

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *283
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 20.12.2024

**LEVERAGING AI TO IMPROVE GOVERNANCE AND
PUBLIC SERVICES**

***283. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:**

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

- (a) the manner in which Government is leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve governance and public services;
- (b) the key projects under the National AI Strategy and the manner in which such projects benefit citizens; and
- (c) whether there are measures to ensure development of ethical AI and minimize potential misuse of the technology?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *283 FOR 20.12.2024 REGARDING LEVERAGING AI TO IMPROVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

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(a) and (b): The Government of India emphasizes the concept of 'AI for All,' aligning with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to democratise 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 ranking in AI is placing India among the top countries with AI Skills, AI capabilities, and policies to use AI. Stanford University has ranked India among the top four countries along with the US, China, and the UK in the Global and National AI vibrancy ranking based on 42 indicators. GitHub, which is community of developers has ranked India at the top with the global share of 24% of all projects.

Government is committed to harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the good of our people in sectors like healthcare, agriculture and education. At the same time, the Government is cognizant of the risks posed by AI.

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly being used in Governance and public services by various Central and State Government Departments and Organizations, such as those in Agriculture, Healthcare, Railways, Governance & Administration, Energy & Power, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Transportation and Law & Justice. It helps automate repetitive tasks, improve transparency, and enhance communication between citizens and the government.

The Government had constituted 7 expert groups to deliberate and prepare a design document on IndiaAI. The first edition of IndiaAI expert group report, published on October 2023, detailed out the operational aspects of foundational pillars of India's AI mission. The report also recommends on how India can leverage its demographic dividend and play to its strengths as an IT superpower to further the penetration of IndiaAI skills in the country, strengthening the IndiaAI compute infrastructure in India to support IndiaAI innovation through public-private partnerships (PPPs). Earlier, NITI Aayog had also published the National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (NSAI) in 2018.

Subsequently, 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, postgraduate 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 Tier2 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 **Annexure 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.
- Cyber Guard AI Hackathon was launched on 17th October 2024 for Cyber crime 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 check lists 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 **Annexure II**.

(c): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring an open, safe, trusted and accountable internet for users in the country amidst AI growth.

To address the challenges and risks of AI the Government is cognizant of the need to create guardrails to ensure that AI is safe and trusted. Accordingly, the Central Government after extensive public consultations with relevant stakeholders has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”) on 25.02.2021 which was subsequently amended 28.10.2022 and 6.4.2023. The IT Rules, 2021 cast specific legal obligations on intermediaries, including social media intermediaries and platforms, to ensure their accountability towards safe and trusted internet including their expeditious action towards removal of the prohibited misinformation, patently false information and deepfakes. In case of failure of the intermediaries to observe the legal obligations as provided in the IT Rules, 2021, they lose their safe harbour protection under section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (“IT Act”) and shall be liable for consequential action or prosecution as provided under any extant law.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 has been enacted on 11th August, 2023 which casts obligations on Data Fiduciaries to safeguard digital personal data, holding them accountable, while also ensuring the rights and duties of Data Principals.

The Government has also constituted an Advisory Group on AI for India-specific regulatory AI framework under the chairmanship of PSA to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India with diverse stakeholders from academia, Industry and government with an objective to address all issues related to development of Responsible AI framework for safe and trusted development and deployment of AI.

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	Kurukshestra	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

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
