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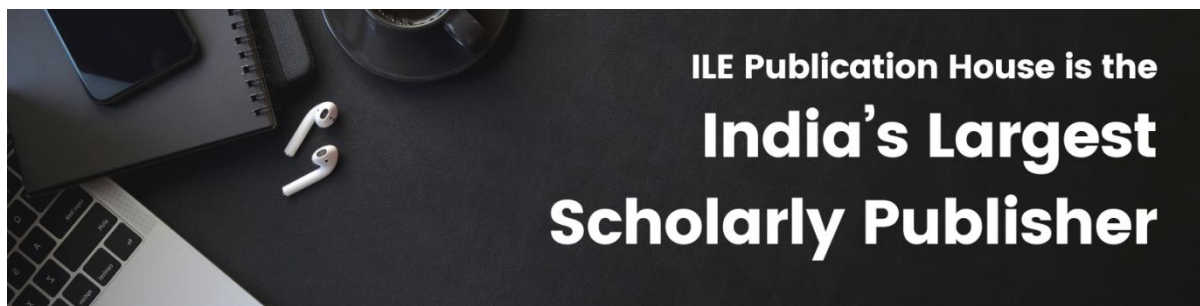
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THE USAGE OF AI IN THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE IN INDIA: AN CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is driving a transformative shift in India's judiciary and law enforcement, enhancing efficiency, accessibility, and decision-making. By integrating AI into judicial processes, case management, legal research, and law enforcement, India is streamlining operations, reducing delays, and making justice more accessible to all. The judiciary faces longstanding challenges such as case backlogs, language barriers, and the need for digital modernization. AI-powered technologies—including Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), and Predictive Analytics are now being leveraged to automate administrative tasks, improve case tracking, and enhance crime prevention. The use of AI in judicial systems is being explored by judiciaries, prosecution services and other domain specific judicial bodies around the world. For example, in the criminal justice field, the use of AI systems for providing investigative assistance and automating decision-making processes is already in place in many judicial systems across the world. Considering rapid developments in this field, the challenges and opportunities related to harnessing AI in judicial systems and their implications for human rights and the rule of law must form part of discussions among stakeholders from the judicial ecosystem. Therefore, this online training course in the form of a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) is being developed in cooperation with UNESCO's category 2 centre CETIC and the IEEE in response to the needs expressed by UNESCO Member States, judges and other stakeholders.

According to the professionals surveyed in **Thomson Reuter's 2024 Future of Professionals Report**, AI is transforming the legal profession by automating routine tasks and boosting lawyer productivity through AI-powered tools that handle document review, legal research, and contract analysis, while showing that AI could save lawyers 4 hours per week. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has enormous potential to be used for social good and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Even as it is being used to help address many of humanity's most critical social issues, its use is also raising concerns about infringement of human rights like the right to freedom of expression, right to privacy, data protection, and non-discrimination. AI-based technologies offer major opportunities if they are developed in respect of universal norms, ethics and standards, and if they are anchored in values based on human rights and sustainable development. AI-assisted legal translation, predictive policing, and AI-driven legal chatbots are reshaping the legal landscape, making processes faster, smarter, and more transparent. While the adoption of AI presents challenges, particularly in data security, ethical governance, and legal adaptation, its potential to strengthen India's justice system is unparalleled.



Key words – Artificial Intelligence (AI), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India's Justice system, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Predictive Analytics, Machine Learning (ML).

INTRODUCTION

Indian law is a complex and diverse legal system that draws its roots from a rich history, cultural diversity, and a blend of indigenous, colonial, and modern legal influences. As one of the oldest and most diverse legal systems in the world, Indian law reflects the intricate tapestry of a nation that is home to a multitude of languages, religions, traditions, and customs. The legal framework of India is characterized by its multi-tiered structure, comprising laws at the central, state, and local levels. At its core lies the Constitution of India, adopted in 1950, which serves as the supreme law of the land and lays down the fundamental principles governing the country. It enshrines principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, forming the cornerstone of the Indian legal system. The legal landscape of India is a harmonious amalgamation of indigenous legal traditions, Islamic law, British common law, and various codified statutes enacted by the Indian Parliament and state legislatures. The British colonial period significantly influenced India's legal development, introducing concepts of judicial precedent, legal procedures, and the adversarial system of justice. This legacy is evident in the structure and functioning of India's judiciary. The Indian legal system comprises a hierarchical structure of courts, ranging from the Supreme Court of India, which is the highest judicial authority, to district and local courts. The judiciary plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the rule of law, upholding individual rights, and ensuring justice for all. The principle of judicial independence is a cornerstone of the Indian legal system, facilitating a system of checks and balances

between the judiciary, executive, and legislative branches of government.³⁹³

OBJECTIVES

The explicit goal of AI technology in judicial decision-making is to address the issue of fewer cases before the courts. Courts worldwide are dealing with a "litigation explosion" and increased cases. As a result, courts have had to adapt the old method of case management and trial, as well as include AI technology, to aid the judge in hearing the case and resolving the disagreement in a timely and correct manner. AI has clear benefits over human judges, according to the current application and development prospects of AI in the judicial sphere.³⁹⁴

One of the distinctive features of Indian law is its diversity in personal laws, which govern matters related to marriage, inheritance, and family relations based on an individual's religion. These personal laws apply to different religious communities and contribute to the intricate fabric of India's social and legal landscape. As a dynamic legal system, Indian law continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of society. It faces the ongoing challenge of balancing tradition with progress, preserving cultural identities while fostering legal innovation, and ensuring that the principles of justice and equity remain central to its functioning. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries worldwide, and the legal sector is no exception. As India's legal landscape navigates the integration of AI technologies, several key aspects of Indian law are being impacted.

³⁹³ "Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Judiciary: An Analytical study" available at: <https://shodhgangotri.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/20.500.14146/15483/1/deshmukh,%20s.%20m.%20synopsis%20cd.pdf> (last visit on 4th February, 2025).

³⁹⁴ "AI and India's Legal Landscape" available at: <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-editorials/ai-and-india-s-legal-landscape> (last visit on 17th March, 2025).



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

- a) **Legal Research and Analysis:** AI-powered tools are revolutionizing legal research by sifting through vast amounts of information rapidly. These tools assist lawyers and scholars in analyzing case law, statutes, and legal opinions efficiently. However, this evolution prompts questions about the reliability of AI-generated legal insights and the role of traditional legal research.³⁹⁵
- b) **Contract Review and Due Diligence:** AI-driven contract review tools streamline due diligence processes, enhancing accuracy and efficiency. This development accelerates commercial transactions but raises concerns about the interpretability of complex contracts and the need for human oversight.
- c) **Predictive Analysis:** AI's predictive capabilities aid in anticipating legal outcomes based on historical data. Indian law's precedent-based system aligns well with predictive analysis, but ethical considerations arise regarding the potential reinforcement of bias present in historical decisions.
- d) **Access to Justice:** AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants provide accessible legal information to individuals who may otherwise lack resources to navigate the legal system. These tools bridge gaps in access to justice, aligning with India's commitment to ensuring justice for all.
- e) **Regulatory Challenges:** The dynamic nature of AI technology challenges the formulation of precise regulations. Indian law must strike a balance between fostering AI innovation and safeguarding against ethical, privacy, and security concerns.
- f) **Intellectual Property (IP) Considerations:** AI-generated content

raises complex IP questions. Ownership, protection, and infringement of AI-generated works require legal clarification, particularly in copyright and patent domains.

- g) **Data Privacy and Security:** AI relies heavily on data, triggering discussions about data protection, consent, and security. India's evolving data protection framework, including the Personal Data Protection Bill, intersects with AI's data-driven operations.
- h) **Liability and Accountability:** Determining liability for AI errors or biases is a significant challenge. Indian law may need to adapt to establish accountability standards that encompass both AI creators and users.
- i) **Ethical AI Use:** Indian law must navigate ethical considerations, such as bias mitigation, transparency, and fairness, to ensure AI technologies align with societal values and constitutional principles.
- j) **Workforce Impact:** As AI automates tasks, the legal profession's nature and workforce requirements may evolve. This shift necessitates legal education reforms and strategies to upskill legal professionals.³⁹⁶

CURRENT APPLICATIONS OF AI IN INDIAN LAW

1. Legal Research

AI-powered tools are increasingly being used for legal research, enabling lawyers to quickly find relevant case law, statutes, and legal precedents. Platforms like LexisNexis and Manupatra are incorporating AI to streamline this process. Document review processes, especially in litigation and due diligence, are being automated using AI algorithms that can analyse large volumes of documents to identify relevant information.³⁹⁷

³⁹⁵ Sanjay Jain, "The Use of AI in the Legal Profession in India" (2024), available at: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/use-ai-legal-profession-india-sanjay-jain-wtzbfc> (last visit on 16th March, 2025).

³⁹⁶ "Courts and Artificial Intelligence," available at: <https://iacajournal.org/articles/10.36745/ijca.343> (last visit on 15th January, 2025).

³⁹⁷ MAHESHWARI & CO, "The Legal Impacts of Artificial Intelligence in India" (2024), available at:



- **Automated Research:** AI tools can quickly analyze vast databases of legal documents, case law, statutes, and regulations, allowing legal professionals to find relevant information much faster than traditional methods.
- **Case Prediction:** AI algorithms can analyze historical case outcomes to predict the likely results of current cases, helping lawyers to strategize better and advise clients on potential outcomes.

2. Contract Analysis and Management:

AI tools are being used to analyse contracts for compliance, risks, and obligations. This can significantly reduce the time spent on contract review and management. Platforms like Kira Systems and Evisort are examples of AI applications that help in contract lifecycle management.³⁹⁸

3. Document Review and Management

- **E-Discovery:** AI can automate the process of reviewing documents during litigation, identifying relevant information and reducing the time and cost associated with manual document review.
- **Contract Analysis:** AI tools can analyse contracts for compliance, risks, and anomalies, helping legal teams to manage contracts more effectively.

4. Chatbots and Virtual Assistants:

AI-driven chatbots are being deployed to provide legal information and assistance to clients, making legal services more accessible. These tools can answer common legal queries and guide users through basic legal processes.

5. E-Discovery:

AI is revolutionizing the e-discovery process by automating the identification, collection, and

analysis of electronic data relevant to legal cases. This is particularly useful in complex litigation involving vast amounts of data.

6. Judicial Decision Support

- **Sentencing Recommendations:** AI can assist judges by providing data-driven insights and recommendations based on previous sentencing patterns, helping to ensure consistency and fairness in sentencing.
- **Case Management:** AI systems can help courts manage caseloads by predicting which cases are likely to require more time and resources, allowing for better allocation of judicial resources.

7. Access to Justice

- **Chatbots and Virtual Assistants:** AI-powered chatbots can provide legal information and assistance to individuals who may not have access to legal representation, helping to bridge the gap in access to justice.
- **Self-Service Platforms:** AI can facilitate the creation of self-service legal platforms that guide users through legal processes, such as filing claims or understanding their rights.³⁹⁹

8. Dispute Resolution

- **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR):** AI can facilitate ODR platforms that help parties resolve disputes without the need for traditional court proceedings, making the process faster and more cost-effective.

9. Fraud Detection and Risk Assessment

- **Fraud Detection:** AI can analyse patterns in data to identify potential fraud in legal and financial

<https://www.maheshwariandco.com/blog/artificial-intelligence-in-india/> (last visit on 23rd March, 2025).

³⁹⁸ "Exploring AI vs human judges in the judiciary" available at: <https://indiaai.gov.in/article/exploring-ai-vs-human-judges-in-the-judiciary> (last visit on 29th January, 2025).

³⁹⁹ "AI Adoption and Its Impact in the Legal Industry An Indian Perspective," available at: <https://www.manupatracademy.com/assets/pdf/AI-Adoption-and-Its-Impact-in-the-Legal-Industry-An-Indian-Perspective.pdf> (last visit on 18th March, 2025).



transactions, helping to protect the integrity of the judicial system.

- **Risk Assessment:** AI tools can assess the risk of reoffending or flight risk in criminal cases, aiding judges in making informed bail and sentencing decisions.

10. Language Processing and Translation

- **Natural Language Processing (NLP):** AI can help in understanding and processing legal language, making it easier to translate legal documents and provide services in multiple languages, thus improving accessibility.

BENEFITS OF AI IN THE LEGAL SECTOR

i. Increased Efficiency:

AI can process and analyze data much faster than humans, leading to significant time savings in legal research, document review, and case management.

ii. Cost Reduction:

By automating routine tasks, AI can help law firms reduce operational costs, which can be passed on to clients, making legal services more affordable.

iii. Improved Access to Justice:

AI tools can democratize access to legal information and services, particularly for individuals in rural or underserved areas who may not have easy access to legal counsel.

iv. Enhanced Accuracy:

AI systems can minimize human error in legal research and document review, leading to more accurate outcomes in legal proceedings.

CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

a) Ethical and Legal Implications:

The use of AI in law raises questions about accountability and transparency. If an AI system makes a recommendation or decision, it can be challenging to determine liability in case of errors.⁴⁰⁰

b) Data Privacy and Security:

The legal sector deals with sensitive information, and the use of AI raises concerns about data privacy and the security of client information.

c) Bias and Fairness:

AI systems can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they are trained on. This can lead to unfair outcomes, particularly in predictive analytics and decision-making processes.

d) Job Displacement:

The automation of legal tasks may lead to job displacement for paralegals and junior lawyers, raising concerns about the future of legal employment.

e) Regulatory Framework:

The rapid adoption of AI in the legal sector outpaces the development of regulatory frameworks to govern its use. There is a need for clear guidelines to ensure ethical practices and protect client rights.

LIMITATIONS

In the current state of affairs, the practical use of judicial AI is reasonably limited in scope and depth. In practice, judicial AI can only aid the judge's decision-making and cannot replace the judge. Therefore, it may be more appropriate for dealing with technical and auxiliary tasks to increase work efficiency. In scope, judicial AI has been reasonably effective in using mature general technologies (such as face recognition and voice conversion) and in domains with low technological needs, adequate investment, and successfully overcoming problems. However, judicial AI still has specific issues, such as a need for more application, concreteness, and practical effect (Zuo 2018). In short, while judicial AI reform is a general trend, it does not imply that present research and implementation are scientific and practical. Judicial AI still needs to improve its knowledge structure, application scenario, and

⁴⁰⁰Nilesh Roy, "AI in Law: Revolutionizing India's Legal Landscape with Technology, Innovation, and Cybersecurity | How AI Can Transform India's Legal Landscape" (2024), available at: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ai-law-revolutionizing-indias-legal-landscape-how-can-roy-csxsf>

(last visit on 12th March, 2025).



prospective capabilities, limiting it to being a judge's assistant rather than a substitute. Analyzing and comprehending the limitations of AI technology's application in judicial judgement is a vital precondition for realizing its standard application.⁴⁰¹

AI TOOLS FOR DIFFERENT LEGAL ROLES

AI isn't just for corporate lawyers or litigators—it's transforming every corner of the legal profession. Let's take a closer look at how AI is impacting different legal roles and the tools that are making waves.

a. Corporate Lawyers

Corporate lawyers often deal with mountains of contracts, mergers and acquisitions, and compliance issues. AI tools like Contract PodAi and Luminance are designed to handle the heavy lifting. These platforms can draft, review, and analyse contracts in a fraction of the time it would take a human. For example, Luminance uses machine learning to spot anomalies in contracts, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. This is especially useful in industries like finance and healthcare, where regulations are constantly evolving.⁴⁰²

b. Litigators

For litigators, AI is a big help when it comes to case preparation. Tools like Relativity use AI to sift through thousands of documents during the discovery phase, identifying relevant evidence and even predicting which documents are most likely to be useful in court. This not only speeds up the process but also reduces the risk of missing critical information.

c. In-House Counsel

In-house legal teams are often stretched thin, juggling multiple responsibilities across different departments. AI tools like Legal Sifter and Bright flag help in-house counsel manage their workload more efficiently. Legal Sifter, for instance, combines AI with human expertise to review contracts and provide actionable

insights. Bright flag, on the other hand, uses AI to optimize legal spend and improve vendor management, making it easier for in-house teams to stay within budget.

d. Legal Researchers

Legal researchers, whether they're working in law firms, academia, or government, can benefit immensely from AI. Platforms like Westlaw Edge and vLex use AI to provide more accurate and comprehensive legal research. These tools can analyse case law, statutes, and legal journals to provide insights that might take a human researcher days or even weeks to uncover.

e. Paralegals and Legal Assistants

Paralegals and legal assistants are often the unsung heroes of the legal world, handling everything from document preparation to client communication. AI platforms like Clio and My Case are designed to streamline these tasks. Clio, for example, offers features like time tracking, billing, and client management, all powered by AI. This allows paralegals to focus on more substantive work, improving overall efficiency.⁴⁰³

CONCLUSION

The usage of AI in the legal landscape in India presents both opportunities and challenges. While it has the potential to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve access to justice, it also raises significant ethical, legal, and social concerns that must be addressed. As the legal profession continues to evolve with technological advancements, it is crucial for stakeholders including legal practitioners, policymakers, and technologists to collaborate in developing a regulatory framework that ensures the responsible and equitable use of AI in the legal sector. Balancing innovation with ethical considerations will be key to harnessing the full potential of AI in law while safeguarding the principles of justice and

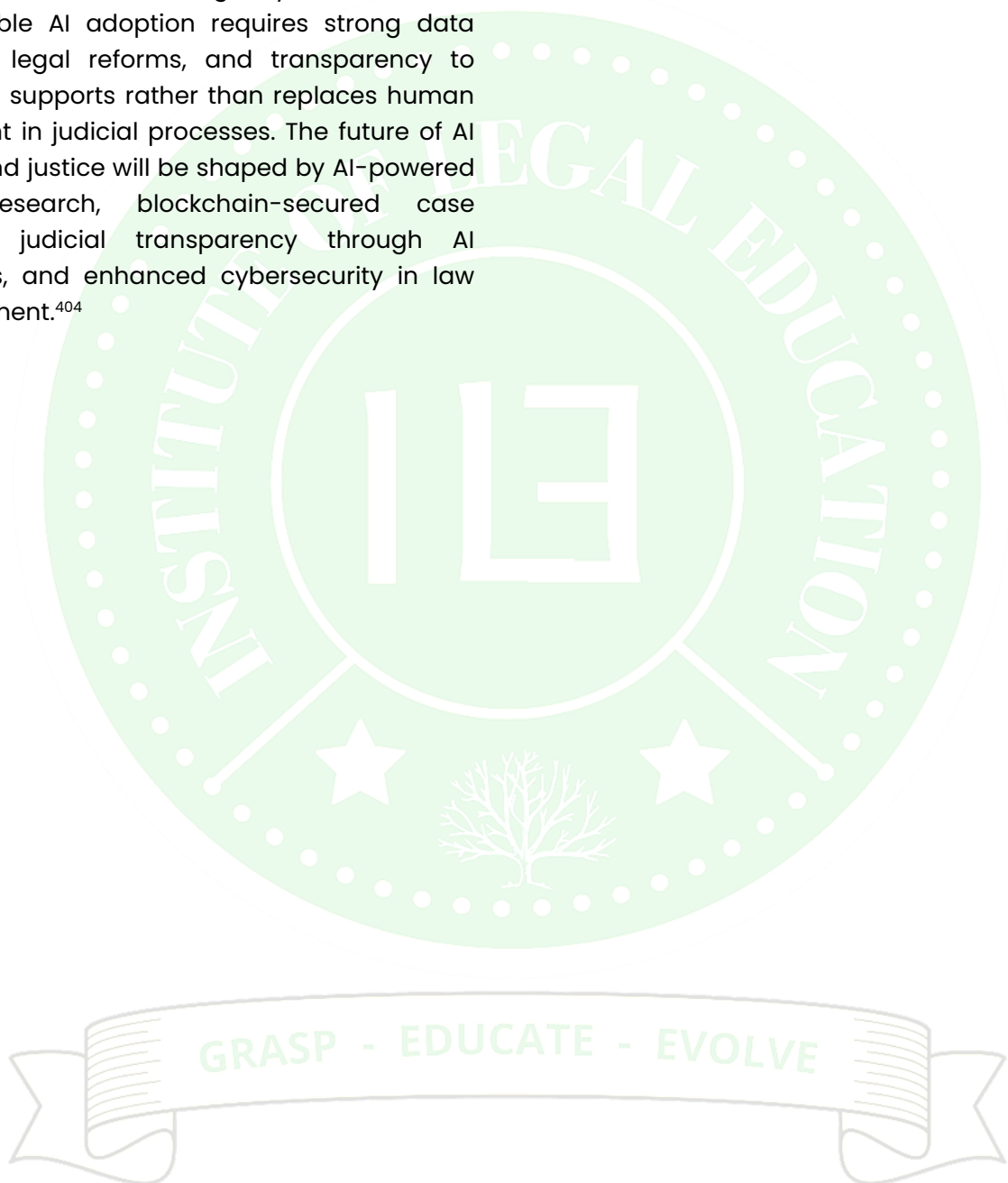
⁴⁰¹ Id 3.

⁴⁰² V. Legal, "Role of AI (artificial intelligence) in Indian legal landscape" (2024), available at: <https://www.vionlegal.com/role-of-ai-artificial-intelligence-in-indian-legal-landscape/> (last visit on 15th March, 2025).

⁴⁰³ "Law & AI: Who's keeping the Order?" available at: <https://solveco.co/law-ai-whos-keeping-the-order/#:~:text=For%20litigators%2C%20AI%20is%20a,to%20be%20useful%20in%20court.> (last visit on 2nd February, 2025).



fairness. Artificial Intelligence is transforming India's judiciary and law enforcement by enhancing case management, legal research, crime prevention, and language accessibility. AI-driven tools such as predictive analytics, automated documentation, chatbots, and smart policing systems are improving efficiency and governance in the legal system. However, responsible AI adoption requires strong data security, legal reforms, and transparency to ensure it supports rather than replaces human judgment in judicial processes. The future of AI in law and justice will be shaped by AI-powered legal research, blockchain-secured case records, judicial transparency through AI analytics, and enhanced cybersecurity in law enforcement.⁴⁰⁴



⁴⁰⁴ “Digital Transformation of Justice: Integrating AI in India's Judiciary and Law”, *available at*: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2106239#:~:text=AI%2DAssisted%20Filing%20and%20Court,errors%20in%20the%20documentation%20process> (last visit on 13th March, 2025).



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