₹5cr grant to make Lucknow 1st AI city

Team TOI

Lucknow: The Budget has allocated Rs 5 crore to develop Lucknow as the country's first artificial intelligence city.

"We have identified land for infrastructure and essential facilities to strengthen the AI ecosystem. Advancing the IT sector is crucial for attracting investment to the state," said an official.

Former IPS officer and cybersecurity expert Triveni Singh described an AI City as an urban area that integrates AI to enhance infrastructure, governance, security and public services using machine learning, big data, IoT and automation for improved traffic, healthcare, waste management and energy efficiency.

An AI City can be developed by providing a friendly environment for AI startups and multinational companies. This includes establishing AI-focused economic zones with tax benefits and innovation hubs. Govts can support this by offering subsidies, tax breaks and AI-friendly policies to

HARVESTING TECHNOLOGY

attract businesses. Infrastructure plays a key role, requiring high-speed internet, cloud computing centres and AI testing labs. Additionally, AI-focused universities and training centres can help develop skilled professionals. To further boost growth, cities can host AI conferences, create public-private partnerships and integrate AI in public services. He said to further boost AI development, the govt of India sanctioned Rs 10,000 crore for the India AI Mission. In early 2024, India saw the emergence of nearly 240 generative AI startups, ranking the country sixth globally in AI innovation. Officials said the state was committed to seizing the technological opportunity.