

**Course Name – Artificial Intelligence, Law and Justice**  
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**Institute Name – NALSAR University of Law**  
**Week – 01**  
**Lecture – 04**

AI, Judicial System in India - Part-I

 **Artificial Intelligence, Law and Justice** 

**Session 4**

**AI, Judicial System in India -Part-I**

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A video player interface showing a slide from a lecture. The slide has a light green background with a decorative orange and white wave at the top. It features the NPTEL logo on the left and the NALSAR University of Law logo on the right. The main title is 'Artificial Intelligence, Law and Justice' in a large, bold, orange font. Below it, 'Session 4' is written in a smaller orange font. The lecture title 'AI, Judicial System in India -Part-I' is in a dark blue font. The professor's name and title are listed in a dark blue font. A small video inset of the professor is visible in the bottom right corner. The video player controls at the bottom show a progress bar at 0:22 / 22:58.

Artificial Intelligence Law and Justice Session 4. In this session, we will discuss artificial intelligence and its applications in the dual system of India. The same topic will be discussed in two classes; this is the first class to begin with.

AI, Judicial System in India - Part-I

 **Recap – Data and AI** 

- In the last session we discussed the importance of data for AI and datafication
- Highlighted various issues in using data for algorithms and in AI.
- Discussed about biases in data and how it affects AI and algorithm based applications and data invisibility
- Finally we touched upon data governance and it's meaning application in two different contexts

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A video player interface showing a slide from a lecture. The slide has a light green background with a decorative orange and white wave at the top. It features the NPTEL logo on the left and the NALSAR University of Law logo on the right. The main title is 'Recap – Data and AI' in a large, bold, orange font. Below it, there is a bulleted list of four points in a dark blue font. A small video inset of the professor is visible in the bottom right corner. The video player controls at the bottom show a progress bar at 0:44 / 22:58.

I have a recap of the earlier session, which is about data and AI. In the previous session, we discussed the importance of data for artificial intelligence and datafication. We elaborated on various issues in using data for algorithms and in AI, and why data is very important for both algorithms and AI. Furthermore, we also discussed biases in data and how they affect AI, algorithm-based applications, and data invisibility. Finally, we touched upon data governance and its meaning and application in two different contexts.

The screenshot shows a video player interface. At the top left, it says "AI, Judicial System in India - Part-I". The main title "AI in Indian Judicial System" is centered in a large, bold, orange font. To the left of the title is the NPTEL logo, and to the right is the logo of the Government of Karnataka. Below the title, there is a bulleted list of points. To the right of the list is an image of a person in a blue shirt and glasses, likely the speaker, in a video call window. Below the video call window is a progress bar and playback controls. The video title "AI in Indian Judicial System" is also visible in the top right corner of the video frame.

- The use of AI in Indian Judicial System is in the initial stages
- But we should not conflate this with use of AI in legal system in India
- Use of AI in Indian Judicial System is part of modernization and Digitization of Justice System
- AI has a major role in this but there is more to it than adoption of AI

So, we now step into another important and very interesting topic: AI in the Indian Judicial System. When we talk about the Indian Judicial System, we talk in a very broad way, starting from the courts at the district and taluk levels and going up to the Supreme Court. So, as of now, the use of AI in this system is in the initial stages. But we should not conflate this with the use of AI in the legal system in India. The legal system in India is a broader one that encompasses legal tech firms, big law firms, law firms, independent lawyers, and a whole lot of other institutions that deal with law and justice in India. So, when we discuss this class, we focus our attention solely on the courts and the court-related system. Use of AI in the Indian system should be conceptualised as part of the modernisation and digitisation of the justice system.

Now, this modernisation and digitisation process started quite early, but it is progressing well now on account of the thrust given to AI-related developments. We will see that in further detail in the later section. As AI has taken on a significant role, the importance of AI for the Indian Judicial System is increasing day by day, but we should also understand that this is more than the adoption of AI. In the usual system, when we talk about AI, we need to look at it in a much broader context than merely adopting AI as a technology or as a technological tool that can be simply affixed or appended to the system. Why we are saying that we should see it more than as a mere technology system; we will come back to this later.

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Examples of Adoption of AI



<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/feb/doc2025225508901.pdf>

2:58 / 22:58

There are many examples of AI adoption, as you will see in this picture and which we will discuss in the subsequent slides. There are many AI adoptions that are happening now.

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At the Supreme Court

- Supreme Court uses AI and ML tools for transcribing oral arguments particularly in Constitution Bench cases .
- AI is being used to translate Judgments in to 16 languages.
- So far 3114 translations have been done
- About 200 lawyers given access to prototypes of AI/ML tools developed by IIT-Madras
- Registry in association with IIT-M developed and deployed AI and ML based tools and these are to be integrated with the electronic filing software of the Registry to help in identification of defects



3:15 / 22:58

For example, to begin with, we can start with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court uses both artificial intelligence and machine learning tools for transcribing oral arguments, particularly in the constitutional bench cases. And then this is being transcribed, stored, and then cross-checked. Also, artificial intelligence is being used to translate judgments into 16 languages from English. As we all know, the functional language of the Supreme Court is only English, and the Supreme Court does not allow either filing petitions or arguing in other languages. So far, 3,114 translations have been done using the Boshni software developed at IIT Madras. In other words, 3,114

judgments are now available in 16 languages in India. But we should also know that the Supreme Court website has enabled free access to all the judgments of the Supreme Court, including those that are translated.

In addition, about 200 lawyers have now been given access to the prototypes of the artificial intelligence and machine tools developed by IIT Madras. So, this is something like these lawyers are testing with these tools, looking at their efficiency, looking at their relevance, and then how they can apply them, as well as their shortcomings, and how they should be able to deal with that when they deal with a case in the Supreme Court. In the Supreme Court, the registry is a major office that not only manages day-to-day business but also looks into the technical development and ensures that cases are listed properly. They are also scheduled properly. At the same time, docket management is done by the registry.

So, any tool that the registry is to use has to be tested by them first, and only then could it be deployed. The registry, in association with IIT Madras, has developed and deployed artificial intelligence machine-based tools, and these are to be integrated with the registry's electronic-filing software to help in the identification of defects. Normally, what happens is that the Supreme Court, being the highest court in the country, allows many people to file appeals, including public interest litigation, but not many are familiar with the procedures of the Supreme Court or the functioning of the registry. So, in many cases, there could be minor defects, there could be major defects, and there could be defects that need to be addressed by the registry before the petition is placed before the honourable judges to decide whether to admit it or not, or if it should be admitted, when it should go to a single bench or a single judge. So, the Registry, being the docket management unit of the Supreme Court, has to first do a thorough check of all the petitions filed before it, and then the Registry will talk to the petitioners if there are errors to be rectified, and then ask them to resubmit.

The screenshot shows a video player interface. At the top left, it says "AI, Judicial System in India - Part-I". The main title is "At the Supreme Court". On the left, there is a logo for NPTEL. On the right, there is a logo for the Supreme Court of India. The main content is a list of bullet points:

- The AI based tool, **Supreme Court Portal Assistance in Court Efficiency (SUPACE)**, has been developed. The idea is to develop aimed at developing a module to understand the factual matrix of cases combined with an intelligent search of the precedents as well as in identifying the cases.
- This is in experimental stage under testing. Fuller implementation after getting the requisite hardware and computing capacity.
- Different tools using AI and ML are being developed and tested in association with IIT-M
- These may be integrated with **Integrated Case Management & Information System (ICMIS)**

There is an illustration of a smartphone with a person sitting at a desk with a scale of justice, symbolizing the integration of technology and law. At the bottom right, there is a small video feed of a man speaking. The video player controls at the bottom show a progress bar at 6:19 / 22:50.

The AI-based tool at the Supreme Court is called SUPACE. SUPACE is nothing but the

Supreme Court Portal Assistance for Court Efficiency that has been developed. This is a tool that is currently being developed; the idea is to create a module that can combine the factual metrics of cases with an intelligent search of precedents as well as identified cases. Basically, the Supreme Court, as we know, has given judgments in thousands of cases, and these cases pertain to a wide variety of topics ranging from marriage laws and consumer laws to complicated international law cases. But to understand them and to make sense of them, as well as to comprehend these cases and their essence, is a big task.

AI and machine learning will help the Supreme Court come to grips with this matrix of cases or understand these cases so that when someone wants to know the precedents as well as the cases, it will be easy. The idea behind SUPACE is to enable an understanding of the factual matrix of the cases and to assist in an intelligent search of the precedents so that anyone who uses it, whether a judge or someone else, will gain a better idea or a better grip over the thousands of cases, but this is in the experimental stage and under testing. The question here would be that since most of these cases are already available in digitised form as well as in bound volumes in various sources, including digital websites, why is there a need for an AI-based tool? AI-based tools combined with particularly machine learning-based tools can not only perform quicker searches and analysis but also do a lot of pattern matching; they can also identify which precedents are more valid in a given context and answer many queries that would be humanly impossible to address. So, using the power of machine learning and AI, when thousands of cases are analysed, it will be easy for the Supreme Court not only to look at the precedents but also to get a summary of the arguments as well as the decisions. A fuller implementation will occur when the requisite hardware and computing capacity are made available.

It will facilitate judges not only in understanding the cases at hand but also in gaining a better understanding of how similar instances and facts have been discussed and the decisions that have been arrived at in earlier cases. So, the registry is also working with IIT Madras in getting different tools developed and tested for its various functions. Finally, it is likely that all these things will be integrated into the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), which is a system that the Supreme Court has adopted so that the docket management, case schedule, and the information pertaining to them, including adjournments, can be properly and efficiently managed.

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## Decision Making and AI

- In a reply given to a series of questions, the Hon'ble Minister of State stated
- "As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, no AI and ML based tools are being used by the Supreme Court of India in the decision-making processes, as of now."

[https://sansad.in/getFile/annex/267/AU2356\\_MLQkOo.pdf?source=pqars](https://sansad.in/getFile/annex/267/AU2356_MLQkOo.pdf?source=pqars) 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

- This is understandable as Judges have been cautioning against such uses
- The other factor is deployment of AI is not to the extent that it can play a major role in decision making or AI written Judgements




9:36 / 22:58

The key importance of AI in the justice system comes from the ability of AI systems to enable decision-making. In a reply given to a series of questions, the Honourable Minister of State stated, "As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, no AI and ML-based tools are being used by the Supreme Court in the decision-making process as of now." The decision-making process in the case of the Supreme Court is a complex one. Because judges refer not only to cases and binding precedents but also to the arguments, they also get research support from various people, so decision-making does not depend upon the mere understanding of a single judge. In fact, decision-making is based on the inputs that the judges receive and their own expertise-based analysis, reasoning, argumentation, etc. So, when we talk about decision-making and AI here, it means whether the AI is being used to write judgments or whether the AI is being used to analyse the arguments as well as the evidence produced before the court. This information indicates that, as of now, it is not being used in the decision-making process.

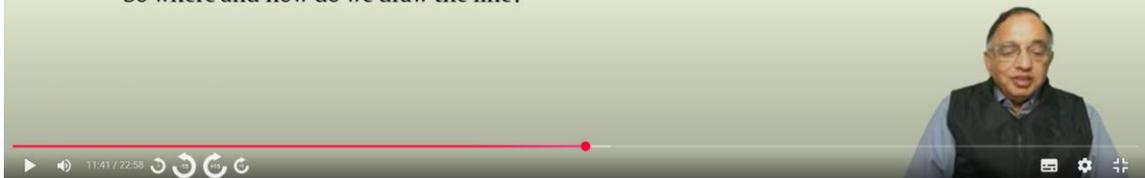
This is understandable because the Supreme Court judges have been cautioning against such uses of AI and machine learning. The other factor that is also a key aspect we need to understand is that the deployment of AI is not to the extent that it can play a major role in decision-making or AI-written judgments because, as of now, the use of AI in the Supreme Court itself is quite limited and is mostly restricted to administrative functions, particularly those performed by the registry. It has not yet reached the stage where judges directly use it for their own consultations or as an expert research assistant to help them. So, this is why the Supreme Court is not using AI in the decision-making process.

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## Cautions and Concerns

- While the efficient use of AI has been acknowledged Judges of the Supreme Court have cautioned and expressed concerns about replacing role of Judges with AI. Example Former CJI Chandrachud and incoming CJI Gavai
- This is also a fundamental concern on use of AI for all Judicial purposes
- So where and how do we draw the line?



The judges of the Supreme Court have repeatedly asserted that the efficient use of AI is necessary and should be implemented. At the same time, they have been very vocal about their concerns regarding the replacement of judges with AI. For example, the former Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Chandrachud, as well as the incoming Chief Justice of India, Hon'ble Justice Gavai, have expressed very similar views on that. There is also a fundamental concern about the use of AI for all judicial purposes, so the key question is where and how we draw the line: should we allow AI to be used for some judicial purposes, or should its use be restricted to cases where the sensitivity is very high or the probability of judgment being misled, or the judge being misled by artificial intelligence-based tools, is quite high? Given the range and complexity of the cases that are listed, argued, and decided by the Supreme Court, no case can be considered trivial; no case can be considered unimportant or a case that the Supreme Court can decide just like that. Since the Supreme Court is the highest court of the country, even a small slip-up on the part of the Supreme Court in using AI for anything will not only create a bad image of the Supreme Court but also raise a lot of questions about the very use of AI and the need for its use. So, the Supreme Court has taken a very cautious approach in deploying AI in the justice system.

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## Hallucinations and Fake Citations

- AI systems are known to 'Hallucinate' and come up with fake/non-existent data including cases, judgments.
- Karnataka High Court has ordered a probe against a trial court judge for passing orders relying on the non-existent apex court judgments.
- Justice Pratibha Singh refused to accept ChatGPT generated responses in a case and cautioned against such use and their reliability  
<https://www.sconline.com/blog/post/2023/08/28/delhi-hc-artificial-intelligence-cannot-substitute-human-intelligence-in-adjudicatory-process/>
- An order of a Tax Tribunal was withdrawn as it seemed that it cited non-existent judgments  
<https://www.livemint.com/money/personal-finance/chatgpt-artificial-intelligence-ai-itat-bengaluru-bench-tax-buckeye-trust-case-errors-11740544685677.html>




13:19 / 22:58

Hallucinations and fake citations. It is well known that AI systems are known to hallucinate, and they often come up with fake, non-existent, constructed data, particularly in the case of judgment or application in the justice sector, as well as cases, judgments, and other relevant material. For example, the Karnataka High Court recently ordered a probe against a trial court judge because it was found that the trial court's order relied on a non-existent apex court judgment. Although it was not very clear whether the judge used any tool like ChatGPT or any AI tool, prima facie, the very fact that the trial court judge passed an order that cited a non-existent apex court judgment is a matter of deep concern because we rely on the judges and then we rely on the courts as institutions that are always 100% correct, 100% accurate, and that do a thorough vetting of each and everything they write about. Justice Pratibha Singh of the Delhi High Court refused to accept a ChatGPT-generated response in a case and also cautioned against such use and its reliability.

This has been repeatedly stated by many judges, including Justice Pratibha Singh. In another instance, an order of a tax tribunal was withdrawn as it seemed to cite non-existent judgments. Here, the real problem was that it cited non-existent judgments not only of the Supreme Court but also of the Madras High Court. But when this was discovered, the tax tribunal simply withdrew the judgment, and then the matter became very clear that something went wrong somewhere. However, the root cause of what went wrong is not yet known. AI tools, when deployed—particularly if they are deployed carelessly—should not be assumed to be 100% reliable; hallucinations and fake citations will haunt the system for years to come.

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## Hallucinations and Fake Citations

- They raise serious questions about use of AI based tools for writing orders, and, for other purposes where accuracy and trustworthiness are important
- Should a lawyer or firm disclose if (s)he/it has used an AI tool and if so what should be level of disclosure
- Who is liable in case of Hallucinations and Fake Citations
- Using ChatGPT to understand vs. Using it as an authoritative source



Because when there are hallucinations or fake citations, they raise serious questions about the use of AI-based tools for writing orders and for other purposes, including research purposes where accuracy and trustworthiness are of paramount importance. Now, there are a few dilemmas here: one, if a lawyer or a firm discloses that he or she used an AI tool, and if so, what should be the level of disclosure? Is it mandated or is it mandatory that a lawyer disclose that he or she used a particular AI tool meant for the legal profession or any generic AI tool like ChatGPT, and then the level of disclosure, such as whether it was used for the purpose of getting background information and calling out information, but not for drafting or other purposes?

Or should it be stated that the drafting itself was done using AI tools, but then the drafting was done using them with 100% vetting by humans after the drafting was done, and then the lawyer takes responsibility for all the facts, all the things that were avowed in the plaint, in the affidavit, and who is liable in case of hallucinations and fake citations? Where does the bug stop? Is it with the lawyer who prepared the petition, or is it with the developer of the tool, or is it with the persons who not only used the tool but also used it for every other possible purpose? It is not only a question of liability but also a question of accountability, and more importantly, at what level these tools are being used? Using ChatGPT to understand something is like using a Google search to understand. But using that as an authoritative source, particularly to cite in a petition to be filed or in a legal document, is very different from using it to gain an understanding. So, some users like using it to get an understanding that is not very problematic, but even there, ChatGPT can mislead you, can give you fake citations, and can provide you with wrong reasoning. But all the problems will arise if an authoritative source is used without cross-checking or double-checking whether what is given by ChatGPT is 100% accurate and reliable.

AI, Judicial System in India - Part-I



## AI, E-courts and Digitization

- Use of AI is not a stand alone initiative, part of larger project to modernize and digitize .
- The Government of India has allocated a total of ₹7210 Crore for the e-Courts Phase III project. Of this, ₹53.57 Crore is allotted for the use and integration of AI and Blockchain technologies in High Courts in India.
- A key objective is to use AI for translation of Judgments from English
- High courts have translated about 5000 Judgments from English



18:05 / 22:58

The use of AI is not a standalone initiative, but it is part of a larger project to modernise and digitise the Indian Judicial System. Of course, we are in phase 3 of that. The earlier phases started in different ways, and then during COVID, this process gained momentum because many courts were held in a virtual mode. The Government of India has allocated about 7,210 crores for the Phase 3 project.

Of that, 53.57, or about 54 crores, have been allotted for the use and integration of AI and blockchain technologies in high courts, which means that the e-courts phase 3 does not envisage the use of AI and blockchain technologies in courts other than the High court and Supreme court. The district-level court, munsif courts, and various other forums where cases are being filed and fought are not included as part of that. But a key objective here is to use AI for the translation of judgments from English, and the High Courts themselves have translated about 5,000 judgments from English. So, we will see later that a lot of judgments of the Supreme Court are being translated from English, and then the High Courts have also done so when these judgments are available in different Indian languages. A key resource is being developed for creating AI-based tools, including large language models (LLMs).

Imagine a situation or context where thousands of judgments have been translated from English and are available for AI researchers and developers to build large language models (LLMs) or to create AI-based legal tools. So, these judgments' translations should not be taken as yet another translation, but they are forming a block or the building blocks of further and much more sophisticated applications of AI in the court system.

AI, Judicial System in India - Part-I



## AI applications in E-Courts

- While the scale and range of applications vary the key applications are.
- Automated Case Management
- AI in Legal Research and Documentation
- AI Assisted Filing and Use in Court Procedures
- User Assistance and Chatbots
- As data regarding number of applications, their use for various purposes and rates of adoption across courts is not known it is difficult to assess their adoption and utility



20:13 / 22:58

But the AI applications in e-courts are in very preliminary stages, and the range and scale of applications vary. The key applications are automated case management, artificial intelligence, and the use of AI in legal research and documentation. These two are very harmless things because the limits of these are quite well known. AI-assisted filing and use in court procedures. This again does not impact the judgment process, nor does it go into the actual workings of the court in terms of arguments and counterarguments.

User assistants and chatbots - Now users and chatbots again, we all know are not something that only the courts and e-courts have been using; many other government departments and service institutions are using them. As of now, we do not have data regarding the applications, their use for various purposes, and the rate of adoption. So, it is very difficult to assess how efficient they have been, what the success in adoption has been, and what their utility has been, particularly as automated case management is being practised in e-courts, as well as the use of AI in legal research and documentation.

It is equally important to, at some stage, look at what impact they have had in terms of increasing efficiency as well as making things easily accessible for both advocates and for people who approach the courts for various purposes, including filing public interest litigation.

AI, Judicial System in India - Part-I



## AI and Judicial System in India



- The current level and scope of application is interesting but preliminary .
- AI use is part of the larger Project and there is no 'AI Mission'
- Prima facie it seems that Supreme Court and High Courts are the major users
- Is AI the tool that can make the huge difference in modernizing Judicial System in India?
- In the next Session we will dwell further on AI and Judicial System in India



21:57 / 22:58

AI and the judicial system in India - the current level and scope of application are interesting, as we saw SUPACE is a very interesting example, but they are in very preliminary stages; in fact, there is no AI mission as such in the judicial system because AI is integrated into the larger modernisation and digitisation project as part of a larger initiative. As of now, it is clear that only the Supreme Court and High Courts are the primary users because taking it further down the line has not been announced so far. But can we say that AI is the tool that can make huge differences in the modernisation of the judicial system, or will it end up as yet another tool that has been tried but did not make a huge difference in the modernisation of the judicial system and in making it more efficient? In the next session, we will dwell further on some of these issues.