

AI News Digest

09/07/2026 - 09/13/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: ARTS, MEDIA & PERFORMANCE

Tech Giants Face Growing Scrutiny Over AI Misuse

The intersection of technology and cultural heritage took center stage this week, as concerns over AI-generated content, data privacy, and misinformation dominated the headlines. From lawsuits against Meta for unauthorized use of user data to criticisms of AI-generated videos on YouTube, tech companies are facing growing scrutiny over their AI practices. Meanwhile, efforts to support independent journalism and protect Indigenous knowledge are underway. As AI continues to evolve, regulators and industry leaders are grappling with the implications.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Meta is facing a lawsuit for allegedly using Facebook and Instagram photos to build an unreleased face-recognition system and train generative AI models without users' consent.
- ✓ Critics warn that AI-generated videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids have little substance and may cause harm to young children due to inaccurate or biased content.
- ✓ California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill prohibiting social media platforms from providing addictive features to users under 16.

IMPLICATIONS

- Tech companies will need to prioritize transparency and accountability in their AI practices to avoid regulatory backlash.
- The increasing use of AI-generated content will require more robust safeguards to protect vulnerable populations, such as children.
- The intersection of AI and cultural heritage will continue to raise important questions about ownership, preservation, and representation.

Key Metrics: September 2026: Bodhan AI and AI4Bharat released four new models for processing Indian languages.; 16: The age under which social media platforms are prohibited from providing addictive features in California.; 2026: The year in which Bodhan AI released the Indic models.

1. Bodhan AI Releases Four Indic Models for OCR, Translation and Speech

Category: Applications
Departments: Computer Science, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Industrial, Manufacturing & Systems Engineering, Educational Leadership, Communication
Topics: Natural Language Processing, IndicOCR, Multilingual AI Models, Speech Recognition

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 4
Practical Impact: 5	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Bodhan AI and AI4Bharat released four new models for processing Indian languages, covering document parsing, translation, speech recognition, and speech generation. The models, released in September 2026, include IndicOCR for parsing printed documents and handwritten text, Indic-Translate for document-level translation, Indic-Transcribe for speech-to-transcript, and Indic-Speak for text-to-speech. IndicOCR achieved 92.76 on OmniDocBench v1.6 and 86.2% word-level accuracy across 22 Indian languages and English, while Indic-Translate scored 58.97 dBLEU and 0.4326 word error rate on in-house document tests. The models support mixed languages and scripts, with applications in digitizing textbooks, making regional archives searchable, and localizing documents.

<https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2026/09/bodhan-ai-indic-models/>

2. Nitin Agarwal

Category: Research
Departments: Computer Science, Social Work, Communication, Sociology & Anthropology, Psychology
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Social Media Analysis, Behavioral Modeling, Cyber Social Behavior

Impact Score: 22.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Dr. Nitin Agarwal leads the Collaboratorium for Social Media and Online Behavioral Studies (COSMOS) Research Center, focusing on understanding digital and cyber social behaviors. His research explores social computing, behavior-cultural modeling, and Artificial Intelligence, with projects funded by over \$30 million from US federal agencies. Dr. Agarwal has developed publicly available social media analysis tools and contributed to projects mitigating cognitive threats, collective action, and social cyber forensics. His work has been published in top-tier peer-reviewed forums with over 5500 citations.

<https://wpcms.computer.org/profiles/nitin-agarwal>

3. Resource: Planning XR projects for cultural heritage

Category: Education
Departments: Computer Science, Art
Topics: AI for Cultural Heritage, Extended Reality Applications, XR Project Planning

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 1
Practical Impact: 3	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

The EUreka3D-XR project developed an introductory course called "Planning XR projects for cultural heritage" to provide a foundation for understanding XR and its applications in cultural heritage. The course targets Cultural Heritage professionals, XR-focused project managers and coordinators, educators, researchers, and enthusiasts of XR. It explores the core concepts of Extended Reality.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/09/planning-xr-projects-for-cultural-heritage/>

4. Stitching the Future: Technology as a Sacred Trust

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Educational Leadership, Counseling and Special Education, Teacher Education, Communication, Sociology & Anthropology
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Cultural Heritage Preservation, Indigenous Knowledge Protection, Digital Trust and Respect

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 1
Practical Impact: 2	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The article discusses the importance of protecting Indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage in the context of artificial intelligence and digital preservation. The author, an instructional technology coordinator at an Indian Community School, reflects on their personal experience with their grandmother's unfinished quilt and a ribbon skirt-making class, highlighting the significance of community, trust, and respect in preserving cultural knowledge. The author realizes that some knowledge is valuable not because it can be owned or preserved, but because it carries stories and relationships. This experience has reshaped their approach to protecting their community's digital future.

<https://edsurge.com/news/stitching-the-future-technology-as-a-sacred-trust>

5. AI Videos Are Warping Early Learning, Teachers Say

Category: Education

Departments: Educational Leadership, Counseling and Special Education, Teacher Education, Communication, Computer Science

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, AI-generated Content Detection, Early Childhood Education AI

Impact Score: 14.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 2

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Critics warn that AI-generated videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids, often referred to as "baby slop," have little substance and may cause harm to young children due to inaccurate or biased content. These videos can be generated quickly and in large quantities, with one channel having nearly 5,500 AI-generated videos in less than a year. Educators suggest that teachers can help children navigate these videos by vetting content, using trusted resources, and encouraging critical thinking skills to recognize AI-generated content. Experts recommend that teachers have conversations with students about suspect content and help them develop decoding skills to distinguish between real and fake information.

<https://edsurge.com/news/ai-videos-are-warping-early-learning-teachers-say-heres-how-theyre-responding>

6. Meta Sued Over Training Data for Its AI and Face-Recognition Systems

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Computer Science, Communication, Social Work, Psychology

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Biometric Data Privacy, Generative AI Training, Face Recognition Systems, Consent in AI Development

Impact Score: 13.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 0

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

A lawsuit has been filed against Meta in federal court, alleging that the company used Facebook and Instagram photos to build an unreleased face-recognition system called NameTag and train generative AI models without users' consent. The proposed class action claims Meta violated Illinois and California privacy laws by extracting biometric information from people's photos. Meta denies the allegations, stating that the lawsuit is "without merit" and that it has been transparent about its use of people's information to build AI products. The plaintiffs are seeking damages and injunctive relief, with potential claims for millions of people whose images were used.

<https://www.wired.com/story/meta-sued-over-training-data-for-its-ai-and-face-recognition-systems/>

7. California's Governor Signs Landmark Online Child Safety Bills

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Communication, Social Work, Counseling and Special Education, Computer Science

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Social Media Regulation, Child Online Safety

Impact Score: 12.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0

Educational Value: 1

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill prohibiting social media platforms from providing addictive features to users under 16. This law is the first of its kind in the US. The bill aims to restrict social media platforms from using features that are deemed addictive to minors.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/10/technology/californias-governor-gavin-newsom-online-child-safety-bills.html>

8. Supporting independent journalism in Ukraine

Category: Business

Departments: Communication, Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration, Educational Leadership

Topics: Enterprise AI, Newsroom AI Training, AI for Media Sustainability

Impact Score: 12.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

OpenAI, WAN-IFRA, and AIRPPU have launched an initiative to support Ukrainian news publishers by building practical AI capabilities and accelerating innovation. The program consists of the Newsroom AI Masterclass Series and the Newsroom AI Catalyst, which will provide training, support, and credits to OpenAI's API for participating news organizations. The initiative aims to help Ukrainian news organizations strengthen their sustainability, efficiency, and resilience through AI adoption. Ten Ukrainian news organizations will receive hands-on support to identify high-impact use cases and pilot AI-enabled solutions.

<https://openai.com/index/supporting-independent-journalism-in-ukraine>

9. Elon Musk Has Pledged to Rid His Platform, X, of Child Sexual Abuse, but It Persists

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Communication, Criminal Justice & Security Studies, Social Work, Sociology & Anthropology, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Content Moderation, Child Abuse Detection

Impact Score: 11.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0

Educational Value: 1

Innovation / Novelty: 0

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The Canadian Center for Child Protection and The New York Times conducted reviews that found explicit images of children on a social media site owned by Elon Musk. These reviews indicate that the site has not effectively removed such content. The presence of explicit child images on the platform raises concerns about user safety and content moderation.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/11/technology/x-grok-child-images.html>