

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION. NO. 3062**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 19.03.2025

**DEVELOPMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HUB**

**3062. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:**

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

(a) whether the Government is developing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub to enable effective and efficient dissemination of information on various Government initiatives and the platform will also have the facility for multilingual translation of contents for an effective outreach to the masses across the country and other initiatives included: Digital India Bhashini, a language translation platform; BharatGen, the world's first Government-funded multimodal large language model, the Sarvam-1 AI LLM; Chitralkha, an open-source video trans creation platform and the multilingual AI system Everest 1.0, which caters to various Indian languages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the way in which these are useful to all the people along with the funds sanctioned and spent for the purpose till date?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and(b):The Government of India emphasizes the concept of 'AI for All,' aligning with the Hon'ble 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.

India is regarded as the Skills Capital in Technology and Artificial Intelligence. The most reliable AI rankings place India among the top countries in AI skill penetration, AI project development capabilities, and AI policy implementation.

The Union Cabinet, led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, approved the **IndiaAI Mission on March 7, 2024**, as a strategic initiative to establish a robust and inclusive AI ecosystem aligned with India's development goals. The mission aims to position India as a global leader in artificial intelligence by fostering innovation, enhancing domestic capabilities, and ensuring the country's tech sovereignty. The implementation of 'IndiaAI Mission' with a **total outlay of Rs. 10,371.92 Cr** is for a period of 5 years.

With this vision of developing a modern platform centered around the requirements of the AI innovation ecosystem, the **IndiaAI Datasets Platform (named as AIKosh)** has been launched on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 under the IndiaAI Mission. AIKosh functions as a unified data platform, integrating datasets from all existing data platforms as well as onboarding non-government data contributors and providing new-age AI-centric features.

At present the platform offers a comprehensive collection of resources for AI development, featuring over **300 datasets** sourced from more than 10 entities across 12 sectors. It also includes more than **150 AI models** provided by 5 different entities, alongside a library of over 5 use cases that demonstrate potential applications using the available datasets and models. Additionally, the platform provides over 10 toolkits comprising development utilities for project integration, as well as tutorials to help users understand and navigate its features.

Further, IndiaAI on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 had launched a **Call for Proposals** inviting proposals from startups, researchers, and entrepreneurs to **collaborate on building state-of-the-art foundational AI models** trained on Indian datasets. The initiative aims to establish indigenous AI models that align with global standards while addressing unique challenges and opportunities within the Indian context.

In the first month, IndiaAI Mission has received a **total of 67 proposals** till 15<sup>th</sup> February aimed at building India's foundation models, with contributions from both established startups and new teams of researchers & academia. **22 are focused on Large Language Models (LLMs) & Large Multimodal Models (LMMs)**, while the remaining **45 are centered on domain-specific models (SLMs)**. The majority of SLMs target key sectors such as healthcare, education, and financial services.

Moreover, the Government has undertaken several other initiatives as follows:

- i) **Digital India Bhashini:** Bhashini, as part of India's National Language Translation Mission (NLTM), aligns with the principles of sovereign AI by focusing on creating AI-driven language solutions using domestic infrastructure, data, and talent. Sovereign AI refers to a nation's ability to independently develop and manage AI technologies to maintain control over its data, ensure privacy, and address specific local needs. Bhashini embodies these ideals by leveraging India's linguistic datasets, fostering vernacular content creation, and providing translation tools for **22 scheduled Indian languages**. Furthermore, it enhances national competitiveness by enabling local innovation in AI while reducing reliance on foreign technologies. By integrating advanced AI capabilities like natural language processing and machine learning, Bhashini demonstrates how sovereign AI can address localized challenges while contributing to broader national objectives such as digital inclusion and economic growth. **The total budget authorization for the project is ₹495 crore**, and as of the current reporting period, expenditures have reached ₹180 crore.
- ii) **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS):** The Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India is implementing the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), which was approved by the Cabinet on December 6, 2018, with **an outlay of Rs. 3,660 crore**. Under this mission, 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) have been established in reputed academic institutions across India. Each TIH specializes in cutting-edge domains such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning (ML), Robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), Cybersecurity, and FinTech etc. Mandate of the mission includes i.e. Technology Development, Human Resource Development, Entrepreneurship Development and International Collaborations.
- iii) **BharatGen:** NM-ICPS supports BharatGen a project adhered to IIT Bombay Technology Innovation Hub, BharatGen is a multimodal multilingual large language model initiative, developing advanced generative AI models tailored to India's linguistic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity. It is a project led by the TIH in collaboration with premier academic Institutes as partners namely IIT Bombay, IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Mandi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, IIM Indore and IIT Madras in AI domain which aims to develop indigenous generative AI models tailored to India's linguistic and cultural diversity, enabling applications in areas such as natural language processing, text generation, speech synthesis, and AI-powered solutions for governance, education, and healthcare. As part of this initiative, ₹89.658 crore has been released to the TIH out of the sanctioned budget of ₹235.176 crore to support its research and development efforts.

Further, BharatGen is creating a network of data collection procedures and partners to reach out and collect data from a diverse range of people, including the marginalised communities in remote locations, underrepresented communities, previously untapped populations and the populations that do not have a written script or significant written corpus that can be digitized, for the purpose of representative data collection. Using this data, BharatGen is focused to build models on speech modality and then releasing open-source versions of these models for use by government, public and private organizations.

- iv) **Vikaspedia:** "Vikaspedia is a MeitY initiative to promote an AI-augmented digital ecosystem to leapfrog the availability and accessibility of citizen-centric digital information in Indian languages, thereby empowering citizens and driving digital transformation.

The project leverages the available AI models in its multilingual, multi-sectoral collaborative knowledge sharing platform ([www.vikaspedia.in](http://www.vikaspedia.in)) for use cases such as Machine Assisted Translation (MAT), Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), assisted content drafting, Optical Character Recognition (OCR), chatbot, enhanced content discovery, etc. The language datasets aggregated as part of the platform are also being shared for further development of AI models in various Indian languages.

The AI enabled platform of Vikaspedia facilitates citizens and other development stakeholders to access and share information in multiple Indian languages related to best practices, technologies, government policies and schemes, etc., covering various sectors such as Agriculture, Education, Social welfare, Energy, etc. No exclusive funds have been sanctioned for development of AI models in the project. The project uses the models developed as part of various initiatives such as Bhashini.

- v) **National AI Portal:** National AI Portal (<https://indiaai.gov.in/>) serves as a comprehensive repository of Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives in the country. The portal showcases various initiatives undertaken under the IndiaAI Mission and acts as a single point of reference for individuals, researchers, and industry professionals seeking information about AI initiatives in India, including academic research, startups, policy initiatives, and other related information.

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