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## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN INDIAN COURTS: REVOLUTION OR RISK?

*Sri Priya Manda*

### ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence is slowly but surely changing the face of the Indian judiciary with the use of technologies like online courts, legal research software, and case management systems. Even as Artificial Intelligence can contribute positively to the judiciary by bringing about efficiency, less pendency of cases, and access to justice, it poses certain issues as well. These include privacy, bias, transparency, and accountability. This blog post will explore the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence in India's courts and will discuss whether AI is a game-changer or a possible danger to justice.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Indian Judiciary, AI in Courts, Justice Delivery, Legal Technology, Digital Courts.

### INTRODUCTION

In today's world, technology has penetrated almost all spheres of our life. No less affected by the progress was the legal domain, which introduced innovations and new ways of resolving disputes and controversies. Currently, there are some signs that Artificial Intelligence has been incorporated into India's judiciary due to the emergence of digital courts, AI research systems, translating services, and case management technologies. With an immense number of unresolved cases and a considerable pressure on the judges, AI seems to provide some help for improving the efficacy of the process.

At the same time, the involvement of AI into judicial process triggers numerous controversial issues, especially considering problems with data privacy, biases, absence of transparency, and excessive reliance on the technology. Unlike humans, robots cannot understand emotional

nuances, moral grounds, social aspects, and other complex aspects of human nature and behaviour that may have a significant effect on the process. Thus, there comes the key question whether it is possible to make AI serve justice without destroying its human basis.

Considering all above, this blog intends to discuss the role of AI in the Indian judiciary and reveal whether the issue can be considered as revolutionary or rather challenging in terms of legal implications.

## **RISE OF AI IN THE INDIAN JUDICIARY**

The adoption of Artificial Intelligence in the Indian judiciary was not abrupt but rather progressive. In recent times, the justice system in India has started using technological advancements as part of its efforts to streamline judicial process and deal with the pending case backlog issue in the country's judicial system. India currently has millions of pending cases in courts at all levels, and as such, technological assistance would be quite handy.

The e-Courts Mission Mode Project has also contributed towards digitisation of court records and virtual hearings in Indian courts.

Therefore, Artificial Intelligence is no longer a concept that does not exist within the Indian judicial system. This technological innovation is becoming a reality in the Indian legal sector through applications such as SUPACE and SUVAS, among others.

## **A FASTER JUDICIARY OR A SMARTER ONE?**

The main advantage of the introduction of technologies in the court system would be improved efficiency of the delivery of justice. Nowadays, the judicial system of India faces such a problem as an overload of cases, which causes considerable delays in the provision of justice for the claimants. New technologies can greatly help reduce the number of documents and automate data processing, filling in case forms, researching previous similar cases, and other tasks that can give lawyers and judges extra time.

Besides, technologies might prove to be helpful in terms of increasing the accessibility of legal services to common people. By means of online portals and artificial intelligence, one could easily learn more about legal practice and legislation and improve their understanding of it. For example, since nowadays the Indian population often lacks sufficient legal assistance, technological development can be used for this purpose.

Technological innovations such as e-filing and virtual hearings have also improved administrative efficiency in courts.

Technologies are bound to improve the speed and convenience of court processes. Still, there arises the question whether the acceleration of court procedures necessarily results in more effective and quality provision of justice.

### **THE RISKS BEHIND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

As numerous benefits of artificial intelligence become evident, a number of ethical issues are also emerging. One of the main issues associated with the introduction of AI technologies is the risk of algorithmic bias. AI works based on data already existing in its database and programming. As such, if any bias exists in the database or programming of a certain algorithm, there is a chance that the results obtained through this program will contain the same bias. As for the field of law, even slight bias may affect equality before the law.

Artificial intelligence in the judiciary is a double-edged sword that should be used with caution and regulation.

### **CAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REPLACE JUDGES?**

With the development of Artificial Intelligence in judicial practice, a number of concerns arises about its future role in relation to the judges. Could AI become a full replacement for the human? Despite all technical achievements, this idea seems not only unworkable, but also rather problematic.

First of all, a judge does not only rely on laws and precedents. Quite often, he needs his own opinion, ethical approach, knowledge about the emotional and mental condition of a defendant and the social context of his actions. Thus, the work of a judge can hardly be reduced to calculations with computers.

Another limitation of AI systems is the absence of moral accountability and human discretion in complex cases.

On the other hand, the role of AI in law enforcement still has an enormous potential. Computer technology could greatly simplify the process of research, analysis, decision-making, planning and procedural management. From this point of view, Artificial Intelligence would definitely enhance the activity of the judiciary.

Summarising all the above, it can be stated that the future of Artificial Intelligence in India must not consist in replacing judges with computers, but only in supporting the functions of judges by appropriate means of AI.

## **CONCLUSION**

With the implementation of Artificial Intelligence in India, the process of delivering justice will certainly undergo a transformational change. Indeed, with technological innovations like machine-assisted legal research, online dispute resolution, and other technologies that allow running virtual courts and maintaining digitalized case management systems, the implementation of technology by Indian courts can be viewed as almost inevitable. At the same time, however, there exist negative consequences and risks associated with adopting AI in such a vital sphere as judicial activities.

Thus, in implementing AI in India, one should remember about the need for considering ethical aspects of doing so. If implemented responsibly, AI can improve the Indian justice delivery system while preserving constitutional values and the human element of law.