

On July 1, 2023, a thought-provoking seminar titled "How can Technology Deliver 'Ease of Justice'?" took place, shedding light on the intersection of technology in delivering justice and the future of dispute resolution. This webinar was deliberated on the statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2023, on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of Gauhati High Court "*Law should be comprehensible to the common man. Alternative Dispute Resolution systems are an important pillar of judicial delivery. Technology can help bring justice and ease of justice.*" The session aimed to explore the potential of technology in enhancing accessibility, efficiency, and fairness in pursuing justice.

This session was jointly organised by the CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC), a think-tank and WeVaad, a legal-tech start-up. The event offered insights into the role of technology in delivering ease of justice. The webinar delves into the realm of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) and its transformative impact on the justice system. ODR has emerged as a powerful tool to resolve disputes online, offering numerous advantages such as reduced costs, faster resolution times, and increased accessibility.

The webinar featured authors Nisshant Laoria and Jonathan Rodrigues who have authored a book on Mediation Simplified who showcased instances to count economic savings and time efficiency on account of ODR. Dr Deepti Mukesh, Former Judicial Member of NCLT, Delhi, highlighted, 'How can mediation reduce the burden of the Courts?' She added that "Online Dispute Resolution has come forward as an equitable relief to remedy the delayed justice delivered through traditional courts established by the senescent procedure established by law. A dispute is like a disease that leads to further conflicts if not resolved early. The state of uncertainty that exists due to the lengthy procedures of courts in India further causes numerous disputes and deceives the end of justice, which is neither in the interest of the litigating parties nor the society at large. In this regard, methods and forums for Online Dispute Resolution assume great importance as, if properly and positively pursued, they benefit not only the parties in dispute but also the legal system and society at large".