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Modernizing the Indian Judicial System: The Rise of eCourts

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eCourts Portal: Gateway to India's Judicial System

Centralized Access:

- Single website for all Indian High Courts and District Courts
- Easy navigation to specific court websites

Case Management:

- Case Status Lookup: Search by CNR, case number, party name, etc.
- Judgments & Orders: Find specific legal decisions

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Court Services:

- High Court: Cause lists, case status, orders, judgments, NJDG data
- District Court: Cause lists, case status, orders, judgments, NJDG data

Efficiency Features:

- e-Filing: Electronically file legal documents, streamlining the filing process.
- ePay: Pay court fees electronically, eliminating the need for checks or cash.
- Virtual Courts: Attend court proceedings virtually, removing the requirement for physical presence.

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Benefits of the eCourts Portal

- Improved access to justice for Indian citizens
- Increased transparency in judicial proceedings
- Enhanced case management and efficiency
- Data-driven decision making for reducing case backlogs

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

Empowering Transparency in Indian Courts

Initiated by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India

Purpose:

- Centralized database for court orders, judgments, and case details
- Improves transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in the judicial system

Key Features:

- Real-time Updates: Near real-time data from connected courts
- Data Access: Case details, orders, and judgments
- **Case Status Tracking:** Monitor the progress of ongoing cases
- Pendency Analysis: Identify and analyze case backlogs
- **Delay Insights:** Understand reasons behind case delays

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

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eFiling

eFiling in India: Streamlining the Court Process

Benefits of eFiling

- **Save Time:** Skip the courthouse visit and file documents electronically from the comfort of your home or office.
- **Save Money:** Eliminate travel costs and potential parking fees associated with in-person filing.
- **Increased Efficiency:** The online system expedites document submission and processing, streamlining the court process

eFiling

- **Register for an Account:** Create a user account on the eFiling portal to access its features.
- File New Cases: Initiate new legal proceedings by electronically submitting the necessary documents.
- **Track Case Progress:** Monitor the status of your ongoing cases conveniently through the online portal.
- Access Court Orders: View court orders related to your cases directly within the eFiling platform.

eFiling Current Status and Future Developments

- **Current Version:** The High Court and Subordinate Courts of Sikkim are currently using eFiling version 1.0.
- **Payment Gateway:** SBI Collect, provided by the State Bank of India, facilitates court fee payments within the portal.
- **Upcoming Advancements:** Testing of eFiling version 3.0 is complete, and its launch is anticipated soon, bringing potential improvements and functionalities.

eFiling

Some Features of Efiling 3.0 are as follows.

- •Readymade Templates : Editable ready-made templates for various pleadings
- •Online Submission of Vakalat : Online creation and submission of Vakalat
- •e-Signing : e-Signing of uploaded document by multiple parties
- •Online Video Recording of Oath : Administer the oath by online video recording
- •Application Filing : Filing of several applications for different cases simultaneously
- •Portfolio Management : Portfolio and planner for managing cases
- •My Partners : Add colleagues, juniors etc as partners
- •Virtual Dashboard : Status of all the completed/pending case related activities

Virtual Courts

The Indian judicial system is undergoing a significant transformation with the introduction of virtual courts. These innovative courts allow individuals to file cases, make payments, and potentially attend hearings entirely online.

Benefits of Virtual Courts

- **Time Savings:** Eliminate travel time and waiting periods associated with traditional court visits.
- **Cost Savings:** Reduce expenses related to travel
- Accessibility: Facilitate participation in the court system for those residing in remote locations or facing mobility limitations.
- **Convenience:** File cases, make payments, and potentially attend hearings from the comfort of your home or office.

Virtual Courts

Services Offered by Virtual Courts

- Search by Mobile Number: Locate case information using your registered mobile number.
- Search by CNR: Access case details by entering the unique 16-digit alphanumeric Case Number Record.
- Search by Party Name: Find cases involving specific parties by name.
- Search by Challan/Vehicle Number: this option allows searching for traffic challan information using the challan or vehicle number

The Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is a significant initiative within the Indian legal framework

Recently, the central government approved the implementation of Phase II of the ICJS project by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The project has been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs 3,375 crore during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26

ICJS aims to create a national platform that enables seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system.

These pillars include:

Police: Through the Crime and Criminal Tracking and Network Systems (CCTNS).

Forensic Labs: For e-Forensics.

Courts: Utilizing e-Courts.

Public Prosecutors: Facilitated by e-Prosecution.

Prisons: Managed via e-Prisons

Key Features:

- Integration:
- One Data, One Entry:
- Secure Cloud Infrastructure:
- Implementation Responsibility:

Why ICJS is integrated in CIS?

The FIR and Charge sheet data is being fed by Police department in CCTNS software, the data of all FIRs and Charge sheets across India is available in ICJS. ICJS has provided API's to eCourts project so that data related to FIRs and Charge Sheet can be consumed in CIS thus minimizing or eliminating the need of data entry by court staff.

Consume FIR

The user can consume FIR details using Consume FIR option in ICJS menu. A table

with following parameters is

shown:

- Police Station Code
- Police station name
- FIR Number
- Total Records Available
- Consume button for consuming data

| ile Edit View Go B | Bookmarks Help | | | ecourts.pdf | | - 0 |
|--------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| ← → 8 of 13 | • | | | | | |
| Index 🔻 🗙 | | | | | | |
| About e-Filin 5 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Caveat Section | | | | | |
| | Fees 😁 | Consume Fir | | | | |
| | I-Court Fees | Show 10 v e | ntries | | Search: | C Refresh |
| | Registration Section 🔶 | Sr. No. | Police Station Nationa Code | I ♦ Police Station Name | 븆 FIR No. | 🚽 Total Records Available 🔶 Consume Record 🖨 |
| | Case Allocation | 1 | 28743055 | RANGPO | 16 | 4 New Records Consume |
| | Case Proceedings | 2 | 28743056 | RHENOCK | 4 | 1 New Record Consume |
| | Proceedings Reports | 3 | 28743065 | SINGTAM | 9 | 1 New Record Consume |
| | Proceeding Correction | 4 | 28743061 | SADAR | 39 | 1 New Record Consume |
| | Litigant Updations | 5 | 28743057 | RANIPOOL | 18 | 1 New Record Consume |
| | Appeals Information | 6 | 28743005 | CID PS | 0 | Consume |
| | Plead Guilty 6 | 7 | 28741001 | Vigilance | 0 | Consume |
| | Mediation | 8 | 28743025 | GANGTOK | 0 | Consume |
| | Lok Adalat 💿 | 9 | 28743045 | PAKYONG | 10 | Consume |
| | Query Builder 📀 | 10 | 28743058 | RONGLI | 1 | Consume |
| | Б ЈРМС 💮 | | | | | Previous 1 2 Next |
| | Pretrial 😁 | Showing 1 to 10 of 12 entries Previous 1 2 Next | | | | |
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| | Copying Branch | | | | | |
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