
AI DRIVEN LEGAL SYSTEM: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Aniketani Suvvi, Advocate

ABSTRACT

In a democracy governed by the rule of law, the legal system serves as the sovereign mechanism for dispute resolution and maintaining social order. This paper analyses the transformative journey of the legal system from ancient customary practices to contemporary frameworks driven by Artificial Intelligence. The paper traverses the historical evolution of law from early Mesopotamian, Egyptian civilization, Roman influence, medieval period and the enlightenment period, showing how legal systems have evolved continuously to the changing societal needs. The rapid integration of AI in legal research, contract drafting, document management, judgement translation reveals opportunities and significant challenges. Key issues identified are, firstly, AI tools enhance efficiency and accessibility, but also possess few fundamental concerns about transparency, accountability, and the traces of historical biases into the system. Secondly, the digital divide threatens equitable access to justice, as infrastructural gaps prevent marginalised people from accessing the benefits offered by AI and technologies. Thirdly, the transformation of traditional legal practice needs changes in the legal education curriculum, which must extend beyond doctrinal studies to digital literacy and impacts of AI usages. The study emphasises the role of lawyers as social engineers to balance competing interests, access to justice and ensure technology creates positive impacts on the democratic values.

Keywords: Democracy, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Literacy, Social Engineers

INTRODUCTION

In a democracy, governed by the rule of law, the legal system serves as the sovereign mechanism for any dispute resolutions, which is the most civilized approach to maintain social order.

The concept of law represents reflective evolution of societal and human values, governance, technology advancements that shape human civilization. The legal system has undergone transformation from their origins in customary practices of ancient civilization towards comprehensive frameworks guided by the constitution, statutes and even judicial precedents in the present days¹. The Indian legal system, rooted in the constitutional principles demonstrates this evolution while upholding rule of law and democracy.

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence has inflicted transformation across all sectors in the contemporary times, the legal profession is no exception to this change. Over the last few years, there has been unparalleled growth and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies across a wide range of industries². Use of virtual assistants, AI tools is raising questions that are reforming the legal profession. AI in legal education, litigation, administration of justice shows potential benefits and face unprecedented challenges that needs effective considerations³. This transformation requires a fundamental reassessment of lawyer's role, the potential agents of social change⁴, evolving from traditional and conventional advocacy to broader responsibilities as social engineers, upholding the rule of law and ethical governance for the development of societal well-being.

Ancient Foundations

One of humanity's greatest achievements in maintaining systematic order and organizing society is the development of law. Rooted in ancient traditions, evolving to the dynamic forces of societal change, legal systems have played a key role in shaping the societies worldwide⁵.

¹ J. Russel, *The Evolution of Legal Systems: A Comprehensive Analysis*, 13 J. CIV. LEGAL SCI. 423 (2024).

² *Artificial Intelligence in Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions*, in *ADVANCES IN COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS* (2025).

³ THOMSON REUTERS, *The Future of Professionals Report 2025* (2025), <https://www.thomsonreuters.com/content/dam/ewp-m/documents/thomsonreuters/en/pdf/reports/future-of-professionals-report-2025.pdf> (last visited Nov. 5, 2025).

⁴ James E. Moliterno, *The Lawyer as Catalyst of Social Change*, 77 FORDHAM L. REV. 1559 (2009).

⁵ *Id.*

The earliest legal systems can be traced towards the first organised societies in ancient Mesopotamia, where law was initially tangled with religious and moral principles. Ancient Egyptian law, was based the concept of 'Ma'at,' principle and goddess of truth, balance, order, harmony, law, morality, and justice⁶.

The code of Hammurabi stands as one of the most important early legal documents, written in Akkadian language, established the foundational principle that laws must prevent the strong from oppressing the weak.⁷ The code was class-based justice system, wherein penalties were imposed based on societal status, the code even addressed various aspects of civil, criminal and family laws⁸.

Roman Influence

Roman law emerged as another important legal development that influenced western jurisprudence⁹. The concept of 'jus gentium' (law of nations), introduced to govern relations between citizens and foreigners, became the foundation for international law. Roman legal principles evolved from the 'Laws of the Twelve Tables,' into a comprehensive legal system inspired Western legal thinkers for years¹⁰. The Romans developed vital legal concepts like 'Jurisprudentes' (use of legal experts) and established distinction between private law and public law.

Medieval and Modern Foundations

Medieval legal systems were based on the intersection of secular and religious ideology through canon law and feudalism. The signing of Magna Carta by King John in 1215 signifies a transformative moment in legal history, which established limitations on monarchy and upheld individual rights. This development inspired and led to the emergence of common law

⁶ EBSCO Research Starters, *Government and Law in the Ancient World*, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/law/government-and-law-ancient-world> (last visited Nov. 5, 2025).

⁷ J. Dyneley Prince, *The Code of Hammurabi*, 8 AM. J. THEOLOGY 601 (1904), <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3153895> (last visited Oct. 14, 2025).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Mahendra Pal Singh & Niraj Kumar, *Tracing the History of the Legal System in India*, in *THE INDIAN LEGAL SYSTEM: AN ENQUIRY* (Delhi 2019; Oxford Academic online ed., Apr. 17, 2019), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780199489879.003.0001> (last visited Oct. 13, 2025).

¹⁰ *Supra* note 6.

in England¹¹.

The age of Enlightenment brought remarkable changes to the legal philosophy, asserting that rights derive from natural law rather than divine authority. This legal philosophy influenced both French and American revolutions, creating constitutional frameworks that became inspirational models for democratic legal systems around the world. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries witnessed codification efforts and international treaties that transformed law as a local custom to comprehensive legal systems.

Evolution of Indian Constitutional Law

India's constitutional journey reflects a gradual evolution from colonial subjugation to democratic self-governance. Constitutionalism establishes the supremacy of a written charter over ordinary legislation, providing safeguards for individual liberties against arbitrary exercise of powers. The Constitution of India, which was adopted in 1950, combines parliamentary form of democracy with federal principles, creating a comprehensive framework for governance that draws inspiration from many countries.

The regulating Act of 1773 is considered to be the first systematic effort to control East India Company in India, recognizing the company's administrative and political roles. Subsequently, various legislative measures gradually allowed Indians to participate in governance, including the Indian Councils Act of 1861 and the 1892 Act, which introduced limited representation.

The Morley-Minto reforms of 1909 allowed Indians to participate in the Imperial Legislative Council for the first time, while the Government of India Act of 1919 introduced dyarchy at the provincial level and established a bicameral system at the centre.

Over the decades, constitutional law has evolved through judicial interpretations, constitutional amendments, landmark decisions that fundamentally shaped India's legal system.

The Kesavananda Bharati vs state of Kerala¹², which introduced the Basic Structure Doctrine has served as an important safeguard against arbitrary constitutional amendments, this stands as the most crucial development in constitutional history. Judicial Review is regarded as crucial

¹¹ CREIGHTON UNIV. LIBRARIES, *Common Law Rare Book Collection*, https://culibraries.creighton.edu/rarebook/common_law (last visited Nov. 5, 2025).

¹² Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala, AIR 1973 SC 1461.

aspect of the Basic Structure Doctrine and fundamental tenets of the Constitution¹³. The 42nd Amendment in 1976 attempted to curtail judicial review powers, but subsequently the Supreme Court reinforced the judiciary's constitutional role. Developments like right to education a fundamental right and Citizenship Amendments Act of 2019, shows evolving nature of constitutional law according to the changing socio-economic-political dynamics¹⁴.

Legal Education and Profession

Legal education must evolve to meet contemporary demands, as curriculum can no longer be confined to traditional doctrinal study and Socratic dialogue. Legal education has undergone substantial changes and impacted the overall justice system. Modern curriculum integrates theoretical knowledge with practical experiences such as internships, moot court competitions, nurturing critical thinking and advocacy skills for contemporary legal practice. Distance learning and online resources have enhanced accessibility, enabling students from remote areas to pursue legal education.

In litigation practice, digital filing systems, virtual hearings have improved efficiency and accessibility of legal proceedings. However, digital divides and infrastructural gaps continue to pose important challenges to equitable access to justice¹⁵. Law students must acquire digital literacy, critical thinking abilities, and research on AI outputs for bias, transparency, and compliance with constitutional values.

Impact of AI in Legal System

The legal profession is experiencing unprecedented changes due to the permeation of digital technology and artificial intelligence¹⁶. AI within the judiciary is revolutionizing traditional legal practice. Legal research automation has essentially changed how lawyers access case laws, precedents with tools like CaseMine, SCOnline, Manupatra AI search, use contextual search capabilities and citation analysis to reduce research time drastically. The SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency) system's machine learning

¹³ INT'L J. FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY RES., *Virtual Courts: Real Barriers* (2025), <https://www.ijfmr.com/papers/2025/1/36425.pdf> (last visited Nov. 5, 2025).

¹⁴ D. Ananda, *The Intersection of Indian Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 and Religious Persecution*, 2 DISCOV. GLOB. SOC. 76 (2024), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44282-024-00108-x>

¹⁵ THE INFINITE JOURNAL, *Virtual Courts, Real Barriers* (Jan. 2025), <https://theinfinite.co.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VIRTUAL-COURTS-REAL-BARRIERS.pdf> (last visited Nov. 5, 2025).

¹⁶ *Supra* note 3.

algorithms process vast amounts of case data, providing judges with relevant information and maintain human decision-making authority¹⁷.

Contract drafting and review have been transformed through AI platforms that automate risk assessment, clause identification, and document generation processes¹⁸. These systems can analyse thousands of contracts, flag potential risks, and suggest corrections based on existing data, in turn reducing time for legal documentation. In collaboration with High Courts across the country, the Supreme Court has undertaken the translation of e-SCR judgement into 18 vernacular languages. An advisory committee on Artificial Intelligence Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court of India to supervise this process¹⁹.

Document management benefit significantly from AI automation through algorithms, Natural Language Processing systems can extract and analyse information from legal databases, including case laws, statutes, rules and regulations, ensuring that relevant information remains easily accessible²⁰. AI-powered research categorizes large volumes of legal documents, contracts, pleadings, and evidence, reducing repetitive tasks, making way for strategic decision-making and improvising client service. Document review algorithms accelerate due diligence processes while reducing human error and are cost effective.

AI-powered chatbots deliver basic legal advice, expands access to legal services. AI systems aid judges by summarizing submissions made by the lawyers, and even suggest suitable judgments. However, use of AI as 'black boxes' raises important questions about transparency, fairness and accountability.

The transformation of legal research signifies one of AI's most crucial impacts on legal practice. Traditional research methods involving manual review of case laws and precedents are being replaced by AI systems which are capable of analysing vast databases within seconds. This

¹⁷ PRESS INFO. BUREAU (PIB), *Gov't of India Press Release*, PRID 2113224, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2113224> (last visited Nov. 5, 2025).

¹⁸ *Artificial Intelligence in Contract Drafting: Transforming Legal Practice*, U. RICH. J. L. & TECH. (Oct. 22, 2024), <https://jolt.richmond.edu/2024/10/22/ai-in-contract-drafting-transforming-legal-practice/> (last visited Nov. 5, 2025).

¹⁹ PRESS INFO. BUREAU (PIB), *Gov't of India Press Release*, PRID 2118241, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2118241> (last visited Nov. 5, 2025).

²⁰ Srinivasa K. Kalyan et al., *Advanced Natural Language Processing for Legal Document Analysis* (2025), <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.35504.06409>

technological upgradation requires lawyers to develop new abilities and skills to use AI powered tools, rather than relying solely on traditional research methodologies²¹.

Client engagement is evolving through chatbots and automated systems that provide round-the-clock support and handle basic legal queries. However, poses important questions about maintaining the personal relationships between lawyers and clients that have traditionally defined legal practice.

AI systems might reinforce existing inequalities, when training data contains historical biases that could affect justice system, is one of the most significant risks that AI system might bring in²².

Legal professionals need to develop stronger digital tools usage skills effectively to critically assess AI generated texts rather than taking it at face value. They must remain vigilant about protecting client confidentiality in a connected environment where data privacy is paramount.

Lawyers as Social Engineers

The concept of lawyers as social engineers, inspired by legal philosophers such as Roscoe Pound, highlights law's role in balancing competing social interests and promoting societal harmony²³. This philosophy views lawyers not merely as advocates for clients but as architects of social change and protectors of the justice system. Legal aid services exemplify social engineering, providing legal advice to marginalised communities and ensuring access to justice irrespective of economic status. Lawyers bear the responsibility of serving as social engineers in the society, through policy development, public interest litigations, regulatory mechanisms and other various aspects within legal system to actively shape society and promote social transformation²⁴.

²¹ Riffat Shahzady, *The Transformation of Legal Research with Artificial Intelligence*, 3 INT'L J. L. & POL'Y 1 (2025), <https://doi.org/10.59022/ijlp.354>.

²² M. Kattnig et al., *Assessing Trustworthy AI: Technical and Legal Perspectives of Fairness in AI*, 55 COMPUT. L. & SECURITY REV. art. 106053 (2024), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clsr.2024.106053>.

²³ MANUPATRA, *Law as a Tool*, <https://www.manupatra.com/roundup/331/Articles/law%20as%20tool.pdf> (last visited Nov. 5, 2025).

²⁴ Dana Thompson, *Lawyers as Social Engineers: How Lawyers Should Use Their Social Capital to Achieve Economic Justice*, 26 MICH. J. RACE & L. 1 (2021), <https://repository.law.umich.edu/mjrl/vol26/iss0/2>.

Extended Responsibilities

Corporate lawyers play a significant role in economic development by handling complex commercial transactions, joint ventures, mergers & acquisitions that influence how economic policies take shape and facilitate companies to build business relations, all while maintaining ethical standards. The Bar Council of India's recent amendment allowing foreign law firms to practice on non-litigation basis, illustrates the profession's global integration while preserving domestic litigation practice. This creates opportunities for cross-border legal collaboration.

In an AI driven future, lawyers must ensure that technology serves democratic values while maintaining principles of fairness, accountability, and human dignity. Fields of legal practice in present times span diverse horizons, including Intellectual Property Rights, Cybersecurity, Data privacy, environmental regulations, space law, AI ethics. Contemporary lawyers must collaborate with experts from other fields, including technologists, economists, and scientists, reflecting law's evolving interdisciplinary nature.

Conclusion and Path Ahead

The future of law lies not in static codes but in an evolving jurisdiction that responds flexibly to emerging social needs while maintaining principles of justice. As the legal system continues to evolve in response to social and technological advancement, the profession must balance integration of technology, while safeguarding core legal principles that ensure access to justice and uphold rule of law. The challenge for both law and legal education is to be adaptable towards society's changing realities without compromising on justice, human dignity and values.

Firstly, Legal professionals, educators, policy makers and subject experts must collaborate to integrate interdisciplinary training with traditional jurisprudence with technological advancements.

Secondly, Policymakers must introduce robust regulatory frameworks governing AI in justice systems, emphasizing transparency, mitigation of biases and human oversight.

Thirdly, Investments in digital infrastructure, prioritizing inclusive access and bridging the digital divide.

Lastly, ensuring that technological advancements are complemented with the justice system while maintaining the profession's commitment to ethical conduct.