SOAR PROGRAM

2205. SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:
        DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:
        SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:
        DR. BHAGWAT KARAD:
        SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a)   the implementation status of the Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) program, including the number of students and educators trained in AI literacy and vocational training centers;

(b)   the NSQF-aligned micro-credentials framework developed, integration with NCERT, CBSE, NIOS, under National Credit Framework and partnerships with industry leaders for curriculum development, and;

(c)   whether the Ministry has assessed urban-rural digital inclusion outcomes, student career interest in AI sectors; and

(d)   the roadmap to expand SOAR coverage beyond the initial youth trained in new-age courses to include diploma and degree-level AI programs?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a)   The Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) programme including the 04 courses (AI to be Aware, AI to Aspire, AI to Acquire, AI for educators) in phase 1 has been implemented as a national initiative to build foundational awareness and readiness in Artificial Intelligence across learners, educators and citizens. The programme is delivered through online, self-paced courses hosted on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), ensuring nationwide accessibility. A total of 1,90,274 students have been enrolled of which 25,593 have been certified through AI to be Aware, AI to Aspire, AI to Acquire. Also, a total of 40,627 educators have been enrolled of which 4,178 have been certified through AI for educators course.

(b)   Under Phase I of SOAR, four courses were approved, out of which three were structured as NSQF-aligned micro-credentials under the National Credit Framework. In Phase II, the initiative was expanded significantly with the approval of 50 NSQF-aligned AI and AI-application courses across multiple sectors. Out of these, 35 courses have been designed as micro-credentials with defined credit values, notional hours, and clear progression pathways.

The framework has been developed in alignment with the National Credit Framework and implemented through NCVET-recognised Awarding Bodies. Industry partnerships have played a central role in curriculum development, including collaborations with CII, NASSCOM, Microsoft, Max Healthcare, Sector Skill Councils across Beauty & Wellness, Life Sciences, Tourism, Agriculture, Retail, Furniture & Fittings, Handicrafts, and others. Courses such as *Foundational Course – Applied Machine Learning and AI (HP), Introduction to Vibe Coding, AI Foundation for Digital Health, AI for Women, AI for*

Manufacturing, AI Basics for Furniture Makers, and *Yuva AI for All* represent structured, credit-enabled micro-learning modules aligned to NSQF levels 2 to 5.5.

This expansion marks the transition of SOAR from foundational AI literacy to a comprehensive, sector-integrated, NSQF-aligned micro-credential ecosystem supporting AI for jobs, productivity, and inclusive growth. The details of the 35 micro-credentials under SOAR is given at **Annexure-I**

(c)   The Government has undertaken efforts to promote inclusive digital learning and AI awareness across both urban and rural areas. The design of SOAR as an fully online and self-paced learning initiative ensures accessibility across geographies, including underserved and remote regions.

Further, the expansion of SOAR includes focus on inclusivity, including courses for the unorganised sector, women, and persons with disability, thereby contributing to bridging the digital divide and enabling wider participation in AI-driven opportunities.

(d)   The roadmap for SOAR includes progressive expansion from foundational AI literacy to application-oriented and advanced learning pathways. The programme is being scaled to include sector-specific AI courses aligned with jobs, productivity and emerging industry requirements. Additionally, alignment with the National Credit Framework (NCrF) enables integration of SOAR courses with formal education pathways, including higher education and degree-level programmes, thereby supporting vertical mobility and lifelong learning in Artificial Intelligence and related domains.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2205 ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026

S. No	Name of Awarding Body	Name of Qualification/NOS Name	NSQF level	Notional Hours Total	Credits
1	CII	Foundational Course - Applied Machine Learning and AI (HP)	4	30	1
2	NASSCOM	Introduction to Vibe Coding	4	15	0.5
3	Max Healthcare	AI Foundation for Digital Health	3	15	0.5
4	Max Healthcare	Applied Artificial Intelligence for Healthcare Systems	5.5	30	1
5	Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council	AI-Based Skin Analysis	3	3	0.1
6	Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council	AI Virtual Beauty Try-On	2.5	3	0.1
7	Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council	AI Personalized Beauty Product Recommendation	3	3	0.1
8	Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council	AI-Based Scalp Analysis	3	3	0.1
9	Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council	AI Virtual Haircut and Beard Try-On	2.5	3	0.1
10	Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council	AI-Based Semi-Permanent Makeup	3.5	3	0.1
11	Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council	AI-Supported Laser Services	3.5	3	0.1
12	Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council	AI-Enabled Yoga Practice	3.5	3	0.1
13	Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council	AI for Wellness Assessment	3.5	3	0.1
14	Microsoft	AI for Women	4	30	1
15	Microsoft	AI for Healthcare	4	30	1
16	Microsoft	AI for Manufacturing	4	30	1
17	Microsoft	AI for Logistics	4	30	1
18	Microsoft	AI for Construction	4	30	1
19	Microsoft	AI for Fashion	4	30	1
20	Microsoft	AI for Automobiles	4	30	1
21	Microsoft	AI for Electronics	4	30	1
22	Microsoft	Unlocking AI for Everyone	2	0.75	0.02
23	Jindal Steel Ltd.	Gen AI Readiness Program	4	30	1
24	Life Sciences SSC	AI in Pharma: Transforming Life Sciences Through Technology	5	4.5	0.15
25	Furniture & Fitting SSC	AI Basics for Furniture Makers	3	7.5	0.25
26	Tourism SSC	Smart Field Facilitator: AI Vision & Live Interpretation for Walk Tours & Nature Guides	4	3	0.1
27	Tourism SSC	AI-Smart Waste Controller: Operating Food-Waste AI in Commercial Kitchens	4	6	0.2
28	Handicraft SSC	AI for Heritage Craft Storytelling and Documentation	3	4.5	0.15
29	Handicraft SSC	AI as Cultural Translator for Global Markets	3	4.5	0.15
30	NIELIT	Yuva AI for ALL	2	4.5	0.15
31	Agriculture SSC	Satellite Data Analysis for Crop Managment	4.5	37.5	1.25
32	RetaiL SSC	Fundamental of AI in Retail	4	30	1
33	NASSCOM	Technology and Business Fundamentals	4	30	1
34	NASSCOM	Basic Gen AI Literacy/GenAI 101	3	7.5	0.25
35	SDN- Wadhwani Foundation	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)	3.5	7.5	0.25

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