



COVID-19: THE CATALYST TO AN E-JUDICIARY

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INTRODUCTION

“A meaningful life can be extremely satisfying even in the midst of hardship, whereas a meaningless life is a terrible ordeal no matter how comfortable it is.”¹ The primary objective and meaning of humankind is to constantly evolve and adapt to new situations and surroundings. This very phenomenon has been witnessed since the stone age up to the modern age where humanity has constantly evolved and adapted itself to newer technology and ideas whenever the circumstance and situation has demanded so. Similarly, it can be said that the current COVID-19 pandemic can be deemed to be the catalyst, for humanity to evolve further in all arenas including the judiciary.

The pandemic after being first witnessed in China, has spread throughout the world in no time, continuing to wreak havoc. The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented people and governments of all countries from adhering to their normal day to day working and forced them to stay back, confined in their homes. This pandemic has been testing the basic tenets of our social and economic fabric. The Governments of all countries have been forced into finding new ways to carry out their day-to-day activities to keep their economies alive. Every field of governance has been affected be it telecommunication, tourism, education, jobs

in public and private sectors, or the justice delivery system, to mention a few. Most people have already lost their livelihood and there is an atmosphere of fear & panic worldwide. In such a scenario, it has become imperative to find alternatives for the physical presence of people in workplaces, to help them contribute in keeping the key processes running, while being in the safety of their homes or safe workplaces. Most of the sectors have adapted to methods like work from home using technological solutions like group chats, group workflow applications including Slack, Microsoft Teams along with video-conferencing apps like Zoom & Cisco WebEx. It's imperative for the justice delivery systems around the globe to adapt as well. Hence, it can be adequately affirmed that this pandemic has been acting as a stimulant to push the judiciaries around the world into the electronic medium thus rendering the inception of the system of E-Judiciary in and around the world including India.

THE ADVENT OF E-JUDICIARY IN INDIA

The Judicial system in India has been following the age-old procedural customs for carrying out the different court procedures like filing, granting adjournments, hearing of cases, to mention a few. The recent pandemic has forced the Judicial system to adopt a new approach towards the working of its courts and evolve its mechanisms. Though the basic phenomenon of E-courts has existed previously in certain sectors of the judiciary in India yet it was just meant to be a secondary approach that was rarely used

¹ Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, Penguin Publications.



hence its true potential was not realised. This Pandemic has given a chance for the Indian judiciary to realise the flaws existing in the old system and change itself for the better, in its methods of working. This is the new era of technology where information is available freely online and the Judicial system should rightly adapt itself to incorporate its benefits. The system of physically filing of cases requires the aggrieved party to especially come to the court to file their case as well as for the defendant to submit its written statement. This proves to be highly inconvenient for people, in terms of accessibility, especially the ones who are coming from the rural areas or from residence that lies in a considerable distance outside the court premises/jurisdiction. Moreover, the need to carry important documents physically, renders it vulnerable of getting misplaced, stolen or destroyed in transit. Also, the documents, orders and judgements stored in the premises of the court can easily get stolen, misplaced or destroyed which will result in the loss of that crucial asset of the litigants and the court of law. Furthermore, it's very difficult to retrieve valuable information from the stacks of papers and documents kept in huge bundles and consume a lot of time of the court officials, who can retrieve such information within seconds if stored in a digitally accessible format. The aforementioned drawbacks also contribute in the high number of backlogged cases in India.

11.01%² cases have been pending for more than five years in the Supreme Court of India out of the total of 60,469 pending cases³ (as on 01.03.2020⁴). Out of these cases 12,071 cases⁵ are “Incomplete / Not Ready Cases”⁶ which are lacking in basic procedural court requirements. These Procedural confusions, loopholes or mistakes can be more efficiently tackled in an online medium like an intuitive website that can aid the litigants with the adequate knowhow, resources and notifications about any procedural court pending, things like filing fees, notice yet not served, pleadings not completed, notice of lodgement of appeal to served, statement of case not filed etc. hence leading to faster adjudication. Thus, through e-courts, justice can be made more accessible to each and every section of the society and will also expedite the speed of litigation. The e-judiciary system will also ensure a more transparent justice delivery system with a very limited scope for procedural confusion, mistakes, bureaucratic logjams and corruption. The storage and retrieval of useful information will become very efficient and easy with the introduction of online file retrieval systems in the e-courts. The files and documents can be easily shared between different courts, judges and lawyers which will save manpower and time. The Supreme court through its power under Article 142⁷ instructed every High court to frame a system to make use of technology to carry out the day-to-day working of the courts during this pandemic. The term ‘virtual courts’ is a term

² Pendency Of More And Less Than Five Years: Except High Court Of Jammu & Kashmir, Supreme Court of India, <https://main.sci.gov.in/pdf/NCMSP/ncmspap.pdf>, (last accessed at 8:37 pm on 29th May, 2020).

³ Supra at 2.

⁴ Supra at 2.

⁵ Supra at 2.

⁶ Incomplete / Not Ready Cases: procedural court pending like filing fees, notice yet not served, pleadings not completed, notice of lodgement of appeal to served, statement of case not filed etc.

⁷ Constitution of India, Article - 142.



used when the physical presence of litigants or lawyers is not necessary in the court to conduct hearings and the case can be adjudicated upon online by the judges. It can be also referred to as e-courts or electronic courts. E-filing and payment of fees and fine online is also included in its ambit. The e-courts project was conceptualized on the basis of the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary on 1st August, 2005” which was submitted by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India which strived to transform the Indian Judiciary by ICT enablement of the Courts.⁸ However, the virtual courts system is not devoid of vulnerabilities and complications. It is highly cost-sensitive in the initial stages of setting up of the e-courts as most of the courts in India lack infrastructure and mechanism for setting up the virtual courts. It is an advanced technological ecosystem which primarily requires the use of computers along with secure yet simple networking media and interface. These inherent prerequisites for the system leave out the rural parts of the nation especially vulnerable, because of the absence of basic amenities that are crucial for the development of this system like electricity, skilled & technical labour and technological awareness amongst the potential litigants to make use of the said system. Also, most of the court staff, litigants as well as judges are not very familiar with the use of modern technological interfaces & media and need to be trained in this sphere so that they will be able to easily handle the documents or record

evidences electronically. This vulnerability was evident in a case hearing where the High Court of Andhra Pradesh after witnessing intrusions while hearing a case through Video Conferencing had directed physical hearing of rest of the case by maintaining social distancing norms later. The bench comprising Chief Justice JK Maheshwari and Justice M Satyanarayana Murthy was hearing the Andhra Pradesh SEC case where sacked SEC Ramesh Kumar had challenged his removal in the High Court. During the course of hearing through video conferencing, the bench noticed that about sixty-seven people had joined the video conference, due to which there was congestion and severe disturbance caused during the hearing. Though, the bench dropped the unrelated persons from the video hearing, yet they still tried to join the video conference and the same situation persisted for a while. All these narratives elucidate that fact even if the necessary technological infrastructure is set up, there will still be a necessity for the stakeholders to be trained to make effective use of the same.⁹

Another huge threat to e-courts is in the ambit of cybersecurity. The system of virtual courts is highly susceptible to cyber threats and hence better industry practices along with stronger laws are needed to be enforced in this regard. However, these challenges and hurdles can be considered as minute bumps on the path towards setting up a modernized and digitalized Judiciary which will act as a crucial catalyst in the advent of a growing economy, a more just, lawful country and

⁸ E-Committee, Supreme Court of India, <https://main.sci.gov.in/pdf/ecommittee/action-plan-ecourt.pdf>, (last accessed at 9:28 pm, on 29th May, 2020).

⁹ Andhra Pradesh High Court, India Legal-live, <https://www.indialegallive.com/constitutional-law-news/courts-news/irked-by-frequent-video-static-andhra-hc-directs-physical-hearing-of-case-98084>, (last accessed at 11:23 pm, on 28th May, 2020).



further in the larger perspective, a technologically advanced future for the legal industry and the world economy overall.

ORDERS AND NOTIFICATIONS OF VARIOUS INDIAN COURTS & COMMISSIONS IN THE FURTHERANCE OF AN E-JUDICIAL SYSTEM:

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India:

The Supreme Court ordered on 23rd March, 2020, for the closure of courts and for hearing of only extremely urgent matters.¹⁰ Vide an order of 17th April, 2020, the Supreme Court gave helpline telephone numbers 011-23381463 and 011-23111428 for mentioning and hearing of matters, technical support for video conference or e-filing, between 10.30 am to 5.00 pm on week days and 10.30 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays, except on holidays.¹¹ Also, vide an order dated 26th March, 2020 the Supreme court notified that important matters be held through video conference app 'Vidyo' via video conferencing. The same was also mentioned in the circular dated 23rd March, 2020.¹²

The Hon'ble Delhi High Court:

The Delhi High Court through an order dated 2nd May, 2020 notified that the important and urgent matters can be mentioned before the court and the court shall continue the hearing of urgent matters through video conferencing via a link mentioned in the

order which shall be available from 9.00 am to 10.30 am on all working days.¹³

The Hon'ble Bombay High Court:

The court issued similar orders for hearing of urgent matters through video conferencing following the guidelines of the Supreme Court.

The Hon'ble Madras High Court:

The Madras High Court ordered that the Judicial officers should make maximum use of video-conference facility. Vide circular dated 19th April, 2020 it was decided that all judicial proceedings in the High Court will be conducted only through video conferencing.¹⁴ Also, as per the notification given on 20th April, 2020, a detailed process would commence from 22nd April, 2020 on portal <https://efiling.ecourts.gov.in>. Before e-filing, the Advocate or party-in-person needs to create a user account on the portal. They can avail the helpline 14627 between 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on all working days. A detailed guideline and tutorial video will be available at <http://www.hcmadras.tn.nic.in>.

The Hon'ble Karnataka High Court:

The Karnataka High Court vide notification dated 21st March, 2020, issued directions that virtual courts be created in the High Court of Karnataka, Principal Bench, at Bengaluru. Advocates and parties can digitally appear by using Video's/Skype. Advocates/Party-in-

¹⁰ Supreme Court of India, Order dated 23rd March, 2020. The order will be acting retrospectively from 15th March, 2020. <https://main.sci.gov.in/notices-circulars>, (last accessed at 11:03 am on 26th May, 2020).

¹¹ Supreme Court of India, Order dated 17th April, 2020, <https://main.sci.gov.in/notices-circulars>, (last accessed at 11:10 am on 26th May, 2020).

¹² Supreme Court of India, App Availability at <http://ecourtvc.nic.in>, Order dated 26th March, 2020

<https://main.sci.gov.in/notices-circulars> (last accessed at 10:06 am on 26th May, 2020).

¹³ Delhi High Court, Order dated 2nd May, 2020, delhihighcourt.nic.in (last accessed at 10:30 am on 26th May, 2020).

¹⁴ Madras High Court, Order dated 19th April, 2020, www.hcmadras.tn.nic.in (last accessed at 12:30 am on 26th May, 2020).



person are to share their case details, video/Skype ID to regcomp@hck.gov.in of Registrar (Computers). The concerned Advocates/Party will be informed about the slot given for their appearance through digital means.¹⁵

The Hon'ble Kerala High Court:

Instructions for advocates for e-mail filing and video conferencing for extremely urgent cases vide a notification on 25th March, 2020¹⁶ were:

- The Counsel needs to send urgent requests not exceeding one page to the registry by email to casefiling.hc-ker@kerala.gov.in. not more than one request can be sent.
- In matters involving state Government, the copy of urgent memo can be addressed to aagkerala@gmail.com & advnpekm@gmail.com.
- In the matters involving Union Government the copy of urgent memos can be addressed to rajkumarkrkhc@gmail.com & Jaishankar.cgc@gmail.com

The Competition Commission of India ("CCI"):

CCI has given directions vide order dated 20th April, 2020, *inter alia*, allowing pre-filing consultation to those seeking informal guidance on determining filing-related requirements and information to be given for a proposed combination and the green channel.

Further, the CCI has allowed such consultations through video conferencing.

Combination notices under the green channel route can be filed electronically. Besides, all filings or compliances due on or before 3rd May, 2020 in respect of pending cases under Sections 3 and 4 (anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position respectively) will also remain suspended and fresh dates will be notified.

All other filings, submissions and proceedings, including those before the director general, have also been deferred.¹⁷

National Commission Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC):

The NCDRC will hear cases through video conferencing from June 15 onwards due to the pandemic.¹⁸ All the aforementioned examples show that how the Indian Judiciary is attempting to use this adversity to incline the whole system towards a more technologically accessible phenomenon.

THE EVOLUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF E-JUDICIARY WORLDWIDE:

In the modern world, all the citizens of the free social structures, while exploring their roles in the society with their own freedom and perspectives, are bound to develop differences and disputes. The Advanced judicial systems have been using the model of resolution where lawyers represent their clients before the court of law. However, with the advent of the Internet Era, globalisation is the new norm, where information is more and more free to move,

¹⁵ Karnataka High Court, Order dated 21st March, 2020, <https://karnatakajudiciary.kar.nic.in> (last accessed at 12:30 pm on 1st June, 2020).

¹⁶ Kerala High Court, Order dated 25th March, 2020, www.highcourtofkerala.nic.in (last accessed at 1:30 pm on 1st June, 2020).

¹⁷ Competition Commission of India, Order dated 20th April, 2020, <https://www.cci.gov.in/> (last accessed at 1:30 pm on 31st March, 2020).

¹⁸ National Commission Disputes Redressal Commission, <http://ncdrc.nic.in/>, (last accessed at 1:33 pm on 6th June, 2020).



and where model laws like the Common Law system influence so many jurisdictions across the globe. We live in a world where international commercial contracts are agreed to be of the jurisdiction of a model judicial system like the UK where the international litigators are confident of having easy and technology-oriented access of free and fair justice. This assurance also translates to generous contributions of the legal services to the economy of the state like the 25.7 Billion Euros contributed by the UK Legal Services into the UK economy.¹⁹

Professor R. Susskind²⁰, the IT consultant to the UK Lord Chief Justice, iterates four most compelling grounds for the court of law to assess the developing technological and digital opportunities to fine tune justice delivery. He says that the justice delivery system is firstly quite Cost Intensive for the accessors (with all logistical costs inclusive for the litigators having to travel for their physical presence), secondly it being very Time Consuming, with the judiciary being vulnerable to becoming bureaucratic, and the judiciary with its complicated terminologies and procedures becoming more Unintelligible, with the concurrent Internet Society where information is becoming more and more free, simplified, democratised, and easy to access. “Citizens have a growing expectation that services will be delivered digitally” described Professor Susskind.

Hence the initiatives of transcending towards a more digitally able judiciary has been received in a positive manner both by the judiciaries and the citizens. It renders new opportunities for justice administration. Numerous researches on the same²¹, reiterate the fact that the inclusion of technology into judiciary has resulted in the strengthening of the virtues of democracy and justice in the developed as well as the developing nations.

In the developing nations, as per studies conducted²², digitisation can be deemed as an effective instrument in providing the opportunity to boost the efficiency, transparency, accessibility, equitability, and quality of justice. The digitisation methods range from simple transcendence into videoconferencing, to the advent of cyber courts of law and very simplistic online mediums and forums for the creation, certification, verification, and access of legal documents and completely digital proceedings and procedures of the courts.

Complete access to the legal remedies forms the core of the fundamentals of justice delivery in the modern society, and the consequent migration of the society to the digital avenues hence again call for the judiciary to step up and extend its historical accessibility in the digital realm too.

One of the most persistent problems like, the difficulty to refer & accession of paperwork piles has been, for example, addressed by the Higher Criminal Courts in **England and**

¹⁹ Transforming Our Justice System, Ministry of Justice, UK, Page 3, September, 2016.

²⁰ IT consultant, UK Lord Chief Justice Office.

²¹Gomes et al., 2018; Freitas & Medeiros, 2015; Friedman, 2007; Dominic Chawing, Towards e-judicial services in Malawi: Implications for justice

Delivery, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Pg. 2, September 2019.

²² (Gomes et al., 2018; Louro, Santos, & Filho, 2017; Freitas & Medeiros, 2015; Rosa, Teixeira, & Pinto, 2013; Andrade & Joia, 2012, Hindman, 2009; Foot & Schneider, 2006; Reiling, 2006).



Wales, which in the April of 2016 itself had transitioned themselves into the system of completely digitised evidence files. Or the case of **Turkey**, that was accoladed with the United Nations Public Service Awards²³ in the year 2012, has now, across all of its judicial institutions, a uniform national electronic service.

Some more examples of the nations and the judicial systems around the world that have adopted and benefited from digitisation:

Australia – which has historically been one of the nations that has incorporated Digitisation and technology from several decades, since the 1980s. The internet-based systems present different services to its citizens and other judicial & legal stakeholders, some of which are electronic search, e-courts, e-courtrooms, evidence presentation, knowledge management, integrated justice systems and e-courts.²⁴

British Colombia in Canada - in 2019, the nation's first Online Civil Tribunal was launched that is designed for providing the citizens the access to effortless resolution of small-value property and disputes pertaining to land. This avenue though is voluntary initially, yet is set to be soon mandatorily applicable. i.e. for the disputes that involve sums of money less than \$25,000²⁵, the applicants can access justice in the online civil tribunal consequently saving up a much larger amount of their finance that would have been spent in affording a pricey trip to

the Supreme Court apart from the obvious legal costs. The new revolutionary system further also is inclusive of Party to Party Negotiations through online chatrooms, wherein if the parties fail to arrive at an agreement, then there is facilitation for online mediation in common chat rooms, and finally online adjudication where an adjudicator can render out a decision with the equal authority as a court ruling.²⁶

United States of America – The legal system and the judiciary in the oldest democracy of the world is adequately advanced with the incorporation of all the modern digitisation modes like Videoc Conferencing. Public access to court records electronically through Case Management / Electronic Case Files Systems, the Pacer Case Locator, and the PACER fee waiver, Electronic Filing of Cases to mention a few. Furthermore, there are availability of Public forums like the Electronic Public Access User Groups (EPA) that renders a forum to the users of the PACER users to communicate and reiterate their feedbacks and ideals for the improvisation and the expansion of the Electronic Public Access services to all.²⁷

Furthermore, to specifically tackle the new challenges of dispensing justice in the difficult times of this Pandemic, the courts in US have resorted to several innovative means like:

²³ Supra at 21.

²⁴ Federal Court of Australia Report.

²⁵ British Columbia Civil Resolution Tribunal, CIVIL RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL, BCCRT and CRT, (Accessed on: May, 17th 2020 at 8PM), <https://civilresolutionbc.ca>.

²⁶ Supra at 25.

²⁷ Electronic Public Access Public User Group, United States Courts, (Accessed on: May, 17th 2020 at 8PM), <https://www.uscourts.gov/court-records/electronic-public-access-public-user-group>.



- The Online System for Clerkship Application and Review or OSCAR System is being incorporated by the federal judges to hire law clerks replacing the offline in person interviews and paper applications with online doc reviews and skype interviews.
- Judges in the state of New Hampshire and Missouri are imparting civics education to the house bound student.
- Various Courts like the Federal Circuit, District and Bankruptcy Courts have made use of the technological modes of audio-video conferencing to carry out judicial adjudications. Many service providers like Skype for Business, Zoom, AT & T Conferencing, Court Calls are being incorporated for the same²⁸.
- Judicial Conference, the national federal courts policy body had in late March iterated the allowance to Media and the Public in the ambit of the Federal Civil Court Proceedings and later to the electronic Criminal Proceedings.²⁹

Netherlands – Other than adopting to the mainstream digitisation and technological advances in the judiciary, Netherlands has displayed that there is still scope to streamline online justice delivery by the creation of a service that provides automated legal guidance through the disputes of matrimonial nature alongside matters of maintenance and custody.³⁰

Pakistan – In the developing nations like this, iterating his views about the online case management system introduced in the High Courts of Lahore and Islamabad, Taimur Ali Khan, a lawyer mentions that the digitisation of the case files is the very 1st step in the technological journey of the judiciary. He further points out his optimism that the nation should witness a more completely optimised, automatic and digitised court system where the adjudications may happen over video conferencing forums like skype. This would, he believes not only cleanse corruption but also improve the justice rendering system, making it more accessible to the poor.³¹

Brazil – the nation's judicial system has displayed a remarkable departure from the traditional corruption laden bureaucratic system and has now migrated to a digitised system with online platforms.³²

Kenya - The lost confidence of the public and the immense reduction in the operational costs was accomplished by the Kenyan Judiciary by emulating the digitalisation best practices incorporated by the model judiciaries like that of the USA, thus the development of the Electronic Court Management System ECMS in the Court of Eldoret in the year 2011, which has since its implementation made the public realise and enjoy its numerous benefits, meanwhile increasing the job satisfaction of the court

²⁸ Courts Deliver Justice Virtually Amid Coronavirus Outbreak, United States Courts, (May, 17th 2020 at 11PM),

<https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2020/04/08/courts-deliver-justice-virtually-amid-coronavirus-outbreak>.

²⁹ Supra at 26.

³⁰ Louise Tickle, Online justice: why courts should explore emerging digital possibilities, The Guardian, (May, 15th, 2020, 4 pm),

<https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2017/jan/16/online-justice-courts-explore-digital-possibilities>.

³¹Taimur Ali Khan Mohmand, E-judiciary, The News, (May, 17th 2020 at 9PM), <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/154687-E-judiciary>.

³² Supra at 21.



employees and the weeding out of corruption and bureaucratic logjams³³

Challenges and Implications to the advent of E-Judiciary:

While there are numerous advantages as elucidated above with the advent of E-Judiciary, yet there are also present inherent dangers and risks on reliance of completely electronically-delivered judicial service. While owing to the fact that justice delivery has been prevalent since time immemorial hence the fact of the trust in the system and the status quo also comes into the perspective. We as humans have been acquainted with associating the fairness of justice rendered with the critical quality of Human Judgement which can be said to have been asserted by physical presence in the courtrooms. Hence it will be up-to the stakeholders of the judiciary and the government to educate and make the citizens believe in the merit of the E-Judiciary with robust checks and balances in place, else the citizens will finally end up being legally administered by unidentified online pathways which can be quite alienating for some.

Furthermore the nations that lagged behind in the pursuit of reaching a greater streamlined, efficient and accessible judicial system online have been struggling with not only the upfront costs of investments in physical infrastructure, logistics, clerical resources etc, but also have lawyers and the court clerks who are not deep seeded in affirming the regime of bureaucracy and corruption, on the premise of existing traditions and protocols.

Another issue for the nations and the judicial system that are attempting to evolve into a more digitally accessible system include the issue of Training and Educating the already overworked judges and lawyers, which can further be aggravated by capacity and learning curve issues. This aggravation can be especially acute in the developing nations like India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Africa etc where there is very less adoption and knowhow of technological means in the daily lives of those involved in the administration of justice, be it the judges, the lawyers or the court clerks. Specific examples can include that of our own nation where there is only a handful number of training centre that is working for the aid of the judicial professional that want to know and learn the practicalities and the principalities of the delivery of justice in E-Courts.

Other Technological Challenges include:

- Loss of network and access to Slow Internet
- Recurrent blackouts or power outages.
- Lack of adequate operational skills.
- Pressure from legal firms and other clients for in-court proceedings.
- System being too complex to utilize.³⁴

CONCLUSION

As elucidated from the aforementioned examples, all of these reforms (that come with their respective challenges) are an attempt of all the judiciaries around the world to build upon what we already possess – judicial systems that are in place to uphold the basic tenets of freedom, independence,

³³ Dominic Chawing, Towards e-judicial services in Malawi: Implications for justice

Delivery, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Pg. 4, (2019).

³⁴ Supra at 32.



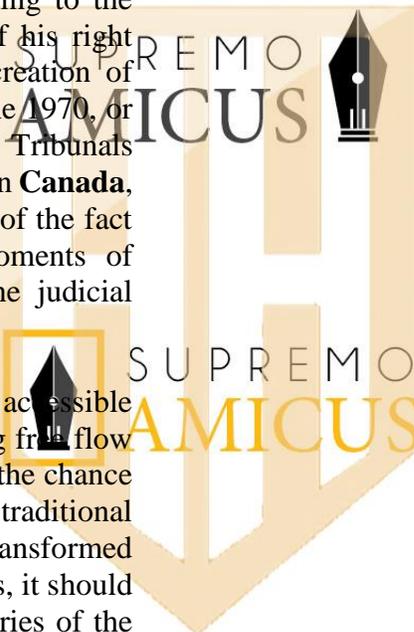
justice, peace, lawfulness, liberty and remedy to the ones bereft of their fundamental rights, in the most accessible manner possible.

However, these reforms also recognise something crucial. That, we humans have always evolved, be it the abolition of the Jury system in 1960s in **India**, post the Nanavati Case (where the vulnerabilities of a trial by jury system was aggravated by a nationwide media trial bereft of facts), the **US** Supreme Court striking down the conviction of Miranda in *Miranda v. Arizona*³⁵, 1966, post his confession to the Police (owing to the failure of him being informed of his right against self-Incrimination), the creation of the Crown Courts in the **UK** in the 1970, or be it the first Online Civil Tribunals launched in the British Columbia in **Canada**, these are only a few elucidations of the fact that there has seldom been moments of complacency or stagnation in the judicial systems around the world.

Now with the advent of accessible technology and the internet aiding free flow of information, there is yet again the chance for radical change, wherein as the traditional methods of conducting work are transformed across all the industries & systems, it should be an obligation upon the judiciaries of the world to transform themselves to yet again adhere to the basic tenets of law and justice in this hyper-connected informational era.

At its core, all these reforms are simply about administering to the modern necessities of all the stakeholders of the system be it the judges, the lawyers, the court officials, the

witnesses, the victims, the defendants, citizens and business or any other entity of any size. The rule of law, in its most basic essence is the very fundamental element for every civilised societal fabric. Hence, these aforementioned reforms suggesting the migration towards a more technological justice delivery system, will aid in protecting it.³⁶



³⁵ *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966).

³⁶ *Transforming Our Justice System*, Ministry of Justice, UK, Page 16, September, 2016.