

India's Thriving IT Sector Now Employs Over 6 Million People, Government Confirms



India's robust Information Technology (IT) ecosystem has reached a significant milestone, employing more than 6 million individuals. This impressive figure, confirmed by the government, underscores the sector's continued growth and its pivotal role in India's economic landscape, generating annual revenues exceeding \$250 billion.

The substantial employment numbers highlight the success of various strategic initiatives aimed at fostering a strong and inclusive IT ecosystem. A key driver behind this expansion is the "IndiaAI mission," launched in March 2024. This strategic endeavor seeks to establish a robust Artificial Intelligence (AI) framework aligned with India's broader development goals, focusing on creating both economic and employment opportunities for its citizens.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Jitin Prasada recently informed Parliament about the sector's scale and India's growing prominence in the global AI landscape. He pointed out that India ranks among the top countries in AI skills, capabilities, and policy frameworks, according to global assessments like the Stanford AI rankings. Furthermore, India is the second-largest contributor to GitHub AI projects, showcasing a vibrant and active developer community.

The IndiaAI mission is underpinned by a seven-pillar strategy. This includes initiatives like "IndiaAI Compute Capacity," designed to provide affordable, high-end Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) to a wide range of users, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups. The "IndiaAI Foundation Models" project aims to develop indigenous

Large Multimodal Models (LMMs) trained on Indian datasets and languages, securing sovereign capability and global competitiveness in generative AI.

To support these ambitious AI model developments, "AIKosh" has been created as a unified data platform, integrating datasets from both government and non-government sources. The "IndiaAI Application Development Initiative" focuses on creating AI applications to address India-specific challenges in critical sectors such as climate change, disaster management, healthcare, agriculture, and governance.

Moreover, the "IndiaAIFutureSkills" project is actively working to develop AI-skilled professionals by increasing the number of graduates, post-graduates, and PhDs in the AI domain, with plans to establish Data and AI Labs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities nationwide. Financial assistance for AI startups is also being provided through "IndiaAI Startup Financing."

This comprehensive approach by the government underscores its commitment to leveraging technology for inclusive growth. The continued expansion of India's IT and AI capabilities is not only generating widespread employment but also positioning the nation as a formidable force in the global digital economy.