United Nation Establishes 2 Ai Governance: International Relation

NEWS: UNGA launches two new initiatives to strengthen global cooperation on AI governance

The UN is creating two new bodies to establish global rules for Artificial Intelligence (AI), aiming to balance its benefits and risks. This comes as nations like India currently govern AI through existing laws while facing the challenge of regulating a rapidly evolving technology.

United Nations Establishes New AI Governance Mechanisms

The United Nations Secretary-General has praised a landmark decision by the UN General Assembly to create two new institutional mechanisms. These bodies are designed to enhance global cooperation on the governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI), marking a significant step in the international community's effort to manage this transformative technology.

The Two New UN Mechanisms in Detail

The UN's initiative is built around two distinct but complementary bodies:

Global Dialogue on AI Governance

Purpose

To serve as an inclusive UN platform that brings together member states and a wide range of stakeholders.

Function

It will act as a global forum to discuss the critical AI-related issues and challenges that humanity is facing today.

United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on AI

Purpose

This panel is designed as an inclusive multi-stakeholder forum within the UN framework. It will allow member states, civil society, academia, and the private sector to engage in deep-dive discussions on key AI challenges and governance issues.

Schedule

The panel has scheduled its first annual sessions for July 2026 in Geneva and July 2027 in New York.

Significance of the UN's Decision

The UN Secretary-General has called this a "pathbreaking milestone" in global governance. The primary aim is to strike a crucial balance between harnessing the benefits of AI and mitigating its risks. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that the development and deployment of AI align with humanity's collective good and shared values.

What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

AI is a wide-ranging branch of computer science concerned with building smart machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.

Capability

It allows machines to model, or even improve upon, the capabilities of the human mind, from learning and reasoning to problem-solving and creativity.

Real-world Impact

From the development of self-driving cars to the proliferation of generative AI tools like ChatGPT, AI is increasingly becoming an integral part of everyday life and a major area of investment for every industry.

Why Do We Need Rules on AI?

Establishing a robust regulatory framework for AI is essential for several reasons:

Ethical Concerns

To ensure that AI systems, which make decisions that impact individuals and society, align with human values and respect fundamental rights.

Privacy

To protect individual privacy by setting clear rules on how the vast amounts of data processed by AI should be collected, stored, and used.

Security

To safeguard AI systems against potential vulnerabilities and protect society from the malicious uses of AI technology.

Transparency

To mandate that developers disclose how their algorithms work, ensuring that AI systems are explainable and their decision-making processes are accountable.

Competition and Innovation

To create a level playing field for businesses, preventing the abuse of market dominance by a few powerful players and encouraging responsible innovation.

Public Safety

To ensure the safety and reliability of AI systems used in critical domains such as healthcare, transportation, and public infrastructure.

Regulation of AI in India

Current Status

India does not yet have a dedicated, standalone law for AI. Instead, AI is governed indirectly through existing legal frameworks.

Existing Legal Frameworks

IT Act, 2000

Covers aspects like cybercrimes and the liability of online intermediaries.

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

Ensures that the use of personal data by AI systems adheres to privacy principles and requires user consent.

IPR Laws (Copyright & Patents Acts)

Address issues related to the ownership of AI-generated works and the protection of AI innovations.

Key Initiatives and Strategies

Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

India is an active member and hosted the 2023 GPAI Summit in New Delhi, focusing on responsible AI and data governance.

National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (#AIForAll)

A strategy developed by NITI Aayog to guide AI research and development in key sectors like healthcare, agriculture, education, smart cities, and mobility.

Principles for Responsible AI

In February 2021, NITI Aayog released an approach paper exploring the various ethical considerations for deploying AI solutions in India.

Key Challenges of Regulation

Regulating AI effectively presents several unique and significant challenges

Rapid Evolution of AI

The field is advancing at an exponential pace, making it difficult for lawmakers to create regulations that are not obsolete soon after they are enacted.

Balancing Innovation and Safety

There is a delicate balance between creating rules that ensure safety and ethics without stifling the innovation and economic growth that AI can drive.

International Cooperation

Since AI is a global technology, effective regulation requires strong international cooperation to avoid a fragmented landscape of conflicting rules.

Defining AI

There is no universally agreed-upon technical or legal definition of AI, which makes it difficult to scope regulations effectively.

Way Ahead

The Inevitability of AI

AI is here to stay and possesses the capability to fundamentally change the way we work and live. Its power and reach necessitate thoughtful regulation.

Proactive Approach

By acknowledging the potential dangers of AI and proactively taking steps to mitigate them through inclusive dialogue and robust governance, we can ensure that this transformative technology serves humanity and contributes to a safer, more equitable future.

Source: https://www.downtoearth.org.in/governance/unga-launches-two-new-initiatives-to-strengthen-global-cooperation-on-ai-governance