

# **Trends at Raisina: Musings Over Millets**

**Raisina Dialogue 2023**

Synthetic Humanity: How will the democratisation and accessibility of AI, such as with ChatGPT, impact national politics and international relations?

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In his dinner speech at the opening, the Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra asked: Is ChatGPT a tempest or a lighthouse? The short answer is that it probably has the potential to become either of both, depending on how well we will handle it. Let me try to offer a slightly more differentiated answer.

## **What is ChatGPT?**

Released by OpenAI, an AI research laboratory, ChatGPT stands for Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer.

Chat GPT is a large language model using deep learning techniques to generate human-like responses to text inputs. It is trained on a vast amount of text data and can understand and generate text in various languages and styles.

The user-friendly AI tool ChatGPT has attracted hundreds of millions of users since its launch in November 2022. In recent days, AI content generated by the bot has been used in US Congress, Columbian courts and a speech by Israel's president.

Just two days ago, for the first time in Switzerland, a parliamentary intervention was drafted by Artificial Intelligence software. A Swiss parliament member (National Councillor Samuel Bendahan) decided to use ChatGPT to draft his intervention precisely to demand better regulation of these new technologies.

I think we're hitting a tipping point for Artificial Intelligence: With ChatGPT and other AI models that can communicate in plain English, write and revise the text, and write code, the technology is suddenly becoming more useful to a broader population. This has enormous implications and considerations, including ethical ones.

## **Risks and Benefits for the Democratic Process**

Let me start by looking at some risks and benefits of AI and, in particular, ChatGPT for the democratic process.

Democracy is fundamentally a human way of organising ourselves, and where an AI, whether it's a ChatGPT that is writing human text or another AI that is figuring out human strategy, can do that at a speed and scale that humans can't. On the one hand, it could be beneficial for society, but it could also take over entire processes and really subvert the intent of this very human system.

There are potential benefits, although it is difficult to say at this point if the risks outweigh them. For instance, ChatGPT may potentially equalise information asymmetries between different societal levels as it facilitates access to contextualised information for the public. In highly unequal societies, AI and Chat GPT may bridge knowledge divides, granted that individuals have access to these tools and digital literacy over them.

Artificial Intelligence like ChatGPT could have a seismic effect on democracy by replacing humans in the lobbying process. ChatGPT can already determine whether government bills are relevant to companies with 75.3 per cent accuracy. It can draft a letter to Congress and even suggest recommendations for amending the bill in question. AI lobbyists will make the already complex political landscape even more challenging. There is a risk that the already influential will become even more so, and the noise that smaller parties have to shout over to be heard will have to become louder than ever.

ChatGPT could write letters to newspaper editors, write comments submitted in regulatory processes, and eventually, AI systems could exploit policymaking weaknesses by targeting key legislators. OpenAI researchers have long been nervous about chatbots falling into nefarious hands, writing in a 2019 paper of their "concern that its capabilities could lower costs of disinformation campaigns" and aid in the malicious pursuit "of monetary gain, a particular political agenda, and/or a desire to create chaos or confusion."

### **Risks and Benefits for International Relations**

Over the past decade, significant advances in AI have led to many debates about its potential social, economic, and security impact. However, little sustained attention has been paid to the effect of AI on international relations or how the technology impacts the work of diplomats and policymakers. Advances in AI have put new topics on the international agenda, challenged geostrategic relations, served as a tool for diplomats and negotiators, and also created new opportunities and concerns about human rights.

Foreign policy is transforming swiftly as countries turn to algorithms to predict events significant to business and geopolitics. AI could prove useful in negotiations, analysing past negotiations, and predicting the outcome of ongoing discussions.

However, there are also negative aspects to it. For instance, ChatGPT may undermine trust in diplomats and their institutions while decreasing diplomats' ability to formulate shared and global responses to shared challenges.

Countries like China have adopted AI and ML around diplomacy and related government areas. For example, China introduced an AI foreign policy toolbox with its "New Generation Plan" to be the world leader in AI by 2030. Other countries, such as Russia, Canada, and the US, use AI as an international diplomacy instrument. The areas include international security, cyber-security, threat monitoring, autonomous weapon systems, monitoring of concluded agreements, military power, and warfare.

In recent years the nuclear states engaged in the race to deploy AI to enable the operation of new types of weapons, including hypersonic missiles or uncrewed submarines. Generally, the military use of Artificial Intelligence increased substantially, opening the possibilities of cyber wars and disguised attacks on nuclear weapons command-and-control systems. It also shortened the decision-making time available. These developments can lead to confrontation by accident, incident, or intent and therefore are very risky.

### **Regulation of AI and ChatGPT**

Let me conclude with a couple of thoughts on regulation.

ChatGPT and other language models have already proven that AI is here to stay and will affect us profoundly. It is likely (in the future) to influence the geopolitical competition between world powers.

As ChatGPT moves into the house, we must acknowledge the challenges it poses and move to mitigate its potentially negative impact. One way would be to open ChatGPT's black box to regulate open AI systems and ensure that each answer includes the sources of information and databases used to generate knowledge.

A new ethical agenda for AI in political advertising and content on online platforms is required. Given the cross-border nature of the problem, the agenda must be backed by global consensus and action.

Ultimately, the appropriate level of regulation for ChatGPT, and AI in general, will depend on the specific risks and potential harms associated with the technology. As with any new and powerful technology, it's important to carefully consider the potential impacts and take steps to ensure that it is used in a responsible and ethical manner.