

Introduction of AI in Legal System: Boon or Bane for Lawyers

Dr Deepa Pravin Patil Associate Professor Ismailsaheb Mulla law College, Karmaveer Samadhi
Parisar, Satara

Abstract

Artificial Intelligence has garnered significant attention in recent times, offering limitless possibilities across various fields, including law. It not only contributes to and integrates with different disciplines but also presents unique challenges. AI and Machine Learning have significantly enhanced the efficiency of industries and systems. When utilized effectively, they can drive remarkable transformation across multiple sectors.

In the justice system, AI has had a notable impact, with the potential to expedite legal processes and reduce case backlogs. While the Indian legal system has gradually embraced technology, many legal professionals continue to rely on traditional methods. This article explores the role of AI in the Indian legal sector and examines how it has influenced legal profession and the overall legal landscape.

(Key words: Artificial intelligence, legal profession, lawyers, etc.)

Introduction:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has gained significant traction in recent years, demonstrating its vast potential across multiple sectors, including law. AI and Machine Learning have greatly enhanced efficiency across various industries, and their effective implementation can drive transformative change. In the legal profession, AI has the potential to streamline legal processes

The advancement of AI technology presents an opportunity for lawyers to enhance their productivity, lower costs, and focus on more strategic aspects of their work. Since 2021, the Supreme Court of India has been utilizing an AI-powered tool to process information and assist judges in decision-making.

Today, AI is increasingly being adopted across industries to optimize operations. Essentially, AI functions as a machine or system that replicates human cognitive abilities. While the Indian legal sector has started integrating technology, many legal professionals continue to rely on traditional methods. This article delves into the role of AI in legal profession and examines the impact it has had on court proceedings.

As after 2017, when Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas for the first time in India introduced AI software through its agreement with Kira Systems, a Canada-based software provider, almost 4% of the legal industry is now using AI based software for efficient working. The Indian society of Artificial intelligence and Law is the only society in India which conceives of the incorporation of AI in the field of law, wherein it is a multidisciplinary collaboration between law and information technology.

Meaning and concept of Artificial Intelligence: Artificial intelligence is the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. The term is frequently applied to the project of developing systems endowed with the intellectual processes characteristic of humans, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from experience.

Artificial Intelligence is the theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.

Artificial Intelligence is a branch of computer science dealing with the simulation of intelligent behaviour in computers.

Artificial intelligence is a type of computer technology which is concerned with making machines work in an intelligent way, like the way the human mind works.

In brief, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a fast-growing area of computer science. The term Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that normally require human intelligence.

Implications of AI on Legal System:

A platform of artificial intelligence for research work can get the research done in seconds be it a law firm having 300 lawyers or a lawyer practicing alone. Artificial intelligence can balance the expenses that are required for the legal research and making research uniform all around. AI can provide modern devices helping the lawyers to become better in litigating and advertising clients in a better manner.

A plenty of Indian legal technology start-ups i.e. SpotDraft, CaseMine, NearLaw, Pensieve, Practice Legal and many more are developing Natural Language Processing (NLP) based processes. They are introducing platforms of next-generation research work that will help law firms to do advanced levels of research which was earlier not possible and making the task less time consuming. There are many legal start-ups that are using artificial intelligence for research work and the number is constantly increasing. Some of the legal start-ups have their own Artificial Intelligence labs.

Adaption of AI in Indian Legal System:

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to significantly transform the legal system by automating time-consuming tasks, improving decision-making, and enhancing overall efficiency. Here are some examples of AI currently being used in Indian legal system viz., **Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS), Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE), Official Multilingual Mobile Application, E-Courts Initiative, AI Techniques for Judgments, SCI-Interact Software.**

Limitations in adoption of AI for Lawyers:

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the legal system presents both opportunities and challenges for lawyers. While AI has the potential to enhance efficiency systematic planning and decision-making. Here are some of the challenges before the lawyers in adaption of AI in legal profession:

- 1. Concerns Regarding Information Security and Privacy Risks:** Safeguarding sensitive legal information remains a major challenge. AI systems may have vulnerabilities that could be exploited by malicious entities, potentially compromising confidential data.
- 2. High Resource Demand and Significant Costs:** Developing, implementing, and maintaining AI systems require substantial investment. Ensuring widespread and equitable adoption of AI in the legal sector necessitates careful consideration of affordability and scalability.

3. Transparency concerns: Many AI algorithms operate as "black boxes," making it challenging for users to understand the decision-making process. This opacity raises concerns about accountability and can create difficulties for litigants and judges alike.

4. Technical Limitations and Potential Errors: AI systems are not flawless and can sometimes make mistakes. They may overlook updates in legal regulations or misinterpret statutes. Moreover, like any other technology, AI can encounter bugs or glitches, leading to inaccurate decisions or predictions.

5. Challenges Fairness: AI systems may inadvertently reinforce or exacerbate biases present in historical legal data, raising critical questions about fairness. Biased algorithms can lead to unjust decisions, potentially violating fundamental rights. In 2015, Google Photos tagged two African-American people as Gorillas through their facial recognition. In 2018, Amazon scrapped the AI-based tool that it used for the hiring process as it favoured male candidates by disregarding resumes that had words like "women's". Recently, deepfakes have emerged on the internet imitating Bollywood actresses and the Hon'ble Delhi High Court has sought a response from the Central Government on its stance on the issue in a PIL. Ensuring fairness in AI-driven legal processes is not only about addressing bias but also holding AI systems accountable for their actions.

Is AI legal tools can replace lawyers ?

A pressing question among lawyers today is whether the introduction of Artificial Intelligence in the legal sector will replace lawyers and legal analysts or if AI-based solutions and platforms will enhance the efficiency and productivity of law firms and legal professionals. The legal industry has witnessed the emergence of numerous technological advancements that have significantly improved the efficiency of legal professionals, including contract analysis tools, trademark search software, and legal research platforms. However, none of these AI-driven solutions are designed to replace lawyers. Instead, they enhance the accuracy, authenticity, and effectiveness of legal research and analysis, making results more precise and reliable. The legal profession heavily relies on critical thinking, decision-making, and advocacy—areas that cannot be fully automated. AI-powered tools and software can significantly reduce the time and effort required for legal tasks, allowing lawyers and firms to provide more accurate and result-oriented advice to their clients. In India, the legal industry is still evolving and increasingly embracing AI-driven and automated assistance tools. However, these technologies are not meant to replace lawyers in areas requiring analysis, strategic decision-making, and judgment. Instead, they serve to enhance efficiency and competence by automating clerical and repetitive tasks, allowing legal professionals to focus on more complex aspects of their work.

Conclusion and Suggestions:

In legal profession, AI has gradually found its way into supporting lawyers and clients alike. Law firms that have adopted this powerful technology are witnessing an increase in their productivity and efficiency. The technology is transforming legal profession but it will not make the professional judgment and expertise of lawyers obsolete. It will enable those who adopt, employ and leverage it to provide better and most cost-effective legal services and representation for their clients. AI can greatly benefit lawyers, judges and attorneys, who are central to the justice delivery system. While no technology can replace a human, AI can assist in the decision-making process, ensuring that the handling of a large volume of cases does not compromise justice.

Lawyers and law firms often worry that AI will replace them, but this is not true to the fact. Instead, AI will help both lawyers and law firms to be more productive and efficient.

AI poses challenges and risks, such as ethical dilemmas, privacy violations, bias, discrimination and security threats. To address these challenges and risks, a global group of AI experts and data scientists has released a new voluntary framework for developing artificial intelligence products safely. The World Ethical Data Foundation (WEDF) has 25,000 members, including staff at tech giants such as Meta, Google and Samsung. The framework contains 84 questions for developers to consider at the start of an AI project. There are white papers, guidelines and policy in jurisdictions such as UK, USA and EU which target algorithmic impact assessment and elimination of algorithmic biases. In India, the primary legislation for data protection is the Information Technology Act and its associated rules. Additionally, the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill has been introduced by MEITY, although it is still awaiting formal enactment. If this bill becomes law, individuals will have the ability to inquire about the data collected from them by both private and government entities, as well as the methods utilized to process and store it.

To effectively integrate AI into the Indian legal system, a balanced approach is essential. A well-defined legal framework should be established to clarify the liabilities and responsibilities associated with AI. Additionally, implementing accountability measures is crucial to ensure proper governance of AI behavior. A strong data protection system must also be introduced to safeguard privacy. Rather than resisting technological advancements, we should embrace AI, leveraging its benefits while simultaneously implementing safeguards to protect users' interests.

References:

1. Copeland J. Artificial intelligence: A philosophical introduction. John Wiley & Sons, 1993
Artificial Intelligence, available at: <https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/a>
2. uthority.20110803095426960 (last visited on November 10, 2023). Artificial Intelligence, available at: <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/artificial%20intelligence> (last visited on November 10, 2023).
3. Collins H. Artificial intelligence: against humanity's surrender to computers. John Wiley & Sons, 2018.
4. Sharma B. Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Industry: Advantages, Challenges, and Ethical Implications, 2023.
5. Kabir MS, Alam MN. The Role of AI Technology for Legal Research and Decision Making. Title of the Journal, 2023.
6. Srivastava SK. AI for Improving Justice Delivery: International Scenario, Potential Applications & Way Forward for India. Informatica, 2023, 47(5).
7. Rocha C, Carvalho J. Artificial Intelligence in the Judiciary: Uses and Threats. EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2022, 183.
8. Mirza Aslam Beg, Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Indian Legal System, <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-631-impact-of-artificial-intelligence-on-indian-legal-system.html>, accessed on 3rd March, 2025.
9. [Artificial Intelligence for the legal industry : a boon or bane - iPleaders](#) accessed on 3rd March, 2025
10. [Artificial Intelligence and the Law : Boon or Bane ? – Ahuja Law Offices – Top Best law firms Offices in Delhi, India](#) accessed on 3rd March, 2025

11. <https://indiaai.gov.in/article/impact-of-ai-in-the-indian-legal-system-on-indian-constitution-day-2023> accessed on 26/09/24.
12. https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/caseminister-transforming-the-indian-legal-system-with-artificial-intelligence-124091100019_1.html visited on 26/09/24
13. <https://enhelion.com/blogs/2023/06/27/use-of-ai-in-civil-cases-in-india-an-analysis-of-possible-implications/> accessed on 26/09/24.
14. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/integration-impact-artificial-intelligence-indian-judiciary-1nx3c/> accessed on 26/09/2024
15. <https://ijirl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ARTIFICIAL-INTELLIGENCE-ITS-IMPACT-ON-THE-INDIAN-LEGAL-SYSTEM.pdf> retrieved on 26/09/2024
16. <https://www.warwicklegal.com/news/627/india-role-of-artificial-intelligence-in-justice-delivery-system> retrieved on 26/09/2024
17. [Artificial intelligence in the context of the Indian legal profession and judicial system \(barandbench.com\)](https://barandbench.com) accessed on 26/09/24.