GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
**LOK SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION. NO. 3160**
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 19.03.2025

**MISUSE OF AI IN SPREADING FAKE NEWS**

**3160. ADV GOWAAL KAGADA PADAVI:**

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce any legislation to address the increasing and apparent misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) which contributes to the spread of fake news, rumors and causes confusion among the public;
(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of other instances where AI is being used globally to spread false information about our country; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the alternative actions being proposed to address this issue?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to(c): 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.

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 and the need to create guardrails to ensure** that **AI is safe and trusted**. **Cyber-security risks arising out of creation, distribution, and dissemination of deepfakes** and the technologies that enable creation of deepfakes that may pose risks at an individual level or a national level are currently being addressed by provisions under the **Information Technology Act, 2000 ("IT Act")** and the rules therein such as the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules, 2021")** which do not distinguish between any information that is synthetically generated using AI tools such as deepfakes and those which are authentic/original information. The IT Act and the IT Rules, 2021 collectively provide a framework for removal of harmful content and ensures that users over the internet are safeguarded from its perils which includes content that is artificially generated and patently false.

Further, taking into cognizance the urgency to address the harms and criminalities arising out of widespread circulation of misinformation and deepfakes powered by AI, MeitY has previously conducted multiple consultations with industry stakeholders/ social media platforms to discuss the challenges identified in combating deepfakes. **MeitY has issued advisories dated 26.12.2023, 15.03.2024 and 03.09.2024 (collectively as "Advisories"), through which the intermediaries were reminded about compliance** with their due-diligence obligations outlined under the Rule 3(1)(b) of the IT Rules, 2021 and advised on countering unlawful content including malicious 'synthetic media' and 'deepfakes' for better **compliance to curb deepfakes and promptly remove harmful content online**. The overall objective of these advisory is to empower users with adequate information so that they make informed decisions while using synthetic media tools. These Advisories among other things advise every intermediary and platform to ensure that its computer resource in itself or

through the use of AI model(s)/ LLM/ Generative AI, software(s) or algorithm(s) does not permit any bias or discrimination or threaten the integrity of the electoral process.

With the innovation and increase in digital technologies for delivery of services to users, fraudsters are adopting social engineering techniques including deepfakes to trick users and conducting fraudulent activities. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities including malicious attacks using Artificial Intelligence and countermeasures to protect computers, networks and data on an ongoing basis. In this context, an **advisory on safety measures to be taken to minimize the adversarial threats** arising from Artificial Intelligence (AI) based applications was published in May 2023. CERT-In has published an **advisory in November 2024 on deepfake threats and measures** that need to be followed to stay protected against deepfakes.

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.

Government has constituted a **committee on the matters related to the issue of deepfakes**with diverse stakeholders from academia, Industry and government with an objective to address issues related deepfakes.

Government has funded two projects namely **"Fake Speech Detection Using Deep Learning Framework"** and **"Design and Development of Software for Detecting Deepfake Videos and Images"**. In the project "Design and Development of Software for Detecting Deepfake Videos and Images" a prototype tool capable of detecting deepfakes, named **FakeCheck**, has been developed to detect deepfakes without the use of the internet. The tool has been shared with select law enforcement agencies for testing and to obtain feedback for further refinement

Under the safe and trusted pillar of IndiaAI Mission, **Expressions of Interest**have been invited to address the need for robust guardrails to ensure the responsible development, deployment, and adoption of AI technologies. These covers a range of critical themes in areas such as Watermarking & Labelling, Ethical AI Frameworks, AI Risk Assessment & Management, Stress Testing Tools, and**Deepfake Detection Tools**.

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.

The Mission is being implemented by IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation, and key actions undertaken for implementation of the IndiaAI Mission are as below:

**IndiaAI Compute:**

- IndiaAI compute pillar envisions building a high-end scalable AI computing ecosystem comprising AI compute infrastructure of 10,000 or more Graphics Processing Units (GPUs).
- Applications were invited for Empanelment of Agencies for providing AI services on Cloud on 16th August 2024. The bid submission was closed on 28th November 2024 and 19 bidders have submitted bids in response to the request out of which 10bidders were qualified for financial bid opening.
- Against the target of 10,000 GPUs outlined in the IndiaAI compute pillar, technicallyqualified bidders have submitted 18,693 GPUs for empanelment. It may also be noted that15120 of the proposed GPUs for empanelment include high precision GPUs.

- Out of 18,693 GPUs offered, 14,461 GPUs are already installed on the bidder‟s infrastructure and are available for immediate use. Additionally, there is further GPU capacity availablewith the bidders who were not technically qualified.
- The prices quoted by the bidders are highly competitive and average discount from marketprices for all GPUs is 42 %. Average discount from market prices for higher precision GPUsit is 47%. Average rate per GPU is ₹115.85/hour and Average rate per Higher precision GPUis ₹150/hour.
- To keep pace with the changes in technologies, IndiaAI enabled a continuous empanelmentprocess inviting fresh proposals from the empaneled agencies for onboarding new GPUs anddiscovering any revised rates.

**IndiaAI FutureSkills:**

- IndiaAI FutureSkills Pillar envisions to augment the number of graduates, post-graduate and PhDs in AI domain. Further, it envisions setting up Data and AI Labs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across India, to impart foundational-level courses in Data and AI.
- IndiaAI fellowship are being awarded annually to 400 B.Tech and 500 M.Tech students working in AI domain from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) recognized engineering institutions.
- Top 50 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranked research institutes have been asked to take new PhD scholars under IndiaAI PhD fellowship.
- A model IndiaAI Data Lab in the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT's), Delhi has been set up, which acts as a reference point for the infrastructure to be set up in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as a part of the initiative.
- All the 36 States and Union Territories (UTs) have been requested to submit their nominated list of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)/Polytechnics located in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities for setting up of Data Labs. Additionally, IndiaAI in collaboration with NIELIT plans to establish 27 data labs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across the country, details of which are placed at **Appendix I.**

**IndiaAI Startup Financing:**

- IndiaAI Startup Financing pillar is to provide support to AI startups at all stages. Multiple rounds of stakeholder consultations have been held to deliberate on the scheme for supporting AI Startups at Pre-Seed, Seed and Growth stage.
- In collaboration with STATION F and HEC Paris, the IndiaAI Mission has launched an acceleration program for Indian AI startups. This four-month immersive program (1 month online, 3 months onsite at STATION F in Paris) at the world's largest startup campus will provide 10 selected AI startups with access to mentorship, networking, and global market expansion opportunities in Europe.

**IndiaAI Innovation Centre:**

- IndiaAI Innovation centre aims to develop and deploy indigenous Large Multimodal Models (LMMs) trained on India-specific data
- A Call for Proposals has been launched under this pillar to support the development of foundational AI models, inviting startups, researchers, and entrepreneurs to collaborate on creating state-of-the-art AI models using Indian datasets. This initiative aims to establish indigenous AI models, which can be Large Multimodal Models,Large Language Models (LLM), or Small Language Models (SLM), to address India-specific challenges across various sectors.A total of 67 proposals aimed atbuilding India's foundation models, with contributions from both established startupsand new teams of researchers & academia have been received till February 15.

**IndiaAI Datasets Platform:**

- The IndiaAI Datasets Platform (IDP) seeks to enhance access, quality, and utilization of public sector datasets to make them AI-ready. The IDP aims to function as a unified data platform, integrating datasets from all existing data platforms as well as onboarding non-government data contributors andproviding new-age AI-centric features
- To provide a unified portal for seamless access to datasets, tools and AI models, AIKosha: IndiaAI Datasets Platform has been launched. AIKosha is a secured platform that provides a repository of datasets, models and use cases to enable AI innovation. It also features AI sandbox capabilities through an integrated development environment along with tools and tutorials. The platform is equipped with the features like content

discoverability, AI readiness scoring of datasets, permission-based access & security mechanisms like data encryption at rest and in motion, secure API, and firewalls for real-time filtering of malicious traffic.

**IndiaAI Applications Development Initiative:**

- IndiaAI Application Development Initiative aims to develop, scale, and promote the adoption of impactful AI solutions to effectively tackle significant problem statements.
- IndiaAI Innovation challenge was launched on 13th August 2024 for the themes of healthcare, agriculture, improved governance, climate change & disaster management and assistive technologies for learning disabilities. The Innovation Challenge was open to Indian innovators, startups, non-profits, students, academic/R&D organizations, and companies. A total of 900 applications have been received across the five focus areas by the deadline of 30th September.Following a rigorous evaluation process, 30 AI solutions have been shortlisted for the next stage across three stages of maturity: Idea, Prototype, and Existing Solutions.
- CyberGuard AI Hackathon was launched on 17th October 2024 for Cybercrime prevention in collaboration with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) and in response 263 responses have been received. Shortlisted 20 teams have participated in 3 days hackathon and evaluation is underway to identify the winners.

**Safe & Trusted AI:**

- 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 II.**

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**APPENDIX - I**

**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 |

**APPENDIX - II**

**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<br>and<br>Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC) | Robust Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning Models |
| AI Ethical Certification Framework | IIIT Delhi<br>and<br>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<br>and<br>Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC) | Track-LLM, Transparency, Risk Assessment, Context & Knowledge for Large Language Models |

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