Ecourts MISSION MODE PROJECT : POLITY

NEWS: e-Court Mission Mode Project

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The eCourts Mission Mode Project integrates ICT into India's judiciary to improve efficiency, transparency, and access to justice, with initiatives like e-filing, video conferencing, and digital courts. It has been implemented in three phases since 2011, with a vision for a fully paperless and digital judicial system by 2027.

Overview

- **Objective**: To integrate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into India's judiciary, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accessibility.
- Implemented by: Department of Justice, Government of India, in collaboration with the eCommittee of the Supreme Court, through High Courts.

Phase I (2011–2015): Foundation of Computerization

- **Budget**: ₹935 crore (₹639.41 crore utilized).
- Key Achievements:
 - Computerization of 14,249 District and Subordinate courts.
 - Installation of Local Area Networks (LAN) in courts.
 - Provision of hardware and software to courts.
 - Distribution of laptops to judicial officers and their training in UBUNTU-Linux.
 - Video conferencing implemented between 493 court complexes and 347 jails.

Phase II (2015–2023): Enhanced ICT Enablement

- Budget: $\overline{1}$,670 crore ($\overline{1}$,668.43 crore utilized).
- Major Initiatives:
 - 99.5% of court complexes connected with high-speed Wide Area Networks (WAN).
 - Launch of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for case and judgment information.
 - Development of Case Information Software (CIS) for real-time case updates.
 - Video conferencing used for 3.38 crore hearings.
 - Launch of e-filing (version 3.0) and virtual courts in 21 states/UTs.
 - Establishment of 1,394 eSewa Kendras for citizens' access to e-court services.

Phase III (2023–2027): Digital Transformation

- **Budget**: ₹7,210 crore (approved outlay).
- Proposed Initiatives:
 - Creation of digital and paperless courts.
 - Complete digitization of all court records.
 - Expansion of video conferencing to jails and hospitals.

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- Adoption of AI technologies for case analysis and forecasting.
- Saturation of court complexes with eSewa Kendras and the establishment of cloudbased data repositories.



Significance

• Goal: To make justice more accessible, cost-effective, and efficient, transforming India's judicial system through a digital revolution.

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