

The image features a textured, light-colored background with a piece of white paper placed on it. The paper has a faint, dark, abstract pattern. A yellow highlighter effect is applied to the text, which is centered on the paper. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The overall composition is simple and focused on the quote.

**Success is the sum of small efforts,
repeated day in and day out.**

Robert Collier

Important Issues of the Day

- **Removal of Speaker – Page No. 1, GS 2**
- **Natural gas – Page No.1 , GS 3**
- **ULLAS – Page No. 4, Prelims**
- **Strategic blunder – Page No.6 , GS 2**
- **AI and the national security – Page No.6 , GS 2**
- **Catch them young – Page No.6 , GS 2**
- **Jal Jeevan mission – Page No.10 , Prelims**
- **Fact Checking Unit – Page No.12 , Prelims**

Lok Sabha takes up resolution seeking removal of Speaker


Sandeep Phukan
Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday took up a resolution moved by the Opposition seeking the removal of Speaker Om Birla, with both the Treasury and Opposition benches trading sharp accusations over the neutrality of the Chair.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju described the motion as an “attack on democracy itself”, while the Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, said the resolution was brought from compulsion to “protect the neutrality” of the institution of the Speaker.

Initiating the debate, Mr. Gogoi slammed the Speaker’s conduct, alleging partisan behaviour and arguing that the motion was necessary to “save the Constitution”.

“We are saddened that we had to bring such a resolution because we all

 We are saddened that we had to bring such a resolution... But it is our *dharma* and duty to protect the decorum and dignity of this House

GAURAV GOGOI
Congress
Deputy Leader
in the Lok
Sabha



have personal relations with the Speaker. But it is our *dharma* and duty to protect the decorum and dignity of this House,” he said.

The discussion, for which 10 hours have been allotted, will continue on Wednesday and conclude with a vote.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to intervene in the debate on Wednesday before the House votes on the motion.

The proceedings began with Congress MP Moham-

mad Jawed reading out the notice seeking to move the resolution for Mr. Birla’s removal. The motion was also moved by fellow Congress MPs K. Suresh and Mallu Ravi.

Procedural row

A brief procedural row erupted over who would preside over the proceedings during the debate. AI-MIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi raised a point of order, asking why BJP MP Jagdambika Pal was chairing the session, and arguing that Mr. Pal had been appointed to the panel of chairpersons by the Speaker himself.

The objection was countered by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and Mr. Rijju, who said the claim was “irrelevant” and that Mr. Pal was competent to preside over the House during the debate.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

ISSUES RAISED
» PAGE 11

- **Article 94 of the Constitution specifies the circumstances in which the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha vacates office.**
- **Under Article 94(a), they automatically cease to hold office if they stop being a member of the Lok Sabha.**
- **Article 94(b) allows them to resign at any time by submitting a written resignation.**
- **Under Article 94(c), they may be removed by a resolution passed by a Majority of all the then members of the House.**
- **This provision applies exclusively to the Lok Sabha and not the Rajya Sabha.**

- **Procedural Requirements:** The specific steps are governed by Rules 200–203 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.
- **14-Day Notice:** A resolution for removal can only be moved after giving at least 14 days' notice.
- The notice must be given in writing to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha, signed by at least one member.
- **Admission of Motion:** The motion is entered in the List of Business if it is in order.
- The Presiding Officer reads the notice to the House, for the motion to be admitted for discussion, at least 50 members must rise in support of it in the House.
- If fewer than 50 members rise, the motion fails to get the "leave of the House" and is dropped.
- **Strict Guidelines for the Motion:** The charges in the resolution must be specific, clearly expressed, and precise.

- **Passing the Resolution:** For the removal to be successful, the resolution must be passed by a majority of all the then members of the House. This is technically known as an Effective Majority.
- **Outcome:** If the resolution is passed by the Effective Majority, the Speaker is removed from office immediately.
- **Notably,** the Speaker does not vacate his office upon the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. The Speaker continues until immediately before the first meeting of the newly elected Lok Sabha.
- **However,** in the case of removal by resolution, the vacation is immediate.

- **Speaker's Role During Proceedings:** The Speaker cannot preside over the House while a resolution for their removal is under consideration (Article 96).
- **The Speaker has the right to speak and take part in the proceedings. They can vote in the first instance (as an ordinary member) but cannot exercise a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes (tie).**
- **Historical Precedents:** No-confidence motions against the Speaker have been moved only three times in history:
 - **1954: Against G.V. Mavalankar (First Speaker).**
 - **1966: Against Hukam Singh.**
 - **1987: Against Balram Jakhar.**
- **Outcome:** All three motions failed, and no Speaker has ever been removed from office via this process.

Q. Consider the following statements: (2017)

- 1. In the election for Lok Sabha or State Assembly, the winning candidate must get at least 50 percent of the votes polled, to be declared elected.**
- 2. According to the provisions laid down in the Constitution of India, in Lok Sabha, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only**
- (b) 2 only**
- (c) Both 1 and 2**
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Regarding the office of the Lok Sabha speaker, consider the following statements:
(2012)**

- 1. He/She holds the office during the pleasure of the President.**
- 2. He/She need not be a member of the House at the time of his/her election but has to become a member of the House within six months from the date of his/her election.**
- 3. If he/she intends to resign, the letter of his/her resignation has to be addressed to the Deputy Speaker.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only**
- (b) 3 only**
- (c) 1, 2 and 3**
- (d) None**

Gas from new sources will end shortage, say officials

Importing natural gas from U.S., Norway has now become viable, though the shipping distance may prolong shortage of the cooking fuel, they say; domestic LPG production has been increased

Saptarno Ghosh
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

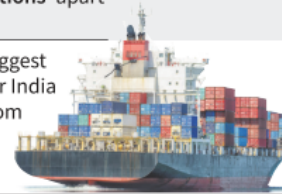
The current crunch in India's natural gas supply is likely to be short-lived as the prevailing higher prices make imports from distant sources economically viable, according to government sources. However, such shipments typically take longer to arrive, meaning the country could face a shortage in the interim, they said.

India's LPG output has increased by 10% after prioritising supplies to households over industry users, an official said requesting anonymity. On March 5, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry had asked all oil refining companies to maximise

Short crisis

Gas shipments from distant regions, while economically feasible, might take longer to arrive, **leading to a shortage in the interim**

- On March 5, Centre had asked all oil refining companies to **maximise production**, with all propane and butane produced, recovered, or otherwise available to be used for producing LPG
- LPG output has increased **10% from previous levels** since prioritising supplies to households over industries, says official
- Gas from Norway and the U.S. are now **'viable options'** apart from Qatar
- Estimates suggest **two months** for India to bring gas from Norway or the U.S.



production, directing that all propane and butane produced, recovered, or otherwise available to be utilised for LPG output.

"On LNG, it is very difficult to make changes quickly," the official said. "Apart from Qatar, our other options are Norwegian

or American gas, and that takes a long time to reach India." Shipping industry estimates suggest it takes about two months for vessels to travel to the U.S. or Norway and return to India with gas cargo.

Another government official said LPG and LNG

LPG shortage pushes eateries into a crisis

Hoteliers across the country have flagged the shortage in supply of commercial cooking gas. Various restaurant associations have warned that the situation would force many units to shut down while urging the government to ensure uninterrupted supply of cooking fuel. **» PAGE 11**

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CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

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Chandigarh achieves 99.93% literacy, gets 'fully literate U.T.' tag

The Hindu Bureau

CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh attained 99.93% literacy rate, thus making it a fully literate Union Territory, said Gulab Chand Kataria, the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh. It is the sixth State/U.T. in the country and the second Union Territory to achieve the feat.

To celebrate this achievement, Chandigarh's Education Department held a "felicitation of neo-literates", where newly literate individuals were honoured. Mr. Kataria, the chief guest at the event, described the achievement as a historic moment

for Chandigarh.

He said the success achieved under the Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) has helped the city surpass the 95% literacy benchmark set under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Mr. Kataria said Chandigarh's literacy rate has increased from 93.7% to 99.93%, with 15,556 citizens participating in the programme and 14,711 successfully clearing the literacy assessment. The Governor also highlighted the remarkable leap in women's literacy from 90.7% to 99.89%, calling it a significant step towards women's empowerment.

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- **He said the success achieved under the Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) has helped the city surpass the 95% literacy benchmark set under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**

- **The ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is a transformative initiative launched by the Indian government to promote lifelong learning and bridge the gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills among citizens aged 15 and above.**
- **The program aims to empower individuals with essential knowledge and skills for personal and national development.**
- **ULLAS User-Friendly Mobile Application serves as a digital gateway to diverse learning resources via the DIKSHA portal.**

- **Key Features of ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram:**
- **Lifelong Learning Focus:**
- **Emphasizes continuous learning throughout life.**
- **Fosters a culture of knowledge-sharing and personal development.**
- **Digital and Financial Literacy:**
- **Equip participants with digital literacy skills.**
- **Promotes financial awareness and empowerment.**

- **Critical Life Skills:**
- **Impart important life skills such as legal literacy and digital literacy.**
- **Enhances citizenship and empowerment.**

- **Incentives for Student Volunteers:**
- **Provides credits in school/university for student volunteers.**
- **Offers appreciation through certificates, letters, and felicitations.**

- **To empower individuals aged 15 years and above with foundational literacy and numeracy, critical life skills, basic education, vocational skills, and continuing education, aligning with the vision of NEP 2020 to mainstream nonliterate into society.**
- **Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
- **Tenure: 2022-2027**

Jal Jeevan mission gets extension up to 2028

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the extension of the Ministry of Jal Shakti's Jal Jeevan programme to 2028 and provisioned more money to meet its goal of providing a minimum amount of daily potable water to every rural household in the country.

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- **The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the extension of the Ministry of Jal Shakti's Jal Jeevan programme to 2028 and provisioned more money to meet its goal of providing a minimum amount of daily potable water to every rural household in the country.**
- **A press note from the Ministry notes that the programme's focus will change "...from infrastructure creation to service delivery."**
- **Launched on 15th August 2019, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to provide tap water to every rural household by 2024 (extended till 2028), targeting 55 liters per person per day.**
- **It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.**

- **Key Target: “Har Ghar Jal”, ensuring 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of safe, adequate drinking water to every rural household.**
- **The fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and states is:**
 - **100% for Union Territories.**
 - **90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States,**
 - **50:50 for other states.**
- **The Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.**

Mains Question

“Water scarcity is emerging as one of the most critical challenges for sustainable development in India.”

Discuss the major causes of water stress in India and suggest a comprehensive strategy for sustainable water management.

“जल संकट भारत में सतत विकास के लिए एक गंभीर चुनौती के रूप में उभर रहा है।”
भारत में जल तनाव (Water Stress) के प्रमुख कारणों की चर्चा कीजिए तथा सतत जल प्रबंधन के लिए एक समग्र रणनीति सुझाईए।

SC seeks balance; govt. says IT Rules do not curb satire

Petitioners question who decides if content about the government is 'fake or misleading', and warn against the state becoming the 'sole arbiter of truth'; Centre tells SC 'we know it when we see it'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought balance between protecting the nation against fake online content and safeguarding the right to free speech while the Centre defended that its Information Technology Rules was not meant to curb humour, satire or criticism of the government.

"There is no intention under the statute [Information Technology Act] or the Rules to curb any humour, statute, expression of view, critical expression of view and criticism," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Union government, addressed a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

In fact, the government had notified the formation of a Fact Checking Unit (FCU) under the Press Information Bureau through a notification issued in March 2024 via the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, amended in April 2023. The FCU was meant to act as a "deterrent" against the creation and dissemination of fake news or misinformation regard-



ing the "business" of the Centre. The Amendment Rules and the establishment of the FCU had come under the judicial scrutiny of the Bombay High Court through petitions filed by the Editors Guild of India and stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra.

The High Court had, in September 2024, struck down the FCU notification and concluded the amended IT Rules of 2023 "unconstitutional" and violative of Article 14 (right to equality), 19 (freedom of speech and expression) and 19(1)(g) (freedom and right to profession) of the Constitution. It had concluded that the expression "fake, false and misleading" in the Rules was "vague and hence wrong" in the absence of any definition. The High Court had said the government cannot assume the role of the

"sole arbiter of truth".

The Centre appealed in the Supreme Court against the High Court decision, saying it had no subversive intention to crush free speech.

Senior advocates Arvind Datar and N.H. Seervai, for parties including the Editors Guild, Association of Indian Magazines, News Broadcasters of Digital Association and Mr. Kamra, asked who in the FCU would decide if a particular content was fake or not.

"Who mans the FCU? How can such a unit be formed on the basis of a notification? The High Court had merely asked the government to frame proper Rules," Mr. Datar submitted.

"The question raised in the case is of paramount importance. It would be better for the Supreme Court to lay down the law.

The issues flagged by the High Court leads to the question of how to balance rights without destroying the individual constitutional rights," Chief Justice Kant observed.

The Chief Justice however indicated that some of the online platforms conducted themselves in an offensive manner. "You can damage a personal life... you can damage the nation... I am bothered about the impact on the nation," the CJI said.

Mr. Datar said whatever was misleading or fake should be taken down. "But then who defines 'misleading'?" he asked.

Need clear guidelines

"There should be clear guidelines," the CJI responded, "but, at the same time, shifting all the onus on the state machinery without putting any obligations on those who play mischief requires a lot of consideration" the CJI responded.

"When we see it, we know it is fake," Mr. Mehta interjected.

Issuing notice on the special leave petition by the Centre, the court refused Mr. Mehta's request to stay the High Court decision.

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- **Information Technology Act, 2000 is the principal legislation governing electronic communication and social media.**
- **Section 79(1) provides “safe harbour” protection to intermediaries (e.g., Facebook, X, Instagram) against liability for third-party content, provided they act as neutral platforms and do not control or modify content.**
- **Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000 allows the Government to block online content for protecting sovereignty, security, defense, foreign relations, public order, and preventing incitement to offences.**
- **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 mandates social-media platforms to ensure user safety, removal of unlawful content, and awareness on issues such as privacy, copyright, defamation, and national security.**

- **In Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015), SC struck down Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000 for vagueness, reaffirming that criticism, satire, and dissent are protected under Article 19(1)(a), unless falling within reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2).**
- **Section 66A criminalized sending offensive, false, or objectionable information via computers or electronic devices, prescribing up to 3 years' imprisonment.**
- **In K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), SC recognised privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21.**
- **It shaped later data protection measures, including the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and influenced regulation of WhatsApp privacy policies and Aadhaar data norms.**

Mains Question

Examine the challenges involved in regulating social media platforms in India. How can the government balance the protection of freedom of expression and privacy with the need to ensure accountability and curb misuse?

भारत में सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के विनियमन से जुड़ी चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए। अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और निजता की सुरक्षा के साथ-साथ जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने तथा दुरुपयोग को रोकने के बीच सरकार संतुलन कैसे स्थापित कर सकती है?

Strategic blunder

The U.S. must pull back instead of tailing
Israel in this reckless war

By picking Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei as the Supreme Leader, after the assassination of his father Ali Khamenei in a joint U.S.-Israeli strike on February 28, Iran has signalled defiance and continuity. Last week, U.S. President Donald Trump, who demanded Iran's "unconditional surrender", made it clear that the younger Khamenei was unacceptable to him. But Iran's Assembly of Experts, the 88-member clerical body, chose the 57-year-old ayatollah, who also lost other close family members in the February 28 strike, as the new "leader of the revolution". Having fought "on the frontlines" of the Iran-Iraq war and studied Islam in the seminaries of Qom, Mojtaba Khamenei has maintained close ties with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the clerical establishment. By elevating him, Tehran has sent an unmistakable message: the Islamic Republic stands firm despite the war. If Mr. Trump believed that his initial decapitation strike would lead to the Islamic state's collapse, he was mistaken. Instead, all branches of the state rallied behind the military and the clergy, while Iran regionalised the war by attacking U.S. bases and energy infrastructure in the Persian Gulf as well as Israel. Now, a new Khamenei is in power; the Iranian state is far from collapsing; energy prices are soaring and leaders in the U.S. and Israel are searching for exit strategies.

THIS WAS A WHOLLY UNNECESSARY WAR. Israel and the U.S. began attacking Iran hours after Oman, which mediated talks between Tehran and Washington, had said that a nuclear deal was within reach. After the war began, Mr. Trump kept shifting the goalposts. On day one, he said the overthrow of the Iranian state was his objective; by the fifth day, he said he wanted to be involved in selecting Iran's new leader, and by the eleventh day, he declared that America had already won and that the war would be over "soon", even as Iranian missiles continued to rain down on Israel and target U.S. bases in the region. To be sure, the U.S. and Israel possess immense air power and can continue to pound Iran. Independent investigations have found that American missiles struck a girls' school in Iran on February 28, claiming over 160 lives. Last week, Israeli strikes on Iran's oil storage facilities enveloped Tehran in thick smoke. But what is the point of continuing to bomb a people whom the Americans promised to "liberate" until a few days ago, without clearly achievable political goals? The Iranian state is not folding, it is fighting back. If Mr. Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu continue this war, the global economy will come under even greater stress. Whether they realise their grave miscalculation or not, the way forward is not more bombing. This war must be brought to an end immediately.

- **Strategic blunder**
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Catch them young

Increasing activity, eating healthy meals
will help keep obesity away

The phrase 'catch them young' has acquired a perverse slant in a world grappling with a galloping non-communicable diseases epidemic. The full gamut of conditions that comprise metabolic diseases, usually impacting people with advancing age, are affecting even children, studies show. The recently released World Obesity Atlas 2026 delivers a true shocker. As per the report, released on World Obesity Day (March 4), in 2025, there were 14.9 million children in the 5-9 years group and more than 26.4 million children in the 10-19 age group in India who were overweight or obese. About 41 million children had a high BMI rate. Further, estimates suggest that by 2040, 20 million children in India will be obese and 56 million will be overweight. The report also estimates that at least 120 million children of school-going age are expected to have early signs of chronic illnesses such as hypertension and cardiovascular disease due to weight, in 2040. While, globally, China leads both categories, with 62 million children with high BMI and 33 million with obesity, India comes second, and is tailed by the United States (27 million high BMI; 13 million obesity). With such high obesity figures, the attendant health statistics too are unacceptably off the charts: In India, children aged 5-19 years with disease indicators attributed to high BMI, including hypertension, diabetes, hyperglycaemia, high cholesterol, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) are projected to rise substantially by 2040. The risk factors are similar to adult-onset metabolic conditions, broadly categorised as insufficient activity and consumption of unhealthy foods. Other aspects, mentioned as causes, include poor access to healthy school meals for primary and secondary grade children, and sub-optimal breast feeding for infants aged 1-5 months.

Clearly, not enough is being done to stem this tide of growing childhood obesity. The World Obesity Federation calls for greater action and emphasis on monitoring in terms of marketing restrictions and sugar levies on packaged food products. Experts have also called for restrictions on marketing packaged foods to children, sincere implementation of global physical activity recommendations for children, ensuring the mandatory breastfeeding period for infants, and healthier school food standards, besides integration of prevention and care into primary health systems. It is worrisome that obesity and overweight, once associated with higher-income countries, are now catching up rapidly in low- and middle-income countries. If nothing is done at this stage, the gains that the nation expects from its youth, even as it heads towards a grey path, will be hollowed out. The only way out is to catch them young, even before non-communicable diseases can.

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AI and the national security calculus

Page No.6 , GS 3

Anthropic, an American Artificial Intelligence (AI) lab, is asking for three Chinese AI labs (DeepSeek, MoonshotAI, and MiniMax) to be treated as national security threats. The AI models of Anthropic and other American labs have also reportedly been used by the U.S. military in the Iran attacks to fast-track the “kill chain” from target identification to legal approval and strike.

The Pentagon has labelled Anthropic a “supply chain” risk – a designation associated with foreign adversaries, for raising concerns about how its technology is being used in military operations. This decision is now being challenged in court. These developments over the course of a few weeks have serious implications for AI development and national security calculus worldwide.

The issue

The Chinese AI labs have been accused of distilling frontier models from American AI companies. In a nutshell, this involves taking a stronger AI model’s outputs to teach a weaker model. The attacks were sophisticated and used deceptive techniques to mask the identity and intent of the distillers. Anthropic claims that this happened on an industrial scale – “16 million exchanges with Claude through approximately 24,000 fraudulent accounts, in violation of our terms of service and regional access restrictions”.

Generative AI is often equated with nuclear technologies, with the aim of containing the proliferation of the technology. However, it is a dual-use general-purpose technology that is more comparable to semiconductors than nuclear weapons. Unlike nuclear technologies, where governments drive research and development efforts, cutting-edge AI research happens in the private sector for civilian applications. It just so happens that the same technology also has military applications.

Nuclear non-proliferation works because fissile



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The controversy over AI integration in military systems highlights the need for plurilateral commitments by states to responsible use

material is rare, controlled and traceable. The same is not true for mathematical AI models. The fact that DeepSeek was able to achieve comparable performance of frontier models at a fraction of the cost after export controls were imposed is proof that restrictions are not effective. The nuclear narrative asks us to treat querying an AI model as equivalent to weapons proliferation.

Distilled models and guardrails

Anthropic’s argument that a distilled model will be used less responsibly lies on weak foundations. Models from frontier American AI labs such as Anthropic, OpenAI, Google and xAI could be used by the U.S. military for applications such as surveillance, cyberwarfare and lethal autonomous weapons systems. In fact, when Anthropic recently raised concerns about the kinds of uses its models were put to, it faced the threat of being removed from defence systems and designated as “supply chain risks”. Its rival, OpenAI, however, has accepted a permissive contract for military uses, highlighting a race to the bottom, given the competitive pressure to serve government clients. When their own models are being put to such uses, the argument that distilled models will not have guardrails collapses.

It is extremely hard to control the diffusion of such a technology for many reasons. Talent mobility is hard to restrict. Many of the researchers at Chinese labs were trained in U.S. universities or worked in U.S. companies. The restrictions on inputs such as semiconductors have been repeatedly circumvented and are now partially repealed. Now, distillation is one more vector that is even harder to restrict, as the Anthropic report acknowledges. Each time a restriction appears, workarounds find a way to bypass it. If distillation is seen as extremely risky, not allowing public access to it should be an option to consider.

In the language of national security, these restrictions do not make the world safer. They make it harder for rivals to compete with dominant U.S. companies even on civilian applications. Input-based restrictions are ineffective and only cause collateral damage to innovation, scientific collaboration and widespread economic development. They effectively consolidate power in the hands of a few U.S. companies.

Equating distillation to industrial-scale intellectual property theft also seems unfair, given that frontier AI models are trained on the creative and intellectual output of millions of people who were not compensated and did not consent. The process of asking a model millions of questions and learning from its answers is arguably no more extractive than training that model on billions of web pages written by people who never consented to it.

The companies whose models were distilled are right to claim that their terms of service have been violated by those distilling their models and can pursue measures to block such actors. However, they are also arguing for a coordinated response across the AI industry, cloud providers, and policymakers. This move further entrenches the market power of a handful of companies.

What is needed

As scary as it is, it seems inevitable that armed forces worldwide will integrate generative AI into military systems. The Anthropic episode demonstrates that corporate guardrails are not a substitute for governance: a company can be overriden, replaced, or pressured into compliance. What is needed instead are plurilateral commitments by states to responsible use, covering meaningful human control over lethal decisions, prohibitions on mass civilian surveillance, and auditable technical standards for such capabilities. These commitments must apply universally for them to be effective.

- **The controversy over AI integration in military systems highlights the need for plurilateral commitments by states to responsible use**
- **Of the voters whose names were deleted, almost 4.79 lakh are dead, over 5.23 lakh have shifted, and 53,619 were found to have duplicate entries.**
- **Anthropic, an American Artificial Intelligence (AI) lab, is asking for three Chinese AI labs (DeepSeek, MoonshotAI, and MiniMax) to be treated as national security threats. The AI models of Anthropic and other American labs have also reportedly been used by the U.S. military in the Iran attacks to fast-track the “kill chain” from target identification to legal approval and strike.**
- **The Pentagon has labelled Anthropic a “supply chain” risk — a designation associated with foreign adversaries, for raising concerns about how its technology is being used in military operations.**

- **Generative AI is often equated with nuclear technologies, with the aim of containing the proliferation of the technology.**
- **However, it is a dual-use general-purpose technology that is more comparable to semiconductors than nuclear weapons. Unlike nuclear technologies, where governments drive research and development efforts, cutting-edge AI research happens in the private sector for civilian applications. It just so happens that the same technology also has military applications.**
- **Nuclear non-proliferation works because fissile material is rare, controlled and traceable. The same is not true for mathematical AI models.**
- **The fact that DeepSeek was able to achieve comparable performance of frontier models at a fraction of the cost after export controls were imposed is proof that restrictions are not effective. The nuclear narrative asks us to treat querying an AI model as equivalent to weapons proliferation.**

Thank You!

