

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 717
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.07.2026

STATUS OF INDIA IN GLOBAL AI RACE

717. DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:

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

- (a) whether India is currently lagging behind in global Artificial Intelligence (AI) race despite having massive talent pool and high AI adoption rates among professionals and falls significantly behind in foundational research and venture capital funding in AI;
- (b) whether only about 0.6 per cent of GDP is spent on overall Research and Development (R&D) of AI and country lacks domestic computing infrastructure in AI, forcing reliance on processing power and data centers situated abroad;
- (c) whether there is brain drain of top AI researchers and engineers due to lack of resources and funding; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which Government proposes to improve this situation?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): **IndiaAI Mission:** India's AI policy is based on the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of democratising technology. It aims to create economic opportunities and employment while building sovereign AI capabilities across the AI value chain.

The Government does not agree with the premise that India is lagging in the global AI race. Infact, various global indices has acknowledged the strengths of India, as mentioned below:

- Stanford Global AI Vibrancy Report 2025 ranks India 3rd globally in AI competitiveness and ecosystem vibrancy
- As per the Stanford HAI Index 2026, India ranks 1st globally in AI skill penetration
- India is also among the world's leading countries in AI adoption and has one of the fastest-growing AI startup ecosystems.

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.

Strengthening AI Research and Innovation:

Foundation Models

- Support has been approved for 20 indigenous foundation models.

- Notable developments include:
 - Sarvam AI's 30B and 105B parameter models.
 - Gnani.AI's speech-to-speech model.
 - BharatGen's multilingual foundation models.
 - Avataar AI's video generation model.
- Eight domain-specific Small Language Models (SLMs) are also under development.

AI Centres of Excellence

- 58 AI Centres of Excellence have been approved across States and UTs in partnership with State Governments and industry.

Startup Ecosystem

- Under the IndiaAI Startup Financing pillar, 20 AI startups have been supported through the Station F (Paris)-HEC Paris accelerator programme.
 - These startups have collectively raised over €42 million in follow-on funding.

Strengthening AI Infrastructure

AIKosh: Provides access to 329 AI models, 35 toolkits and 202 documented use cases.

Compute Infrastructure

- 15 Compute Service Providers empanelled
- 38,000+ GPUs onboarded
- 236 startups and academic institutions supported
- 93.18 lakh GPU hours sanctioned
- In addition, a 1.1 EFLOPS High-Performance AI Compute System is being established at the NIC Data Centre, Shastri Park, New Delhi

Government Schemes

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has implemented several schemes to strengthen research infrastructure and promote quality research in academic institutions, thereby contributing to a self-reliant India.

These schemes are implemented on a competitive basis and aim to strengthen the country's research ecosystem. Key initiatives include:

- Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST): Supports the augmentation of research infrastructure in STEM departments of universities, higher educational institutions and postgraduate colleges. So far, more than 3,285 departments, including postgraduate colleges, have been supported.
- Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE): Strengthens R&D infrastructure in universities to promote mission-oriented research aligned with national priorities. Ninety-one universities have been supported under the scheme.
- Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIF): Fifteen facilities have been established across the country to provide researchers with access to advanced analytical instruments, particularly for institutions lacking such infrastructure.
- Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI): Professionally managed centres providing shared access to cutting-edge S&T infrastructure to support research, innovation, startups and technology development. Five national-level SATHI centres have been established at IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, BHU Varanasi, IIT Hyderabad and BITS Pilani.

Developing and Retaining AI Talent

- 12 national AI innovation challenges launched
- 62 AI prototypes and 20 AI solutions supported
- 686 AI fellowships awarded across 178 institutions
- 26.5 lakh citizens trained under YUVA AI for All
- 27 IndiaAI Data & AI Labs operational, with 188 additional labs under implementation
