



The Indian Journal for Research in Law and Management

Open Access Law Journal – Copyright © 2025

Editor-in-Chief – Dr. Muktai Deb Chavan; Publisher – Alden Vas; ISSN: 2583-9896

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USE OF AI IN INDIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM: A BOON OR A BANE?

- *Shafaq Gupta*

Indian judicial system has not remained untouched from the revolution brought in by artificial intelligence in the 21st century. The use of AI has grown exponentially over a few years to enhance the working and accessibility of judicial system by giving legal advice, citing precedents, managing clerical works, predicting judicial decisions and understanding broader legal implications in a few cases etc. Even Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the former CJI, has focused immensely about his vision to create paperless and virtual courts over the cloud.¹

But is the process fair and transparent? Or are there any data privacy concerns? To analyse these issues in depth, this blog aims to explore the benefits and the challenges associated with using AI in judicial system. Does it serve as a boon or a bane that strikes at the credibility of decision making. So, let us delve deeper into the topic.

USE OF AI IN JUDICIARY

1. SUVAS²

It stands for Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software. Basically, it's an AI tool to translate the judgement into English or other regional languages such as Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada etc. It derives power from Article 348(2)³ which allows Hindi or other regional languages to be used in High Courts if the governor takes President's assent for it. Therefore, India is able to meet its linguistic diversity with help of it.

¹ Sounak Mukhopadhyay, *Artificial Intelligence in Judiciary: CJI D.Y. Chandrachud Speaks on Possibilities of AI, Role of Judges in Such Cases*, Live Mint (May 06, 2023, 02:24 PM) <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/artificial-intelligence-in-judiciary-cji-dy-chandrachud-speaks-on-possibilities-of-ai-role-of-judges-in-such-cases-11683360787252.html>.

² Ministry of Law and Justice, *Action Plan for Simple, Accessible, Affordable and Speedy Justice*, PIB Delhi, (Aug 10, 2023, 05:09 PM) <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1947490>

³ INDIA CONST. art 348, cl. 2.

2. SUPACE⁴

It stands for Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency. As the name suggests, it is an AI tool which helps the SC judges to sort case files, focus on important facts of the case, gives precedents which may be useful. But the information shared by it must be cross-checked for reliability.

3. E-COURTS⁵

E-Courts is one project which aims to ensure accountability and transparency in the lower judiciary system. By accessing it through an app or website, the various stakeholders of the case can get access to cause list and know about the status of their case. It even allows for e-filing of cases, e-payment of court fees and video conferencing facilities.

CHALLENGES FACED

The numerous challenges⁶ faced in using AI in judicial system are as follows -

1. BREACH OF DATA PRIVACY

AI is a network of computer systems which needs to be trained by humans by putting large amounts of relevant data in it. That data may contain personal information like name of parties, witness, facts of the case and even sensitive information. It may even involve some records of major financial transactions. Therefore, it lacks transparency⁷. Unauthorized data access may be given or data may be manipulated accidentally. So, it becomes difficult to comply with data privacy laws.

2. ALGORITHMIC BIAS

Each and every case needs to be decided on its own merits. But AI may generate similar decisions for a different set of facts based upon historical social imbalances of caste, religion,

⁴ Express News Service, *CJI launches top court's AI-driven research portal*, Indian Express (April 07, 2021, 02:55 PM) <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/cji-launches-top-courts-ai-driven-research-portal-7261821/>

⁵ E-Courts Services, https://ecourts.gov.in/ecourts_home/, (last visited July 12, 2025)

⁶ Aditi Prabhu, *Artificial intelligence in the context of the Indian legal profession and judicial system*, Bar and Bench (Aug 12, 2023, 01:01 PM) <https://www.barandbench.com/columns/artificial-intelligence-in-context-of-legal-profession-and-indian-judicial-system>

⁷ Shruti Kumari, *The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Modern Courts: A Tool of Transformation or a Threat to Justice*, SSRN (June 14, 2025) <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5294742>

gender and creed etc. Therefore, it is important for the judges to apply their judicial mind and don't rely solely on legal advice given by AI.

3. ETHICAL LICENSING STANDARDS

When you get enrolled as an advocate in any state bar council, you become bound by the ethical standards of professional conduct. But unlike humans, AI does not carry any license to practise law and hence, is not accountable for misleading legal advice, fake case citations, biased decisions etc. Advocates must be vigilant towards its use. Otherwise, costs can be imposed upon them.

4. INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY

AI is just a tool to increase accessibility and knowledge but can never replace a human mind. A judge is in a position to decide the matter in a right way because of his past experiences. AI can't be relied on fully and effects the independence of judiciary by influencing biased decisions.

CASE LAWS AND OPINIONS

There are varied viewpoints and court decisions which approve or disapprove the use of AI and also tells us about its impact on our judicial system.

Justice B.R. Gavai⁸, the Chief Justice of India, rightly pointed out that AI must be used with caution as it lacks human emotions and moral reasoning. It is not capable of truly understanding the full nature of complexities involved in the case.

Justice Surya Kant⁹, while speaking on Microsoft's Fireside Chat on 'AI and Law', warned against unchecked deployment of AI which could further magnify the social inequalities prevalent in our society. AI as a tool must be kept subordinate to fairness and human dignity.

⁸ Krishnadas Rajagopal, *Artificial Intelligence in judiciary must not replace human mind and judgment: Justice Gavai*, The Hindu (March 10, 2025, 08:02 PM) <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/artificial-intelligence-in-judiciary-must-not-replace-human-mind-and-judgment-justice-gavai/article69313653.ece>

⁹ Utkarsh Anand, *AI must be subordinate to fairness, equity, human dignity: Justice Surya Kant*, The Hindustan Times (June 10, 2025, 08:48 PM) <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ai-must-be-subordinate-to-fairness-equity-human-dignity-justice-surya-kant-101749525519765.html>

A recent judgement of Manipur High Court in the case of **Md. Zakir Hussain vs. State of Manipur**¹⁰ reflects the use of AI by the court. It used Chatgpt to gain more clarity over village defence force as the affidavits submitted by police did not have enough information. The research done via Chatgpt was actually used to give the decision.

Justice Pratibha Singh in the case of **Christian Louboutin SAS & Anr. vs. The Shoe Boutique– Shutiq**¹¹, rejected the evidence generated by chatgpt by the petitioner to defend their trademark regarding ‘spike shoe style’ with ‘red sole’. She accurately pointed out that AI cannot be used in formal judgements as it gives fabricated and imaginative case scenarios.

CONCLUSION

After going through the topic in depth, we get to know that AI serves as a boon for our judicial system as it simplifies a lot of hectic tasks and saves a lot more time for other necessary tasks. However, it must be used with caution. I would like to suggest that Supreme Court must lay down guidelines for ethical use of AI, the scope and extent to which it may be used. Judicial oversight must be maintained and data privacy laws must be put into practise. Otherwise, it won't take much time for it to turn the tables and prove to be harmful for us.

¹⁰ Md. Zakir Hussain vs. The State of Manipur and Ors., MANU/MN/0057/2024

¹¹ Christian Louboutin Sas and Ors. vs. The Shoe Boutique – Shutiq, MANU/DE/5694/2023