E-Vidhan system to be in place during upcoming UP assembly budget session

LUCKNOW: The hitherto hallowed UP Vidhan Sabha proceedings are set to hit the internet circuit and stream live on various social media platforms including YouTube and Facebook.

Thanks to the e-Vidhan system, the paradigm makeover will come into effect on May 23 when the UP assembly convenes its budget session -- its first since the BJP returned to power for the second consecutive time after the recently concluded assembly polls. The MLAs and UP ministers will get the feel of the new system on May 21 and May 22.

Assembly speaker Satish Mahana said the application of the e-Vidhan system will allow the people to ascertain the performance of their MLAs in the assembly. "Our aim is to bring in transparency and efficiency," he said, after chairing an all-party meeting at the Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday.

The development comes more than a year after Yogi Adityanath's government, during its first tenure, turned the state cabinet meeting paperless. The UP budget too was made paperless days later. The e-Vidhan system has already been implemented in Kerala and Himachal Pradesh. Mahana said that the application of the e-Vidhan System will allow the state assembly to get connected with its counterpart in other states. This will be part of Digital India's National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) which has been conceptualized by the Union parliamentary affairs ministry.

The seat of every MLA will be pre-decided in the assembly. Ministers, MLAs will be able to participate in the proceedings of the assembly only by logging in from the tablet installed on their seat. The number of seats in the assembly, too, are proposed to be increased from the existing 379 to 403 which is the full strength of Vidhan Sabha. This way 24 additional seats are proposed to be installed -- essentially for ministers who are otherwise part of the Vidhan Parishad.

The members will also have a touch screen device installed on their desk which will allow them access to various documents, including bills, budget, questions raised by the members and answers received from the treasury benches.

The Vidhan Sabha secretariat is also in the process of setting up a video-conferencing studio through which the MLAs and officials will be able to interact with their counterparts in other states. Officials said the e-Vidhan system will be made effective in two phases. In phase 1, emphasis will be on digital legislature, making available all questions, notices, and reports, bill management system, web-casting, and a portal for all members. The second phase will focus on digital archives, library automation, and e-constituency.