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# ALGORITHMIC GOVERNANCE AND THE FUTURE OF INDIAN LAW

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## ABSTRACT

This paper examines the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the Indian legal system, concentrating on its practical applications and the challenges it presents. It talks about how AI tools are changing the way legal work is done by being used in areas like case management, contract review, and legal research.

The study shows how AI can help lawyers by automating boring tasks and speeding up the process of analyzing data. It also looks at how AI is being used more and more in projects like e-courts and digital case management systems. But the paper also talks about some big problems, especially when it comes to data privacy and confidentiality.

It also discusses important issues like how AI systems aren't clear, how algorithms can be biased, and how it's not always clear who is responsible when automated decision-making goes wrong. Given these worries, the paper looks at whether current laws, like the Information Technology Act of 2000, are good enough to control AI. The paper also says that the lack of proper rules makes accountability, transparency, and the protection of individual rights very worrying.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **What is AI?**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the term for systems that can do things that normally need human intelligence. These tasks could be figuring out what language means, spotting patterns, learning from information, and making choices. AI systems learn by looking at a lot of data, while traditional software only works with fixed instructions. Because of this, they can see patterns and get better over time.

AI systems are like junior lawyers in that they learn by working with a lot of data and past records. They get better at spotting trends and making better guesses when they see more of them.

### **Why Does AI Matter in Law?**

AI could do a lot of good in the legal field because law depends on information a lot. AI can make legal systems work better by processing and analyzing large amounts of data quickly and well. AI can help legal systems work better and help people make better choices.

### **AI tools can:**

- Help lawyers and law students find the right case laws and statutory provisions, which makes legal research faster and easier.
- Help judges and courts by making it easier to find precedents, encouraging consistent decisions, and giving them data-driven information for policy or sentencing.
- Find missing clauses, inconsistencies, and strange terms to make contract review and writing better.

### **Growing Use Globally and in India**

As technology moves quickly, AI is being used more and more in legal systems all over the world. AI tools are being used by law firms and courts to help with things like writing contracts, analyzing cases, doing legal research, and managing cases as a whole. These technologies help information get processed faster, which makes things more efficient and cost-effective. For

instance, big law firms use AI to go through a lot of documents in a lot less time.

The use of AI in the legal field is slowly growing in India. Chatbots are being used by law firms, courts, and legal tech startups to help with legal research, online dispute resolution, contract analysis, and legal awareness.

Still, these changes bring unease around how machines shape justice. Who answers when systems make flawed choices becomes a pressing matter. As programs take on more tasks once handled by people, doubt grows about their ability to uphold long-standing principles of right conduct. What happens next depends on whether such tools respect the weight of legal duty.

Right now, India's courts could run smoother with help from artificial intelligence. Still, existing laws fall short when it comes to handling concerns such as who takes responsibility, how decisions are made visible, and where unfair patterns might appear. Because of this gap, stronger rules, more specific ones, are needed so AI tools work fairly within justice processes.<sup>1</sup>

## LITERATURE REVIEW

One way to look at AI in law is through speed and new methods, yet another angle shows concern over how it might reshape long-standing rules. Talk about machines and courts has grown louder in universities lately. Some writers highlight quicker results, whereas deeper questions arise about fairness and trust in systems meant to uphold justice.

Even though machines can sort through heaps of legal records, spotting trends along the way, they still fall short when it comes to real legal thought. Harry Surden points out how these tools help shape choices but insists they lack the depth needed to replace people in courtrooms. While speed and volume might favor software, true interpretation remains a person's job. So reliance sits better on guidance than replacement, especially where laws meet complex human situations.

What if artificial intelligence could ease pressure on courts? That idea shapes India's AI strategy from NITI Aayog. Instead of just talking about change, it shows how smart systems might speed up legal processes. One way is by opening doors to fairer justice for more people. Slow paperwork clogs the system now, technology may help clear the backlog. Fewer holdups

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<sup>1</sup> NITI Aayog, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence #AIforAll* (2018); Harry Surden, "Artificial Intelligence and Law: An Overview," (2019) 35 *Georgia State University Law Review*

mean quicker resolutions, something many wait years for today.

Still, as progress moves forward, many studies question unchecked AI use in legal settings. Some researchers note algorithms can copy biases hidden within old records, shifting results unfairly. Without clear insight into how machine-based choices are made, people struggle to follow or dispute them. These opaque methods worry experts watching the field grow.

One thing is clear, today's laws struggle to keep up with how fast artificial intelligence evolves. Instead of fitting old rules, experts point out gaps in handling blame when systems fail. Privacy concerns pop up just as often, yet answers lag behind. Because of this gap, many now lean toward creating rules built only for tech like AI. What once seemed distant is now seen as urgent by those watching closely.

Altogether, what's been written gives a steady look at artificial intelligence within law. Efficiency gains and wider access stand out, yet problems pop up just the same. These issues demand thoughtful reactions from both legal systems and organizations.<sup>2</sup>

## **APPLICATION OF AI IN LAW**

### **Predictive Analysis**

Out of old court records, software spots trends that hint at what might happen next. Rather than gut feeling alone, attorneys now have numbers pulled from thousands of rulings. Hidden links between facts and judgments come clear when algorithms dig through files. This shift means guesses get replaced by something closer to foresight. Past behavior of judges, laws, even wording in motions, each feeds the prediction engine. Law offices run smarter because history speaks louder than instinct.

Predictive analytics shows lawyers useful patterns hidden in past cases. Because it scans huge volumes of rulings, spotting key precedents becomes faster. When workloads get mapped ahead of time, team schedules adjust smoothly. Since contract reviews take less effort, risks pop up earlier in the process. After studying old results, the odds of winning a current case come into sharper view.

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<sup>2</sup> Harry Surden, *Artificial Intelligence and Law: An Overview*, 35 *Georgia State University Law Review* (2019); NITI Aayog, *National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence #AIforAll* (2018)

Most days now, artificial intelligence helps shape how legal plans come together. Because machines can sort through old rulings, laws, and court outcomes, attorneys see patterns more clearly. When you understand how courts reacted before, choosing trial or compromise feels less uncertain. Sometimes the smartest move comes into view only after seeing what history already showed.

Patterns often stay hidden during hand checks, yet show up clear with machine help. Because past triggers link to old results, legal teams adjust claims while guessing what rivals might try. Early moves gain edge weighing pros and traps become sharper before steps forward are taken.

Even now, leaning too much on such tools carries risk. Since rulings hinge on how facts are seen, where they appear, and choices judges make, things numbers alone rarely reflect; caution stays key. Machines may pitch in, yet deep thinking about law remains beyond their reach.

Still, leaning heavily on these tools might cause issues because they often miss the subtleties of legal thought while repeating old patterns buried in earlier records.<sup>3</sup>

### **Using AI to automate legal research tasks**

Lately, artificial intelligence shapes how attorneys dig into case files. Instead of flipping page after page by hand, machines handle piles of records fast. Sorting through laws and rulings? Software does that quicker now. Finding what matters takes less effort because programs group related details neatly. Focus shifts naturally toward thinking deeply about rules, not just hunting them down.

Most folks miss how AI untangles messy legal details. Not only does it find papers, yet connects dots across rulings, laws, even core ideas. That clarity sharpens research, slashes chances of overlooking key precedents. Better links mean sharper insights; suddenly old cases speak clearly to new problems. Work gains depth when pieces fit without force.

Now machines understand words better, thanks to tools that learn from patterns. Because of this, artificial intelligence handles court rulings, laws, and agreements with sharper attention. When it studies earlier cases along with shifts across law, something useful emerges. Hidden links appear, links that back up thinking about legal questions. Lawyers spot key examples

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<sup>3</sup> Pratik Rupareliya, *Predictive Analytics for Legal Firms: Use Cases & Applications* Intuz (2025), <https://www.intuz.com/blog/ai-predictive-analytics-for-legal-decision-making> (last visited Apr 15, 2026).

faster, weigh ideas with more care and outcomes come into view before trial.

Looking back at old rulings plus watching how laws shift helps shape real-world choices for attorneys. With that view, spotting key precedents becomes smoother, weighing points gains depth, strength of a claim comes clearer into focus.

One way things shift: spotting risks becomes easier, outcomes clearer. Files line up without fuss because systems handle sorting while time gets managed by alerts and reminders instead of guesswork. Efficiency rises when routine steps run on their own, tied to tools that track what needs doing next.

Yet things go sideways when dependence on software grows too strong. Reading deeply, thinking for oneself law demands both, even if machines assist. Machines fall short where judgment matters most.<sup>4</sup>

### **AI in India's Courts the E Courts Project**

Years passed before screens began appearing in courtrooms across India. Now, one by one, artificial intelligence tools slip into daily legal work. Change did not arrive overnight. Instead, small moves built up, each focused on making justice easier to reach. Slow steps shaped what we see today.

Back in 2007, something shifted when the e-Courts project launched. Aimed at updating how courts operate, it leaned heavily on digital tools. Records began living online instead of only on paper. Hearing schedules started appearing on websites for anyone to view. Tracking a case became easier because new systems emerged, built specifically to follow progress and tidy up daily operations behind the scenes.

Later came tools like e-filing, digital review of paperwork, online delivery of notices, plus automatic scheduling of cases. At first, efforts centered on opening up access to legal information for both people involved in cases and those running courts. Growth brought a change and more attention went towards managing growing volumes of data while speeding things up. From there, new functions emerged step by step.

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<sup>4</sup> Akash Takyar , AI for legal research: Applications, architecture, benefits, tools and development LeewayHertz (2024), <https://www.leewayhertz.com/ai-for-legal-research/> (last visited Apr 15, 2026).

Now that the system runs on digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence becomes a natural follow-up in how courts evolve. Not like older tech, these new tools interpret words, spot trends, notice structures in messy information therefore opening doors to deeper legal tasks. Instead of just storing data, they help make sense of it.

One thing stands clear: artificial intelligence does not take the place of judges or lawyers. Instead, it backs them up, working behind the scenes. Alongside tools like online filing and electronic records, smart software adds a layer of support to court operations. Still, questions hang in the air, will everyone gain the same advantages? Readiness for high-level tech also remains uncertain across different courts.<sup>5</sup>

### **ADVANTAGES OF AI LAW**

Computers doing law tasks? That happens now. Stuff like sorting files, setting meetings, or answering basic questions once took hours, today bots handle it fast. Because of this, attorneys find extra space in their days. Thinking deeply about cases becomes possible. Planning moves feels less rushed. Standing by clients gains room to breathe.

What stands out is how steady these tools stay when handling repetitive jobs. Because they work from clear rules, mistakes in things like checking contracts or meeting regulations happen less often. Spotting possible legal issues becomes easier too. Updates in laws get flagged automatically, pulling focus toward what might need a closer look.

More people can now afford legal help because these tools are spreading. Since machines handle routine tasks, lawyers spend less time on paperwork, cutting down office costs. Firms that adopt them often pass those savings to customers. Smaller practices gain an edge they didn't have before when facing big players. Help arrives faster, without long waits or high fees piling up. What once seemed out of reach fits tighter budgets today.

Right now, talking with clients feels smoother. Chat tools answer simple questions fast, which keeps messages moving without delay. Looking further, online legal services might open doors for more people, cutting expenses so help reaches those who need it most.

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<sup>5</sup> PIB Delhi, From Digitisation to Intelligence: How AI is Enhancing Access to Justice in India PIB Headquarters (2026), <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2226283&reg=3&lang=1> (last visited 2026).

## **CHALLENGES FACED**

Most days, sorting out rules for artificial intelligence in India feels more like guessing than governing. There's simply no one clear law built just for how AI works here. Instead, older regulations step in, patching things together through topics such as digital privacy or online crimes. These pieces help somewhat yet fall short whenever machines start making choices people once handled themselves. Problems appear quietly when automated decisions shape real consequences under the law.

Who takes the blame when things go off track? These systems operate on their own sometimes, so fault might belong to the builder, the person running it, or the company behind it. Uncertainty lingers around where that line gets drawn. Consistency slips when nobody agrees on who answers for what.

Privacy worries start to matter more here. Facial scans, along with massive data systems, rely on people's private details. Without strong rules, these tools might clash with basic freedoms. Tough questions about laws and fairness begin to appear when oversight slips.

Wrong turns can come from how AI learns. It studies old information so it might copy habits hidden there, even bad ones. When decisions about people get made by such tools, trouble follows. Fairness fades where machines repeat past mistakes.

Most times, you cannot see inside the machine. How it reaches one result instead of another stays hidden. Because of that, checking its choices feels nearly impossible. Courts rely on clear reasoning, this gap becomes a serious issue.

AI keeps creeping into law jobs. When machines handle boring stuff faster, people start wondering what that means for lawyers doing those tasks day after day. Some shifts seem already underway.

## **RELEVANT CASES**

Some court rulings help clarify how old laws might work with new AI challenges. The Supreme Court's decision in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India<sup>6</sup> treated privacy as a basic

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<sup>6</sup> Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India, (2017) 10 SCC 1.

right under Article 21. Because of that ruling, tools like facial recognition and automated monitoring come under greater scrutiny. When machines gather personal details, this judgment becomes key. How data moves through smart systems now faces closer legal attention.

One look at *United States v. Loomis*<sup>7</sup> reveals a familiar unease, despite coming from a different legal setting. Though decided elsewhere, its message travels well. Hidden logic in automated tools poses real dangers, the ruling suggests. When decisions stem from opaque algorithms, confusion follows close behind. That uncertainty unsettles courts. India might face similar questions sooner than expected. Clarity matters, especially where outcomes affect people's lives.

One ruling changed everything, the top court erased Section 66A of the IT Act<sup>8</sup> because its meaning floated without anchor. Clarity in laws suddenly seemed non-negotiable, especially as new tools like artificial intelligence began reshaping what rules can reach.

*Anvar P.V. versus P.K. Basheer*<sup>9</sup> tackled whether digital proof can enter court records. Since artificial intelligence now produces growing volumes of information, that decision matters when judging if such material holds weight during trials.

## **SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Facing AI's growing role, India must respond with careful long-term planning. A clear set of laws made just for artificial intelligence comes first. These rules ought to spell out who answers for what decisions, making sure choices are open to review. Audits done often can catch unfair patterns before they spread too far. When damage happens, someone has to be held responsible, that part cannot stay vague.

For rules to mean something, ethics need the weight of law behind them. Fairness, responsibility, avoiding bias, these cannot stay suggestions, they require real consequences across fields. Each industry might follow its own version, shaped by specific needs. Outdated privacy rules fall short when it comes to how AI uses information. Bringing national policies closer to frameworks like GDPR makes safeguards stronger. What matters is that protections

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<sup>7</sup> *State v. Loomis*, 881 N.W.2d 749 (Wis. 2016).

<sup>8</sup> *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India*, (2015) 5 SCC 1.

<sup>9</sup> *Anvar P.V. v. P.K. Basheer*, (2014) 10 SCC 473.

evolve as technology moves forward.

Working with other countries helps India adopt useful approaches while keeping its own rules steady. Since technology changes fast, court officials need regular learning chances, this keeps decisions fair. Rules only work if people applying them know how systems actually behave. Sharing knowledge across borders prevents repeating mistakes others already made. Without updated skills, even good laws might be applied unevenly. Learning from real cases abroad adds clarity when handling complex tech issues locally. Keeping pace means updating expertise just as much as updating regulations.

A fresh agency just for AI could keep an eye on how it's used, sort out problems, then step in before issues grow. What comes next might depend on clear oversight that adapts as things change.<sup>10</sup>

## **CONCLUSION**

Even so, artificial intelligence has made legal tasks faster, smoother, and easier to reach - yet it cannot take over human decisions or sort out moral dilemmas tied to its application. Right now, India's laws aren't built strong enough to handle such new issues. Because of this, balance matters most: let machines support lawyers instead of stepping into their shoes, especially where thinking things through and justice weigh heavy.

One big worry sits heavy, data privacy feels shaky, with no one clearly in charge. Rules drift without shape because oversight lacks unity across regions. Jobs might shift or shrink, adding tension people cannot just brush off. Laws must step forward, built sharp and precise. Without firm structure guiding use, benefits stay half-locked. Real gains emerge only once guardrails stand steady.

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<sup>10</sup>Monalisa Chaudhari, Legal and Ethical Issues in Regulation of Artificial Intelligence in India Lawful legal (2025), [https://lawfullegal.in/legal-and-ethical-issues-in-regulation-of-artificial-intelligence-in-india/?utm\\_source=perplexity&=1](https://lawfullegal.in/legal-and-ethical-issues-in-regulation-of-artificial-intelligence-in-india/?utm_source=perplexity&=1) (last visited 2026).