

# They expect to cut weeks of legal work to minutes



(From left) Praveen Sood, COO, Saakar S Yadav, founder, and Vishrut Shrivastava, CTO of Lexlegis.ai

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Saakar S Yadav is working on what he believes could transform India's overburdened legal system. His startup, Lexlegis.ai, is developing artificial intelligence tools to help judges, tax and legal professionals work more efficiently.

"We are first building a world-class language model, which will accelerate research and expedite justice by transforming weeks of work into 30 seconds or less, and then we intend to use AI to cover the entire legal workflow for all stakeholders" says Saakar.

India's courts are notoriously backlogged, with about 40 million pending cases. Last year alone, 13.5 million new cases were filed – that's over 60,000 cases every single court working day. About 1.5 million lawyers and millions of paralegal assistants are constantly conducting searches and poring over documents to prepare their cases.

AI could dramatically speed up this process. Lexlegis.ai is training its AI models on over 10 million legal documents, equivalent to about 20 billion tokens of data. This includes judicial documents, laws, and other authoritative legal texts, but deliberately excludes potentially unreliable sources like blogs, opinions, and commentaries.

"We are training it on super authentic data so that it does not hallucinate," Saakar says, referring to the tendency of some AI systems to generate false information.

Lexlegis's journey began long before the current AI boom. Saakar started working on legal databases back in 1998 with his late father, S C Yadav, who had served as the chief commissioner of income tax. They initially focused on researching and building databases of income tax decisions. In 2004, the company expanded to develop what Saakar claims is now the largest database of judgments across all areas of Indian law. Lexlegis also led the Central Data Processing Centre of the National Judicial Reference System (NJRS), the world's largest repository of appeals, a project of the Indian govt.

Saakar's latest venture uses this treasure trove of data to give itself a unique advantage in this generative AI era. He is being helped by Vishrut Shrivastava, a machine learning expert with a decade of experience in AI-driven applications for global financial institutions, and Praveen Sood, who had a long tenure at Tata Steel where he headed

**“**In Google, what you save is time. Uber, they're not selling transportation, they're selling you time. We are also trying to save you time with Lexlegis.ai. If it is accurate, it's going to help you save a lot of time (with legal work).

**Saakar S Yadav |**  
FOUNDER, LEXLEGIS.AI

taxation, investor relations, and strategic planning.

The company is set to launch its first AI products. An "Ask" model for direct and in-direct tax queries is set to go live later this month, with plans to expand to all areas of Indian law by early 2025.

## GPU and talent woes

But building advanced AI systems is challenging. Access to the necessary computing power – specifically, graphics processing units (GPUs) crucial for training large AI models – is a major hurdle.

While some government and private entities have offered assistance, coordinat-

ing the fluctuating demand for computing resources remains complex. "When you're training, it's a larger requirement, and then later it comes down," says Saakar

Finding talent has been another obstacle. "We

were not able to get even a single person who was trained from scratch (on AI)," Saakar recalls. He and his team had to invest significant time in training their own AI specialists.

Despite these challenges, early results are promising. Lexlegis.ai has been testing its system with senior legal professionals, who report saving an average of three to four days of research time. The AI can quickly summarise relevant cases, explain their significance, and even assist in drafting legal documents. Its interface is similar to the ones found on ChatGPT and Copilot.

"Has there been a precedent on this? Has there been a judgement on this? Which circular said that? Then the drafting part... There's so much back-and-forth that happens. I think all of that is going to become much faster," Saakar says.

Global tech giants and well-funded startups like Harvey.ai are also developing AI tools for the legal sector. Lexlegis.ai will need to prove that its deep understanding of the Indian legal landscape and its proprietary data give it a decisive edge. If successful, the company could help usher in a new era of tech-enabled legal practice in the world's largest democracy.



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