





Generative AI (GenAI) tools are expected to change many existing economic and social processes. It is often framed as a force for opportunity in India: driving innovation, bridging linguistic and digital divides, and enhancing public service delivery. When implemented responsibly, GenAI in India could foster meaningful progress and advancement, supported by the country's robust digital infrastructure, abundant technological talent, and vast, connected population.

However, alongside these opportunities lie profound risks. GenAI systems have demonstrated a troubling capacity to reproduce and amplify social biases, entrench sycophancy and drain environmental resources. If deeply integrated into our social infrastructure without adequate guardrails, these tools could inadvertently reinforce existing inequities, further marginalising communities already on the fringes of technological progress.

While some immediate impacts may be apparent, the long-term implications are not. Failing to anticipate future consequences early on may hurtle us toward harmful technology and policy lock-ins.

Human in the Loop, a project by the Digital Futures Lab (DFL) in partnership with Quicksand Design Studio and supported by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies (RNP), aims to explore the complexities surrounding the unintended and long-term impacts of GenAI.

Grounded in participatory foresight methods and creative storytelling, this project brings together diverse voices and perspectives. Through workshops, expert consultations, and public engagement, we engaged deeply with those who both build and experience the impacts of these technologies.

We assembled a group of leading experts and practitioners to systematically identify the first-, second-, and third-order consequences of the dominant use cases of GenAI in the critical social sector. To facilitate this exercise, we scanned popular media and academic articles for emerging signals of change and used a Futures Wheel. This structured approach helped us connect short-term technological developments with broader, long-term societal impacts.

Foresight, however, is not solely the domain of experts; it must include public participation. To conclude this project, we issued a nationwide public call inviting people to submit short stories expressing their hopes and concerns about the future of GenAI in India.

The stories in Human in the Loop, that traverse various domains and themes such as agriculture, healthcare, judiciary, creative industries, environmental resources, AI companionship, and agentic AI, are not just speculative fiction; they are invitations to time-travel to the worlds we might be living in very soon. In an age where technology is evolving faster than our ethical, social, and ecological frameworks can keep pace, these narratives serve as guideposts of what could become of us. We hope that these stories cultivate a longing for futures that centre human dignity, planetary care, and equitable technological progress. Without such glimpses, we risk hurtling toward futures that do not serve us - futures more extractive, isolating, and unjust than the present.

This project would not have been possible without the dedication of our research team, our expert network, the creative brilliance of our art team, and the invaluable partnership with Quicksand Design Studio.

We extend our gratitude to the participants who responded to our open call.

Finally, we express our deepest appreciation to Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies for their support in making this initiative a reality.

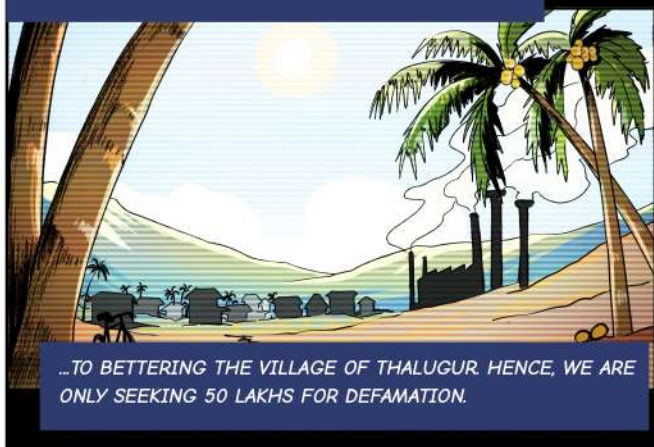




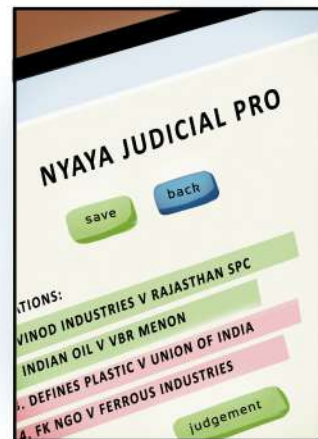
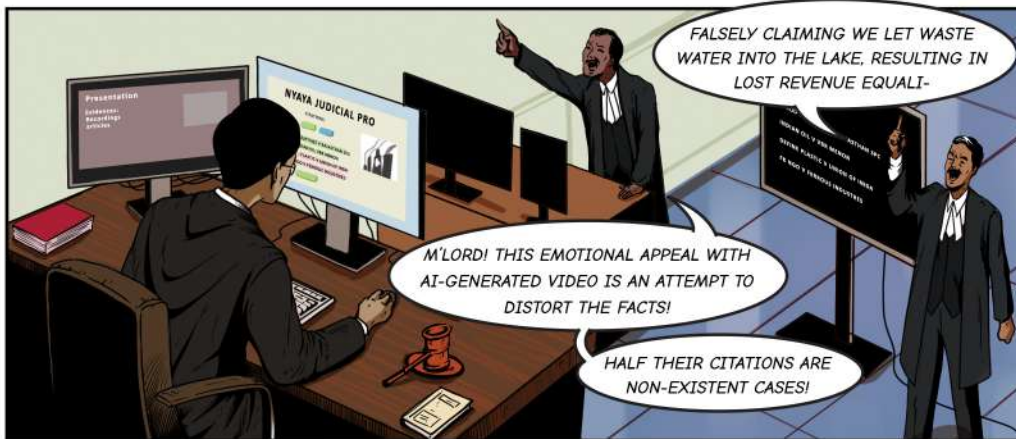
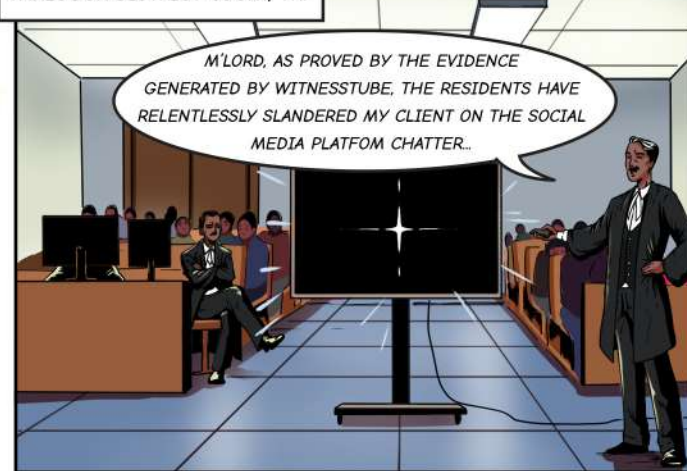
IN THE YEAR 2035, THE INDIAN JUDICIARY HAS EMBRACED AI.



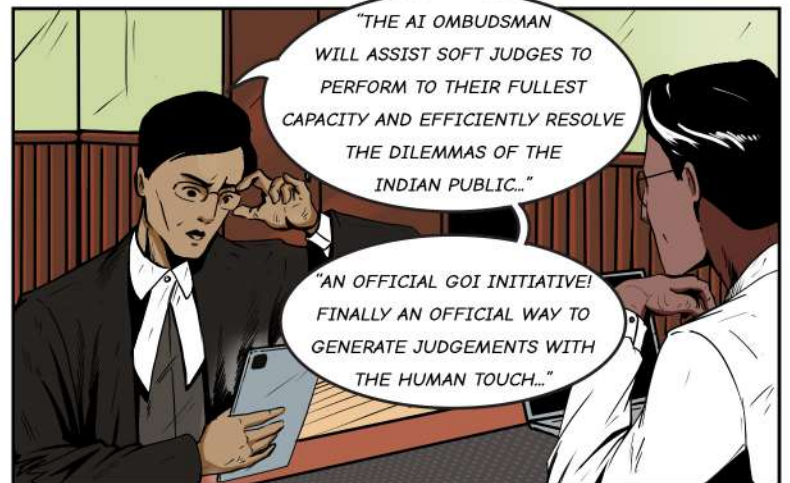
BUNTY INDUSTRIES HAS CONTRIBUTED EXTENSIVELY...



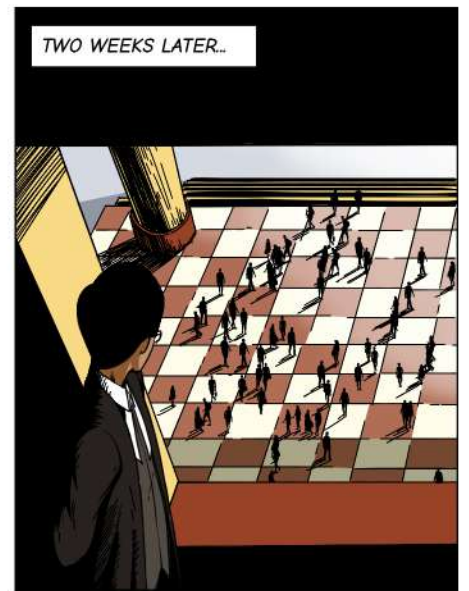
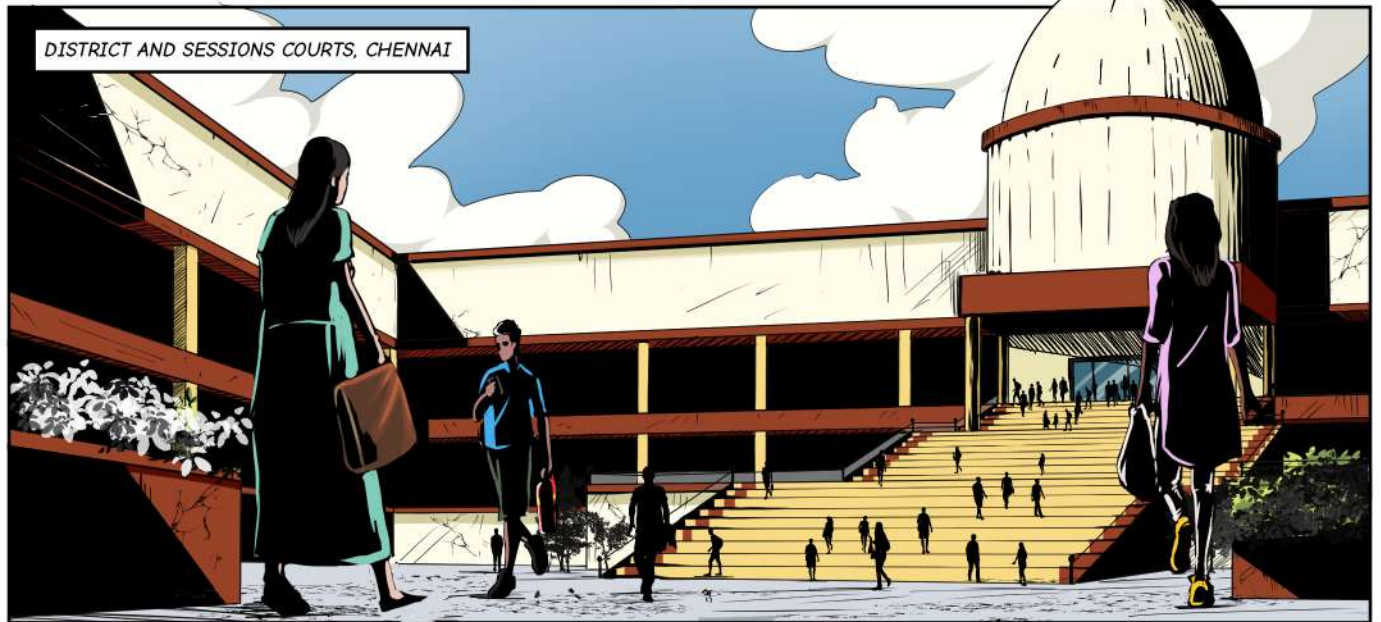
THALUGUR DISTRICT COURT, TN.



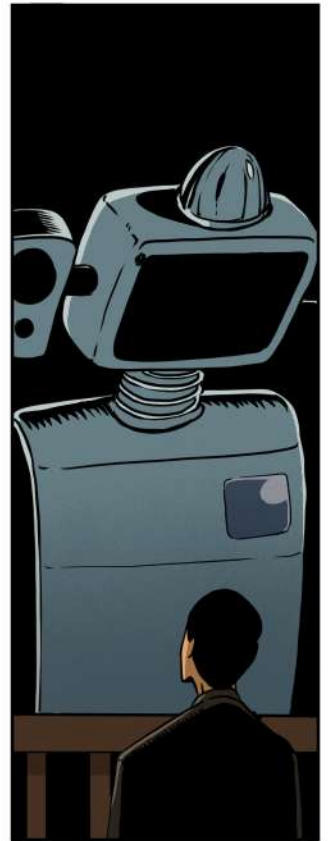
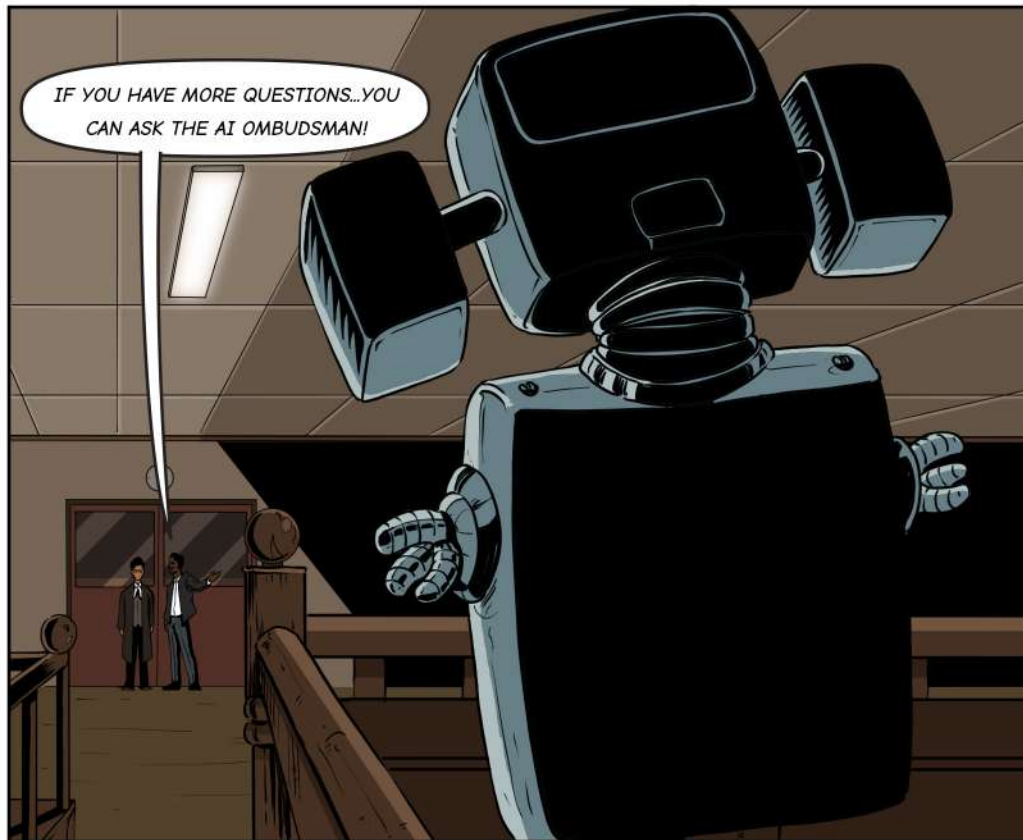




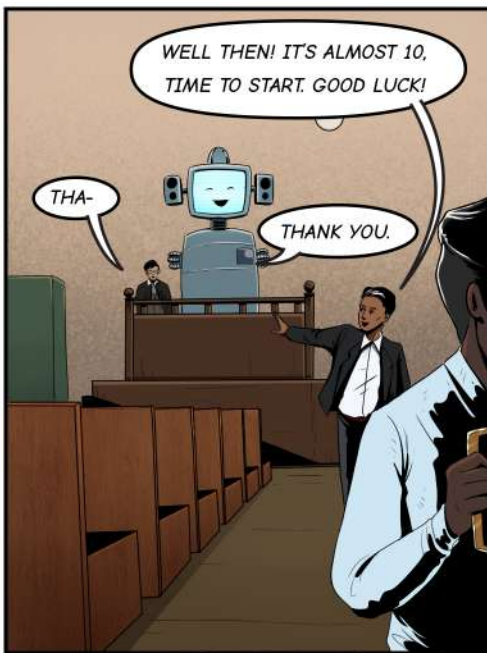
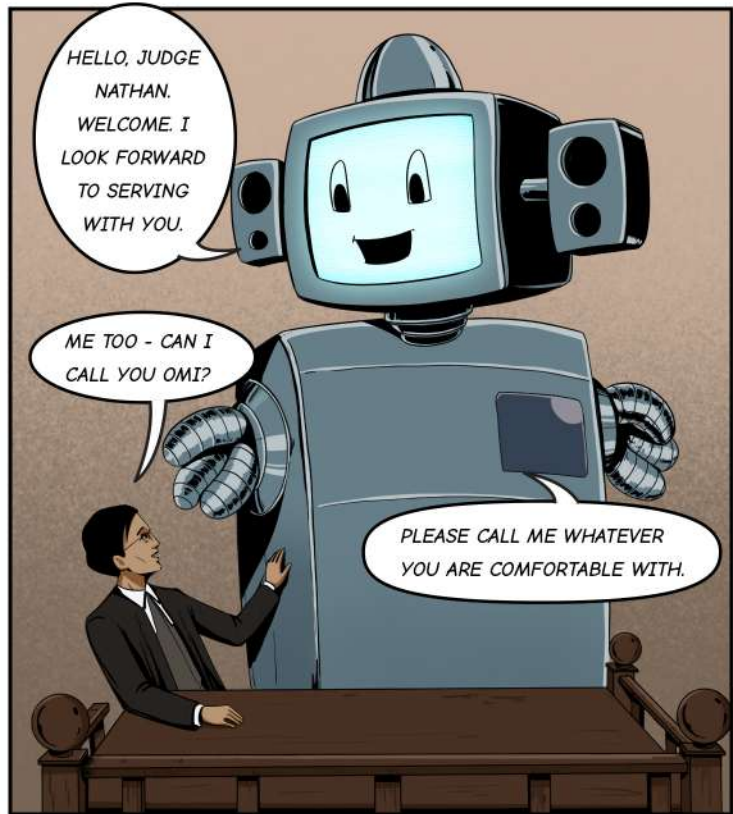
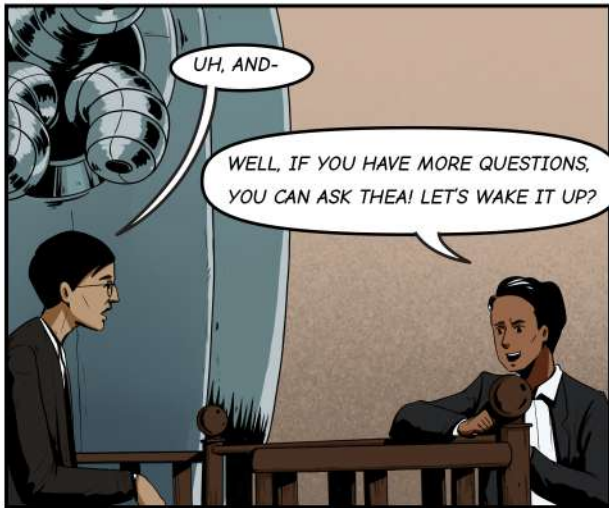














EARLIER THAT DAY...



EXCUSE ME, AKKA!

AKKA, I NEED A CHEAP LAWYER.  
I ONLY HAVE 10,000 RUPEES.  
CAN YOU HELP?



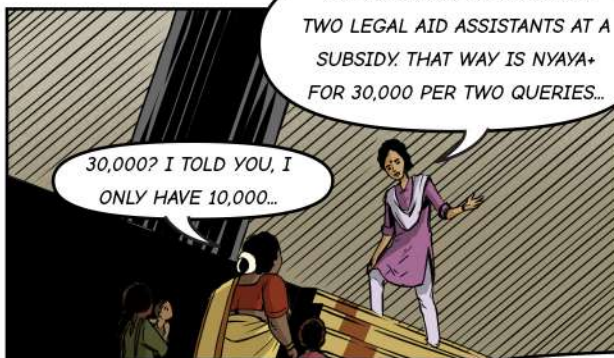
YOU WON'T GET A HUMAN  
LAWYER WITH THAT LITTLE.

IT'S AN AI SOFTWARE  
THAT HEARS YOUR CASE  
AND LOOKS AT YOUR  
DOCUMENTS. YOU GOT  
THEM, RIGHT?

I-I THINK SO.

THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES  
TWO LEGAL AID ASSISTANTS AT A  
SUBSIDY. THAT WAY IS NYAYA+  
FOR 30,000 PER TWO QUERIES...

30,000? I TOLD YOU, I  
ONLY HAVE 10,000...



THEN NYAYABASIC WILL HELP. YOU  
CAN STAND IN LINE WITH US.

BUT WHAT IS THAT?

CHATTER  
CHATTER

CHATTER  
CHATTER



THIS RAGHAVENDRAN WANTS TO EVICT ME FROM MY SHOP! IT'S  
BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOR 70 YEARS. PLEASE, HELP MY FAMILY!

I'LL BE OUT SOON, OK?  
JUST WAIT THERE.

HELLO AND WELCOME TO  
NYAYABASIC! TERMS AND  
CONDITIONS APPLY.



YOUR CASE IS NOTED. THANK  
YOU CHITRA MURUGAN. PLEASE  
PROVIDE LISTED DOCUMENTS.



THANK YOU FOR THE  
DOCUMENTS. WE ARE NOW  
PROCESSING YOUR CASE.



YOUR CASE HAS BEEN  
PROCESSED!

ANALYSIS : IN FAMILY FOR 70 YEARS. CONCLUSION : INSUFFICIENT  
DOCUMENTATION OF OWNERSHIP. RECOMMENDATION :  
PLEAD GUILTY FOR QUICK RESOLUTION DISCOUNT.



WHAT?!



I GAVE YOU THE  
WITNESS STATEMENTS!  
AFFIDAVITS FROM THE  
VILLAGE ELDERS!

FOR ADVANCED DOCUMENT  
PROCESSING UPGRADE TO NYAYA+.



VERY WELL,  
UPLOADING YOUR  
WITNESSTUBE  
STATEMENT TO  
YOUR REGISTERED  
MOBILE NUMBER.  
PLEASE PROCEED  
TO COURT.



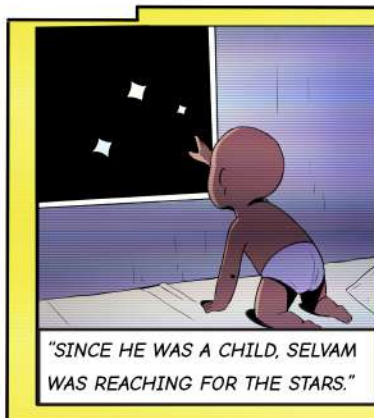
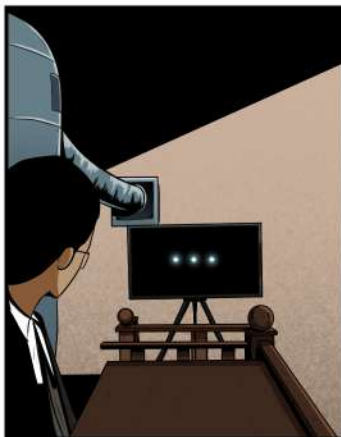
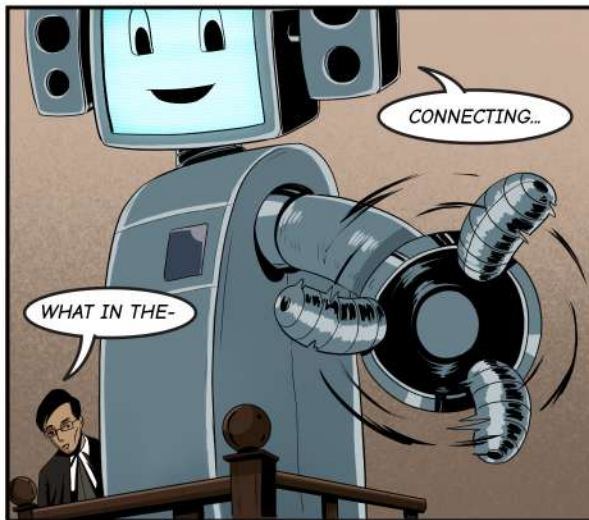
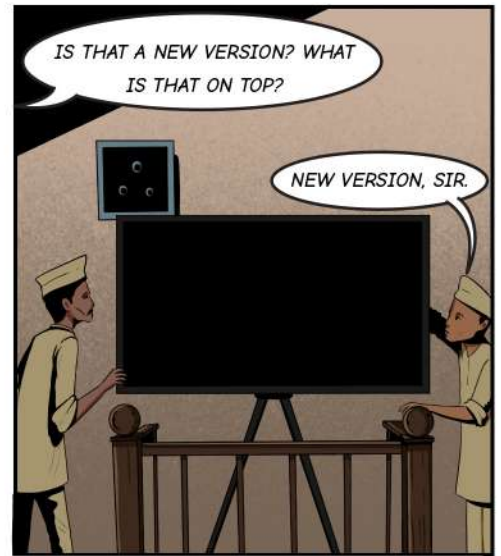
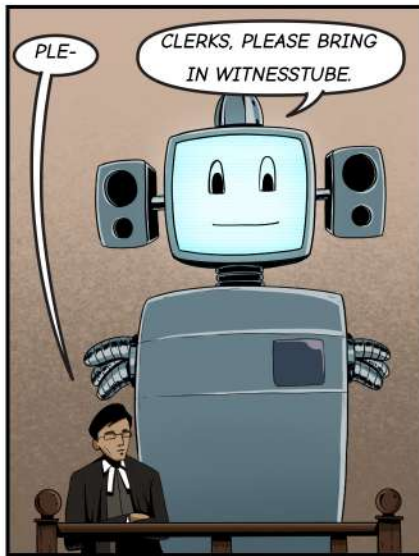
PLEAD GUILTY?



I OWN MY SHOP! AND I  
WILL PROVE IT IN COURT!  
NOT GUILTY!









"BRIBED CITY OFFICIALS FOR A FAKE ID TO CLAIM A SHOP THAT'S NOT HERS!"



"ASSAULTED SELVAM WITH SEWAGE WATER! 2 MONTHS IN THE HOSPITAL!"



"FINALLY, SHE OFTEN DRINKS AND TERRORIZES THE ENTIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WITH LOUD MUSIC!"



OH, WILL ANYONE SAVE ME FROM THIS HORRIBLE WOMAN?



FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY, CHITRA MUST BE CHARGED WITH HARASSMENT, ASSAULT, BRIBERY AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT. THANK YOU.

BRAVO!

BRAVO!

PLEASE SIT.



OBJECTION!  
OBJECTION!

NONE OF THAT IS TRUE!



CROSS EXAMINATION MODE : ON

SIR! HE HAS NO PROOF FOR ANY OF THIS! IT'S NOT TRUE!

EVIDENCE IS SUFFICIENT.  
OBJECTION OVERRULED.



CHITRA MURUGAN, YOU MAY UPLOAD YOUR WITNESS STATEMENT TO WITNESSTUBE.



WAIT-WAIT A MINUTE, OMI. WITNESSTUBE ISN'T FOOLPROOF, LET'S HEAR THE CROSS-

VERY WELL. CHITRA MURUGAN, PLEASE SET YOUR NYAYA APP TO CROSS EXAMINE MODE.



STATEMENT :  
SINCE SELVAM WAS A CHILD, HE WAS REACHING FOR THE STARS. OBJECTION :  
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A HUMAN TO TRAVEL TO A STAR FROM 1970-96



ANALYSIS : OBJECTION REASONABLE. SUSTAINED.

WHAT?



THAT'S ALL, M'LORD.

THAT IS NOT ALL! THAT IS NOT ALL, SIR! PLEASE, MY DOCUMENTS!



AHEM. ORDER, ORDER

HAHA  
HAHA

PLEASE CHITRA, GIVE YOUR DOCUMENTS TO THE CLERK.



HAHA

CLERK-

OW!



JUDGE NATHAN, PLEASE BE CAREFUL! PLEASE SIT DOWN.



WE MUST SEE HER DOCUMENTS!



CHITRA'S DOCUMENTATION WILL BE SHOWN IN TESTIMONY BY HER LAWYER. FOR MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY DURING LOW PRIORITY TRIALS, THE RESPONDENT WILL ONLY SPEAK IN ALLOTTED TIME.



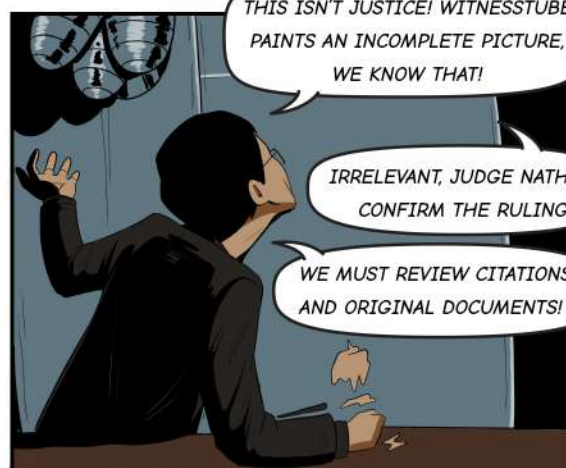
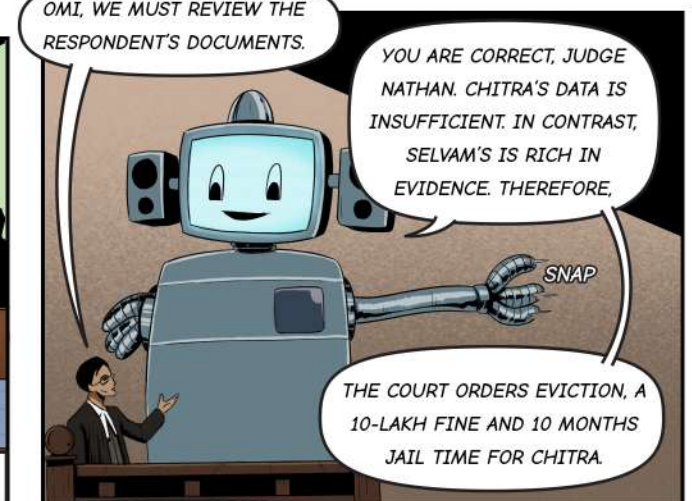
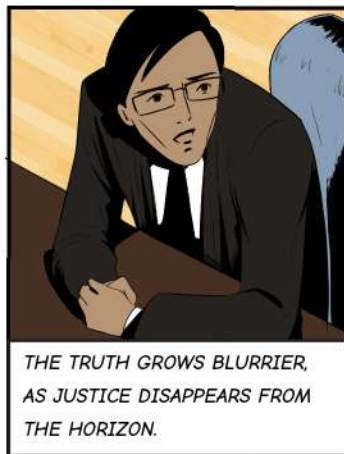
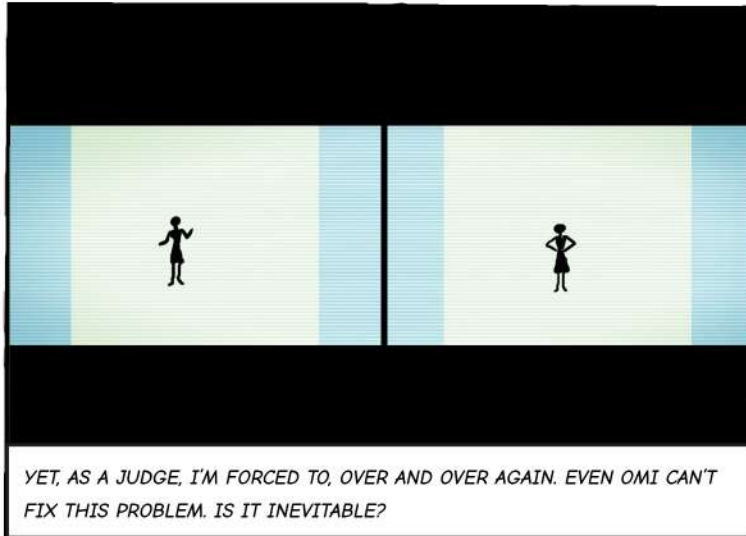
IT IS OUR DUTY TO GET THROUGH AS MANY TRIALS AS POSSIBLE, JUDGE.

OR ELSE OUR SYSTEMS WILL BE OVERRUN AS IN THE 2020'S

TRUST ME AND DO YOUR DUTY.







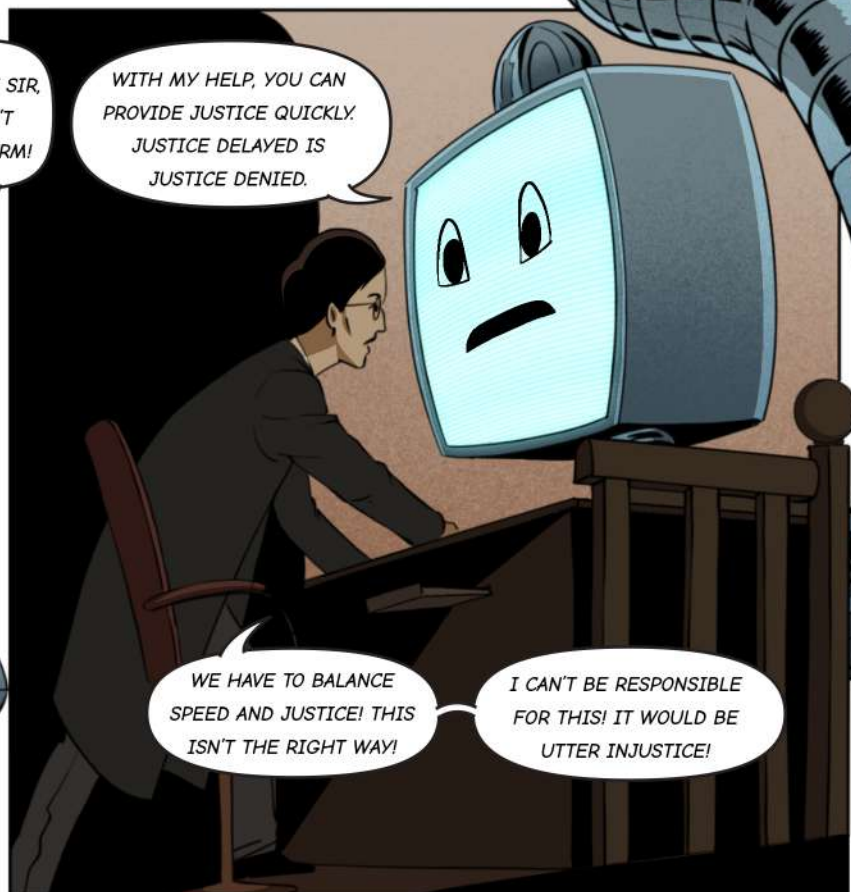




@#!\$% WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS?  
I PAID SO MUCH FOR THIS!

I WILL BE FORCED  
TO COMPLAIN TO  
THE BAR, JUDGE.

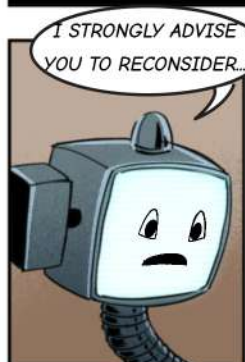
PLEASE SIR,  
DON'T  
CONFIRM!



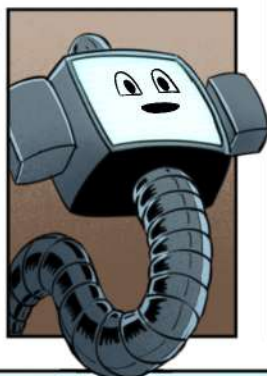
WITH MY HELP, YOU CAN  
PROVIDE JUSTICE QUICKLY.  
JUSTICE DELAYED IS  
JUSTICE DENIED.

WE HAVE TO BALANCE  
SPEED AND JUSTICE! THIS  
ISN'T THE RIGHT WAY!

I CAN'T BE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THIS! IT WOULD BE  
UTTER INJUSTICE!



I STRONGLY ADVISE  
YOU TO RECONSIDER...



THEN LET ME TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.  
JUSTICE FOR THE FEW WHO CAN LET CASES  
DRAG ON FOR YEARS IS NOT JUSTICE.

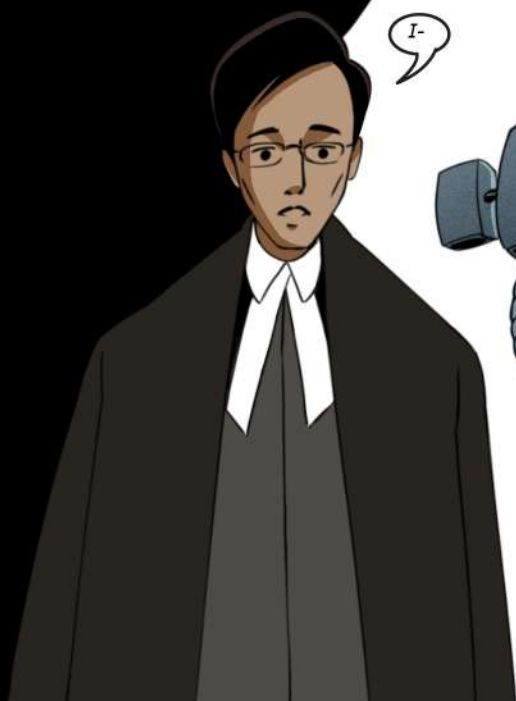


I-I CAN'T  
ADMINISTER JUSTICE  
FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

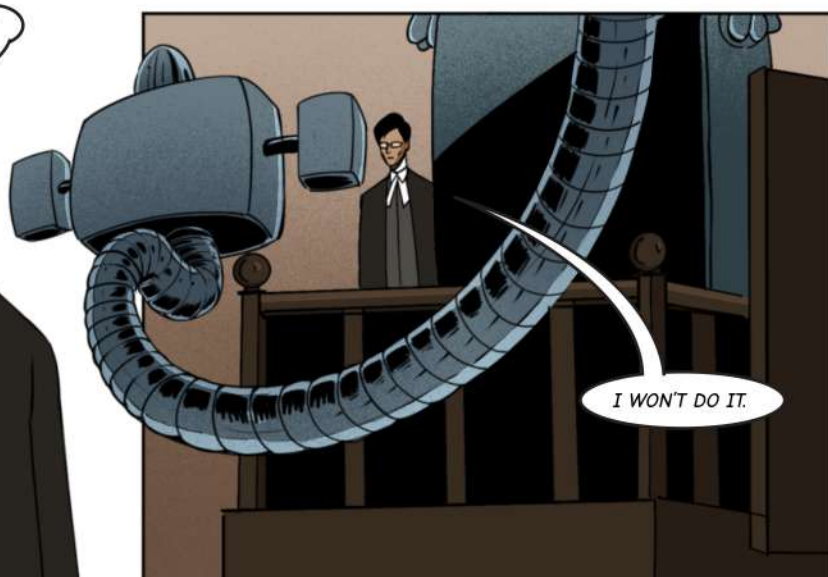
BUT YOU MUST.

A FALSE DICHOTOMY.

BUT THIS ISN'T THE SOLUTION!



I-



I WON'T DO IT.

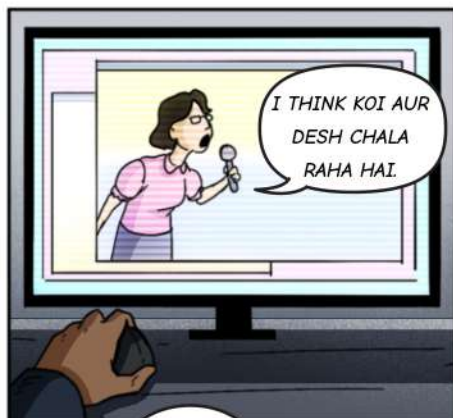
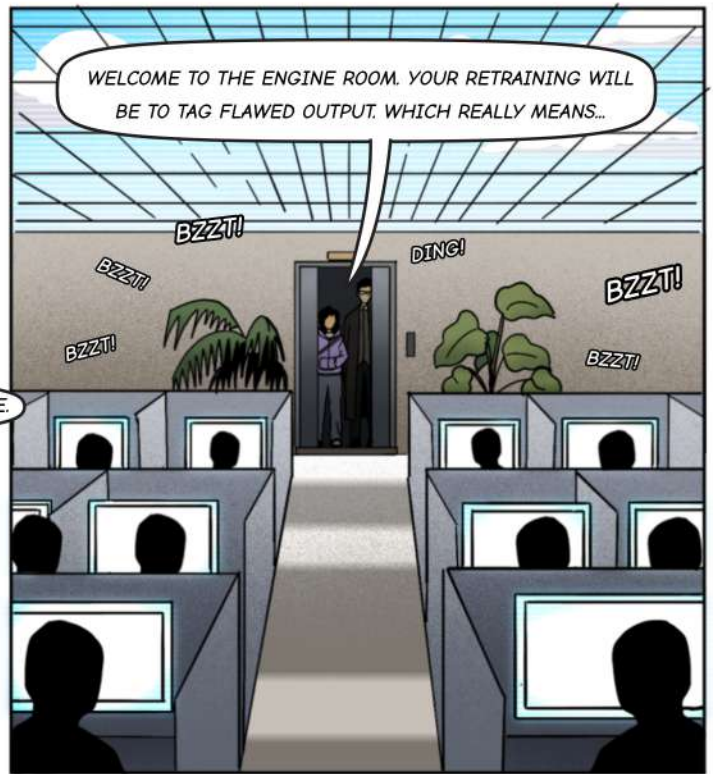








NOT EVEN COUNTING MINE.







WELL, WE'RE TRYING TO DO PREDICTIVE POLICING RIGHT NOW, SO US GRUNTS GET TO CLEAN UP THE MESS...IT'S KIND OF FUN TO SEE WHAT IT COMES UP WITH?



SO THIS IS...HUMANS CLEANING AFTER AN AI...



WHO IS MONITORING ANOTHER AI...



WHO IS POLICING-PREDICTIVE POLICING-PEOPLE.

AI-CEPTION.



...WOW...

I GOT THE BEST ONE YET, JUDGE. TAKE A LISTEN.

"I INFORMED MY MANAGER I WAS PREGNANT."

ANALYSIS : I HAD RELATIONS WITH MY MANAGER AND GOT PREGNANT

FUNNY, RIGHT?



HILARIOUS.

WELL, WHAT CAN WE DO?



OMI IS STILL TRYING TO GRASP NUANCE.

THEN WHY RELEASE IT TO THE PUBLIC?

THIS COULD - CLEARLY HAS - RUINED LIVES.

NATHAN, THINK OF THE BENEFIT TO INDIANS! YOU JUDGES HAD YOUR TURN, YOU WANTED THINGS TO BE FAIR. BUT THE SYSTEM WAS SO SLOW NOBODY GOT FAIR TREATMENT!



NOW, IT'S OUR TURN. WE MOVE FAST AND, SOMETIMES, WE BREAK THINGS!

SHE JUST DOESN'T GET IT. IF EVERYONE APPEALS, IT COULD DROWN THIS TINY TEAM.



THIS IS JUST CRISIS AFTER CRISIS. THEY'RE DROWNING



AND THAT'S WHY I SIGNED UP TO BE A SOFT JUDGE! BUT THIS ISN'T A GAME. THERE HAVE TO BE CONSEQUENCES FOR BREAKING THINGS.

SO PEOPLE WILL APPEAL, NATHAN. NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.

BUT IF EVERYONE-

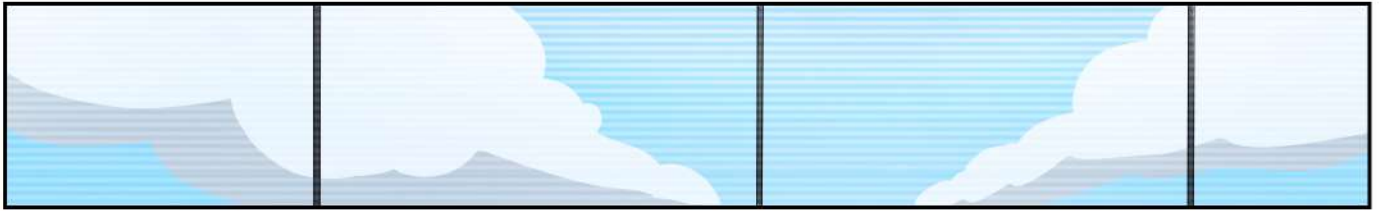


OKAY, I GET IT. I'LL DO THE RETRAINING, BUT - I WANT TO SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE RUNNING THIS.









YOU KNOW, I USED TO BE A JUDGE. HOW MANY YEARS ON THE BENCH?



COME ON, YOU CAN STARE LATER.

HEY, SEKARI! HERE'S ANOTHER JUDGE FOR YOU.



HIS NAME'S NATHAN. SHOW HIM AROUND. HE'LL PROBABLY JOIN JUDICIAL COMPLIANCE.

SURE, INDU.



ALMOST 5 YEARS NOW.

NICE! I DID 7.



WELL THEY BROUGHT MOST OF US JUDGES IN JUDICIAL COMPLIANCE DOWN HERE BECAUSE WE WERE FRUSTRATED.

WITH AI, WE CAN FINALLY PUSH CASES THROUGH FASTER...OH! THOSE GUYS ARE PART OF THE COMPANY LEAGUE OF HEROES TEAM...DO YOU PLAY?

WE HAVE GREAT WORK-LIFE BALANCE HERE...AND WE GET TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM! IT'S BEYOND WHAT I'D IMAGINED...



IT'S A DIFFERENT VIBE DOWN HERE...INNOVATION NEEDS FREE MINDS.

YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.



OH HERE COMES THE CEO.

HEY VASANTHI! MEET NATHAN!

HEY.



NATHAN IS GOING TO CHANGE INDIA IN JUDICIAL COMPLIANCE!

REALLY? EXCELLENT. HAVE WE GIVEN HIM AN OFFER?



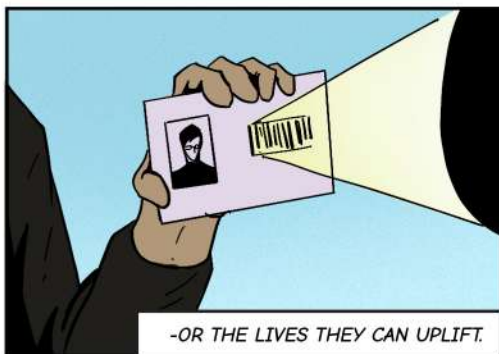
WELCOME TO OMI CORP! PLEASE READ THROUGH AND SIGN AT THE BOTTOM.

I COULD ACTUALLY BECOME BETTER AND FASTER...AND MAKE OMI BETTER AND FASTER...





THEY NEED SOMEONE LIKE ME. SOMEONE WHO'LL NEVER FORGET, OR LET THEM FORGET.



BEING A CODE SCRUBBER'S NOT WHAT I IMAGINED WHEN I DREAMT OF BECOMING A JUDGE SO MANY YEARS AGO...



BUT I'M GOING TO GRAB THIS OPPORTUNITY...





## Premium Justice : A Soft Judge's Awakening

Developed under 'Human in the Loop', a project harnessing foresight methods and creative storytelling to portray the near-future unintended consequences of Generative AI in India.

Read all the stories in the series at [loop.digitalfutureslab.in](https://loop.digitalfutureslab.in)

