AI IN LEGAL CASES - GS II AND III MAINS

Q. Bring out the significance of the use of AI in Indian judiciary and also throw a light on its impact on the common people. (10 marks, 150 words)

News: Using AI and ChatGPT in legal cases: What Indian courts have said

What's in the news?

• High Courts in India have shown varying stances on using AI, including ChatGPT, in legal processes.

Key takeaways:

- The adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India's judiciary is on the rise, offering transformative possibilities in case management, legal research, and document analysis.
- While some Indian courts have embraced **ChatGPT** for various legal tasks, there is variability among High Courts in their acceptance and utilization of such AI technologies within the legal framework.
- The Manipur High Court mentioned its reliance on Google and ChatGPT 3.5 for additional research while adjudicating a case, highlighting a growing trend of AI utilization in Indian courts, albeit with a prevailing sense of caution akin to global judicial sentiments regarding AI integration.

Advantages of Using ChatGPT in Legal Cases:

1. Rapid Legal Research:

• Swiftly processes and retrieves relevant legal information, saving time for legal professionals.

2. 24/7 Availability:

• Provides round-the-clock assistance and ensures accessibility across different time zones.

3. Uniform Response:

• Delivers consistent and standardized legal information, reducing variability and maintaining uniformity.

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4. Reduction of Human Error:

• Minimizes errors from human fatigue or bias, enhancing the reliability of information.

5. Comprehensive Analysis:

• Analyzes large volumes of legal texts for comprehensive insights and deeper understanding.

6. Multilingual Capabilities:

• Supports multiple languages, aiding communication in multilingual jurisdictions and increasing accessibility.

7. Judicial Training:

 Serves as an educational tool for training judges and legal professionals with instant access to legal knowledge.

8. Technology Integration:

• Promotes innovation and modernization in the legal field, preparing the judicial system for future technological advancements.

Challenges of Using ChatGPT in Legal Cases:

1. Inaccuracy:

- Generates plausible but incorrect information, risking precise legal decisions.
- Inaccuracies undermine trust in AI-generated legal research.

2. Erroneous Legal Arguments:

- Produces fictitious legal precedents, leading to incorrect judgments.
- It increases workload as legal professionals must verify AI-generated information.

3. Complexity of Legal Reasoning:

- Lacks deep understanding of legal principles and interpretations.
- The use of AI may misses subtle interpretations and complexities considered by experienced professionals.

4. Context Sensitivity:

• Might not adequately consider specific case details. Risks inappropriate advice due to misinterpreted context.

5. Ethical Concerns:

• Can perpetuate biases in training data, leading to biased outcomes. Risks reinforcing prejudices and systemic inequalities.

6. Lack of Accountability:

• Difficult to assign responsibility for AI-induced errors. Challenges in determining liability for AI errors.

7. Lack of Transparency:

• Operates as a black box, providing outputs without transparent reasoning. Inability to explain decisions undermines confidence in AI assistance.

8. Regulatory Issues:

- Lack of AI regulations in India leads to inconsistent verdicts.
- Requires standardized protocols for responsible AI use in judiciary.

Way Forward:

1. Balanced Integration:

- AI like ChatGPT should assist, not replace, legal professionals, ensuring critical evaluation of AI data.
- AI can improve legal research and case preparation efficiency, freeing lawyers to focus on complex tasks.

2. Development of Clear Guidelines:

- India needs standardized guidelines for AI use in the legal system, addressing ethics, accuracy, accountability, and transparency.
- Establish protocols for verifying AI data and addressing biases.

3. Training and Education:

- Train legal professionals on AI capabilities, limitations, and the necessity of human judgment.
- Increase AI literacy among judges, lawyers, and researchers for seamless integration.

4. Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Regularly monitor AI performance to ensure accuracy and reliability.
- Implement feedback systems for ongoing AI tool refinement.

5. Ethical and Fair Use:

- Identify and mitigate biases in AI through diverse training data and fairness checks.
- Establish ethical oversight bodies to guide AI use in legal processes.

6. Collaboration and Research:

- Foster collaboration between technologists, legal experts, and policymakers.
- Encourage research on AI's impact on the legal system for evidence-based policy decisions.

As India navigates the potential and scope of AI adoption in its judicial system, ensuring accuracy, mitigating bias, and protecting fundamental rights remain paramount considerations for a balanced and effective integration of AI technology.

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