

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3252
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 20.03.2026

STATUS OF INDIGENOUS FOUNDATIONAL AI MODEL

3252. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) the objectives and current status of India's foundational Artificial Intelligence (AI) model initiatives, including BharatGen AI;
- (b) the rationale for selection of Startups such as Sarvam AI, Soket AI, Gnani AI and Gan AI and the nature of Government support provided to them;
- (c) the manner in which these models are being trained to reflect India's linguistic, cultural and social diversity across 22 Indian languages; and
- (d) the measures taken to ensure that these sovereign AI models remain open, transparent and accessible for use of public good?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): India's AI strategy is based on the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to democratize the use of technology. It aims to address India centric challenges, create economic and employment opportunities for all Indians.

The approach taken by Government of India is of developing AI so that its benefits reach all the sections of society by solving their real life problems. As part of India's AI stack, emphasis is placed on enabling ease of application development and deployment.

India's own Foundational Models under the IndiaAI Mission:

The Government, under the IndiaAI Mission, is supporting the development of foundational AI models, including large language models, multimodal models and domain-specific small language models.

The focus is on large frontier models as well as smaller, specialised models. These are expected to drive practical applications and deliver higher returns on investment.

These models are being developed using Indian datasets covering all 22 scheduled Indian languages.

Selection of startups

A Call for Proposals was issued inviting applications from startups, researchers and organisations to develop state-of-the-art foundational AI models. This process was open, transparent and publicly notified.

A three-tier evaluation mechanism comprising a Screening Committee, an Expert Committee and an Approval Committee was constituted to assess the proposals received.

All proposals were evaluated on parameters such as technical capability of the team, proposed approach and strategy, relevance of use cases, scalability, sustainability, financial viability, ethical considerations, and clearly defined timelines and milestones.

Based on this process, 12 organisations and consortia, including startups, industry and academic institutions, have been selected (**list at Annexure-I**).

Government support includes access to compute, datasets, research support and ecosystem facilitation under the IndiaAI Mission.

Sovereign models developed by Sarvam AI, BharatGen, Soket and Gnani were launched during the IndiaAI Impact Summit 2026. These models have shown strong performance on Indic language benchmarks, and in some cases perform better than leading frontier models on specific tasks.

Models developed by Sarvam AI have demonstrated relatively high accuracy in document understanding and Indic language processing. BharatGen, led by the IIT Bombay consortium, has developed Param2 AI model. It supports 22 Indian languages, with strong capabilities in coding, mathematics and reasoning.

The resulting AI models are expected to contribute to the open-source ecosystem by making them available through AIKosh platform for other startups and researchers. Recently, startups like Sarvam AI and BharatGen published their model on AIKosh.

This will fuel innovation across India's startup and research community.

Annexure I

Organisations and consortia selected for developing Foundational AI Models based on Indian datasets:

1. Sarvam AI
2. Soket AI
3. Gnani AI
4. Gan AI
5. Avatar AI
6. IIT Bombay Consortium (BharatGen)
7. GenLoop
8. Zentieg

9. Intellihealth
10. Shodh AI
11. Fractal Analytics Ltd.
12. Tech Mahindra Maker's Lab
