

India's AI Governance Guidelines: Framework for Responsible AI Regulation

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AI Governance Latest News

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) released the India AI Governance Guidelines recently, detailing how Artificial Intelligence will be regulated and promoted in the country.
- The document outlines India's framework for responsible AI use across sectors. Its release is part of the government's broader preparations for the **AI Impact Summit 2026**, which India will host in New Delhi.

Purpose of the AI Governance Guidelines

- The new **AI Governance Guidelines** aim to create a **clear and consistent framework** for regulating Artificial Intelligence in India, now the **second-largest user** of tools like ChatGPT after the U.S.
- Their goal is to **use AI for inclusive growth and global competitiveness** while managing risks to individuals and society.

- The document aligns India with international efforts that focus on identifying AI risks, defining accountability, and promoting safety research.
- The guidelines were finalised by a **MeitY committee led by Prof. Balaraman Ravindran** of IIT Madras' **Centre for Responsible AI (CeRAI)**, following earlier drafts by a government advisory group.

Key Recommendations of India's AI Governance Guidelines

- **Guiding Principles** - The guidelines are based on values like **people-centricity, fairness, accountability, and transparency** in AI systems. They aim to ensure AI serves citizens safely and responsibly.
- **Coordination Across Government Bodies** - A new AI Governance Group is proposed to connect ministries, regulators, and standard-setting agencies. This group will regularly review laws, suggest reforms, issue standards, and promote access to AI safety tools.
- **Role of Sectoral Regulators** - The framework recommends active participation from agencies such as the RBI (for finance), NITI Aayog, and the Bureau of Indian Standards to align industry-specific AI practices with national policy.
- **Infrastructure and Accessibility** - Unlike many global frameworks, India's plan stresses AI infrastructure development — urging states to expand data access, computing resources, and promote AI adoption.
- **Focus on Indian Context** - The guidelines call for: **Legal updates** on copyright and AI-generated content; Building **AI models for Indian languages** using locally relevant datasets to ensure cultural inclusiveness and diversity in AI applications.

Private Sector Responsibilities

- Companies are advised to:
 - Follow Indian laws and voluntary AI frameworks.
 - Publish transparency reports.
 - Provide grievance redress systems.
 - Use techno-legal solutions to manage AI-related risks.
- The AI Safety Institute (AIS), under the IndiaAI Mission, will guide safety and compliance efforts.

Alignment of AI Guidelines with Government Plans

- The government continues to take a light-touch approach to regulating AI, except in the case of deepfakes.
- The guidelines stress “**content authentication**”, and MeitY has proposed rules requiring social media platforms to label AI-generated images and videos.
- Several recommendations align with existing government efforts:
 - The IndiaAI Mission is already buying GPUs to create a shared computing facility for startups and researchers.
 - The plan to integrate AI with Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), like Aadhaar, is underway — with UIDAI forming a committee to explore AI-based improvements.
- While the framework guides AI governance, the government will act swiftly if urgent regulation is needed, even by enacting a stricter law.

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