GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2255
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.03.2025

COLLABORATION WITH IT COMPANIES TO ENHANCE DIGITAL LITERACY

2255. SHRI YADUVEER WADIYAR:

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

(a) the total number of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Digital Saksharta Abhiyan, State-wise particularly Karnataka;
(b) the steps being taken by the Government to integrate AI and cybersecurity training into existing skill development programmes;
(c) whether any new digital skill training centres are being planned and, if so, the details of the new centres which have been approved in Mysuru; and
(d) the measures introduced to promote collaboration with IT companies to enhance digital literacy and employability?

ANSWER

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

(a):   The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was initiated to reach digital literacy in 6 crore rural households (one person per household) nationwide including the State of Karnataka. As against a target of 6 crore, around 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country. PMGDISHA scheme was officially concluded on March 31st, 2024.

In the State of Karnataka, a total of 17,072 training centres were registered under the scheme out of which 765 were from Mysuru wherein a total of 29,64,726 candidates were enrolled and 24,40,957 candidates were trained across the state under the PMGDISHA Scheme.

The State/UT-wise achievement details under the PMGDISHA scheme is given as **Annexure-I**.

(b):   The following steps are being taken by the Government to Integrate AI and Cybersecurity Training into Skill Development Programmes:

(a) **Cyber Surakshit Bharat**- The Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative of the government offers free cybersecurity training sessions for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of government organizations and small businesses, helping them secure their digital assets. Under the Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA) project one of the thematic areas includes capacity building in AI-driven threat detection, automation, and cyber defense strategies, aimed at equipping stakeholders with cutting-edge skills in cybersecurity.
(ii) **FutureSkills Prime**- MeitY has initiated a programme titled "FutureSkills PRIME", jointly with National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), aimed at re-skilling/ up-skilling candidates in new/emerging technologies, namely, Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation, Augmented/Virtual

Reality, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Additive Manufacturing/ 3D Printing, Cloud Computing, Social & Mobile and Cyber Security.

(iii) The **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)** is actively integrating AI and cybersecurity training into its skill development programs by offering NSQF-aligned courses designed to equip professionals and students with in-depth knowledge. These courses range from foundational AI applications to specialized cybersecurity training, covering various skill levels and durations. In addition to standardized courses, NIELIT also provides customized training, workshops, and awareness programs to promote cybersecurity best practices. Further, NIELIT has also established strategic collaborations with leading IT companies through Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to design skill development courses aligned with industry requirements. These partnerships aim to equip students with industry-relevant skills, enhancing digital literacy and employability in the evolving digital economy.

(iv) **YUVAi- Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI**: National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MeitY in collaboration with its partners, has launched „YUVAi: Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI"- A National Programme for School Students with the objective of enabling school students from classes 8thto 12thwith AI tech and social skills in an inclusive manner. The programme provides a platform for youth to learn and apply AI skills in 8 thematic areas- Krishi, Aarogya, Shiksha, Paryavaran, Parivahan, Grameen Vikas, Smart Cities and Vidhi aur Nyaay.

(c): Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), since 2015, for imparting skill development training through Short-Term Training (STT) and up-skilling and re-skilling through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to youth across the country with aim to enhance the employability of the youth to access employment opportunities by equipping them with industry relevant skills including Artificial Intelligence, Cyber security. As on 31.12.2024, 19,715 candidates have been trained/oriented in AI/Cybersecurity-related job roles under PMKVY 4.0.

Further, Directorate General of Training (DGT) under MSDE has introduced one course 'Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant (AIPA)' to impart AI-based skill training through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs). A micro-credential course "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)" of 7.5-hour has been developed for all CTS trainees in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), in collaboration with industry and academic experts.

(d): MSDE has launched Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) platform, a comprehensive and accessible platform for skill enhancement, offering industry-relevant skill courses, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship support to youth of the country from rural and urban areas. SIDH offers an extensive array of AI and ML courses, ranging from foundational programs like 'Fundamentals of Azure AI Speech' and 'Machine Learning', to specialized offerings such as 'Google Cloud Generative AI' and 'AI Strategy to Create Business Value in Healthcare', to cater to varying levels of expertise and application, enabling participants to stay at the forefront of AI and ML technology.

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State/UT-wise achievement made under PMGDISHA Scheme

Sl. No.	State Name	Registered Candidates	Trained Candidates
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5,564	2,931
2	Andhra Pradesh	23,01,731	19,17,452
3	Arunachal Pradesh	14,949	11,615
4	Assam	27,21,585	23,60,195
5	Bihar	82,40,606	74,12,740
6	Chhattisgarh	24,86,455	21,37,064
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	20,522	18,029
8	Goa	58,569	53,784
9	Gujarat	30,31,310	26,83,286
10	Haryana	18,57,815	15,77,109
11	Himachal Pradesh	6,61,922	5,32,976
12	Jammu and Kashmir	8,70,451	7,06,991
13	Jharkhand	27,52,731	22,86,356
14	**Karnataka**	**29,64,726**	**24,40,957**
15	Kerala	1,77,165	1,18,132
16	Ladakh	24,785	22,122
17	Lakshadweep	142	35
18	Madhya Pradesh	56,92,467	50,69,449
19	Maharashtra	61,23,970	53,23,817
20	Manipur	28,397	18,286
21	Meghalaya	1,52,783	1,06,063
22	Mizoram	30,317	23,125
23	Nagaland	11,990	8,968
24	Odisha	36,16,441	30,86,143
25	Puducherry	22,079	15,801
26	Punjab	17,46,448	15,14,820
27	Rajasthan	45,06,184	39,70,690
28	Sikkim	27,035	23,122
29	Tamil Nadu	17,04,537	14,07,880
30	Telangana	14,56,226	12,10,448
31	Tripura	3,25,000	2,64,186
32	Uttar Pradesh	1,63,14,369	1,45,48,273
33	Uttarakhand	7,85,978	6,73,306
34	West Bengal	28,36,714	23,95,565
	Total	**7,35,71,963**	**6,39,41,716**

*Chandigarh and Delhi are in urban agglomeration, hence not covered under the scheme.

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