

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3256
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 28.03.2025

EMPANELMENT FOR GPU PROCUREMENT UNDER INDIAAI MISSION

3256. SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:
SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

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

- (a) the objectives of the continuous empanelment process for Graphic Processing Unit (GPU) procurement under the IndiaAI Mission;
- (b) the details of the partnerships established with academic institutions, Startups and industry for Artificial Intelligence (AI) model development;
- (c) the expected increase in India's AI computing capacity as a result of this initiative; and
- (d) whether there is a provision for revising GPU rates periodically, if so, the frequency of such revisions and the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to d): 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.

IndiaAI Mission encompasses key pillars of the AI ecosystem including, IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre, IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing and Safe & Trusted AI.

By democratizing access to computing resources, enhancing data quality, nurturing homegrown AI expertise, attracting top talent, fostering industry partnerships, supporting startup ventures, promoting socially impactful AI projects, and emphasizing ethical practices, the mission seeks to foster responsible and inclusive growth within India's AI landscape.

One of the key pillars of the IndiaAI Mission is **IndiaAI Compute**, which aims to deliver Compute as a Service to address India's dedicated AI computing needs across various sectors. The ecosystem comprises AI compute infrastructure of 10,000 or more GPUs.

Towards this, IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD) published a Request for Empanelment (RFE) on August 16, 2024, to empanel AI services on cloud including GPUs. 19 bidders had submitted proposals to empanel their AI cloud services, out of which 10 bidders have been empanelled.

Against the target of 10,000 GPUs outlined in the IndiaAI compute pillar, empanelled bidders have offered **14,517 GPUs at L1 rates**. The average L1 rate discovered for the GPUs is **Rs. 115 per GPU hour**. Additionally, the Government would support eligible end users to the extent of **40% of the AI compute cost**.

With an objective to keep pace with the changes in technologies and market prices, IndiaAI has enabled a **continuous empanelment process** by inviting proposals from agencies who want to get empanelled every quarter. Willing agencies shall submit financial proposals which can be same or lower than the existing L1 rates. IndiaAI has published the RFE for continuous empanelment on 21st February, 2025. The last date of submission of proposals is 30th April 2025. Pre-bid meeting has been organized and adequate publicity is being done to ensure transparency in the empanelment process.

Towards the industry collaboration, IndiaAI has **signed MoUs** with Global technology partners like Meta, IBM, Microsoft in the field of AI & Emerging Technologies.

IndiaAI on 30th 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 **187 proposals till 15th March** aimed at building India's foundation models, with contributions from both established startups and new teams of researchers & academia. Along with funding support, a **wide range of GPUs have been requested** by teams submitting these proposals.
