



E-Prisons Project

Why in News

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has **provided financial assistance** of Rs. 99.49 crores **to the States and Union Territories (UTs) for the E-Prisons Project.**

- Also, acting on the request of the MHA, **NIMHANS**, an Institute of National Importance, has recently issued [a set of guidelines on the management of mental health issues](#) of the prisoners and prison staff.

Key Points

▪ About:

- This project **aims at computerization of the functioning of prisons** in the country. It has been **operationalised in all States and Union Territories.**
- e-Prisons **data has been integrated with the Police and Court system** under the **Inter-operable [Criminal Justice System](#).**
- ePrisons application suite has been **developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).**
- **It has 3 components:**

- **e-Prison Management Information System (MIS):** It is used at the prisons for their day to day regular activities.
- **National Prisons Information Portal:** It is a citizen centric portal showing statistical data of various prisons in the country.
- **Kara Bazaar:** Portal for showcasing and selling the products manufactured in various prisons of the country by inmates.

▪ Inter-operable Criminal Justice System:

- It is a **common platform for information exchange and analytics of all the pillars of the criminal justice system** comprising Police, Forensics, Prosecution, Courts, Prisons.
- **Purpose:** To **reduce errors and time taken** in sharing of necessary information between the pillars, which often lead to larger challenges like **longer duration of trials, poorer convictions, transit losses of documents etc.**
- Some other critical benefits arising out of the ICJS ecosystem are usable analytics products like the **National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO)** to identify & track repeat and habitual sexual offenders.

Prisons/'Persons detained therein'

- It is a **State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule** to the Constitution of India.
- Administration and management of prisons is the responsibility of respective State Governments.
- However, the Ministry of Home Affairs provides regular guidance and advice to States and UTs on various issues concerning prisons and prison inmates.
- The Supreme Court had in September 2018 appointed the [Justice Roy Committee](#) to examine

the various problems plaguing prisons, from overcrowding to lack of legal advice to convicts to issues of remission and parole.

Source: PIB

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