

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 716
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.07.2026

RELIANCE ON EXTERNAL MODELS IN DIGITAL SECTOR

716. # SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) whether the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ranked India as 71st in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) index;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in the digital world, India relies on other nations for computer power chips, cloud services and models; and
- (d) the extent to which India is dependent on external models in the digital sector?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): International Monetary Fund's AI Preparedness Index is an indicative measure developed for guiding policymakers in identifying areas for improvement and not for ranking purposes.

The AI preparedness Index is the sum of 4 key dimensions: Digital Infrastructure, Innovation and economic integration, Human capital and Labour market policies and Regulation and ethics.

India has scored a cumulative score of 0.49 and is based on the data that was available till 2023.

With the approval of IndiaAI Mission and passing of Digital Personal Data Protection Act, India's AI preparedness Index is likely to be much higher.

Since then, India has already made significant progress. The Stanford Global AI Vibrancy Report 2025 ranks India 3rd globally in AI competitiveness and ecosystem vibrancy. As per the Stanford HAI Index 2026, India leads the world in AI skill penetration.

IndiaAI Mission:

India's AI policy is based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of democratizing technology. It is aimed at creating economic opportunities and employment for youth, while addressing risks associated with it.

India's AI strategy builds on India's vibrant IT sector with annual revenue of 300 billion dollars and 60 Lakh strong workforce. India AI Mission supports India's AI ambitions under seven

pillars including development of AI models, applications, datasets, talent development and affordable compute.

The Government has built substantial indigenous capacity as under:

AI models:

The Government of India is supporting Indian startups and institutions to develop large language models.

20 indigenous sovereign model proposals have been identified for support, comprising 12 LLMs and 8 SLMs. Notable successes so far include:

- Sarvam AI's Sarvam 30 billion parameter and 105 billion parameter models
- Gnani.AI's speech-to-speech model
- BharatGen's multilingual foundation models
- Avataar AI's video generation model

Domain-specific SLMs, include specialized models and AI frameworks addressing healthcare, language technologies and agentic AI systems are at various stages of development and deployment.

Affordable compute:

- Compute service providers empanelled: 15
- Number of projects supported: 237
- GPU hours sanctioned: 93.18 lakh GPU hours

Application Development:

- 12 National-level Hackathons/Innovation Challenges launched.
- Supported the development of 62 AI prototypes and 20 AI solutions deployment

Talent development:

- 686 fellowships have been awarded across undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes in 178 institutions.
- YUVA AI for All programme has been completed by over 26.5 lakh individuals.

IndiaAI labs:

- 27 India Data and AI Labs have been established, which has supported training for more than 2500 students
- Work ongoing on additional 188 labs.

Datasets:

AIKosh platform hosts 329 AI models, 35 toolkits and 202 documented use cases.

AI Centres of Excellence:

Government has also approved a scheme for the establishment of 58 Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence (AI-CoEs) across States and Union Territories, in collaboration with the respective State/UT Governments and industry partners.

Semiconductor Ecosystem

Government is also strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem through the Semicon India Programme and Semicon 2.0. Already under Semicon 1.0, commercial production from 3 out of 12 approved plants has started. The chips are being used in India as well as being exported. By 2028, the TATA Dholera fab will be functional too.

Government is also building trusted global supply chains through partnerships with countries including the USA, Japan, the EU, Singapore, Germany and the Netherlands, and participation in Pax Silica.

Overall, the Government's approach is to build sovereign capabilities across the entire AI stack comprising of models, applications, compute, Data Centre infrastructure, energy and talent.
