



# Jus Corpus Law Journal

Open Access Law Journal – Copyright © 2022 – ISSN 2582-7820  
Editor-in-Chief – Prof. (Dr.) Rhishikesh Dave; Publisher – Ayush Pandey

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

---

## Emergence of Legal Tech Startups in India

Sahil Khan<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, India

*Received 18 May 2022; Accepted 04 June 2022; Published 11 June 2022*

---

*This article discusses the role played by technology in the law field. The article focuses on the role of technology in making the work of lawyers easy, apart from that the article talks about various roles performed by legal tech start-ups and how they have evolved ever since their inception. The article concludes by analysing the future of the legal field with technology playing a massive role.*

**Keywords:** *startup, tech, technology.*

---

### INTRODUCTION

Technology has been a major factor in any industry, be it the automobile industry, textile industry, or even the agriculture industry. The legal sector is no exception and it is also majorly influenced by the ever evolving technology. The **revolution of legal tech start-ups** started way back in 2011, but it was on such a small scale that it was not noticeable up till now. Legal technology as the term states implies the use of technology and software in the process of providing legal services, assisting lawyers, and providing legal knowledge to the public at large.

Technological revolutions and evolutions have led to the emergence of legal tech start-ups in India, whose aim is to control technological and software aspects while dishing out legal services. The most important and tiresome work for a lawyer is to do research and legal tech comes into play in such scenarios as it shifts the load of research work from a lawyer's shoulder<sup>1</sup>. This is how technology is shifting the traditional procedural work of lawyers by revolutionising the idea of providing legal services.

## LEGAL-TECH INCUBATORS

Legal-tech incubators have become the most important part of the technological revolution of the legal industry. Most of the technology experts have predicted that incubators are something that will spawn innovation and will create a 'cutting-edge technology.' A legal-tech incubator is primarily Artificial Intelligence based software that aims at providing mentorship to the emerging small start-up tech companies. Being described as the 'vanguard of industry change', it seems that **legal-tech incubators** are here to stay and in all probability grow leaps and bounds. The demand for the incubators is immense as countries like the United Kingdom, Singapore, Spain, United States of America, etc have adapted to the legal tech incubators. India has also been quick in adopting legal tech incubators; Prarambh is the first and most renowned legal tech incubator in India.

## PRARAMBH

Prarambh is the first legal-tech incubator of India that was launched by Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas with the purpose of shaping young entrepreneurs and for developing technological solutions of legal aspects in the Indian legal market. In order to be a part of the 'Prarambh' program, every legal tech start-up has to go through a selection process, and after getting selected; the guidance to the start-ups is provided through a 12 stage process where the start-up is guided about various aspects such as financial planning, management, and various other end-to-end problems. Prarambh has been quite successful in driving legal-tech start-ups in India and it seems that various other incubators are set to follow the path laid down by Prarambh.

---

<sup>1</sup> Rachit Garg, 'Rise of legal-tech startups in India' (*Ipleaders*, 20 August 2021) <<https://blog.ipleaders.in/rise-legal-tech-startups-india/>> accessed 10 May 2022

## **FEATURES AND IMPACT OF LEGAL TECH START-UP**

The evolution of technology has impacted the legal world not only in India but also in the global arena. More and more countries are relying on technology to solve the problems faced in the legal field. The emergence of powerful and smart technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, and Mixed Reality has immensely contributed to the growth of legal tech start-ups. The main motive of revolutionising the field of legal tech is to do away with the traditional approach followed so far in the legal procedures. Virtual hearing, research backed up by Artificial Intelligence, and starting online courts are the steps taken to ensure the modernization of legal field issues. Legal tech start-ups have implemented modern technology such as Machine Learning, Predictive Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, and Data Analytics to reduce the burden of work for the lawyers and at the same time also help in ensuring the best possible solution to the clients. Drifting away from traditional practices to the use of technology, in its own states that this step is towards increasing the efficiency, accessibility, transparency, and convenience in the legal professional field. Apart from these aspects, there are certain essential features that characterise legal tech.

### **Legal Research**

Owing to the evolution of technology, lawyers do not have to go through books and case files for the purpose of research, as was the case prior to the inception of legal tech. In this aspect, legal tech has simplified the work of lawyers and has also increased the efficiency of the lawyers as the most important and tedious work for a lawyer is research. In order to support their arguments, lawyers now look to the web to back their points as it is an effective and time consuming process. The process of revolutionising legal tech started in India way back in 2011 and now it has gathered some momentum. Some online websites such as Manupatra, and SCC online are the sites that help in the research work where various judgments, statutes, and clauses are given.

### **E-Signature and its verification**

Legal tech evolution has shifted the process of physically signing documents to virtual mode. Nowadays, legal professionals need not physically sign the document; rather they do it by

using various legal e-signature platforms such as signdesk, signeasy, etc. E-signature platforms provide the option of filling the document, self-attesting, and verifying the document online. Similarly, the e-verification platform proves the legitimacy of the e-signature. E-verification solves the problem of knowing whether a document has been tampered with or not.

### **Online Dispute Resolution**

In India, there is already a huge pendency of cases; **Online Dispute Resolution** is a dispute redressal mechanism that aims to reduce the burden on the courts. Online Dispute Resolution has emerged as an extremely effective tool to solve the grievance of consumers. In the Online Dispute Resolution (also known as ODR), the individual just needs to register their commercial, civil or legal grievance or complaints in a similar manner which they do in any other dispute redressal. Centre for alternative dispute resolution excellence, SAMA, and Presolv 360 are some of the most renowned ODR start-ups in India<sup>2</sup>.

### **Online Management of Contracts**

The process of manually drafting a contract is an extremely monotonous task and at the same time, it is also time consuming. Start-ups such as Spotdraft, and Legal Capsule have started providing assistance to the lawyers and legal firms in drafting and also in sending the contracts online. This saves a lot of time for legal practitioners and hence; it is an effective tool.

### **Legal Marketplace**

Just like how online shopping e-commerce apps such as Amazon and Flipkart offer a wide array of goods and services to the consumer, similarly legal marketplace entities assist an individual in finding a legal practitioner of their choice in accordance with their location and budget. Lawyers can provide legal advice to clients by online method. Lawrato and Legistify are start-ups in the domain of the legal marketplace.

---

<sup>2</sup> Nishi, 'Top 10 Best Legaltech Companies In India 2022' (Inventiva, 5 January 2022)  
<<https://www.inventiva.co.in/trends/top-10-legaltech-in-india-2022/>> accessed 10 May 2022

## **Management of Intellectual Property**

Intellectual Property management is not an easy task because it requires a vast amount of documents and individuals at times forget some of the other document. Through an online unified system, management of Intellectual Property documents becomes quite an easy task, and the chances of misplacing the document are significantly reduced.

## **PROMINENT LEGAL TECH START-UPS IN INDIA**

### **1. LegalKart**

The start-up was established in the year 2018 and was founded by Arvind Singhatiya. The function of LegalKart is to provide legal advice and documentation through an online platform. The start-up has assisted clients in providing easy access to the lawyers at a nominal fee; so much so that a client can avail of the services of a lawyer through the app at a nominal fee of rupees five hundred for a time period of fifteen minutes. More than eight thousand lawyers have been associated with the app in over eight hundred cities.

### **2. Law Rato**

An interactive platform founded by Rohan Mahajan is beneficial in finding and hiring lawyers for clients looking for high-quality and efficient legal services. Law Rato works a lot in pro bono cases and one of its significant achievements is providing lawyers to the Nirbhaya's parents (infamous Delhi case) free of cost when the case reached the Supreme Court. Over fifty thousand lawyers are associated with this platform.

### **3. Ipleaders**

Ipleaders is comparatively an older legal educational start-up, which was founded in the year 2010 by Abhyudaya Agarwal and Ramanuj Mukherjee. Ipleaders gives out legal and business courses through an online platform to make legal education more accessible. The start-up is a great venture because it offers services to law students, lawyers, legal consultants, government officers, etc. Blogging, and providing educational resources for the purpose of research is the key area of expertise for the venture.

#### 4. Presolv 360

Presolv 360 is an Online Dispute Resolution based legal tech start-up based out of Mumbai which was jointly founded by Bhaven Shah, Namita Shah, and Aman Sanghavi in 2017. The start-up deals with the legal grievance system through an online method in order to provide more effective solutions as compared to the traditional approach which is quite tedious. The start-up has worked out quite well because of the fact that it reduces the burden on the Indian legal system and at the same time provides quick and efficient solutions to the clients in a more effective and economical manner.

#### 5. LegalDesk

LegalDesk is a start-up based out of Bengaluru, which was founded in the year 2014 in order to make the process of legal documentation easier by aiming for digitalization. The documents are drafted by the professionals with utmost caution and they ensure that it is error free. The venture has also launched eSignDesk to sign the documents via online mode; without requiring the physical presence of the parties.

### ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SHAPING UP THE LEGAL TECH WORLD

**Artificial Intelligence** is a concept that is touted as the future and is certainly here to stay. Describe Artificial Intelligence, it is a technological mechanism that performs tasks that usually require human intelligence. There were premonitions that Artificial Intelligence would reduce human labour as it performs the tasks which require human intelligence but it has been proved otherwise. If anything, Artificial Intelligence has helped lawyers and legal practitioners by reducing their burden, and by performing various mundane and tedious tasks that legal practitioners are required to do. Earlier, law students and lawyers had to go through volumes of case laws in order to establish a precedent in context with the present matter but owing to Artificial Intelligence, legal professionals can achieve this task in minutes by digital means<sup>3</sup>. Seeing the advancement of technologies and what Artificial Intelligence has to offer, former Chief Justice, Sharad Arvind Bobde had said that the Supreme Court of India has proposed to

---

<sup>3</sup> Aakash D 'Rising demand on legal tech startups' (Freeflow, 23 November 2021) <<https://freeflow.zone/rising-demand-on-legal-tech-startups/>> accessed 10 May 2022

introduce a system of Artificial Intelligence for better administration of the judicial system of the country.

**Some of the AI-based start-ups are:**

### **1. MikeLegal**

MikeLegal is essentially an Artificial Intelligence based trademark management legal tech start-up that automates the management of the Intellectual Property of the owners. Legal tools such as ‘Mike TM Search’ and ‘Mike TM Manager’ allow easy trademark search and management of Intellectual Property Portfolios.

### **2. Precity**

Precity is a start-up founded by Bharath Rao that provides an end to end solution for tax, legal practice, and research management. Precity offers efficiency and control over the workflow of the system. The AI based start-up is beneficial in analysing legal and business documents.

### **3. Volody**

Volody is a Mumbai based start-up whose function is to automatize and digitise the legal process for the purpose of business. It aims at providing technology products namely Contract Lifecycle Management, Compliance Management, and Digital Board Meeting. Through their platform, users can draft, negotiate, approve and attest to their different legal agreements under a roof.

## **ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL TECH IN INDIAN JUDICIARY**

The Indian Judicial system has slowly and steadily started shifting towards the process of digitising and implementing technological stuff in the system. Cases of national importance were live streamed which shows that the Judiciary is looking for a shifting approach towards digitalization purpose. The COVID Pandemic provided just the right push needed for the Judiciary for implementing the digital approach<sup>4</sup>. During the pandemic time, courts resorted to virtual means for hearing and delivering justice; ‘Vidyo’ platform is used by the Supreme

---

<sup>4</sup> S. Chinmayee ‘Rising Demand of Legal Tech Startups in India’ (The Legal Lock, 21 November, 2021) <<https://thelegallock.com/rising-demand-of-legal-tech-startups-in-india>> accessed 10 May 2022

Court of India for the purpose of conducting virtual hearings. The pandemic has shown that legal technology can be implemented in the judicial system of India on a long-term basis since it increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the judicial system.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has been revolutionized by technology and the trend does not seem to fade away, if anything the trend seems to grow even more. With the emergence of more technologies such as Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, and Mixed Reality, it is looking like all the sectors are going to be on the crutches of technology. The legal profession whose name was never taken in the same breath as technology but it has been proved otherwise.

Artificial Intelligence and other technological advances have taken over the legal industry in the last ten to fifteen years. Recently because of the Covid pandemic, the use of technology in the legal sphere increased tremendously and has possibly shown a blueprint for going forward. Legal tech has proved to be effective, efficient and time-saving at the same time and thus, has shown great potential in being used in the legal industry in large numbers. However, traditional methods should not be looked down upon as it also has their own pros and a good mix of traditional and legal tech should be implemented going forward to achieve the optimum result.