# UP to host AI boot camp for 30 depts

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**Lucknow:** In what promises to give a big push to the use of artificial intelligence tools in governance, the UP govt would be hosting an AI boot camp for key officials from across 30 plus departments on Thursday.

The aim of the day-long camp, being anchored by the department of IT and electronics, is to help the attending officials understand the concept so that AI tools may be integrated into everyday working. The parent department has partnered with HCLSoftware for the purpose.

This is significant considering the Union and state govts' commitment to harness AI for societal benefits through initiatives such as 'AI for All' and the national AI strategy, officials said.

Special secretary, IT and electronics and state coordinator, UP centre for e-governance, Neha Jain said: "The initiative aligns perfectly with the state govt's vision of delivering efficient and citizen-centric services. We are willing to harness the power of AI for public interest as the technology is a key enabler when it comes to improving systems and quality of service delivery."

She added that the day-long programme has been designed to enable govt officers to demystify the basics, understand the role AI can play in the govt sector along with challenges and opportunities, explore issues like ethics, cyber security and use AI software and tools in their everyday work so that they can harness the power of AI for delivering efficient, citizen-centric so-

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lutions. Chief revenue officer, HCLSoftware, Rajiv Shesh told TOI: "The attendees will get a chance to see how AI is transforming public service delivery in areas like agriculture, health and education."

Principal secretary, IT and electronics, Anil Sagar said: "UP has immense potential when it comes to leveraging the advantages of AI. From accelerating agricultural growth through predictive analytics to optimising healthcare resource allocation and improving education outcomes, AI has the power to address the state's most pressing challenges."

Sagar said: "While on one hand, the state govt has launched the training of section officers and grade-2 gazetted officers on AI tools in the first week of Aug, the middle rung would be covered in the boot camp that will take place over the week. Another programme for senior officers — principal secretary rank and above — is due in the first week of Sept."