

Code, Constitution and AI: Rethinking Fundamental Rights in the Algorithmic Era

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Abstract

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) brings unprecedented challenges and opportunities for constitutional democracies, especially in a diverse and rights-centric society like India. This paper interrogates the evolving relationship between AI technologies and the Indian Constitution, focusing on the foundational guarantees of equality, liberty, and dignity enshrined in Articles 14, 19, and 21. Through a critical analysis of landmark judgments of the Supreme Court of India, doctrinal legal review, and comparative insights from the European Union and the United Kingdom, this study assesses the readiness of India's constitutional framework to accommodate new-age rights such as data privacy, algorithmic transparency, digital expression and the right to be forgotten. The current legal regime, anchored in the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, is still fragmented and insufficient to adequately address AI-specific risks. The article highlights that there is a pressing need for judicial reinterpretation and legislative innovation so that AI serves, rather than undermines, the ideals of justice, fairness, and accountability. By advocating a rights-based approach to AI governance, this research positions India not only to safeguard its citizens in the algorithmic era but also to set a normative example for the Global South. Finally, the paper proposes pathways to harmonize technological advancement with constitutional values, while ensuring that the march of algorithms remains anchored in human dignity and strengthened by democratic oversight.

Keywords: AI, Constitution, New-Age Rights, Justice, Privacy, Law

1. Introduction

Imagine a world where algorithmic systems decide who will be shortlisted for a job, who will get credit, and how risk will be distributed in criminal justice. In a constitutional democracy like India, anchored in commitments to justice, liberty, and equality, the spread of AI to decision-making infrastructures raises a fundamental question: Will the Constitution written in 1950 preserve dignity and freedom in an era of automated, data-driven governance? This study considers the Constitution as a 'living instrument' and argues that the normative core of Articles 14, 19, and 21 should be re-read to address the epistemic

opacity, scale and velocity of today's AI systems, so that automation can be integrated into the Indian Constitutional framework, not against it.

Three rights-centric pressures clearly show how high the stakes are:

- i. Equality & Non-Arbitrariness:** When algorithms use data patterns and proxies, they can replicate old social inequalities. This causes disproportionate harm to some groups, even when there is no intent to discriminate. This goes against the equal treatment promise of Article 14.[1]
- ii. Privacy:** Privacy protects a person's identity, private life, and freedom of choice. Today, continuous data collection and data-based guesswork put people at risk of mass surveillance and can damage their reputation.[2]
- iii. Due Process:** Fair process means that people should understand why the decision was taken. If major decisions are made using black-box models that cannot be explained, then clear, risk-based explanations must be provided to ensure fairness and accountability.[3]

India's evolving regulatory approach, which covers data protection reforms and proposed digital governance laws, should be evaluated based on fidelity with constitutional values and the institutional capacity to discipline high-risk AI in public and quasi-public areas. A rights-based framework places India in the wider discourse of "digital constitutionalism", and insists that platform architectures and algorithmic governance be made compatible with democratic oversight.[4] At the same time, the distinct features of India's polity, such as scale, diversity, and jurisprudence that places dignity and equality at the center, create the possibility for a home-grown model that marries innovation with enforceable safeguards, draws from and contributes to global debates, but remains anchored in domestic constitutional commitments.[5]

2. Research Questions

- i.** How do AI-related challenges such as algorithmic imprecision, data surveillance, and digital unfairness jeopardize the constitutional guarantees of equality, freedom, and dignity under Articles 14, 19, and 21?
- ii.** What legal and institutional reforms are necessary to incorporate AI within the Indian constitutional framework without endangering the fundamental rights?

3. Objectives

- i.** To examine how Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Indian Constitution can be judicially reinterpreted to accommodate emerging AI-driven rights such as data privacy, algorithmic transparency, digital expression, and the right to be forgotten.
- ii.** To critically evaluate the gaps and limitations in India's current AI legal and policy frameworks, and propose a rights-based constitutional model for future AI governance based on global best practices and domestic constitutional values.

4. Research Methodology

The research utilizes a doctrinal and analytical legal methodology, aiming at elucidating of constitutional provisions. It involves critical analysis of landmark judgments of the Supreme Court of India and relevant Indian legislations. A comparative review of global regulations is undertaken to identify best practices. This qualitative approach enables a normative evaluation of how India can integrate AI within its constitutional framework while safeguarding fundamental rights. The pie chart below shows the types and quantities of sources used in this research paper.

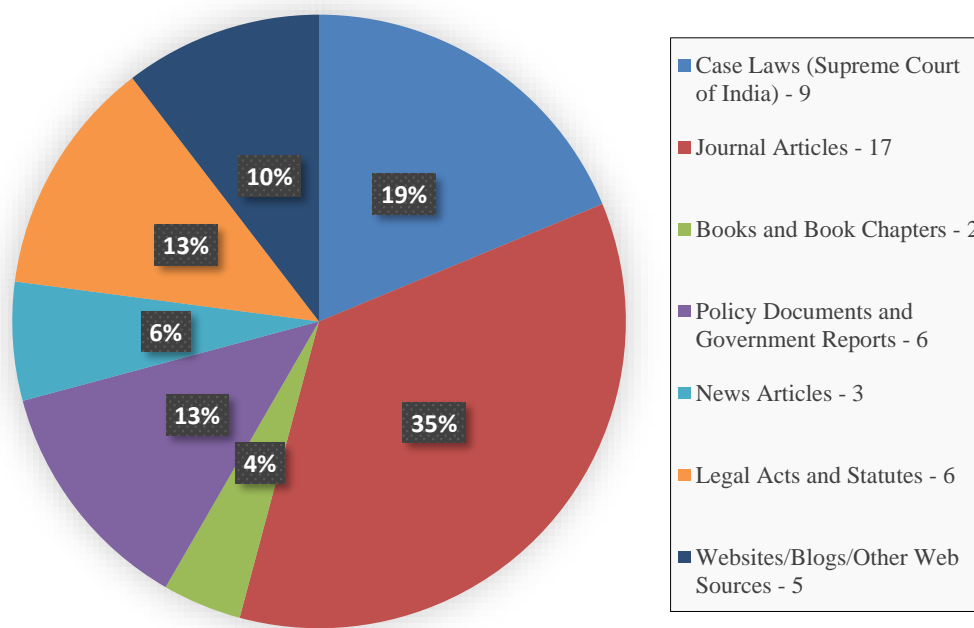


Figure 1. Quantity of Sources used in the Paper

5. The Indian Constitution and New-Age Rights: A Foundational Inquiry

The Indian Constitution, adopted in 1950, was designed to secure justice, liberty, and equality; its rights framework remains adaptable to contemporary technologies. But could its authors have visualized a world in which machines think, decide, and sometimes discriminate? Today, new-age rights—issues such as digital privacy, fairness in automated decisions, and the protection from algorithmic bias — are posed by artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithms. These are not explicitly enshrined in the Constitution's text, but its spirit invites adaptation. Articles 14, 19, and 21, regarded as the golden triangle of the Indian Constitution, were not written with AI in mind, but they still possess significant potential.

The convergence of technology and the human condition, particularly with the arrival of AI and algorithms, is understood to give rise to new-age rights. Traditional rights such as free speech or equality, which are rooted in physical and social contexts, are differentiated from new-age rights by addressing digital realities. Some of these significant rights are given below.

5.1 Data Privacy

Data privacy is the ability of an individual to exercise control over their personal information, which is protected from unjustified access, collection, or deployment. In India, a state repository of biometric and demographic data is collected by the Aadhaar system, which expresses both the promise and the danger of this reality. A breach here does more than expose a name — it places identity theft or surveillance at stake on a huge scale. Data privacy is not only concerned with protection; it is also focused on dignity, ensuring that individuals are not reduced to mere data points from which profit or control can be derived. A 2021 survey by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) found that 72% of Indian internet users are concerned about their privacy.[6] However, knowledge on how to protect themselves was limited to a few.

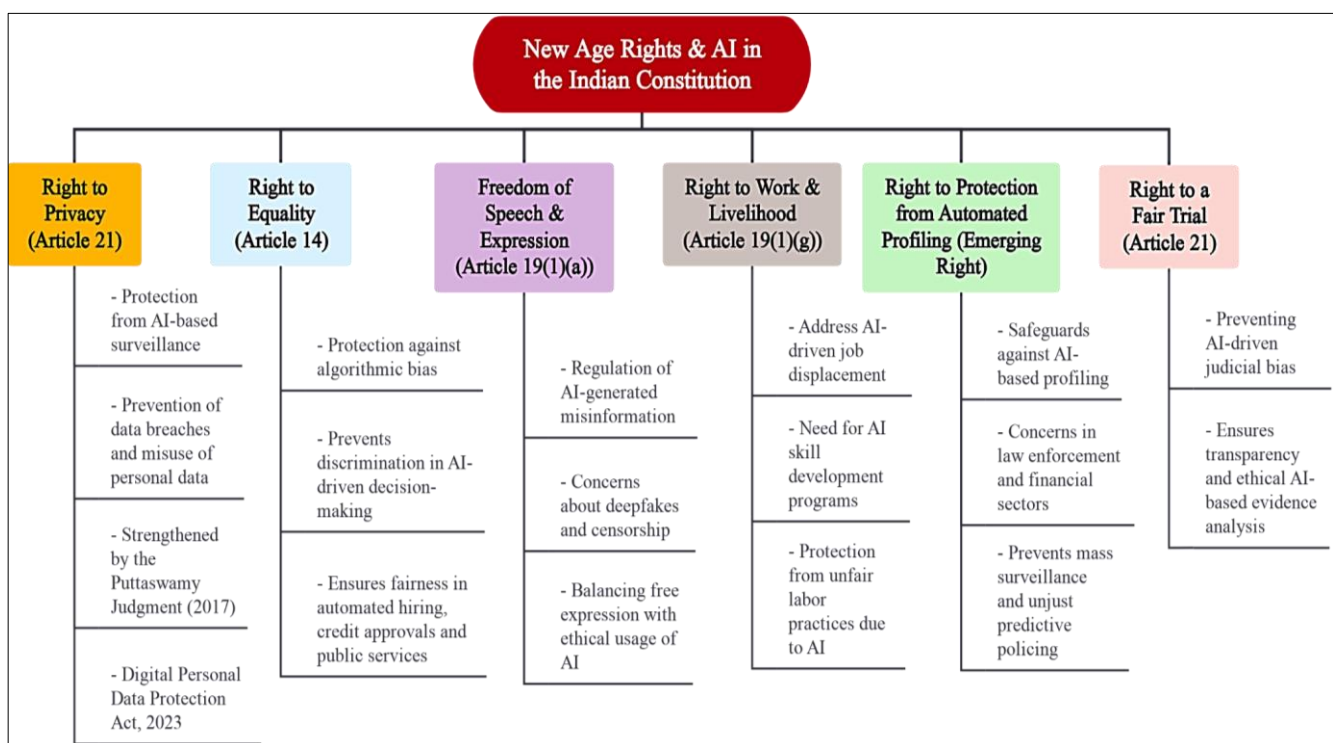


Figure 2. New-Age Rights and AI in the Indian Constitution

5.2 Algorithmic Transparency

Algorithmic transparency is defined as the right to understand how decisions made by automated systems, which influence our lives, are originated. Magic is represented by complicated formulas that process data to generate predictions, not by AI. However, when those formulas and codes are concealed and wrapped within “black boxes,” accountability is reduced. Predictive policing tools, which have been deployed in some metropolitan cities including Delhi, have had algorithms employed to detect possible crime hotspots. If there is a bias, such as the focus on low-income areas driven by distorted data, innocent people may suffer harm. Transparency means these systems must explain themselves not only to technical experts but to laymen as well. Without it, we are left at the mercy of hidden rulers, which is a far cry from the ideals of democracy.

5.3 Right to be Forgotten

The Right to be Forgotten gives people the opportunity to erase their data footprints—that is, they can ask search engines or platforms to delete old or irrelevant data about them. In Europe, this right falls under the ‘General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)’[7], but India lags behind. The right to “erase” is provided in the ‘Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023’[8], but its application to court records and publicly available data is not yet clear, and courts have given varying interpretations of this.[9] This right is not absolute—just as it is important for public welfare to preserve criminal records—but it does provide protection so that people are not judged unfairly in a hyper-connected world. In a conservative society like India, where reputation often affects opportunities, the lack of this right is greatly felt.

5.4 Digital Expression

Freedom of speech has now moved from street corners to screens, and digital expression has become a major pillar of contemporary liberty. It means being able to say what you want online – in tweets, blogs or videos – without fear of censorship or retaliation. In India, the world’s largest democracy, this right is very vibrant on one hand, but vulnerable on the other. People can raise their voice on X (formerly Twitter) or YouTube, but algorithms sometimes suppress content by marking it “inappropriate” on the basis of secret rules. Government restrictions have added another layer. For example, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules imposed stricter regulation on digital media, but also raised questions about overreach.[10]

5.5 Right to Digital Access

On top of all this, there’s the right to digital access — the ability to enter and participate in the online world without being excluded from it. AI and algorithms often act as gatekeepers to this access. There are language barriers as the majority of tools are designed for English only and not for regional languages. There are also economic barriers as data costs, which shut out the poor. According to a 2025 report by the ‘Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)’, internet dissemination in rural areas is about 42.07% till March 2025, which shows that the ‘Digital Divide’ remains large in India.[11] Without it, citizens will lack in education, jobs and even in government services that are increasingly provided online. It’s a restorative right that makes possible all others on this list.

The above rights aren’t only theoretical; they are responses to AI’s real-world effects. A biased algorithm could prevent a farmer from getting a loan, an AI chatbot could leak a patient’s medical history, or a content filter could mute a whistle-blower. Whereas in India, where technology is both a development tool and a governance mechanism, the stakes are higher. The table below summarizes these rights, when they are triggered and their constitutional echoes:

Table 1. New Age Right, their triggers and their constitutional echoes

New-Age Right	Trigger in AI Era	Constitutional Link
Data Privacy	Mass data collection by AI systems	Article 21 (Life, Liberty)
Algorithmic Transparency	Opaque automated decisions	Article 14 (Equality)
Right to be Forgotten	Persistent digital footprints	Article 21 (Dignity)

Digital Expression	Online speech and censorship	Article 19 (Free Speech)
Right to Digital Access	Exclusion from digital benefits	Article 14 (Equal Opportunity)

6. Landmark Judicial Decisions: The Judiciary's Role in Sanctifying AI

The Supreme Court in India has acted as a custodian of the Constitution, bending its branches to protect and provide cover for new and emerging threats. As artificial intelligence saturates our lives — determining jobs, policing streets or shaping what we see online — the judiciary's role is very crucial. It is not just about settling disputes, it is about giving AI a place in the Constitution. This certifies that AI supports fundamental rights instead of limiting them. No clear judgment on AI has been given by the Supreme Court of India; yet, it is welcomed by the court's important decisions on privacy, equality, and freedom of expression.[12] The way is being provided for AI to fit into the Indian legal framework as something that respects rights and upholds values.[5]

The Apex Court in the case of 'K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union Of India (2017)', declared that the right to privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.[14] The judgement put emphasis on the fact that individual autonomy can only be achieved through privacy. In today's digital age, where personal data is often controlled by AI systems, this right becomes more crucial than ever. The outcome of this decision affects the other matters, including the Aadhaar project, the government's biometric identification program, and the collection and use of personal data by private companies. In an important case titled 'Facebook Inc. v. Union of India, 2019,' the Supreme Court raised concerns about the risks of decryption and its potential to infringe an individual's privacy. The judgment highlighted the need to protect personal data. It observed how digital communication and state surveillance are becoming closely linked.[16] It highlighted the issues related to intermediaries and their obligations under The Information Technology Act, 2000. It also pointed out the need for guidelines and rules to refer the concerns raised by the petitioners, which later on resulted in the enactment of the IT Rules, 2021.

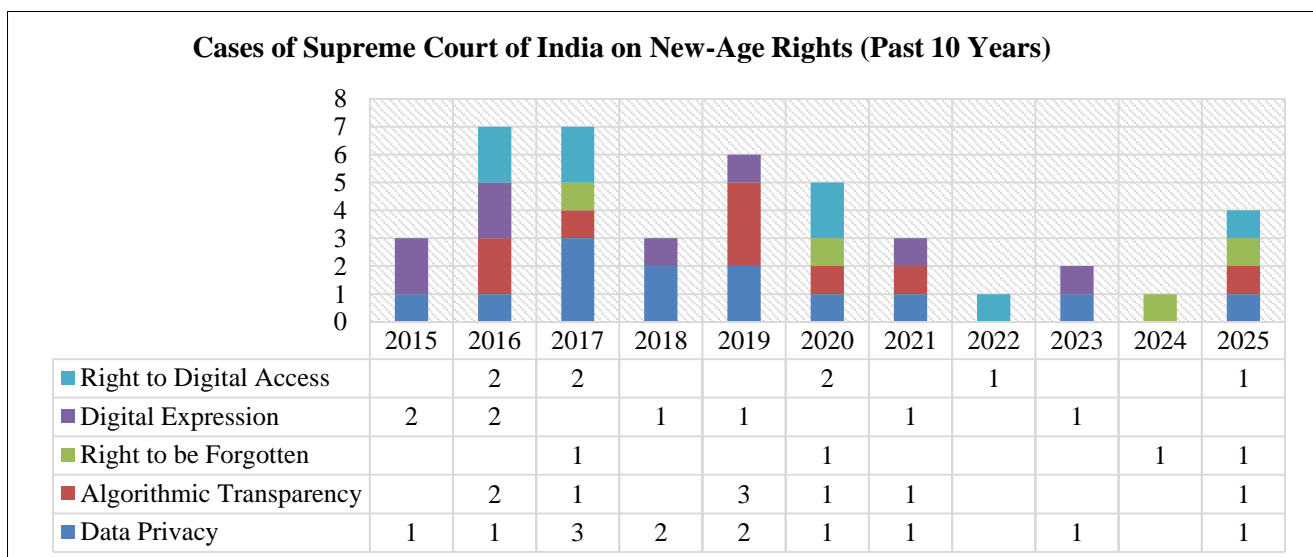


Figure 3. Cases of Supreme Court of India on New-Age Rights (Past 10 Years)

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in 'Tofan Singh v. State of Tamil Nadu, 2020' reiterated that the right to privacy is an indisputable fundamental right, which is crucial for directing the intricacies introduced by AI and algorithms in an individual's personal data handling. Another landmark case is 'Manohar Lal Sharma v. Union Of India, 2021,' which reinforced the conception that every citizen has a reasonable expectation of privacy, especially in the era of information revolution. It highlighted the importance of protecting personal data in the face of technological advancements. In another case of 'X v. State (NCT of Delhi), 2022', the 'Puttaswamy' decision was quoted. It also discussed the individual autonomy over personal data, which is mainly relevant for the right to be forgotten and algorithmic transparency.[21] In the case of 'Ivan Rathinam v. Milan Joseph, 2025,' the Court elaborated on the right to privacy and the requirement for laws which respect individual autonomy in the context of data processing and digital rights.

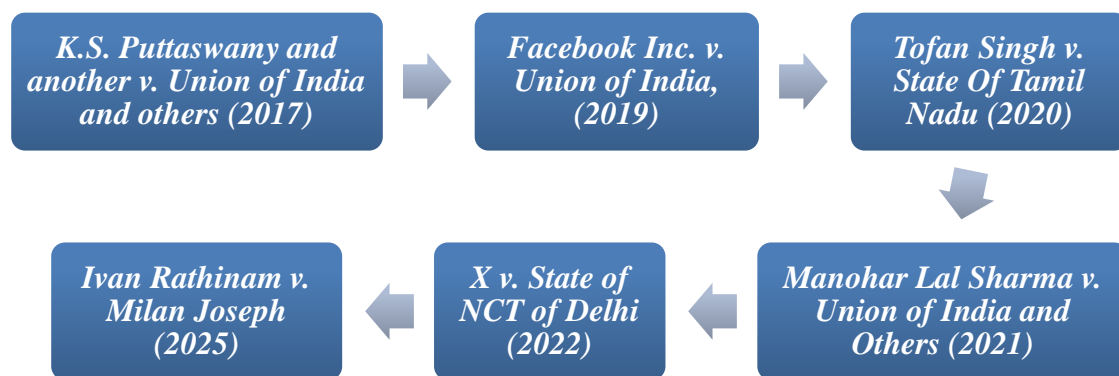


Figure 4. Chronology of landmark precedents related to New-Age Rights

7. India's Current Legal Framework on AI: A Work in Progress

India's tone towards AI regulation is like a half-painted canvas— flamboyant in intent and thought but bereft of detailing. There's no dedicated AI regulatory law in India, but existing statutes and policies provide an inclusive framework. The table given below elaborates the existing laws, policy initiatives and the judicial use of AI in India.

Table 2. Existing laws, policy initiatives and the judicial use of AI in India

Aspect	Current Status	Gaps
Existing Laws	i. Information Technology Act, 2000: Governs digital transactions and data breaches (Section 43A). ii. Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act): Enacted recently, it regulates personal data processing, impacting AI systems that rely on such data.	i. Broad net but doesn't unambiguously tackle AI-specific issues like algorithmic bias. ii. It mandates consent and accountability but lacks AI-specific provisions.

Policy Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NITI Aayog's Responsible AI Principles (2021): Proposes seven principles—safety, equality, privacy, transparency, etc. ii. Digital India Act (Proposed): Aims to replace the IT Act, with hints of regulating high-risk AI systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. These are only guidelines, not enforceable laws. ii. It is still under consultation, creating uncertainty.
Judicial Use of AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Supreme Court uses tools like SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software – for translation) and SUPACE (court efficiency portal), indicating AI's integration into justice delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. It is only limited to efficiency, not rulings.

8. Challenges and Opportunities in Integrating AI

Artificial Intelligence has capabilities that can be both, a boon and a bane, for the existing constitutional framework in India. It is a double-edged sword for the fundamental rights. The challenges and opportunities are elaborated below, which reflect the complexities of entrenching AI within the legal arena of rights-centric and diverse democracy.

8.1 Challenges

8.1.1 Algorithmic Bias and Challenges to Privacy

AI's data-driven nature usually makes it uncover the social inequalities on the basis of caste, gender, or economic divides. It can lead to the violation of Right to Equality provided under Article 14. For instance, a predictive policing system, which repeatedly misjudges individuals from marginalized communities as criminals, can reinforce existing discrimination.[23] Similarly, a hiring algorithm which favors urban elites, will possibly increase social differences and raise serious constitutional concerns.[24] The data-concentrated character of AI, however, is in conflict with the right to privacy given under the Article 21 of the Constitution of India. A facial recognition software installed in public spaces without proper regulations can track individuals without their knowledge or consent.[25] This practice directly challenges the protections provided under the DPDP Act, 2023.

8.1.2 Accountability Gaps in Automated Decisions

Who will take the responsibility when an AI system makes a wrong decision? A situation where complicated and non-transparent algorithms are used to decide whether a person should receive a loan or be granted bail, it creates serious concerns about fairness. In such cases, the due process of law under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution is often seen as being weakened. If an AI system denies a loan or parole – similar to the controversial 'Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions' (COMPAS) system used in the courts of the United States – questions arise in relation to the accountability.[26] Should responsibility lie with the developer who created the system, the implementing authority, or the technology itself?[27] This lack of accountability creates a serious gap and Indian laws do not clearly provide an answer to it. Without a transparent and answerable legal

framework, the protection of fundamental rights may be compromised and lead towards the path of injustice.

8.1.3 Algorithmic Censorship and Erosion of Free Expression Rights

A crucial third challenge is algorithmic censorship. AI systems on digital platforms often decide what speech is allowed without transparency or accountability. Such systems are employed by social media companies and increasingly by state actors, and they act as ‘black box’ arbiters. They shape public discourse through automated deletions, demotions, or suppressions of content that may touch on political dissent, caste or gender advocacy, or other democratic expressions.[28] These systems often reflect the biases of their developers, which lead to unfair results based on class, caste, or ideology. They usually lack proper oversight or an appeal mechanism, which puts Article 19(1)(a) and Article 21 at risk. The problem worsens with “predictive multiplicity,” where different AI models judge the same content differently, causing unfair and random content removal.[29] ‘Contesting algorithms’ are suggested as tools for public auditing to increase transparency, ensure fairness, and protect free expression in an AI-driven world.[30]

8.2 Opportunities

8.2.1 Judicial Innovation as a Constitutional Bridge

The Supreme Court’s approach as seen in cases like ‘Shreya Singhal v. Union Of India, 2015’ and ‘Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India, 2018,’ shows its ability to reconsider the golden triangle of Articles 14, 19, and 21 to resolve modern challenges. In Shreya Singhal, the Court struck down Section 66A of the IT Act for its over-breadth and vagueness – emphasising that any restriction on speech must be “clear, specific, and not arbitrary.”[33] AI used in judicial review should be able to explain its decisions and must always respect fairness and individual freedom. The algorithmic opacity or the “black-box problem” poses significant risks under Article 21 due to potential violations of due process.[34] Some standards of explainability (often referred to as eXplainable AI or XAI) can be integrated into AI systems to help ensure that decisions remain understandable, non-arbitrary, and supported by sound reasoning.[3] This judicial flexibility presents a way of boosting freedom of expression in digital spaces, focuses on challenges related to AI and their connection with fundamental rights.

8.2.2 Legislative Progress through Targeted Laws

India’s proposed Digital India Act, 2023 should be used as a real chance to build homegrown legislation that thoughtfully addresses the challenges and opportunities of AI. Such a law could combine cutting-edge global practices like bias audits and employing data ethics, as in the case of European Union’s Artificial Intelligence Act, 2024, with domestic priorities. India’s Data Protection laws, e.g., the DPDP Act, 2023, while significant for privacy, fall short of focusing AI-specific issues like bias in predictive policing or automated decision-making.[36] The contextual fairness deeply rooted in local datasets and societal conditions is crucial to ensure just outcomes in India.[37] These precautions if carried into a targeted law would help India stay true to its constitutional principles. It would also fill the existing gaps in data laws along with confirming that individual freedoms under Article 21 are protected through fair and reasonable limits.

8.2.3 Positioning India as a Global Leader in Ethical AI

India's technological expertise and commitment to justice positions it to lead in ethical AI governance. India can prepare an AI governance model which will balance both innovation and accountability. The nation has shown its strong ambition through efforts like Digital India, NITI Aayog's AI strategy, and joining the Global Partnership on AI.[38] But despite these steps, there's still no clear set of ethical rules in place to guide how AI should be used. If India sets clear rules for transparency, human checks, and legal review, it can build durable safeguards that reflect the spirit of the Constitution in AI application.[39] When a country builds its digital future on freedom, dignity, and fairness, it protects its people. India now has a unique chance to lead by example. If India's technology laws reflect the spirit of the Constitution, they will build greater trust among its people. This approach can also guide other nations and help India become a global leader embedded in justice and humanity.

9. Proposals for the Future

Having embraced artificial intelligence, anchoring it within India's constitutional framework would require bold, yet practical steps. The judiciary and legislature must move collaboratively, using the specifics of India's ethos, to ensure AI serves justice, not mayhem. So here are four major ideas to guide this journey, each inspired by the Constitution's promise of rights and fairness.

9.1 Judicial Dynamic Reinterpretation of Constitutional Text

Articles 14, 19, and 21 should be expanded by the Supreme Court of India to include specific privileges driven by AI-powered rights under judgements like 'Puttaswamy'. For example, a judgement would require that AI systems (such as welfare distribution algorithms or predictive policing) to display non-discrimination and fairness in accordance with Article 14. This "living Constitution" model represents international trends. For instance, the EU's AI Act explicitly seeks to protect fundamental values like democracy and the rule of law.[40] Similarly, UNESCO's 'Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence' underlines that human rights and human dignity – including principles of transparency, fairness and human oversight – must underlie all AI governance.[41] Such reinterpretation does not change the original understanding of Constitution's text. Instead, it brings to light its deeper intent and helps in creating revolutionary precedents and joint obligatory frameworks, which require developers to put transparency and impartiality at the top of their agenda in the absence of an explicit legal framework.

9.2 Road to a Comprehensive AI-Specific Law

India is in dire need of a dedicated AI statute to regulate all forms of AI. The proposed Digital India Act, 2023 should take inspiration from global models like EU's AI Act, 2024 and United Kingdom's Data (Use and Access) Act, 2025, which use a risk-based approach to regulate AI. A recent analysis observes that "a risk-based approach to AI regulation is the most popular" and is explicitly supported by Indian officials.[43] It will categorize AI systems on the basis of risks like banning dangerous uses like autonomous surveillance while strictly regulating high-impact applications in hiring or healthcare. The law should be built around clear audits, strong data protection, and easy ways for people to raise concerns. Moreover, the regulation must mandate human supervision over high-risk AI tools and provide accessi-

ble grievance mechanisms.[44] With such a law in place, policymakers can strengthen Article 21 while ensuring that AI respects privacy and due process. The statute should mandate regulatory sandboxes with guardrails for public-interest pilots and require periodic sunset/review clauses (every three years) to track societal impact. All high-risk deployments must provide timely notice, reasons, and human review within fixed service-level timelines.

9.3 Independent Statutory Regulator for AI Systems

An independent statutory regulator for AI systems should be created through an Act of Parliament, which should have functional, administrative, and financial autonomy. This regulator's mandate will be to:

- i. Issue binding codes of practice and sector-specific guidance
- ii. Require Algorithmic Impact Assessment (AIA) and Data-Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for high-risk or public-sector AI deployments
- iii. Maintain a public register of high-risk systems
- iv. Conduct audits and inspections
- v. Impose proportionate civil penalties and corrective orders for non-compliance

The regulator shall publish annual bias-audit and rights-impact scorecards and coordinate via Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with sectoral regulators to prevent overlap and ensure one-stop grievance redress. Coordination with sectoral regulators would need to be formalized to prevent duplication. Constitutional and appellate oversight of courts would be maintained, meaning regulator decisions would be amenable to writ jurisdiction and statutory appeals. Technical standards and ethics guidance for the use of AI in the justice sector may be determined in consultation with the Supreme Court's e-Committee (e-Courts Phase III), but adjudication and day-to-day regulation should remain with an independent authority. Individuals adversely affected by automated decisions should receive notice, meaningful human review, and effective remedies from both the regulator and ordinary courts.

10. Conclusion

The Constitution of India is an active, not obsolete framework, though the framers drafted it in the pre-digital era. It can adapt and act in response to every challenge created by artificial intelligence. Stephen Hawking's warning – "The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race... It would take off on its own, and re-design itself at an ever-increasing rate... Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn't compete, and would be superseded," – reminds us why it's so important to have clear limits and careful supervision as we move forward with AI.[45] The courts in India have shown their commitment to resolve the challenges related with AI through landmark cases like 'Puttaswamy' and 'Shreya Singhal', however, the legislature is still lagging behind. Where the European Union has confidently stepped forward and China has clear plans for AI, India is still figuring out how to approach it. India can rethink fundamental rights and draft specific laws to integrate AI into the constitutional framework. Instead of viewing AI as a threat, it can be utilised as an assistant in achieving justice and equality. It may seem like a tough task, but the flexibility of the Constitution provides the steady support through this journey with AI.

In direct response to the research questions, this study shows that algorithmic imprecision yields arbitrary and disparate outcomes that offend Article 14, pervasive data surveillance erodes decisional privacy and due process under Article 21, and digital inequity and opaque content moderation chill expression and entrench inequality under Article 19(1)(a)—together jeopardizing Articles 14, 19, and 21 (RQ1). To resolve these tensions (RQ2), it advances a rights-centred reform package: dynamic judicial reinterpretation of constitutional guarantees; a comprehensive, risk-based AI statute; and an independent statutory regulator with autonomy to mandate AIAs/DPIAs, maintain a public register of high-risk systems, require notice, reasons, and meaningful human review, operate regulatory sandboxes with guardrails, coordinate with sectoral regulators, conduct audits, sanction non-compliance, and provide accessible one-stop grievance redress, all amenable to writ and appellate oversight. With periodic statutory review and transparent bias-audit/rights-impact scorecards, these measures embed explainability, accountability, and equal access into AI governance, enabling India to integrate innovation within its constitutional framework without diluting the guarantees of dignity, liberty, and equality.

11. Funding Declaration

No funding was received for conducting this study.

12. Ethical Declaration

This study did not involve human participants, animal subjects, or the use of any identifiable personal data. As such, ethical approval was not required under the applicable institutional and international guidelines. All methods and procedures were conducted in accordance with ethical research standards for theoretical and secondary research. No potential conflict of interest or ethical concerns were identified during the course of this study.

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