

AI Governance and Hiroshima action plan

- The annual Group of Seven (G-7) Summit, hosted by Japan, took place in Hiroshima from May 19-21.
- Among other matters, the G-7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué initiated the Hiroshima AI Process (HAP) an effort by this bloc to determine a way forward to regulate Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- discussed "responsible AI" and global AI governance, and said, "We reaffirm our commitment to promote human-centric and trustworthy AI based on the OECD AI Principles and to foster collaboration to maximize the benefits for all brought by AI technologies
- "We recognize the need to immediately take stock of the opportunities and challenges of generative AI, which is increasingly prominent across countries and sectors, and encourage international organizations such as the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) to consider analysis on the impact of policy developments and Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) to conduct practical projects.
- In this respect, we task-relevant ministers to establish the Hiroshima AI process, through a G7 working group, in an inclusive manner and in cooperation with the OECD and GPAI, for discussions on generative AI by the end of this year.
- These discussions could include topics such as governance, safeguarding of intellectual property rights including copyrights, promotion of transparency, response to foreign information manipulation, including disinformation, and responsible utilization of these technologies."
- AI development and implementation must be aligned with values such as freedom, democracy, and human rights.
- Values need to be linked to principles that drive regulation.
- To this end, the communiqué also stresses fairness, accountability, transparency, and safety.
- It spoke of "the importance of procedures that advance transparency, openness, and fair processes" for developing responsible AI
- The matter of intellectual property rights (IPR) offers an example of how the HAP can help.
- Here, the question is whether training a generative AI model, like ChatGPT, on copyrighted material constitutes a copyright violation
- HAP isn't expected to address AI

regulation from a state-centric perspective. Instead, it exists to account for the importance of involving multiple stakeholders in various processes and to ensure the latter is fair and transparent

- The HAP can help the G-7 countries move towards a consensus on this issue by specifying guiding rules and principles related to AI and IPR.
- For example, the process can bring greater clarity to the role and scope of the 'fair use' doctrine in the use of AI for various purposes

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Cancel culture

- 'Cancel culture' is a widely used contemporary term, but without a clear-cut definition.
- Broadly, when any perceived wrong, whether from two minutes ago or half a century ago, suddenly come under scrutiny from a group of people online and results in public shaming, censorship, loss of friends and connections, or even a job, it means that the person who has aired such a view has been "canceled."
- Demanding accountability from people holding such problematic views is central to cancel culture.
- Those who are "canceled" for not ascribing to a particular view or value or norm are often public

figures

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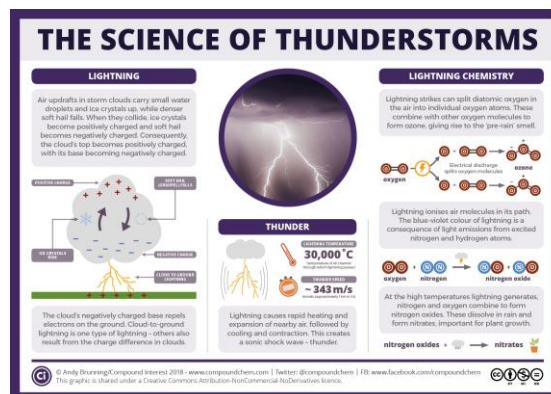
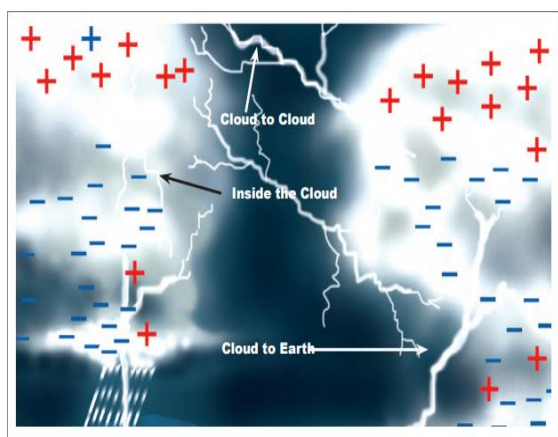
Lightning and forest fire

- Most of these blazes were caused by lightning, Reuters added.
- Human activities are also to be blamed for adding to the forest fires, reports have said.
- According to a study published in Nature on February 10, 2023, lightning is the main precursor of natural wildfires
- Laboratory experiments and field observations have together revealed that lightning electric currents that flow for more than some tens of milliseconds, the so called long-continuing currents (LCC), are likely to produce fires.
- The study indicated an increase in the total global lightning activity and global LCCs by the 2090s.
- study also found that LCC lightning activity increased by around 47% over land, implying a higher risk of lightning -ignited wildfires in the future.
- The trends face the other way in some other regions, including the western parts of North America, northern and southern South America, parts of Central Asia, and the Scandinavian peninsula.

- Simulations have found that in
- these parts of the world, the total lightning activity could decrease but the amount of LCC lightning activity could increase, leading to an increase in wildfires

How does lightning work?

- During a storm, water droplets in warmer air and ice crystals that condensed in cooler air coalesce together to form thunderstorm clouds (usually cumulonimbus clouds).
- Contact between these droplets and crystals produces a static electrical charge in the clouds.
- The negative and positive charges in the clouds build up.
- Over time, the voltage difference becomes high enough to surmount the resistance presented by the air, leading to a rapid discharge of electric charge



- Of late, lightning strikes have been the deadliest natural disaster in India.
- There were 18.5 million lightning strikes in the country between April 2020 and March 2021 – 34% higher than the previous year according to the Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council

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Judiciary and tax law

- India's law of taxation is built on two central precepts.
- First, on the idea captured in Article 265 of the Constitution, that a tax may be imposed only with the authority of law.
- Second, on a principle of sureness, any levy ought to be clear, consistent, and predictable. Both these precepts emanate out of a larger commitment to the rule of law, in particular to values of legality and certainty.
- The law was amended in 2015.

- Section 153C income tax act now stipulated that assessments could be made against third parties to a search, even if the material seized in the case of documents and books of accounts “pertains or pertain to” the person or if information contained in those items “relates” to the person
- The Court also invoked its most infamous power: Article 142 of the Constitution, which allows it to pass orders for “doing complete justice to a cause”.
- It has previously been held that this power ought not to be applied in breach of statutory law.
- Yet, here was a case where the Court not only resuscitated actions that lacked any legislative support but also reversed judgments that were simply not on appeal before it.
- Article 265 of the Constitution forbids taxation without legislation. But if the Supreme Court is willing to play Parliament, this peremptory promise will remain illusory.
- Through this, the Court was not only encroaching on legislative functions but was also striving to give life to what were otherwise entirely illegitimate actions
- laying down the grounds for retaining sedition, is starkly symbolic of how “nobody listens.”
- The Commission has made three significant recommendations.
- The first is that Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, which contains the law of sedition, be amended to incorporate the meaning of sedition which was laid down by the Supreme Court in Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar in 1962.
- The second is that the minimum sentence be increased from three to seven years.
- The third is that First Information Reports (FIR) in sedition cases should be registered only after a police officer, holding the rank of an Inspector or higher, makes a “preliminary inquiry
- In proposing that an amendment be made to the law by adding the words “tendency to incite violence,”
- addition to the existing scheme is the Commission’s proposal that the police conduct a preliminary enquiry
- The Commission also disregarded developments in foreign jurisdictions which have invalidated sedition laws stating that the “ground realities” are different in other countries

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Law Commission on sedition

- The 279th Law Commission Report,

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Disinflation

- The disinflation process in India will be slow and protracted, with the 4% inflation target.
- Disinflation is a temporary slowing of the pace of price inflation and is used to describe instances when the inflation rate has reduced marginally over the short term
- Disinflation refers to the rate of change in the rate of inflation.
- A healthy amount of disinflation is necessary since it prevents the economy from overheating.

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