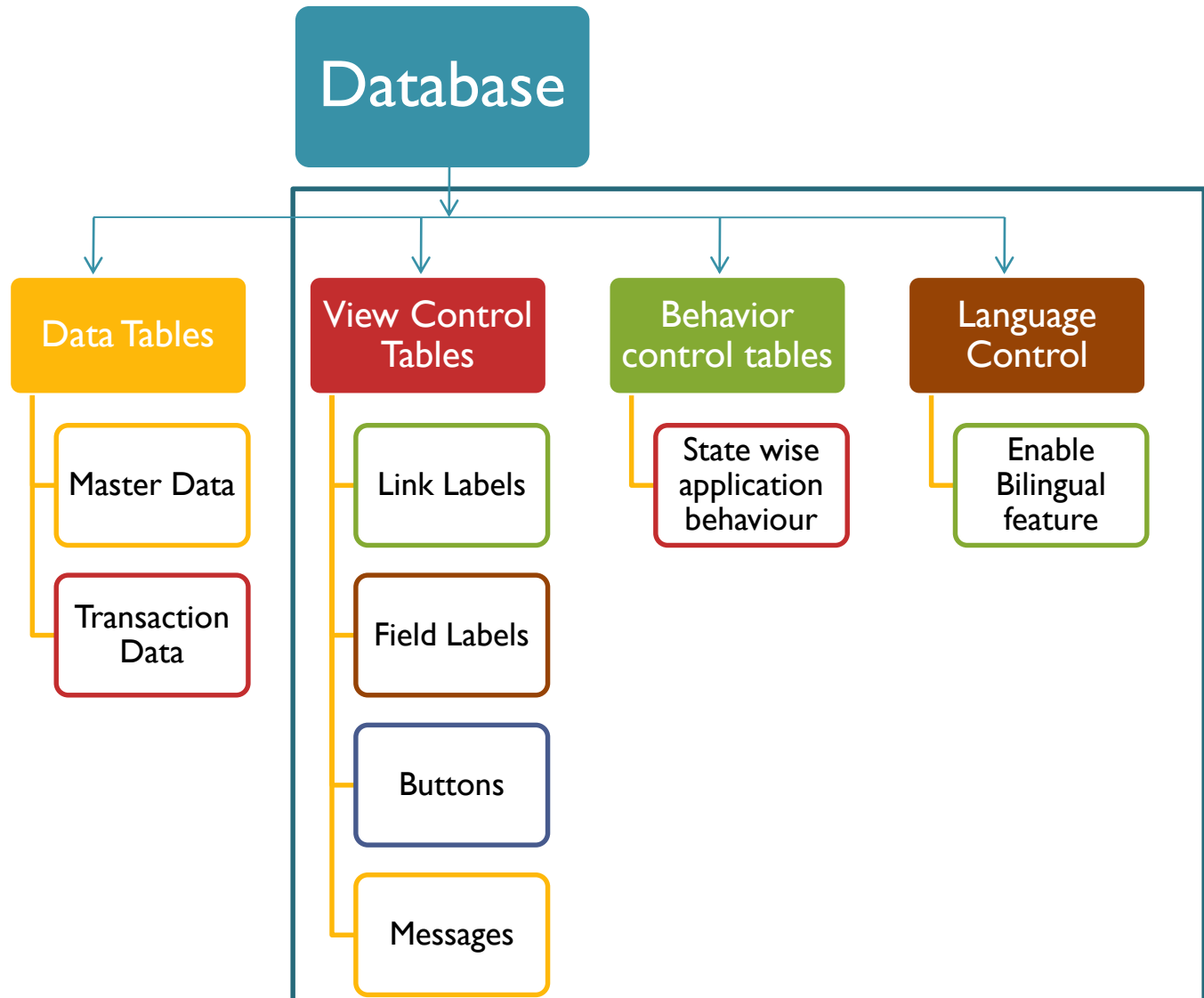- https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/njdgnew/?p=main/index :

  - provides case data for all courts through a web portal on almost real time basis, with a dashboard and drill down facility to reach the case details for each case

  - will help to ascertain the number and type of arrears in every court in the country for better judicial monitoring and management

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

Control Table Management

- Basic data structure of application

```
                        ┌─────────────┐
                        │  Database   │
                        └──────┬──────┘
        ┌───────────────┬──────┴────────┬───────────────┐
   ┌────▼─────┐  ┌──────▼──────┐  ┌──────▼──────┐  ┌──────▼──────┐
   │Data Tables│ │View Control │  │  Behavior   │  │  Language   │
   │          │  │   Tables    │  │control tables│ │   Control   │
   └────┬─────┘  └──────┬──────┘  └──────┬──────┘  └──────┬──────┘
   ┌────▼─────┐  ┌──────▼──────┐  ┌──────▼──────┐  ┌──────▼──────┐
   │Master Data│ │ Link Labels │  │ State wise  │  │   Enable    │
   └──────────┘  └─────────────┘  │ application │  │  Bilingual  │
   ┌──────────┐  ┌─────────────┐  │  behaviour  │  │   feature   │
   │Transaction│ │ Field Labels│  └─────────────┘  └─────────────┘
   │   Data   │  └─────────────┘
   └──────────┘  ┌─────────────┐
                 │   Buttons   │
                 └─────────────┘
                 ┌─────────────┐
                 │  Messages   │
                 └─────────────┘
```

Assistance for judicial officers/staff

- Management Manuals:
  - Case management CIS 3.0
  - E-Pay User
  - E-Court Services Mobile App
  - JustIS Mobile App
  - NSTEP App. For bailiffs for delivery of processes
- Master trainers available
- NIC Pune team available to help whenever they find a problem needing redress

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Information on NJDG and etaal

- Data in respect of more than 17.67 crore cases in subordinate courts, including 4.24 crore pending

- Data in respect of 60 lakh pending and 3.3 crore disposed cases in HCs

- 18.52 crore orders/judgments

- All High Courts, District and Taluka Court complexes [39 High Court establishments, 3413 subordinate court complexes] covered

- NJDG linked to etaal.gov.in, showing total 1213 crore e-transactions, including 266 crore transactions in 2022 alone, highest amongs MMPs

The Justice System in India is transparent

- Art 145 (4): Judgments to be delivered in open courts
- E-Courts Mission Mode Project: https://doj.gov.in/nationalmissions/ecourts-mission-mode-project .
- See details of services available at https://ecourts.gov.in/ecourts_home/
- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG); Seven ways to access court related information: in 20 languages: https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/njdgnew/
- E-Committee website: https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/

International Perspective

- Computerisation of courts is global phenomenon
- Due to different procedures in different jurisdictions, a comparison across jurisdictions may not be appropriate
- Perhaps that is why no comprehensive global comparison is available in literature
- India also focused on its own needs, rather than on global best practices

WJP Rule of Law Index

- The World Justice Project prepares a report on the state of Rule of Law in 139 countries, which includes dispensation of justice as one of the four principles of Rule of Law
- India ranks 79 overall. Civil and Criminal Justice are two of the eight factors of the WJP Rule of Law Index
- India is ranked 110 on Civil Justice and 86 on Criminal Justice
- Report available online at https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/global/2021/India/

International Framework for Court Excellence

- IFCE has developed guidelines for achieving court excellence
- It does not undertake any ranking exercise
- Its has developed seven areas of Court Excellence: leadership, customers, strategy, people, processes, knowledge and results
- These are aligned with the objectives of Vision 2009 of the Indian Justice system: IFCE can help evolve a framework to implement this Vision
- IFCE's Court Excellence Self Assessment Questionnaire is used to identify what areas of court excellence must be addressed in the short term and in the long term, developing a roadmap from 'what is' to 'what can be'
- Available online at https://www.courtexcellence.com/

THANK YOU