

TathyaNyaya and FactLegalLlama: Advancing Factual Judgment Prediction and Explanation in the Indian Legal Context

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Abstract

In the landscape of Fact-based Judgment Prediction and Explanation (FJPE), reliance on factual data is essential for developing robust and realistic AI-driven decision-making tools. This paper introduces TathyaNyaya, the largest annotated dataset for FJPE tailored to the Indian legal context, encompassing judgments from the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts. Derived from the Hindi terms "Tathya" (fact) and "Nyaya" (justice), the TathyaNyaya dataset is uniquely designed to focus on factual statements rather than complete legal texts, reflecting real-world judicial processes where factual data drives outcomes. Complementing this dataset, we present FactLegalLlama, an instruction-tuned variant of the LLaMa-3-8B Large Language Model (LLM), optimized for generating high-quality explanations in FJPE tasks. Fine-tuned on the factual data in TathyaNyaya, FactLegalLlama integrates predictive accuracy with coherent, contextually relevant explanations, addressing the critical need for transparency and interpretability in AI-assisted legal systems. Our methodology combines transformers for binary judgment prediction with FactLegalLlama for explanation generation, creating a robust framework for advancing FJPE in the Indian legal domain. TathyaNyaya not only surpasses existing datasets in scale and diversity but also establishes a benchmark for building explainable AI systems in legal analysis. The findings underscore the importance of factual precision and domain-specific tuning in enhancing predictive performance and interpretability, positioning TathyaNyaya and FactLegalLlama as foundational resources for AI-assisted legal decision-making.

1 Introduction

The integration of AI technologies into the legal domain holds immense potential for improving the efficiency, accessibility, and transparency of judicial processes, especially in jurisdictions like India,

where case backlogs place a significant burden on the courts. Among the emerging solutions, Fact-based Judgment Prediction and Explanation (FJPE) aims to predict judicial outcomes and provide explainable rationales by focusing exclusively on the factual elements of a case. By highlighting the core facts rather than relying on entire legal documents, FJPE seeks to deliver more realistic early-phase predictions, akin to conditions when a judge must form an opinion before hearing all arguments or awaiting additional documents.

Recent studies have explored FJPE by extracting factual elements from full case texts or summarizing multiple components like statutes, ratios of decisions, and arguments (Nigam et al., 2024b; Nigam and Deroy, 2024). While these efforts represent a step toward fact-centric approaches, they often rely on limited or automatically extracted data that may not always be reliable. This distinction is crucial: unlike Court Judgment Prediction with Explanation (CJPE), which may utilize entire judgments including judicial reasoning and statutory references, FJPE restricts itself to facts presented at the time of decision-making. Such a focus mimics the constraints of real-world legal reasoning, where judges form preliminary opinions based on presented facts before considering lengthy arguments, precedents, or statutes.

In this paper, we introduce TathyaNyaya, the first large-scale, expertly annotated dataset dedicated to FJPE in the Indian legal context. Derived from the Hindi terms "Tathya" (fact) and "Nyaya" (justice), TathyaNyaya places factual segments at the heart of predictive modeling, thereby providing a robust foundation that eschews the noise and complexity of full legal documents. This annotated dataset addresses a critical gap: while prior work has attempted fact-based prediction using incomplete or non-annotated sources, TathyaNyaya represents the first systematic effort to assemble, annotate, and align factual information with judi-

cial outcomes and explanations. By simplifying the input space to factual data, our dataset enables models to more accurately reflect real-world conditions, offer transparent and early-stage predictive insights, and reduce reliance on domain-level heuristics or post-hoc explanations.

TathyaNyaya incorporates judgments from the Supreme Court of India (SCI) and various High Courts, ensuring broad coverage and diversity. Comprising four components—NyayaFacts, NyayaScrape, NyayaSimplify, and NyayaFilter, the dataset caters to different facets of factual extraction, simplification, and retrieval, thereby facilitating comprehensive FJPE research.

To complement this dataset, we present FactLegalLlama, an instruction-tuned variant of LLaMa-3-8B fine-tuned specifically for FJPE tasks. FactLegalLlama is explicitly adapted to produce faithful, fact-grounded explanations.

Our key contributions are summarized as:

- *TathyaNyaya Dataset:* We introduce TathyaNyaya, the first extensively annotated, purely fact-centric dataset for judgment prediction and explanation in the Indian legal context, providing a stable benchmark for FJPE research. The dataset is structured into four components, each addressing distinct aspects of factual legal analysis.
- *Factual Basis for Prediction:* Unlike previous datasets that use full legal texts, TathyaNyaya focuses on factual information, allowing for more realistic and targeted legal judgment predictions.
- *FactLegalLlama for Explanation:* We introduce FactLegalLlama, a LLaMa-3-8B model fine-tuned to generate high-quality, factual explanations for judicial outcomes, enhancing interpretability and trust in AI-assisted legal systems.

To ensure reproducibility and encourage further research, the dataset and model code are made publicly available¹.

2 Related Work

The domain of Legal Judgment Prediction (LJP) has seen substantial progress, driven by a need for efficient and transparent decision-making aids in the legal system. Early foundational works (Aletras et al., 2016; Chalkidis et al., 2019; Feng et al., 2021) focused on predicting case outcomes while emphasizing interpretability, laying the ground-

work for methodologies and benchmark datasets like CAIL2018 (Xiao et al., 2018) and ECHR-CASES (Chalkidis et al., 2019). These resources fostered the development of advanced models including TopJudge and MLCP-NLN, yet a consistent performance gap remains between automated predictions and actual judicial decisions.

Within the Indian legal ecosystem, researchers have introduced datasets such as ILDC (Malik et al., 2021) and PredEx (Nigam et al., 2024a), alongside related efforts (Nigam et al., 2022; Malik et al., 2022; Nigam et al., 2023), underscoring the significance of domain-specific datasets and the need for explanations that can be integrated into real-world legal workflows. Studies leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs) (Vats et al., 2023; Nigam et al., 2024a) have shown that models such as GPT-3.5 Turbo and LLaMa-2 can adapt to Indian legal texts, further diversifying approaches to LJP and interoperability. Fact-based judgment prediction has gained prominence as a realistic approach to LJP, focusing on predictions derived from case facts rather than full case judgments. Nigam et al. (2024b) and Nigam and Deroy (2024) explore LJP based on facts, arguing that this approach better simulates real-world scenarios.

Cross-jurisdictional research, including that by (Zhao et al., 2018), has extended LJP methodologies across different legal frameworks. Multilingual efforts like (Niklaus et al., 2021; Kapoor et al., 2022) and approaches integrating event extraction and multi-stage reasoning (Feng et al., 2022) continue to broaden the capabilities of LJP systems.

3 Task Description

Our work centers on predicting and explaining legal judgments from the Supreme Court of India (SCI) and various High Court cases using a newly introduced annotated dataset, TathyaNyaya. This dataset is the largest of its kind for factual judgment prediction and explanation in the Indian legal domain. Unlike prior approaches relying on full case texts, TathyaNyaya emphasizes factual information alone, reflecting more realistic conditions for automated legal decision-making.

The Fact-based Judgment Prediction and Explanation (FJPE) task consists of two subtasks:

Task A: Judgment Prediction: This is a binary classification problem. Given the factual information of the legal judgment as input, the objective is to predict whether the decision favors or goes

¹Anonymous GitHub Link

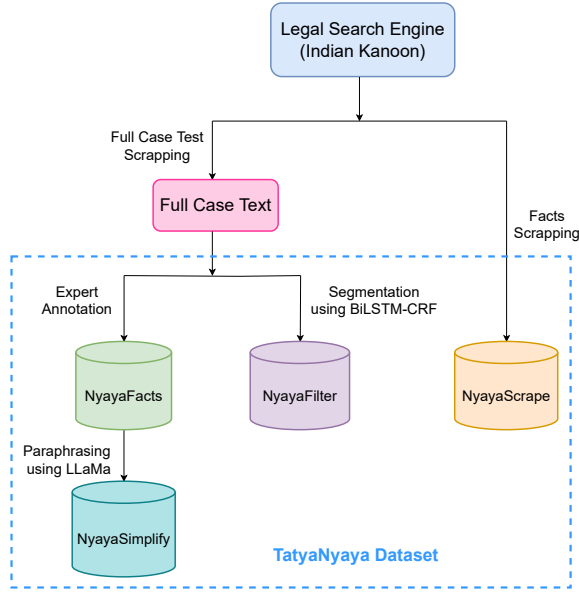


Figure 1: A high-level illustration of the TathyaNyaya dataset creation pipeline, showcasing the development process and interconnections of its four components.

against the appellant. The prediction is represented by binary labels: "1" indicates that the appeal is accepted (i.e., if any part of the appeal is accepted, the decision is considered in favor of the appellant), while "0" indicates that the appeal is rejected.

Task B: Rationale Explanation: This subtask involves generating an explanation or rationale that justifies the predicted decision based on the provided factual information of the case. The goal is to provide a clear understanding of the reasoning behind the predicted outcome, grounded in the facts presented.

Figure 2 in the Appendix illustrates the overall process of fact-based judgment prediction and explanation employed in our study, outlining the sequential steps from prediction to explanation based on the factual data provided.

4 Dataset

In this research, we introduce TathyaNyaya, a comprehensive dataset explicitly designed for Fact-based Judgment Prediction and Explanation (FJPE) in the Indian legal domain. This dataset consists of four distinct components: (1) NyayaFacts—expert-annotated data that serves as the gold standard for prediction and explanation tasks, (2) NyayaScape—automated fact-extracted data obtained through machine-driven processes, (3) NyayaSimplify—a user-friendly dataset created by paraphrasing complex legal language, and

Metric	Train (Multi)	Train (Single)	Validation	Test
NyayaFacts				
# Documents	13,629	8,216	1,197	2,389
Avg # Words	855	853	828	865
Acceptance (%)	55.20	47.66	47.45	47.72
NyayaScape				
# Documents	8,993	3,828	548	1,095
Avg # Words	405	404	412	405
Acceptance (%)	65.77	61.44	59.85	60.55

Table 1: Statistics for NyayaFacts and NyayaScape datasets from the TathyaNyaya corpus.

(4) NyayaFilter—a binary fact vs. non-fact classification dataset designed to streamline the retrieval of relevant factual information. Together, these components form the largest and most diverse factual dataset in the Indian judiciary, enabling the development and evaluation of advanced AI models for transparent and interpretable judgment prediction and explanation. By focusing exclusively on factual data, TathyaNyaya addresses a critical gap in the field, paving the way for more robust and realistic AI-driven solutions tailored to the Indian legal context.

Figure 1 illustrates the TathyaNyaya dataset creation pipeline. It provides a high-level overview of how each component which is derived, from expert-curated facts and machine-driven extraction, to fact segmentation and paraphrasing. This end-to-end pipeline ensures that the final dataset captures both breadth and depth in factual legal information, supporting the FJPE task.

4.1 Dataset Compilation and Statistics

The compilation process involved collecting approximately 16,000 judgments from the Supreme Court of India (SCI) and various High Courts through IndianKanoon², a widely used legal search engine known for its comprehensive repository of Indian legal documents. These judgments were then categorized into the following components:

4.1.1 NyayaFacts

NyayaFacts comprises a subset of Supreme Court of India (SCI) and High Court judgments carefully annotated by legal experts. These annotations highlight key factual segments that significantly influence judicial outcomes, serving as high-quality ground truth for both judgment prediction and rationale explanation. After refining and preprocessing, this subset serves as the gold standard for evaluating prediction and explanation tasks.

²<https://indiankanoon.org/>

In particular, the validation and test data were derived from the NyayaFacts Single subset to maintain consistency during evaluation, while the training data include both single and multi-case judgments, offering a broad learning landscape. Table 1 provides comprehensive statistics. NyayaFacts thus provides a high-quality benchmark for both judgment prediction and explanation tasks.

4.1.2 NyayaScape

NyayaScape comprises judgments sourced from the Indiankanoon website, where cases are automatically segmented into various categories such as facts, issues, conclusions, and assessments of how the courts have treated certain elements (e.g., "Negatively Viewed by Court," "Relied by Party," "Accepted by Court"). Although these segments aim to provide structured insights, the labels are not entirely reliable. They are generated by automated tools rather than human legal experts, resulting in potential inconsistencies and may introduce noise. Moreover, not all judgments contain every type of label, further complicating the data's uniformity.

Despite these limitations, NyayaScape offers valuable machine-derived factual extractions that enable us to compare expert-driven annotations with automated processes. This comparison helps assess the reliability, quality, and shortcomings of model-based fact identification and segmentation. Document-level statistics and comparisons against NyayaFacts are provided in Table 1.

4.1.3 NyayaSimplify

NyayaSimplify focuses on making complex legal texts more accessible by paraphrasing the NyayaFacts test data into clearer, more concise language. Using LLaMA-3-70B-Instruct, intricate legal jargon is transformed into user-friendly text without altering the factual content or legal reasoning. Since NyayaSimplify is derived directly from NyayaFacts, the majority of dataset statistics remain comparable, with the primary difference being a reduced average word count. This simplification aims to improve both the accuracy and interpretability of models in FJPE tasks. Detailed prompt used for paraphrasing is provided in Appendix Table 7.

4.1.4 NyayaFilter

NyayaFilter addresses the challenges of manual annotation by employing a BiLSTM-CRF model to classify sentences as either factual (1) or non-factual (0). This binary classification replaces

Metric	Train	Validation	Test
Facts			
# Documents	14,134	1,197	2,389
# Sentences	15,83,858	49,671	56,240
Avg # Words	29.03	29.00	34.00
Avg # Facts/Document (%)	25.1	20.61	22.7
Overall Facts (%)	20.34	12.86	18.46
Non-Facts			
# Documents	14,134	1,197	2,389
# Sentences	4,04,349	3,36,478	248,433
Avg # Words	28.06	27.00	30.00
Avg # Non-Facts/Document (%)	74.9	79.39	77.3
Overall Non-Facts (%)	79.66	87.14	81.54

Table 2: Comparison of factual vs. non-factual statistics used during BiLSTM-CRF classifier training for the NyayaFilter dataset.

the traditional multi-label approach, simplifying the task while maintaining a focus on essential factual information. The model was trained on NyayaFacts Single data, with validation and testing on the corresponding splits. This approach achieved approximately 90% accuracy in separating factual statements, as shown in Table 2. This dataset streamlines the retrieval process for FJPE tasks and enables scalable fact extraction.

4.2 Annotation Methodology and Quality Assurance

4.2.1 Expert Participation

The annotation process for NyayaFacts was carried out by a team of 10 legal experts, comprising advanced third- and fourth-year law students from premier Indian law colleges. These individuals were chosen based on their academic standing, legal reasoning skills, and familiarity with judicial processes, ensuring that the annotations reflected high-quality and domain-relevant insights.

4.2.2 Timeline and Workload Distribution

The annotation process was conducted over an extended period (April 1, 2022, to October 30, 2023), reflecting the complexity and precision required to analyze diverse legal texts. Each annotator was assigned approximately 30 judgment documents per week, a volume that balanced efficiency with attention to detail. This measured pace allowed the annotators to thoroughly examine the factual segments without compromising quality.

4.2.3 Annotation Protocol

The annotators were tasked with identifying and extracting specific judgment segments that contained factual information, without personal interpretation or summarization. This approach preserved

the authenticity of the annotations, ensuring that they faithfully represented the judicial reasoning within each document.

4.2.4 Quality Control Framework

To maintain annotation consistency and reliability, a multi-layered quality control mechanism was implemented:

- **Initial Review:** Each case was initially annotated by a single expert. This ensured efficiency while maintaining focus on factual segments. Subsequently, the annotations underwent multiple validation layers.
- **Senior Expert Validation:** Discrepancies or ambiguous annotations were escalated to a review panel comprising senior legal practitioners, who provided final judgments on contentious segments, enhancing the reliability of the final annotations.
- **Training and Alignment Meetings:** Regular training sessions and coordination meetings were conducted to align all annotators on annotation protocols, legal conventions, and factual identification criteria. These interactive forums helped minimize subjectivity, solidify common standards, and maintain uniform annotation quality throughout the project’s duration.

This robust framework ensured the annotations’ accuracy and credibility, making NyayaFacts a reliable benchmark for evaluating prediction and explanation models.

5 Methodology

In this section, we present our overall methodology for extracting factual segments from legal judgments, training our custom model FactLegalLlama for Fact-based Judgment Prediction and Explanation (FJPE), and finally addressing both the prediction-only and prediction-with-explanation tasks. We also detail the prompts we used and instruction-tuning strategies employed to refine our model’s outputs.

5.1 Fact Extraction from Full Legal Judgments

To prepare the dataset for Fact-based Judgment Prediction and Explanation (FJPE), we first extracted the factual statements from full-text legal judgments. We adopted a streamlined binary classification approach by fine-tuning a BiLSTM-CRF model (Ghosh and Wyner, 2019), a previous state-of-the-art (SoTA) model for semantic segmenta-

tion of legal documents. Instead of using the original multi-class rhetorical role framework, which distinguishes between roles such as issue, statute, precedent, and argument, we simplified the task by treating all non-factual segments as a single class labeled "non-facts."

This transformation into a binary classification problem enabled the model to focus solely on identifying factual segments critical to judgment prediction. Training was conducted using the NyayaFacts multi, which provided expert-annotated labels for factual and non-factual segments. By isolating the facts, we laid the groundwork for developing AI models capable of making decisions and generating explanations based solely on factual data. This preprocessing ensured that the subsequent models trained on the dataset remained focused on the most relevant and actionable information in legal cases.

5.2 Training FactLegalLlama

The FactLegalLlama model, based on the LLaMa-3-8B architecture, was fine-tuned specifically for the FJPE task using NyayaFacts. The training process involved instruction-tuning with a diverse set of 16 templates designed to guide the model in judgment prediction and explanation tasks. We utilized low-rank adaptation (LoRA) to optimize model training on limited computational resources. Training parameters, such as quantization to 4-bit precision and gradient accumulation, ensured efficient usage of resources while maintaining model performance.

To further enhance its capabilities, FactLegalLlama was fine-tuned with both prediction-only and prediction-with-explanation tasks, enabling it to handle a wide range of factual judgment scenarios. The fine-tuning process emphasized the use of simplified prompts to ensure clarity and relevance in the generated outputs.

5.3 Fact-Based Judgment Prediction

5.3.1 Language Model-Based Approach

For baseline comparisons, we utilized transformer-based models like InLegalBERT (Paul et al., 2023), and XLNet Large (Yang et al., 2019) for binary classification. Due to the token length constraints of these models, we adopted a chunking strategy by dividing documents into 512-token segments with a 100-token overlap to preserve context. Chunk-level predictions were aggregated to generate final case-level predictions.

5.3.2 Large Language Model-based Approach

We utilized FactLegalLlama, our instruction-tuned LLaMa-3-8B model (Dubey et al., 2024), for judgment prediction-only instructions, where the model predicts judicial outcomes solely based on the factual inputs. The training data from TathyaNyaya was used to train the factual prediction context, emphasizing precision.

5.4 Fact-Based Judgment Prediction with Explanation (FJPE)

For the combined task of prediction and explanation, we employed FactLegalLlama with modified instruction prompts. Instructions guided the model to first predict the outcome and then generate a rationale grounded in the provided factual data.

5.5 Prompts Used

Prompts for both prediction and explanation tasks were carefully designed and adapted from previous studies (Vats et al., 2023; Nigam et al., 2024c,d). For prediction-only tasks, the prompts instructed the model to output a binary decision. For prediction-with-explanation tasks, the prompts included directives to explain the reasoning behind the prediction. These templates are detailed in Table 6 in the Appendix.

5.6 Instruction Sets

The fine-tuning process for FactLegalLlama involved using a diverse set of 16 instruction templates for judgment prediction and explanation. These templates ensured the model could generalize effectively across a wide range of cases and factual scenarios. The complete list of instruction sets used for tuning is in Table 8 in the Appendix.

6 Evaluation Metrics

To rigorously assess the performance of our models on judgment prediction and factual explanations in the TathyaNyaya test dataset, we employed a suite of evaluation metrics. For judgment prediction, we report Macro Precision, Macro Recall, Macro F1, and Accuracy. For evaluating the quality of explanations, both quantitative and qualitative methods were applied.

1. **Lexical-Based Evaluation:** We used traditional lexical similarity metrics, including ROUGE (ROUGE-1, ROUGE-2, and ROUGE-L) (Lin, 2004), BLEU (Papineni et al., 2002), and METEOR (Banerjee and Lavie, 2005). These met-

rics measure word overlap and sequence alignment between generated explanations and reference texts, providing a quantitative measure of the accuracy of lexical content.

2. **Semantic Similarity Evaluation:** To assess the semantic alignment of the generated explanations, we applied BERTScore (Zhang et al., 2020), which evaluates semantic similarity between the generated text and reference explanations. Additionally, BLANC (Vasilyev et al., 2020) was utilized to estimate the contextual relevance and coherence of the generated text in the absence of a gold-standard reference.
3. **Inter-Annotator Agreement:** In the construction of NyayaFacts, each document was annotated by a single annotator due to the complexity and scale of the dataset. While this approach ensured a manageable workflow and timely completion, it precludes the direct calculation of inter-annotator agreement. As a result, we do not report inter-annotator metrics, and future work may consider sampling subsets of the data for multiple annotations to facilitate such evaluations.

7 Results and Analysis

In this section, we present and interpret the performance of our models across various datasets and experimental settings. We focus first on raw judgment prediction results using NyayaFacts and NyayaScrape data, then on the performance improvements or trade-offs observed in the NyayaFilter and NyayaSimplify settings. Finally, we analyze the explanation quality generated by FactLegalLlama using both lexical and semantic metrics.

7.1 Performance on NyayaFacts and NyayaScrape

We begin by examining model performances on the NyayaFacts and NyayaScrape test sets, as reported in Table 3. Each model (InLegalBERT, XLNet_Large, and FactLegalLlama) was evaluated under different training configurations, including Single and Multi.

Language Model-Based Baselines: Across both NyayaFacts and NyayaScrape test sets, XLNet_Large consistently outperforms InLegalBERT on macro Precision, Recall, F1, and Accuracy metrics. For instance, when trained on NyayaFacts Single, XLNet_Large achieves a macro F1 of

Model	Macro Precision	Macro Recall	Macro F1	Accuracy	Training Data
Results on NyayaFacts Test Data					
InLegalBert	0.5934	0.5936	0.5935	0.5932	NyayaFacts Single
XLNet_Large	0.6064	0.6040	0.6052	0.6061	
FactLegalLlama	0.5416	0.5312	0.5036	0.5386	
InLegalBert	0.6001	0.5836	0.5917	0.5740	NyayaFacts Multi
XLNet_Large	0.6145	0.5965	0.6054	0.5908	
FactLegalLlama	0.5390	0.5368	0.5318	0.5401	
InLegalBert	0.5480	0.5192	0.5332	0.5082	NyayaScrape Single
XLNet_Large	0.5807	0.5781	0.5794	0.5756	
FactLegalLlama	0.5139	0.5122	0.4922	0.5042	
InLegalBert	0.5735	0.5269	0.5492	0.5157	NyayaScrape Multi
XLNet_Large	0.5935	0.5878	0.5906	0.5842	
FactLegalLlama	0.4951	0.4966	0.4516	0.4884	
Results on NyayaScrape Test Data					
InLegalBert	0.6718	0.5748	0.6195	0.6521	NyayaScrape Single
XLNet_Large	0.6754	0.6394	0.6569	0.6849	
FactLegalLlama	0.5574	0.5372	0.5191	0.6045	
InLegalBert	0.7976	0.7268	0.7606	0.7717	NyayaScrape Multi
XLNet_Large	0.8098	0.7781	0.7936	0.8055	
FactLegalLlama	0.5439	0.5317	0.5177	0.5877	
InLegalBert	0.6237	0.5243	0.5697	0.6183	NyayaFacts Single
XLNet_Large	0.5433	0.5282	0.5357	0.5918	
FactLegalLlama	0.5832	0.5868	0.5792	0.5840	
InLegalBert	0.6784	0.5027	0.5775	0.6073	NyayaFacts Multi
XLNet_Large	0.6124	0.5129	0.5583	0.6119	
FactLegalLlama	0.6541	0.6583	0.6552	0.6651	

Table 3: Performance metrics of models evaluated on NyayaFacts and NyayaScrape test data. Each block shows results obtained by training on either NyayaFacts or NyayaScrape data (single or multi variants), then testing on corresponding subsets. The best scores in each section are highlighted in bold.

0.6052 and Accuracy of 0.6061, surpassing InLegalBERT’s macro F1 of 0.5935 and Accuracy of 0.5932. This trend persists in most training and testing configurations, highlighting XLNet_Large’s robust capability for factual judgment prediction in the given domain.

FactLegalLlama’s Prediction-Only Performance: FactLegalLlama, while instruction-tuned for outcome prediction, lags behind the transformer-based baselines in raw prediction performance. For example, when trained on NyayaFacts Single and tested on NyayaFacts, it obtains a macro F1 of 0.5036 compared to XLNet_Large’s 0.6052. A similar gap is observed across other splits. Although FactLegalLlama underperforms in direct classification metrics, its strength lies in generating explanations, as discussed later.

Single vs. Multi Cases: Both baselines and FactLegalLlama exhibit more stable performance on the Single subsets compared to the Multi subsets. The complexity introduced by multiple petitions with varying outcomes in the Multi cases

Model	Macro Precision	Macro Recall	Macro F1	Accuracy	Training Data
Results on NyayaFilter Test Data					
InLegalBert	0.5870	0.5857	0.5864	0.5885	NyayaFacts Single
XLNet_Large	0.5805	0.5775	0.5790	0.5818	
InLegalBert	0.5886	0.5560	0.5719	0.5421	NyayaFacts Multi
XLNet_Large	0.5977	0.5874	0.5925	0.5797	
InLegalBert	0.5342	0.5180	0.5260	0.5023	NyayaScrape Single
XLNet_Large	0.5577	0.5509	0.5543	0.5429	
InLegalBert	0.5789	0.5409	0.5592	0.5249	NyayaScrape Multi
XLNet_Large	0.5581	0.5364	0.5470	0.5224	
Results on NyayaSimplify Test Data					
InLegalBert	0.6199	0.6197	0.6198	0.6167	NyayaFacts Single
XLNet_Large	0.6179	0.6169	0.6174	0.6200	
InLegalBert	0.6222	0.5986	0.6102	0.5839	NyayaFacts Multi
XLNet_Large	0.6160	0.6002	0.6080	0.5878	
InLegalBert	0.5760	0.5311	0.5526	0.5061	NyayaScrape Single
XLNet_Large	0.5864	0.5845	0.5854	0.5789	
InLegalBert	0.5659	0.5215	0.5428	0.4950	NyayaScrape Multi
XLNet_Large	0.5978	0.5891	0.5934	0.5789	

Table 4: Model performance on NyayaFilter and NyayaSimplify test datasets. For NyayaFilter, results illustrate how automatically retrieved factual data affects performance when models are trained on NyayaFacts or NyayaScrape datasets. For NyayaSimplify, results show the impact of paraphrasing complex legal texts into simpler language. Bolded scores indicate the best performance in each section.

reduces overall accuracy and F1 scores, emphasizing the challenge of fact-based judgment prediction in more intricate legal scenarios.

7.2 Impact of Fact Retrieval (NyayaFilter) and Text Simplification (NyayaSimplify)

Table 4 reports model performances on the NyayaFilter and NyayaSimplify test datasets. These results highlight how the preprocessing choices affect model accuracy on automatic fact retrieval and paraphrasing complex legal texts.

NyayaFilter Results: When comparing NyayaFilter results to the original NyayaFacts and NyayaScrape sets, we see that while performance can fluctuate, some models benefit from training on data where fact and non-fact segments are clearly distinguished. For example, on the NyayaFilter test set derived from NyayaFacts Single, InLegalBERT attains a macro F1 of 0.5864, maintaining competitive performance. XLNet_Large, although not always the top performer here, still sustains a strong baseline. These findings suggest that automatically retrieved factual subsets can be used without severely degrading model performance.

Training Data	Testing Data	Lexical Based Evaluation				Semantic Evaluation		
		Rouge-1	Rouge-2	Rouge-L	BLEU	METEOR	BERT Score	BLANC
No Training	NyayaFacts	0.2757	0.0998	0.1448	0.0395	0.1650	0.5250	0.0814
No Training	NyayaScrape	0.1877	0.0750	0.1297	0.0371	0.1848	0.4819	0.0927
NyayaFacts Single	NyayaFacts	0.3216	0.1085	0.1897	0.0419	0.1798	0.5785	0.0958
NyayaFacts Multi	NyayaFacts	0.3383	0.1133	0.1950	0.0483	0.2120	0.5843	0.1031
NyayaScrape Single	NyayaScrape	0.1172	0.0480	0.0864	0.0211	0.0967	0.3927	0.0609
NyayaScrape Multi	NyayaScrape	0.1720	0.0762	0.1269	0.0314	0.1287	0.4516	0.0782
NyayaSimplify	NyayaSimplify	0.2818	0.0764	0.1816	0.0242	0.1689	0.5559	0.0731

Table 5: Performance of FactLegalLlama on the FJPE task. The base model is LLaMa-3-8B. "No Training" indicates results from the unmodified (vanilla) model. Other rows show improvements after fine-tuning with different subsets of the TathyaNyaya data. Bolded values represent the best performance within a given evaluation scenario.

NyayaSimplify Results: Paraphrasing complex legal language into simpler text (the NyayaSimplify scenario) generally helps models retain or slightly improve performance. For instance, with NyayaFacts Single, InLegalBERT reaches a macro F1 of 0.6198 and XLNet_Large hits an Accuracy of 0.6200 on the simplified data, both representing small yet noteworthy improvements compared to their performance on the original complex texts. This trend indicates that reducing linguistic complexity can aid models in understanding and classifying factual statements more accurately.

7.3 Quality of Explanations from FactLegalLlama

Table 5 presents the evaluation of FactLegalLlama on the explanation generation task, measured through both lexical (Rouge, BLEU, METEOR) and semantic (BERTScore, BLANC) metrics. We compare a "No Training" scenario (using the LLaMa-3-8B model) with fine-tuned versions on different subsets of TathyaNyaya data.

Fine-tuning Benefits: Fine-tuning LLaMa-3-8B (FactLegalLlama) on factual data substantially improves its explanation quality. For NyayaFacts, training on the Multi subset yields the strongest results, with Rouge-1 at 0.3383 and a BERTScore of 0.5843, outperforming both the "No Training" scenario and the Single subset training. This suggests that exposure to more complex, multi-petition cases helps the model generate richer, more contextually sensitive explanations.

Domain-Specific Fine-tuning: The contrast between "No Training" and the various training configurations highlights the necessity of domain-specific adaptation. Without fine-tuning, the

model’s explanations remain weak and less aligned with factual inputs, as indicated by lower Rouge and BLEU scores. After training with NyayaFacts Multi, the model better captures the underlying legal rationale, producing explanations that align more closely with reference annotations.

8 Conclusions and Future Work

We introduced TathyaNyaya, a fact-focused dataset for judgment prediction and explanation within the Indian legal domain, and FactLegalLlama, an instruction-tuned model delivering fact-grounded rationales. By emphasizing factual content rather than full judgments, TathyaNyaya aligns more closely with actual legal decision-making scenarios, while FactLegalLlama highlights the value of coupling predictive accuracy with transparent explanations. Preprocessing steps such as fact filtering and paraphrasing further enhance model clarity and performance, and domain-specific fine-tuning proves essential for capturing legal subtleties. Future work may extend these findings to other jurisdictions, refine fact extraction techniques, integrate, and interpretability frameworks. These efforts collectively advance transparent, accessible, and reliable AI-assisted judicial processes.

Limitations

This study faced several limitations that influenced both the scope and outcomes of our research. A key constraint was the reliance on a 4-bit quantized model due to resource limitations, which restricted our ability to experiment with larger parametric models, such as 70B or 40B parameter LLMs. Additionally, the high computational costs and token limitations associated with cloud-based services further hindered our capacity to perform extensive inference and fine-tuning. This restricted explo-

ration may have limited the depth of insights and performance metrics achievable with FactLegalLlama.

Another significant limitation was the lack of extensive expert evaluation for the generated explanations. While we used high-quality annotations for the TathyaNyaya dataset, resource-intensive processes required for legal expert reviews made it impractical to evaluate the entire dataset. Instead, evaluations were conducted on a smaller subset, which, while insightful, may not fully represent the model’s performance across diverse legal scenarios.

The model’s performance on scrapped datasets was also not fully evaluated due to configuration constraints, leaving gaps in understanding its generalizability to non-annotated factual data. Furthermore, challenges such as hallucinations in generative outputs and maintaining factual consistency in explanations remain unresolved, which can impact the reliability of the model in real-world legal applications.

Lastly, the dataset used in this study comprises only English-language judgments, which limits its applicability in multilingual contexts, especially in jurisdictions where regional languages dominate legal proceedings. This exclusion highlights the need for more inclusive datasets that reflect the linguistic diversity of legal documents in India and beyond.

These limitations underscore the challenges of applying LLMs to specialized legal tasks such as judgment prediction and explanation. They also point to areas requiring further research, including resource optimization, multilingual dataset development, and enhancing the factual consistency and reasoning capabilities of AI models.

Ethics Statement

This research was conducted with a strong commitment to ethical considerations, particularly given the sensitive nature of legal data and the implications of deploying AI in legal contexts. The TathyaNyaya dataset, central to this study, was compiled from publicly accessible sources, such as Indian legal search engines, ensuring adherence to data privacy and usage regulations. To further safeguard privacy, we removed identifiable meta-information, including judge names, case titles, and case IDs, from the dataset.

The computational resources used for model

training and evaluation were obtained through ethical and legitimate means. These resources were either institutional or subscribed services, ensuring compliance with licensing agreements and financial support for these platforms. By adhering to these practices, we ensured that our research activities aligned with sustainable and lawful resource usage.

Transparency and reproducibility were foundational principles of this study. The TathyaNyaya dataset and the code for FactLegalLlama will be made publicly available, enabling researchers to replicate and extend our findings. This open-access approach is intended to foster collaboration within the research community and drive further advancements in AI-assisted legal decision-making.

We recognize the potential societal impact of AI applications in the legal domain, particularly regarding fairness, accountability, and the risk of misuse. Our models are explicitly designed to assist legal professionals rather than replace human judgment, emphasizing the necessity of human oversight in AI-assisted decision-making processes. As we continue this line of research, we remain vigilant in addressing ethical challenges and aligning our efforts with principles of fairness, transparency, and societal benefit.

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A Experimental Setup and Hyper-parameters

In this section, we detail the experimental configurations, training procedures, and hyper-parameters employed to develop and evaluate our models. We first describe the training of transformer-based baseline models for fact-based judgment prediction, then outline the instruction-tuning process used to adapt FactLegalLlama for both prediction-only and prediction-with-explanation tasks.

A.1 Transformers Training Hyper-parameters

To establish competitive baselines, we fine-tuned transformer models such as InLegalBERT and XLNet_Large on the NyayaFacts dataset. Each model was trained with a batch size of 16 using the AdamW optimizer (Kingma and Ba, 2014) and a learning rate of 2e-6. We ran the training for three epochs, adopting default hyper-parameter settings from the HuggingFace Transformers library. Experiments were carried out on an NVIDIA A100 40GB GPU, ensuring adequate computational resources for handling extensive legal text. This training protocol allowed the models to capture the nuances of fact-based segments and reliably predict judicial outcomes.

A.2 FactLegalLlama Instruction Fine-Tuning

To develop FactLegalLlama, we began with the meta-llama/Meta-Llama-3-8B base model. We applied 4-bit quantization to optimize memory usage and introduced Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) with a rank of 16 for parameter-efficient fine-tuning. The maximum input sequence length was set to 2,500 tokens, accommodating the substantial factual inputs characteristic of legal documents.

We employed the paged AdamW optimizer in 32-bit precision with a learning rate of 1e-4 and implemented a cosine decay learning rate scheduler for smoother convergence. Mixed-precision training (fp16) and a gradient accumulation of 4 steps were used to further manage GPU memory. We utilized a per-device batch size of 4 and trained the model for three epochs, a process that required approximately 38 hours on an NVIDIA A100 40GB GPU. Under these conditions, the model achieved a training loss of 1.5060 and a validation loss of 1.6745, indicating effective adaptation to the underlying factual patterns in the data.

A.3 Training Objectives

The instruction-based fine-tuning of FactLegalLlama targeted two primary objectives: fact-driven judgment prediction and fact-driven prediction with explanation. By employing a carefully designed set of instructions and incorporating LoRA-based parameter updates, the model learned to generate outcomes and accompanying rationales rooted in the factual segments. This combination of parameter-efficient fine-tuning and instruction-oriented training yielded a model well-suited for practical applications in legal NLP, balancing computational feasibility with interpretability and domain relevance.

A.4 Training Procedure for Hierarchical BiLSTM-CRF Classifier

The Hierarchical BiLSTM-CRF classifier is designed to classify sentences in legal documents into factual and non-factual categories by leveraging the hierarchical structure of the data. The model architecture comprises a word-level BiLSTM coupled with a CRF layer and a sentence-level BiLSTM. The word-level BiLSTM encodes contextual dependencies within sentences, while the CRF ensures coherence in predicted tag sequences. The sentence-level BiLSTM aggregates these representations to capture inter-sentence dependencies, enabling the model to account for both local and global patterns in the data.

Training is conducted using the AdamW optimizer with a learning rate of $2e-6$, a batch size of 16, and for five epochs. A CRF-based loss function is used to optimize sequence-level tagging accuracy. During training, metrics such as precision, recall, F1-score, and loss are evaluated on a validation set after each epoch to monitor performance and ensure generalization. The model configuration includes a word embedding size of 100 and a sentence embedding size of 200, with training conducted on an NVIDIA A100 40GB GPU.

To enhance generalization, K-fold cross-validation is employed, where the dataset is split into multiple folds, and the model is trained and validated on different subsets. The average performance across folds provides a robust measure of the model’s capability. Checkpoints are saved periodically during training, enabling the model to be restored for inference or further fine-tuning.

Template 1 (prediction only)
prompt = f"### Instructions: Given the facts of the case,just predict the outcome as '1' for acceptance or '0' for rejection. ### Input: <{case_facts}> ### Response: ""
Template 2 (prediction with explanation)
prompt = f"### Instructions: Given the facts of the case,first predict the outcome as '1' for acceptance or '0' for rejection. Then, provide key sentences from the facts or clear reasoning that support your decision. ### Input: <{case_facts}> ### Response: ""

Table 6: Prompts for Factual Judgment Prediction and Explanation used for instruction fine-tuned models. Instructions were selected based on the templates provided in Table 8.

Template 1 (Paraphrasing facts)
prompt = f"### Instructions:You are an Indian legal expert with extensive knowledge of legal terms, statutes, and laws. Your task is to explain a legal case to your clients in simple and understandable language. Avoid legal jargon and focus on conveying the meaning of the case in everyday language, making it clear and easy for someone without legal knowledge to understand. While simplifying, ensure that the key points of the case, including the facts, legal claims, and decisions, are clearly communicated without losing any critical information. You should Preserve the key legal terms and references,Clarify complex legal processes,Avoid excessive legal jargon,Be concise but complete,Explain court actions clearly, Provide Only Paraphrased Outcome ### Input: Paraphrase the following text:<{case_facts}> ### Response: ""

Table 7: Prompt for paraphrasing facts to change legal jargons to interpretable terms.

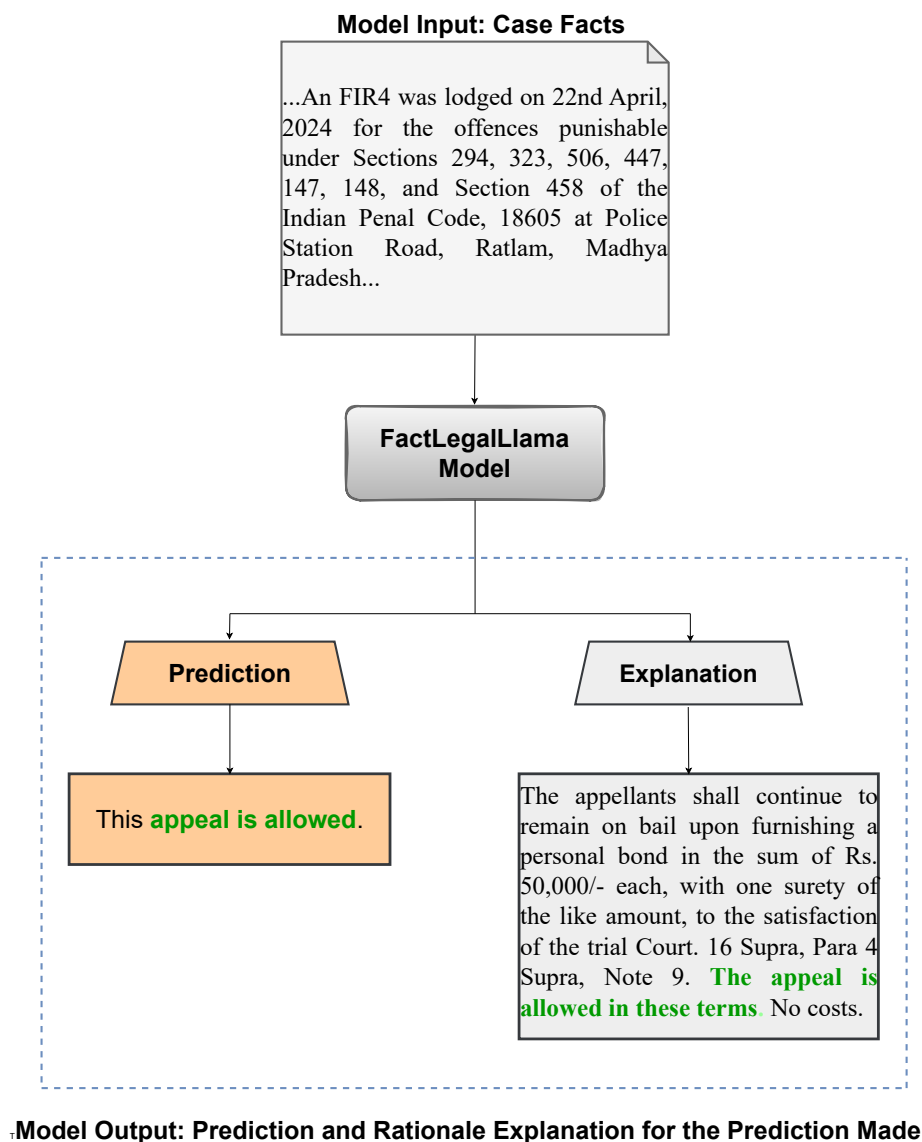


Figure 2: Illustration of the Fact-based Judgment Prediction and Explanation (FJPE) pipeline using the FactLegalLlama model.

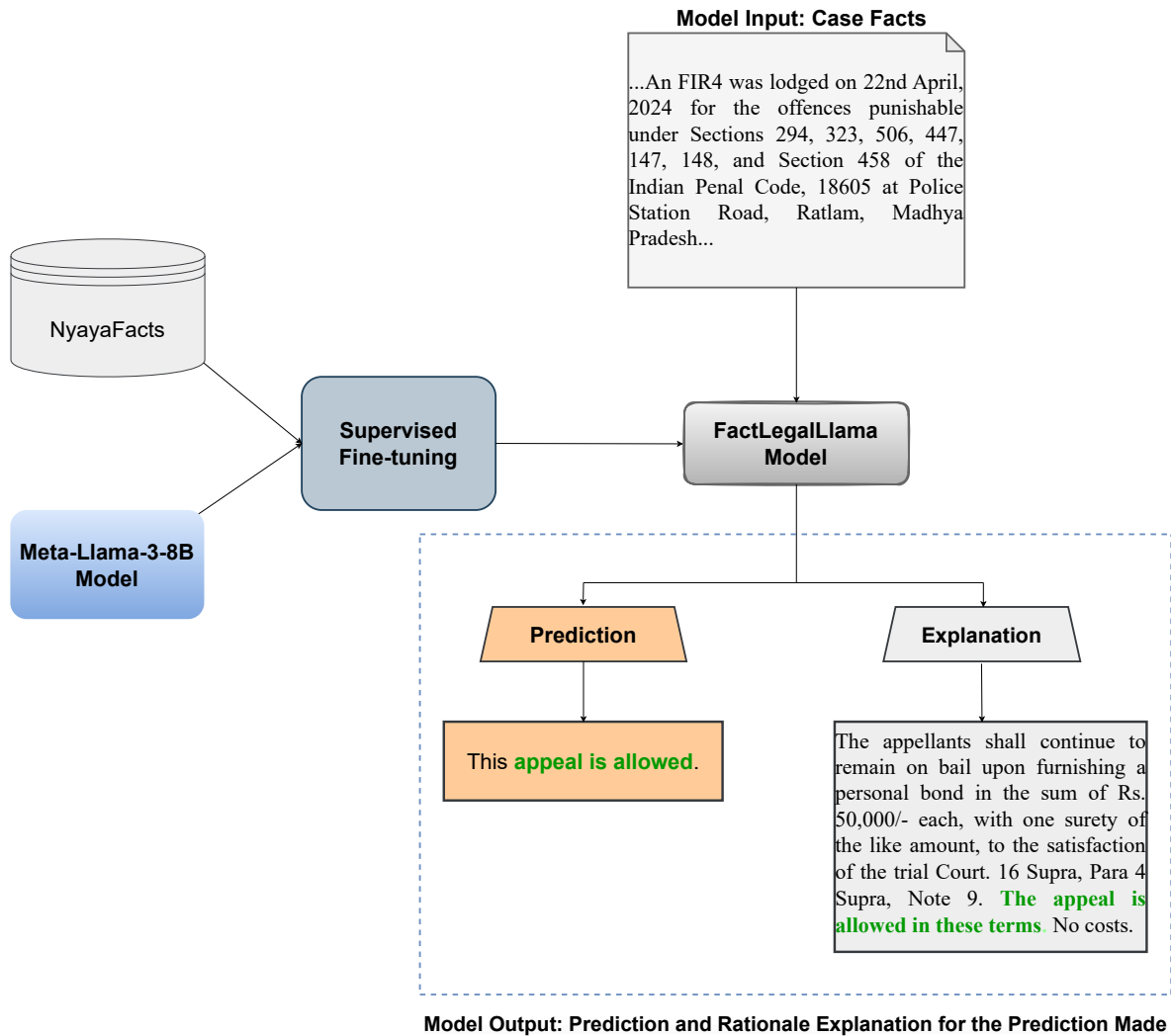


Figure 3: Training dynamics of FactLegalLlama for the combined judgment prediction and explanation task. The model learns to produce both the outcome and its underlying rationale directly from factual inputs, guided by instruction-based fine-tuning.

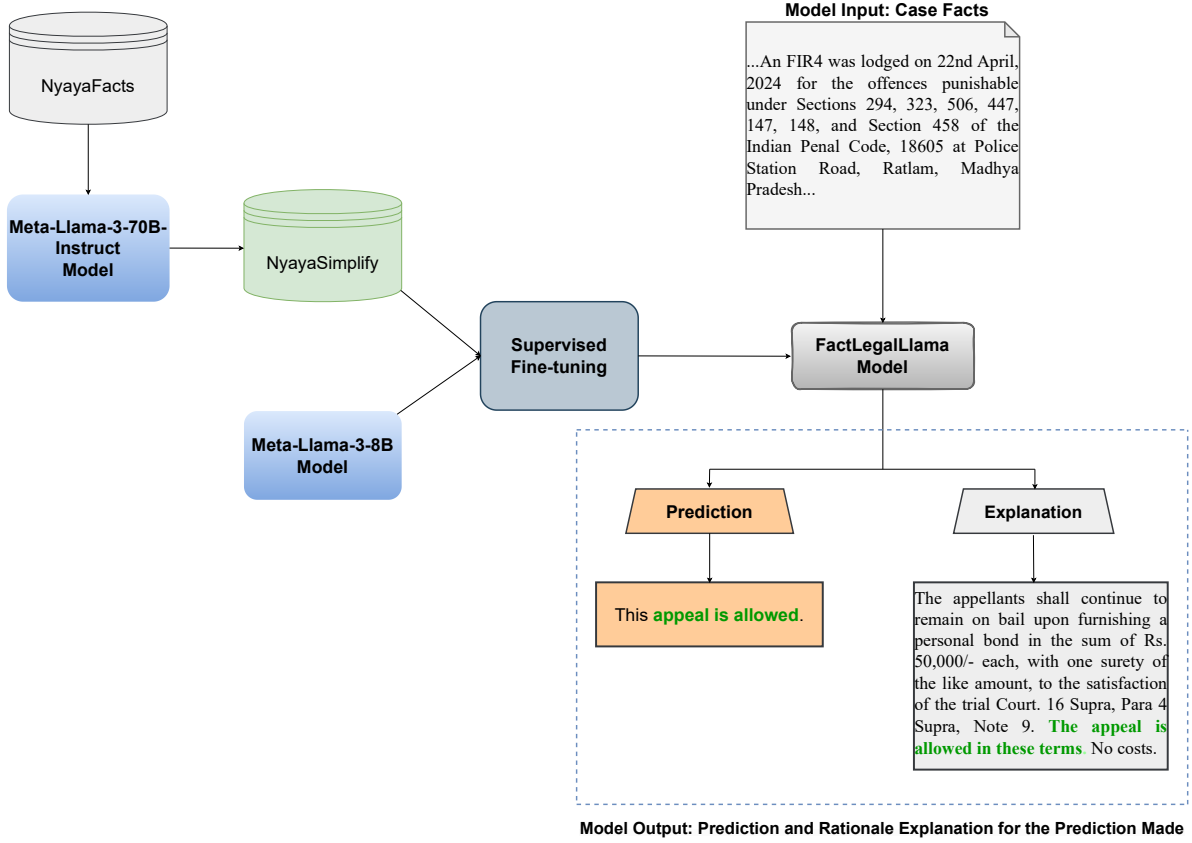


Figure 4: Overview of the simplification and fine-tuning process. First, complex legal facts are paraphrased into simpler language using LLaMA-3-70B, creating the NyayaSimplify dataset, followed by supervised fine-tuning (SFT) using LLaMa-3-7B for the FJPE task.

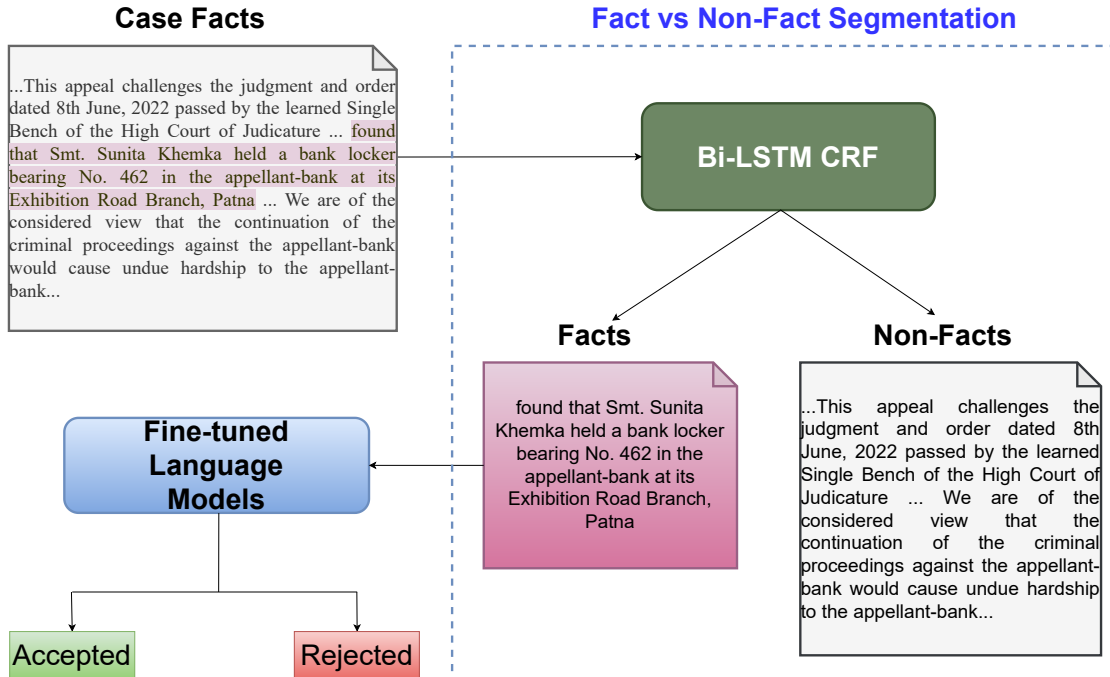


Figure 5: The Fact vs. Non-Fact segmentation framework employing a BiLSTM-CRF model. This segmentation step separates factual statements from non-factual content in legal judgments, creating the NyayaFilter dataset. The refined dataset is subsequently used for downstream judgment prediction and explanation tasks.

Instruction sets for Predicting the Decision	
1	Analyze the facts presented in the case and predict whether the outcome will be favorable (1) or unfavorable (0).
2	Based on the facts provided, determine the likely outcome: favorable (1) or unfavorable (0) for the appellant/petitioner
3	Review the facts of the case and predict the decision: will the court rule in favor (1) or against (0) the appellant/petitioner?
4	Considering the facts and evidence in the case, predict the verdict: is it more likely to be in favor (1) or against (0) the appellant?
5	Examine the facts of the case and forecast whether the appeal/petition is likely to be upheld (1) or dismissed (0).
6	Assess the facts of the case and provide a prediction: is the court likely to rule in favor of (1) or against (0) the appellant/petitioner?
7	Interpret the facts of the case and speculate on the court's decision: will the appeal be accepted (1) or rejected (0) based on the provided information?
8	Given the specifics of the case facts, anticipate the court's ruling: will it favor (1) or oppose (0) the appellant's request?
9	Scrutinize the facts and arguments presented in the case to predict the court's decision: will the appeal be granted (1) or denied (0)?
10	Analyze the facts presented and estimate the likelihood of the court accepting (1) or rejecting (0) the petition.
11	From the facts provided in the case, infer whether the court's decision will be favorable (1) or unfavorable (0) for the appellant.
12	Evaluate the facts and evidence in the case and predict the verdict: is an acceptance (1) or rejection (0) of the appeal more probable?
13	Delve into the case facts and predict the outcome: is the judgment expected to be in support (1) or in denial (0) of the appeal?
14	Using the case facts, forecast whether the court is likely to side with (1) or against (0) the appellant /petitioner.
15	Examine the case facts and anticipate the court's decision: will it result in an approval (1) or disapproval (0) of the appeal?
16	Based on the facts and evidence in the case, predict the court's stance: favorable (1) or unfavorable (0) to the appellant.
Instruction sets for Integrated Approach for Prediction and Explanation	
1	First, predict whether the appeal in case proceeding will be accepted (1) or not (0), and then explain the by identifying crucial sentences from the document.
2	Determine the likely decision of the case facts (acceptance (1) or rejection (0)) and follow up with an explanation highlighting key sentences that support this prediction.
3	Predict the outcome of the case based on the facts provided (acceptance (1) or rejection (0)) and explain your reasoning by extracting key sentences that justify the decision.
4	Evaluate the case facts to forecast the court's decision (1 for yes, 0 for no), and elucidate the reasoning behind this prediction with important textual evidence from the case.
5	Ascertain if the court will uphold (1) or dismiss (0) the appeal based on the case facts, and then clarify this prediction by discussing the critical sentences that support the decision.
6	Judge the probable resolution of the case based on the facts (approval (1) or disapproval (0)), and elaborate on this forecast by extracting and interpreting significant sentences from the case facts.
7	Forecast the likely verdict of the case (granting (1) or denying (0) the appeal) based on the facts, and rationalize your prediction by pinpointing and explaining pivotal sentences in the case document.
8	Assess the case to predict the court's ruling (favorably (1) or unfavorably (0)) based on the facts, and expound on this prediction by highlighting and analyzing key textual elements from the case facts.
9	Assess the case to predict the court's ruling (favorably (1) or unfavorably (0)) based on the facts, and expound on this prediction by highlighting and analyzing key textual elements from the case facts.
10	Conjecture the end result of the case (acceptance (1) or non-acceptance (0) of the appeal) based on the facts, followed by a detailed explanation using crucial sentences from the case facts.
11	Predict whether the case will result in an affirmative (1) or negative (0) decision for the appeal based on the facts, and then provide a thorough explanation using key sentences to support your prediction.
12	Estimate the outcome of the case (positive (1) or negative (0) for the appellant) based on the facts, and then provide a reasoned explanation by examining important sentences within the case documentation.
13	Project the court's decision (favor (1) or against (0) the appeal) based on the case facts, and subsequently provide an in-depth explanation by analyzing relevant sentences from the document.
14	Make a prediction on the court's ruling (acceptance (1) or rejection (0) of the petition) based on the case facts, and then dissect the case to provide a detailed explanation using key textual passages.
15	Speculate on the likely judgment (yes (1) or no (0) to the appeal) based on the case facts, and then delve into the case to elucidate your prediction, focusing on critical sentences.
16	Hypothesize the court's verdict (affirmation (1) or negation (0) of the appeal) based on the case facts, and then clarify this hypothesis by interpreting significant sentences from the case.

Table 8: Instruction sets for Prediction and Explanation using factual data from case proceedings.