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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO STREAMLINE LITIGATIONS IN INDIA

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I. ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence has become key tool in today's technologically driven world. It may be science, technology, space, medicine, commerce or accounts AI has become indispensable. This technology has indeed reduced burden on many sectors and also streamlined the procedure and helps in uniform documentation. The Courts in India have been facing the challenge with respect to over- loading of cases, burden on the Judges, under-staff and mainly documentation. Hence technology especially the AI as a tool can be a boon in reduction of these issues. The paper identifies the gaps in the procedure of the Court and tries to find ways to remove the gap by use of artificial Intelligence. The paper highlights why delays are caused and how the technology can support in easy functioning by reducing the burden on the stakeholders. The paper also analyses the laws relating to AI and its lacuna if any because in all over the world, the cases in the courts against the AI is increasing day by day, especially in the United States, Europe and now even in India. Increase in the cases in the courts also increases the concerns for the privacy of the individuals.

II. KEYWORDS

Artificial Intelligence, Case Management System, Digital Technology, Civil Procedure Code.

III. INTRODUCTION

Indian Judiciary, a corner stone of world's largest democracy, is grappling with a profound and persistent crisis of judicial backlogs. This is not merely an administrative inconvenience but a fundamental impediment to the rule of law and a denial of the constitutional promise of timely and accessible justice to all citizens. Also,

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the COVID pandemic was lesson to all to understand that if the essential categories become inaccessible what must be our alternative.

The prevailing rate of case disposal in 2018 suggested it would take over 342 years to clear the backlog a statistic that highlights the urgent need to ensure a comprehensive reform. Against this backdrop Artificial intelligence has emerged as a solution to streamline the process, enhance efficiency and restore faith in the system.

1) RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the procedural bottlenecks in Indian civil litigation that contribute most significantly to judicial delay?
2. How can Artificial Intelligence tools such as OCR, NLP, automated case management systems and predictive analytics streamline different stages of civil litigation in India?
3. To what extent have existing digital initiatives such as the e-Courts Mission Mode Project and the National Judicial Data Grid succeeded in reducing pendency and improving court efficiency?
4. What legal and regulatory gaps exist in the current Indian framework governing the use of AI in judicial processes?
5. How do privacy, algorithmic bias and accountability concerns affect the adoption of AI in the Indian judicial system?
6. What best practices can be drawn from comparative jurisdictions such as the European Union for framing AI-specific judicial governance in India?

2) RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To identify key stages of civil litigation under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 that are vulnerable to procedural delay.
2. To examine the role of AI-enabled technologies in addressing documentation, research, translation, case management and decision-support challenges in Indian courts.

3. To analyse the impact of Indian digital judicial initiatives including e-Courts, NJDG, OCR, chatbots and AI-assisted research platforms.
4. To critically evaluate the adequacy of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and allied laws in regulating AI usage in judicial functions.
5. To assess the ethical, legal and privacy implications arising from AI-based automated decision-making in courts.
6. To propose a regulatory and institutional framework for the responsible integration of AI in Indian litigation processes.

3) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Nature of Research

The study adopts a doctrinal and analytical research methodology combined with comparative and empirical secondary analysis.

2. Sources of Data

The research is entirely based on secondary sources, including:

- Statutes such as the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, Information Technology Act, 2000 and Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- Judicial decisions from Indian courts, particularly Delhi High Court in *ANI v. OpenAI*.
- Government reports, NJDG statistics, e-Courts Mission Mode Project documents.
- Academic articles, journals, books, research reports and policy papers on AI in judicial systems.
- Comparative materials including the EU Artificial Intelligence Act.

3. Method of Analysis

- Doctrinal Analysis is used to examine statutory provisions and judicial precedents.

- Descriptive and Analytical Method is adopted to evaluate AI tools in civil litigation.
- Comparative Analysis is used to assess Indian legal developments vis-à-vis the EU AI regulatory framework.
- Critical Evaluation is employed to identify lacunae in existing laws and propose reforms.

IV. DIFFERENT STAGES IN CIVIL LITIGATION

It is known that the procedures for filing cases are not just lengthy but sometimes cumbersome. The difficulty is not just for the litigants, but this is true with the advocates and the judges. Every word in the can be interpreted which would benefit the person reading it. Hence each interpretation gives a relief in one way or the other. Civil Procedure Code is both the procedural and substantive law dealing with civil cases. There are various stages in filing and conducting a civil case most generally as follows:

1. Filing of the Complaint

The plaintiff files a *complaint* with the court describing the facts, cause of action, and the reliefs sought. It includes valuation, court fees, and jurisdiction details.

2. Registration and Scrutiny

The court office checks whether the complaint is in order, properly signed, verified, and supported by documents.

3. Issue of Summons to Defendant

The court issues summons to the defendant to appear and file a written statement.

4. Written Statement by Defendant

The defendant files his defense in writing within 30 days (can be extended up to 90 days with reasons).

5. Replication by Plaintiff

If needed, the plaintiff may reply to the defendant's written statement to clarify or counter the defense.

6. Framing of Issues

The court frames "issues" – points of dispute that need adjudication.

7. Evidence Stage

Both sides produce oral and documentary evidence, witness statements, cross-examinations, and affidavits.

8. Arguments

After evidence, both parties present oral arguments and written submissions.

9. Judgment and Decree

The court delivers the final judgment based on evidence and issues, followed by a decree specifying the relief granted.

V. DELAY APPLICATION

If the plaintiff or defendant files documents or pleadings beyond the prescribed period, they must file a delay condonation application under Section 5 of the Limitation Act, 1963.

The applicant must show *sufficient cause* for the delay (e.g., illness, unavoidable circumstances).

1) Interim Relief⁴

During a civil suit pending, the plaintiff may seek *temporary or interim relief* to prevent irreparable loss or damage.

These reliefs are governed by Order 39, Rules 1 & 2 of CPC, and include:

- Temporary Injunction
- Status Quo Order
- Appointment of Receiver

⁴ Order 39, Rules 1 & 2 of Civil Procedure Code

- Attachment Before Judgment
 - Temporary Possession Protection
 - The court may grant interim relief if the plaintiff proves:
 - Prima facie case
 - Balance of convenience
 - Irreparable injury
 - Post-Judgment Stages
- 2) **Appeal** - Filed under Section 96 CPC within 90 days
- 3) **Execution** - For enforcing the decree (Order 21 CPC)
- 4) **Review/Revision** - Under Section 114 & 115 CPC
- 5) **Stay Application**⁵

These are all the common steps/reliefs under the Civil Procedure Code. The one question that arrives in our minds is that can a step or two be skipped. The answer to this question is twofold:

- We cannot skip the steps as it is specified by the law which means that if the procedure is not followed then same can be questioned through applications (Interlocutory Applications) which in itself will be a case as deciding the application filed is needed before the main plaint of the case can be continued.
- We cannot be overriding the cardinal principles of Natural Justice which may be challenged in the highest court.

Hence following the procedure becomes very important which automatically delays the time for rendering justice.

⁵ Order 39, Rule 3 of Civil Procedure Code 1908

VI. DIGITAL INITIATIVES

“Technology will integrate police, forensics, jails, and courts, and will speed up their work as well. We are moving towards a justice system that will be fully future-ready.”

*Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi*⁶

Understanding the urgent need for modernisation the Indian Government specifically the Supreme Court of India has initiated the e-courts Mission Mode Project. This ambitious PAN India project aims to transform judicial functions through the strategic integration of digital innovation. Phase 1 (2011 – 2015) focussed on providing foundational hardware and network connectivity to the courts, while Phase-2 (2015-2023) introduced citizen-centric services like e-filing and virtual courts. An allocation of Rs.7210 Crores for the AI-assisted legal translation, predictive policing, and AI-driven legal chatbots are reshaping the legal landscape, making processes faster, smarter, and more transparent.

A central pillar of this initiative is the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). NJDG is a database of orders, judgements case details of 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts and High Courts created as an online platform under the e-courts project. Data is updated on real time basis in Supreme Court, High Courts and all the District and Subordinate Courts relating to both Civil and Criminal cases. The updating is based on the time of filing/pending, disposal of cases. The portal also shows statistics regarding reasons for delay in both civil and criminal matters separately in each court. There are around 15 reasons for which statistics is available year-wise and court wise under civil matters alone and another 15 categories or reasons for delay in Criminal matters. The graph also shows pendency based on type of cases and the year it was filed. (Chart enclosed in the end)

The Automated Case Management system is a boon to the Judicial Officers, Staff, Advocates and the litigants. Earlier there was always a confusion relating to case details, stage and date which is now clear due to this system being in place. This also

⁶ This statement was made in the context of India's judicial transformation and the e-Courts project, specifically mentioned in official press releases and various articles discussing the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other technologies into the Indian legal system.

predicts or forecasts the possible delay in cases thus reducing wastage of time in waiting for the matter.

Another boon is the research which was a hassle earlier. The bulky, costly books were cumbersome to carry. With software technologies and AI Research relating to vast areas of law has become easy. The documentation of these cases, case summarisation, judgement summaries expedite the process and improves quality.

The integration of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) is revolutionizing document digitization. These technologies automate the filing of court documents, ensuring faster processing and reducing manual errors in the documentation process.

Chatbots are another AI driven assistance which gives real time information to the litigants and general public needed for their information. This option available all the time and user-friendly, especially for individuals unfamiliar with legal procedures.

AI models analyze historical judgments and case data to offer predictive insights into potential case outcomes and risk assessments. This capability helps judicial officers to formulate more informed decisions and develop effective case strategies, contributing to a proactive judicial framework. Sometimes these predictions analyse the way in which a Judge may decide based on the history on the judgements rendered by the same Judge which helps the Advocate to prepare himself to convince the judge in the same manner for the case to be decided in his favour.

The judgements of the Court are in English which is not easy to understand to the litigants. The AI driven Legal Translation and Language accessibility tool enables the litigant and general public to read the judgement in their language of comfort improving the knowledge and accessibility.

AI is assisting in crime prevention and law enforcement. AI models analyze crime patterns, high-risk areas, and criminal behaviour, enabling law enforcement to take proactive measures. The automated drones, facial recognition system, forensic analysis for evidence and digital crime trails. The Crime and Criminal Tracking

network System, e-prisons and e-forensic databases help in understanding the crime and documentation in easy and hassle-free manner.

AI is moving beyond simple keyword search to transform how legal professionals conduct research. Traditional legal databases like Manupatra and SCC Online have integrated AI-powered features that provide productive analytics and assist with drafting and summarisation.

New platforms like Casemine and VIDUR AI are pioneering next-generation research by using AI to map case-law relationships, provide virtual citation graphs and uncover obscure precedents. The technology's ability to analyse an entire legal brief and identify complex legal propositions, instead of just keywords, marks a significant leap forward in efficiency and comprehensiveness.

This extends to predictive justice where we can forecast the outcome of the case. This helps the advocate to make data-driven decisions and litigation strategy, risk assessment and pursue settlement. AI can help in pro-bono legal guidance to citizens, answer simple questions on procedures followed in Courts and simple solutions which need not be brought before the court. As the people in our country are not financially sound, it helps them to reduce their burden on the finance and also the mistrust that people have on advocates thinking they will be misled also is reduced by AI. The Judiciary has also stepped up to the demand for use of technology-driven tools to reduce the burden on the courts. There have been a lot of changes that the introduction of technology has brought in the conducting of court procedures.

VII. LAW AND AI

According to research, 50% of the bank scams and fraud are done through the AI. When we speak about technology, we need to address some serious concerns on data privacy, algorithmic transparency and ethical use. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 is a significant step aimed at safeguarding individual information's thus protecting their privacy which is needed in this technologically driven world.

Among other provisions the Act it specifically emphasizes the importance of personal right like right to information which an individual can know what the use of the information would be given by the individual, correct the inadequate data and additionally erase inaccurate or data which is not required anymore. The right to redressal is an important aspect of this enactment along with nominating another individual in case of incapacity or death.

The DPDP Act, 2023, establishes fundamental data protection guidelines but does not regulate AI-specific concerns. Other relevant laws include:

1. **Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act)** – Governs cybersecurity and data protection but lacks AI-specific provisions.
2. **Aadhaar Act, 2016**– Regulates biometric data collection but does not address AI-driven profiling.
3. **National Data Governance Framework Policy, 2022** – Facilitates data sharing for AI research while ensuring security.
4. **EU Artificial Intelligence Act (Comparative Perspective)** – Aims to classify AI systems by risk level and enforce transparency requirements, something India has yet to implement.

India's lack of a dedicated AI regulation leaves gaps in accountability, making it necessary for policymakers to introduce AI-specific guidelines for fairness, transparency, and accountability. Legal actions against AI systems are rising globally. In India, *ANI vs Open AI*⁷ is a landmark case where the Delhi High Court reviewed copyright claims against AI-generated content. In November 2024, leading Indian news agency Asian News International (ANI) filed a lawsuit against OpenAI in the Delhi High Court, alleging that OpenAI's ChatGPT used ANI's copyrighted news content without permission to train its AI models. ANI also claims that ChatGPT generated fabricated news stories and falsely attributed them to the agency, potentially harming its reputation.

⁷ ANI Media Pvt. Ltd. v. Open AI Inc. & Anr., CS(COMM) 1028/2024 (Delhi High Court).

According to the report released in July 2023⁸, assesses the AI readiness levels and adoption maturity of Indian businesses across various sectors, including Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI), Consumer Goods (CG), and Industrial Goods (IG). A key finding was that while AI adoption is crucial for national competitiveness, two out of three Indian companies were classified as laggards in AI maturity at the time of the study. finds that incorporating and adopting Artificial Intelligence could potentially add up to 1.4% to the annual real GDP growth of India and further quantitatively depicts the increased research in the field of AI development in India and finds that the Private investment in Research and Development relating to AI technologies in India was approximately about 642 million USD which depicts the acceleration of AI investments in the country.

AI-powered automated decision-making presents both immense opportunities and significant risks in India. While the DPDP Act, 2023, lays the groundwork for data protection, it does not comprehensively address AI's unique challenges, such as algorithmic bias, transparency, and accountability.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for safe amalgamation of skill and technology:

To ensure a responsible and effective integration of AI in Indian legal system, comprehensive and multi-faceted strategy is required:

1. Strengthening the Regulatory Framework:

The government must move beyond the general provisions of the enactment and expressly state about AI specific legislation. A clear policy should be in place rather than ambiguous interpretation which leads to confusion and blamegame which dilutes the very purpose of the enactment.

2. Upskilling the legal profession:

⁸A study report conducted by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Studies, Ahmedabad (IIMA), also referred to as IIT-A titled "*AI in India – A Strategic Necessity*"

Judges, Advocates, Court Staff and other stakeholders must be mandatorily trained and continued to be trained in the updated technologies to understand, use and critically evaluate AI tools for positive results.

3. Adopting an Open Data Policy:

The government must work towards making anonymised, non-personal data from all platforms available to private sector which leads to transparency and efficiency. It encourages legal tech companies to take a lead in developing AI models tailored to the unique complexities of Indian Legal System.

4. Promoting Digital Inclusion:

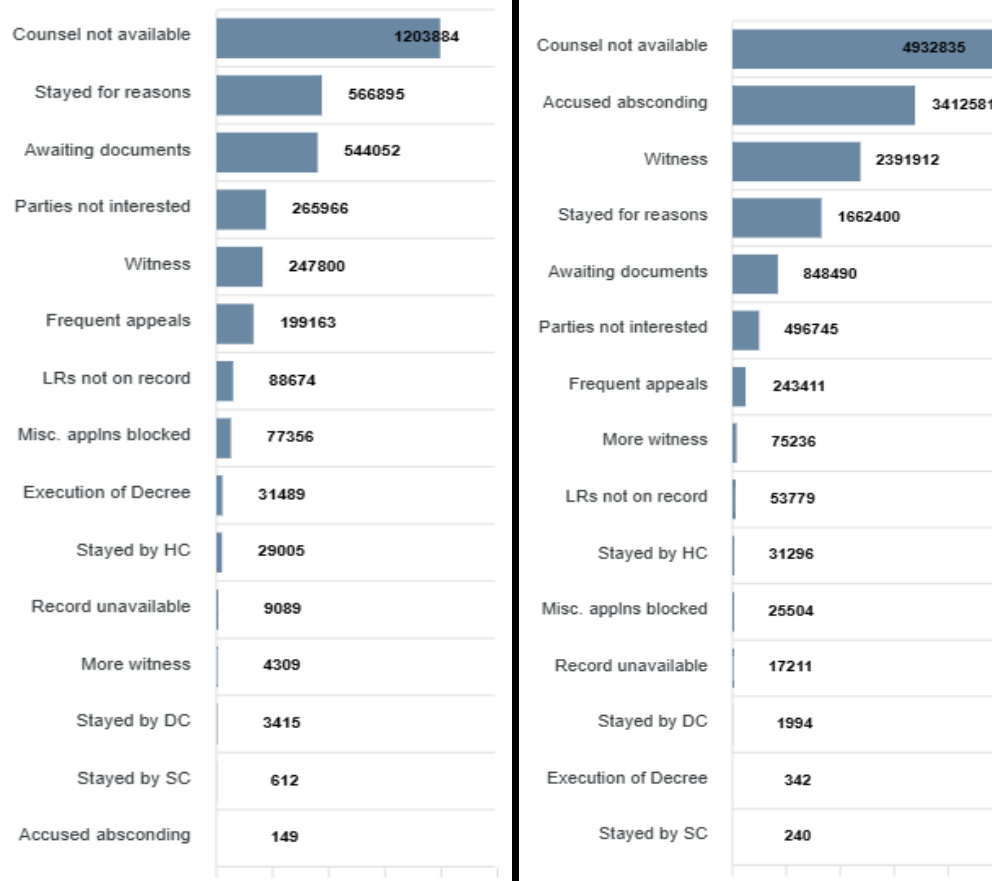
The AI tool must be user friendly, multilingual and cater to rural sectors. Initiatives like the AI mission can help in developing and deploying affordable AI solutions.

IX. CONCLUSION

India which is emerging as a global power in the recent years must find a suitable way to address the issues relating to AI which would help in the effective utilisation of the technology without compromising on National Security and privacy rights. The digital era must significantly support in judicial reforms which is the need of the hour. AI tool usage must become the order of the day which will reduce the burden on the courts relating to documentation, procedure and also saves the valuable time of the Court, Staff, Advocates and most importantly the litigants. Identifying the delay in cases must be easy to identify using AI tools and using these statistics, a holistic approach must be taken by the three organs of our constitution and erase the old saying "*Justice Delayed is Justice Denied*".

Civil Cases and Criminal Cases – Pending as per the reasons in the listwise⁹

⁹ As on 29-12-2025, NJDG Portal



Cases Pending in Karnataka - Bengaluru - Urban Courts. (Both Civil and Criminal Cases)¹⁰

Civil	Criminal	Total
Less than one year		
<u>34,486</u>	<u>1,29,210</u>	<u>1,63,696 (36%)</u>
1 to 3 Years		
<u>34,417</u>	<u>1,31,620</u>	<u>1,66,037 (36%)</u>

¹⁰ As on 29-12-2025, NJDG Portal

3 to 5 Years		
<u>13,680</u>	<u>44,378</u>	<u>58,058 (13%)</u>
5 to 10 Years		
<u>13,997</u>	<u>37,814</u>	<u>51,811 (11%)</u>
Above 10 Years		
<u>6,204</u>	<u>14,252</u>	<u>20,456 (4%)</u>

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