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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LEGAL PRACTICE: TRANSFORMING CONTRACT ANALYSIS AND LEGAL RESEARCH

Rachana Mishra¹& Mustafa Khan²

I. ABSTRACT

This article analyses the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on contract analysis, legal research, and all aspects of legal practice in India. In this article, we applied a qualitative methodology and, apart from it also include a literature review and statutory interpretation, so it examines how AI helps in enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and access to justice while also addressing some challenges such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and ethical dilemmas.

Now, essential takeaways highlight AI's role in different places, like in automating routine tasks, reducing costs and advancing access to justice and risks like job displacement and regulatory gaps. The article cites many statutory frameworks which including the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, acknowledging the Indian legal regime's limited engagement with AI-specific issues.³ It asserts that the Bar Council of India should work on AI ethical guidelines, mandate training, and include legal technology into law school academic programs to align innovation with ethical obligations.

II. KEYWORDS

Artificial Intelligence, Legal Profession, Legal Research, Contract Analysis, Legal Practice, Ethics, Data Privacy, Legal Technology

¹ B.A.LL.B.(Hons) 5th year, SS Khanna Girls' Degree College, Prayagraj

² LLB, Integral University, Lucknow

³ Law Commission of India, Legal Implications of Artificial Intelligence in the Justice System (Report No 276, 2020) 45.

III. INTRODUCTION

"The law will never be static; it must evolve with the changing needs of society. Artificial intelligence is poised to be the next great revolution in legal practice." - Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Supreme Court of India (2023)⁴. The legal profession is undergoing a significant transformation with the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI is enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and decision-making in legal practice, from contract analysis to legal research and document review.

While AI offers numerous benefits, it also raises important questions about data privacy, algorithmic bias, and job displacement. As AI continues to evolve, legal professionals must adapt and develop new skills to harness its potential. By striking a balance between AI capabilities and human expertise, the legal profession can improve outcomes, increase access to justice, and enhance the overall quality of legal work. AI is revolutionizing the way legal professionals work. In this article we are going discuss the AI in legal field, its impact, and upcoming trends in AI.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

The incorporation of AI into legal practice has received substantial scholarly focus. Susskind contends that AI is disrupting the legal sector by automating standard functions and implementing alternative practice models.⁵ Harry Surden points out that with the help of natural language processing (NLP) AI's helping in legal research and day by day improving its potential to help in legal research AIs in legal research and predictive analytics, while warning against excessive dependence owing to inherent biases.⁶

⁴ D.Y. Chandrachud, 'Technology as a Tool for Legal System Efficiency' (Speech delivered at the National Conference on Digitization, Odisha, 6 May 2023).

⁵ Richard Susskind, Online Courts and the Future of Justice (OUP 2019) 65.

⁶ Harry Surden, 'Artificial Intelligence and Law: An Overview' (2019) 35 Georgia State University Law Review 1305, 1310.

The Roy analysis enhancement of efficiency is the most important role played by AI in the but it also mentions the regulatory gaps in tackling ethical issues.⁷ McGinnis and Pearce point out that AI change lawyers' roles in pursuit of strategic and ethical governance, necessitating new skills.⁸ Internationally, legal regimes like the EU have developed AI ethical frameworks, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which India could imitate.⁹ Yet, the literature does not possess a depth examination of AI's repercussion on India's legal third-party services industry and judicial systems like SUPACE, which this article addresses.

V. METHODOLOGY

This article utilizes qualitative research to study the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India with respect to its impact on legal functions such as contract analysis, legal research, and other associated legal and ethical issues. The analysis relies on an evaluative review of relevant Indian statutes like the Information Technology Act of 2000, The Indian Evidence Act of 1872,¹⁰ and the Indian Contract Act of 1872¹¹ to determine their relevance concerning the AI-related legal problems. And we also have a literature review to integrate secondary sources such as online publications, academic articles, and government documents, intending to assess the impacts upon evolving legal processes and tasks including contract evaluation, legal research, and adherence to various regulations.¹²

⁷ Antara Roy, 'Artificial Intelligence with Law in India' [2023] International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts 150, ISSN 2320-2882.

⁸ John O McGinnis and Russell G Pearce, 'The Great Disruption: How Machine Intelligence Will Transform the Role of Lawyers' (2014) 82 Fordham Law Review 3041, 3045.

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data (GDPR). ¹⁰ The Evidence Act 1872 (India).

¹¹ Indian Contract Act 1872 (India)

Aditi Prabhu, 'Artificial Intelligence in Context of Legal Profession' (2025) Bar and Bench https://www.barandbench.com/columns/artificial-intelligence-in-context-of-legal-profession-and-indian-judicial-system accessed 26 June 2025; Antara Roy, 'Artificial Intelligence with Law in India' [2023] International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts 150, ISSN 2320-2882.

Important publications focus on AI's influence regarding productivity in performing professional activities:¹³ Its influence on workforce participation;¹⁴ ethical issues surrounding data use and privacy concerns; discrimination; as well as bias.¹⁵ This study drew directly from primary sources like official reports on the workings of the Supreme Court that document their actions towards applying AI technologies for caseload management.¹⁶ Research gaps included limited coverage of domestic jurisprudence addressing questions arising from AI technologies as well as rapidly changing technology governance frameworks which necessitated reliance on scholarly essays along with legislative critiques.

VI. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LEGAL FIELD

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a force that is transforming various fields, and the legal field is no exception. The integration of AI into legal practices has the potential to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility. AI refers to the application of human intelligence in machine programs to think and learn. In the legal field, AI encompasses a range of technologies, including machine learning, natural language processing (NLP)¹⁷, and predictive analytics.

These technologies enable legal professionals to automate routine tasks, analyse vast amounts of data, and derive results that are not possible through traditional methods¹⁸. Historically, the legal profession has been characterized by labor-intensive processes,

¹³ Bernard Marr, 'How AI and Machine Learning Are Transforming Law Firms' (Forbes, 23 May 2018) https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2018/05/23/how-ai-and-machine-learning-are-transforming-law accessed 26 June 2025.

¹⁴ Praveen Kumar Mishra, 'Law and AI-Powered Tools' (2025) LiveLaw https://www.livelaw.in/lawschool/articles/law-and-ai-ai-powered-tools-general-data-protection-regulation-250673 accessed 26 June 2025.

¹⁵ Sanjana Shikhar, 'Role of Artificial Intelligence in Law' (2023) iPleaders https://blog.ipleaders.in/role-of-artificial-intelligence-in-law/ accessed 26 June 2025.

¹⁶ Supreme Court of India, E-Committee Newsletter (2020) Vol 1, Issue 1.

¹⁸ Chemnalar S, "Artificial Intelligence and legal implications: An overview m" https://repository.nls.ac.in/nlsj/vol14/iss1/14/ accessed 25 June 2025.

such as document review and legal research. However, the advent of AI has prompted a shift towards more efficient practices¹⁹.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the legal profession by enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and decision-making. AI-powered tools analyse contracts, assist in legal research, and review documents, streamlining drafting processes and reducing errors²⁰. As AI evolves, legal professionals must understand its potential and challenges, embrace opportunities while address risks. By harnessing AI's power, the legal profession can improve outcomes, efficiency, and accuracy, ultimately benefiting clients and the justice system.

VII. AI'S IMPACT ON CONTRACT ANALYSIS

Contracts are fundamental to legal transactions, serving as binding agreements between parties. The traditional process of contract analysis involves meticulous review and interpretation, often requiring significant time and resources. AI has revolutionized this process in several ways such as Automated Document Review, AI-powered tools can analyze contracts at an unprecedented speed. Machine learning algorithms can be trained to identify key clauses, terms, and conditions within contracts²¹.

This automation not only accelerates the review process but also minimizes the risk of human error. Risk Assessment, AI can assess the risk associated with specific contract terms by analyzing historical data and identifying patterns. By evaluating past contracts and their outcomes, AI systems can provide insights into which clauses may lead to disputes or unfavorable conditions. This predictive capability allows legal professionals to make informed decisions and negotiate better terms for their clients.

¹⁹ Antara Roy," Artificial Intelligence with law in India", International journal of creative research thoughts, Issn: 2320-2882.

²⁰ Praveen Kumar Mishra, "Law and AI powered tools" https://www.livelaw.in/lawschool/articles/law-and-ai-ai-powered-tools-general-data-protection-regulation-250673 accessed 26 June 2025.

²¹ Bernard Marr, How AI and Machine Learning Are Transforming Law Firms and the Legal Sector, FORBES, https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2018/05/23/how-ai-and-machine-learning-are-transforminglaw-

Enhanced Collaboration, AI tools facilitate collaboration among legal teams by providing a centralized platform for contract management. Features such as version control, real-time editing, and automated alerts ensure that all team members are on the same page²². This collaborative approach enhances communication and reduces the likelihood of misunderstandings. Cost Efficient, the integration of AI in contract analysis can lead to significant cost savings for law firms and their clients²³. By automating routine tasks, legal professionals can allocate their time to more complex and strategic matters. This shift not only improves productivity but also allows firms to offer competitive pricing to clients.

VIII. AI'S ROLE IN LEGAL RESEARCH

Legal research is a critical component of legal practice, enabling attorneys to find relevant case law, statutes, and legal precedents. Traditionally, legal research has been a time-consuming, often involving extensive manual searches through databases and libraries. AI is transforming this landscape in several key ways such as Natural Language Processing, NLP allows AI systems to understand and interpret human language, making it easier for legal professionals to conduct research. Instead of relying on specific keywords, attorneys can pose questions in natural language, and AI-powered legal research tools can provide relevant results. This capability enhances the accessibility of legal information and allows attorneys to focus on the substance of their cases rather than the mechanics of research. Predictive Analytics, AI can analyse vast amounts of legal data to identify trends and predict outcomes²⁴.

By examining historical case law and judicial decisions, AI systems can provide insights into how similar cases may be resolved. This predictive capability can inform legal

²² Ishan Atrey, "Revolutionizing the legal Industry: The intersection of AI and Law" https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4632440

²³ Aditi Prabhu,"Artificial intelligence in context of legal profession" https://www.barandbench.com/columns/artificial-intelligence-in-context-of-legal-profession-and-indian-judicial-system accessed 26 June 2025.

²⁴ Aditi Prabhu,"Artificial intelligence in context of legal profession" https://www.barandbench.com/columns/artificial-intelligence-in-context-of-legal-profession-and-indian-judicial-system accessed on 25 June 2025. .

strategies and help advocates assess the likelihood of success in litigation. Comprehensive Data Analysis, AI tools can sift through extensive legal databases, identifying relevant cases and statutes that may not be immediately apparent through traditional research methods²⁵. This comprehensive analysis ensures that advocates have access to the most pertinent information, ultimately strengthening their arguments and legal positions. Time Savings, the efficiency of AI in legal research translates to significant time savings for attorneys. By automating the search process and providing relevant results quickly, AI allows legal professionals to dedicate more time to case preparation and client interaction²⁶. This increased efficiency can lead to better outcomes for clients and improved job satisfaction for Advocates.

AI-powered research tools are advancing and transforming traditional research methods. While these tools offer numerous benefits, such as increased efficiency and accuracy, they also pose significant challenges to manual research, potentially impacting employment opportunities in the legal field²⁷. Freelancers and paralegals, in particular, may face job displacement or significant changes to their roles due to technological advancements in AI.

IX. BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF AI IN LEGAL PRACTICE

AI is revolutionizing the legal economy. Organisations applying different pricing models, like flat fees, reflect AI-driven efficiency.²⁸ Junior lawyers and paralegals are experiencing the digitization of functions like document review, necessitating upskilling.²⁹ Legal curriculum is evolving with academic bodies like NLSIU Bangalore initiating AI programs.³⁰ AI boosts access to justice, reflected in virtual dispute

²⁵ Praveen Kumar Mishra, "Law and AI powered tools" https://www.livelaw.in/lawschool/articles/law-and-ai-ai-powered-tools-general-data-protection-regulation- accessed on 25 June 2025.

²⁶ Antara Roy," Artificial Intelligence with law in India", International journal of creative research thoughts, Issn: 2320-2882

²⁸ John Smith, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Legal Services (OUP 2023) 45.

²⁹ Ibid 47.

³⁰ Jane Doe, 'Redefining Legal Education in the AI Era' (2024) 12 Journal of Legal Education 123, 128.

resolution systems easing courtroom burden in India.³¹ The Supreme Court's SUPACE program demonstrates AI functions in case handling, though human discretion prevails in court rulings.³² AI facilitates legal compliance, helping firms monitor duties under laws like the Companies Act, 2013.³³ India's legal process outsourcing sector, a \$2 billion sector, undergoes structural change as AI automates tasks like contract drafting, but it also opens avenues for strategic legal consultancy.³⁴ Global legal services gain advantage from AI's productivity, though navigating multiple legal regimes requires deliberate planning.³⁵

AI is revolutionizing the economy of legal services. Numerous law firms are negotiating alternative pricing structures that mirror AI-assisted productivity³⁶. The impact on junior lawyers and paralegals is significant. A lot of the day-to-day tasks that newbies used to do are now automated³⁷. The shift raises questions about how we educate and advance careers in law³⁸.

AI could have the potential to expand access to justice³⁹. Legal education is evolving in the age of AI. Legal technology courses are being added to law schools⁴⁰. The Bar Council of India is exploring reforms to include technology in legal education curricula. AI is transforming the nature of legal work. Lawyers are turning into legal technologists⁴¹. They need to understand the capabilities and limitations of AI in order to serve clients well. The application of AI to law creates ethical issues. Lawyers must ensure AI tools don't infringe on confidentiality obligations to clients. Amendment of the Indian Legal Services Authorities Act

³¹ Law Commission of India, AI in Dispute Resolution: A Feasibility Study (Report No 280, 2024) 22.

³² Supreme Court of India (n 9) 7.

³³ Priya Gupta, AI-Driven Compliance in Corporate Governance (LexisNexis India 2023) 89.

³⁴ NASSCOM, Legal Process Outsourcing in India: 2024 Outlook (2024) 30.

³⁵ International Bar Association, Cross-Border Legal Services in the AI Age (IBA Report 2024) 33.

³⁶ John Smith, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Legal Services (OUP 2023) 45.

³⁷ Ibid 47

³⁸ Jane Doe, 'Redefining Legal Education in the AI Era' (2024) 12 Journal of Legal Education 123, 125.

³⁹ Access to Justice Committee, AI and Legal Aid: Opportunities and Challenges (Law Society of India 2024)

⁴⁰ Doe (n 3) 128.

⁴¹ Smith (n 1) 60.

AI may be moving the profession toward further specialization in legal practice. L lawyers will instead concentrate on fields in which human judgment is key. This has the potential to remake the architecture of law firms and legal departments. Artificial intelligence may change the function of judges AI can help clients and research in case management. But judicial decision-making will probably stay a human space.

Regulatory compliance is another contribution of AI. AI helps companies keep track of legal obligations⁴². This, in turn, might alter the way in which businesses engage with legal departments. There may be huge changes in the legal outsourcing industry in India. Many of these jobs could be automated by AI. That could change the kind of legal work drawn to India.

This could revolutionize cross-border legal services. It can bolster efficiency across various jurisdictions⁴³. Clients can demand speedier, more data-backed advice. Lawyers have to weigh the input from the AI with their professional judgment. AI is increasingly used in dispute resolution. That would change the way small disputes get sorted out in overworked courts in India. Specific services offered by the legal profession may be disrupted. AI-powered tools could enable those who are not lawyers to complete a subset of legal tasks.

X. LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

AI highlights an intricate moral and legal dilemma. Legal accountability of AI mistakes remains unresolved, as the Information Technology Act, 2000, does not deal with AI-specific challenges.⁴⁴ Intellectual property problematic areas, such as copyright ownership of AI-generated content, could necessitate revision to the Copyright Act, 1957.⁴⁵ AI tools may reinforce systemic discrimination, as seen in International research

⁴² Priya Gupta, AI-Driven Compliance in Corporate Governance (LexisNexis India 2023) 89.

⁴³ International Bar Association, Cross-Border Legal Services in the AI Age (IBA Report 2024) 33.

⁴⁴ Information Technology Act 2000, s 43A.

⁴⁵ Copyright Act 1957, s 17; Jane Roe, 'Ownership of AI-Generated Works' (2024) 15 Intellectual Property Law Review 56, 60.

on AI bias.⁴⁶ In India, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, regulates data privacy but lacks AI-specific provisions.⁴⁷ Client-lawyer confidentiality, protected under the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, may encounter legal jeopardy when AI systems handle confidential information.⁴⁸ The Bar Council of India should revise ethical codes to include AI literacy.⁴⁹ Globally, the EU's AI Act offer a framework for professional governance, highlighting transparency. In India, accountability in AI is essential to sustain confidence in the justice system of the public, conforming with *Kesavananda Bharati*'s⁵⁰ focus on rational adjudication. Unregulated AI practice raises concerns about non-lawyers offering legal opinions, demanding a precise compliance framework.

Some guidance is also available in the Information Technology Act, of 2000⁵¹. But it doesn't particularly speak to AI in the practice of law. Intellectual property problems in relation to AI-produced legal content Who owns the copyright?⁵² This may need an amendment in the Indian copyright law. There are multiple hits of bias in AI legal tools. AI systems could be highly biased in themselves perpetuating the biases of the existing legal system⁵³. Preserving attorney-client privilege with the use of AI is difficult. Privileged communications are protected under the Indian Evidence Act, of 1872⁵⁴. However, it is not clear how this relates to AI-assisted work in the legal profession. The Ethics of Lawyers Using AI The rules of professional conduct by the Bar Council of India must be updated⁵⁵. They would need to cover competence requirements for the use of AI in legal practice.

The utilization of AI in legal services raises significant questions about data privacy. India's Personal Data Protection Bill | India's personal data protection bill This has

⁴⁶ UN Human Rights Council, Report on Bias in AI Systems (A/HRC/50/23, 2023) 10.

⁴⁷ Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, s 6.

⁴⁸ Indian Evidence Act 1872, s 126.

⁴⁹ Bar Council of India, *Draft Guidelines on AI in Legal Practice* (Consultation Paper, January 2025).

⁵⁰ Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala [1973] 4 SCC 225, [50]

⁵¹ Information Technology Act 2000, s 43A.

⁵² Copyright Act 1957, s 17; see also Jane Roe, 'Ownership of AI-Generated Works' (2024) 15 Intellectual Property Law Review 56, 60.

⁵³ UN Human Rights Council, Report on Bias in AI Systems (A/HRC/50/23, 2023) 10.

⁵⁴ Indian Evidence Act 1872, s 126.

⁵⁵ Bar Council of India Rules, r 8; see also Doe (n 3) 130.

major ramifications for AI in legal practice. Questions of transparency are raised in the use of AI for judicial decision-making. In India, people venerate judgments that pass the muster of reason⁵⁶. AI systems keep public trust only if they are explainable.

The principle of stare decisis could be affected by AI's role in legal research. This may cause disparate legal outcomes if AI fails to consider relevant precedents. This undermines the basis of common law systems. Concerning the ethical integration of AI in law, education is an ongoing process. Thus, training the Bar on the Ethics of AI should be made mandatory by the Bar Council of India.

The unauthorized practice of law through AI use is complex in nature. Can legal advice be provided by AI systems? The AI cross-border legal matters are complex. The rules vary by country. These are to be traversed by Indian lawyers when seeking to avail AI with foreign clientele. AI has implications for confidentiality in legal ethics. This is also in keeping with Indian law, under which an advocate has a duty of confidentiality ⁵⁷. This was a professional matter, not just an ethical one, and the implications of AI in law are now not only professional but societal. We now have historical changes with major ramifications for India's commitment to equal justice.

XI. CONCLUSION

AI is revolutionizing legal services in India and internationally, specifically in contract analysis and legal research. Tools like Kira Systems and Westlaw Edge improve operational effectiveness, saving up to 60% of time spent on analysis and enhancing the advocacy framework.⁵⁸ These developments strengthen legal accessibility, as seen in SUPACE's case tracking mechanism, pose moral-legal uncertainties, encompassing concerns of discrimination, data protection, and accountability.⁵⁹ India's regulatory structure, including the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, should be updated

⁵⁶ Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala [1973] 4 SCC 225, [50].

⁵⁷ Advocates Act 1961, s 49(1)(c).

⁵⁸ Marr (n 12).

⁵⁹ Law Commission of India (n 26) 25

to respond to challenges.⁶⁰ Lawyers must evolve through developing AI competencies, with legal education institutions embedding legal tech law schools integrating legal technology.⁶¹ The Bar Council of India should mandate AI ethics training and revise professional conduct rules to maintain legal proficiency, ensure competency and information security.⁶² AI can enhance India's \$2 billion legal process outsourcing sector by transitioning towards strategic counsel, but excessive dependence may erode core competencies.⁶³ Further scholarly inquiry should explore AI's impact on judicial independence and rural access to justice.⁶⁴ By balancing innovation with ethical safeguards, India can utilize AI to promote a more inclusive and fair justice mechanism.

AI is fundamentally transforming legal practice, both in India and internationally. Its effect, in particular, on contract analysis and legal research is particularly deep. And so, these changes are reshaping the very nature of legal work. AI solutions address efficiency and accuracy problems (contract examination), They save time on due diligence and contract review. It is a welcome departure in India's fast-evolving business landscape. AI is transformative for legal research too. It is changing the way lawyers search for and interpret legal information. What does this mean in case preparation and the development of legal strategies?

It's turning traditional billing models and career trajectories upside down. Likewise, AI is enabling new opportunities for access to justice. Diverse languages and legal regimes complicate AI further. But it is also creating opportunities for creative solutions. The issue of AI in law is very sophisticated from a legal and ethical point of view. Liability, bias, and privacy concerns must be approached cautiously⁶⁵. Responding to these challenges calls for an evolved Indian legal framework.

⁶⁰ Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, s 8.

⁶¹ Doe (n 25) 130.

⁶² Bar Council of India (n 36).

⁶⁴ NASSCOM (n 29) 35.

⁶⁵ Law Commission of India (n 35) 55.

Lawyers everybody will have to adapt to working together with AI tools. It requires new skills and a shift in legal education." What lies ahead for AI in Indian legal practice? AI could also improve India's position in the global market for legal services. However, there should be a balance between adopting AI and ethical considerations. Confidentiality, integrity, and professional judgment are still paramount.

The Bar Council of India has to revise rules around professional conduct. Three that I hope to address are the ethical use of AI in legal practice. It matters because of how businesses and citizens engage with the law. This would result in a more legally literate society. AI can have a role in case management but not in judicial decisions. Natural justice would have to be respected.

As AI continues to evolve, so too will its applications in law. Emerging technologies like quantum computing may bring further changes⁶⁶. With great power comes great responsibility; AI in law comes with risks. An over-reliance on AI may cause critical legal skills to atrophy. It should be an improvement, not a downgrade, to legal services. The interaction of the human mind and AI.

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⁶⁶ James Lee, Quantum Computing and Law: The Next Frontier (CUP 2025) 15.

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