

# GLOBAL AI BRIEF

Legal, Policy and Market Developments

EDITION 3



# Executive Summary

Between February and April 2026, AI governance appears to have moved decisively from broad policy signalling to implementation through institutional design, sector-specific controls and operational safeguards. In India, this transition is visible across several fronts: proposed amendments to the Intermediary Guidelines seek to expand the obligations with respect to labelling of synthetically generated content and enabling blocking of specific content; the Economic Survey 2025–26 and the constitution of the AI Governance and Economic Group indicate a preference for centralised coordination of AI policy; and regulators and public bodies are increasingly addressing concrete risks spanning cyber-security, election integrity, online safety and algorithmic trading.

A parallel development is the localisation of AI governance with state-level initiatives within India such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka. These showcase that AI regulation is increasingly being shaped not only through high-level principles, but also through administrative action, institutional coordination and practical compliance measures.

Beyond India, approaches remain varied but are converging around recurring themes of transparency, accountability and strategic enablement. The United States' facilitative federal policy framework focusses on innovation, child protection and federal pre-emption. The European Parliament is pressing for stronger transparency and remuneration norms in relation to generative AI and copyright, while the United Kingdom is examining legal gaps around digital replicas. Japan, meanwhile, is considering a calibrated relaxation of data protection constraints to support AI development, and China continues to combine stricter content controls with long-term industrial ambition. In Vietnam, a comprehensive AI law has now come into force, adopting a risk-based model and differentiated obligations across the AI lifecycle.

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## Updates in India

### MEITY Publishes Draft Amendments to Intermediary Guidelines for Public Consultation

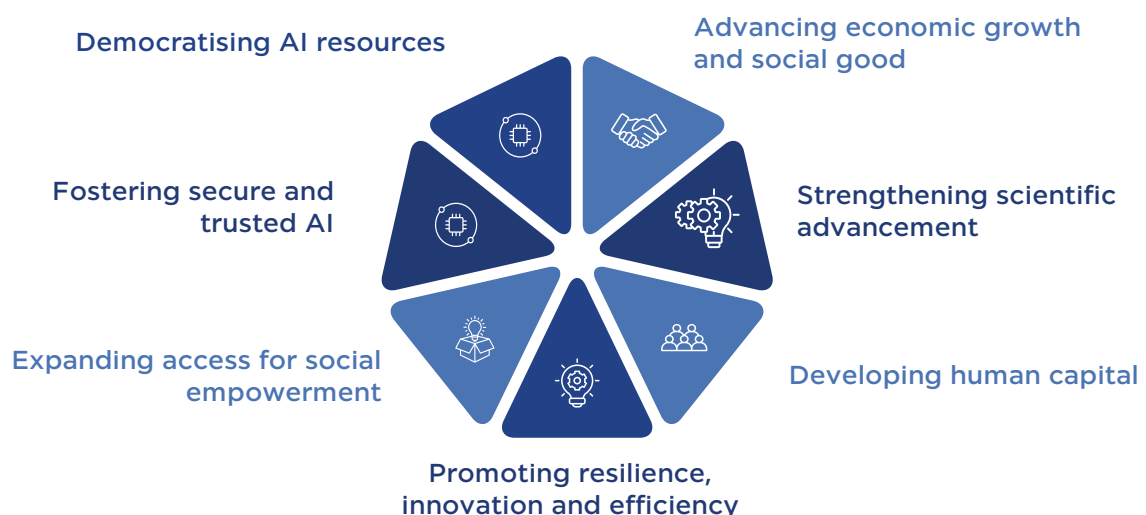
On 30 March 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) published draft amendments (Draft Amendment) to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 (Intermediary Guidelines) for public consultation. The move comes shortly after one set of amendments to the Intermediary Guidelines were notified in February to regulate “synthetically generated content”.

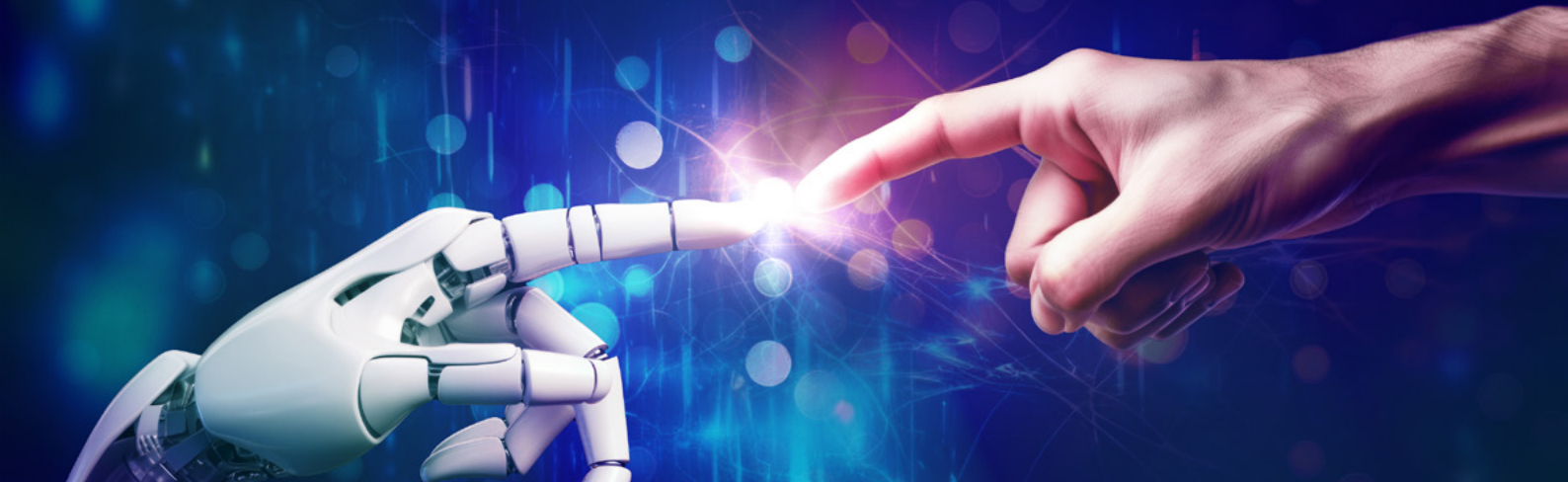
A separate MEITY notification dated 21 April 2026 further proposes that synthetically generated content must carry a continuous and clearly visible label throughout the duration of its visual display. Originally the window for public comments submission was open till 14 April 2026 and was subsequently extended till 7 May 2026.

### 89 Countries Sign AI Impact Summit Declaration

The India AI Impact Summit 2026, held in February in New Delhi, concluded with delegates from 89 countries and international organisations signing an AI Impact Summit Declaration (Declaration) on 21 February 2026.

Rooted in the guiding ethos of “Welfare for All, Happiness for All”, the Declaration endorses a series of high-level goals, however, is voluntary and non-binding in nature. It articulates seven core “chakras” (pillars) of action:





The Declaration further calls for enhanced international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement aligned with these pillars. It emphasizes key principles including the development of human capital, broader access for social empowerment, trustworthiness and energy efficiency of AI systems, the application of AI in scientific research, the democratisation of AI resources, and the use of AI for economic growth and social benefit.

### **Economic Survey Calls for AI Economic Council to Pace AI Adoption and Limit Job Losses**

The Economic Survey 2025-26 (Survey Report), tabled in the Parliament at the end of January 2026, proposes the establishment of an AI Economic Council (Council) to address the ethical and social implications of AI in India. The proposed Council would be guided by core principles including the prioritisation of human well-being, employment protection, calibrated and phased adoption of AI technologies, alignment of skill development along with technology adoptions and the establishment of clear ethical boundaries.

The Survey underscores the need to carefully pace AI adoption in India to ensure it augments human capability rather than displacing it. It cautions that the unchecked use of generative AI could erode cognitive thinking, analytical writing capabilities, and creativity, and warns against over-reliance on such technologies at the expense of human intelligence.

Further, the Survey Report also highlights India's vast and diverse data reserves, emphasizing the critical importance of data safety, and the necessity for robust regulatory oversight of AI firms indicating where government action is expected in the near future.

### **India Constitutes AI Governance and Economic Group for Centralised Policy Coordination**

On 13 April 2026, the Government of India constituted the AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG), as a high-level inter-ministerial body tasked with coordinating the development of AI policy across central ministries and institutions. This move aligns with the Government's stated preference for a coordinated, innovation-led approach to AI governance, without introducing a dedicated AI statute at this stage.

The AIGEG appears to consolidate two earlier proposals: the AI Governance Group envisaged under the India AI Governance Guidelines, and the AI Economic Council referenced in the Economic Survey 2025-26. Chaired by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, the body comprises senior officials from MeitY, NITI Aayog, the Department of Telecommunications, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Economic Affairs and the National Security Council Secretariat.



It is envisioned that a dedicated Technology and Policy Expert Committee (TEPEC) will support the AIGEG on emerging technologies, risks, regulation and related policy priorities.

The AIGEG will be mandated to review existing mechanisms on AI, assessing emerging risks associated with AI, identifying regulatory gaps, and evaluate the need for legal amendments. It will also be responsible for issuing guidelines to ensure that firms remain accountable and compliant with domestic AI-related laws.

### **Parliamentary Panel Calls for Comprehensive AI Law**

In March 2026, the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (Committee) has finalised a report titled "Impact of Emergence of Artificial Intelligence and Related Issues", recommending that the Government should explore the introduction of a comprehensive law to prevent the misuse of AI. This marks a notable departure from the Government's position that existing laws (such as the Information Technology Act 2000 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, read with India's criminal laws), are sufficient to deal with emerging risks related to AI such as bias, misinformation and privacy harms.

In its report, the Committee also raised concerns over the need to restrict foreign AI models from using local data to train their models. Additionally, the Committee urged the Government to assess whether age-based restrictions on social media platforms are sufficient to protect children from AI related risks.

### **Cert-In Issues High-Severity Advisory Warning Against AI-Drive Cyber Threats**

On 26 April 2026, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issued a high a high severity advisory warning that AI driven cyber threats are rapidly increasing, making cyberattacks faster, cheaper, and easier to execute. According to the advisory advanced AI tools can autonomously identify software vulnerabilities, analyse large codebases, and carry out complex, multi stage attacks with minimal human involvement. This enables even less skilled attackers to compromise entire enterprise networks by chaining multiple exploits.

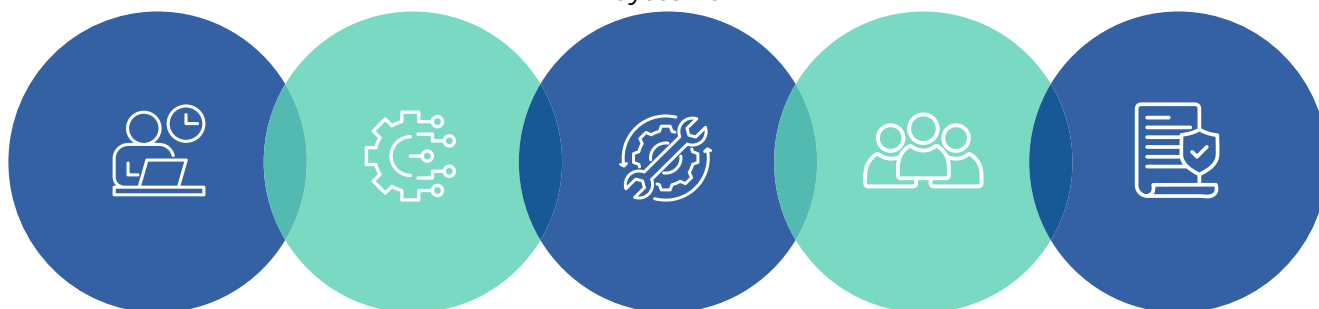
This warning follows a high level government meeting led by the Finance Minister with banks and key stakeholders to assess AI related cyber risks. CERT In highlighted growing risks such as AI powered phishing, impersonation, credential theft, privilege escalation, and rapid lateral movement, with some vulnerabilities being exploited within hours. To mitigate risks, organisations are advised to:



Closely monitor systems for unusual activity

Patch critical vulnerabilities within 24 hours, especially internet facing systems

Conduct regular cyber drills and update response plans



Adopt a Zero Trust security model with strong access controls and multi factor authentication

Train employees to detect AI generated phishing and deepfake scams

The advisory places particular emphasis on MSMEs, urging them to strengthen threat detection, maintain detailed logs, keep updated IT asset inventories, and manage third party and supply chain risks. Individual users are also advised to stay alert to suspicious messages, links, attachments, and deepfake enabled frauds.

### **Election Commission Action Against Misleading AI-Generated Content**

In April 2026, the Election Commission of India (ECI) directed social media and digital platforms to action against misleading or unlawful AI-generated or manipulated content within 3 hours of being notified.

In addition, political parties, candidates and campaign representatives have the onus to ensure that any synthetically generated content or AI-altered content is appropriately labelled as “AI-generated”, “digitally enhanced”, or “synthetic content”, and that the originating entity is disclosed so as to maintain transparency and voter trust.

These directions come in view of the ongoing elections for legislative assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and West Bengal.



## SEBI Notifies Guidelines to Enable Safe Participation of Retail Investors in Algorithmic Trading

SEBI has implemented a new regulatory framework governing algorithmic trading for managing AI-related risks in an AI-driven market, with effect from 1 April 2026. Under the circular that was released in February 2025, independent API providers (such as AI traders) are required to mandatorily partner with a SEBI-registered broker before establishing connectivity with any stock exchange. Such brokers must undertake necessary due diligence before empanelling these algorithmic providers. Importantly, every order placed by an API will have to carry a unique exchange identifier provided by the relevant Stock Exchange.

Retail investors are permitted to use self-developed algorithms for their family trading as well, after registration, but not for other investors.

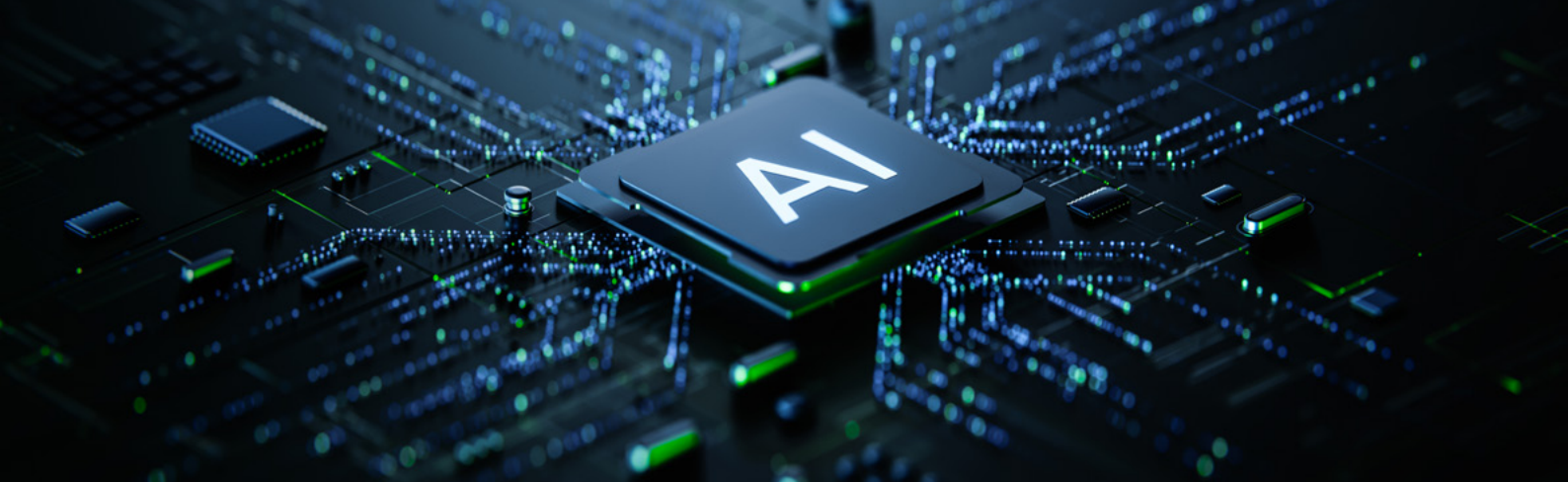
Although algorithmic trading providers are not regulated by SEBI, the circular mandates their empanelment with stock exchanges. Stock Exchanges, in return, are required to closely monitor the behaviour of such these algorithms, undertake simulation testing, and maintaining the capability to immediately disable or “kill” orders emanating from such algorithmic identifiers.

## Karnataka Drafts AI-Focused Digital Safety Bill

The Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission (KSPPC), in April 2026, drafted the Karnataka Responsible Social Media & Digital Safety Bill, 2026 (Bill), which is currently under review by the state's legal department for introduction during the upcoming monsoon session of the Assembly. This bill is aimed at regulating social media platforms, AI-generated content, deepfakes and focuses on expedited content moderation and enhanced user protection.

The Bill mandates the labelling of AI-generated content, prescribes penalties for misuse, and requires action within 24-48 hours by platforms on harmful content. It also proposes the establishment of a Karnataka Digital Safety and Social Media Regulatory Authority, empowered to oversee compliance and address emerging digital risks.

Significantly, the Bill adopts a citizen-centric approach by guaranteeing users the right to report harmful content, ensuring access to time-bound grievance redressal and protection against misinformation. To strengthen enforcement, the Bill proposes technology-driven systems such as fake news detection tools, deepfake tracking and real-time monitoring dashboards. If passed, the Bill would be a first-of-its-kind, state-level, citizen-centric digital-safety framework.



## Gujarat Police Launch AI-Powered Tool to Strengthen NDPS Investigations and Prosecution

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, Gujarat Police has developed an artificial intelligence-driven tool, 'NARIT AI' (Narcotics Analysis & RAG-based Investigation Tool) in April 2026, to strengthen investigation and prosecution in narcotics cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 Act. The application was developed by the Vadodra division Western Railway Police in collaboration with a Mumbai-based AI startup.

The tool assists investigating officers with real-time analytical inputs by integrating relevant legal provisions, case laws and procedural guidelines. Considering that narcotics investigations were largely handled by specialised personnel, this tool is designed to enable every investigating officer to conduct procedure-compliant investigations, thereby which will help ensuring effective enforcement of the law.

Notably, NARIT AI has been trained on a comprehensive data-set using the bare law, government guidelines, and historical High Court and Supreme Court judgements on narcotics cases, procedural compliance inputs, evidence checklists and investigation guides with a view to ensure minimal inaccuracies and maximum procedural accuracy.

## Maharashtra Announces AI Policy

On 29 March 2026, the Maharashtra cabinet approved an AI policy which aims an investment of Rs. 10,000 crore to build AI infrastructure in the state and establish 6 AI excellence centre and 5 AI innovation cities. The policy aims to train 2 lakh youth and professionals in the field and facilitate creation of about 1.5 lakh jobs. This comes as the government notes that nearly 70% of jobs are expected to undergo transformation due to AI. The policy is built around 7 pillars: infrastructure, data ecosystems, skilling, innovation, startup support, sectoral deployment and governance.

One of the key components of the policy is to set up at least 2,000 GPU under 'computer-as-a-service' model accessible to government departments and also offers various subsidies for MSMEs' AI adoption and AI startup venture fund. The state also aims to create datasets in Marathi, regional dialects and tribal languages. This move comes as the state seeks to position itself as a national hub for AI development while focussing on responsible and inclusive use.



## Updates in Other Jurisdictions

### The White House Releases National Policy Framework on Artificial Intelligence

The White House released the National Policy Framework on Artificial Intelligence (Framework) on 20 March 2026, alongside a set of legislative recommendations. The Framework captures the intent of the US Government in relation to regulation of AI in the country and outlines seven thematic policy areas that serve as baseline pillars for future AI legislation in the country.

These policy areas include:

**Protection of children:** mitigating AI-related risks while empowering parents through mechanisms such as parent attestation for services used by minors.

**Safeguarding of American communities:** strengthening tools to handle AI-enabled scams and frauds.

**Intellectual property and creators' rights:** ensuring adequate protection against the misuse of digital replicas.

**Prevention of censorship-related harms:** addressing risks which stem from government action affecting platforms and AI providers.

**Innovation & AI dominance:** introducing regulatory sandboxes and innovation enabling guardrails.

**Education and Workforce development:** integrating AI training into the existing education and workforce programs, and

**Federal Preemption:** acting as a central pillar of AI policy – called for a unified federal framework.

Through this Framework, the USA has signaled its stance towards having a balanced and facilitative approach in regulating AI instead of adopting a prescriptive approach.



## European Parliament Adopted a Resolution to Regulate the Use of Content Generated by Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)

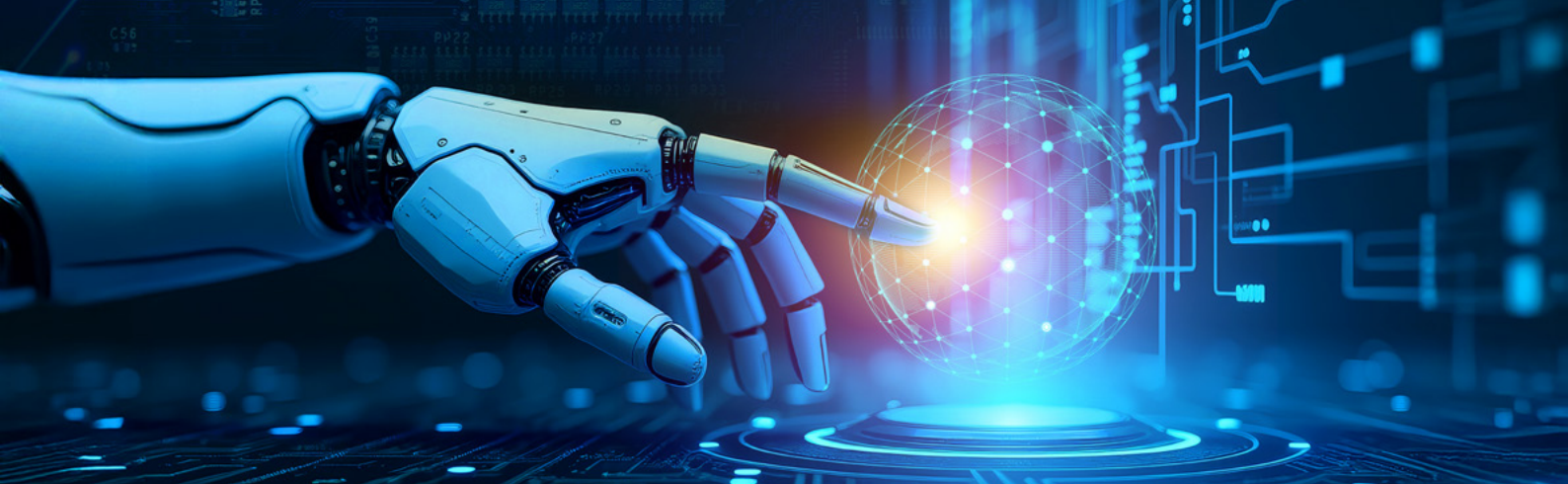
The resolution adopted on 10 March 2026, aims to establish full transparency, strengthen legal certainty and ensure fair remuneration for creators, requiring the following:

- AI providers and operators to transparently disclose use of content, specifically a detailed list of protected works used by the GAI
- Mandating detailed record keeping of data crawling activities
- Fair remuneration for creators and rights holders including payment for past uses
- Rejecting broad, flat-rate blanket or training licenses
- In the absence of sufficient transparency: the establishment of a rebuttable presumption that GAI has used the copyrighted works, thereby shifting the burden of proof in legal proceedings in favour of rights holders

It recommends measures to protect news media, including the ability to opt out of having their content used for AI training. AI-generated material would not qualify for copyright protection. In addition, it recommends action against harmful or manipulated AI-generated content and supports new tools enabling rightsholders to prevent general purpose AI systems from using their work.

## UK Government Releases Policy Paper on Copyright and Artificial Intelligence

The United Kingdom Government issued a policy paper in March 2026 on copyright and artificial intelligence (Report), following a public consultation conducted between 2024 and 2025 by the UK Government on complexities of ownership of copyright-protected works used for AI model training. The consultation sought stakeholder input on the roadblocks within the copyright-AI interface, specifically on the application of "digital replicas".



In the Report, the Government dived into various concerns raised in relation to AI input transparency and technical standards. The Report also cited the primary risks associated with application of digital replicas and importantly the lacunae in the existing UK framework to tackle the unauthorized application of such replicas.

During the consultation period, numerous stakeholders favoured the introduction of a distinct and formal right to extend protection to their voice and likeness owing to insufficiency of the existing legal frameworks such as the EU General Data Protection Regulation and the IP laws. The Report further acknowledges the issues flagged by creative artists *avis-à-vis* digital replica clauses, as they were often considered to be inadequate and unfavourable.

In conclusion, the UK Government recognises the regulatory challenges posed by the expanding use of digital replicas amidst the lack of legal framework. It has indicated its intention to considering the possibility of creating a new personality right in due course after gaining sufficient evidence and consensus.

## **Japan Cabinet Approves Bill to Revise Data Protection Law, Easing Data Use for AI Development**

In line with Japan's AI Basic Plan, which seeks to position the country as one of the most AI-friendly jurisdictions globally, the Japan Cabinet approved a bill in April 2026 to revise the Act on the Protection of Personal Information. The proposed amendments would ease restrictions on the use of data for AI development, where the information does not identify individuals.

The bill advances Japan's vision of "data free flow with trust" by creating an exception for statistical processing. This would permit the use of data, including sensitive data, for purposes such as statistical analysis and AI model training, provided the risk to individual rights and interests is low.

In practical terms, the reform is designed to relax consent-based constraints in limited scenarios, thereby creating greater flexibility for AI-related data use. The proposal reflects Japan's broader effort to foster AI innovation through calibrated adjustment of privacy norms. If passed, the bill could widen the scope for businesses in Japan to leverage datasets for AI development and deployment, while signaling a more innovation-friendly approach to data regulation.



## China's Cyberspace Regulator Issued Draft Regulations to Oversee Online Digital Humans

On 3 April, the Chinese cyberspace regulator issued draft regulations for overseeing online digital humans requiring clear labelling and banning services for digital content that could mislead children or fuel addiction.

The proposed rules require prominent "digital human" labels on all virtual human content and prohibit digital humans from providing "virtual intimate relationships" to those under 18.

The draft regulations ban the use of other people's personal information to create digital humans without consent, or using virtual humans to bypass identity verification systems, reflecting Beijing's efforts to maintain control in the face of advances in artificial intelligence.

Digital humans are also prohibited from disseminating content that endangers national security, inciting subversion of state power, promoting secession or undermining national unity.

Service providers are advised to prevent and resist content that is sexually suggestive, depicts horror, cruelty or incites discrimination based on ethnicity or region. Providers are required to take necessary measures to intervene and provide professional assistance when users exhibit suicidal or self-harming tendencies.

The rules have been published for public comment until May 6.

Additionally, in March 2026, China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030), passed by the National People's Congress, embeds AI as a foundational national priority comparable to defence and economic growth. The plan aims to make China's AI-related industries exceed 10 trillion yuan (\$1.4 trillion) in value by 2030.

## Singapore Issues New AI Governance Guidelines for the Legal Sector

On March 6, 2026, Singapore issued a new AI governance guidance (including generative AI (GenAI) and agentic AI), for use in the legal sector. The non-binding guide promotes responsible, ethical and effective adoption of GenAI tools across law firms, in-house teams, legal service providers, law students and anyone providing GenAI tools for the legal sector. It explains core concepts, outlines common legal use cases, and highlights risks such as hallucinations, bias, data exposure and confidentiality breaches. It aims to support innovation while ensuring legal professionals maintain accountability, protect client information and uphold regulatory duties. Hence organizations using AI should prepare for closer scrutiny



from clients, regulators and courts, establish a clear GenAI governance framework that includes internal policies, data handling practices and incident-response procedures.

## **Vietnam Leads Regional Push on AI Regulation, Becoming the First in South East Asia to Enact a Comprehensive AI Law**

With the aim of addressing issues in relation to the growth of AI, Vietnam enacted its Law No. 134/2025/QH15 on Artificial Intelligence in December 2025, which came into effect on 1 March 2026.

The law is anchored in a set of foundational principles, including preservation of human oversight over AI-driven decision-making, and the promotion of fairness, transparency, non-discrimination and accountability. It also emphasizes alignment with ethical and cultural standards. Broadly, the framework seeks to support the safe development, deployment and adoption of AI.

**Key provisions include the following:**

**Prohibited AI-related conduct:** The law expressly prohibits the use of AI for unlawful purposes, including infringing legal rights (such as intellectual property and data protection breaches), creating deepfakes, and disseminating harmful content that threatens national security.

**Risk-based classification of AI systems:** The law adopts a risk-based approach categorizing AI systems as low, medium or high-risk. Systems that may significantly affect life, health, individual rights or national security are to be classified as high-risk, while systems that may mislead users where AI usage is not disclosed, are treated as medium risk. All other systems fall within the low-risk category.

**Differentiated accountability across the AI lifecycle:** The law distinguishes between various stakeholders in the AI lifecycle. Developers are subject to relatively lighter regulation, while providers and deployers bear the bulk of compliance obligations.

In effect, the framework appears designed to encourage innovation at the development stage, while placing greater regulatory focus on how AI systems are introduced and used in practice. This allocation of responsibility underscores the law's broader approach of enabling AI growth, while holding those who place AI systems on the market or deploy them accountable for lawful and responsible use.

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