

**NEXT IAS**

**DAILY EDITORIAL  
ANALYSIS**

**TOPIC**

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AI Regulation Needs to Get  
Serious and Global

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## AI REGULATION NEEDS TO GET SERIOUS AND GLOBAL

### In News

- Recent global initiatives have taken significant steps towards establishing a regulatory framework for Artificial Intelligence (AI).

### Artificial Intelligence

- About:**
  - It is the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs.
  - It is related to the similar task of using computers to understand human intelligence, but AI does not have to confine itself to biologically observable methods.
- Significance:**
  - AI would not replace people but create new opportunities in various fields.
  - It works on data, and if we could train our machines, it could do wonders for us in milliseconds by automating processes.
  - AI is creating new opportunities which could not be achieved by traditional technology.

### Challenges

- The challenge & fears of unknown:**
  - The biggest challenge in achieving this balance is that no one knows for certain what's going to happen next with AI.
  - There are widespread fears. These **range from apocalyptic scenarios** such as AI posing an existential threat to humans, to **more immediate fears**, which include **developing deepfakes** that can be used to spread misinformation, create identity theft tools, more effective cyberattacks and automate tasks that are currently done by humans.
- Faster evolution than implementation:**
  - AI technology is **evolving so fast** that stakeholders are falling behind miserably when it comes to putting safeguards.
  - Therefore, it is essential to recognise that **the success of global regulatory efforts hinges on their implementation.**
- Difficulty to control:**
  - This technology is evolving so fast that stakeholders are falling behind miserably when it comes to putting safeguards.
  - There have been calls to pause development of AI to give time for governments and industry players to come up with guardrails.
  - But the horse has already bolted, and at a good speed. There is competition between governments, universities and companies, all seeking to advance the technology, so it will be impossible to impose a worldwide moratorium.
- Risks for the education sector:**
  - In the education sector, we notice that there is no control on how generative AI tools are used by students. There are no age restrictions or Content restrictions
  - Also, there is **hardly any awareness initiative** on the potential risks of using generative AI tools in education.
  - These tools have extreme long-term negative effects on critical thinking and the creative capacities of students.
- Potential for escalate existing threats:**
  - Generative AI is compounding or can compound some existing online threats like the **use of deepfakes for disinformation campaigns.**
  - This can include simple things like using ChatGPT to make **phishing emails** sound convincing.
  - There are multiple ways in which **cheaper and more accessible generative AI models** can compound issues that we're still struggling to regulate, especially in **cybersecurity and online harms.**
  - These **can threaten the basic foundations of democracy.** There could be the impact of these

generative AI tools on **fair and transparent elections**.

### Global Initiatives

Recent global initiatives have taken significant steps towards establishing a regulatory framework that balances innovation with ethical considerations.

- **GP AI Summit:** Recently the Global Partnership on **Artificial Intelligence (GP AI) summit** was **concluded in Delhi**.
  - ♦ The meet recognised the importance of establishing ethical guidelines and standards for AI technologies.
  - ♦ It also rightly stressed the need for international collaboration in navigating the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence.
- **Bletchley Declaration:** Notable among these initiatives are the **Bletchley Declaration**, the US White House Executive Order, and the legislative efforts by the European Parliament and Council.
- **Initiatives by private players:** There are many initiatives being undertaken by private players to put in place a framework to limit the negative impact of AI.
  - ♦ For example, tech giants including **Amazon, Microsoft, Meta, Google** and **OpenAI** have signed a voluntary agreement to emphasise safety, security and trust when developing AI technologies.
  - ♦ **In India, industry body Nasscom** has come out with a framework listing out the obligations of all stakeholders in the development of AI.

### Suggestions

- **International cooperation:** International cooperation that prevents regulatory fragmentation and ensures a level playing field for AI developers and users worldwide is crucial.
  - ♦ The global community has acknowledged the **need to bridge the digital divide**.
- **Recognition & implementation: Recognising the potential for AI** to exacerbate existing inequalities, participants committed to promoting diversity in AI research and development, as well as addressing the socio-economic impacts of automation.
  - ♦ **Implementing the principles and agreements** reached at the GP AI summit will require **sustained effort and coordination** among participating nations.
  - ♦ The **global community must remain vigilant** in monitoring developments in AI and adapting regulatory frameworks to address emerging challenges.
- **Collective participation in regulations:** Regulations cannot be left entirely in the hands of the industry, given the power of this technology. Its **revenue models are closely linked to data collection**.
  - ♦ **Governments, industry leaders, and academia** must work together to develop transparent guidelines, ethical frameworks, and regulatory structures with enough teeth to deter bad actors.
- **Combating the misuse:** Efforts to combat the misuse of AI should involve international cooperation and information sharing.
  - ♦ This can address the potential threats posed by malicious actors who exploit AI for cyber warfare, propaganda, or other destructive purposes.

### Way Ahead

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative phenomenon, revolutionizing various industries and unlocking countless possibilities.
- However, as AI continues to evolve rapidly, it is imperative to balance fostering innovation and ensuring ethical use.

## DAILY MAINS QUESTION

Examine the global initiatives towards establishing a regulatory framework on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Suggest ways for effective implementation of these frameworks.