**The concept of e-courts, e-filing, e-arguments, e-documents discovery and e-justice in the Digital administration of Justice for early Justice to the Stakeholders.**

BY KALYANRAO PEDDIREDDI B.COM(HONS) in Company Secretary & Business Administration; L.L.B & L.L.M (Constitutional Law of India, U.S. American Constitution, Swiss Constitution, British Constitution); Former District & Sessions Judge, now lives at Hyderabad.

 **The concept of e-courts and e-justice has been introduced by the Hon’ble Supreme Court more than a decade ago in the Hon’ble Supreme Court and the Hon’ble High Courts. The Judicial Officers have been supplied with laptops, email addresses, book material in the Year 2007 and also got imparted training for the Judicial Officers and Staff in the implementation of e-courts and even staff members in High Courts and subordinate courts are given material and training.**

 **Earlier, E-COMMITTEE OF SUPREME COURT OF INDIA has adopted a Policy and Action Plan Document- Phase II of the E-COURTS PROJECT (as approved on 8th January, 2014) During Phase I of the eCourts Project, in a very large number of Court Complexes, Computer Server Rooms and Judicial Service Centers have been readied. These Courts are now providing basic case-related services to litigants and lawyers. Change Management exercise has been successfully implemented. The e-transactions include the services of Case Status, Cause-list, Cases filed and Cases registered.**

 **The Website of the Court can be accessed to https://ecourts.gov.in/services which are very useful for stakeholders who include the learned Advocates, parties in Civil Cases and Accused and Victims in Criminal Cases & others who can derive information of data of Cases in Courts on the Internet anywhere from the world.**

 **Phase II of the Project aims to take a holistic approach in computerizing and for automating the processes of the Courts, the requirement of hardware will be considerably higher than planned or provided in Phase of the Project. For fully utilizing the infrastructure of Judicial Service Centre(J.S.C), using computers for process of Registry like certified copies issuance, process issuance, process service monitoring, judicial accounting, court Library management, other workflow/process automation applications like e-office etc. sufficient hardware infrastructure will invariably be required for all the Courts of the Country. The Project envisages to provide efficient & time-bound citizen centric service delivery, to develop, install & implement decision support systems in courts, to automate the processes to provide transparency of information access to its stakeholders and to enhance judicial productivity both qualitatively & quantitatively, to make the justice delivery system affordable, accessible, cost effective & transparent.**

 **Video-conferencing: Presently, an exercise is being undertaken to assess the viability of a software based solution for video-conferencing. It will be used to connect all district court complexes with all Central Jails and District Jails. Video conferring in Phase II will go beyond routine remands and production of under trial prisoners. It will be used initially for recording evidence in sensitive cases and gradually extended to cover as many types of cases as possible.**

**DURING RECENT CONFERENCE OF HON’BLE CHIEF JUSTICES OF ALL HIGH COURTS AT NEW DELHI ON 22 & 23 OF APRIL,2016 WHERE HON’BLE SRI JUSTICE T.S.THAKUR, HON’BLE CHIEF JUSTICE, SHRI NARENDRA MODHIJI, HON’BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD, HON’BLE UNION MINISTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE AND I.T WERE CHAIRED ON THE OCCASION, THE CONFERENCE HAS CONSIDERED, “IMPLEMENTATION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, items 1.Establishment of E-Courts; ii)Updation on National Judicial Data Grid; iii)Uniform Nomen clature; iv)Cadre of technical manpower; v)E-filing and Video Conferencing; vi)Scanning & digitization ant the Conference has noted that connectivity is one of the most serious challenges which the Judiciary is facing in the area of I.C.T IMPLEMENTATION and if it is not resolved soon, efforts on I.C.T implementation may not bear desired fruit for litigants and the public and Resolved that “a Webpage in the name of Indian Courts and IT be created by NJA containing all the schemes of the High Courts in order to enable all the High Courts to upload their experiences and results in order that best practices can be shared and the National Judicial Academy be requested to undertake a study of different practices and procedures in court proceedings and the need for unification of such procedures and practices in the Hon’ble High Courts.**

**RECENTLY, THE HON’BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA HAS INFORMED THAT COPIES OF JUDGMENT AND ORDERS WOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO E-MAILS OF LEARNED ADVOCATES ON RECORD FOR THE PARTIES IN THE CASES.**

**SATYAMEVA JAYETHER=MERA BHARAT MAHAAN=JAI HIND.**