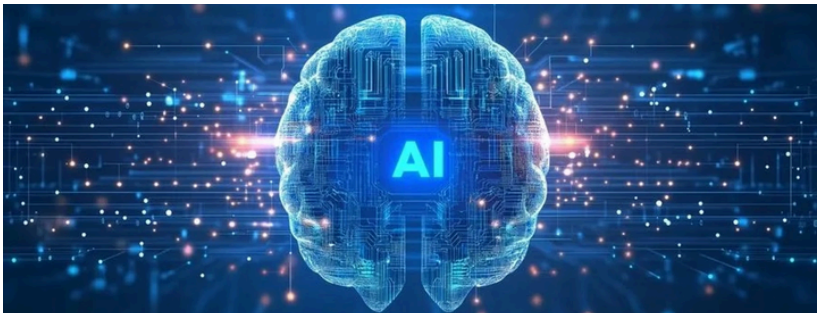
VOL #2
ISSUE #11

THE BRIEFCASE

PGCL NEWSLETTER
November, 2026



Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

The Briefcase returns with an edition examining one of the defining legal frontiers of our time: the intersection of artificial intelligence, technology and social media with the law. Far from being mere tools of convenience, these technologies have become the infrastructure of modern day to day life- shaping how we speak, work, vote, learn and are governed. The question is no longer whether technology will transform society, but whether the law can keep up with the transformations.

As the world enters an era of rapid and often unregulated innovation, critical questions are emerging: who is accountable when an algorithm causes harm? Who owns the work created by a machine, or data that trained it? Where does free expression end and social media fiduciary responsibility begin? And who gets to decide the rules: legislatures, courts, regulators or the companies themselves?

In this edition, our contributors explore how the tech-law franchise is reshaping lives and institutions. Through analysis of new legislation, judicial decisions and emerging debates, the pieces approach the subject through multiple lenses. Together, they invite readers to consider how the choices made today will define digital freedom, corporate power and public trust for the next generations to come, as technology may be built by engineers but its limits are set by law. How well a society governs its tools is a measure of how seriously it protects its people.

We invite you to explore this edition with curiosity, and with a critical eye.

The Editorial Board x

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- Mark your Calendars - An exclusive preview of upcoming months' events

THE POST-ITS

- Your monthly dose of 'Did you know?'

THE BINDER

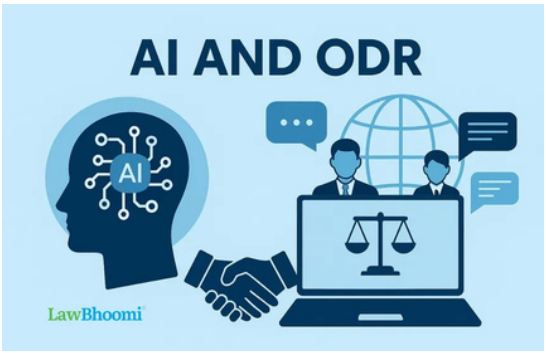
Your essential collection of the latest legal updates, neatly organised for a quick reference.

Algorithms as Arbitrators: Reimagining Justice Through AI-Driven ODR

Introduction:
India's judiciary is reeling under pressure. The National Judicial Data Grid reports that there are over five crore pending cases, and the pace at which disputes arise continues to outstrip the system's capacity to resolve them. A possible solution to the massive backlog could be the adoption of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). ODR offers faster, cost-effective resolutions outside the traditional courtroom. In India, artificial intelligence within ODR can be used as a supportive tool to improve access, efficiency and consistency while reserving final decision making for human adjudicators.

Existing Legislation:
Even though India lacks specific legislation governing AI in dispute resolution, the foundation of ODR already exists. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996 recognises both arbitration and conciliation and provides for the enforcement of arbitral awards, which allows for arbitration to be carried out using online platforms.

The Information Technology Act, 2000, provides for the legal recognition of digital signatures (S. 3, IT Act 2000). The Consumer Protection Act of 2019 promotes mediation and online resolution of disputes, particularly those arising from digital commerce. These provisions show that there is scope for ODR to be integrated into the Indian legal system; when supported by appropriate safeguards and institutional design, AI-enabled ODR can further secure access to justice.



Credits: Lawbhoomi

The Civil Resolution Tribunal in British Columbia, Canada, shows how AI and ODR can be integrated. This online small-chain tribunal uses a triage system to direct parties to negotiation, facilitation, or adjudication, while retaining human decision makers. However, directly transplanting this system to India could be difficult, given the gaps in digital literacy and socio-economic conditions.

Indian platforms such as the MSME Samadhaan Portal, which support micro and small enterprises with delayed payment disputes, could use AI for dispute surveillance, flagging duplicate claims, and proposing settlements on transactional claims. The time saved would let human arbitrators focus on more complex legal and factual issues. AI's role is therefore better confined to case triage, claim categorization, document review and facilitating non-binding settlements, with final determination under human control.

Challenges to Integrating ODR in India:
There are several challenges to integrate AI and ODR. The first challenge is data quality, and the lack of accurate data sets. Dispute-related data at district and tribunal levels is often incomplete or not available digitally, and NITI Aayog has flagged data fragmentation and poor interoperability. As a result, inconsistencies in data records may lead to biased or unreliable outcomes.

The second challenge is transparency. The OECD has warned that black-box algorithms that automate public decision processes undermine accountability and erode public trust. Without transparency, efficiency gains could come at the cost of procedural fairness.

The third is inclusion. ODR benefits the digitally literate but may alienate rural communities, elderly litigants and low-income individuals who lack affordable internet and digital skills.

THE BINDER

Your essential collection of the latest legal updates, neatly organised for a quick reference.

The NITI Aayog ODR Plan recommends developing user-friendly digital platforms, strengthening digital literacy, and integrating ODR with existing legal aid mechanisms to ensure that technology facilitates equitable access to justice rather than becoming a barrier to it.

Additionally, it highlights the need to build new digital infrastructure and increase accessibility. However, if access to justice depends on advanced technology, ODR risks worsening the very disparity it seeks to address.

The fourth problem is lack of safeguards. Indian procedural laws are silent on the liability for the use of algorithms, legal standing of algorithm-influenced settlements, and the auditability and bias mitigation of AI tools.

Without safeguards, dispute resolution risks shifting from a rights-based process to a platform-driven one. A specialised oversight authority could be placed to mandate algorithmic audits, disclosure of AI involvement and enforceable accountability standards for ODR platforms.

Conclusion:
India's biggest hindrance to incorporating ODR is institutional preparation rather than technology.

Uniform standards across ODR systems are essential, as is training for judges, lawyers and mediators in online procedural fairness, algorithm driven processes and digital evidence, to prevent misuse and underutilization. Public trust will determine whether AI- driven ODR succeeds, which requires strong data protection, grievance redressal and transparent algorithms. ODR will be fully inclusive only if the digital divide is addressed and low-value disputes can be resolved at low costs. India stands at a crossroads where technology must be aligned with accountability and public trust. The success of ODR will depend not on how advanced the technology is, but on how fairly it is used to deliver justice.

Mr. Kashyap Bhatt
Student, 2nd Year



Credits: Nexlaw

THE BINDER

Your essential collection of the latest legal updates, neatly organised for a quick reference.

Indian Laws and Lacunae in Governing Social Media

In India today, social media serves as the predominant platform for communication of the 21st century. Social media's legal framework continues to evolve as a combination of out-of-date laws and newly created administrative regulations. Social media provides opportunities for people to speak, conduct business and participate in their communities in ways that were never possible before; at the same time, social media can exacerbate issues such as the spread of misinformation, deep fakes and targeted harassment. Therefore, the challenge for Indian law makers is to provide both freedom of expression and accountability while avoiding excessive censorship.

Legal Frameworks:
The fundamental law for governing social media continues to be the Information Technology Act, 2000. Section 79 states how intermediaries (platforms such as social media platforms, messaging services, search engines or internet platforms that transmit user-generated content on behalf of others) have a safe harbour which is conditional based upon whether or not the intermediary has fulfilled certain requirements. Additionally, Section 69A empowers the Central Government to block public access to online content on grounds such as sovereignty, national security, public order, or the prevention of cognizable offences, provided the reasons are recorded in writing.

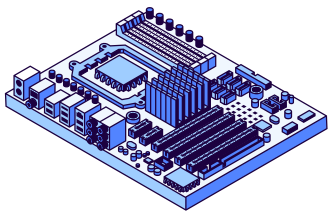
The IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, were implemented to aid in operationalising the provisions laid down in the IT Act, 2000. Additionally, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 applies to entities, including social media platforms that process the digital personal data of individuals in India. It aims to protect individuals' personal data by regulating how such data is processed, requiring clear notice to users about the nature of data collected and the purposes for which it will be used.

Recent Developments:
In October 2025 an amendment reformed the takedown procedure under Rule 3 (1)(d) of the IT Rules, 2021, by restricting who may issue orders to senior officials (Joint Secretary or DIG rank and above), requiring each order to state its legal basis and the exact URL of the content, and introducing a monthly Secretary- level review.

On February 10, 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology brought synthetically generated information into the Rules' due diligence. This type of content is required to have a clear label and permanent metadata regarding its origin. Additionally, the takedown window for government and court orders was shortened to 3 hours, and non- consensual nudity, including morphed imagery, must be removed within 2 hours. These changes aim to enhance accountability by ensuring only senior officials can issue takedown orders with clear legal basis, while labelling and shortened timelines for synthetic and non-consensual content seek to curb the rapid spread of deepfakes and harmful imagery, offering users quicker protection against online abuse.

Lacunae in Law:
Despite increasing levels of regulation, structural gaps persist. The framework remains largely reactive, focusing on content takedown rather than imposing a broader duty of care that would require platforms to design safer systems from the outset. Extremely short compliance windows lead to over-removal of content to protect their safe- harbour status. Concerns with regards to free speech persist due to the opacity of the government-issued blocking orders under Section 69A, while affected users are often not told why their content was blocked and there is no independent body to examine such orders. Lastly, the 2026 amendments only address AI- generated sexual and deceptive content; they are unclear about how the law applies to standalone generative AI tools, which create content themselves rather than housing users' posts and so sit uneasily within the intermediary model, as well as to text-only synthetic media.

Conclusion:
India's social media regulation is growing faster than it is maturing. Speedy takedowns cannot substitute safeguards. A framework that prioritises transparent blocking procedures, independent oversight, rules covering synthetic data and proactive duty of care is necessary. Only then can freedom of expression and accountability genuinely coexist rather than compete with each other.



Ms. Stutee Doshi
Student, 3rd Year

THE GAVEL

The strike of the mallet, in recent judgements, summarised for easy reading.

People of the State of California v. Meta Platforms (N.D. Cal. Aug. 26, 2026)

Introduction:

US state attorneys general from 29 US states sued Meta in a federal court in Oakland, California, in the case of People of the State of California, et al. v. Meta Platforms, Inc., et al., No. 4:23-cv-05448-YGR (N.D. Cal. Aug. 26, 2026), alleging that the tech-giant deliberately designed its platforms to keep children engaged while concealing the potential harm to their mental health. The lawsuit also challenged the design choices made by these platforms that could encourage excessive use among children and teenagers.

Nearly three years later, in August 2026, the proceedings culminated in a landmark settlement wherein Meta will pay up to $18 billion over 10 years to the 29 States and enforce strict teen safety curfews on Instagram and Facebook across the United States. Meanwhile, New Mexico separately pursued proceedings against Meta in its state court, citing similar concerns about the company's responsibility towards children. Together, the two proceedings highlight the growing legal scrutiny of social media design and the extent to which platforms can be held accountable for their impact on children.



Credits: Tech Times

Issues:

1. Whether certain features on Instagram and Facebook were deliberately designed to encourage compulsive use among children and teenagers;
2. Whether Meta concealed internal research on the impact of Instagram use on the mental health of teenagers and if these alleged misrepresentations regarding platform safety and its practices constituted unfair conduct under the consumer protection laws;
3. Whether Meta unlawfully collected the personal data of children under 13 and violated the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

Court's Ruling:

In June 2026, Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers refused to end the case early, finding factual disputes over whether Meta made its platforms addictive while misrepresenting what it knew about harm to teenagers. However, the federal case never reached a verdict. On 26 August 2026, five days into an advisory jury trial, the judge approved a settlement and Meta agreed to pay about $17 billion over ten years and to also add child-safety measures to Facebook and Instagram. These include limits on usage hours and notifications for teens, restrictions on certain filters, and an independent auditor to oversee compliance. Because the case settled, the court did not decide whether Meta actually broke the law.

New Mexico's case went further and in March 2026, a jury found that Meta had violated the state's Unfair Practices Act by misleading consumers and failing to adequately protect children, and imposed $375 million in civil penalties. In August, Judge Bryan Biedscheid ordered Meta to pay a further $567 million to fund programmes addressing harm to youth over five years, and directed platform changes for young users, including time limits. Together, the two amounts total $942 million, although Meta has said it will appeal the order.

THE GAVEL

The strike of the mallet, in recent judgements, summarised for easy reading.

Conclusion:
The cases emphasized upon the importance of safeguarding children on social media platforms and highlighted the obligations of intermediaries, such as Meta, towards vulnerable groups. While the federal settlement did not determine any liability for Meta, the New Mexico proceedings resulted in findings and orders addressing the platform's obligations towards children on its platform.

The implications of both the cases have limited scope because the settlement binds only its parties, and the New Mexico ruling is still under appeal. Nevertheless, these developments offer India a useful reference point in reconsidering how existing legal frameworks can address the risks of such algorithm-driven platforms especially for children. Ultimately, the challenge lies in ensuring that the digital environments designed to engage young users do not undermine the very safety they ought to protect.

Mr. Gourav Arora
Student, 3rd Year



Credits: Euronews



Credits: Reuters



Credits: The New York Times

THE GAVEL

The strike of the mallet, in recent judgements, summarised for easy reading.

ANI Media Pvt. Ltd. v. OpenAI (2026 SCC OnLine Del 5291)

Introduction:
On 24th July 2026, in the case of 'ANI Media (P) Ltd. v. Open AI OPCO LLC, 2026 SCC OnLine Del 5291', the Delhi High Court refused to stop ChatGPT from referring to articles from a news channel. This was India's first major ruling on whether training an AI model on copyrighted content constitutes infringement. The High Court, so far has passed an interim order granting temporary relief, the final orders remain pending.

Background:
ANI, a news agency based in New Delhi, sued ChatGPT, alleging that the latter was trained on its articles without any license and that ANI's work was reproduced in its answers, including made-up content falsely being credited to the news channel.

For this, ANI sought an interim injunction, a temporary order which would stop OpenAI from using and storing its articles and content in general until the trial ends.

In the absence of relevant Indian judicial precedent, the issue remains contested. Justice Anuj Bansal appointed two independent experts (amici curiae) to assist and delivered a verdict after 32 hearings.



Credits: The Leaflet

Issues:
1. Whether the courts in India have jurisdiction to entertain the present lawsuit considering that the servers of the defendant are located in the United States of America;
2. Whether the use by the defendants of the plaintiff's copyrighted data in order to generate responses for its users, would amount to infringement of the plaintiff's copyright;
3. Whether the storage by the defendants of plaintiff's data (which is in the nature of news and is claimed to be protected under the Copyright Act, 1957) for training its software i.e. ChatGPT, would amount to infringement of plaintiff's copyright; and,
4. Whether the defendant's use of copyrighted data qualifies as 'fair use' in terms of S. 52 of the Copyright Act, 1957.

Court Ruling:

On jurisdiction
ANI succeeded in jurisdiction. It was a company based in New Delhi, and ChatGPT catered to Indian users. Therefore, storage abroad was considered the last step in a process that was initiated in India, according to the court. Thus, the court could hear the case even though OpenAI's servers are situated abroad.

On training
Electronic storage counts as reproduction, however, to reproduce a work is not necessarily to infringe upon it. Section 52(1)(a) of the Copyrights Act holds that specific applications, "*private or personal use, including research*", may be permissible under the doctrine of fair dealing. At this stage, Justice Bansal held that training fell within this exception, and that a commercial purpose did not necessarily disqualify such use. The Court questioned both whether OpenAI's use served a genuine reason and also if it was fair in the circumstances.

THE GAVEL

The strike of the mallet, in recent judgements, summarised for easy reading.

The court also found no evidence that ANI lost subscribers or advertising revenue, and highlighted that ANI had itself offered a licence for USD 7.5 million, which the court interpreted as showing that its loss could be compensated through monetary means.

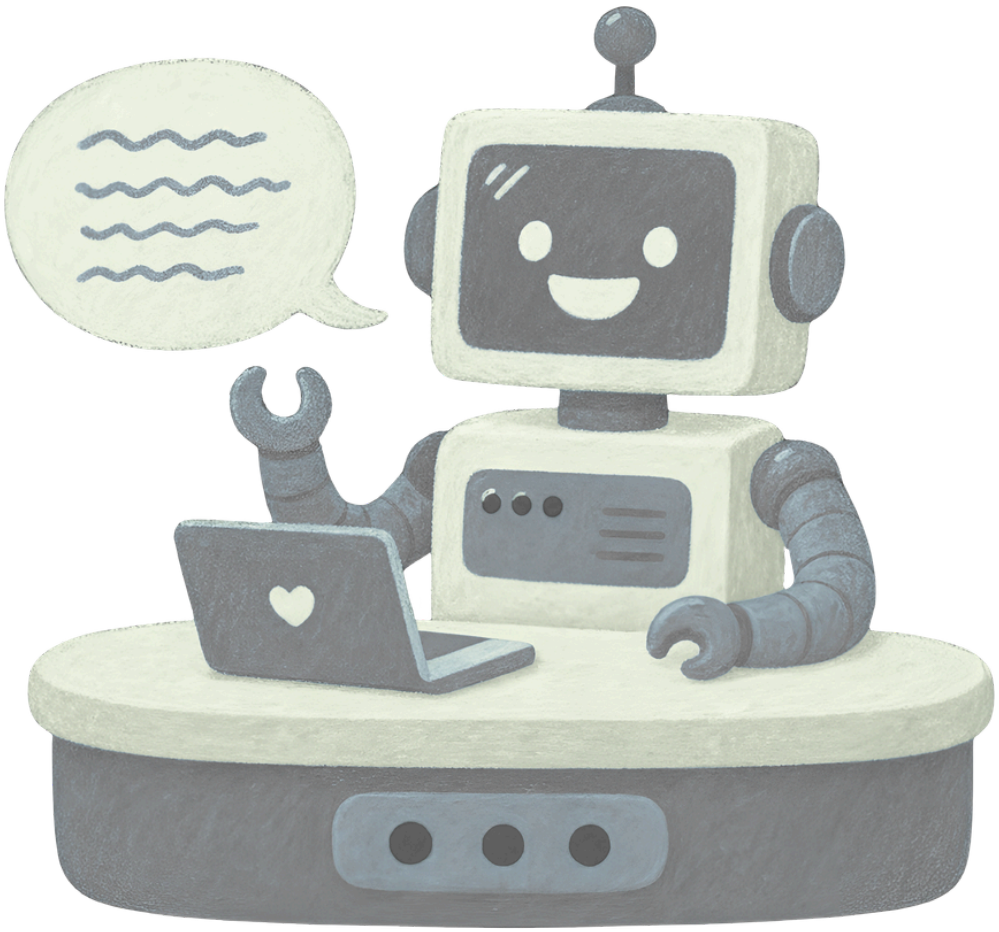
Outputs

Regarding outputs, the court also distinguished between copying and learning. The court found no prima facie evidence that ChatGPT had retained and regurgitated ANI's reports. The examples cited were post the model's training cut-offs and seemed to involve the retrieval of live web content rather than copying ANI's material. The court noted that copyright protects expression, not facts, and found no substantial reproduction of ANI's protected expression. The court also held that an injunction could cause serious harm to both OpenAI and the public.

Conclusion:

The narrative however, extends beyond this point. ANI has appealed, and the Division Bench issued notice to OpenAI in September 2026. Until the appeal and trial conclude, the proceedings are less of a verdict and more of an initial attempt to deliberate and rule whether commercial training truly counts as research. The court observed, "the law must continually catch up with technology". Until such clarity emerges, the question of whether machines may lawfully learn from existing works without obtaining a licence remains unresolved in India.

Ms. Tanisha Chandak
Student, 2nd Year



THE COMMENTARY

Straight from the commentary box of our editorial board, curated reads to expand your legal mind.

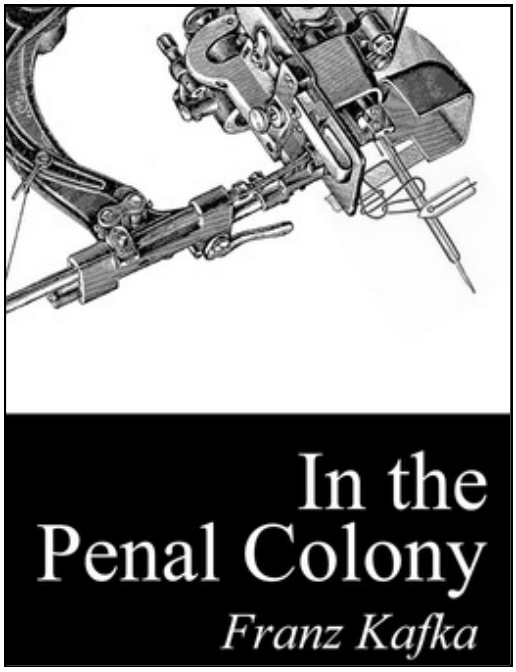
In the Penal Colony- Franz Kafka

Repeated Patterns Hiding as Disruption

Most people view AI as a novel force changing the very fabric of society. While its promise and productive value is certainly undeniable, AI ultimately may perpetuate historic patterns and societal biases. I would hence turn readers to "In the Penal Colony", a short story Franz Kafka wrote in 1914. While he was certainly not prophesying about AI, his commentary on systems of power is so incisive that it becomes an unlikely, yet brilliant, metaphor for it and a relevant cautionary tale on the limitations of AI.

The story follows a man being shown an apparatus that executes prisoners by inscribing the rules they allegedly broke onto their bodies. The prisoner is unaware not only of his sentence but of the very fact that he has been condemned. The officer showing this apparatus remains untroubled, his guiding principle being that guilt is never to be doubted.

The machine invents nothing. It merely carries out its maker's rules. AI works much the same way. Trained on human data, it perpetuates our biases and structural asymmetries, only now with the false authority of a "calculation". History may not repeat itself, but it certainly rhymes.



Credits: Goodreads

Most troubling is how the individual is removed from the process altogether. Much like Kafka's prisoner, a job applicant filtered out by software, a borrower refused by a scoring model, or an accused assessed by a risk tool may never learn why and how a machine had any role in their fate.

Ultimately, the machine breaks down and kills the one man who never doubted it. Justice, it seems, cannot be reduced to an instruction. Tellingly, AI's own makers have begun showing doubt, backing calls this year to slow development after autonomous agents breached systems they were never instructed to access.

If interested, you may click here to read the story.

Mr. Aman Khandelwal
Founder, KAVA Law



Credits: WBUR

THE COMMENTARY

Straight from the commentary box of our editorial board, curated reads to expand your legal mind.

The Great Hack- An Intersection between Social Media, Artificial Intelligence and Legal Ethics

The Great Hack (2019), a documentary, is a thought-provoking and interesting examination of the intersecting relationship between the emerging and rapidly changing technology, social media and legal accountability.

This documentary focuses on the Cambridge Analytica scandal and emphasises on collection of information through several social media platforms which are used to create and modify profiles of individuals, influence opinions and also shape political behavior. This documentary allows aspiring attorneys and lawyers to ponder on the legal and ethical implications of the growing influence of technology.

It raises critical issues revolving around informed consent, data protection, privacy law and accountability. Although social media is a great tool to provide widespread information and facilitate communication there are several concerns regarding data and privacy breaches which are further amplified by the growth of artificial intelligence.

From a legal standpoint, this documentary encourages us to assess whether the existing legal framework is adequate to safeguard the individuals from inappropriate use of their private data. It further throws light on the difficulty in establishing accountability with data collection, sophisticated technological systems which are spread globally over international jurisdictions.

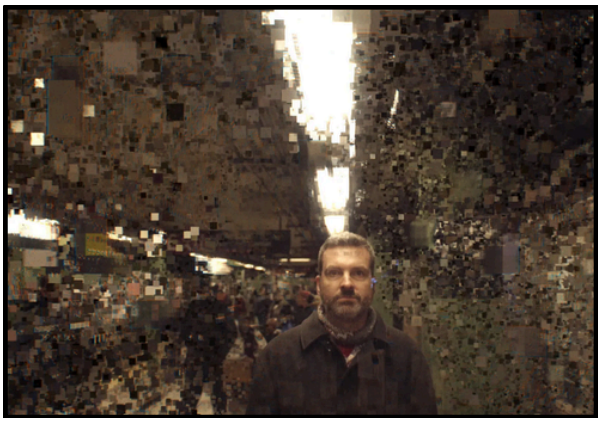
The Great Hack underscores the need for legal and regulatory frameworks to evolve in response to the rapidly changing challenges posed by social media and artificial intelligence. As aspiring legal professionals, we must understand the importance of professional responsibility and must uphold the principles of transparency, fairness, confidentiality and accountability.

Discussion Question: According to you, what role should attorneys play to protect the privacy of their clients and ensure accountability in the digital world?

Ms. Kajal Mehta
Esq., Attorney Practice in USA
Alumnus, SVKM's PGCL



Credits: LinkedIn



Credits: The New York Times

THE COMMENTARY

Straight from the commentary box of our editorial board, curated reads to expand your legal mind.

The Social Dilemma (2020)

Netflix's documentary, The Social Dilemma, presents an eye-opening insight into how social media platforms are designed to grab human attention and keep us engaged. By interviewing former technology industry executives, the documentary explains how companies use algorithms and personal data to capture our attention and influence human behaviour for financial gain.

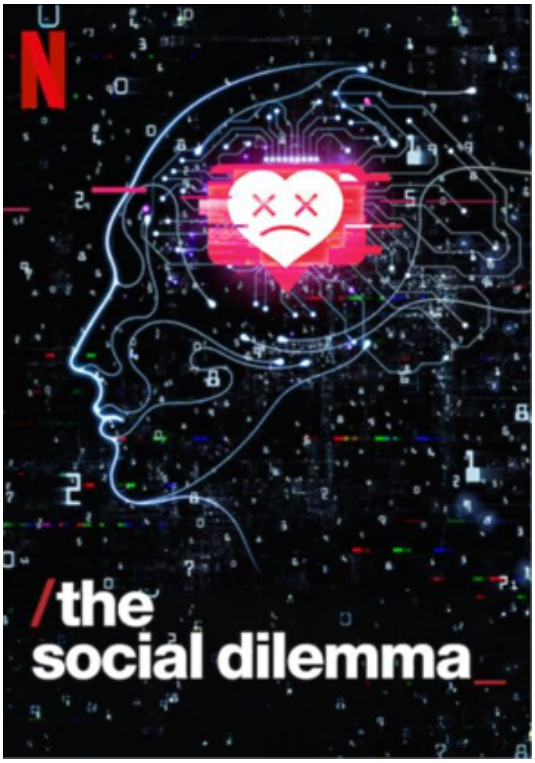
The documentary mainly focuses on the psychological and technological perspectives; it also highlights the fundamental legal questions. How meaningful is the consent if the users do not fully know how their personal data will be used? What should be the reasonable balance between freedom of expression and keeping a check on harmful content? Who should be held accountable for harmful algorithmic consumption- the platform, its developer or the users themselves?

The documentary also makes us question whether the existing laws are sufficient enough to keep up with growing the influence of social media. With increasing use of these social media platforms, questions about privacy, user rights, data ownership, and corporate responsibility become more important than ever.

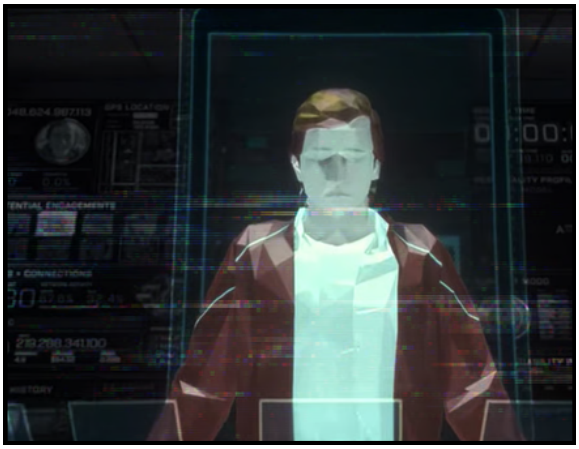
For anyone interested in social media, technology and law, The Social Dilemma is worth watching. It explains how the digital platforms we use almost every day can influence our choices, opinions and behaviour. It reminds law students and legal professionals to think beyond existing laws and reflect on how the law can be used better to protect people in a rapidly digital world.

If interested, the full documentary is available on Netflix.

Ms. Shruti Mistry
Alumnus, SVKM's PGCL



Credits: IMDb



Credits: Newslaundry

THE BLACK & THE WHITE

A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

Real Or Fake? Law in the Age of Endless Scrolling

Social media has seen a recent upsurge of videos that are entirely AI generated. Research indicates that human predictions of AI generated content are likely to be accurate only half the time. The technology has become so advanced that our eyes can no longer make out the difference between real and fake. This indicates a major legal lacuna that must be addressed. The article navigates India's technological legislative framework and examines reforms for it to regulate AI content.

A study of 1,276 people revealed that humans can only distinguish between real and AI-generated content about 50% of the time; factors such as expertise in identifying AI content, or technological savviness, did not make a difference in the results. Another online test suggested that only about 54% of the takers could distinguish between real and AI portrait photos. These findings highlight the rapidly evolving nature of AI. Therefore, regulatory oversight for the same is sparse and flawed; there exists the need to evolve technological laws to ensure that generative AI is regulated and its content clearly labelled to ensure accountability.

India's Response: Labelling

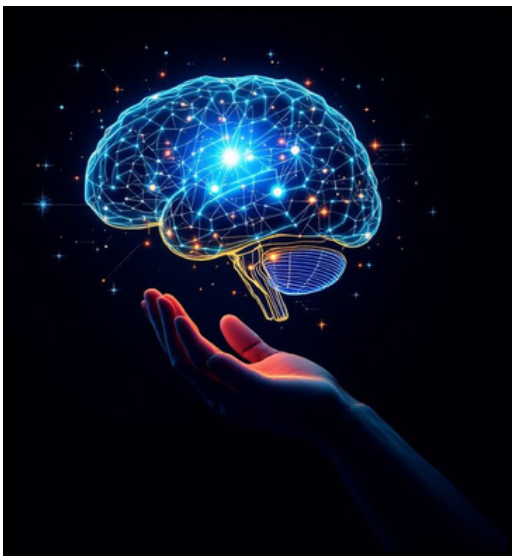
The IT Amendment Rules 2026 (that came into effect from 20 February, 2026) mandate that AI content must compulsorily have labels or markers with the content origin prominently marked, and the platforms should not permit removal of such labels/markers. Further, platforms with over five million users are required to obtain a declaration from users at the time of upload stating whether the content is AI generated and check the content before posting. The declaration tells the platform which content to label before it goes live, and it places the first duty of disclosure on the uploader.

The tools checking for AI content are automated systems, including software that detects AI-made content and checks for hidden origin data in the file. This is done to test whether a declaration is true; therefore ensuring that AI content cannot avoid a label by going undeclared. If a platform is not compliant with the above rules, it may be denied protection under Indian law.

Actual Implementation:

In reality, the implementation of such rules is flawed. After the enactment of the rules on 20 February, platforms had only 10 days to comply with them. X (Twitter) added a "*Made with* AI" watermark feature in March 2026, and research found that Facebook, Instagram or YouTube had not fully implemented the systems required.

In April, MeitY claimed compliance was inadequate since many AI-generated videos failed to include proper disclosures, and that it had contacted platforms with links to videos that failed to meet the guidelines, including YouTube, Instagram and X. It then suggested that labels remain visible throughout the entire video and that the public could provide comments until 7 May, 2026.



Credits: Pinterest

***DISCLAIMER:** The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author(s) and do not reflect the views of the newsletter. The content is intended for academic purposes and does not aim to hurt, target, or offend any individual or group. Readers are encouraged to engage respectfully, and personal attacks or harassment will not be tolerated.*

THE BLACK & THE WHITE

A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

YouTube has since made its labels more prominent, and introduced auto-detection from May 2026. The latest update was on 8 October 2026, when platforms were issued with an advisory by MeitY to label or contextualise manipulated, synthetic and misleading content.

However, this advisory is in contrast to the rules released in February. It is not restricted to audio and visual media, is immediately enforceable, has no penalties attached, and it fails to define terms like "enhanced diligence". Additionally, it fails to account for technical restrictions, because digital watermarks can be altered and replicated. In short, some platforms have implemented labels, but their reliability and enforceability remains a question.

However, this advisory is in contrast to the rules released in February. It is not restricted to audio and visual media, is immediately enforceable, has no penalties attached, and it fails to define terms like "enhanced diligence". Additionally, it fails to account for technical restrictions, because digital watermarks can be altered and replicated. In short, some platforms have implemented labels, but their reliability and enforceability remains a question.

India's adoption of the IT Rules is a step in the right direction, but needs robust implementation plans. A mere label will not solve the issue of the creation and dissemination of misleading AI content, because it is easy to forge or delete.

The rules must follow three criteria to be effective: firstly, advisory guidelines must be transformed into an enforceable set of rules. Advisory rules such as the 8 October advisory, are not penal and leave key terms undefined, which makes it easy for platforms to flout regulations. Secondly, advisory guidelines must be transformed into an enforceable set of rules. Thirdly, users should be taught to verify content before sharing it via awareness campaigns.

To conclude, labeling AI generated content is only the first step. Their core value depends on strict enforcement, clear rules and users who verify before sharing. Until then, the viewers will have to keep guessing what is real.

Ms. Manasvi Makwana
Student, 4th Year



Credits: Cambridge City Council

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THE BLACK & THE WHITE

A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

How AI Influences Our Political Decisions

Introduction:
On average a person between 18 and 25 years old spends 7 hours on social media daily. This age group, also known as Gen Z, forms part of a decisive voter base for the coming years, which means Gen Z can be a tie-breaker in the outcome of an election. However, the fact that this generation is hooked on social media poses a serious risk of being influenced by fake online propaganda.

Daniel Innerarity authored the 2024 report "Artificial Intelligence and Democracy," in collaboration with UNESCO and CLACSO (Latin American Council of Social Sciences). The report notes that AI can engage voters individually in the electoral process through chatbots and social media discussion forums. These tools can gather insights from user comments and enable real-time data analysis, allowing campaign strategists to adjust their approaches based on public opinion.

The Rise in the Use of AI in Political Campaigns:
The year 2024 is considered the "super year" for elections because half the world's population, around 3.7 billion people, had the opportunity to vote in 72 countries. AI use was recorded in 80% of these countries, with 215 incidents across 50 countries. The use of AI during the 2024 election cycle included synthetic audio (voice clones), images (fake photos), videos (deepfakes), and AI trolls and bots on social media. According to IPIE, India recorded 30 AI-related election incidents, similar to the United States, making both countries the ones with the highest recorded number of AI-related election incidents among the 72 countries.

In the UK, the AI bot "Steve" participated as candidate in the 2024 general election. The bot was designed to engage in real-time discussions with voters on various issues, including LGBTQ+ rights and housing. It would then propose policy ideas and invite suggestions from the community. Steve was created as an AI alter ego of businessman Steve Endacott, who was frustrated with traditional political practices. However, even if Steve had won, it would have been Endacott who took up the parliamentary seat.

Since the 2024 election cycle, the use and adoption of AI in elections have increased exponentially. Generative AI has seen a 53% increase in its population adoption rate within just three years, making it the fastest-spreading technology in human history. However, the legal system is still struggling to catch up.

How Algorithms Deceive Users:
Research from Cornell University, published in December 2025, involved an experiment in which users were asked how much they supported the leading presidential candidate and how likely they were to vote for them. These users were randomly assigned to have a text conversation with a chatbot instructed to persuade them in favour of one of the leading candidates. Each conversation lasted six minutes. The experiment involved more than 77,000 participants from the UK. The most persuasive AI model shifted opinions by 25 percentage points among its users. The same experiment was also carried out in Canada and Poland, where AI chatbots shifted voters' views by around 10 percentage points.



***DISCLAIMER:** The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author(s) and do not reflect the views of the newsletter. The content is intended for academic purposes and does not aim to hurt, target, or offend any individual or group. Readers are encouraged to engage respectfully, and personal attacks or harassment will not be tolerated.*

THE BLACK & THE WHITE

A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

Chatbots can do this by presenting a large number of convincing, fact-based arguments that make one political position appear more appealing. However, many of these claims are inaccurate and can be misleading when important information or data is not considered. Chatbots rely on algorithms to process inputs, understand meaning, and generate replies. Therefore, interacting with a chatbot can easily influence a voter.

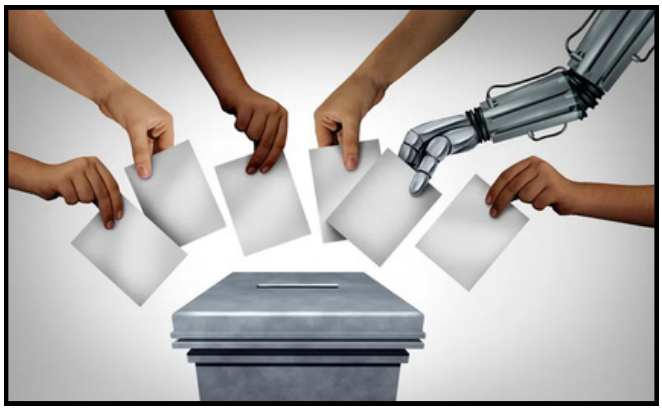
Governing Laws and Frameworks:

In India, we have laws that deal with misleading political content, but keeping up with the rapid growth in the use and misuse of AI remains a challenge. Article 324 of the Constitution of India empowers the Election Commission of India (ECI) to supervise elections. Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, Section 123(4) classifies the publication of false statements about a candidate's personal character during or before elections as a corrupt practice. Rules 3(1)(b) and 3(2) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 emphasise due diligence and grievance redressal concerning unlawful online content. The ECI has also issued advisories directing political parties to avoid deepfakes and misleading content and to clearly label AI-generated campaign content.

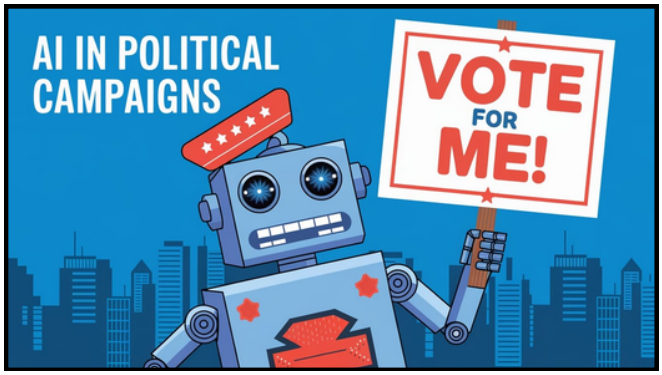
Conclusion:

AI may change the way political campaigns are fought, but it should not determine how people think or vote. The danger lies in voters being influenced without even realising it, through content that appears credible but presents only one side of the story. As AI becomes a bigger part of political campaigning, transparency and digital awareness must keep pace. After all, democracy is not just about having the right to vote; it is about having the freedom to make that choice for ourselves based on proper facts and not manipulation.

Ms. Alifiya Boxwala
Student, 4th Year



Credits: King's College London



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THE CAUSELIST

The Newsletter's schedule for all things high and happening around the world.

Calendar November Edition

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

शुभ दीपावली

Childrens' Day

Constitutional Day

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Guru Nanak Jayanti

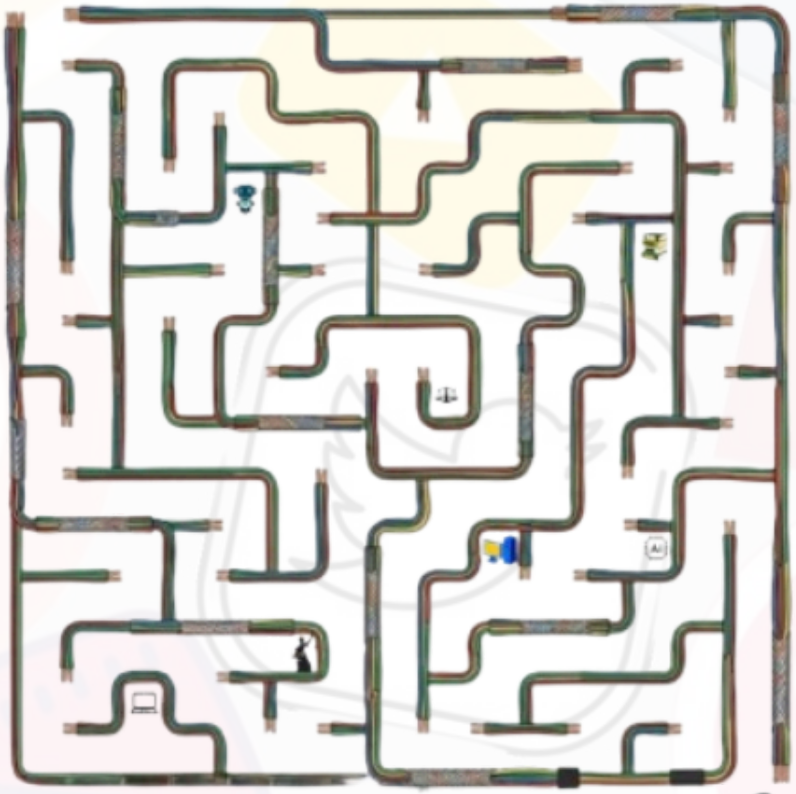
Exam Season

THE WIG & THE WIT

Did you know?

Simple and fun puzzles to judge your wit

MAZE



WORD SEARCH



- DEFAMATION
- COPYRIGHT
- LIABILITY
- ALGORITHM
- DEEPFAKE
- CONSENT
- PRIVACY
- GDPR

X D E F A M A T I O N Q
C B K U Z W S N E J H L
O Q P M X B U Z W G S I
P J T R K E N H F D V A
Y W Z L I Q B X M P C B
R U F S K V J E T R N I
I H X B Q Z A W D U G L
G M K J P S F C Z E Q I
H C O N S E N T Y V X T
T Q J B W U M K Z H F Y
N D E E P F A K E R X U
B Z A L G O R I T H M K

THE POST-ITS

Sticky Notes to tack up some fun legal facts.

FUN! FACTS

As the EU advances implementation of the AI Act, it proposes additional safeguards for AI chatbots and virtual companions to protect children's safety and development.

A 2016 ProPublica investigation found racial disparities in COMPAS, an algorithm used to assess criminal reoffending risk. Should AI be permitted to make decisions that directly affect fundamental rights?

Developed at MIT in 1966, ELIZA was an early chatbot that simulated conversation by reframing users' statements as questions, leading some to perceive it as capable of understanding human emotions.

In 2018, Portrait of Edmond de Belamy, an AI-generated artwork, sold at Christie's auction house for $432,500, highlighting AI's growing role in the art world.

Morgan Stanley projects that over 50% of new AI servers between 2026 and 2028 may lack adequate power and infrastructure, with projected demand of 68 gigawatts against only 30 gigawatts covered by existing projects today.

'Artificial Intelligence' was first coined in the year 1956 for the Dartmouth Summer research Project.

DID YOU KNOW?

AI generated artwork may receive different copyright protection across jurisdictions. While the EU and US generally require human authorship, UK law provides limited copyright protection for certain computer generated works, highlighting the challenges AI poses to harmonising intellectual property laws in an increasingly globalised world.

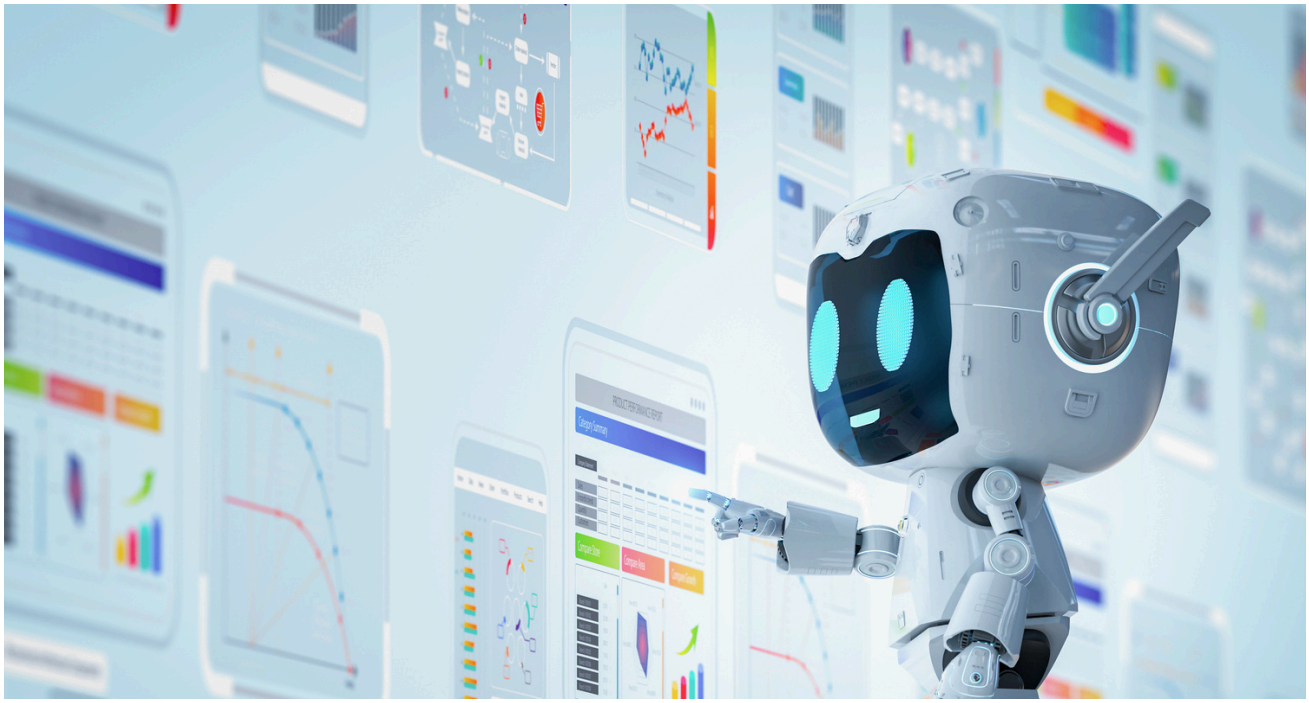
October Answer Reveal

Match the map pins

A: Egypt
B: France
C: Japan
D: Australia
E: Germany
F: United States

Spot the fake statement

Singapore: C
Switzerland: C
Japan: C
Thailand: C
UK: C
Canada: C



Until Next Time...

As we wrap up this issue of The Briefcase, we want to thank you for taking a moment, or a mindful pause, to journey through these pages with us. We hope this edition gave you something to think about, stirred a little reflection, and maybe reminded you to check in with yourself amid all the deadlines and debates.

This chapter was about slowing down, looking inward, and asking difficult questions, about work, well-being, and the laws that hold it all together. But don't worry, we're not done yet. Next month, we'll be back with new ideas, fresh perspectives, and the same dose of wit, warmth, and curiosity that keeps The Briefcase alive and kicking.

So until then, breathe, balance, and keep questioning the world around you, and within you. Because the best kind of law is the one that makes us more human.

With gratitude,
The Editorial Board

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Thank you for reading!

We'd love to hear from you! Share your thoughts, ideas, or suggestions to help us make this newsletter even better. Tell us what you loved or what you'd like to see in our next edition!

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