Karnataka's Statutory Regulatory Sandbox — Legislated in 2020 to Test AI and Other Frontier Tech, Still Not Operational Six Years On

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · India

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Karnataka's Innovation Authority Act (2020) gave the state legal power to run one-year regulatory sandboxes for AI and other frontier tech, with public annual reports. In January 2026 officials said they were still 'trying to frame' a sandbox; none is operational.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	0/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	0/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-22

Karnataka Innovation Authority, Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka — accessed 2026-11-22

Karnataka Innovation Authority Act, 2020 (Act No. 7 of 2020) — PRS Legislative Research — accessed 2026-11-22

OECD.AI Policy Navigator — Karnataka Innovation Authority Regulatory Sandbox — accessed 2026-11-22

Entrepreneur India — Karnataka Innovation Act to enable regulatory sandbox (29 Jan 2026) — accessed 2026-11-22

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