

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2555
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.12.2024

BRIDGING OF DIGITAL DIVIDE IN NORTH-EAST

2555. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the India AI Mission and key milestones which have been achieved this year;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to develop a comprehensive regulatory framework to govern the development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with a focus on preventing the dissemination of false information and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken to bridge the digital divide in the North-East and ensure adequate internet connectivity and digital infrastructure for AI-powered solutions; and
- (d) the initiatives being undertaken to collaborate with local Governments, academia and industry in the North-East to foster AI innovation and development?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government of India emphasizes the concept of 'AI for All,' aligning with the Prime Minister's vision to democratize the use of technology. This initiative aims to ensure that AI benefits all sectors of society, driving innovation and growth.

Union Cabinet led by Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the IndiaAI Mission on 7th March 2024, a strategic initiative to establish a robust and inclusive AI ecosystem that aligns with the country's development goals. This mission is driven by a vision to position India as a global leader in artificial intelligence by focusing on seven foundational pillars.

The Mission is being implemented by IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD) under Digital India Corporation, and key actions undertaken for implementation of the IndiaAI Mission are as below:

IndiaAI Compute:

- IndiaAI compute pillar envisions building a high-end scalable AI computing ecosystem comprising AI compute infrastructure of 10,000 or more Graphics Processing Units (GPUs).
- Applications were invited for empanelment of agencies for providing AI services on Cloud on 16th August 2024. The bid submission was closed on 28th November 2024 and 19 bidders have submitted bids in response to the request.

IndiaAI FutureSkills:

- IndiaAI FutureSkills Pillar envisions to augment the number of graduates, post-graduate and PhDs in AI domain. Further, it envisions setting up Data and AI Labs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across India, to impart foundational-level courses in Data and AI.
- IndiaAI fellowship are being awarded annually to 400 B.Tech and 500 M.Tech students working in AI domain from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) recognized engineering institutions.

- Top 50 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranked research institutes have been asked to take new PhD scholars under IndiaAI PhD fellowship
- A model IndiaAI Data Lab in the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT's), Delhi has been set up, which acts as a reference point for the infrastructure to be set up in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as a part of the initiative.
- All the 36 States and Union Territories (UTs) have been requested to submit their nominated list of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)/Polytechnics located in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities for setting up of Data Labs. Additionally, IndiaAI in collaboration with NIELIT plans to establish 27 data labs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across the country, details of which are placed at **Appendix I**.

IndiaAI Startup Financing:

- IndiaAI Startup Financing pillar is to provide support to AI startups at all stages. Multiple rounds of stakeholder consultations have been held to deliberate on the scheme for supporting AI Startups at Pre-Seed, Seed and Growth stage.

IndiaAI Innovation Centre:

- IndiaAI Innovation centre aims to develop and deploy indigenous Large Multimodal Models (LMMs) trained on India-specific data
- Multiple rounds of stakeholder consultations have been held to deliberate on the IndiaAI's strategy for building indigenous Large Multi-model Models (LMMs).

IndiaAI Datasets Platform:

- The IndiaAI Datasets Platform (IDP) seeks to enhance access, quality, and utilization of public sector datasets to make them AI-ready.
- A comprehensive plan has been created for developing platform and a feature list has been finalized after evaluating other prominent dataset platforms such as Hugging Face, Dubai Pulse etc.

IndiaAI Applications Development Initiative:

- IndiaAI Application Development Initiative aims to develop, scale, and promote the adoption of impactful AI solutions to effectively tackle significant problem statements.
- IndiaAI Innovation challenge was launched on 13th August 2024 for the themes of healthcare, agriculture, improved governance, climate change & disaster management and assistive technologies for learning disabilities. The Innovation Challenge was open to Indian innovators, startups, non-profits, students, academic/R&D organizations, and companies. A total of 900 applications have been received across the five focus areas by the deadline of 30th September.
- CyberGuard AI Hackathon was launched on 17th October 2024 for Cybercrime prevention in collaboration with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) and in response 263 responses have been received.

Safe & Trusted AI:

- This pillar enables the implementation of Responsible AI projects including the development of indigenous tools and frameworks, self-assessment checklists for innovators, and other guidelines and governance frameworks.
- Eight Responsible AI Projects have been selected to address the need for robust guardrails to ensure the responsible development, deployment, and adoption of AI

technologies. The projects cover a range of critical themes, including Machine Unlearning, Synthetic Data Generation, AI Bias Mitigation, Ethical AI Frameworks, Privacy-Enhancing Tools, Explainable AI, AI Governance Testing, and Algorithm Auditing Tools. The details of the selected projects are given at **Appendix II**.

India is a founding member of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and has contributed significantly to its vision of advancing Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI globally. India was elected as the Incoming Council Chair for 2023, Lead Chair for 2024, and Outgoing Chair for 2025. As the Incoming Council Chair, India hosted the Annual GPAI Summit in December, 2023 which was a landmark event attended by 22000+ participants. As Lead Chair, India hosted the 'Global India AI Summit' and midyear GPAI Summit in July 2024, in New Delhi where the 6th GPAI Ministerial Council was held and the event was attended by 12000+ participants. Under the GPAI New Delhi Declaration 2024, GPAI members came to a consensus about the future of the GPAI and announced a renewed vision for GPAI through an integrated partnership with OECD bringing together all current OECD members & GPAI countries on equal footing, under the GPAI brand.

The G20 New Delhi Leader's Declaration commits to pursue a pro-innovation regulatory/governance approach that maximizes the benefits and considers the risks associated with the use of AI. India is also a signatory to São Luís Declaration adopted in Brazil in 2024, which also highlights the need for global cooperation for AI governance and encourages G20 members to advance and reinforce interoperability between AI governance frameworks.

Further, India has actively participated in the discussions pertaining to a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on AI for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and co-sponsored that resolution.

India is a member of the Hiroshima AI Process Friends Group which involves a collaborative effort by member countries to develop a Comprehensive Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence that includes guiding principles and code of conduct aimed at promoting the safe, secure and trustworthy advanced AI systems.

India is also a signatory to the UN GDC adopted on September 22, 2024. Grounded in human rights and international law, the GDC includes commitments on connectivity, online safety, and AI governance through the establishment of a multidisciplinary Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and a Global Dialogue on AI governance in the margins of UN conferences and meetings.

Appendix I

List of Data & AI labs planned by IndiaAI in collaboration with NIELIT in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across the country:

S.No.	NIELIT Centre	State/UT
1	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh
2	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
3	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
4	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
5	Patna	Bihar
6	Buxar	Bihar
7	Muzaffarpur	Bihar
8	Kurukshetra	Haryana
9	Ropar	Punjab
10	Haridwar	Uttarakhand
11	Bikaner	Rajasthan
12	Tezpur	Assam
13	Bhubaneswar	Odisha
14	Calicut	Kerala
15	Guwahati	Assam
16	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
17	Srinagar	J&K
18	Jammu	J&K
19	Ranchi	Jharkhand
20	Imphal	Manipur
21	Gangtok	Sikkim
22	Agartala	Tripura
23	Aizawl	Mizoram
24	Shillong	Meghalaya
25	Kohima	Nagaland
26	Leh	Ladakh
27	Silchar	Assam

APPENDIX II

The details of the selected projects under “Safe & Trusted AI” Pillar are as under:

NAME OF THE THEME	SELECTED APPLICANT	TITLE OF THE PROJECT
Machine Unlearning	IIT Jodhpur	Machine Unlearning in Generative Foundation Models
Synthetic Data Generation	IIT Roorkee	Design and Development of Method for Generating Synthetic Data for Mitigating Bias in Datasets; and Framework for Mitigating Bias in Machine Learning Pipeline for Responsible AI
AI Bias Mitigation Strategy	National Institute of Technology Raipur	Development of Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Bias Mitigation in Health Care Systems
Explainable AI Framework	DIAT Pune and Mindgraph Technology Pvt. Ltd.	Enabling Explainable and Privacy Preserving AI for Security
Privacy Enhancing Strategy	IIT Delhi, IIIT Delhi, IIT Dharwad and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)	Robust Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning Models
AI Ethical Certification Framework	IIIT Delhi and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)	Tools for assessing fairness of AI model
AI Algorithm Auditing Tool	Civic Data Labs	ParakhAI - An open-source framework and toolkit for Participatory Algorithmic Auditing
AI Governance Testing Framework	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)	Track-LLM, Transparency, Risk Assessment, Context & Knowledge for Large Language Models
