GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2299
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 19.12.2025

SLOW PROGRESS IN AI RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

2299. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

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

(a) whether Government acknowledges that India is lagging behind global leaders in artificial intelligence research and innovation;
(b) the reasons for India's slow progress in AI despite its large talent pool;
(c) the comparative position of India in global AI innovation indices during the last five years; and
(d) the steps proposed by Government to bridge this technological gap?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): India has made significant progress in AI research, innovation, and adoption over the past few years. It is supported by a strong digital public infrastructure, a vibrant startup landscape, and an expanding pool of skilled professionals.

India ranks among the top three countries in Stanford University's Global AI Vibrancy Tool. This reflects India's strong performance in the Innovation Index. It is also reflection of a thriving startup ecosystem and government's strong focus on developing AI ecosystem.

Global assessments highlight India's strength in AI talent too. As per the Stanford AI Index Report 2025, India leads the world in AI talent acquisition, with an annual hiring rate of about 33%.

It ranks among the top countries globally in AI skill penetration, and has witnessed more than a threefold increase in AI talent concentration since 2016.

Industry estimates further suggest that India's AI talent base is expected to more than double by 2027, growing at a compound annual growth rate of around 15%.

India's expanding AI capability is further reflected in global developer participation.

According to worldwide data on GitHub AI projects by geographic distribution, India was the second-largest contributor globally in 2024, accounting for 19.9% of all AI projects. This underscores the depth and scale of India's AI developer ecosystem.

IndiaAI Mission
Through initiatives like IndiaAI Mission, the Government is accelerating the momentum with targeted investments and public-private partnerships. These efforts aim to strengthen India's global position and ensure responsible and inclusive leadership in AI.

The Mission is structured around seven foundational pillars:

- **IndiaAI Compute Capacity:** Providing affordable access to high-end computing resources, including GPUs, for startups, MSMEs and researchers
- **IndiaAI Foundation Models:** Developing indigenous large multimodal and language models trained on Indian datasets and languages to ensure sovereign capability in generative AI
- **AIKosh:** Creating a unified platform of high-quality datasets from government and non-government sources for AI model development
- **IndiaAI Application Development Initiative:** Supporting AI solutions for India-specific challenges in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, climate resilience, governance and assistive technologies
- **IndiaAI FutureSkills:** Expanding India's AI talent pipeline through increased undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes, along with Data and AI Labs in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities
- **IndiaAI Startup Financing:** Providing financial support to AI startups
- **Safe & Trusted AI:** Supporting 13 projects focused on reducing bias, protecting privacy, improving transparency and managing AI-related risks **while enabling** innovation

Developing AI talent in India
Under the IndiaAI FutureSkills pillar, the Government is developing an extensive AI talent and research pipeline by supporting 500 PhD fellows, 5,000 postgraduates and 8,000 undergraduates.

27 IndiaAI Data and AI Labs have been established in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities through NIELIT to conduct coursework in AI, data curation, annotation, cleaning and applied data science.

174 ITIs and Polytechnics across 27 States/UTs have been approved to set up additional IndiaAI Data and AI Labs

FutureSkills PRIME
Government in collaboration with NASSCOM has also launched courses for cutting-edge skills in areas such as AI, Big data and Cloud computing.

Over 500+ courses & 2000+ digital fluency pathways are offered on the platform. So far, 16.29 lakh+ candidates have enrolled/trained in various courses.

Shaping global debate on AI
India is also actively contributing to global discussions on AI governance and responsible use. India played a constructive role in shaping AI consensus during India's G20 Presidency. It also chaired the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) in 2023.

India will now host the AI Impact Summit in February 2026, bringing together governments, international organisations, startups, industry and academia on a common platform.

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