



The Indian Journal for Research in Law and Management

Open Access Law Journal – Copyright © 2026

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

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium provided the original work is properly cited.

LITIGATION IN DIGITAL AGE: THE EXPANDING ROLE OF LEGAL TECHNOLOGY

Anshu meena

INTRODUCTION

In 2026 technology is not mere a storage tool but has become an active participant in India's justice delivery system. What began in 2005 as a vision for ICT enablement by the Supreme Court's e-Committee has evolved from simple digitization into the era of "Intelligent Agency." The legal profession, long steeped in paperwork and procedural formalities, is witnessing one of the most profound transformations in modern litigation. This blog explores how the transition to Agentic AI and advanced digital infrastructure is reshaping trial preparation and litigation in India.

The DIGITAL FOUNDATION: E-COURTS PHASE III

The expanding role of legal technology is built upon the robust infrastructure provided by e-Courts Phase III¹, which officially launched in April 2026. Unlike previous phases, which largely focused on scanning physical documents into static PDFs, Phase III has created a fully integrated Data Lake of machine-readable records. This transformation enables a dynamic ecosystem in which legal data flows seamlessly through every stage of litigation.

For lawyers and court administrators the advanced platforms such as CIS 4.0 (Case Information Systems) now manages a lawsuit from the initial filing to the final decree. Every piece of evidence, procedural application is no longer static files but dynamic data points ready to be processed by this system. This allows legal practitioners to focus on strategy rather than administrative overhead, marking a dramatic change in the day-to-day practice of law.

¹ Vision document for Phase III of eCourts Project(April20,2023)<https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/vision-document-for-phase-iii-of-ecourts-project/>

THE RISE OF AGENTIC AI: BEYOND DIGITAL SEARCH

The true hallmark of litigation in the digital age is the transition from basic generative AI chatbots to Agentic AI systems. While earlier AI could provide text-based answers to legal queries, Agentic AI is designed to execute complex, real-world tasks independently. This shift has revolutionized trial preparation in three critical ways:

1. Autonomous Trial Support: Agentic AI agents can triage enormous volumes of evidence, manage procedural timelines, and draft standard court applications. By analyzing urgency and legal complexity, these systems autonomously prioritize tasks, significantly reducing the manual burden on legal teams.

2. Contract Lifecycle Management (CLM): Agentic AI reviews complex contracts, redline and it makes sure compliance with internal company autonomously.

3. Legal due diligence: Agentic AI can reduce M&A due diligence cycles by upto 80% , what used to take weeks now done in fraction of time.

The convergence of autonomous AI and legal strategy is giving rise to what experts call the ‘Agentic Edge’ a situation where procedural efficiency is no longer a bottleneck, and advocates can concentrate on high-level analysis and courtroom strategy.

THE ACCOUNTABILITY CRISIS

Now that the participation of technology is emerging in litigation, a parallel debate arises - The legal liability for AI errors. If an AI agent makes a procedural filing error that negatively impacts a case, it remains unclear whether the responsibility lies with the software developer, the law firm, or the end-user. This has immediate implications for malpractice insurance, client trust, and ethical responsibility in legal practice.

Regulatory compliance has also become a critical component of trial preparation. Under the IT Rules 2026², any AI-generated synthetic content used in litigation must carry “Synthetically Generated Information” (SGI) labels and embedded metadata. This transparency ensures that AI tools do not inadvertently mislead the court and helps maintain procedural integrity. For lawyers, understanding and implementing these compliance measures has become as important as mastering traditional legal arguments.

² The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, Notification G.S.R. 541(E), § (Oct. 25, 2021)

CONCLUSION

The transition from digital paperwork to intelligent agency is more than a technological upgrade, it represents a fundamental shift in how Indian justice system and litigation works. Technology is no longer an auxiliary tool—it has become the engine driving a more efficient, accessible, and intelligent justice system. From autonomous trial preparation to NILV protection and rapid legal remedies, the Indian courtroom of 2026 is a digital-first environment, where AI and human expertise operate in tandem.

In this brave new era, lawyers are not being replaced—they are being empowered. However, as we integrate these powerful tools, the justice system must remain anchored in human values. The goal of technology is not to create an automated “ Vending machine” for verdicts, but to built a more efficient , inclusive and robust framework for the rule of law.