

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3422
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2021

STEPS TO BOOST ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

3422. DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to boost the Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector in the country;
- (b) the objectives that the Global Partnership on AI seeks to achieve; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to empower the youth with AI skill- set?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a): The Government of India has taken several steps to promote Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the country. The details are as follows:

- i. Government has launched '**National AI Portal**' which is a repository of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based initiatives in the country for all stakeholders
- ii. Government has initiated '**Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme**' with an objective to enhance the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors including AI in the country. Presently, 908 Full time & 308 part-time PhD candidates are enrolled under the scheme at 97 academic institutions across the country.
- iii. Government has initiated '**FutureSkills PRIME** (Programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability)' which aims to create a re-skilling/up-skilling ecosystem in emerging and futuristic technologies including AI.
- iv. To promote tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups using emerging technologies, Government is implementing **TIDE 2.0** (Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs). The Scheme is being implemented through 51 incubators with an overarching objective to promote incubation activities at institutes of higher learning and premier R&D organizations
- v. To foster innovation through research Technology, government has created several '**Centres of Excellence**' on various emerging Technologies including Artificial Intelligence. These centres connect various entities such as startups, enterprises, venture capitalists, government and academia to look into problem statements and develop innovative solutions.
- vi. Government has developed API (Application Programming Interface) platform called **National Data Highway (NDH)** in March 2020 to enable quick and transparent

integration with other e-Governance applications and systems thereby providing access to data and services.

- vii. **National Programme on Responsible Use of AI for Youth:** With the objective to empower the youth to become AI ready and help reduce the skill gap, government along with industry partner has started this initiative to promote AI awareness among Government school going children. Presently 50,501 students have registered from all parts of the country and 11,460 students have completed their first level of AI training.
- viii. Department of Science & Technology (DST) has launched the ***National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)*** with a total outlay of Rs.3660.00 Crores for a period of five years. As part of Mission implementation, 25 ***Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs)*** are established across the country. A Technology Innovation Hub is established at Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Kharagpur in the technology vertical Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning at a total cost of Rs. 170.00 Crores for 5 years.

(b): The main objective of Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) is to evolve better understanding of the challenges and opportunities around AI using the experience and diversity of participating countries. In collaboration with partners and international organizations, GPAI aims to bring together leading experts from industry, civil society, governments, and academia to collaborate to promote responsible evolution of AI and will also evolve methodologies to show how AI can be leveraged to better respond to the present global crisis around COVID-19. The focus areas of GPAI are Responsible AI, data governance, future of work, innovation and commercialization.

(c): The steps taken by Government to empower the youth with AI skillset are as follows:

- CBSE has introduced AI as a part of the course curriculum in higher secondary for learning at mass scale.
- SWAYAM Portal, being operated by M/o Education, also runs several AI related courses.
- Government has organised events such as RAISE to provide a vibrant platform for learning from the best global experts in AI.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools across the country. With the goal to enable these young students to be experts in 21st century technologies, AIM has created a repository of modules on topics such as coding, game design, app development, 3D design, etc.
- AIM, in collaboration with NASSCOM has created the ATL Artificial Intelligence Base and Step-Up modules towards an attempt to hone AI skills in students from class 6th to 12th. The above modules are freely available on the AIM website (aim.gov.in)
