

INTER-OPERABLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (ICJS), MHA, GoI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), conceptualized by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) and implemented as a project under the Ministry of Home Affairs, seeks to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system, like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories, from one platform.

In January 2022, the Cabinet approved reform areas for the ICJS Project at a cost of Rs. 3375 crores for the period FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26. The reform targets improvements of existing systems and inclusion of modern technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI)/ Machine learning (ML), Blockchain, Natural Language Processing, Facial Recognition, etc., to fulfil the aspirations of various stakeholders. The major target area of the scheme is: (1) Development of common Platform through Cloud data services (DC & DR), (2) Achieving online Paperless sharing of data & information among all LEAs, (3) Providing improved access & services to citizens, (4) Modernization of existing IT systems, including CCTNS, (5) Consumption of modern technology & tools like blockchain, artificial intelligence, facial recognition etc. in workflow integration and analytics, (6) Greater collaboration between agencies for criminal investigations, and (7) Development of business intelligence tools & Dashboards to facilitate smart policing.

The ICJS scheme is implemented by NCRB and NIC. The scheme, as per the approval of CCEA, has the sunset of March 31, 2026, and therefore its assessment was entrusted to Indian Institute of Public Administration for its continuation/restructuring, etc.

The third party evaluation of the scheme was designed by laying down overarching objectives like (1) to study financial and physical achievements of the scheme, (2) to study the efficacy of development of common platforms, cloud exclusiveness and Digi-Locker, (3) to examine the achieving online paperless sharing of data and information among all the pillars of criminal justice system viz. CCTNS, Forensic, Prosecution, Court and Prison, (4) to analyze modernization of existing IT systems and Development of new applications including CCTNS,

(5) to analyze consumption of modern technology and tools like facial recognition, DNA, fingerprints and iris, (6) to assess collaboration between agencies for criminal investigation, (7) to assess the development of business intelligence tools & Dashboards to facilitate Smart Policing, and (8) to suggest measures to improve the effectiveness of the scheme.

In order to get responsive feedback on the objectives of the study, a descriptive methodology was designed in positivist frame by taking up a mixed method approach where a blend of qualitative and quantitative data points was used. To get the quantitative data points, a semi-structured questionnaire was administered along with focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and observation. A total of 571 responses, 93 police stations, 10 focus group discussions, 10 indepth interviews were conducted across States/UTs viz. (1) Assam, (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Maharashtra (4) Madhya Pradesh, (5) Jammu and Kashmir (6) Andhra Pradesh (7) Rajasthan (8) Bihar, (9) Uttar Pradesh and (10) Telangana.

Based on primary data collection, review of secondary literature, discussions with MHA, NCRB, and NIC, the following major findings have been arrived at:

1. The ICJS as reform addresses facilitating seamless integration between various data sets of police, prison, forensics, prosecution and courts, which are said to be in silos. The scheme also enhances data quality by fixing errors in data entry and increases effectiveness and timeliness in investigations and consequently in trials, due to easy access to data between pillars. The scheme has also enabled effective use of data analytics and AI/ML tools in the investigations. The scheme vouches for reducing dependence on paper records in decision making. Finally, the scheme promotes shifting towards smart policing and speedy justice.
2. The ICJS scheme is designed around high availability dedicated cloud services, targeting 100% system uptime. It employs a common platform designed to ensure seamless interoperability while upholding a federated ownership model for data sovereignty. Furthermore, the scheme integrates advanced enterprise data lake services and is undertaking a comprehensive application refresh for CCTNS, eForensics, eProsecution, and ePrisons, with greater emphasis on upgrading User Experience (UX) and UI graphics..

3. The ICJS scheme is implemented in 36 States/UTs. The implemented States/UTs are: (1) A&N Islands (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Arunachal Pradesh (4) Assam (5) Bihar (6) Chandigarh (7) Chhattisgarh (8) Delhi (9) DNH & DD (10) Goa (11) Gujarat (12) Haryana (13) Himachal Pradesh (14) Jammu & Kashmir (15) Jharkhand (16) Karnataka (17) Kerala (18) Ladakh (19) Lakshadweep (20) Madhya Pradesh (21) Maharashtra (22) Manipur (23) Meghalaya (24) Mizoram (25) Nagaland (26) Odisha (27) Puducherry (28) Punjab (29) Rajasthan (30) Sikkim (31) Tamil Nadu (32) Telangana (33) Tripura (34)Uttar Pradesh (35) Uttarakhand (36) West Bengal. As such, the scheme has nationwide coverage with onboarded 17712 police stations across the country.
4. The expenditure pattern shows the highest for the FY 2025-26 (43.11%), followed by 2024-25 (32.08%), 2023-24 (16.4%) and 2022-23 (8.3%) of the total expenditure across the financial years. This trend shows that as the scheme is progressing over the years, its coverage, outreach and bandwidth are increasing, indicating optimisation of the scheme's outcomes. It also reveals that CCTNS was predominantly overruled in terms of expenditure patterns. Under the ICJS scheme, some more components were included.
5. The Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) scheme has increased digital transformation and data analytics through CCTNS, where the instrument has been deployed in all 17760 police stations and higher offices in our country. The e-forensics has been placed in 143 forensic labs across the country. (source- e-Forensic Web Portal Dashboard)
6. The e-prosecution is deployed and operational in 751 districts and state prosecution offices. The e-Prisons are functional in a total of 1376 prisons. The system has enabled 42 crores records for police research. 94% State National Data synchronisation has been enabled. CCTNS has enabled 99.7% network connectivity.
7. The FIRs were found to be registered in almost all police stations of our country, wherein the instrumental contributions are made by CCTNS. As a result of it, the end-to-end digitalisation of the criminal care life cycle has been instituted. The FIRs are registered and updated in real-time. The case diaries, investigation notes and final reports are stored digitally.
8. To acknowledge the advantage of CCTNS, all States/UTs have successfully been entering data into the upgraded CCTNS since July 1, 2024. More than 50.46 lakh FIRs were

registered under BNS. User manuals for field-level officers of States/UTs have been provided. Over 2200 officers have been trained on the New Criminal Laws. (01 Jul 24-30 Nov 2025).

9. A total of Rs. 3375 crore was sanctioned for the FY 2022-23 to 2025-26. In this duration, the maximum allocation has been done on Hardware (Application servers and client-end systems with AMC) (31.9%), followed by Software update for ICJS (20.36%), ICJS Development and Management (18.99%), IT Infrastructure (dedicated and secure Cloud-based) (10.81%), Network Connectivity (9.94%), Operations and Maintenance (5.93%) and awareness and capacity building (2.88%).
10. The scheme has been ambitious in reaching its target and even in most cases, exceeding it. The data reveals dynamism embedded in the scheme components. The information tabulated reveals that the police stations using CCTNS exceeded the target and reached an additional score of 8.5%+. The component is operational in all 36 States/UTs.
11. A total of 143 e-forensic labs exist in our country. This was also envisaged in the latest scheme guidelines. The same was found operational. As part of its effort to further expedite forensic analysis and reduce backlogs in laboratories, the MHA has set up three new Central Forensic Sciences Laboratories (CFSLs) at Bhopal, Guwahati and Pune and upgraded the existing CFSL at Kolkata with the latest state-of-the-art machinery and equipment.
12. Against the mentioned figure of 3501 total court complexes in 751 districts, a total of 3652 court complexes were found under the ICJS scheme, which grew by 4.31%+ after 15.02.2024. It shows the expansion in the number of court complexes. The major issues registered in e-prosecution were with the server being down. The bandwidth issue was reported to have caused interruptions.
13. The e-prison was found to be one of the effective components under the scheme, against the total of 1293 prisons mentioned as e-enabled in the latest guidelines, a total of 1376 prisons are e-enabled. The prisons have had a total of 21801302 records.
14. The bandwidth was found to be an issue, particularly in Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan. The internet speed distribution across Indian states reveals a stark digital divide with significant implications for the implementation of the technology-dependent ICJS scheme. States such as Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan

demonstrate predominantly low internet speeds, with Bihar showing complete reliance on connections below 10 Mbps and Jammu and Kashmir having 87.7% of its connectivity in this lowest category.

15. Moving beyond the initial digital divide, the project has achieved connectivity compliance in **6,603 Police Stations (36.2% of the national total of 17,760)**. Remedial actions are also visible in critical regions, with **Rajasthan** actively upgrading its bandwidth infrastructure to meet the high-speed requirements of the ICJS 2.0 mandate.
16. The existing IT system has rebooted and improved CCTNS with the development of common platforms through cloud data services (DC & DR). It intends to achieve online paperless sharing of data and information among all Leas. It also provides improved access and services to citizens. The modernisation of existing IT systems, including CCTNS. Consumption of modern technology & tools like blockchain, artificial intelligence, facial recognition, etc., in workflow integration and analytics. Integration of NAFIS with the State police, FSLs and prisons.
17. Chi-square calculated (918.92) is more than Chi-square tabulated (21.026), so we fail to accept the null hypothesis of having no relationships and coordination. As such, on the above components, the implementation is very effective, and all the major components under ICJS are strongly integrated. The strong association also emanates from the fact that ICJS is a software-driven digital instrument. It has also been appreciated by all five agencies involved in delivering justice to the victims.
18. Out of the total responses collected on four components, 38.9% for use of fingerprints, 49.4% for cloud connectivity, 65.1% for crime data analytics and 18.4% for blockchain were found to have affirmative responses. In fingerprint use, maximum responses were received in the state of Assam (37.8%), followed by Assam again in cloud connectivity (25.5%), Andhra Pradesh in crime data analytics (36.3%) and Assam in blockchain use (65.7%).
19. The Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is a central sector scheme under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, comprising key components such as CCTNS, e-Prisons, e-Forensics, and e-Prosecution. The scheme has achieved extensive coverage, including 17,712 police stations, creation of 42 crore records for police search,

94% State-National data synchronisation, 99.7% network connectivity, and uploading photos for 80.5% of missing persons.

20. Additionally, Additionally, 50.46 lakh FIRs registered under BNS have been integrated, and extensive training has been provided to police officers. ICJS enables instant data access, smart analytics for proactive policing, integrated intelligence, faster and more accurate forensic examinations across labs, and strengthened interoperability within the criminal justice system. **The evaluation study recommends the continuation of the ICJS scheme** and further suggests its enhancement, noting that the scheme was originally approved prior to the enactment of the new criminal laws. With the new laws now in force, the Ministry may consider enhancing the current scheme and extending it for the next five years to meet the requirements of the new criminal statutes, address growing interoperability needs, expand data storage capacity, develop new applications to support the revised procedures, and ensure continued funding for the centralised cloud, application management and maintenance, and deployment of technical resource

