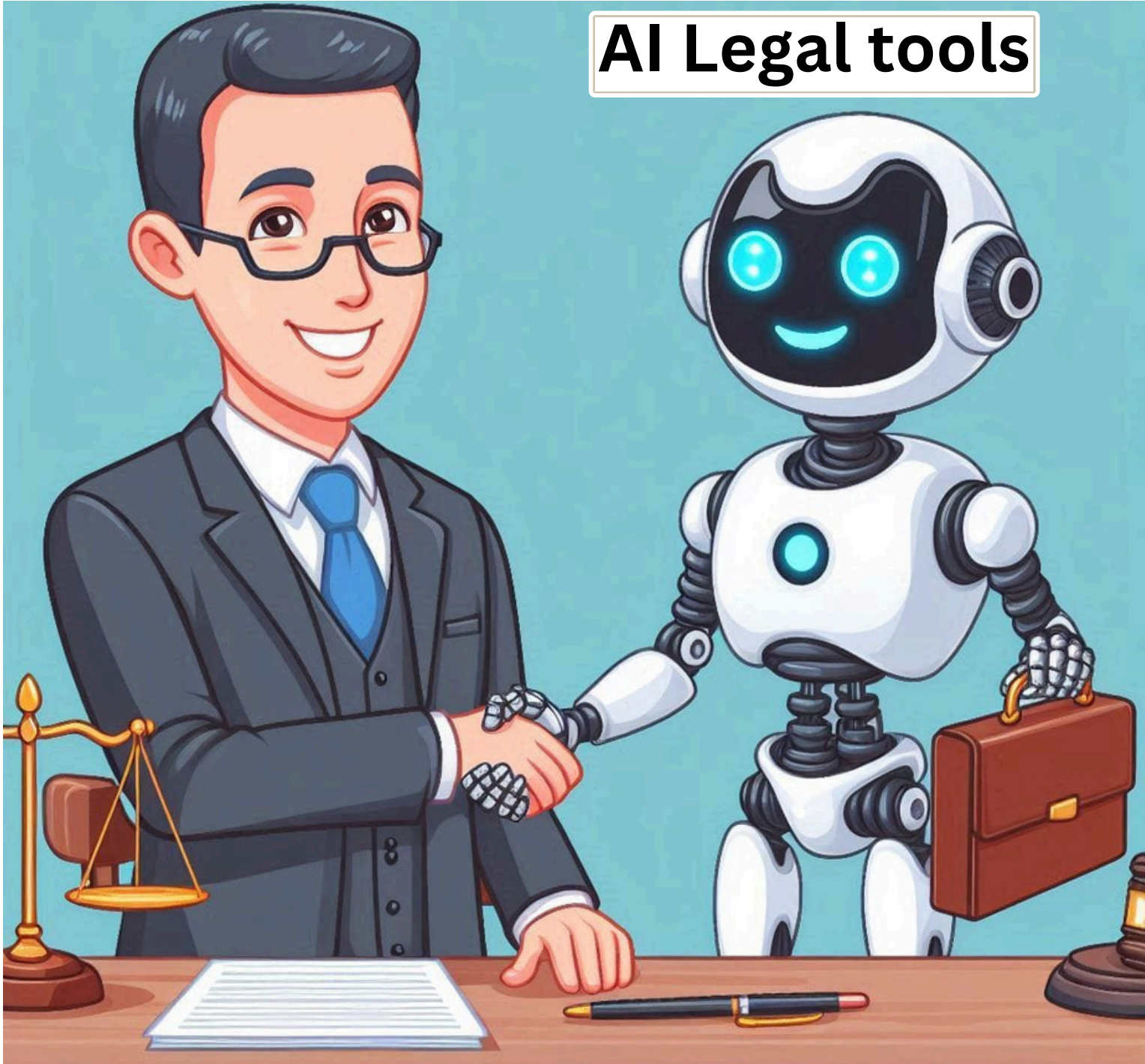


LAWBY WRITES

AI Legal tools



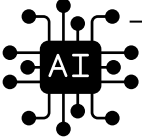
It is raining AI tools in the legal sector- The Indian Story

Court overturns Family Court ruling, grants divorce based on desertion

Importance of proper sanitation in the Courts

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How to legally change your name in India: A simple guide



EDITORIAL



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Founder

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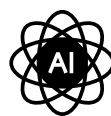
The legal industry in India is facing a sudden inflow of exceptional AI tools to assist lawyers in their client work. The existing platforms are modifying their workspace to integrate AI and ensure automation of workflow to a level of almost “no work”. Advocates are more or less becoming sidekicks to a more intelligent machine and are mimicking bystanders in drafting and vetting. Will litigation be the only last-standing bastion to fall?

The Supreme Court of India uses **SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency)**, an AI tool which assists judges by analyzing and organizing case documents, extracting relevant precedents, and providing structured summaries of lengthy legal documents. The Supreme Court has further developed **SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software)**, which is an AI-powered translation tool. SUVAS translates judgements into Indian regional languages. The future AI tools in law will target the integration of blockchain technology for secure document verification, improve predictive analytics for case outcomes, provide multilingual support for legal documents and attempt seamless automation of routine legal tasks.

In this backdrop, the fight amongst legal platforms will be only to provide a superior experience at the lowest price possible. I have come across some interesting AI tools in the legal sector that are throwing their chips in this AI race and they seem like they are all just getting warmed up. LawBotPro seems to be a competent player, which is popularly becoming a go-to for getting swift answers for legal queries along with assistance in legal drafting. **CaseIQ by Legitquest uses AI to analyse and suggest the most relevant precedents. Spot Draft provides AI assist for real time contract review and analytics. Sarvam.ai provides easy notification of Government orders. Complinity has solved for compliance requirements using AI and the list goes on.**

It is of some parting relief that all the AI platforms inform every user in a unanimous voice, “Please consult a certified legal professional” and not to completely rely on its results. I am unsure if this makes any sense or if AI tech founders fear being pulled into litigation if they take away the jobs of lawyers. I am not in acceptance of the argument that jobs will not be lost but increase due to AI. Why would I hire a junior lawyer and pay them if I can use an AI with lesser subscription cost and better accuracy and labour efficiency? I am unsure if I will have a job given even clients may directly use AI and just decide this doesn’t raise its legal voice or an invoice that hurts my wallet.

No one should fear the growth of AI. Fear doesn’t stop it from happening. Learn the tech. Use it and remember that we have all built our legal careers on borrowed wisdom, similar to AI learning from existing legal data. One outcome that we can all be sure of is the lesser use of our own intelligence.





LEGAL CRISPS

Court overturns Family Court ruling, grants divorce based on desertion

-Nithyaparvathy R G

In *Rachit Verma vs Smt. Anuradha Dey (2025:AHC-LKO:1303-DB)*, the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, has overturned a Family Court's decision, granting a divorce to a husband based on the grounds of desertion. The case, First Appeal No. 37 of 2021, involved a husband appealing an ex-parte judgment by the Family Court that had dismissed his divorce petition. The High Court's decision highlights the legal interpretation of desertion in matrimonial disputes.

The husband originally filed for divorce in 2020, claiming cruelty and desertion by his wife. The Family Court dismissed the suit as the husband could not provide evidence of either cruelty or desertion. The Family Court was of the opinion that although there was a change in the wife's behaviour, the husband failed to prove cruelty, and the wife's relocation to Kolkata did not constitute desertion.

However, the High Court disapproved of the Family Court's approach, especially on the issue of desertion. The court observed that the wife had neither been before the Family Court nor the High Court in the appeal procedures and had been living apart from her husband since 29th November 2016. In addition, she had also filed an affidavit declaring that she neither wanted to challenge the divorce nor wanted maintenance or alimony.

The High Court placed emphasis on the legal definition of desertion, which is the willful abandonment of one spouse by the other without consent or sufficient cause. **The court emphasised that desertion is a separation from matrimonial duties rather than just a physical separation. A “willful neglect” was also observed by the court in the wife's refusal to return to her marital residence and her lack of involvement in the court proceedings.** The High Court overturned the Family Court's decision, concluding that the woman had abandoned the husband without sufficient cause, making the marriage irrevocable. The Court referenced the Supreme Court's ruling in *Rakesh Raman vs Kavita (MANU/SC/0456/2023)*, noting that **prolonged separation can render a marriage unworkable and emotionally dead.**

The Court clarified that this decision was based solely on the grounds of desertion and did not delve into other issues related to the marital relationship. This ruling underscores a more comprehensive view of desertion in the context of matrimonial law.





Importance of proper sanitation in the Courts

-Sri Sai Kamalini M S

The right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is essential for everyone to enjoy life and all human rights fully. Access to proper sanitation is a basic necessity and a facet of human rights, including the right to life and personal liberty. This was recently discussed in the case of **Rajeeb Kalita v. Union of India & Ors. (2025 INSC 75)**, where poor sanitation facilities in the courts were discussed.

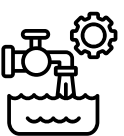
Several provisions in the Indian Constitution highlight the importance of sanitation and a hygienic environment. Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which includes the right to a safe and hygienic environment. Article 47 emphasizes the State's duty to improve public health as one of its primary duties. Article 48A mandates the State to protect and improve the environment.

The judgment also discusses several other legal provisions and guidelines that support the right to sanitation. Section 3 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 prohibits discrimination against transgender persons, including the denial of access to public facilities like restrooms. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 emphasizes providing separate washrooms for transgender individuals in various establishments. The Harmonised Guidelines & Standards for Universal Accessibility in India, 2021 stress on providing accessible public restrooms for individuals of all ages, genders, and disabilities.

The judgment underscores the importance of sanitation by referencing international laws and resolutions:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948: Article 25 recognizes the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being, encompassing sanitation.
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966: Article 12 acknowledges the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including environmental hygiene.
- UN General Assembly Resolution No. A/RES/64/292: This resolution declares the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right.
- UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Report: This report recognizes sanitation as a fundamental element for human survival, dignity, and an adequate standard of living.

Providing adequate sanitation facilities, particularly public toilets, is crucial for protecting the privacy and safety of women and transgender individuals. The absence of such facilities can deter individuals from accessing public spaces and exercising their rights. Providing clean and accessible public toilets is not only a matter of convenience but a crucial aspect of upholding human dignity and ensuring a just and equitable society.





CASE CHRONICLE

Defining "intoxicating liquor"

-Seethala B

CASE NAME: State of Uttar Pradesh v Lalta Prasad Vaish

CITATION: 2024 INSC 812

Liquor refers to alcoholic beverages containing ethanol, produced through the fermentation and distillation of substances like fruits, grains, and sugar. It includes types such as beer, wine, and distilled spirits (whiskey, vodka, rum). While consummated socially and recreationally, liquor is heavily regulated due to health and safety concerns. Laws often differentiate between alcoholic drinks for consumption and industrial alcohol used in manufacturing, with varying regulations across regions.

The question in this case is **whether the term "intoxicating liquor" refers to only alcoholic beverages or also industrial alcohol.** In this decision, the Supreme Court considered many forms of alcohol, including extra-neutral and rectified spirit, which are frequently used in beverages but are also classified as industrial alcohol. It concluded that it is impractical to make a rigid difference between alcohol that is potable (drinkable) and that is not.

The Court emphasised that "intoxicating liquor" had been widely read to cover not only beverages but also other alcohol-based preparations with intoxicating effects, citing previous rulings such as *F.N. Balsara v. State of Bombay* (1951 AIR 318). Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who dissented, emphasised that industrial alcohol should not be included in the definition of "intoxicating liquor," which should be interpreted as alcoholic beverages.

Additionally, the Court looked at constitutional terms like **"alcoholic liquor for human consumption" and "intoxicating liquor."** According to the majority, "intoxicating liquor" refers to any substance that has intoxicating qualities, giving states the power to control its abuse.

The ruling also re-examines the difficulties in interpreting statutory language and the extent of state authority to control alcohol use. The majority's expansive definition of "intoxicating liquor" reflects a more accommodating view of state and federal authority. The criticism, however, centers on the necessity of distinguishing between industrial and consuming alcohol.



BEYOND THE OBVIOUS

How to legally change your name in India: A simple guide

-Saraswathy Thogainathan

Have you ever thought about changing your name? It can be for many reasons, such as marriage, divorce, correcting an error, numerology, or adopting a name that feels more like you; changing your name might feel like a fresh start. But you might be wondering: How do I go about it? What steps are involved? Here's everything you need to know about legally changing your name in India.

STEP 1: Create an Affidavit

With the help of a lawyer or yourself, draft an affidavit declaring your intent to change your name. The affidavit needs to include your current name, your desired new name, and the reason for the change of name. Get it attested and notarized by a Judicial Magistrate or Notary Public.

STEP 2: Publish an advertisement in the newspaper:

Publish your name change in two newspapers- one in the regional language and one in English. The advertisement should include your new name, old name and complete address. It is advisable to keep the published copies as proof for future use.

STEP 3: Gazette Notification:

The next step would be to apply in the Gazette of India. You will need to submit the affidavit, the copies of the advertisement published in the newspaper and the required documents such as ID Proof, passport-size photo, etc.,. The documents, along with a forwarding letter and printing charges, should be sent through post/courier to The Controller of Publications, Department of Publication, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054. It usually takes 2 to 3 months to get processed. Once the procedure is done, your new name will be published in the Gazette. After this, you can update your Aadhar, PAN, bank accounts and other documents by submitting the gazette notification and relevant documents to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL CASES:

The required documents will change depending on the reason for the name change.

- 1.To change surname after marriage/ Divorce: You should provide a marriage certificate/ Divorce deed.
2. Parents or guardians can request a name change on behalf of minors.

MEET THE TEAM



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Law Student
