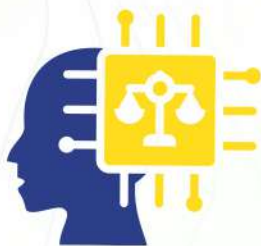


Summary of



# INDIA

AI GOVERNANCE



GUIDELINES

## SUMMARY: INDIA AI GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released guidelines titled “[India AI Governance Guidelines](#)”, published on 05<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The guidelines aim to present a governance framework that advances technical progress and mitigates the potential risks of AI to society while being grounded in India's needs and aspirations.

### Key Principles

Seven key principles, adapted from the Reserve Bank of India’s [FREE-AI Committee](#) report, have been applied across sectors to guide the overall approach. These include:

- **Trust is the foundation:** Must be embedded across the AI value chain – ranging from the underlying technology, the organisations developing it, institutions responsible for supervision, and trust that individuals will use it responsibly.
- **People first:** Human-centric design, human oversight, and human empowerment. Such an approach prioritises human capacity development, ethical safeguards, trust and safety.
- **Innovation over restraint:** Should be carried out responsibly and should aim to maximise overall benefit while reducing potential harm.
- **Fairness & equity:** Should be designed and tested to ensure that outcomes are fair, unbiased, and do not discriminate against anyone. AI should be leveraged to promote inclusive development while mitigating risks of exclusion, bias, and discrimination.
- **Accountability:** Should be clearly assigned based on the function performed, the risk of harm, and due diligence conditions imposed; and may be ensured through policy, technical, and market-led mechanisms.
- **Understandable by design:** Despite being probabilistic, AI systems should have clear explanations and disclosures to help users and regulators understand how the system works, what it means for the user, and the likely outcomes intended by the entities deploying them, to the extent technically feasible.
- **Safety, resilience & sustainability:** Safe, secure, and robust systems that can withstand systemic shocks and are environmentally sustainable.

### Key Recommendations

The following are some key issues that were identified in AI governance from an Indian perspective, and recommendations on the same:

- **Infrastructure:** Enable innovation and adoption of AI by expanding access to foundational resources such as data and compute, attracting investments, and

leveraging the power of digital public infrastructure for scale, impact, and inclusion.

- **Capacity Building:** Initiate education, skilling, and training programs to empower people, build trust, and increase awareness about the risks and opportunities of AI.
- **Policy & Regulation:**
  - Adopt balanced, agile, and flexible frameworks that support innovation and mitigate the risks of AI.
  - Review current laws, identify regulatory gaps in relation to AI systems, and address them with targeted amendments.
- **Risk Mitigation:**
  - Develop an India-specific risk assessment framework that reflects real-world evidence of harm.
  - Encourage compliance through voluntary measures supported by techno-legal solutions as appropriate.
  - Additional obligations for risk mitigation may apply in specific contexts, like in relation to sensitive applications or to protect vulnerable groups.
- **Accountability:**
  - Adopt a graded liability system based on the function performed, level of risk, and whether due diligence was observed.
  - Applicable laws should be enforced, while guidelines can assist organisations in meeting their obligations.
  - Greater transparency is required about how different actors in the AI value chain operate and their compliance with legal obligations.
- **Institutions:**
  - Adopt a whole government approach where ministries, sectoral regulators, and other public bodies work together to develop and implement AI governance frameworks.
  - An AI Governance Group (AIGG) should be set up, to be supported by a Technology & Policy Expert Committee (TPEC).
  - The AI Safety Institute (AISi) should be resourced to provide technical expertise on trust and safety issues, while sector regulators continue to exercise enforcement powers.

## **AI Governance Group, Technology & Policy Expert Group, and AI Safety Institute**

- **AI Governance Group:** To coordinate policy across ministries, departments and sectoral regulators; review existing mechanisms and issue guidelines to ensure accountability; oversee national initiatives on AI governance across the public and private sectors; promote responsible AI innovation and beneficial deployment of AI; and study the emerging risks of AI, regulatory gaps, and the need for legal amendments.

The suggested composition of the AI Governance Group states that it is chaired by the Principal Scientific Advisor, and composed of government agencies (MeitY, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Science & Technology, and Department of Telecommunications), regulators, and advisory bodies (NITI Aayog and Office of Principal Scientific Advisor).

- **Technology & Policy Expert Group:** Set up by MeitY, comprising experts in research and development in frontier technologies; engineering, machine learning, data science; law and public policy with a focus on emerging technologies; public administration, including current and former government officials; and national security, including law enforcement experts.  
The group would provide expertise to and brief the AI Governance Group on matters of AI policy and governance, including new and emerging capabilities of AI, potential risks and regulatory gaps, global developments in AI policy and governance, and India's diplomatic engagements on AI governance.
- **AI Safety Institute:** The Main body responsible for guiding the safe and trusted development and use of AI in India. It should be involved in research, risk assessment, and capacity-building; test and evaluate AI systems for risks; and provide advice to policymakers and industry actors on issues of AI safety.  
Furthermore, the ongoing work under the IndiaAI mission to support the development of technical solutions addressing issues related to machine unlearning, bias mitigation, privacy-enhancing tools, and explainable AI should also continue.

## Action Plan

An Action Plan has been formulated that identifies outcomes mapped to short, medium, and long-term timelines:

- **Short-term:** Establish key governance institutions; develop India-specific risk frameworks; adopt voluntary commitments; suggest legal amendments; develop clear liability regimes; expand access to infrastructure; launch awareness programmes; and increase access to AI safety tools.
- **Medium-term:** Publish common standards; amend laws and regulations; operationalise AI incident systems; pilot regulatory sandboxes; and expand integration of DPI with AI.
- **Long-term:** Continue ongoing engagements (capacity building, standard setting, access and adoption, etc.); review and update governance frameworks to ensure sustainability of the digital ecosystem; and draft new laws based on emerging risks and capabilities.

The Action Plan also proposes an institutional framework for implementing these guidelines, mapping key agencies to their respective roles and functions. This

framework includes a High-level body (AI Governance Group), government agencies, sectoral regulators, advisory bodies, and standards bodies.

## Practical Guidelines

The guidance is two-fold, one for industry actors and the other for regulators, aimed at increasing clarity, predictability, and accountability in the AI ecosystem.

- **Industry:** Ensure compliance with all Indian laws; adopt voluntary frameworks; publish transparency reports; provide grievance redressal mechanisms; mitigate risks with techno-legal solutions.
- **Regulators:** Support innovation while mitigating real harms; avoid compliance-heavy regimes; promote techno-legal approaches; ensure frameworks are flexible and subject to periodic review.

## DSCI's AI Security, Privacy and Governance Policy template

The [AI Security, Privacy and Governance Policy template](#), developed by the Data Security Council of India, was designed to help establish a framework for the responsible, ethical, and compliant adoption of AI technologies. It aims to establish a governance structure with defined roles and responsibilities for overseeing AI activities, ensuring the protection of customer data privacy and security throughout the entire AI lifecycle.

The template, accessible [here](#), when read in conjunction with the India AI Guidelines, forms a comprehensive framework for effectively developing and adopting AI while also maintaining safeguards to counter any misuse of the emerging technology.