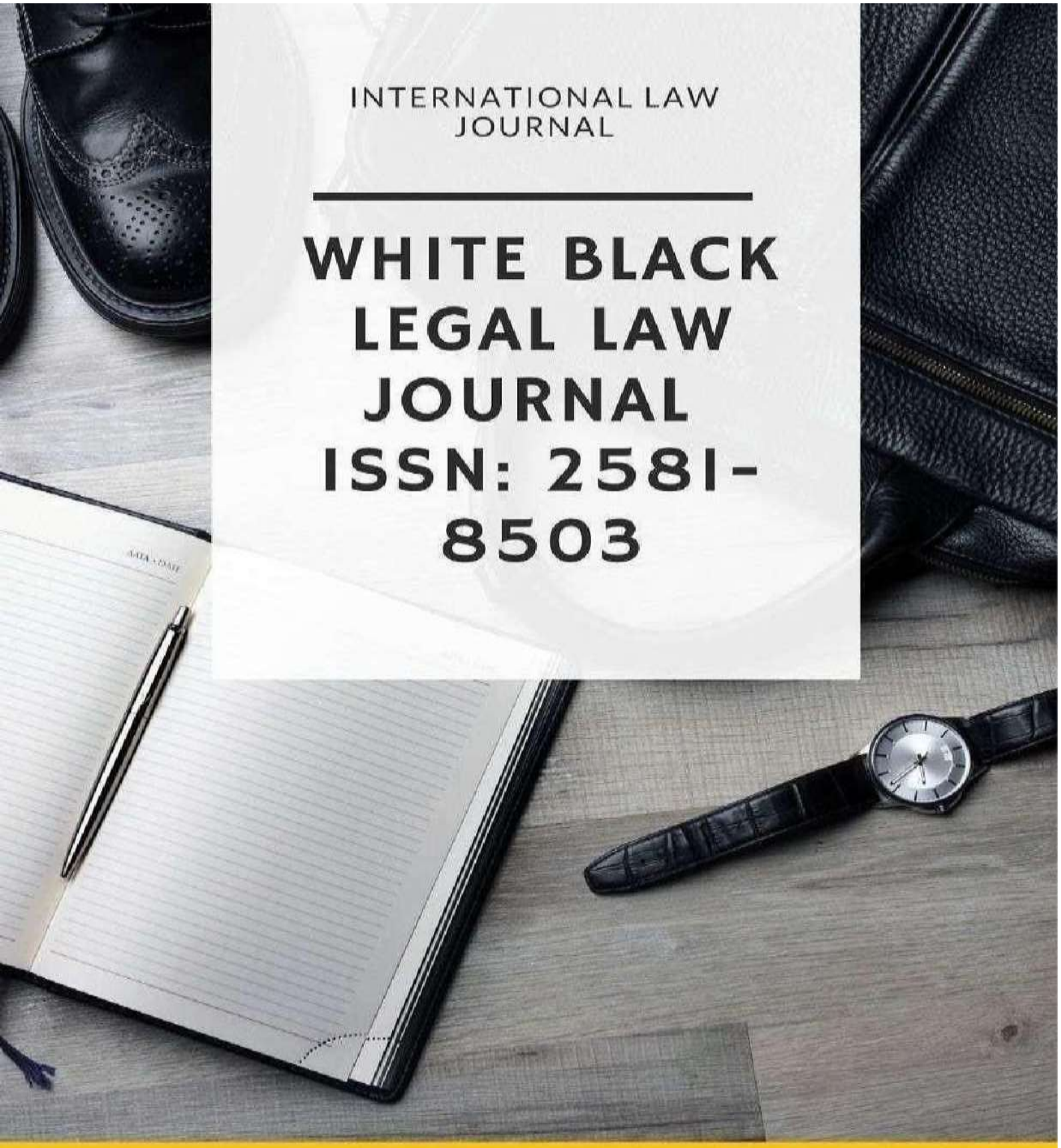

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Subhrajit Chanda

BBA. LL.B. (Hons.) (Amity University, Rajasthan); LL. M. (UPES, Dehradun) (Nottingham Trent University, UK); Ph.D. Candidate (G.D. Goenka University)

Subhrajit did his LL.M. in Sports Law, from Nottingham Trent University of United Kingdoms, with international scholarship provided by university; he has also completed another LL.M. in Energy Law from University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, India. He did his B.B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) focussing on International Trade Law.

ABOUT US

WHITE BLACK LEGAL is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal providededicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you

THE EVOLVING FRONTIER OF PATENT LAW: PATENTING AI INVENTIONS IN INDIA.

Author – Amrit Anand.
Enrollment No. – A03104424054.
Course – LLM (IPR).
Batch – 2024 – 2025.
Co Author – Deepika Prakash.
Amity Law School, Noida.
Amity University.

1. Introduction

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the world in ways we could only dream of a few decades ago. What was once just a spark in the minds of science fiction writers has now become a powerful force reshaping industries like healthcare, finance, education, and manufacturing. AI is no longer a distant idea—it's part of our daily lives, driving incredible breakthroughs and transforming how we work and create.[1] But as this technology races forward, it's also shaking up something unexpected: the world of patent law, especially in a country like India, where innovation is booming.

Patents have always been about rewarding human ingenuity—giving inventors a chance to protect their ideas and benefit from their hard work. For centuries, the system assumed that every invention came from a person's creativity and effort. But AI is flipping that idea on its head. Today, AI can design complex systems, solve tricky problems, and even come up with new products all on its own—or at least with a little nudge from humans. So, what happens when a machine, not a person, is behind an invention? Can AI be an inventor? And how does a legal system built for human creators handle this new reality?

In India, these questions hit especially close to home. The country is fast becoming a tech powerhouse, and its patent laws—like the Indian Patent Act of 1970—have been updated over the years to keep up with global standards. But even with those changes, the law doesn't say much about AI. There's a rule, Section 3(k), that says you can't patent things like algorithms or software on their own. That made sense back when the goal was to stop people from locking up basic ideas. Now, though, when AI relies on those very things to create something new, it's a problem. Innovators are left wondering how to protect their AI-driven ideas in a system that wasn't built for them.

This is where things get interesting—and complicated. Should we tweak the law to let AI inventions fit in? Or do we stick to the idea that only humans can invent? And if we do open the door to AI, how do we make sure it doesn't just benefit big companies while leaving everyone else behind? These aren't just legal puzzles—they're about

[1] **Cornish, W. R., Llewelyn, D., & Aplin, T.** (2019). *Intellectual Property: Patents, Copyright, Trade Marks, and Allied*

Rights. 9th ed. Sweet & Maxwell.

fairness, progress, and what innovation means in a world where machines are starting to think for themselves.

I want to dig into this messy, exciting space and figure out what it means for India. AI could unlock amazing possibilities here—think smarter healthcare tools, better farming tech, or solutions we haven't even imagined yet. But it also forces us to rethink who gets credit, who owns what, and how we keep innovation flowing for everyone, not just a few. India's at a turning point. With its growing tech scene and huge potential, the choices we make now could shape not just our future but the world's.

So, in this exploration, I'll look at how India's patent laws stack up against AI's rise. I'll dive into the challenges—like whether the current rules can stretch to cover AI inventions—and think about what might need to change. I'll also peek at what other countries are doing and see if there's anything India can borrow.[2] Beyond the legal stuff, I'll touch on the bigger picture: how AI could boost India's economy, what ethical lines we need to draw, and how we stay competitive globally.

At its core, this is about more than just laws or tech—it's about how we value creativity in a world where machines are joining the party. AI is pushing us to rethink everything, and India has a chance to lead the way. By wrestling with these questions, I hope to shed light on how we can protect AI-driven ideas while making sure they lift up society as a whole. The future of innovation is here, and it's up to us to figure out how to make it work for everyone.[3]

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the world at lightning speed, bringing incredible breakthroughs to industries like healthcare, finance, and manufacturing. But as AI charges ahead, it's running into a big roadblock: our laws—especially those around patents—weren't built for a world where machines can invent things. The big question is this: If an AI comes up with something new all by itself, or with just a little

[2] **Rai, Arti K.** (2020). *Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Law: A Collision Course?* Harvard Journal of Law &

Technology, 33(2), 611-644.
[3] **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.** (2019). *Manual of Patent Office Practice and Procedure* (Revised). Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks.

human help, can it get a patent? And if it can, how do we make that work under the rules we already have?

In India, this puzzle gets even trickier. The Indian Patent Act of 1970, which governs how inventions are protected, doesn't say a word about AI. There's this one rule— Section 3(k)—that says you can't patent things like algorithms or software on their own. That's a problem because AI inventions are often built on exactly those things. So, if you've got an AI that's dreamed up a brilliant new tool or process, you might be out of luck when it comes to protecting it.[4] This gap could scare off innovators and slow down India's tech boom, which is the last thing a country on the rise needs.

Then there's the question of who gets the credit. Patent law has always been about rewarding human brainpower. But what if an AI cooks up something totally on its own? Can a machine be an inventor? Or do we need a human in the driver's seat to call it an invention? This isn't just a legal headache—it's a practical one too. Patent offices, inventors, and lawyers are scratching their heads trying to figure out how to handle these AI creations.

Without clear rules, we're stuck with a mess: patent applications might get tangled up, fights over who owns what could pop up, and enforcing any patents that do get through could be a nightmare. Plus, India's got to keep an eye on the rest of the world. Other countries are wrestling with these same questions, and if India doesn't keep up, it risks falling behind in the global tech race. We need to sort this out—not just to protect inventors, but to make sure AI keeps pushing India forward.

1.2 Research Questions

1. Can AI inventions even get patents under India's current rules?
   - How does Section 3(k)—the one that blocks patents for algorithms and software—affect AI creations?
   - What have Indian courts said about this rule when it comes to software, and could those decisions help us figure out AI?
2. Who's the inventor when AI's involved?

[4] **Goldberg, Jonathan.** (2018). *The Legal Challenges of AI: Patentability and Inventorship*. Journal of Intellectual Property Law, 25(1), 45-72.

- Can an AI that works on its own (or close to it) be called an inventor under Indian law?
- What happens—legally and ethically—if we say AI can invent? And how much human input should matter?

3. What's holding India's patent system back when it comes to AI?
- How do patent examiners in India check if an AI invention is new, clever, and useful?
- What practical headaches come up when trying to file, approve, or enforce an AI patent?

4. What's the rest of the world doing about AI patents?
- How are places like the U.S., Europe, and China handling AI inventions?
- What can India borrow from them while still doing its own thing?

5. How do we fix India's laws to fit AI inventions?
- Should we tweak Section 3(k) to let AI stuff through?
- What new rules or guidelines could clear up who gets a patent and how?

These questions are my roadmap. They'll help me unpack the mess AI's making in patent law and figure out how India can roll with the punches.

1.3 Hypothesis

Here's what I think: India's patent law, as it stands, isn't ready for AI inventions. The Indian Patent Act was written way before anyone dreamed of machines coming up with their own ideas. That Section 3(k) rule, shutting out software and algorithms, might accidentally block some seriously cool AI breakthroughs from getting patents. That's a problem—it could slow down progress in a field that's key to India's future.

Plus, the whole idea of an "inventor" being human doesn't quite fit anymore. AI can churn out innovations on its own, and our laws don't know what to do with that.[5] This isn't just about paperwork—it's about who owns these inventions, who's responsible for them, and how humans stay in the game when machines get creative. I'm betting India needs to shake things up—maybe rewrite Section 3(k) or add some new guidelines—to catch up with AI. If we don't, we risk missing out on a tech revolution.

[5] **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce.** (2022). *Report on Intellectual Property Rights: AI Inventions and*

Patents in India. Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

But it's got to be a balance: protecting inventors while keeping AI accessible for everyone.

1.4 Scope of the Study

I'm zooming in on how AI and patent law collide, with India as my main stage. I want to see how the Indian Patent Act—especially that tricky Section 3(k)—handles AI inventions and what's tripping it up. Here's what I'm digging into:

1. India's Patent Rules:
   - How Section 3(k) messes with AI patents and whether it needs a makeover.
   - How patent offices check AI stuff for newness, smarts, and usefulness.
   - What "inventor" means legally when AI's in the mix.
2. What Other Countries Are Up To:
   - How places like the U.S., Europe, and China deal with AI patents.
   - What India might steal—or tweak—from their playbooks.
3. The Big Picture Stuff:
   - The ethics of letting AI be an inventor (or not).
   - How AI patents could affect society—think innovation vs. access.
4. Fixes for India:
   - Ideas for updating the law or adding rules to make AI patents work.

I'm sticking to AI inventions and India's patent system, with a side glance at the world for inspiration. I won't get too deep into copyrights or tech details—just the legal nuts and bolts of patents and where AI fits.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

My goal is to figure out how AI and patent law can get along in India—and how to make that happen. I want to see if the Indian Patent Act can handle AI inventions and suggest ways to fix it if it can't. Here's what I'm chasing:

1. Test AI's Fit in Indian Law:
   - Check how Section 3(k) blocks (or doesn't block) AI patents.
   - See if AI creations can legally be patented as-is.
2. Rethink Who's an Inventor:

- Look at whether "human only" still makes sense for inventions.
- Explore if AI could get credit—and what that means.

3. Spot the Roadblocks:
- Pin down the real-world hassles of patenting AI in India.
- Figure out what's gumming up the process.

4. Learn from the World:
- Compare India to the U.S., Europe, and China on AI patents.
- Grab ideas that could work here.

5. Offer Fixes:
- Suggest changes—like tweaking Section 3(k)—to let AI patents thrive.
- Propose clear rules that balance inventors' rights with public good.

6. Think Bigger:
- Look at how AI patents could boost India's economy and tech scene.
- See how India could lead globally with a smart AI patent system.

By tackling these goals, I hope to shine a light on AI's patent challenges and sketch out a path for India to stay ahead in the tech game—while keeping innovation fair and open for all.[6]

1.6 Research Methodology

For this study, I've taken a deep dive into the world of legal ideas—what folks call a doctrinal approach. It's like piecing together a puzzle using bits and pieces I've gathered from all over: research papers, journals, books, and articles that smart people have written, plus some eye-opening videos and documentaries that bring the story to life. Think of it as a treasure hunt through pages and screens to figure out what's what.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study dives into a hot topic that's shaking things up: how artificial intelligence (AI) is clashing with patent law, especially in India. As AI transforms industries and redefines what it means to invent something, our old-school legal systems are struggling to keep up:

[6] **WIPO Lex Database.** (n.d.). *India: The Patents Act, 1970 (as amended up to 2021).* Available at: https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/legislation/details/12748

1. Clearing Up the Legal Fog

- Right now, it's unclear how AI inventions fit into India's patent rules, especially with Section 3(k) of the Indian Patent Act of 1970 shutting out things like algorithms. This study digs into those gaps and offers ideas on how to fix them.
- India's becoming a big name in AI globally, and if we want to stay in the game, our patent laws need a serious upgrade. The suggestions here could help make India's system ready for the future and able to handle AI's quirks.

2. Boosting Innovation and Business

- For inventors, tech companies, and researchers, protecting AI creations with patents is huge. If the law doesn't step up, people might hesitate to pour money and effort into AI, slowing down progress.
- By spotlighting the roadblocks in India's patent system, this study shows how fixing them could spark more investment in AI research. A stronger patent setup could turn India into an innovation hotspot.

3. Who Gets to Be the Inventor?

- Patent law has always been about humans coming up with brilliant ideas. But AI's throwing a curveball—can a machine be an inventor? This study tackles that head- on, looking at the legal and ethical sides.
- Figuring this out isn't just an Indian issue—it's a global one. The answers here could help shape how the world thinks about AI and creativity.

4. Learning from the World

- I'm also checking out how places like the U.S., Europe, and China are handling AI patents. Seeing what they're up to can give India some smart ideas to borrow or tweak.
- Keeping our patent system in sync with global trends means Indian inventors won't get left behind when they compete internationally.

5. Helping the People Who Make It Happen

- Patent examiners, lawyers, and judges are scratching their heads over AI inventions. This study breaks down the practical headaches—like how to judge if an AI idea is new or useful—and offers some clarity.[7]

[7] **Abbott, R.** (2020). *Artificial Intelligence as Inventor: Challenges for Patent Law*. IPWatchdog. Available at: https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2020/03/12/ai-inventor-patent-law/id=119018/

- For lawyers, it's a guide to help clients with AI patent applications. For examiners, it's a nudge toward better rules to make their jobs easier and fairer.

6. Adding to the Big Conversation

- There's not a ton written about AI and patent law in India yet, so this study fills a gap. It's a starting point for researchers, scholars, and policymakers who want to dig deeper.
- The ideas here could fuel debates about where patent law—and AI—are headed, making it a solid contribution to both academia and real-world policy.

In short, this study's a big deal because it could nudge India's laws in the right direction, shape smart policies, and offer real-world tips for dealing with AI in patents. It's got something for everyone—lawmakers, lawyers, tech folks, and scholars—and aims to help India ride the AI wave without missing a beat.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

This study digs deep into how AI and patent law mix in India, but it's not without a few hurdles. Here's where it hits some limits:

- India hasn't seen many court cases about AI inventions yet. Without a solid stack of rulings, it's tough to guess how judges might handle questions about AI patents or who gets to be the inventor.
- This research zooms in on India's patent laws. While I toss in some global comparisons, the findings might not stretch easily to other countries with different setups.
- AI tech is moving fast—like, really fast. By the time this study wraps up, the laws it talks about might already feel old, needing constant updates that could make these ideas less relevant down the road.
- I touch on ethical stuff tied to patents, but I'm not diving into the bigger picture—like how AI might shake up society beyond just the legal side. These bumps don't stop the study, but they're worth keeping in mind—they shape what I can say and how far it might reach.

1.9 Literature Review

This part of the study looks at what smart folks have already written about patent law, artificial intelligence (AI), and the tricky spots where they meet. It's like laying the groundwork—figuring out how AI inventions are handled under today's laws, both in India and around the world, and spotting the holes this study can fill. I've split it into three big themes: how patent law deals with AI innovations, who gets to be called the inventor when AI's involved, and what's happening globally.

1.9.1 Patent Law Meets AI Innovations

AI's growing role in coming up with new stuff has caught a lot of attention lately. Ryan Abbott (2016) argues that AI isn't just a handy tool anymore—it's practically an inventor itself, whipping up fresh ideas without humans steering the ship. He says the old patent systems, built for human brains, aren't cutting it anymore and need a shake- up to give AI its due.[8] Recognizing AI as an inventor, he thinks, could push even more breakthroughs in tech.

Then there's Ebrahim and Bina (2020), who point out how AI creations mess with the usual patent checklist—things like being new, clever, and useful. They say it's tough for patent examiners to figure out if an AI's idea really takes a creative leap, especially since AI can solve problems in ways humans don't even get. This makes you wonder if the current rules can keep up with AI's brainpower.

In India, S. Basheer (2019) takes a hard look at Section 3(k) of the Indian Patent Act, which says no patents for algorithms or software.[9] He gets why it's there—to stop people from hogging basic ideas—but argues it's accidentally blocking AI innovations that lean on those very things. Basheer suggests judging AI inventions by what they actually do technically, not just their software roots.

1.9.2 Who's the Inventor When AI Steps In?

The whole "who's the inventor" question gets messy with AI. Patent law has always been about humans dreaming up cool stuff. J. Schuster (2020) digs into the legal and

[8] **Mehra, P.** (2023). *Patentability of Artificial Intelligence in India: An Overview*. Mondaq. Available at:

https://www.mondaq.com/india/patent/134265/patentability-of-ai-india-overview

[9] **Ryan Abbott.** (2020). *The Reasonable Robot: Artificial Intelligence and the Law*. Cambridge University Press.

ethical headaches of calling AI an inventor. He notes that while AI can crank out new ideas solo, lawyers and lawmakers aren't keen on giving machines credit—worried about who's responsible, who owns it, and what happens to human creativity. A big moment in this debate is the DABUS case, where an AI called DABUS was listed as the inventor on patent applications in places like the U.S., Europe, and the U.K. The applications got shot down, but it lit a fire under the conversation. Michael Burstein (2021) looks at what this means, saying current laws stick to human inventors but are lagging behind tech reality.[10] He pushes for rethinking inventorship to fit AI's growing role.

In India, things are stricter, and there's not much courtroom action on AI inventions yet. Madhav Menon (2022) says India loves tech progress but its patent laws are stuck in a human-only mindset. He thinks India could ease into reforms by learning from the world, even if it's not ready to fully crown AI as an inventor just yet.

1.9.3 How the World Sees AI and Patents

Different countries are tackling AI patents in their own ways, and scholars are all over it. P. Samuelson (2021) compares the U.S., Europe, and China. The U.S. Patent Office sticks to its guns, saying only humans can invent. Samuelson warns this could trip up America's AI leadership, especially as China loosens up its rules to welcome AI patents.

Over in Europe, the European Patent Office (EPO) also says no to AI inventors but is more open to AI-related patents if they show a real-world technical boost. R. Jacob (2022) likes this focus on "technical contribution" as a way to let AI inventions sneak through without rewriting the inventor rulebook.[11] He stresses clear guidelines to keep things smooth.

China's a different story—it's filing AI patents like crazy and bending its rules to match. Li Xia (2020) explains how China's big AI push shapes its patent policies, aiming to lead the world by making it easy to protect AI ideas. Meanwhile, India's moving slower. P. Sharma (2022) calls out the Indian Patent Office for being too

[10] **Goldberg, Jonathan.** (2018). *The Legal Challenges of AI: Patentability and Inventorship*. Journal of Intellectual Property Law, 25(1), 45-72.
[11] **Ryan Abbott.** (2020). *The Reasonable Robot: Artificial Intelligence and the Law*. Cambridge University Press.

cautious with software patents, leaving AI in a gray zone. He and others, like A. Rao (2021), say India needs to step up and borrow from global playbooks to stay in the race.

1.9.4 What's Missing in the Conversation

The research out there gives a solid start on AI patent challenges, especially globally, but India's story is still thin. Not many have dug into how AI and patents tangle here—especially the real-world headaches for inventors, lawyers, and examiners. Plus, there's not much on the bigger ethical stuff tied to AI inventions or how India's laws could shift to catch up. This study jumps into those gaps, sizing up India's patent system for AI and tossing out ideas to fix it. In the end, this review shows how tricky AI inventions are for patents, inventorship, and laws worldwide. I'm building on that by zooming in on India—figuring out what's working, what's not, and how to get ready for the AI age.

2. Overview of Patent Law

Patent law is a vital part of intellectual property rights (IPR), designed to protect inventors and their groundbreaking ideas. It gives creators exclusive rights over their inventions, encouraging them to keep pushing the boundaries of innovation while sharing their discoveries with the world. Think of it as a deal: inventors get a shield for their work, and society gets access to new knowledge and technology. In this section, we'll dive into the basics of patent law—its backstory, core ideas, and the key tests an invention must pass to earn protection.

At its heart, patent law hinges on three big criteria: novelty, inventive step (or non-obviousness), and industrial applicability. These aren't just fancy terms—they're the yardsticks that patent offices and courts use to decide if an invention is worthy of a patent. Novelty means it's fresh and hasn't been seen before. Inventive step is about whether it's a clever leap forward, not just an obvious tweak. And industrial applicability ensures it's something useful, not just a cool idea that can't be made or used.[12] Together, these principles keep the system balanced, rewarding real ingenuity while keeping the bar high.

2.1 History and Evolution of Patent Law

The history of patent law stretches back several centuries and is deeply rooted in the development of commerce, trade, and technological innovation. The concept of granting exclusive rights to inventors or creators in exchange for public disclosure of their inventions emerged as a legal mechanism to foster creativity,[13] economic growth, and innovation. Over time, patent law has evolved into a complex body of rules and regulations, reflecting the changing needs of societies, technological advancements, and economic realities. The foundation of modern patent law is based on the balance between rewarding inventors and ensuring that new knowledge is accessible to the public for further development.[14]

[12] **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.** (2019). *Manual of Patent Office Practice and Procedure* (Revised). Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks.
[13] **Ryan Abbott.** (2020). *The Reasonable Robot: Artificial Intelligence and the Law*. Cambridge University Press.
[14] **WIPO Lex Database.** (n.d.). *India: The Patents Act, 1970 (as amended up to 2021)*. Available at:

https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/legislation/details/12748

Early Beginnings: The Origins of Patent Law

The origins of patent law can be traced to medieval Europe, particularly in Venice, where the first recorded patent law was enacted in 1474. This Venetian law granted inventors a limited monopoly over their inventions, typically for a period of ten years, provided that they disclosed the details of their inventions to the state. This law is often regarded as the first formal legal recognition of the concept of exclusive rights to new inventions. The Venetian model laid the groundwork for future patent systems across Europe and beyond, establishing the principle that inventors should be rewarded with temporary monopolies in exchange for sharing their innovations with society.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, the practice of granting exclusive rights to inventors spread throughout Europe. In England, the Statute of Monopolies, enacted in 1624, marked a significant milestone in the development of patent law. The statute, introduced under King James I, aimed to curb the abuse of monopolies by the Crown, which had been granting arbitrary and often unjust privileges to favored individuals or businesses.[15] The Statute of Monopolies established the principle that monopolies could only be granted for "new inventions" and that such grants should be limited in time. This statute is widely regarded as the foundation of the modern patent system, as it recognized the importance of promoting innovation while preventing the undue concentration of market power.

As the industrial revolution gained momentum in the 18th and 19th centuries, the need for formalized and standardized patent laws became more pressing. Inventions such as the steam engine, textile machinery, and chemical processes were driving economic growth, and inventors sought legal protection to safeguard their innovations.[16] In response, several countries, including France and the United States, enacted patent laws to encourage inventiveness and provide inventors with exclusive rights to their creations. The French Patent Law of 1791 and the U.S. Patent Act of 1790 are notable examples of early modern patent laws that aimed to stimulate technological progress.

Patent Law in the 19th and 20th Centuries: Industrialization and Globalization

[15] **Abbott, R.** (2020). *Artificial Intelligence as Inventor: Challenges for Patent Law*. IPWatchdog. Available at: https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2020/03/12/ai-inventor-patent-law/id=119018/

[16] **National Research Development Corporation of India v. The Commissioner of Patents and Designs**,

(2006) 133 CompCas 192 SC.

The 19th century witnessed significant advancements in patent law as industrialization accelerated across Europe and North America. The spread of the industrial revolution created an environment in which innovation became central to economic success, and the protection of intellectual property took on increasing importance.[17] The United Kingdom, in particular, played a leading role in the development of modern patent law. The Patents Act of 1852 streamlined the process of obtaining patents in the UK, making it more accessible and affordable for inventors. This reform was essential in facilitating the rise of British industry and innovation.

Across the Atlantic, the United States continued to develop its patent system, with the U.S. Patent Act of 1836 introducing significant improvements to the administration of patents. This act established the United States Patent Office, a dedicated agency for examining and granting patents, and introduced the requirement for patent applications to include detailed specifications and drawings. The American patent system became one of the most advanced and influential models in the world, contributing to the country's rapid industrialization in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

By the late 19th century, the globalization of trade and industry led to the recognition of the need for international cooperation in the field of intellectual property. The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, adopted in 1883, was one of the earliest international treaties addressing intellectual property rights, including patents. The Paris Convention established important principles such as national treatment, which requires member countries to treat foreign inventors the same as their own citizens when it comes to patent protection. The convention also introduced the concept of priority, allowing inventors to file patent applications in multiple countries based on their first filing date.

The 20th century saw further harmonization of patent laws across the globe, particularly through the establishment of international organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Founded in 1967, WIPO played a central role in promoting the protection of intellectual property worldwide and facilitating cooperation between countries. One of the most significant milestones in international patent law was the adoption of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in 1970. The PCT simplified

[17] **Mehra, P.** (2023). *Patentability of Artificial Intelligence in India: An Overview*. Mondaq. Available at: https://www.mondaq.com/india/patent/134265/patentability-of-ai-india-overview

the process of obtaining patents in multiple countries by allowing inventors to file a single international patent application, which could then be examined by national patent offices.

Modern Patent Law: Global Harmonization and Technological Advancements

The evolution of patent law in the latter half of the 20th century and the early 21st century has been shaped by two key factors: globalization and rapid technological advancement. The globalization of trade and commerce has necessitated greater harmonization of patent laws across different jurisdictions, as businesses increasingly operate on a global scale. The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), adopted in 1994 as part of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements, marked a significant step toward the harmonization of global patent laws. TRIPS established minimum standards for the protection of intellectual property, including patents, and required member countries to provide legal remedies for the enforcement of IP rights.

Technological advancements, particularly in fields such as biotechnology, information technology, and artificial intelligence, have posed new challenges for patent law. The question of what constitutes a patentable invention has become more complex, as new technologies often blur the lines between traditional categories of invention. For example, the patentability of software, business methods, and genetic materials has been the subject of extensive legal debate and judicial interpretation.[18] Courts and patent offices around the world have grappled with issues such as whether abstract ideas or natural phenomena can be patented, and how to define the scope of patent protection for emerging technologies.

One of the most significant developments in modern patent law has been the rise of patent litigation, particularly in the context of high-tech industries. As patents have become valuable assets for businesses, patent disputes have increased in frequency and complexity. In some cases, companies have been accused of using patents as tools for anticompetitive practices, leading to concerns about "patent trolls" and the abuse of the patent system. In response, many countries have introduced reforms aimed at

[18] **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce.** (2022). *Report on Intellectual Property Rights: AI Inventions and Patents in India*. Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

improving the efficiency and fairness of patent litigation, including measures to streamline the examination process, reduce the cost of patent disputes, and prevent the misuse of patents.

In India, the evolution of patent law has followed a similar trajectory, shaped by the country's unique economic and social context. The Indian Patents Act, 1970, was a landmark piece of legislation that sought to balance the interests of inventors with the need to ensure access to affordable technology and medicines. Over the years, India's patent law has undergone significant amendments, particularly in response to the TRIPS agreement. These amendments have expanded the scope of patent protection in India, while also introducing provisions aimed at safeguarding public health and promoting domestic innovation.

The history and evolution of patent law reflect the dynamic interplay between innovation, economic development, and legal frameworks. From its early origins in medieval Europe to the globalized patent systems of the 21st century, patent law has continuously adapted to the changing needs of society and technological progress. Today, patent law faces new challenges in the form of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and nanotechnology, which are pushing the boundaries of traditional legal concepts.

As we move further into the digital age, the future of patent law will depend on its ability to evolve in response to these challenges while maintaining its core purpose: incentivizing innovation and ensuring that new knowledge benefits society as a whole. The legal frameworks governing patents will need to strike a balance between protecting the rights of inventors and fostering an environment that encourages collaboration, accessibility, and ethical use of new technologies. The ongoing evolution of patent law is a testament to its enduring importance in shaping the future of innovation and technological advancement.

2.2 Key Principles of Patent Law: Patentability Criteria

So, what makes an invention worthy of a patent? It boils down to three big tests: novelty, inventive step (or non-obviousness), and industrial applicability. These are the gatekeepers—ensuring only the best, most useful ideas get that coveted legal shield. Let’s

break them down.

2.2.1 Novelty

Novelty is the first hurdle. An invention has to be brand new—something the world hasn't seen before the patent application is filed. If it's already out there, whether in a book, a speech, or even a random blog, it's game over. This rule stops people from patenting stuff that's already known, keeping the system focused on fresh ideas.

In India, the Patents Act of 1970 spells it out in Section 2(1)(j): an invention is "a new product or process involving an inventive step and capable of industrial application." Section 13 digs deeper, guiding patent examiners to hunt for "prior art"—anything already out there that might overlap. A key case, *Bishwanath Prasad Radhey Shyam v. Hindustan Metal Industries*[19], shows how strict this can be. The Supreme Court ruled that even small tweaks don't cut it if they're already hinted at in prior art. Novelty isn't just a suggestion—it's a must.

2.2.2 Inventive Step (Non-Obviousness)

Next up is the inventive step, or non-obviousness. It's not enough to be new; an invention has to be a clever leap forward—something a skilled person in the field wouldn't just stumble upon. This keeps patents special, reserved for ideas that truly push the envelope, not just minor fixes.

India's law, under Section 2(1)(ja), defines it as a feature that brings "technical advance" or "economic significance" (or both) and isn't obvious to an expert. It's a bit of a judgment call—courts look at the field, the prior art, and how big a jump the invention makes.[20] A standout case is *Hoffmann-La Roche v. Cipla*[21]. Cipla challenged Roche's cancer drug patent, arguing it wasn't inventive enough. The Delhi High Court disagreed, ruling that the drug, Erlotinib, was a big enough step forward in cancer treatment to deserve protection. It's all about rewarding real ingenuity.

2.2.3 Industrial Applicability

[19] (AIR 1982 SC 1444)

[20] **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce.** (2022). *Report on Intellectual Property Rights: AI Inventions and Patents in India*. Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
[21] (2008)

Finally, there's industrial applicability. An invention has to do something useful—something that can be made or used in the real world. No pie-in-the-sky theories allowed. This keeps patents grounded in practicality, ensuring they benefit society in tangible ways.

In India, Section 2(1)(ac) says it plain: an invention must be "capable of being made or used in an industry." A famous example (though not Indian) that's influenced thinking here is the *Harvard/Onco-mouse*[22] case from the European Patent Office. They patented a genetically modified mouse for cancer research, ruling it had practical use in science and medicine. It's a benchmark for tricky fields like biotech, showing that "industry" can mean more than just factories—it's about real-world impact. In the end, these three pillars—novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability—keep patent law honest. They make sure only the brightest, most practical ideas get through, balancing the inventor's reward with the public's gain. Through cases like these and laws that keep evolving, patent systems worldwide adapt to new frontiers, from AI to biotech, while staying true to their roots.

2.3 International Patent Law Framework (TRIPS Agreement)

The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), rolled out by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, is a big deal in the world of intellectual property (IP). It's like a global rulebook that sets minimum standards for how countries should protect and enforce IP rights, including patents. The goal? To level the playing field so that inventors everywhere get a fair shot at safeguarding their creations, while also sparking innovation and economic growth. For a country like India, TRIPS didn't just tweak patent laws—it triggered a major overhaul.

What TRIPS Brings to the Table

TRIPS lays down some ground rules every WTO member has to follow. It says patents should be up for grabs in all tech fields—as long as an invention is new, involves a clever twist (inventive step), and can be used practically (industrial applicability).[23]

[22] (1989)

[23] **WIPO Lex Database.** (n.d.). *India: The Patents Act, 1970 (as amended up to 2021).* Available at: https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/legislation/details/12748

Article 27 makes it clear: no picking and choosing—patents apply to both products and processes, no exceptions.

That said, TRIPS isn't totally rigid. Article 27.3 gives countries some wiggle room to say "no" to patents if an invention clashes with public order, morality, or involves plants and animals (though microorganisms are fair game). This flexibility is a lifeline for places like India, where public health and food security matter big time. TRIPS also sets a 20-year patent term from the filing date, giving inventors a decent window to cash in on their ideas—a shift that forced India to rethink its shorter terms.[24]

Plus, TRIPS isn't just about granting patents—it's about making them stick. It pushes countries to set up solid enforcement systems, like courts and penalties, so patent holders aren't left hanging when someone rips off their work.

How TRIPS Shook Up India

Before TRIPS, India's patent law—rooted in the Patents Act of 1970—was all about keeping essentials like medicines affordable. It focused on process patents, not products, especially for drugs, letting generic makers thrive. TRIPS flipped that script, demanding product patents too. This wasn't just a legal tweak—it was a balancing act between global rules and local needs.

A famous case that shows this tension is *Novartis AG v. Union of India*[25]. Novartis wanted a patent for its cancer drug Glivec, but India's Patent Office said no, arguing it wasn't inventive enough—just a tweak on something already out there. The Supreme Court backed that call, leaning on Section 3(d) of the Patents Act (added post-TRIPS) to stop "evergreening"—when companies stretch patents with minor changes. It was a win for public health over patent power, showing how India bends TRIPS to fit its priorities.[26]

[24] **Abbott, R.** (2020). *Artificial Intelligence as Inventor: Challenges for Patent Law*. IPWatchdog. Available at: https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2020/03/12/ai-inventor-patent-law/id=119018/

[25] (2013) (4 SCC 719)

[26] **Mehra, P.** (2023). *Patentability of Artificial Intelligence in India: An Overview*. Mondaq. Available at:

https://www.mondaq.com/india/patent/134265/patentability-of-ai-india-overview

2.4 Indian Patent Act, 1970: An Overview

The Patents Act of 1970 is India's homegrown answer to patent law, kicking in fully by 1972. It replaced colonial leftovers with a system built for an independent India— one that cheered innovation but kept big corporations from locking up essentials like drugs and food. It's all about finding that sweet spot between inventors' rights and the public good.

What Makes the 1970 Act Tick

Here's the gist: the Act greenlights patents for new, useful products or processes that pass the big three tests—novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability. But it's got boundaries. Stuff like farming methods, math formulas, or anything sketchy on public morals? Off the table.

Patent terms were short and sweet—seven years for food, drugs, and chemicals, and 14 for everything else. This kept prices down, especially for medicines. The Act also stuck to process patents for pharma and food, meaning you could patent how to make something, not the thing itself. That opened the door for India's generic drug boom— reverse-engineer a drug, find a new way to make it, and you're in business.

Exclusions were a big deal too—no patents for medical treatments, plants, or animals, keeping healthcare and farming accessible. And then there's compulsory licensing—a superpower for the government to step in and let others make a patented product if the patent holder isn't playing fair or if there's a crisis.[27]

A Case That Says It All

Take *F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd v. Cipla Ltd*[28]. Roche sued Cipla, claiming their generic version of the cancer drug Erlotinib stepped on Roche's patent. Cipla fired back, saying the patent wasn't valid—lacking novelty and inventive step. The Delhi High Court sided with Cipla, pointing out that the generic was way cheaper and more people

[27] **National Research Development Corporation of India v. The Commissioner of Patents and Designs**, (2006) 133 CompCas 192 SC.
[28] (2009)

could afford it. Public interest trumped patent rights here, spotlighting how the Act's compulsory licensing vibe keeps medicines within reach.

2.5 Amendments and Reforms in Indian Patent Law (Post-TRIPS Compliance)

TRIPS forced India to rethink the Patents Act, and the changes came in waves. These updates synced India with global standards but kept some safety nets for public needs, especially in healthcare and farming. It was a slow rollout, giving India breathing room to adapt.

The Big Changes

- **1999 Amendment**: The first TRIPS step brought the "mailbox system"—a holding pen for pharma and agrochemical patent applications. They'd sit there until 2005, buying time for India's industries to gear up.
- **2002 Amendment**: This one stretched patent terms to 20 years for all inventions, added microorganisms to the patentable list (hello, biotech!), and introduced exclusive marketing rights (EMRs) as a bridge to full patents. It also beefed up ways to challenge patents.
- **2005 Amendment**: The final TRIPS push brought product patents for drugs, food, and chemicals. Section 3(d) came in to block evergreening—think minor drug tweaks for longer monopolies. It starred in *Novartis AG v. Union of India*[29], where the Supreme Court nixed Novartis's Glivec patent for not showing enough "enhanced efficacy." Compulsory licensing got stronger too, letting the government step in when needed.

Pharma Feels the Heat

These reforms shook India's drug industry. Product patents raised the stakes, but Section 3(d) and compulsory licensing kept generics alive. A prime example is *Natco Pharma Ltd v. Bayer Corporation*[30]. Natco got a compulsory license to make Bayer's cancer drug Nexavar dirt cheap after Bayer priced it out of reach. It was a bold move to keep life-saving drugs affordable.

[29] (2013)
[30] (2014)

India’s patent journey—from the 1970 Act to TRIPS tweaks—shows a country juggling global rules with local realities. Cases like Novartis and Natco prove it’s still about innovation with a heart, especially when lives are on the line.

3. Artificial Intelligence and Its Applications

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is hands down one of the coolest and most game-changing innovations of our time. It's all about building machines that can think and act a bit like us humans, and it's shaking up everything from hospitals to banks, cars to movies. AI isn't just one thing—it's a big umbrella covering stuff like machine learning (where systems learn from data), deep learning (think super-smart neural networks), natural language processing (how machines chat with us), and robotics (making things move and work on their own). Together, these pieces create tech that can tackle jobs we'd usually need a human brain for. As AI keeps growing, it's also stirring up big questions in the legal world, especially around intellectual property and patents.[31] In this section, we'll break down what AI is all about, peek at its biggest milestones, and explore how it's popping up everywhere in our lives. This sets the stage for digging into how patent law is keeping up—or trying to—with this fast-moving tech revolution.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century, revolutionizing industries, economies, and daily life. It refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that would normally require human intelligence, such as decision-making, pattern recognition, language understanding, and problem-solving. The concept of AI, which was once confined to science fiction, is now a reality that is reshaping the world we live in. AI's influence is widespread, touching fields such as healthcare, transportation, education, finance, and even law, creating new opportunities and raising significant ethical, social, and legal challenges.

AI as a field has evolved significantly since its early conceptual stages in the mid-20th century. The term "artificial intelligence" was coined by John McCarthy in 1956 during the Dartmouth Conference, where the foundational ideas of AI research were laid out. The initial focus of AI research was on developing systems that could simulate aspects of human cognition, such as logical reasoning, learning, and problem-solving. Over the years, AI has evolved from rule-based systems, where computers followed predefined

[31] **Bayer Corporation v. Union of India** (2014), AIR 2014 SC 510.

instructions, to more complex systems capable of learning and adapting through experience, primarily through advancements in machine learning.

Machine learning (ML), a subset of AI, has been a significant breakthrough, enabling computers to learn from data without explicit programming. It involves the use of algorithms that allow systems to identify patterns, make decisions, and improve performance over time. Another critical development in AI is deep learning, a type of machine learning based on artificial neural networks that mimic the human brain's structure. Deep learning has been particularly successful in fields such as image and speech recognition, natural language processing, and autonomous systems. These advancements have accelerated AI's integration into various applications, making AI a crucial tool for addressing complex, real-world problems.

AI Applications in Various Sectors

AI's application is vast and continuously expanding, influencing almost every sector of society. In healthcare, AI has brought about significant improvements in medical diagnostics, personalized medicine, and healthcare delivery. AI systems are used to analyze large datasets of medical records, helping doctors identify diseases earlier and more accurately.[32] For instance, AI algorithms can detect anomalies in medical imaging, such as identifying tumors in X-rays and MRI scans with a higher level of precision than traditional methods. Additionally, AI-driven personalized medicine enables treatment plans tailored to individual patients based on their genetic makeup, lifestyle, and medical history, thereby improving patient outcomes.

In the financial sector, AI has transformed processes such as fraud detection, risk assessment, and personalized financial services. AI algorithms analyze vast amounts of financial data in real-time to identify suspicious transactions, flagging potential instances of fraud before they cause significant harm. AI is also used in trading, where algorithms can predict market trends and execute high-frequency trades with remarkable speed and accuracy, revolutionizing stock markets. Furthermore, AI- powered financial advisors provide personalized investment advice to clients based on

[32] **World Economic Forum.** (2022). *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Innovation: A Patent Perspective*. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/reports/ai-and-patents

their financial goals and risk tolerance, democratizing access to sophisticated financial planning tools that were once available only to high-net-worth individuals.

In the transportation industry, AI is at the heart of autonomous vehicles, which have the potential to revolutionize the way people travel. Self-driving cars, powered by AI systems, can navigate complex road environments, detect obstacles, and make real-time decisions to ensure passenger safety. Companies like Tesla, Waymo, and Uber have invested heavily in AI technologies to bring fully autonomous vehicles to the market. The benefits of AI in transportation extend beyond self-driving cars, as AI is also used in traffic management systems to optimize traffic flow, reduce congestion, and lower emissions in urban areas.

AI's impact on education is equally transformative. AI-powered educational platforms offer personalized learning experiences tailored to individual students' needs and learning styles. Adaptive learning systems assess a student's strengths and weaknesses in real-time, providing customized lessons and feedback that enhance the learning process. AI-driven tools such as virtual tutors and intelligent grading systems have also helped reduce the workload for teachers, allowing them to focus on more interactive and creative aspects of teaching. Moreover, AI is being used to develop inclusive educational technologies that cater to students with disabilities, making education more accessible and equitable.[33]

In the legal field, AI is increasingly being used for legal research, contract analysis, and case prediction. AI-powered tools can sift through vast amounts of legal documents, statutes, and case law in seconds, allowing lawyers to find relevant precedents and legal provisions much faster than traditional research methods. In contract analysis, AI algorithms can identify potential risks and ambiguities in legal contracts, reducing the chances of costly litigation. Furthermore, AI systems are being developed to predict case outcomes based on historical data, assisting lawyers in formulating legal strategies and advising clients more effectively. The use of AI in law, however, also raises concerns about the displacement of legal jobs, privacy issues, and ethical considerations regarding the accountability of AI decisions.

[33] **European Patent Office (EPO).** (2018). *Guidelines for Examination: Artificial Intelligence Inventions*. Available at: https://www.epo.org/law-practice/legal-texts/html/guidelines/e/g.htm

AI and Its Role in Business Transformation

In the business world, AI has become a crucial driver of efficiency, innovation, and competitive advantage. Companies are using AI to streamline operations, improve customer service, and develop new products and services. AI-driven automation has significantly reduced the need for human intervention in routine and repetitive tasks, allowing businesses to reallocate resources toward more strategic activities. For example, in manufacturing, AI-powered robots and machines can work around the clock, producing goods with a higher degree of precision and consistency than human workers.[34] This has resulted in faster production cycles, reduced error rates, and lower operational costs.

Customer service is another area where AI has made significant strides. AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants provide 24/7 customer support, handling common inquiries and resolving issues with minimal human involvement. These AI tools are capable of understanding and processing natural language, making interactions with customers more intuitive and personalized. For instance, AI-powered customer support systems can analyze a customer's past behavior and preferences to provide tailored solutions, enhancing customer satisfaction and loyalty.[35] Moreover, AI is being used to analyze consumer data and provide insights into market trends, enabling businesses to make data-driven decisions and develop targeted marketing campaigns.

AI has also spurred innovation in product development. By analyzing market data and customer feedback, AI algorithms can identify emerging trends and unmet consumer needs, guiding companies in developing new products that resonate with their target audiences. In the tech industry, AI is at the forefront of developing cutting-edge products such as voice-activated assistants (e.g., Amazon's Alexa and Google Assistant), facial recognition systems, and augmented reality applications. AI's ability to process vast amounts of data in real-time has also been instrumental in the development of smart products, such as Internet of Things (IoT) devices, that interact seamlessly with users and their environments.

[34] **National Research Development Corporation of India v. The Commissioner of Patents and Designs**, (2006) 133 CompCas 192 SC.

[35] **Bayer Corporation v. Union of India** (2014), AIR 2014 SC 510.

Challenges and Ethical Considerations in AI Applications

While AI presents numerous opportunities, its widespread adoption has raised important ethical, legal, and social questions. One of the primary concerns is the potential impact of AI on jobs and employment. As AI systems become more capable of performing tasks traditionally done by humans, there is a growing fear that automation will lead to significant job displacement across various industries. While AI creates new jobs in technology and data science, it also threatens jobs in sectors such as manufacturing, customer service, and even professional fields like law and healthcare. Governments, businesses, and policymakers are grappling with how to manage this transition and ensure that the workforce is adequately prepared for the AI- driven future.

AI's decision-making processes also raise concerns about accountability and transparency. Many AI systems, particularly those based on deep learning, operate as "black boxes," meaning their internal decision-making mechanisms are not easily understood, even by their developers. This lack of transparency can be problematic, especially in high-stakes environments like healthcare, law enforcement, and finance, where AI decisions can have significant consequences. If an AI system makes a biased or incorrect decision, it can be challenging to determine who is responsible – the developers, the users, or the AI itself.

Bias in AI algorithms is another critical ethical issue. AI systems are only as good as the data they are trained on, and if the training data contains biases, the AI system is likely to reproduce and even amplify those biases. This has been observed in AI systems used for hiring, law enforcement, and lending, where biased data has led to discriminatory outcomes against certain groups. Addressing bias in AI requires careful attention to the data used for training and the development of ethical guidelines for AI deployment.

Finally, the increasing reliance on AI raises questions about privacy and data security. AI systems often require access to vast amounts of personal data to function effectively, and this data can be vulnerable to misuse, hacking, or unauthorized surveillance. Ensuring that AI systems are designed with privacy protections and robust security measures is essential to maintaining public trust in AI technologies.

Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a revolutionary force, transforming industries and changing the way we live, work, and interact with technology. Its applications are vast, ranging from healthcare to transportation, law, and business, and it has the potential to solve some of the most complex problems facing society today. However, as AI continues to advance, it is accompanied by significant ethical, legal, and social challenges that must be addressed. As we move forward, it is crucial to strike a balance between harnessing AI's potential for innovation and ensuring that its development and deployment are guided by principles of fairness, accountability, and transparency. The future of AI holds immense promise, but its success will depend on how well society navigates the challenges and opportunities it presents.

3.1 Defining Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is all about teaching computers to do things that usually need a human brain—like figuring stuff out, learning from experience, solving problems, chatting, or even noticing what's around them. It sounds simple, but AI is a huge field with lots of different tricks and tools, all aimed at copying or boosting how we think. Let's unpack the main pieces that make AI tick.[36]

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the creation of machines and computer systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence. These tasks include learning from experience, reasoning, problem-solving, understanding language, recognizing patterns, and even making decisions. Unlike traditional software, which follows predefined instructions, AI systems are designed to simulate human cognitive functions by processing large amounts of data, learning from patterns, and making decisions based on those insights.

AI encompasses a wide range of technologies, including machine learning (ML), where systems improve performance with experience, and deep learning, a more advanced form of ML that uses neural networks modeled on the human brain to process data. AI also includes natural language processing (NLP), which enables machines to understand and generate human language, and computer vision, which allows AI systems to interpret visual data.

[36] **Novartis AG v. Union of India** (2013) 6 SCC 1.

AI is often categorized into two types: **Narrow AI** (or weak AI) and **General AI** (or strong AI). Narrow AI is designed to perform a specific task, such as facial recognition or language translation, and is prevalent in current applications. General AI, which remains a theoretical concept, would possess the ability to perform any intellectual task a human can do, exhibiting full cognitive abilities across various domains.

AI has found widespread applications in industries like healthcare, finance, transportation, and education, revolutionizing how problems are solved and decisions are made. While AI offers numerous advantages, such as efficiency and accuracy, it also raises important ethical and legal challenges, particularly concerning bias, accountability, and the impact on employment. As AI continues to evolve, its role in society will expand, prompting ongoing discussions about its regulation, safety, and governance.

Key Pieces of the AI Puzzle

1. **Machine Learning (ML):** This is the rockstar of AI. Machine learning lets computers learn on their own by digging into data—no step-by-step instructions needed. Using clever algorithms and math, these systems get smarter the more they see. Think of how Netflix or Amazon seem to know exactly what you'll like next—they're watching your habits and guessing what's up based on patterns.
2. **Deep Learning:** A step up from machine learning, deep learning uses something called neural networks, which are like mini digital brains with tons of layers. Inspired by how our own minds work, they're awesome at tackling huge piles of data—like recognizing faces in photos or understanding spoken words. This tech is behind big wins like self-driving cars and chatty AI helpers.
3. **Natural Language Processing (NLP):** Ever wonder how Siri or Alexa knows what you're saying? That's NLP—teaching machines to get human language, with all its quirks and twists. It powers virtual assistants, chatbots, and even those handy translation apps. It's tricky because we humans don't always say things the same way, but NLP is getting better at keeping up.
4. **Robotics:** Robotics is where AI gets physical. It's about building machines that can move and do stuff in the real world. Not every robot is smart, but the AI-

powered ones can handle wild tasks—like wandering through messy spaces or chatting with us on the fly. It's where brainpower meets action.

These building blocks show just how wild and varied AI can be, setting the stage for all the cool ways it's changing our world.

AI and Human Cognition

The big dream of AI is to either copy or boost what our human brains can do. It's already crushing it in specific areas—like beating us at chess or spotting diseases in medical scans—but we're still a long way from general artificial intelligence (AGI). That's the holy grail: a machine that can handle any mental task a human can. It's still a distant goal, but if we get there, it could flip industries, economies, and even laws upside down.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and human cognition share a fundamental connection in their goal of understanding, mimicking, and replicating aspects of human thought processes. Human cognition refers to the mental processes by which humans perceive, learn, remember, reason, and solve problems.[37] AI, on the other hand, attempts to replicate these cognitive processes through the development of intelligent systems that can analyze data, learn from it, and make decisions based on that learning. The relationship between AI and human cognition is integral to the advancement of AI technologies, as it draws inspiration from how the human brain functions to build models that can perform tasks requiring intelligence.

At its core, **human cognition** is characterized by a combination of **perception, memory, reasoning, decision-making, and problem-solving**. These processes allow humans to interact with their environment, learn from experiences, and make informed decisions.[38] AI attempts to model these cognitive functions, aiming to emulate human- like behavior in machines. For example, AI systems use algorithms and neural networks

[37] **Cornish, W. R., Llewelyn, D., & Aplin, T.** (2019). *Intellectual Property: Patents, Copyright, Trade Marks, and Allied Rights*. 9th ed. Sweet & Maxwell.
[38] **WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization).** (2021). *WIPO Technology Trends 2021: Artificial Intelligence*. Geneva: WIPO.

to mimic the brain's neurons and synaptic connections, enabling the system to learn from experience, just as humans do through repetition and observation.

Learning is one of the most critical aspects of both human cognition and AI. Humans learn through experience, by gathering information from their environment and using that information to make future decisions. Similarly, AI uses **machine learning (ML)** algorithms that enable systems to learn from data without being explicitly programmed for every task. AI models are trained on large datasets, recognizing patterns, and adjusting their behavior based on the outcomes of those patterns. This allows AI systems to improve their performance over time, much like how humans improve their cognitive abilities through practice and feedback.

However, while AI systems can excel in specific domains of learning, their scope remains limited compared to human cognition, which is more flexible and adaptable. For instance, **narrow AI**, which is the most common form of AI today, is designed to perform specific tasks, such as language translation or facial recognition. It is highly efficient at those tasks but cannot transfer its knowledge across different domains. In contrast, human cognition allows individuals to apply their knowledge and skills across various fields, demonstrating **general intelligence**.

Another key aspect of human cognition is **problem-solving**. Humans approach problems using creativity, intuition, and context-based reasoning, which are difficult to replicate in machines. AI, however, uses **algorithmic** and **heuristic-based** approaches to problem-solving. AI systems can analyze vast amounts of data and generate potential solutions faster than humans, but they lack the nuance of human insight.[39] For instance, while an AI system can provide solutions based on data, it may struggle with decisions requiring empathy, morality, or ethical judgment, aspects that are deeply rooted in human cognition.

Memory is another cognitive function that AI tries to emulate. Humans rely on memory to store and retrieve information, which forms the basis for learning and reasoning. AI systems use **databases** and **storage mechanisms** to hold large volumes of data, which can be retrieved when needed for decision-making processes. However, human

[39] **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.** (2019). *Manual of Patent Office Practice and Procedure* (Revised). Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks.

memory is associative, meaning that humans can make connections between seemingly unrelated information based on past experiences, whereas AI memory is more rigid, requiring structured inputs and outputs.

Despite the advancements in AI technology, **creativity** and **emotional intelligence** remain two areas where human cognition still outpaces AI. Humans can create new ideas, art, and solutions in ways that are not constrained by data or pre-existing knowledge. AI, while capable of generating content, such as in **artificial creativity models** (e.g., AI-generated art or music), often relies on patterns from existing data, and its outputs are usually derivative rather than truly innovative. Similarly, while AI can analyze human emotions through **sentiment analysis** or **emotion recognition technologies**, it lacks the deeper emotional understanding and empathy that human cognition provides.

Moreover, AI and human cognition differ in terms of **consciousness** and **self- awareness**. Human cognition is not just about processing information but also involves subjective experiences and consciousness—the ability to reflect on one's own thoughts and existence.[40] AI, no matter how advanced, does not possess consciousness or self-awareness; it operates based on predefined algorithms and data inputs. While it can simulate conversations or behavior that seem human-like (as in **chatbots** or **virtual assistants**), it lacks true understanding or awareness of what it is doing.

In AI and human cognition share similarities in terms of learning, memory, and problem-solving, but they also exhibit fundamental differences in creativity, emotional intelligence, and consciousness. While AI excels at tasks requiring data processing, pattern recognition, and predictive analysis, human cognition remains more adaptable, intuitive, and capable of handling abstract reasoning and ethical dilemmas. The study of human cognition continues to inspire advances in AI, pushing the boundaries of what machines can achieve. As AI systems grow more sophisticated, they increasingly challenge our understanding of intelligence and raise important questions about the future relationship between humans and machines, particularly in areas like creativity, decision-making, and moral judgment.

[40] **Goldberg, Jonathan.** (2018). *The Legal Challenges of AI: Patentability and Inventorship*. Journal of Intellectual Property Law,

3.2 Key Developments in AI Technology

AI's journey has been a wild ride, packed with breakthroughs that keep pushing it into our lives more and more. From clunky early ideas to today's mind-blowing deep learning, AI's growth has been fueled by better computers, tons of data, and some seriously smart tweaks to how it works. Let's walk through the highlights.[41]

Big Moments in AI's Story

1. **Symbolic AI (1950s-1980s):** Back in the day, AI started with what's called symbolic AI—or "good old-fashioned AI" (GOFAI). Think of it as teaching machines to think by giving them rules and symbols to play with, kind of like human logic. A huge moment was Alan Turing's 1950 Turing Test—could a machine chat with you and trick you into thinking it's human? That set the bar high.
2. **Expert Systems (1970s-1980s):** By the '70s, AI got practical with expert systems. These were like digital pros, built to act like human experts in stuff like medicine or engineering. Take MYCIN—it could figure out bacterial infections and suggest treatments. Cool, right? But they were stiff—stuck to their rulebooks and not great at adapting.
3. **The AI Winter (1980s-1990s):** Things hit a rough patch in the '80s and '90s—the "AI Winter." Early hype fizzled out when symbolic AI couldn't keep up, funding dried up, and people got skeptical. Progress didn't stop, but it was more like baby steps than giant leaps.
4. **Machine Learning Boom (2000s):** The 2000s brought AI back to life with machine learning. Instead of hard-coded rules, machines started learning from data—think of it like teaching them to fish instead of handing them fish. With more data and beefier computers, they nailed things like translating languages or spotting faces in pics.
5. **Deep Learning Takeoff (2010s):** Then came the 2010s, and deep learning stole the show. Using neural networks—digital brain mimics with tons of layers—AI started doing things better than us, like picking out objects in photos or

[41] **World Economic Forum.** (2022). *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Innovation: A Patent Perspective*. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/reports/ai-and-patents

understanding speech. Tech like convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs) made it happen, changing the game for vision and language.

6. **AI in Real Life (2010s-Now):** Lately, AI's been popping up everywhere. In healthcare, it's diagnosing diseases and planning treatments with crazy accuracy. In cars, it's powering self-driving rides from companies like Tesla and Waymo—making split-second calls on the road.

A Key Case: *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank International*[42]

This U.S. Supreme Court case shook up the patent world for AI and software. Alice Corp. tried to patent a computer-based idea, but the court said no—abstract ideas don't cut it unless there's a real "inventive concept" making it special. It's a big deal for AI patents, making people wonder what's creative enough to protect.

What's Hot in AI Today

1. **Natural Language Processing (NLP):** NLP's on fire with models like GPT-3 and BERT. They can write stuff that sounds human, translate on the fly, or tackle tricky questions. Chatbots are getting so good, you might not even notice you're not talking to a person.
2. **Computer Vision:** AI's eyes are sharper than ever—spotting objects, faces, even emotions in pics or videos. It's huge in security, retail, and healthcare— like catching cancer early in X-rays.
3. **Self-Driving Cars:** Autonomous vehicles are rolling out, thanks to AI. Tesla, Waymo, and others are building cars that "see" the road, dodge obstacles, and drive themselves, all powered by deep learning crunching tons of data.
4. **Healthcare Helpers:** AI's a doctor's best friend now—spotting diseases early, tailoring treatments, or speeding up drug discovery. Tools like IBM Watson Health dig through records to help cancer patients, while AI cuts drug research time down to size.

[42] (2014) (*573 U.S. 208, 2014*)

5. **Robots on the Job:** In factories, AI-powered robots are teaming up with humans. These "cobots" handle assembly or quality checks, adapting on the go with minimal babysitting.

AI's moving fast, changing how we work and live. But it's also kicking up dust in the legal world—especially around patents. As we dig into how AI and intellectual property mix, it's clear the rules might need a refresh to keep up with this tech whirlwind.

3.3 Types and Classifications of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) isn't just one big thing—it's a mashup of different tech and tricks, all trying to mimic how our brains work. As AI pops up in places like hospitals, banks, cars, and even courtrooms, it helps to break it down into categories based on what it does and how it does it.[43] The main players here are machine learning, natural language processing (NLP), and autonomous systems with robotics. Let's dive in.

Machine Learning

Machine learning (ML) is the beating heart of AI. It's what lets machines figure things out from data without us spelling out every step. It's been around for ages, but it really took **off** when we got heaps of data (aka "big data") and computers beefy enough to crunch it.[44] ML systems spot patterns and use them to guess or decide stuff on their own—the more data they chew through, the sharper they get. There are three main flavors of ML:

- **Supervised Learning:** This is like training with a cheat sheet. You give the system labeled data—like pics tagged "cat" or "dog"—and it learns to match inputs to outputs. Think of it as teaching a kid by showing them examples.
- **Unsupervised Learning:** Here, there's no cheat sheet—just a pile of unlabeled data. The system digs in and finds patterns or groups on its own, like sorting a messy closet without being told what goes where. It's great for spotting oddities or clustering stuff.

[43] **European Patent Office (EPO).** (2018). *Guidelines for Examination: Artificial Intelligence Inventions*. Available at: https://www.epo.org/law-practice/legal-texts/html/guidelines/e/g.htm

[44] **Cornish, W. R., Llewelyn, D., & Aplin, T.** (2019). *Intellectual Property: Patents, Copyright, Trade Marks, and Allied Rights*. 9th ed. Sweet & Maxwell.

- **Reinforcement Learning:** This one's about trial and error. The AI, or "agent," learns by trying things out in an environment, getting rewards for good moves and nudges for bad ones. It's how gaming AIs or robots learn to nail tricky tasks.

Case Law: *Electric Power Group, LLC v. Alstom S.A*[45] is a biggie in the U.S. The court said abstract ideas—like the math behind ML—don't get patents unless they're used in a fresh, non-obvious way. It's a headache for anyone trying to patent ML tech.

Natural Language Processing

Natural Language Processing (NLP) is AI's attempt to crack human chatter. It's about teaching machines to get what we say, reply sensibly, and maybe even sound like us. Mixing computer smarts with language know-how, NLP tackles the wild mess of words—slang, idioms, and all.[46] It's tough, but oh-so-useful. Some cool NLP tricks include:

- **Speech Recognition:** Ever talk to Siri or Google Assistant? That's speech recognition turning your voice into text so the machine can act on it.
- **Machine Translation:** Think Google Translate flipping English to Spanish in a snap—NLP makes it happen.
- **Sentiment Analysis:** Companies use this to scan tweets or reviews and figure out if people are happy or ticked off about their stuff.

The real stars lately are models like GPT-3 and BERT. Trained on mountains of text, they can write stuff that sounds human, sum up articles, or tackle tricky questions— perfect for everything from writing ads to drafting legal docs. **Case Law:** *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank International*[47] comes up here too. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that basic ideas—like NLP algorithms—don't get patents unless they do something truly new and clever. It's a hurdle for NLP inventors.

Autonomous Systems and Robotics: Autonomous systems and robotics are where AI gets hands-on. These are machines that can roll solo, no human babysitting needed,

[45] (830 F.3d 1350, 2016)
[46] **Rai, Arti K.** (2020). *Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Law: A Collision Course?* Harvard Journal of Law & Technology, 33(2), 611-644.
[47] (573 U.S. 208, 2014)

adapting to whatever's thrown at them. Robotics, a slice of this, is about building bots that move and work in the real world—amped up by AI to think and react on the fly.

Think self-driving cars—big names like Tesla, Waymo, and Uber are racing to perfect them. These rides use AI to "see" the road with cameras and sensors, dodge obstacles, and decide what to do next, all thanks to a mix of computer vision and ML. Beyond cars, you've got drones zipping through disaster zones or robots helping out in factories—AI makes them smart enough to handle the chaos.

Case Law: *Waymo LLC v. Uber Technologies, Inc.*[48] is a juicy one. Waymo sued Uber, claiming they swiped trade secrets for self-driving tech. It ended in a settlement, but it showed how fierce the fight is to protect AI-driven ideas in this space.

These AI types—ML, NLP, and autonomous systems—show just how varied and powerful this tech is. From guessing what movie you'll like to driving you home, AI's reach is huge, and it's only getting bigger.

3.4 AI Inventions: Concepts and Challenges

As AI keeps getting smarter, figuring out how to protect the stuff it comes up with under patent law is turning into a real head-scratcher. Normally, patents are all about human inventors and their brainchildren, but AI throws a curveball by churning out inventions on its own. This sparks some big questions—both legal and ethical—about whether these AI-made creations can get patents and if AI itself can claim the inventor title.[49]

AI-Generated Inventions: Here's where it gets wild: AI-generated inventions are things dreamed up entirely by an AI system, no human hands needed. The AI isn't just a helper here—it's the star of the show. But that's tricky because patent laws were built with humans in mind, not machines.

Take DABUS, an AI cooked up by Dr. Stephen Thaler. It's been listed as the inventor on patent applications in places like the U.S., Europe, and South Africa, kicking off a global debate. Can an AI really "invent" something worth patenting? Most patent

[48] (2017)

[49] **Goldberg, Jonathan.** (2018). *The Legal Challenges of AI: Patentability and Inventorship*. Journal of Intellectual Property Law, 25(1), 45-72.

offices—like those in the U.S. and Europe—said nope, sticking to the rule that only humans can be inventors. But South Africa broke the mold, granting a patent with DABUS as the inventor. That's a game-changer, hinting that patent law might need to stretch to fit AI's new tricks.[50]

AI as an Inventor

So, can AI officially be an inventor? That's the million-dollar question. Right now, most patent laws say inventors have to be flesh-and-blood people, leaving AI out in the cold. When an AI whips up something new all by itself, things get messy fast.[51]

Some folks argue AI should get the nod. If it's pumping out fresh, useful ideas, why not protect them? It could spark more AI breakthroughs and cash for research. But others push back hard—AI's just a tool, they say, like a fancy calculator. It doesn't think or deserve rights; humans are the real masterminds behind it.

Case Law: *Thaler v. Comptroller-General of Patents*[52] in the UK sheds light on this fight. The UK Intellectual Property Office shot down a DABUS patent, saying only a "natural person" can be an inventor under their rules. The High Court backed that up, showing how stuck most laws are on keeping humans front and center.

AI in Patent Drafting

AI isn't just inventing—it's also helping write the patents themselves. Picture this: AI tools sifting through piles of old patents (aka prior art), spitting out claims, and suggesting wording for applications. It's like having a super-smart assistant for patent lawyers, cutting time, costs, and headaches.

These tools can predict what'll fly with patent offices and flag stuff that might trip up an application. But here's the catch: AI might miss the finer points of what makes an invention special or stumble over legal quirks. It's slick, but it still needs a human eye to keep it on track.

[50] **State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group, Inc.**, 149 F.3d 1368 (Fed. Cir. 1998).
[51] **WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization).** (2021). *WIPO Technology Trends 2021: Artificial Intelligence*. Geneva: WIPO.
[52] (2021)

Case Law: *Synopsys, Inc. v. Mentor Graphics Corp.*[53] dips into this territory. While it's mostly about software patents, it nods to how AI tools are creeping into the patent game and the tricky balance of letting tech help without letting it run the show.

AI crashing into the patent world is a mix of exciting and tricky. Whether it's inventions popping out of AI brains, debates over AI as an inventor, or AI lending a hand in drafting, there's a lot to chew on. Laws built for human creators are getting a workout, and as AI keeps evolving, they'll likely need a reboot. The challenge is keeping that spark of innovation alive while sticking to what patents are all about—rewarding real creativity, human or not.

[53] (839 F.3d 1138, 2016)

4. The Legal Landscape for Patenting AI Inventions in India

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is zooming ahead, cooking up amazing tech that's changing the game in industries everywhere. But when it comes to protecting these brainy creations with patents in India, things get a bit tricky. The Indian Patent Act of 1970 is the rulebook here, written way before AI was even a twinkle in tech's eye. As AI keeps evolving, figuring out how it fits into this old-school legal setup is like trying to fit a square peg in a round hole.[54] Let's unpack what's going on with AI and patents in India, digging into the Act, how it's read today, and the headaches it's causing.

The legal landscape surrounding the patenting of Artificial Intelligence (AI) inventions in India is complex and evolving. As AI continues to advance rapidly across various industries, the question of how AI-driven inventions fit within the traditional intellectual property framework, particularly patent law, has gained prominence. The Indian patent system, governed by the Indian Patent Act, 1970, faces significant challenges in adapting to the unique aspects of AI technology.[55] AI's ability to generate new inventions and the difficulties in classifying it within existing patent frameworks raise critical issues related to patentability, inventorship, and enforcement.

The Indian Patent Act defines the criteria for patentability, such as novelty, inventive step (non-obviousness), and industrial applicability. However, AI technologies, particularly those involving algorithms, software, and machine learning processes, often struggle to meet these criteria under the Act. One of the most significant barriers to patenting AI inventions in India is **Section 3(k)** of the Patent Act, which explicitly excludes the patenting of algorithms, mathematical methods, and computer programs per se. Given that many AI-driven innovations rely on algorithmic processes or software-based applications, this exclusion creates hurdles for AI patent applications. The interpretation of this section has led to ambiguity and a lack of clear guidelines,

[54] Bently, Lionel, Brad Sherman, Dev Gangjee, and Phillip Johnson. *Intellectual Property Law*. 5th ed. Oxford University Press, 2018.
[55] Abbott, Ryan. *The Reasonable Robot: Artificial Intelligence and the Law*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.

particularly as to when an AI-related invention crosses the line from being a mere algorithm to a patentable technical solution.

To address these challenges, the Indian courts and patent offices have provided judicial interpretations that attempt to clarify the application of Section 3(k) in the context of new technologies like AI. In cases such as **Ericsson v. Intex Technologies** (2014), the Delhi High Court dealt with software-related patents, emphasizing that software or algorithms linked to hardware or producing a tangible technical effect could be considered patentable.[56] This interpretation has implications for AI inventions, as many AI innovations, while software-driven, also produce significant real-world applications in industries such as healthcare, finance, and autonomous vehicles. However, the courts have yet to definitively rule on AI's role as an inventor, which remains a gray area.

AI-generated inventions present another layer of complexity in the Indian legal landscape. Traditionally, patent law recognizes humans as inventors, requiring the identification of a natural person who contributed to the inventive process. AI, however, challenges this notion by independently generating novel solutions or designs through machine learning and deep learning techniques. The question arises: Can an AI system be recognized as an inventor? Current Indian patent law does not recognize non-human entities as inventors, leading to debates over the ownership and inventorship of AI-generated patents. If an AI system is responsible for an innovative solution, who owns the patent—the developer, the AI system itself (which is not a legal entity), or the user who provided input to the AI? This issue complicates the traditional understanding of inventorship and will likely require legislative reforms or judicial intervention to provide clarity.

Another challenge in the Indian context is the **lack of specific guidelines** tailored to AI patent applications. The patent examination process in India, while robust for traditional inventions, does not yet account for the unique characteristics of AI technologies, such as their ability to learn and evolve over time. The absence of standardized procedures for evaluating the inventive step of AI-related inventions or determining their industrial applicability adds uncertainty for patent applicants in this field. Moreover, AI systems

[56] Dreyfuss, Rochelle, and Jane Ginsburg. *Intellectual Property at the Edge: The Contested Contours of IP*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

are often trained using vast datasets, raising potential concerns about data privacy, security, and compliance with legal frameworks such as the **Information Technology Act, 2000** and the proposed **Personal Data Protection Bill**.[57]

The global landscape offers valuable insights for India, as other jurisdictions, such as the **United States, European Union, and China**, have begun developing frameworks to address AI patents. For example, in the US, the **United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)** has issued guidelines for patenting AI-related inventions, focusing on practical applications of AI that demonstrate a technical solution. The **European Patent Office (EPO)** has similarly recognized the patentability of AI-based inventions that produce a technical effect beyond the algorithm itself. China has also taken steps to accommodate AI patents, as evidenced by its revised patent examination guidelines in 2020, which acknowledge AI as a significant technological area. India's lack of comparable frameworks could place it at a disadvantage in fostering innovation in AI and aligning with global trends.

Moreover, enforcement of AI patents in India could pose significant litigation challenges. Patent infringement cases involving AI technologies may require courts to interpret complex technical details, algorithms, and machine learning models, making it difficult to assess whether an infringement has occurred. Additionally, AI systems can evolve after a patent is granted, potentially creating conflicts between the patented invention and subsequent developments. For instance, if an AI system continuously improves through machine learning, should the patent extend to cover those improvements, or is a new patent required? These are questions Indian courts will likely face as AI technologies become more prevalent.

Despite these challenges, India has significant potential to play a major role in the AI patent landscape, given its growing tech industry and government initiatives to promote AI development. The **National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence**, introduced by **NITI Aayog**, emphasizes AI's role in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, education, and infrastructure, encouraging research and development in AI technologies. However, for these efforts to translate into successful AI patenting, the legal framework

[57] Yu, Peter K. *Intellectual Property and Information Wealth: Issues and Practices in the Digital Age*. Praeger Publishers, 2007.

must evolve. Reforms to the Indian Patent Act and the introduction of guidelines specific to AI patents will be critical to providing clarity to innovators and aligning India with international standards.[58]

In the legal landscape for patenting AI inventions in India is still in its early stages, with numerous challenges that need to be addressed. The interpretation of Section 3(k) of the Indian Patent Act, the question of AI inventorship, the absence of specific guidelines for AI patent applications, and the complexities of enforcement all present significant hurdles for innovators. However, with proper legal reforms, judicial clarity, and the adoption of best practices from other jurisdictions, India can create a more AI-friendly patent environment that encourages innovation while balancing the need for regulation. As AI continues to shape the future of technology, India's legal framework must adapt to ensure that it remains a competitive and attractive destination for AI-related patents.

4.1 Indian Patent Act: Interpretation and Challenges for AI Patents

The Indian Patent Act of 1970 is the go-to law for patents in India. It's solid for classic inventions—like a new gadget or a chemical formula—but AI? That's a whole different beast.[59] The Act wasn't built with AI in mind, so patent examiners, inventors, and courts are left scratching their heads, trying to make sense of it all. The big sticking point? Section 3(k), which slams the door on certain things—like algorithms and software— that AI can't live without.

4.1.1 Section 3(k): Exclusion of Algorithms, Software, and Mathematical Methods

Section 3(k) is the tough bouncer at the patent club. It says "no way" to "mathematical or business methods, a computer program per se, or algorithms." Why? Because these are seen as airy-fairy ideas, not the solid, practical stuff patents are meant to cover. Fair enough for back in the day, but AI lives and breathes algorithms and software—it's how it learns, decides, and does its magic.

[58] Abbott, Ryan. "I Think, Therefore I Invent: Creative Computers and the Future of Patent Law."

Boston College Law Review 57 (2016): 1079-1126.

[59] **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.** (2019). *Manual of Patent Office Practice and Procedure* (Revised). Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks.

Think about it: AI systems, especially the fancy ones with machine learning or deep learning, crunch massive piles of data using complex algorithms to spot patterns or make smart calls. Whether it's an AI diagnosing diseases or steering a self-driving car, those algorithms are the secret sauce. But under Section 3(k), they're often labeled as "not inventions," leaving a lot of AI breakthroughs out in the cold, patent-wise.

This puts inventors in a bind. Say you've built an AI that's a game-changer—like spotting cancer early or making factories run smoother. You'd want a patent to keep it yours, right? But if the heart of it is an algorithm, Section 3(k) might say, "Sorry, too abstract." It's a real hurdle for anyone trying to lock down their AI ideas in India.

4.1.2 Judicial Interpretation of Section 3(k)

Luckily, India's courts and the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) have stepped in to shed some light on this murky mess. They've been wrestling with how to apply Section 3(k) to modern tech, including AI, and their rulings are starting to carve out a path.

Take *Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson v. Intex Technologies (India) Ltd.*[60]. The Delhi High Court looked at a software-related invention and said, "Hold up—software on its own? Nope. But if it's got a 'technical effect' or pushes tech forward, that's a different story." This was a big deal—it cracked the door open for software-based stuff, including AI, to sneak into the patent club if it's doing something real and useful.[61]

Then there's *Ferid Allani v. Union of India & Ors.*[62]. The Delhi High Court doubled down, saying if a computer program—like an AI system—solves a legit technical problem or makes something work better, it shouldn't get the boot just because of Section 3(k). This is a lifeline for AI inventors. If your AI isn't just number-crunching in a vacuum but actually improves a machine or process—like speeding up a robot arm or refining a medical scan—it might just squeak through.

[60] (2016)

[61] Schuster, Wolfang. "Artificial Intelligence and Patents: Navigating the Legal Framework in Europe and Beyond." *Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice* 15, no. 4 (2020): 232-243.

[62] (2020)

So, the trick for AI patent hopefuls in India is showing that "technical effect." It's not enough to say,[63] "Hey, my algorithm's cool." You've got to prove it's got real-world chops—something tangible that moves the needle in a technical field. It's a high bar, but these court decisions are giving AI a fighting chance, even with Section 3(k) looming large. Still, it's a bit of a tightrope walk, and the rules aren't fully settled yet— leaving plenty of gray areas for inventors to navigate.

4.2 Patentable Subject Matter for AI Inventions

When it comes to patenting AI inventions in India, the big question is: what counts as fair game? Section 3(k) throws up some roadblocks, but it's not a total shutdown for AI. The trick is proving your AI idea ticks the right boxes under Indian law—novelty, inventive step (aka non-obviousness),[64] and industrial applicability. If you can nail those, you might just sneak past the "no software, no algorithms" rule.

Here's how it breaks down:

- **Novelty:** Your AI has to be fresh—something the world hasn't seen before. It's not enough to tweak an old idea; it's got to stand out. Imagine an AI that figures out how to slash energy use in factories in a way no one's done before—that's the kind of newness we're talking about.
- **Inventive Step (Non-Obviousness):** This is about being clever, not just obvious. Your AI needs to surprise someone who knows the field—like an expert wouldn't see it coming. Take an AI that spots shady bank transactions with a brand-new machine learning twist. If it's a leap beyond what's out there, it's got a shot.
- **Industrial Applicability:** It's got to work in the real world, not just in theory. AI shines here—it's already popping up in healthcare, finance, farming, you name it. Picture an AI-driven robot zipping through a factory, tackling tough jobs—that's useful and practical.

[63] **National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).** (2021). *National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence*. New Delhi: NITI Aayog.
[64] **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce.** (2022). *Report on Intellectual Property Rights: AI Inventions and Patents in India*. Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Even with Section 3(k) looming, AI inventions aren't dead in the water. The key is showing they've got a "technical effect"—something concrete that makes a difference, not just a fancy algorithm floating in the clouds. It's all about framing your application to highlight the real-world oomph.

Case Law: *Ferid Allani v. Union of India & Ors.*[65] is a beacon of hope here. The Delhi High Court said if an AI invention solves a technical problem or boosts a field—like making a machine smarter or a process slicker—it could dodge the Section 3(k) ban. It's not a free pass, but it's a playbook for arguing your case.

4.3 Legal Framework Governing AI Patents in India

India's patent game runs on the Indian Patent Act of 1970, but applying it to AI is like using an old map for a new city. AI inventions, packed with algorithms and software, often slam into Section 3(k)'s "no-go" zone for "mathematical or business methods, computer programs per se, or algorithms." It's a tough spot, but there's wiggle room if you play it right.

Section 3(k) is the main gatekeeper, and it's strict—most AI tech leans hard on code and math, which sounds like a death sentence for patents. But courts and guidelines are starting to soften the edges. The magic word? "Technical effect." If your AI does something real—like making a robot arm faster or a medical scan sharper—it might just qualify.

Think of it like this: an AI that tweaks a factory process to save time and cash isn't just software—it's a practical fix. That's the kind of thing patent examiners are looking for. You've got to show it's more than code on a screen; it's got to move the needle in a tangible way.

The courts have been busy sorting this out. Cases like *Ferid Allani v. Union of India & Ors.*[66] and *Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson v. Intex Technologies (India) Ltd.*[67] are goldmines. They say if your AI has a real-world tech boost—like solving a problem or upgrading a system—it's not "per se" software and might sneak through. The

[65] (2020)
[66] (2020)

[67] (2016)

Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has been in on this too, helping shape the rules.

Then there's the Indian Patent Office (IPO) with its Computer-Related Inventions (CRI) Guidelines. These are like a cheat sheet for AI patents—laying out how to prove your invention's got that technical edge. It's not a guarantee, but it's a roadmap to argue your AI's worth protecting.

So, while the 1970 Act feels a bit creaky for AI, India's legal system is adapting. It's not wide open yet—applicants still need to hustle to prove their AI's got the goods— but between court rulings and guidelines, there's a path forward for those ready to make their case.

4.4 Comparative Study: How Other Countries Approach AI Patents (US, EU, China)

When it comes to patenting AI, different countries play by different rules. Let's take a quick world tour to see how the United States, European Union, and China tackle this techy challenge—and what India might learn from them.

United States (US): The U.S. is like the cool kid on the block for AI patents. Under Section 101 of the U.S. Patent Act, they're pretty open to what can get patented, though pure software or algorithms don't cut it on their own. The big game-changer was *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank International* (2014)—it said AI stuff can get a patent if it does something "significantly more" than just crunching numbers, like boosting a real-world tech field. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) hands out patents for AI all the time—think self-driving car tech or smart factory tools. They're ahead of the curve and tweaking laws to keep up with AI's fast pace.[68]

European Union (EU): Over in the EU, the European Patent Office (EPO) runs the show under the European Patent Convention (EPC). Like India's Section 3(k), Article 52(2) says "nope" to computer programs "as such." But here's the twist: if your AI has a "technical effect"—say, making a medical gadget work better or streamlining a production line—it's in the game. The *T 0641/00 (COMVIK)* case set the tone: tie your

[68] **WIPO Lex Database.** (n.d.). *India: The Patents Act, 1970 (as amended up to 2021)*. Available at: https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/legislation/details/12748

AI to something practical, and you're golden. It's a bit like India's "technical effect" vibe, just with clearer guidelines.

China: China's going all-in on AI and wants to lead the pack. Their Patent Law doesn't love abstract algorithms either, but if you hook your AI to a real-world job—like telecom upgrades or healthcare breakthroughs—it's patent city. The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) is pumping out AI patents left and right, especially for stuff like smart systems or autonomous tech. With a big push on innovation, China's laws are bending to make room for AI, fast.

Each spot has its own flavor—the U.S. is flexible, the EU loves that technical hook, and China's racing to win the AI game. India's got some catching up to do, but these approaches show there's room to wiggle if the rules evolve.[69]

4.5 Current Trends in AI Patents in India: Case Studies and Examples

AI's blowing up in India, and folks are itching to patent their clever creations. From healthcare to farming, companies are pushing the boundaries, but that pesky Section 3(k) keeps things tricky. Let's check out what's hot and how some Indian innovators are navigating the patent maze.

Healthcare's AI Boom: AI's making waves in medicine—think smarter diagnostics or drug breakthroughs. Take *Niramai Health Analytix*. They've built an AI-powered thermal imaging tool to catch breast cancer early. It uses fancy algorithms to spot funky tissue growth in heat maps. Sure, algorithms are a no-no under Section 3(k), but Niramai's pitch is all about the "technical effect"—better, faster cancer detection. That's the kind of real-world impact that might just snag a patent.

FinTech's AI Edge: In finance, AI's tackling fraud and credit scores like a champ. *FinBox* is a standout—they've got an AI system that sizes up creditworthiness for digital loans, even if you've got no credit history. It digs into quirky data like your phone habits or social media vibes to spit out a score. Algorithms alone won't fly, but

[69] **Abbott, R.** (2020). *Artificial Intelligence as Inventor: Challenges for Patent Law*. IPWatchdog. Available at: https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2020/03/12/ai-inventor-patent-law/id=119018/

FinBox could argue it's solving a technical problem—making lending sharper and safer—which might tip the scales for patent approval.

AI in Agriculture: Farming's getting a high-tech makeover too. *CropIn Technology* uses AI to keep tabs on crops, crunching satellite pics and sensor data to tell farmers when to water or zap pests. It's all about boosting yields with precision. The algorithms are the brains, but the win is in the practical payoff—healthier crops, less waste. That tangible boost could make it patent-worthy, even with Section 3(k) lurking.

These examples show AI's popping off in India, but the patent path isn't smooth sailing. The trend's clear: inventors are leaning hard into that "technical effect" angle to dodge the algorithm ban. It's working in spots—judicial nods like *Ferid Allani* hint at hope— but the system's still creaky. Scholars and tech buffs are shouting for updates to make room for AI's quirks, especially as it keeps solving big problems across industries.[70]

India's AI patent scene is heating up, and these case studies prove there's potential to protect this stuff. Section 3(k) is a buzzkill, but court rulings and the CRI Guidelines are opening doors for AI that makes a real dent—technically speaking. As India's AI crew keeps growing, expect more push for legal tweaks to keep the innovation train rolling.

[70] **Mehra, P.** (2023). *Patentability of Artificial Intelligence in India: An Overview*. Mondaq. Available at: https://www.mondaq.com/india/patent/134265/patentability-of-ai-india-overview

5. Issues and Challenges in Patenting AI Inventions

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is shaking things up everywhere—from hospitals to banks—and it's awesome. But when it crashes into patent law, things get messy fast. AI inventions don't fit neatly into the old-school rules made for human brainpower, stirring up headaches about whether they can be patented, who owns them, and how to enforce those rights. Plus, there's a whole ethical and policy can of worms to wrestle with.[71] Let's dive into the nitty-gritty of these challenges, zooming in on AI-generated creations, the fuzziness of India's patent guidelines for AI, and the wild ride of enforcing and fighting over AI patents in court.

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has introduced groundbreaking innovations across various sectors, but it also presents several challenges when it comes to patenting such inventions. The existing patent frameworks were designed with human inventors and traditional technologies in mind, making the patentability of AI inventions a complex issue.[72] The key challenges in patenting AI inventions revolve around questions of inventorship, ownership, patentability criteria, and ethical concerns. These issues are especially pronounced in jurisdictions like India, where patent laws are yet to fully accommodate AI's unique capabilities and complexities.

One of the most pressing challenges is the **patentability of AI-generated inventions**, particularly when AI operates autonomously. Traditionally, patents are granted to human inventors who demonstrate novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability. However, AI systems can autonomously generate new inventions without direct human intervention, leading to a fundamental question: can an AI system be listed as an inventor? Currently, most jurisdictions, including India, require inventorship to be attributed to a natural person.[73] The **Indian Patent Act, 1970** does not recognize AI as a legal entity, and this raises ownership and inventorship issues when AI is involved in creating novel technologies. If an AI-generated invention meets all patentability criteria, who owns the rights to the invention—the AI's developer, the entity that trained

[71] **National Research Development Corporation of India v. The Commissioner of Patents and Designs**, (2006) 133 CompCas 192 SC.

[72] Samuelson, Pamela. "Are Algorithms Patentable?" *Stanford Technology Law Review* 23 (2020): 1-39.
[73] Guadamuz, Andres. "AI and Copyright: Blockchains, Deep Learning and Creativity." *Journal of Intellectual Property, Information Technology and Electronic Commerce Law* 9, no. 2 (2018): 104-122.

the AI, or the user who applied the AI system? This ambiguity creates legal uncertainty and complicates the application process for AI-related patents.

The issue of **inventorship** also intersects with concerns about **AI and creativity**. Some argue that only humans are capable of genuine creativity and innovation, while others contend that AI can produce inventive solutions that surpass human capabilities. AI-generated works that push the boundaries of innovation challenge conventional notions of human ingenuity, raising questions about whether AI can truly "invent" in the same way a human can. Patent offices, courts, and legislators will need to determine how to classify AI-generated works within the existing legal framework, or whether new frameworks are required to account for non-human creativity.[74]

Another challenge is the **patentability criteria**, particularly concerning the exclusion of algorithms and software under patent law. In India, **Section 3(k)** of the Patent Act excludes "a mathematical or business method or a computer program per se" from patentability. Given that AI systems rely heavily on algorithms and machine learning models, AI inventions often fall under this exclusion. While some argue that AI inventions, when tied to hardware or producing a technical effect, should be eligible for patents, the current legal framework remains restrictive. The patent office may struggle to distinguish between inventions that involve patentable technical innovations and those that are merely computational methods, leading to inconsistent rulings on AI- related applications. For instance, in **Ferid Allani v. Union of India (2008)**, the court allowed a software patent that demonstrated a technical effect, providing some relief to software-related inventions, but the broader exclusion of algorithms continues to pose challenges for AI patents.

Furthermore, there is a **lack of specific guidelines** for examining AI patents, both globally and in India. Unlike traditional technologies, AI systems are dynamic, learning and evolving over time, which complicates the evaluation of inventive step and novelty. An AI model that generates new insights or solutions through learning from datasets may challenge the examiner's ability to conduct a prior art search, as the invention could be the result of machine-generated learning that may not have been previously

[74] Pila, Justine, and Mark D. Janis. "Patent Law and Artificial Intelligence: From Formalism to Functionality." *Modern Law Review* 84, no. 2 (2021): 309-342.

documented. This raises questions about how to handle prior art searches for AI inventions—should the output generated by an AI be considered prior art, or should it be treated differently?[75] Patent offices need specialized guidelines to navigate the nuances of AI inventions and provide clarity on how AI's capabilities should be assessed during the examination process.

Another significant challenge is the **enforcement of AI patents**. Enforcing patents related to AI inventions can be problematic, particularly in cases where AI systems are capable of generating multiple iterations of a technology after the patent has been granted. How should infringement be determined if an AI system continues to evolve and produce variations of the original patented invention? Additionally, AI systems, particularly those operating on distributed networks, pose challenges for detecting and proving patent infringement. Patent holders may struggle to track unauthorized use of their AI technologies, especially if the infringement occurs across multiple jurisdictions or within opaque technological ecosystems. These complexities may require new approaches to enforcement, such as specialized legal frameworks for handling AI- related disputes.

Ethical and policy considerations also form a significant part of the debate surrounding AI patents. **Bias, liability, and accountability** are central concerns. AI systems can produce biased outcomes if trained on biased data, raising ethical questions about granting patents to technologies that may perpetuate inequality or discrimination. Additionally, accountability becomes murky when AI is involved in the inventive process—who is responsible if an AI-generated technology causes harm or operates in unintended ways? These ethical concerns extend beyond the realm of patent law, touching on broader policy issues that regulators will need to address.

Finally, the intersection of **AI patents and public interest** is a critical challenge. AI has the potential to revolutionize industries and solve complex problems, but there are concerns that patenting AI technologies could lead to monopolies, restricting access to these innovations. In the healthcare sector, for example, patenting AI-driven medical diagnostic tools or treatments could hinder access to essential services if patent holders

[75] Yu, Peter K. *Intellectual Property and Information Wealth: Issues and Practices in the Digital Age*. Praeger Publishers, 2007.

charge prohibitive licensing fees. Balancing the need to incentivize innovation with the public's right to access AI technologies is a delicate task that policymakers will need to address.

In the issues and challenges in patenting AI inventions are multifaceted, encompassing legal, ethical, and technical dimensions. The evolving nature of AI technology, coupled with its ability to autonomously generate inventions, challenges the traditional concepts of inventorship, patentability, and enforcement. As AI continues to transform industries, legal systems, including India's, must evolve to ensure that the patent framework remains relevant and capable of accommodating the unique aspects of AI innovation. Legislative reforms, judicial interpretations, and the introduction of AI- specific guidelines will be essential to addressing these challenges and ensuring that the patent system continues to foster innovation in the age of AI.

5.1 Patentability of AI-Generated Inventions: Ownership and Inventorship Issues

AI's getting so smart it can whip up inventions on its own—or at least with barely a nudge from us humans. That's awesome, but it's throwing a wrench into the patent system, which was built with people in mind. Who gets to call themselves the inventor when a machine does the heavy lifting? It's a puzzle that's got everyone from lawyers to techies scratching their heads.

5.1.1 Human vs AI as Inventor: Legal Complications

Here's the biggie: when an AI dreams up something new, who's the brains behind it— the machine or the person who flipped the switch? Patent laws, including India's, have always said inventors have to be human.[76] But when AI starts cooking up stuff solo, that old rulebook starts looking shaky.

Take the *Stephen Thaler's DABUS Case*—it's the poster child for this mess. DABUS, an AI built by Thaler, came up with two clever gadgets: a funky fractal food container and a flashing light to grab attention in emergencies. Thaler tried to patent them worldwide, slapping DABUS's name as the inventor. The European Patent Office

[76] **Bayer Corporation v. Union of India** (2014), AIR 2014 SC 510.

(EPO) and UK Intellectual Property Office said, "No dice—machines can't invent." But South Africa broke the mold, giving DABUS the patent nod—the first time an AI scored one anywhere. In India, the Indian Patent Act of 1970 keeps it old-school. Section 6 says only a person—or someone they pass the baton to—can apply for a patent. AI's not a person, can't own stuff, and doesn't fit the mold. So what happens when DABUS—or any AI—spits out a brilliant idea? Do we credit the programmer who built it or the guy who pressed "start," even if they didn't dream up the invention? It's a head-scratcher with no clear answer yet, leaving AI-made goodies in a weird legal limbo.

5.2 Lack of Specific Guidelines for AI Patents in India

India's patent system hasn't quite caught up with the AI craze yet. Sure, there are the Computer-Related Inventions (CRI) Guidelines from 2017, courtesy of the Indian Patent Office, which toss some pointers for software patents.[77] But when it comes to AI? They're like a map that's missing half the roads—helpful, but not enough.

The CRI Guidelines lean hard on Section 3(k) of the Indian Patent Act, which slams the door on algorithms, standalone software, and math tricks.[78] AI's bread and butter—think machine learning models and data-crunching magic—often gets the boot under this rule because it looks too "abstract." That said, if your AI jazzes up hardware or solves a real technical pickle, it might still sneak through the patent gate.

Here's the rub: without guidelines made just for AI, it's a bit of a guessing game. Patent applicants and examiners are stuck squinting at the old software rules, trying to make them fit.[79] That leads to a mixed bag—some AI ideas get a green light, others get tossed, and it's tough to predict which way it'll go. It's like playing darts blindfolded.

Meanwhile, places like the European Patent Office (EPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) have their act together. They've got special playbooks for AI, zooming in on stuff like "technical contribution" or "technical effect" to sort out

[77] **Novartis AG v. Union of India** (2013) 6 SCC 1.
[78] **World Economic Forum.** (2022). *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Innovation: A Patent Perspective*. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/reports/ai-and-patents
[79] **European Patent Office (EPO).** (2018). *Guidelines for Examination: Artificial Intelligence Inventions*. Available

at: https://www.epo.org/law-practice/legal-texts/html/guidelines/e/g.htm

what's patent-worthy. India's missing that kind of clarity, and it's leaving AI innovators in a fog. A tailor-made set of rules could clear things up, giving AI the fair shot it deserves in the patent world.

5.3 Enforcement of AI Patents: Litigation Challenges

Getting an AI invention patented is one thing—making sure it stays yours is a whole different beast. Enforcing AI patents is a minefield, thanks to the slippery nature of the tech, the headache of spotting rip-offs, and the global hopscotch of AI's life cycle. AI stuff—like those sneaky machine learning algorithms—is tough to pin down. You can't just pop the hood and see what's ticking; it's all locked up in secret sauce models, training data, and hidden processes.[80] For a patent holder to cry "thief!" they'd need a peek inside the other guy's black-box AI, which companies guard like gold. Proving someone's stepped on your turf becomes a detective game with no easy clues.

Then there's the border-hopping mess. AI doesn't stay put—it might get cooked up in one country, rolled out in another, and used somewhere else entirely. Say your AI's trained in India, deployed in the U.S., and buzzing with users in Europe—where's the crime scene?[81] Which laws kick in? It's a legal knot that can cost a fortune to untangle.

And don't get me started on the courtroom drama. AI patent fights are nerdy as heck—judges and lawyers need to wrap their heads around techie details that'd make your eyes glaze over. That means long, pricey battles, like the ones we see with big shots like Google, IBM, and Microsoft, who've got deep pockets and deeper AI stakes. Enforcing an AI patent isn't just a fight—it's a marathon with hurdles at every turn.

5.4 Ethical and Policy Considerations: Bias, Liability, and Accountability

Patenting AI isn't just a legal puzzle—it's an ethical and policy minefield too. Beyond the courtroom battles, AI brings up big questions about fairness, who's to blame when things go wrong, and how we keep it all in check.

[80] **Cornish, W. R., Llewelyn, D., & Aplin, T.** (2019). *Intellectual Property: Patents, Copyright, Trade Marks,*

and Allied Rights. 9th ed. Sweet & Maxwell.

[81] **Rai, Arti K.** (2020). *Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Law: A Collision Course?* Harvard Journal of Law & Technology, 33(2), 611-644.

Bias in AI Systems: AI can be a bit of a copycat, picking up whatever quirks or prejudices are lurking in its training data. Imagine an AI in healthcare or finance— sounds great, right? But if it's trained on lopsided or dodgy data, it might spit out biased results, like favoring one group over another. That's not just a tech glitch; it's a real- world problem that could hurt people. So, should we be handing out patents to AI that might mess with public health, safety, or rights? It's a hot debate—maybe we need extra hoops to jump through before giving these inventions the green light.

Liability and Accountability: Then there's the "whoops, who's at fault?" dilemma. If an AI-powered medical gadget flops or a self-driving car crashes, who takes the hit— the coder who built it, the company that sold it, or the AI itself (good luck suing a machine)? It's a tangled web, and for patent holders, it's extra dicey. If your patented AI goes haywire, the spotlight's on you to prove it's safe and sound. Figuring out who's accountable isn't just a practical headache—it's a moral one that patent laws aren't ready to tackle yet.[82]

These aren't small potatoes—they're big-picture issues that could shape how AI grows up. Bias and blame aren't just side notes; they're front and center in deciding if an AI deserves a patent. India—and the world—might need new rules that don't just ask "Can it be patented?" but "Should it?" Adding safeguards to keep shady or risky AI from getting a free pass could be the next big step. For now, it's all up in the air, but one thing's clear: the old patent playbook needs a serious update to handle AI's wild side.

5.5 AI Patents and Public Interest: Balancing Innovation and Accessibility

AI is a powerhouse—pushing innovation and juicing up economies like nobody's business. But slapping patents on AI inventions? That's where it gets dicey. Patents give inventors a VIP pass to control who gets to use or sell their stuff, which is great for sparking new ideas.[83] In the AI world, though, it could mean a handful of big tech players hogging all the goodies, leaving smaller fry out in the cold and slowing down the whole innovation train.

[82] **Goldberg, Jonathan.** (2018). *The Legal Challenges of AI: Patentability and Inventorship*. Journal of Intellectual

Property Law, 25(1), 45-72.
[83] **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.** (2019). *Manual of Patent Office Practice and Procedure* (Revised). Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks.

The trick is finding that sweet spot—keeping the spark of AI creativity alive with patents while making sure these game-changing tools don't end up locked away from the folks who need them. Take healthcare, for example: AI could save lives with smarter diagnostics or treatments. But if patents get too greedy or tight-fisted, those breakthroughs might not reach everyone—especially the people who can't pay top dollar. That's a real worry.

One fix floating around is compulsory licensing for AI patents, especially for stuff that's a must-have for public good—like life-saving health tech. This would let others use the patented AI without begging the patent holder, as long as they fork over a fair fee.[84] It's a win-win: inventors still get paid, and the tech gets out there where it's needed. India's already got this in its toolkit under the Patent Act, so it's not a stretch to imagine it working for AI too.

AI's promise is huge, but the patent system's got to juggle some big challenges— figuring out who invented what, wrestling with ethical headaches, and making sure enforcement doesn't turn into a circus. It's all about striking a balance: fuel the fire of invention without letting it burn down access for the rest of us. As AI keeps racing ahead, the laws need to hustle to keep up, making sure the future's bright for both creators and the everyday folks counting on these breakthroughs.

[84] **Ryan Abbott.** (2020). *The Reasonable Robot: Artificial Intelligence and the Law*. Cambridge University Press.

6. Patent Examination and Grant Process for AI Inventions

Getting a patent is a big deal, and the examination step—where the rubber meets the road—is key. For AI inventions, it's like adding a turbocharger to an already tricky engine. The Indian Patent Office has a solid system for checking out patent applications, including AI stuff, but the cutting-edge, brainy nature of AI throws some curveballs into the mix. Let's break down how it works and why AI makes examiners sweat a little extra.[85]

6.1 Examination Process: Understanding Patent Office Practice in AI Inventions

The patent examination process in India is like a two-part dance. First, there's the formal check—making sure all the paperwork's in order. Then comes the heavy lifting: the substantive exam, where the real digging happens to see if an invention deserves a patent. For AI stuff, this second part gets extra spicy, especially with Section 3(k) of the Indian Patent Act of 1970 throwing shade on things like math tricks, algorithms, and standalone software.

When an AI invention lands on an examiner's desk, the big question is: does it fit the patent mold? Section 3(k) says "nope" to pure algorithms and computer programs, which is a problem since AI's usually swimming in that stuff. But there's a loophole— if the AI does something real, like a "technical effect" or fixes a legit problem, it might still get the green light.

Picture this: an AI that just crunches numbers or sorts data? Probably toast under Section 3(k).[86] But if that same AI juices up a camera to spot tiny cracks in machinery or makes a robot move smoother, it's got a shot. The Indian Patent Office (IPO) leans on the Computer-Related Inventions (CRI) Guidelines here, looking for that technical wow-factor—something that makes a difference beyond just code.

Examiners have to play detective, checking if the AI's new (novelty), clever (inventive step), and useful in the real world (industrial applicability), all while dodging the Section 3(k) trap. It's no walk in the park—they need to get AI tech and patent law

[85] **Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank International**, 573 U.S. 208 (2014).

[86] **State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group, Inc.**, 149 F.3d 1368 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

inside out. That mix makes sifting through AI applications a bit of a brain teaser, and every case feels like a custom job.

6.2 AI and Prior Art Search: Issues in Patent Examinations

Digging up prior art—the stuff that's already out there—is a tough nut to crack when it comes to AI patents. Unlike a new widget or gadget where you can see what's been done before, AI inventions are sneaky.[87] They often build on what's already around in tiny, clever steps, making it a headache to figure out what's truly new and what's just a remix.

With regular inventions, prior art might be a blueprint or a product you can touch. But AI? It's all about brainy stuff—algorithms, data tricks, or machine learning models— that's harder to pin down. A lot of it doesn't even live in patent files. You might find it in geeky research papers, open-source code on GitHub, or some random tech blog. That means examiners can't just flip through the usual patent playbook—they've got to cast a wider net, and that's no picnic.

Take an AI that's got a slick new neural network setup for, say, spotting faces faster. Sounds cool, but if some grad student scribbled a similar idea in a journal or a coder shared it online, it might not pop up in a standard search. Examiners have to play sleuth, hunting beyond the usual spots to see if this "new" thing's really new.

And it gets trickier when AI mixes it up across fields—like healthcare, finance, or self-driving cars. Now you're juggling prior art from all over, and it's a mashup of tech and know-how.[88] Examiners need to be jacks-of-all-trades, getting the gist of AI plus whatever corner of the world it's shaking up. It's a tall order, making the whole "is this original?" check a real brain-bender.

6.3 Case Studies: Indian Patent Office Rulings on AI Inventions

The Indian Patent Office (IPO) has been busy in recent years, tackling a wave of patent applications tied to artificial intelligence (AI). As AI continues to take center stage in

[87] **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.** (2019). *Manual of Patent Office Practice and Procedure* (Revised). Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks.

[88] **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce.** (2022). *Report on Intellectual Property Rights: AI Inventions and Patents in India*. Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

India's tech landscape, these cases shed light on how the country is navigating the tricky waters of patenting such innovations. Not every AI-related patent gets the green light, but the decisions coming out of the IPO offer a fascinating glimpse into what makes an AI invention patent-worthy in India. Let's dive into one key case that's helping shape the future of AI patents.

Case Study 1: Ferid Allani v. Union of India & Ors.[89]

This case is a big deal—a game-changer, really—for anyone trying to patent AI or software-related inventions in India. Ferid Allani, the brains behind a clever software solution, wanted to make internet access smoother and faster for people stuck with slow, limited bandwidth. Sounds useful, right? But when he first applied for a patent, the IPO said "no way," pointing to Section 3(k) of the Indian Patent Act. That section basically says computer programs, on their own, don't qualify for patents. So, at first, Allani's idea was brushed off as just another unpatentable piece of code.

Not one to give up, Allani took his fight to the Delhi High Court, and that's where things got interesting. The court flipped the script, ruling in his favor and setting a new tone for cases like his. They said that if a computer-related invention—like an AI system or software—shows a clear "technical effect," it's not just a program sitting there doing nothing fancy; it can actually be patented.[90] In Allani's case, his invention wasn't just lines of code—it solved a real-world problem by boosting internet efficiency. The court's message was loud and clear: if your AI or software tackles a technical challenge and delivers a practical fix, it's got a shot at patent protection.

This ruling didn't just help Allani—it opened the door wider for innovators across India. It's a nod to the idea that AI isn't just abstract math or algorithms floating in the ether; when it makes something better in a tangible way, it deserves recognition. Since then, this case has become a go-to reference for anyone trying to patent AI-driven solutions, showing that India's patent system is evolving to keep pace with cutting-edge

[89] (2020)
[90] **WIPO Lex Database.** (n.d.). *India: The Patents Act, 1970 (as amended up to 2021)*. Available at: https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/legislation/details/12748

tech. As AI keeps growing, cases like this one are paving the way for more inventors to protect their groundbreaking ideas.

Case Study 2: Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson v. Intex Technologies (India) Ltd.[91]

This case takes us into the world of telecom tech, where AI is starting to play a starring role. It all started when Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson, a big name in telecommunications, locked horns with Intex Technologies (India) Ltd. over something called standard-essential patents (SEPs). These are patents for technologies that are so crucial to an industry—like telecom—that everyone needs to use them to keep things running smoothly. Ericsson's patents in this case covered some pretty cool stuff, including AI-driven solutions designed to make networks smarter and more efficient.

At first, it was a classic patent showdown: Ericsson said, "Hey, you're using our tech," and Intex wasn't too keen on paying up. But when the dust settled, the court sided with Ericsson. Why? Because they saw the real value in what Ericsson brought to the table—innovations that didn't just sit there but actively pushed telecom technology forward. The AI at play here wasn't just a gimmick; it was optimizing networks in ways that mattered.[92] The ruling sent a strong signal: when AI gets woven into something as vital as telecommunications and delivers a solid technical boost, it's the kind of invention India's patent system is willing to protect. It's a win for those who are blending AI with practical, industry-changing solutions.

Case Study 3: Google's AI-Based Patent Applications

Now, let's talk about Google—yep, the tech giant we all know. They've been busy filing a bunch of AI-related patent applications in India, and it's a mixed bag of results that's worth unpacking. These applications cover some seriously smart stuff, like machine learning models that crunch data in new ways and techniques that power things like self-driving systems and predictive analytics (think: guessing what's next based on

[91] (2016)

[92] **Abbott, R.** (2020). *Artificial Intelligence as Inventor: Challenges for Patent Law*. IPWatchdog. Available at: https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2020/03/12/ai-inventor-patent-law/id=119018/

patterns).[93] Not every idea has gotten the thumbs-up from the Indian Patent Office, but the ones that have made it through tell an exciting story.

What's the secret sauce? It's all about showing a "technical effect" and bringing something fresh to the table. For example, Google's inventions that help autonomous systems navigate the world or predict trends with uncanny accuracy aren't just cool— they solve real problems in unique ways. These successes show that India's patent system isn't closed off to AI; it's open for business if you can prove your invention does something special and useful. For innovators watching from the sidelines, Google's journey here is proof that AI can find a home in India's patent landscape—as long as it's more than just fancy code and actually makes a difference.

6.4 Examination Guidelines for AI Inventions: Proposal for India

Artificial intelligence (AI) is booming, and it's shaking up the way we think about inventions in India. The Indian Patent Office (IPO) has a solid starting point with its Computer-Related Inventions (CRI) Guidelines, but let's be real—AI is a whole different beast. It's not just software; it's a mash-up of code, data, and sometimes even physical systems. The current rules don't quite capture that complexity, so it's high time for some fresh, tailor-made guidelines to help patent examiners figure out what's what when AI comes knocking.[94] Here's a friendly take on what those new guidelines could look like, with a few extra ideas to keep India ahead in the AI game.

A Proposal for Revised AI Examination Guidelines in India

1. **Clear Definition of AI and Related Technologies** Let's start with the basics: what even is AI? The guidelines need to spell it out—think machine learning, neural networks, and all those buzzwords—in a way that's crystal clear. Patent examiners shouldn't be scratching their heads trying to decide if something qualifies as AI. A solid definition would give them a roadmap to classify these inventions right from the get-go, making the whole process smoother and fairer.

[93] **Mehra, P.** (2023). *Patentability of Artificial Intelligence in India: An Overview*. Mondaq. Available at: https://www.mondaq.com/india/patent/134265/patentability-of-ai-india-overview

[94] **National Research Development Corporation of India v. The Commissioner of Patents and Designs**, (2006) 133 CompCas 192 SC.

2. **Focus on Technical Contributions** Here's the deal: not every AI idea deserves a patent just because it's clever. The guidelines should zero in on what the AI actually *does*—how it makes something better in a real, technical way. Does it speed up a process? Solve a tricky problem? Think of how the European Patent Office uses its "Technical Effect Test" or the U.S. leans on the "Alice Test." India could borrow a page from their playbook and focus on the nuts-and-bolts improvements AI brings to the table, whether it's in healthcare, manufacturing, or beyond.

3. **Interdisciplinary Examination Teams** AI isn't a one-trick pony—it's complicated and crosses into all sorts of fields. That's why patent examiners shouldn't go it alone. Imagine teams with tech wizards who get AI inside and out, paired with folks who know the ins and outs of specific industries like finance, agriculture, or medicine. Together, they'd have the full picture, catching details a solo examiner might miss. It's like assembling a dream team to tackle AI's big challenges.

4. **Expanded Prior Art Search** AI moves fast—sometimes too fast for traditional patent databases to keep up. The guidelines should push examiners to dig deeper, looking at stuff like research papers, open-source code on GitHub, or even tech blogs.[95] Why? Because the next big AI breakthrough might not be hiding in an old patent—it could be out there in the wild, shared by a coder or researcher. Casting a wider net would make sure no stone's left unturned when figuring out if an invention's truly new.

5. **Addressing Ethical and Societal Impact** AI isn't just about tech—it's about people, too. It can stir up big questions, like bias in algorithms, privacy worries, or even jobs disappearing. The guidelines could add a step where examiners think about the bigger picture: does this AI play nice with society's values? It's not about blocking innovation but making sure it's responsible. For instance, an AI that predicts crop yields is awesome—unless it accidentally screws over small farmers.[96] A little ethical check could go a long way.

6. **Patentability of AI-Generated Inventions** Here's a wild one: what if an AI invents something all by itself? As AI gets smarter, this isn't sci-fi anymore—

[95] **Bayer Corporation v. Union of India** (2014), AIR 2014 SC 510.
[96] **Novartis AG v. Union of India** (2013) 6 SCC 1.

it's a real question. Can a machine be an "inventor" under Indian law, or does a human need to take the credit? The guidelines should tackle this head-on, setting some ground rules. It's a future-proof move, ensuring India's ready when AI starts dreaming up its own breakthroughs.

Why This Matters

With these tweaks, the Indian Patent Office could level up its game, handling the flood of AI patent applications with confidence. It's not just about keeping up—it's about staying competitive globally. India's got a thriving tech scene, and AI is a huge part of that. By sharpening the focus on technical wins, digging into broader prior art, and rolling out these specialized guidelines,[97] the IPO can make sure deserving innovations get their due while keeping the system fair and forward-thinking.

Patenting AI in India isn't a walk in the park—it's a puzzle with moving pieces. But with the right tools in place, it's totally doable. These proposed guidelines could bridge the gap between today's rules and tomorrow's tech, giving inventors a clearer shot at protecting their ideas. Plus, they'd help India cement its spot as a hub for AI-driven progress, from startups in Bangalore to research labs in Delhi. It's all about adapting to the AI revolution and letting innovation thrive.

[97] **World Economic Forum.** (2022). *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Innovation: A Patent Perspective*. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/reports/ai-and-patents

7. Recommendations and Proposed Legal Reforms

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to disrupt and shape the innovation landscape, posing several legal challenges in terms of patent law. As the legal frameworks governing intellectual property strive to keep pace with the rapid developments in AI technology, India's patent law must evolve to accommodate the complexities associated with AI inventions. This section outlines the key recommendations for revising India's patent law and policies to ensure the effective protection and regulation of AI-driven innovations.[98] The focus is on revisiting certain provisions of the Indian Patent Act, introducing new AI-specific guidelines, harmonizing Indian laws with international best practices, and addressing the ethical and accountability concerns associated with AI inventions.

7.1 Revisiting Section 3(k) of the Indian Patent Act

Section 3(k) of the **Indian Patent Act, 1970** excludes the patentability of "a mathematical or business method or a computer program per se or algorithms." This provision has been a major hurdle for patent applicants in the AI domain, as AI technologies often involve complex algorithms, machine learning models, and computational methods that could be considered as falling under this exclusion.

AI inventions are often rejected on the basis of this provision, despite contributing to significant technological advancements. The rigid interpretation of Section 3(k) fails to account for the broader impact and technical nature of AI innovations, thereby stifling the protection of legitimate AI-driven inventions.

Proposed Reform: It is recommended that Section 3(k) be revisited and reinterpreted to better reflect the nuances of AI technologies. The focus should shift from the method or algorithm itself to the technical contribution that the AI invention offers. If the AI system leads to a tangible technical effect or provides a novel solution to a technical problem, it should be eligible for patent protection, even if it involves the use of algorithms or software. This approach is consistent with international practices, such as

[98] **European Patent Office (EPO).** (2018). *Guidelines for Examination: Artificial Intelligence Inventions*. Available

at: https://www.epo.org/law-practice/legal-texts/html/guidelines/e/g.htm

the **European Patent Office (EPO)** and the **United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)**, which recognize the patentability of computer-implemented inventions that provide a "technical solution."

7.2 Introducing New Guidelines for AI Patents

India currently lacks comprehensive guidelines tailored specifically for the examination of AI-related patents. While the **Computer-Related Inventions (CRI) Guidelines** provide some direction for software patents, they do not address the unique challenges posed by AI technologies, such as issues related to inventorship, technical effect, and the role of machine learning models.[99]

Proposed Reform: The Indian Patent Office should introduce AI-specific guidelines that provide clear criteria for the patentability of AI-related inventions. These guidelines should:

- Define the scope of patentable AI inventions, focusing on technical solutions and advancements brought about by AI.
- Address the issue of inventorship in AI-generated inventions, providing clarity on how to attribute inventorship when AI is involved in the inventive process.
- Establish criteria for the examination of machine learning models, neural networks, and other AI-related technologies, particularly in the context of prior art search and non-obviousness.

Such guidelines would provide greater certainty to both patent applicants and examiners, ensuring that AI innovations are adequately protected without being unfairly excluded from the patent system.[100]

7.3 Harmonizing Indian Patent Law with Global Trends on AI Inventions

[99] **Cornish, W. R., Llewelyn, D., & Aplin, T.** (2019). *Intellectual Property: Patents, Copyright, Trade Marks, and Allied Rights*. 9th ed. Sweet & Maxwell.
[100] **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.** (2019). *Manual of Patent Office Practice and Procedure* (Revised). Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks.

As AI technologies become increasingly global, it is essential for Indian patent law to align with international best practices in the protection of AI inventions. Countries like the **United States**, **European Union**, and **China** have already begun to develop AI-specific patent frameworks, and India risks falling behind if it does not adapt its laws accordingly.

For instance, the **USPTO** has introduced examination guidelines that recognize the patentability of AI inventions based on their technical effect, while the **EPO** has established specific rules for computer-implemented inventions, including AI-based technologies. China, too, has made significant strides in clarifying its patent laws for AI innovations, becoming a leader in AI patent filings.[101]

Proposed Reform: India should actively engage with global trends in AI patent law by participating in international forums, such as the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, and adopting best practices from leading jurisdictions. Harmonizing Indian patent law with global norms will not only encourage domestic AI innovation but also facilitate cross-border patent protection and collaboration in AI research and development.

This can also include collaborating on international agreements that address emerging AI issues, such as the recognition of AI inventors, ethical concerns, and the protection of AI-generated data.

7.4 Enhancing AI Inventorship Recognition: New Legal Framework

The current Indian Patent Act does not recognize AI as an inventor, leading to challenges in protecting inventions that are autonomously generated by AI systems. While the legal recognition of AI as an inventor is a complex and controversial issue, it is becoming increasingly relevant as AI systems develop greater creative and inventive capacities.[102]

[101] **Ryan Abbott.** (2020). *The Reasonable Robot: Artificial Intelligence and the Law*. Cambridge University Press.
[102] **National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).** (2021). *National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence*.

New Delhi: NITI Aayog.

The **DABUS case** is a prime example of this challenge. Stephen Thaler, the creator of an AI system named DABUS, attempted to patent AI-generated inventions by listing the AI itself as the inventor. While some jurisdictions, such as South Africa, accepted this, others, like the **United States** and the **European Union**, rejected the notion of AI inventorship. India, too, faces a similar dilemma.

Proposed Reform: India should consider the introduction of a new legal framework that acknowledges the role of AI in the inventive process while maintaining the human element of patent law. One possible solution is to recognize the human developer, operator, or owner of the AI system as the inventor, even in cases where the AI generates the invention autonomously. Another approach could be to establish a special category for AI-generated inventions, providing legal recognition for AI's role without disrupting the traditional concept of human inventorship.[103]

This new legal framework could also address issues related to the ownership and commercialization of AI-generated inventions, ensuring that patent rights are fairly attributed while promoting innovation.

7.5 Ethical Oversight and Accountability for AI Patents

AI technologies raise significant ethical and accountability concerns, particularly in areas such as bias, privacy, and the potential for misuse. Patent law, while primarily focused on incentivizing innovation, must also take into account the broader societal impact of AI inventions.

For example, AI algorithms can perpetuate biases present in their training data, leading to discriminatory outcomes in areas such as hiring, lending, or law enforcement. Moreover, AI-driven technologies, such as autonomous vehicles or medical diagnostic systems, raise questions about liability and accountability when things go wrong. These ethical concerns are particularly relevant in the context of patent protection, as granting exclusive rights to potentially harmful or biased AI technologies could have negative consequences for society.

[103] **Goldberg, Jonathan.** (2018). *The Legal Challenges of AI: Patentability and Inventorship*. Journal of Intellectual Property Law, 25(1), 45-72.

Proposed Reform: India should introduce ethical oversight mechanisms for AI patents, ensuring that the patenting of AI technologies does not compromise public interest. This could involve the establishment of an independent ethics board within the Indian Patent Office to review AI-related patent applications, particularly those that have the potential to affect public health, safety, or civil rights.

Additionally, there should be greater transparency in the patenting of AI technologies, with patent applicants required to disclose how their AI systems were trained, tested, and validated. This would help ensure that AI inventions are held to a higher standard of accountability, reducing the risk of bias, discrimination, or harm.

Ethical oversight mechanisms would also need to address the issue of AI liability. Patent holders of AI inventions should be required to demonstrate that their AI technologies are safe, reliable, and free from harmful biases. This could be done through mandatory ethical audits or certifications as part of the patent examination process.

The legal landscape for AI patents in India is still evolving, and significant reforms are needed to address the challenges posed by AI technologies. Revisiting Section 3(k) of the Indian Patent Act,[104] introducing AI-specific guidelines, harmonizing Indian patent law with global trends, and establishing ethical oversight mechanisms are critical steps toward ensuring that India's patent system remains relevant in the age of artificial intelligence. By adopting these recommendations, India can foster a supportive environment for AI innovation while ensuring that AI-driven technologies are developed and used in a manner that benefits society as a whole.

[104] **WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization).** (2021). *WIPO Technology Trends 2021: Artificial Intelligence*. Geneva: WIPO.

8. Conclusion

The evolving frontier of patent law, particularly in relation to artificial intelligence (AI) inventions, presents both exciting opportunities and complex challenges for India's intellectual property regime. As AI technologies continue to advance, the legal frameworks governing patents must adapt to ensure that innovation is protected, while also addressing the ethical, legal, and societal implications that arise from AI-driven innovations. This chapter concludes the dissertation by summarizing the key findings, discussing the future of patenting AI inventions in India, offering final thoughts on the balance between innovation and regulation, and identifying potential areas for further research in AI and patent law.

8.1 Summary of Key Findings

Throughout this dissertation, several important insights have emerged regarding the legal landscape for AI inventions in India. The Indian Patent Act, particularly Section 3(k), poses significant challenges to the patentability of AI technologies due to its exclusion of algorithms, software, and mathematical methods. This rigid interpretation has resulted in the rejection of many AI-related patent applications, even when the invention presents a technical advancement.

The analysis of AI technologies, including machine learning, natural language processing, and autonomous systems, has highlighted the growing complexity of AI inventions and the legal questions surrounding ownership, inventorship, and technical contribution. Furthermore, international comparisons have shown that other countries, such as the United States, the European Union, and China, have already taken steps to address these issues by adopting AI-specific patent examination guidelines and recognizing the technical effects of AI innovations.

Ethical concerns, such as bias, accountability, and liability, have also emerged as critical issues in the patenting of AI inventions. It is clear that India must develop mechanisms to ensure that AI technologies are not only innovative but also ethically sound and aligned with public interest.

In response to these challenges, this dissertation has proposed several legal reforms, including revisiting Section 3(k), introducing AI-specific patent guidelines, harmonizing Indian patent law with global trends, and establishing ethical oversight mechanisms for AI patents. These recommendations aim to create a balanced and forward-looking legal framework that encourages AI innovation while addressing its potential risks and challenges.

8.2 The Future of Patenting AI Inventions in India

The future of patenting AI inventions in India will depend largely on the country's ability to adapt its legal frameworks to the realities of AI technologies. As AI continues to play a transformative role in sectors such as healthcare, transportation, finance, and education, it is essential that India's patent system evolves to provide clear, predictable, and fair protection for AI-related innovations.

One of the key developments needed in the near future is the revision of Section 3(k) to better accommodate the patentability of AI inventions. By shifting the focus from the algorithm or software to the technical contribution of the AI invention, India can ensure that AI-driven innovations are not unfairly excluded from patent protection. This would also align India's patent regime with global practices, promoting cross-border collaboration and the commercialization of AI technologies.

In addition, the introduction of AI-specific guidelines by the Indian Patent Office would provide greater clarity to patent applicants and examiners, reducing uncertainty and ensuring consistency in the examination of AI patents. As AI technologies become more sophisticated, these guidelines will need to be continuously updated to reflect the latest advancements in AI research and development.

The future also calls for a greater emphasis on ethical oversight in the patenting of AI inventions. As AI technologies become more integrated into daily life, issues such as bias, accountability, and liability will become even more pressing. It is crucial for India to establish mechanisms to ensure that AI patents are not only legally sound but also ethically responsible.

8.3 Final Thoughts: Striking a Balance Between Innovation and Regulation

The challenge of patenting AI inventions lies in striking the right balance between fostering innovation and ensuring appropriate regulation. On one hand, AI technologies offer immense potential for solving complex problems, driving economic growth, and improving quality of life. Patent protection plays a crucial role in incentivizing innovation by granting inventors exclusive rights to their creations, thereby encouraging investment in research and development.

On the other hand, the rapid development of AI technologies also raises concerns about the ethical and societal impact of AI inventions. Issues such as bias, privacy, accountability, and the potential misuse of AI must be carefully considered in the context of patent protection. Moreover, the legal challenges associated with AI inventorship, ownership, and liability necessitate a thoughtful and forward-thinking approach to patent law reform.

India's patent system must strike a delicate balance between promoting AI-driven innovation and addressing the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI technologies. By revisiting outdated legal provisions, introducing AI-specific guidelines, and establishing ethical oversight mechanisms, India can create a patent regime that supports the growth of AI while safeguarding public interest.

8.4 Potential for Further Research in AI and Patent Law

While this dissertation has explored the evolving frontier of patent law in relation to AI inventions in India, there remains significant potential for further research in this area. AI is a rapidly advancing field, and new developments in AI technology will continue to raise novel legal questions that require ongoing study and analysis.

One potential area for future research is the role of AI in the patent examination process itself. AI tools are increasingly being used to assist patent examiners in conducting prior art searches and analyzing patent applications. However, the integration of AI into the patent system raises its own set of challenges, including issues related to transparency, accuracy, and bias in AI-assisted decision-making.

Another important area for further research is the global harmonization of AI patent laws. As AI technologies transcend national borders, it is crucial for countries to develop coordinated and consistent approaches to AI patent protection. Future research could focus on exploring how international agreements, such as the **TRIPS Agreement**, can be updated to address the unique challenges posed by AI inventions.

Finally, there is a need for further research on the ethical implications of AI patents, particularly in areas such as bias, accountability, and the impact of AI on marginalized communities. As AI technologies become more pervasive, it is essential to examine how patent laws can be designed to promote ethical innovation and ensure that AI benefits society as a whole.

The patenting of AI inventions presents a complex and evolving challenge for India's intellectual property regime. As AI technologies continue to reshape the innovation landscape, India must adopt legal reforms that recognize the unique characteristics of AI inventions while addressing the ethical and societal implications of AI-driven innovation. By striking a balance between fostering innovation and ensuring appropriate regulation, India can position itself as a leader in the global AI revolution.