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# One Case One Data and Su-Sahayak: CJI Launches AI-Era Judicial Platforms

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# One Case One Data and Su-Sahayak: CJI Launches AI-Era Judicial Platforms

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## WHY IN NEWS

On May 11, 2026, **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** – the 52nd CJI – launched two flagship judicial digitisation tools: “**One Case One Data**”, a unified case-information platform integrating the Supreme Court, all High Courts, district and taluka courts; and **Su-Sahayak**, an AI chatbot built by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** with the **Supreme Court Registry** to help citizens navigate case status, court services, and procedural information. Both are products of **eCourts Phase III**.

## BACKGROUND: INDIA’S JUDICIAL DIGITISATION JOURNEY

India’s judicial backlog – over **5.2 crore pending cases** across all courts (NJDG, May 2026) – has made digitisation an institutional necessity rather than an option.

PHASE	TIMELINE	OUTLAY	SCOPE
eCourts Phase I	2010-2015	Rs 935 crore	Hardware, basic computerisation
eCourts Phase II	2015-2023	Rs 1,670 crore	NJDG, e-filing, virtual courts
eCourts Phase III	2023-2027 (4 yrs)	<b>Rs 7,210 crore</b>	AI, blockchain, citizen platforms

eCourts Phase III was approved by the Union Cabinet in September 2023 and aims to make courts more “**digital, online, and paperless.**”

## “ONE CASE ONE DATA”: UNIFYING COURT DATA

### What it does

- **Single source of truth** for every case across the hierarchy – Supreme Court, 25 High Courts, and ~16,000 district and taluka courts
- **Automated retrieval and verification** of case information – removes duplicate data entry and reconciles records across courts

- **Reciprocal data access** between High Courts – a HC can pull case history from another HC in real time
- Integrates with **NJDG (National Judicial Data Grid)** as the **pendency analytics backbone**

## Why it matters

- Currently, lawyers and litigants tracking a case that moved from a district court to a High Court to the Supreme Court must search three separate portals. “One Case One Data” stitches them.
- Reduces opportunities for forum-shopping, parallel proceedings, and fraudulent CNR numbers.
- Builds the data spine for AI-assisted case management.

## SU-SAHAYAK: AI CHATBOT FOR CITIZEN ACCESS

### Architecture

- Built by **NIC** in partnership with the **Supreme Court Registry**
- Multilingual; designed for non-lawyer users
- Functions: case status retrieval, listing information, eFiling guidance, payment of court fees, downloading orders, scheduling video hearings

### Why it matters

- ~70% of Indian litigants are first-time users with limited legal literacy
- Removes the procedural **opacity** that benefits intermediaries
- Sits alongside **SUPACE** (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency, 2021) which assists judges with case research

TOOL	AUDIENCE	FUNCTION
<b>SUPACE</b>	Judges	Case research, summarisation
<b>SUVAS</b>	Judges, lawyers	Translation of orders into Indian languages
<b>Su-Sahayak (2026)</b>	Citizens	Procedural assistance, case access
<b>NJDG</b>	Public, judges	Pendency dashboard
<b>One Case One Data (2026)</b>	Courts, lawyers, litigants	Unified case record

## CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY ANCHOR

- **Article 39A:** Equal justice and free legal aid – DPSP
- **Article 21:** Right to life – includes timely access to justice (*Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar*, 1979)
- **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023:** governs electronic and digital evidence; recognises records from court IT systems

## CONCERNS AND CAVEATS

- ❶ **Data protection** – court records contain sensitive personal data; the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** has narrow exemptions for judicial data, but redaction protocols need clear standards.
- ❷ **AI hallucination risk** – Su-Sahayak must not produce legal opinions; scope confined to factual procedural information.
- ❸ **Digital divide** – access still mediated by smartphone/internet penetration; eSeva Kendras and common service centres remain essential.
- ❹ **Algorithmic transparency** – citizens have no right yet to know the logic behind any AI-generated response.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### GS Paper 2 – Polity and Governance

- Judicial reform and access to justice
- e-Governance initiatives in the judiciary
- Article 39A, Article 21 (*Hussainara Khatoon*)

### GS Paper 3 – Science and Technology

- AI in public service delivery
- Cyber security and data protection (DPDP Act 2023)

### Mains Angles

- ❶ Examine the role of digital platforms in reducing India's judicial pendency. Are they sufficient without procedural reform?

- 2 Discuss the ethical safeguards required when AI is deployed in citizen-facing judicial services.
- 3 “Digitisation cannot substitute for adequate judicial strength.” Comment in light of the 1:50,000 judge-population ratio.

### FACTS CORNER – KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

**CJI SURYA KANT: 52ND CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA, IN OFFICE SINCE 2025 (SWORN IN NOVEMBER 24, 2025); TENURE UNTIL FEBRUARY 2027.**

#### **ECOURTS PHASE III:**

Approved by Union Cabinet, September 2023

Outlay: Rs 7,210 crore over 4 years

Goals: digital, online, paperless courts; expansion of NJDG; AI/ML integration

**ONE CASE ONE DATA: UNIFIED CASE-DATA PLATFORM; INTEGRATES SC + 25 HCS + ~16,000 DISTRICT AND TALUKA COURTS; RECIPROCAL HC ACCESS; LAUNCHED MAY 11, 2026.**

**SU-SAHAYAK: AI CHATBOT; BUILT BY NIC + SC REGISTRY; MULTILINGUAL; CITIZEN-FACING.**

**NJDG: NATIONAL JUDICIAL DATA GRID; PENDENCY DASHBOARD; LIVE DATA FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

**SUPACE (2021): SC PORTAL FOR ASSISTANCE IN COURT EFFICIENCY – AI TOOL FOR JUDGES (NOT THE SAME AS SU-SAHAYAK).**

**HUSSAINARA KHATOON V. STATE OF BIHAR (1979): SC HELD SPEEDY TRIAL AS PART OF ARTICLE 21.**

**ARTICLE 39A: DPSP – EQUAL JUSTICE AND FREE LEGAL AID.**

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