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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND IT'S IMPACT ON LEGAL RESEACH

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INTRODUCTION:

Artificial intelligence or “AI” is a general-purpose technology that has been in development since the 1950s¹, but is now advancing at an exponential speed. Some experts propound that, AI systems will outperform humans in domains such as communication, scientific research and creative work, within the next decade. If that is a real possibility, what does it mean for AI governance? AI is value neutral; it doesn't carry the load of being good or bad. The purpose of these governance guidelines is to maintain an equilibrium between two priorities which may seem conflicting at surface but, are in fact complementary interests. It articulates a governance framework which simultaneously has a technological progress along with safeguarding the society, not forgetting the needs and aspirations of India. Artificial Intelligence has promptly transformed multiple sectors globally, along with India. It is no longer subject to one place or sector, it has a wide periphery, including banking and finance sector, law enforcement, medical sector, which form the main segments of the society. The Indian Legal System is gradually waking up to these realities in response to these nascent challenges. Therefore, a proper regulatory framework is definitely needed to regulate application of AI in various fields. As, AI is widely spread, an important question confronts lawmakers and jurists, that whether the law is in alignment with technology, or again the technology has surpassed the law?

The simple truth is that, at present India is a system in transition. The country does not till now have exclusive, comprehensive AI-specific legislation. At present, existing laws, regulatory proposals and policy initiatives are gradually making a path for an efficacious and meaningful AI system in India.

¹ Stuart Russell & Peter Norvig, *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach* (4th ed. 2020).

THE CURRENT LEGAL LANDSCAPE:

India's AI regulation has been scattered and responsive, with statutes like Information Technology Act, 2000², Consumer Protection Act, 2019³, Digital Data Protection Act, 2023⁴. Though, due to restricted ambit of these mentioned laws and incomplete coverage of greater issues, this creates high risk. Initiatives like the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence by NITI Aayog⁵ outline key sectors, including agriculture, healthcare, education, smart cities, and infrastructure, where AI can create maximum impact on the society. Though, the swift uptakes of these technologies have overtaken the development of legal regulations, various concerns over privacy, data security, liability and intellectual property rights. There is a strong and growing need for India to have a dedicated and enforceable regulatory frame work, which addresses each and every issue with precision and which includes all the topics (therefore, it is necessary to broaden its scope). India can take notes from the international regulatory trends of USA⁶ and European Union⁷, addressing issues of AI. USA, focuses on sector specific AI regulation, along with innovation and protecting its citizens and ensuring the protection of civil rights. European Union establishes a risk-based framework, which majorly focuses on the high-risk AI systems and compliance obligation. Both aim to protect citizens by addressing risks, and establishing legal compliances for those who breach.

KEY LEGAL CHALLENGES:

Despite these developments, significant loopholes still persist in India's AI system. Many questions arise like who is responsible for any harm caused, can AI generated work be copyrighted⁸, how can it statistically copy human work, which inclusive laws should be introduced to address grievances, what jobs will survive AI automation etc. Who bears an accountability when it is used in sensitive fields like law or medicine? To illustrate, when an advocate uses an AI assisted legal tool and it generates incomplete and incorrect information, which in turn harms the client, alongside resulting in financial loss, so upon whom the legal

² Information Technology Act, No. 21 of 2000, Acts of Parliament, 2000 (India).

³ Consumer Protection Act, No. 35 of 2019, Acts of Parliament, 2019 (India).

⁴ Digital Personal Data Protection Act, No. 22 of 2023, Acts of Parliament, 2023 (India).

⁵ NITI Aayog, National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence #AIForAll (2018).

⁶ National Institute of Standards and Technology, AI Risk Management Framework (2023).

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act).

⁸ Copyright Act, No. 14 of 1957, Acts of Parliament, 1957 (India).

liability vests; the advocate using the tool, AI or the institute that approved its usage? In all, it is difficult to ascertain each and every aspect of AI. Use of AI in judicial and quasi-judicial also raises serious concerns. And, without a proper framework, its promise and peril remain incomplete, as it offers nothing but dichotomy, oscillating between intemperate benefit or probable harm.

CONCLUSION:

The debate about use of AI is often polarised to two extreme ends: absolute optimism or complete vilification. Much like two sides of coin, AI assimilates both potential and risks. It is extremely useful for economic growth, inclusive development on a high scale, promoting scientific advancements. However, it equally contributes to societal harms and creates new threats like deep fakes, misinformation, job displacement, loss of agency among people etc. For example, in the recent case of *Gummadi Usha Rani vs Sure Mallikarjuna Rao*⁹, a trial court in Andhra Pradesh took into account fictitious judgements presented through AI tools. This resulted in the Supreme Court declaring it to be an unethical practice, which in turn mandated Bar Council of India to set up an expert committee to investigate the matter. Undoubtedly, it raises concerns regarding the ethicality and enforceability of such practices. Ultimately the question is not, whether AI deserves glorification or restriction, but whether it can be adequately governed keeping all the factors in mind.

⁹ *Gummadi Usha Rani v. Sure Mallikarjuna Rao*, S.L.P. (C) No. 7575 of 2026, Supreme Court of India (order dated Feb. 27, 2026).