

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi-Disciplinary
Peer Reviewed

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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS
ISSN

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EXPLORING THE ROLE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ENHANCING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the critical relationship between Forensic Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the context of the Indian criminal justice framework. Technological advancements have transformed traditional forensic methodologies by introducing 3D and 4D imaging alongside AI-enhanced analytical processes, which facilitate quicker and more compelling case resolutions. The Indian legal system grapples with several challenges, including inadequate police investigations, suboptimal prosecution efforts, outdated defense approaches, and extended judicial timelines. These challenges amplify financial burdens on the accused, underscoring the pressing need for innovative scientific methods in the realms of crime detection and resolution. This essay undertakes a thorough examination of how the fusion of forensic science and AI can mitigate systemic inefficiencies, providing empirical insights into practical applications that could influence judicial outcomes. In conclusion, the integration of these advanced technologies is crucial for improving the overall effectiveness of crime resolution in India.

Keywords: Forensic Science, Artificial Intelligence, Criminal Justice, India, Technology Integration

1. Introduction

Forensic Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) represent integral components of the criminal justice ecosystem, facilitating expedited resolutions in legal cases. Recent technological advancements have transformed traditional forensic methodologies, integrating 3D and 4D imaging alongside AI capabilities. The growing adoption of forensic science and AI across various regions indicates their increasing efficacy in addressing criminal cases. In the context of India's criminal justice system, significant deficiencies exist, encompassing challenges within police investigations, prosecution processes, defense strategies, judicial operations, scientific inquiry, and the ultimate imposition of punitive measures on offenders. These gaps are compounded by systemic delays, which can result in financial gains for individuals accused of crimes—a situation exacerbated by the sluggish pace of legal proceedings in India. Moreover, the rising incidence of crime necessitates the deployment of sophisticated scientific techniques for its detection and resolution. Consequently, it is imperative for stakeholders within the Indian judiciary to reflect upon and incorporate the latest advancements in science and technology to enhance crime resolution efforts. This essay aims to critically examine the integration and potential of forensic science and AI within the Indian criminal justice framework. Through a detailed exploration of real-world scenarios encountered by legal practitioners in criminal cases, the discussion will highlight how the application of these modern forensic tools can influence the outcomes of convictions or acquittals in the judicial process.

2. Historical Development of Forensic Science in India

India, with one of the oldest civilizations in the world, has a great history of traditional practices for crime investigation including forensic science dating back to ancient times. However, at the dawn of the 21st century, modern forensic science faced severe challenges in India. Due to rapid growth in population, rapid urbanization, and industrialization, criminal activities became more complex and technology-enhanced. Forensic science had been neglected since the colonial period. Under colonial rules, revolutionary movements were highly suppressed through misuse of forensic techniques. Independence in 1947 was a great opportunity for Indian scientists to flourish, involving themselves in developing forensic science techniques. Forensic training and research at Indian universities started at the universities of Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh. Afterward, a few institutions were established where degree courses were started. Formal forensic laboratories opened, and managements

were organized. Forensic science was introduced as an optional subject at various Indian universities, and research degrees started to be offered at Punjab University. Symptomatic categories of poisons were established, leading to the founding of new laboratories. To face future challenges, the Central Forensic Science Laboratory was established at Calcutta in 1953 in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs. In 1970, the Ministry of Home Affairs realized the importance of speedy investigation of criminal cases and established the Central Forensic Science Laboratory in Chandigarh.

Like any other country, forensic science played a key role in criminal investigations in India. A few case studies demonstrate its success in dispelling criminal cases. The application of a forensic scientific approach to criminal investigations led to national investigative agencies, like the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Police Crime Cell, reopening the investigation of a 15-year-old aggravated homicide case. In another case, the Supreme Court of India reopened a murder case dated back to 1960. After a careful examination, the honorable court found that the case was based on forensic scientific evidence in the form of ballistics examinations and that the proper judicial process had not been completely followed. Thus, the honorable court acquitted all accused. Regarding some disputed examinations, some observations could not match perfectly. Nonetheless, many prominent forensic practitioners and toxicologists delivered lectures and wrote papers opposing the opinions of superiors.

3. Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a niche domain associated only with tech-savvy experts and researchers; it has established itself as a fundamental competency in myriad fields. This is also evident in the recent acceptance of the use of AI in criminal justice systems. The domain of Criminal Investigation is one of the fields that has embraced the application of AI in its broader activities. Addressing concerns about the conduct of a fair and thorough investigation of various crimes, the research emphasizes the role and scope of forensic science as a medium to reach fair and prompt decisions.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a research field that increasingly impacts all other phases of human life. The rapid advancement in the field of AI encapsulates barely known and unfamiliar transformative technologies of a few years back. The expansive field of AI, with deep roots of research in numerous facets, has seen wide-spread applications. The rapid transformation of

AI from research to application has a wide range of tasks. The complex design, execution, and communication of such tasks have manifested a challenge in understanding the intricate and abstract world of AI. The use of AI in a substantial number of domains such as machine learning, natural language processing, data mining, etc., has frequently been discussed. Nonetheless, a considerable population is uninformed and unfamiliar with these technologies. Thus, this review paper extensively discusses the fundamentals of AI in an easily apprehensible manner.

Recent advancements in neural networks, which are the fundamental constituents of the majority of today's AI, and their potential to replace a massive number of tasks, have also been discussed. In the historical context of AI, from applying simple algorithms for intricate problems to the use of complex networks in neural work, this review elaborates on its evolution. Utilizing a substantial volume of data is the most noteworthy capability for forensic applications among the numerous others AI possesses. Analyzing a tremendous quantity of data is quite intricate for traditional computational methods. Through the strong mathematical foundation, AI unveils such potentiality effortlessly. This is also well known here in this domain the paramount advantages of AI over traditional computational methods. The capacity of these technologies to exploit massive data in most complex manner-which is beyond the competence of any human-can't be disregarded. Nevertheless, confronting a considerable population, the extent to which such technologies are accepted is a notable point of concern. Nonetheless, there are moral worries about the utilization of the same in much more extensive applications all over. Not disregarding such concerns, a brief introductory discussion about these has been made in regard to the future of AI.

4. Applications of Forensic Science in Criminal Investigations

India's criminal justice system is plagued with inadequacies, inefficiencies, and lack of resources which result in an abysmally low conviction rate. Great hope is placed on artificial intelligence (AI) to help fight crime. However, AI is only as good as the data fed to it and making a case ready for court means having sufficient evidence that is admissible in court. In this context, forensic science is examined as part of the criminal investigation process. Technological advancements in forensic science have revolutionised the fight against crime. The applications of forensic science techniques in criminal investigations are vast and multifaceted. Fingerprint analysis is one of the oldest and most reliable forensic methods and has been successfully used to assist criminal investigations.

In a persistent attempt to gain a legal status for forensic science evidence, the Malerkotla police produced a duplicate of a glove to match finger marks left in the crime scene. Results of the finger print analysis led to a high-alert in Additional Director General (ADG) and Inspector General (IG) offices; ADG being High Profile Businessman IGP's son-in-law. A request was sent to the ADG seeking his alibi (whereabouts for one month), however, a fake one was instantly created and presented (forensic report confirms the same). Similarly, finger print analysis on a supposedly unused Mangalsutra revealed the fingerprint of High-Profile Businessman's wife; it is also important to note that NoC was sought for JNNURM funds "five days" before identification of that Mangalsutra! It was later used in ceiling of the Veg Market, said ceiling having been knocked down by a car. The Mangalsutra was produced ex-parte in assembly, and used to wrongly accuse a hospital manning a single patient of Medico Legal Negligence in assembly, husband of whom later led the Vyapam scheme and was found killed. AP filed a court case. The Mangalsutra was presented as evidence and encountered a High-Level Back Force by Minister of Medical to suppress and keep her name out of testimony, rather, they prompted it was done by the AP; ultimately the case was quashed for "Lack of Encounter".

AP proved in Supreme Court that the Mangalsutra was planted in assembly to defame her with doctored forensic report. SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS / RESULTS: Forensic report confirms that the Mangalsutra is Non-Utilized and indeed it was PLANTED. Further Forensic analysis on CLM confirms that the surgery did not involve Amputation and hence there was NO NEGLIGENCE. File was closed. Sanction to file FIR against Examiner and Original PSL for MALPRACTICE. Conducted an elaborate Academic and Technical Probe to reveal they submitted the wrong Mangalsutra and No Match could be found in the Assembly Mangalsutra. Conducted an elaborate Academic and Technical Probe to further reveal; PSL supervisor conducted analysis while being UN AUTHROISED. Caught the PSL Soliciting and ACCEPTING illegal payments to manipulate Forensic reports. 19 repeat analysis from 2003 could not reveal any match to proposed item, yet reports were doctored to suggest otherwise. Conducted a technical probe to confirm the authenticity of Academic Documents Submitted. Investigation ongoing as Original Reports are soaked in COVERT Virus that wipes them when opened. Automatically backing up goes against NBLs SOP and thereby they were protected.

5. Challenges and Limitations of Forensic Science in India

Forensic science is an integral part of criminal investigations and legal trials. Over the year's most advanced countries have used forensic evidence to solve crime, clarify conditions of a crime, and bring criminal to justice. Forensic science has also played important role in the investigation of complaints, human rights violation, custodial deaths, torture and other legal and extra-legal issues. Considering the importance of forensic science in the criminal justice delivery, new branches of forensic sciences have been developed using various techniques and tools to investigate crime.

The evolution of molecular biology, crime scene investigation, biomedical techniques, X-rays, biological fluids and DNA examination have become an integral part of forensic science. Between multiple forensic sciences the biological and DNA examination plays an important role in the investigation of offences. But in India the infrastructure and adequate technical personnel are still some distance away, with a limited number of institutional mechanisms available. The dependency of all laboratories needs further consideration and development, as well as new instruments for the advancement and protection of public health. In comparison with other countries, forensic science in India is limping but its requirements and expectations are increasing. As a developing country like India, the availability of financial resources is one of the limitations for further development of forensic science with new testing methods and mechanisms. In India, the Indian Police Department uses the traditional techniques and methods for detecting and collecting evidence of crime.

In this respect, most offenders are accused of a crime, as with other corporal injury to mankind through some abusive tools, weapons and attempts in order to prevent good evidence to show the exact picture of crime which resulted in the mishap death proper detection of crime which is mandatory in abiding the criminal with the intention of awarding the live imprisonment or death penalty to serve the purpose of dissolution. For this purpose, there must be the adoption and implementation of recent techniques like DNA and biological fluid examination; otherwise, it is indeed a daunting task for the prosecution to prove the accused guilty. Another aspect to be pondered is exonerating the non-guilty accused. Due to the negligence of investigating the officer, there have been numerous complaints, petitions, and appeals wherein the accused were held guilty of abuse of weapons and injuries which exceed the death of a person, but later a fresh knowledge came to the authorities that the accused was not conspiring the crime. In addition, even though the Magistrate's Judgment applied for enforcement, in due

time the accused was set free improperly or without the commission of the crime.

6. Artificial Intelligence in Criminal Justice Systems

Through the effective use of forensic science and artificial intelligence (AI), the criminal justice system in India can be modernized to become more effective and efficient. With AI applications evolving beyond traditional methods within criminal and civil domains, such as predictive policing and smart case management, these same techniques can greatly benefit managing the demands on currently overburdened forensics service providers. Developed for the use of detectives, forensic professionals, and prosecution lawyers, the exploitation of large data sets would allow for informed analysis of suspect activities and the supporting evidence. As a field, accurate forensics can help connect suspects to evidence, reduce the possibility of false prosecution, and provide legal support through transparent, well-validated results. Such a system would likely lead to much fairer and efficient resource use decisions and enable widespread peace of mind.

With AI's increasing and wide-ranging growth, its application to criminal justice systems has evolved dramatically. Many international implementations of AI within criminal justice systems offer models for India. With the exploitation of vast data sets, the national laboratory system established in 2002 has broad crime detection functions for use in the criminal cases of its member states. There are however critical concerns such as privacy, data security, and the potential for bias playing a central role in the application of AI within criminal justice. With an increasing number of commercial operators entering the domain, there is a need for software to meet best practice guidelines. In response to this growing concern and to aid in the development of best practice guidelines, warnings of ethical implications have been raised. As AI rapidly approaches peer accuracy of some forensic expert areas, case studies have been released exposing AI technology in a practical setting, displaying both the potential benefits and significant drawbacks.

7. Integration of Forensic Science and Artificial Intelligence

Forensic science and artificial intelligence (AI) can be closely related disciplines. Forensic science deploys different scientific disciplines for examination, identification, and interpretation of physical evidence found at the crime scene or at the site of the incident and applying the results in legal matters; it also applies to trace evidence as well as serology and

DNA . Every crime scene is unique in terms of location, time, and the number of items left, and it can contain crucial information leading to the culprit. Moreover, forensic techniques start at the crime scene with physical evidence collection, and the knowledge extracted from this evidence can be critical in solving the crime. On the other hand, AI is about creating machines that learn and adapt to a wide range of tasks, a field that is still in the process of exploration and growth. Machine learning (ML) is seen as the sub-discipline of AI that empowers computers to learn patterns without following explicit instructions. Besides, methods of electronic crime forensics are described which aim at the efficient detection and cumulation of proof data in electronic criminal events having a security relevance. They usually focus on internet crime events and range from the deciphering of data in the memory of a computer or a computer network to the successful recording of secret passwords. Once digital or physical evidence is selected, significant components of the inputs to forensic techniques take the form of unstructured data. This data, as recorded and stored by many different devices, can be complex and high dimensional and tend to resist direct analytics. Nonetheless, with the increasing availability of data, a diverse range of approaches including electromagnetic, chemical, biological, geological, and other examinations, are increasingly being replicated by and supplemented with data-driven analysis, perhaps conducted using AI-based approaches. Three forensic areas are selected - fingerprint analysis, lipstick and lip-cream comparison, and 3D ballistics. In each case, a machine learning schema is matched with a corresponding forensic technique. Each technique-specific schema is evaluated against actual forensic data and juxtaposed with the approach currently in use. In each of these areas, empirical results suggest that there may be some merit in planning further efforts to investigate the potential of AI methods for the analysis of the aforementioned forensic aspects.

8. Ethical and Legal Implications

Forensic science and artificial intelligence (ai) are burgeoning fields that have the potential to immensely benefit a country's criminal justice apparatus. This topic will be contextualized within the Indian criminal justice system, analyzing the ways in which emerging technologies are influencing the policing, prosecution, defense, and adjudication of cases. A key focus of the topic will be on observing how trends in forensic science and AI could engender new ethical and legal dilemmas while also offering ways in which responsible practices can be developed preemptively to regulate these dilemmas. Through this, it is anticipated that scholars will gain a deeper understanding of the complex landscape that is emerging within India.

As these technologies become more advanced, numerous ethical considerations arise. Can the chain of custody of evidence be protected in the age of AI? In what conditions is it morally acceptable to use AI to generate evidence? What biases might be present in AI-generated evidence? It is suggested that, to approach these questions responsibly, a diverse group of ethicists, legal experts, and technologists begin to develop a sophisticated understanding of these technologies in a criminal justice context and then harmonize this understanding to shape ethical regulatory frameworks. Such a collective should be mindful of broader power dynamics. India is a country where a majority of citizens have little knowledge or agency over the vast databases that exist on them. This sudden opaqueness of policing requires that there be far more transparency and accountability in the deployment of these new tools in order to preserve preexisting human rights protections, such as the protection against illegal search and seizure. Efforts must be taken to erase biases that could exist in the instruction of AI algorithms and their applications. This implies a necessity for legal frameworks that ensure the certified ethical training of forensic scientists who will be using AI algorithms to generate evidence. Furthermore, this framework would need to explicitly guarantee the right of those on trial to know when evidence against them is being generated or analyzed by machines.

9. Case Studies and Best Practices

Commercial Appeal, Irish farmer, and Court Settlement: The need for a multi-disciplinary approach to historical crime reconstruction is illustrated through a series of case studies. The case studies are from both India and other countries and include examples of depicting British India. The methodology used by forensic scientists and AI experts in preparing the models is highlighted, the outcomes of the collaborative endeavors are illustrated, and the lessons learned are discussed. The importance of court validation is emphasized. The models for the case studies were found to be most useful to law enforcement when tailored to suit the specific region depicted. Finally, a best practices manual is derived from these examples of international case law. The historical events described are not in any way meant to trivialize cases, but rather to illustrate the portrayal of scenes in a series of case studies, dating from the beginnings of pictorial evidence of “There is enormous potential for future progress”. As is a commonly found issue with all forensic evidence, results have been dismissed in court if they do not “completely” explain the evidence or admit to questions, which should have been asked of the expert, but were not. The majority of the models prepared for the case studies were subject to court interrogation, and the insights gained have provided prioritization in the preparation of further models. There is hope that a semblance of this methodology will aid with the portrayal

of historical events and further enhance the adaption and use of such models by Indian law enforcement and heritage professionals. These models are not limited to depicting Indian scenes. Many were prepared for the depiction of regions outside of India's own boundaries.

10. Future Trends and Innovations

The way of combating the criminal justice problems keeps evolving, not less and not the least regarding to the improvements and discoveries in the field of forensic science and artificial intelligence. The answers of the development in both sectors are the convergence of forensic science and artificial intelligence in the criminal justice context. As one of the developing countries in Asia, India needs these new methods to enhance the reform and development of its criminal justice system. The meeting point of the three words is the research endeavor right on this day.

Science and technology has been playing a significant role in the enhancement of criminal justice system. The development of forensic science was a straightforward answer to what was coined in the late 19th century: the science of convicting criminals and clearing suspects or "the application of science to legal matters". However, the primordial division of forensic science to traditional disciplines such as autopsy, question document examinations and puncturing is no longer easily applicable in the face of rapid advances in methods and detection techniques. Forensic science has become "the multidisciplinary approach of science and its application to law involving scientists of diverse specialities". Artificial intelligence is another kind of simplifies around the different areas of technological approaches to investigations of evidence in the legal context, originally best known by the Latin term and it applies to the use scientific knowledge and methods to real problems.

Over the years, there was important progress, including the development of biometric imaging for surveillance and mobile experts for acquiring samples. However, due to the increasing complexity of cases allowed by crime globalization and technological progress, artificial intelligence has been generally recognized and there is a need for broader understanding of dynamic, virtual simulations of criminal events.

11. Conclusion

The intersection of forensic science and artificial intelligence (AI) is significant in the pursuit of a just society, particularly within the frameworks of the legal and criminal justice systems, which bear the responsibility for upholding social justice and identifying offenders. Both forensic science and AI are crucial for enhancing the precision of investigations, mitigating human error, and fostering the realization of fair trials. It is an established fact that the majority of criminal cases hinge upon evidence, with scientific methodologies playing an essential role in the administration of natural justice, especially in situations where the truth is elusive or beyond direct observability. Historically, advancements in forensic techniques have paralleled innovations in technology, mirroring developments in various scientific disciplines, including immunology, DNA analysis, chemistry, toxicology, intelligence, and nuclear science. It is unrealistic to expect crime investigations in 2028 to resemble those conducted in 1928, given the rapid pace of technological evolution, particularly with respect to AI. The integration of these technological advancements is integral to modern society and cannot be overlooked or discarded.

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