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**THE HINDU**



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# **SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS**

**13th May 2026**

## **TOPICS:-**

**1. Data and justice**

(GS Paper II Governance)

**2. Managing coexistence in human-wildlife conflict zones**

(GS Paper III Environment and Ecology)

**3. NEET leak unacceptable: Who's accountable?**

(GS Paper II Governance)

**DELHI CENTRE:**  
636, Mukherjee Nagar  
New Delhi-110009

**PRAYAGRAJ CENTRE:**  
1/1/8A, Stanley Rd,  
Maharana Pratap Chauraha,  
Civil Lines, Prayagraj, UP - 211002

 **9555-124-124**

 **sanskritiiias.com**

# 1. DATA AND JUSTICE

*(GS Paper II Governance)*

This editorial ‘**Data and justice**’ was published in **The Hindu** on 13th May 2026, highlights the **promise and risks** of **AI-driven** judicial digitisation in India.

## **Judicial Digitisation and Data Integration**

- **One Case One Data** aims to create a unified judicial data platform, linking case movement, appeals, records, litigant actions, documents, and statistics across courts.
- The platform can reduce **manual verification**, ease inter-court access, improve judicial statistics, and help administrators identify procedural bottlenecks.
- Its success depends on **data standards**, as India’s district and subordinate courts currently use varied software practices and uneven record quality.
- **Su-Sahayak** has been added to the Supreme Court website to help users navigate case status, cause lists, orders, judgments, e-services, and frequently asked questions.

## **Access, Equity and Digital Divide**

- The tools promise **access to justice**, but may deepen the digital divide if lawyers and litigants lack devices, cloud backup, or digital capacity.
- Large firms may absorb **technology costs**, while district and taluka-level practitioners may face capital constraints, enabling digital middlemen to exploit litigants.
- Unlike **Jan Sahayak**, Su-Sahayak is text-based, creating barriers for users uncomfortable with typing or navigating complex website menus.
- Courts must ensure **AI adoption** does not harm marginalised communities that already face disproportionate arrest, denial of bail, or procedural exclusion.

## **Safeguards Against Misuse**

- Centralised judicial data raises concerns over **interoperability**, legacy-data integrity, private-information access, staff skilling, and possible misuse.
- India’s courts have usually been cautious with **AI assistance**, restricting it to translation, factual processing, and legal-precedent support.
- **SUVAS** translates judgments, while **SUPACE** processes facts and precedents, but stronger tools may tempt users to abuse AI beyond limited support roles.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Responsible AI Governance in the Justice System

- **Algorithmic transparency:** AI tools in courts must remain explainable and auditable, as SUPACE shows how legal-tech outputs may influence administrative reasoning.
- **Data protection:** Digitised court records need strict safeguards, as bail records, witness identities and eCourts data can enable profiling if poorly protected.
- **Human oversight:** Judicial AI must assist, not replace, judges, as SUVAS supports translation while final interpretation remains a human judicial function.
- **Bias prevention:** Algorithms trained on unequal legal data may reproduce bias, as COMPAS in the U.S. raised concerns over racialised risk assessment.
- **Audit mechanism:** Regular third-party audits can detect exclusion and misuse, as Aadhaar-linked welfare errors showed risks in automated governance systems.
- **Liability clarity:** Courts must define responsibility for AI errors, because NIC, vendors or registries cannot shift blame when access to justice suffers.
- **Digital trust:** Citizens will accept judicial technology only when privacy, transparency and grievance redressal make eCourts feel like reform, not surveillance.

## 2. MANAGING COEXISTENCE IN HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT ZONES

*(GS Paper III Environment and Ecology)*

This editorial ‘**Managing coexistence in human-wildlife conflict zones**’ was published in **The Hindu** on 13th May 2026, highlights the need for **scientifically** informed, **socially** just and **ecologically** sustainable approaches to human-wildlife conflict.

### HWC as a Socio-Ecological Challenge

- **Human-wildlife conflict** is not merely a conservation issue, but a socio-ecological challenge shaped by land use, livelihoods, and ecological change.
- In India, Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America, **habitat fragmentation** and agricultural expansion intensify conflict where biodiversity overlaps with dense human settlement.