

UP bets big on AI, sets target of 5L skilled youth by 2031; eyes 1% GSDP contribution

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Lucknow: From high-performance computing for AI research to district-level centres tasked with solving local problems, UP's cabinet-approved AI Mission seeks to take artificial intelligence beyond technology infrastructure and embed it in governance, employment and enterprise creation.

"The mission will strengthen AI-based innovation, research and skill development while enabling the safe, effective and responsible use of artificial intelligence in governance and citizen services," said Alok Kumar, principal secretary, IT and Electronics.

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SECRETARY, IT & ELECTRONICS

Rs 225 crore for 2026-27, the mission aims to train 5 lakh youth, support at least 100 AI startups and develop or implement more than 100 AI use cases, of which 25 to 30 will be scaled up across departments.

Its longer-term ambition is to enable AI to contribute at least 1% to the state's gross state

domestic product by 2031. At the core is the UP AI Stack, an integrated platform bringing together AI-ready data systems, departmental applications, secure data exchange and GPU-based computing facilities.

Instead of departments building separate systems, the shared infrastructure is intended to enable them to develop and deploy AI solutions while retaining ownership of their data. The mission also envisages an Advanced Computing Innovation Centre in partnership with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the ministry of electronics and information technology.

Based on C-DAC's indigenous RUDRA platform, it will sup-

port research, data processing and demanding AI workloads.

Beyond computing, the mission targets practical AI training for 5 lakh youth, more than 200 AI Kaushal Labs and employment linkages for 50,000 AI professionals.

The grassroots component envisages district AI Kendras across all 75 districts to identify local administrative and industrial challenges, mentor entrepreneurs and develop solutions. A proposed cadre of 75 chief minister AI Fellows, one per district, will assist administrations with data analysis, project execution and scheme monitoring. The fellowship provides for a monthly honorarium of Rs 40,000 for an initial one-year term.