GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION. NO. 2455
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.03.2025

DEMOCRATIZATION OF AI INFRASTRUCTURE

2455. SHRI KUNWAR RATANJEET PRATAP NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the specific measures being implemented to democratize access to Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure through empanelment of agencies;
(b) the manner in which providing 10,000 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) will benefit Startups and researchers in advancing AI innovation;
(c) the initiatives in place to ensure participation from service providers in this process;
(d) the manner in which transparency and accessibility will be maintained following the empanelment; and
(e) the steps being taken to bolster India's leadership in AI while ensuring ethical use of technologies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d):The Government of India emphasizes the concept of 'AI for All,' aligning with the Hon'blePrime Minister's vision to democratize use of technology. This initiative aims to ensure that AIbenefits all sectors of society, driving innovation and growth.

India is regarded as the **Skills Capital in Technology and Artificial Intelligence**. The most reliable ranking in AI is placing India among the top countries with AI Skills, AI capabilities, and policies to use AI.

Stanford University has ranked **India among the top four countries** along with the US, China, and the UK in the Global and National AI vibrancy ranking based on 42 indicators.

Union Cabinet led by Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the **IndiaAI Mission on 7th March 2024**, a strategic initiative to establish a robust and inclusive AI ecosystem that aligns with the country's development goals. The mission is driven by a vision to position India as a global leader in artificial intelligence by focusing onseven foundational pillars:

For democratizing access to AI infrastructure, critical for innovation and ensuring the global competitiveness, IndiaAI had **published a Request for Empanelment (RFE)**, inviting applications for the empanelment of AI services on the cloud and offer the services to academia, MSMEs, startups, research community, governments, public sector agencies and other entities approved by IndiaAI.

Against the target of 10,000 GPUs outlined in the IndiaAI compute pillar, empanelled bidders have offered **14,517 GPUs at L1 rates**. The average L1 rate discovered for the GPUs is**Rs. 115 per GPU hour**. Additionally, the Government would support eligible end users to the extent of **40% of the AI compute cost**.

To ensure **equitable access to computational resources**, the IndiaAI Compute Portal has been launched which will offer AI compute, network, storage, platform and cloud services at the discounted rates to startups, MSMEs, academia, researchers, students, startups and government agencies. The portal would also provide access to AI Platform and other services

on the service provider's portal for development of AI models and solutions at discounted rates.

With an objective to keep pace with the changes in technologies and market prices, IndiaAI has enabled a **continuous empanelment process**byinvitingproposals from agencies who wants to get empanelled every quarter. Willing agencies shall submit financial proposals which can be same or lower than the existing L1 rates. IndiaAI has published the RFE for continuous empanelment on 21stFebruary, 2025. The last date of submission of proposals is 30thApril 2025. Pre-bid meeting has been organized and adequate publicity is being done to ensure transparency in the empanelment process.

(e):India as a founding member and council chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) has organized the **Global IndiaAI Summit and GPAI Summit in July 2024 and December 2023** where various stakeholders from government, industry and academia engaged in discussions and deliberations for development of AI based solutions in a safe and trusted manner. India has taken lead in ensuring that AI is available for all and for developing global framework for safety & trust for AI models and applications.

Further, under Safe and Trusted Pillar of the IndiaAI Mission, **Eight Responsible AI Projects** have been selected to address the need for robust guardrails to ensure the responsible development, deployment, and adoption of AI technologies. The projects cover a range of critical themes, including Machine Unlearning, Synthetic Data Generation, AI Bias Mitigation, Ethical AI Frameworks, Privacy-Enhancing Tools, Explainable AI, AI Governance Testing, and Algorithm Auditing Tools. The details of the selected projects are given at **Annexure I.**

Moreover, IndiaAI also launched the 2ndEoI for Safe & Trusted AI Projects, inviting organizations to submit proposals on key themes, including Watermarking and Labelling, Ethical AI Frameworks, AI Risk Assessment & Management, Stress Testing Tools, and Deepfake Detection Tools.

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Annexure I

The details of the selected projects under "Safe & Trusted AI" Pillar are as under:

NAME OF THE THEME	SELECTED APPLICANT	TITLE OF THE PROJECT
Machine Unlearning	IIT Jodhpur	Machine Unlearning in Generative Foundation Models
Synthetic Data Generation	IIT Roorkee	Design and Development of Method for Generating Synthetic Data for Mitigating Bias in Datasets; and Framework for Mitigating Bias in Machine Learning Pipeline for Responsible AI
AI Bias Mitigation Strategy	National Institute of Technology Raipur	Development of Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Bias Mitigation in Health Care Systems
Explainable AI Framework	DIAT Pune and Mindgraph Technology Pvt. Ltd.	Enabling Explainable and Privacy Preserving AI for Security
Privacy Enhancing Strategy	IIT Delhi, IIIT Delhi, IIT Dharwad and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)	Robust Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning Models
AI Ethical Certification Framework	IIIT Delhi and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)	Tools for assessing fairness of AI model
AI Algorithm Auditing Tool	Civic Data Labs	ParakhAI - An open-source framework and toolkit for Participatory Algorithmic Auditing
AI Governance Testing Framework	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)	Track-LLM, Transparency, Risk Assessment, Context & Knowledge for Large Language Models

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