

UP to get 1st green skills & applied AI centre of excellence

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Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh is set to get its first Green Skills and Applied AI for Climate Action Centre of Excellence (CoE) at Lucknow University, aiming to build a future-ready workforce for India's green economy.

The Lucknow CoE will be the second among five such centres planned nationwide under the Green Skills and Applied AI for Climate Action programme, a joint initiative by IMIB and Microsoft in collaboration with the Ministry of

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Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). UP will host two centres, with another planned in Noida, while the remaining centres are to come up in Shillong and Hyderabad.

It will be inaugurated this week. The Lucknow centre will train young people in industry-relevant skills spanning applied AI, climate technologies, renewable energy and sustainability. The facility will include dedicated experiential learning zones focused on solar energy, electric vehicles, wind energy, climate technologies and applied AI.

The initiative aims at engaging and training 1 lakh youth in Green Skills and Applied AI by 2030, beginning with 20,000 learners in the first year. It also aims to support the development of more than 50 applied

AI-powered climate innovation solutions and create pathways to 50,000 jobs, internships, apprenticeships and livelihood opportunities.

Participants at the Lucknow CoE will work on real-world problems through innovation cohorts, AI-enabled climate projects and industry-led learning experiences. The model is designed to connect academic learning with practical application and employability outcomes. Prof Puneet Mishra from LU's department of computer science said, "The Centre is not just a skilling facility, it is where young people will learn, build and deploy Applied AI solutions for climate, industry and society."

"This COE, is poised to build a future-ready talent pipeline in UP by equipping youth with in-demand AI and green skills, empowering them to develop locally relevant solutions addressing pressing climate challenges," said Manju Dhasmana, senior director - Elevate CSR, Microsoft.

IMIB founder and CEO Manav Subodh said the centre will act as a hub for innovation, skilling and entrepreneurship, positioning Uttar Pradesh as a leader in the emerging AI-powered green economy.

Top-performing participants will be offered incubation support, start-up mentorship, go-to-market opportunities, internships and advanced career pathways.