



## EU's Landmark AI Legislation

**For Prelims:** [European Union](#), [Artificial intelligence](#), [Facial recognition technology](#), [Generative AI](#), [General Data Protection Regulation](#), Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.

**For Mains:** Different Global Approaches to AI Regulation, Key Components of the EU Framework for AI Regulation, India's Strategy Regarding AI Regulation.

**Source:** [IE](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the [European Union \(EU\)](#) has set the stage for the **world's first comprehensive legislation** aimed at **regulating the use of [Artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#)**.

- The EU's proposed framework will undergo a parliamentary vote in early 2024, potentially becoming enforceable by 2025.

### What are the Key Components of the EU Framework for AI Regulation?

- **Safeguards in Legislation:**
  - **Empowerment of Consumers:** Ability for individuals to launch **complaints against perceived AI violations**.
  - **Restrictions on Law Enforcement Adoption:** **Clear boundaries on AI usage** by law enforcement agencies.
  - **Strict Limitations on AI:** Strong restrictions on [facial recognition technology](#) and AI manipulation of human behaviour.
  - **Penalties for Violations:** Provision for **tough penalties for companies** found breaking the rules.
  - **Limited Biometric Surveillance:** Governments permitted to use real-time **biometric surveillance in public** areas only in cases of serious threats like terrorist attacks.
- **Categorization of AI Applications:**
  - **Four Risk Classes:** AI applications classified into **four risk categories** based on their level of risk and invasiveness.
  - **Banned Applications:** Mass-scale facial recognition and behavioral control AI applications are largely banned, with exemptions for law enforcement.
  - **High-Risk Applications:** Allowed with certification and provision for backend technique transparency, such as **AI tools for self-driving cars**.
  - **Medium-Risk Applications:** Deployable without restrictions, like [generative AI chatbots](#), with explicit disclosure to users about AI interaction, transparency obligations, and detailed tech documentation.
- **Other EU's Regulatory Achievements:**
  - [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) Implementation: Enforced since May 2018, focusing on **privacy and explicit consent for data processing**.
    - **Sub-Legislations: DSA and DMA:**

- **Digital Services Act (DSA):** Focus on **regulating hate speech, counterfeit goods, etc.**
- **Digital Markets Act (DMA):** Identifying "dominant gatekeeper" platforms and addressing non-competitive practices and dominance abuse.

## What are Different Global Approaches to AI Regulation?

- **EU:** Tough stance, categorising AI based on invasiveness and risk.
- **United Kingdom:** 'Light-touch' approach fostering innovation in AI.
- **United States:** Positioned between strict regulation and innovation support.
- **China:** Introduced its own measures for AI regulation, aligning with its policies and priorities.

## What is India's Strategy Regarding AI Regulation?

- **Stance:**
  - India is yet to have a comprehensive framework for regulating AI. However, India has shifted from a **stance of not considering AI regulation to actively formulating regulations based on a risk-based, user-harm approach.**
- **Advocacy for Inclusive and Responsible AI:**
  - India's initial national AI strategy, **#AIFORALL**, aimed at inclusivity, debuted in 2018.
  - **NITI Aayog's National Strategy for AI (2018)** included a chapter on responsible AI.
    - In **2021**, NITI Aayog issued a paper, '**Principle of Responsible AI**'. Seven broad principles were enumerated in the paper: equality, safety and reliability, inclusivity and non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, privacy and reinforcement of positive human value.
  - In March 2023, **the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology introduced IndiaAI**, the national program on AI, aimed at serving as a comprehensive initiative to cover all AI-related research and innovations.
  - In July, 2023 **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India** issued a paper, that recommended setting up a **domestic statutory authority to regulate AI through the lens of a "risk-based framework"** and constitution of an advisory body with members from multiple government departments, academia and experts.
- **Major Sector-specific AI Frameworks in India:**
  - **Healthcare Sector:**
    - **Indian Council of Medical Research** issued ethical guidelines for AI in biomedical research and healthcare in June 2023.
  - **Capital Market:**
    - **SEBI** issued a circular in January 2019 to guide policies and create an inventory for AI systems in the capital market.
  - **Education Sector:**
    - **National Education Policy 2020** recommends AI awareness integration in school courses.

## Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

- **GPAI** is a forum of **28 nations and the European Union** that is working together to understand the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence, or AI, and to promote its responsible evolution.
  - India **joined the GPAI as a founding member in 2020** and became the Chair of the GPAI in November 2022 after France.
  - Notably, **China is not a member of the GPAI.**
- India is set to host the **Annual GPAI Summit from 12th December to 14th December 2023.**

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q1. With the present state of development, Artificial Intelligence can effectively do which of the following? (2020)**

1. Bring down electricity consumption in industrial units
2. Create meaningful short stories and songs
3. Disease diagnosis
4. Text-to-Speech Conversion
5. Wireless transmission of electrical energy

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only  
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only  
(c) 2, 4 and 5 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans: (b)**

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