Establishing a Chair for Artificial Intelligence

Introduction - The Imperative of AI in Privacy and Data Protection

The digital landscape in India is undergoing a rapid transformation, marked by increasing connectivity and the proliferation of digital services. This surge in digitalization has brought to the forefront the critical need for robust mechanisms safeguarding individual privacy and ensuring the protection of personal data.

Ujvala Consultants Pvt Ltd is a patron member of FDPPI, which is an NGO committed to upholding digital rights and navigating the evolving regulatory environment, particularly in light of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

Concurrently, India is witnessing rapid advancements and a growing adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across various sectors. This technology is increasingly transforming how data is processed, analyzed, and used for decision-making across various domains, including those that handle vast amounts of personal information.

While AI offers significant potential benefits in areas such as healthcare, education, and governance, it also presents inherent risks to individual privacy and data protection. India is rapidly becoming a major hub for AI development and talent, signifying both a remarkable opportunity and a considerable challenge for ensuring that privacy and data protection are intrinsically woven into the fabric of AI initiatives.

This growth, supported by government initiatives like the IndiaAI mission, necessitates proactive engagement from organizations focused on safeguarding digital rights.

In response to this growing convergence of AI with privacy and data protection concerns within the Indian landscape, FDPPI in association with Naavi.org and Ujvala Consultants Pvt Ltd is establishing a "Chair for AI."

This initiative reflects a strategic and timely commitment to proactively address the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI in this critical domain.

Announcing the Chair for AI - Objectives and Virtual Activities

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the establishment of the "Chair for Artificial Intelligence" within FDPPI. The overarching goal of this Chair is to foster the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies in India, ensuring that these advancements respect and rigorously protect individual privacy and data rights.

The Chair for AI will pursue the following key objectives:

- **Research and Analysis:** To conduct in-depth research on the intricate intersection of AI technologies and the legal and ethical principles governing privacy and data protection within the Indian context. This includes a critical examination of the implications of sophisticated AI models, such as Large Language Models (LLMs), on the security and confidentiality of personal data. Given India's unique socio-economic and linguistic diversity, research efforts will specifically focus on the distinct challenges and opportunities that AI presents within this multifaceted landscape. Understanding these local dynamics is paramount, moving beyond a reliance solely on global findings to address the specific needs and nuances of the Indian populace.
- **Awareness and Education:** To proactively raise awareness and enhance understanding among the public, policymakers, and technology developers regarding the potential privacy risks and essential safeguards associated with AI technologies. This crucial objective involves effectively translating complex technical and legal concepts into accessible formats tailored for diverse audiences. To achieve this, the Chair will leverage platforms such as blogs to disseminate research findings, share insightful analyses, and foster a broader public discourse on these vital issues.
- **Policy Advocacy:** To actively advocate for the robust integration of strong privacy and data protection principles into the evolving AI-related policies and regulations in India. This includes constructive engagement with government bodies and key industry stakeholders to promote the adoption of comprehensive and ethical AI frameworks that prioritize the protection of individual rights.
- **Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:** To foster meaningful collaboration and facilitate the exchange of knowledge among researchers, legal experts, technologists, and civil society organizations actively working at the intersection

of AI and privacy. The Chair will serve as a central platform for dialogue, enabling the sharing of best practices and the development of collective strategies to address emerging challenges.

All activities undertaken by the Chair for AI will be conducted virtually, leveraging the power of online platforms and digital tools to ensure accessibility and facilitate broad participation from individuals across geographical boundaries. The planned virtual activities include:

- **Webinars and Online Seminars:** To effectively disseminate research findings, host insightful discussions with leading experts, and provide comprehensive education to the public on critical issues at the nexus of AI and privacy.
- **Virtual Forums and Discussion Groups:** To create dynamic online spaces that facilitate open dialogue, encourage robust collaboration, and enable the exchange of ideas among interested individuals and subject matter experts.
- **Online Research Projects and Working Groups:** To enable collaborative research and in-depth analysis on specific topics of interest, bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise in a virtual environment.
- **Virtual Workshops and Training Sessions:** To build essential capacity and enhance understanding of the intricate relationships between AI, privacy laws, and data protection principles through interactive online sessions.
- **Publication of Online Reports, Articles, and Blog Posts:** To widely share research outcomes, insightful analyses, and diverse perspectives with a broad online audience.

Leading the Way - Introducing Naavi

We are honored to announce that the distinguished leader of the newly established "Chair for AI" will be Naavi (Na. Vijayashankar), a highly respected figure in the field of cyber law and data protection in India.[25] Naavi brings to this role an unparalleled wealth of experience and a long-standing commitment to fostering a responsible cyber society in India.

Naavi possesses extensive professional experience spanning nearly five decades across diverse sectors including banking, financial services, advertising, and marketing.

This broad exposure provides a deep understanding of data handling practices and the critical importance of privacy across various industries. Notably, Naavi is a pioneer and an acknowledged expert in the field of cyber law in India, a recognition earned despite not holding a formal law degree. Their insightful contributions to the field are evident through their authorship of seminal books on cyber law in India, including "Cyber Laws for Every Netizen in India," the first book on the subject in the country, and "Cyber Laws.. ITA-2000 and Beyond," the first E-Book on Indian cyber law. More recently he has published "Guardians of Privacy, A Comprehensive handbook on DPDPA 2023 and DGPSI" and "DGPSI, The perfect prescription for DPDPA Compliance". These publications demonstrate a profound understanding of complex legal concepts and a remarkable ability to communicate them effectively to a broad audience.

Further underscoring their leadership in the data protection domain, Naavi serves as the Chairman of FDPPI (Foundation of Data Protection Professionals in India) , a leading organization dedicated to advancing data privacy practices in India. Naavi has also been at the forefront of the Netizen movement in India, advocating for stronger cyber regulations and enhanced cyber security.

Naavi's extensive and diverse background, coupled with their deep and sustained focus on cyber law and data protection within the specific context of India, makes them exceptionally well-suited to lead this critical initiative on the intersection of AI with these vital areas. Their forward-thinking approach and current engagement with the implications of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, along with their proven ability to bridge the complex domains of technology, law, and societal impact, will be invaluable in guiding the Chair's activities.

Collaborative Support - The Role of Ujvala Consultants Pvt Ltd

Providing crucial support to the "Chair for AI" is Ujvala Consultants Pvt Ltd, a Bengaluru-based consultancy organization with a strong history dating back to its establishment in 1994. With a long-standing presence in the consulting sector, Ujvala Consultants brings a wealth of experience and specialized expertise to this collaborative endeavor.

Ujvala Consultants possesses significant expertise in providing techno-legal consulting

services, particularly in the critical areas of cyber law compliance, data protection, and information security. Their proficiency extends to navigating the complexities of various regulatory frameworks, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the evolving landscape of Indian data protection regulations. Notably, Ujvala Consultants has played a pioneering role in areas such as compliance with the Information Technology Act, 2008 (ITA 2008), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)/Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act in India. Furthermore, Cyber Law College, a distinguished division of Ujvala Consultants, has been at the forefront of cyber law education in India since its inception.

Ujvala Consultants' established expertise in the techno-legal domain, with a specific focus on cyber law and data protection within the Indian context, provides a robust foundation of support for the AI-focused activities of the Chair. This organization will play a vital role in enabling the Chair to achieve its objectives through various means, including administrative and logistical support for the organization of virtual events, efficient management of communications, and the provision of essential administrative infrastructure. Their technical expertise will be invaluable in supporting the virtual nature of the Chair's activities and any related research endeavors. Ujvala Consultants will also contribute directly to research efforts, leveraging their deep understanding of both legal and technological landscapes. Their extensive experience in techno-legal consulting will provide strategic guidance to the Chair, ensuring its activities are impactful and aligned with best practices. Moreover, the Chair may benefit from the established platform and infrastructure of Cyber Law College, particularly for the delivery of online educational activities. The close synergy between Naavi's leadership of the Chair and the resources and expertise of Ujvala Consultants will be instrumental in effectively driving the Chair's objectives forward.

A Call for Collective Action - How to Contribute

The establishment of the Chair for AI marks an important step towards addressing the intricate challenges and exciting opportunities that arise at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence, privacy, and data protection in India. We firmly believe that a collective effort is essential to navigate this rapidly evolving field and ensure a future where AI

innovation is guided by strong ethical principles and a deep respect for individual rights. Therefore, we issue a sincere and enthusiastic call for support from all individuals who share an interest in this critical domain.

There are numerous ways in which interested individuals can contribute their expertise and time to support the activities of the Chair:

- **Subject Matter Expertise:** We encourage individuals with specialized knowledge in Artificial Intelligence (across various domains such as Natural Language Processing, computer vision, and machine learning), data privacy laws (with a particular focus on the Digital Personal Data Protection Act), cybersecurity, ethical AI frameworks, and other related fields to offer their valuable knowledge and insights to the Chair's initiatives.
- **Research Skills:** Volunteers with strong research capabilities can play a vital role by assisting in conducting comprehensive literature reviews, meticulously analyzing data, and actively contributing to the various research projects undertaken by the Chair.
- **Technical Skills:** Individuals possessing technical skills in areas such as web development, the management of online platforms, digital communication strategies, and data analysis techniques can provide invaluable support for the virtual activities and research endeavors of the Chair.
- **Legal Expertise:** Legal professionals with a keen interest in technology law, data protection regulations, and the emerging field of AI regulation are invited to contribute their expertise to the critical analysis of policies and the development of effective advocacy strategies.
- **Content Creation:** Individuals with excellent writing and communication skills can significantly contribute by helping to create informative reports, insightful articles, engaging blog posts, and other essential educational materials designed to disseminate the Chair's important work.
- **Outreach and Advocacy:** Individuals who are passionate about raising public awareness and actively advocating for digital rights and the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies can contribute their energy and skills to the Chair's outreach initiatives and advocacy campaigns.

In addition to contributing expertise and time, individuals and organizations may also

consider supporting the Chair through resources:

- **Financial Contributions:** In alignment with the NGO's policies and if applicable, we welcome financial contributions that will directly support the various activities of the Chair and enable its important work.
- **Access to Resources:** Individuals or organizations that have access to relevant datasets, specialized research tools, or pertinent online platforms are encouraged to offer these valuable resources to further support the Chair's research and outreach efforts.

Interested individuals are invited to express their interest and offer their support by contacting the Chair for AI via email at [Insert Dedicated Email Address Here]. We will also be hosting virtual introductory meetings and online forums in the near future, providing an opportunity to learn more about the Chair's initiatives and connect directly with the team. Details regarding these upcoming events will be shared on the NGO's website and through our communication channels.

The establishment of the Chair for AI represents a vital and timely initiative to address the increasingly complex and critical relationship between Artificial Intelligence and the fundamental principles of privacy and data protection in India. The activities undertaken by the Chair hold the potential to significantly impact the development of a more responsible, ethical, and privacy-respecting AI ecosystem throughout the country.

However, realizing the full potential of this initiative requires the active engagement and dedicated collaboration of a diverse group of individuals who possess relevant skills and a shared interest in these crucial issues. We firmly believe that by working together, we can collectively shape the future of AI in India in a manner that effectively safeguards fundamental privacy and data rights for all citizens.

We extend a warm invitation to all interested individuals to join us in this important endeavor. Your expertise, time, and resources will be invaluable as we work towards building a better and more secure digital future for India, where AI innovation and the protection of individual privacy go hand in hand.