GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2236
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.03.2025

CHALLENGES POSED BY AI

2236.   SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified key challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) including ethical concerns, privacy issues and job displacement and if so, the details thereof; (b) the steps taken by the Government for ensuring an open, safe, trusted and accountable internet for users in the country amidst AI growth;
(c) whether the Government is considering to constitute an Advisory Group for assessing the impact of AI across different sectors like healthcare, agriculture, education, Governance, DPI and others and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the measures being taken by the Government to build AI awareness and skills to effectively address emerging challenges along with the details of National AI Portal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d): The Government of India emphasizes the concept of 'AI for All,' aligning with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to democratise use of technology. This initiative aims to ensure that AI benefits all sectors of society, driving innovation and growth.

India is regarded as the skills capital in technology and Artificial Intelligence. The most reliable ranking in AI is placing India among the top countries with AI Skills, AI capabilities, and policies to use AI. Stanford University has ranked India among the top four countries along with the US, China, and the UK in the Global and National AI vibrancy ranking based on 42 indicators. GitHub, which is community of developers has ranked India at the top with the global share of 24% of all projects.

Government is committed to harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the good of our people in sectors like healthcare, agriculture and education. At the same time, the Government is cognizant of the risks posed by AI. Hallucination, bias, misinformation and deepfakes are some of the challenges posed by AI.

Government is cognizant of the need to create guardrails to ensure that AI is safe and trusted. Accordingly, the Government after extensive public consultations with relevant stakeholders has notified the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules, 2021")** on 25.02.2021 which was subsequently amended 28.10.2022 and 6.4.2023. The IT Rules, 2021 cast specific legal obligations on intermediaries, including social media intermediaries and platforms, to ensure their accountability towards safe and trusted internet including their expeditious action towards removal of the prohibited misinformation, patently false information and deepfakes. In case of failure of the intermediaries to observe the legal obligations as provided in the IT Rules, 2021, they lose their **safe harbour protection under section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 ("IT Act")** and shall be liable for consequential action or prosecution as provided under any extant law.

Also, the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** has been enacted on 11th August, 2023 which casts obligations on Data Fiduciaries to safeguard digital personal data, holding them accountable, while also ensuring the rights and duties of Data Principals.

Union Cabinet led by Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the IndiaAI Mission on 7th March 2024, a strategic initiative to establish a robust and inclusive AI ecosystem that aligns with the country's development goals. This mission is driven by a vision to position India as a global leader in artificial intelligence by focusing on seven foundational pillars: IndiaAI Compute, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing, IndiaAI Innovation Centre, IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Applications Development Initiative and Safe & Trusted AI.

The 'Safe & Trusted' pillar within the IndiaAI Mission aims to encourage the adoption of AI in a responsible manner with the principles of safety, security, transparency, and privacy embedded in the design of AI technology to mitigate the AI risks, placing the idea of 'AI for All' at its very core. • This pillar enables the implementation of Responsible AI projects including the development of indigenous tools and frameworks, self-assessment checklists for innovators, and other guidelines and governance frameworks.

Eight Responsible AI Projects have been selected to address the need for robust guardrails to ensure the responsible development, deployment, and adoption of AI technologies. The projects cover a range of critical themes, including Machine Unlearning, Synthetic Data Generation, AI Bias Mitigation, Ethical AI Frameworks, Privacy-Enhancing Tools, Explainable AI, AI Governance Testing, and Algorithm Auditing Tools. The details of the selected projects are given at Appendix I.

Government has constituted an Advisory Group on AI for India-specific regulatory AI framework under the chairmanship of PSA to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India with diverse stakeholders from academia, Industry and government with an objective to address all issues related to development of Responsible AI framework for safe and trusted development and deployment of AI.

IndiaAI FutureSkills Pillar of the IndiaAI Mission envisions to augment the number of graduate and post-graduate in AI domain by awarding IndiaAI fellowship to B.Tech and M.Tech students of all the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) recognized engineering institutions. Till now the fellowship has been awarded to 130 B.Tech and 40 M.Tech students. Further, top NIRF ranked research institutes were approached to intake new PhD scholars under IndiaAI PhD fellowship. Additionally, Under the IndiaAI FutureSkills Pillar, IndiaAI Data Labs are being setup in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across India, to impart foundational-level courses in Data and AI such as Annotation, Data Cleaning, Data Analytics, etc. IndiaAI has established IndiaAI Data Lab in National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT"s) Delhi centre and & ICET, Nagaland. Also Additionally, IndiaAI in collaboration with NIELIT is establishing 27 IndiaAI data labs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across the country, details of which are placed at Appendix II.

The Government, through various initiatives, is undertaking several measures to build AI awareness and skills to effectively address emerging challenges. Government has organized the RAISE 2020 to bring together global leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and academicians to discuss and explore ways to harness the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for social empowerment.

India as a founding member and current council chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) has organized the Global IndiaAI Summit and GPAI Summit in July 2024 and December 2023 where various stakeholders from government, industry and academia engaged in discussions and deliberations for development of AI based solutions in a safe and trusted manner. The summits served as a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences on the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies and build awareness about the challenges posed by AI. India has taken lead in ensuring that AI is

available for all and for developing global framework for safety & trust for AI models and applications.

MeitY has launched the "National AI Portal" (https://indiaai.gov.in/) which serves as a comprehensive repository of Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives in the country. The portal acts as a single point of reference for individuals, researchers, and industry professionals seeking information about AI initiatives in India, including academic research, startups, policy initiatives, and other related information. The IndiaAI portal hosts a wide array of articles, publications, and thought leadership pieces that aim to enhance the understanding of AI and its potential applications. In addition to articles, the IndiaAI portal hosts webinars and online sessions to build awareness and skills and cover a broad spectrum of topics related to AI, including ethical issues, technological advancements etc.

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The details of the selected projects under "Safe & Trusted AI" Pillar are as under:

NAME OF THE THEME	SELECTED APPLICANT	TITLE OF THE PROJECT
Machine Unlearning	IIT Jodhpur	Machine Unlearning in Generative Foundation Models
Synthetic Data Generation	IIT Roorkee	Design and Development of Method for Generating Synthetic Data for Mitigating Bias in Datasets; and Framework for Mitigating Bias in Machine Learning Pipeline for Responsible AI
AI Bias Mitigation Strategy	National Institute of Technology Raipur	Development of Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Bias Mitigation in Health Care Systems
Explainable AI Framework	DIAT Pune and Mindgraph Technology Pvt. Ltd.	Enabling Explainable and Privacy Preserving AI for Security
Privacy Enhancing Strategy	IIT Delhi, IIIT Delhi, IIT Dharwad and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)	Robust Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning Models
AI Ethical Certification Framework	IIIT Delhi and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)	Tools for assessing fairness of AI model
AI Algorithm Auditing Tool	Civic Data Labs	ParakhAI - An open-source framework and toolkit for Participatory Algorithmic Auditing
AI Governance Testing Framework	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)	Track-LLM, Transparency, Risk Assessment, Context & Knowledge for Large Language Models

List of Data & AI labs planned by IndiaAI in collaboration with NIELIT in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across the country:

S.No.	NIELIT Centre	State/UT
1	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh
2	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
3	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
4	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
5	Patna	Bihar
6	Buxar	Bihar
7	Muzaffarpur	Bihar
8	Kurukshetra	Haryana
9	Ropar	Punjab
10	Haridwar	Uttarakhand
11	Bikaner	Rajasthan
12	Tezpur	Assam
13	Bhubaneswar	Odisha
14	Calicut	Kerala
15	Guwahati	Assam
16	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
17	Srinagar	J&K
18	Jammu	J&K
19	Ranchi	Jharkhand
20	Imphal	Manipur
21	Gangtok	Sikkim
22	Agartala	Tripura
23	Aizawl	Mizoram
24	Shillong	Meghalaya
25	Kohima	Nagaland
26	Leh	Ladakh
27	Silchar	Assam

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