Ministry of Electronics & IT

The Artificial Intelligence is no longer an option but an essential component of working in every sphere of life: says Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh

Minister lauds India's first government owned Sovereign 'Large Language Model', Multilingual AI Stack Takes Shape: Dr. Jitendra Singh Highlights Whole-of-Government Model at BharatGen Session

BharatGen Supported by ₹235 Crore under NM-ICPS and Further Strengthened by ₹10,585 Crore India AI Mission Outlay: says Union Minister

"Prime Minister Modi has launched BharatGen's latest models, including the Param-2 text foundation model in 22 scheduled Indian languages with 17 billion parameters"

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Lauding India's first government owned, sovereign "Large Language Model", Multilingual AI stack, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that Artificial Intelligence is no longer an option but an essential component of working in every sphere of life, as he addressed the session on "BharatGen Models: Vision and Technical Execution 2026" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The session was hosted by BharatGen in association with the India AI Mission, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), as part of the Global AI Summit.

Congratulating the BharatGen team, the Minister said the initiative represents a significant milestone in India's journey towards technological self-reliance. He underlined that BharatGen stands out as a government-owned sovereign multilingual and multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) initiative, tailored to India's socio-cultural context and linguistic diversity. While large language models are known globally, he noted that BharatGen's distinct feature lies in its sovereign, government-supported character, reflecting a proactive policy approach at an early stage of technological evolution.

Union Minister observed that BharatGen exemplifies a "whole-of-science, whole-of-government and whole-of-nation" model. The initiative is implemented through a consortium led by the TIH Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Bombay, with partner institutions including IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Mandi, IIT Kanpur, IIM Indore and IIT Madras. It is supported by DST through the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) with ₹235 crore of funding, and further strengthened through the India AI Mission of MeitY with an outlay of ₹10,585 crore.

Highlighting the technological depth of the project, the Minister noted that BharatGen spans multiple AI modalities, including text-based large language models, speech technologies such as text-to-speech and automatic speech recognition, and document vision-language models. He stated that BharatGen's foundational models are designed for inclusive, India-centric applications in governance, healthcare, education, agriculture and legal systems, especially in linguistically diverse regions.

Referring to recent developments, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that BharatGen has already released domain-specific fine-tuned models such as Ayur Param for Ayurveda, Agri Param for agriculture and Legal Param for the Indian legal domain. He further noted that the Hon'ble Prime Minister launched BharatGen's latest models, including the Param-2 text foundation model in 22 scheduled Indian languages with 17 billion parameters, Shrutam speech-to-text models in 12 Indian languages, Sooktam text-to-speech models in 12 languages, and Patram models under the DocBodh framework for multilingual access to complex Indian documents.

The Minister emphasised that India's linguistic diversity extends beyond the 22 scheduled languages, and stressed the need to continuously expand datasets to include widely spoken regional languages and dialects. He noted that scientific advancement cannot be confined by administrative boundaries and must respond to real-world linguistic diversity, particularly in sectors such as digital health and public service delivery.

Dr. Singh also highlighted that BharatGen's ecosystem integrates academia, government and industry, supported by collaborative funding mechanisms. He stated that the initiative has transformed into a Section-8 company, the BharatGen Technology Foundation, enabling it to operate at national scale while ensuring data and model sovereignty through initiatives such as Bharat Data Sagar.

Calling for a change in mindset across public and private sectors, the Minister said that emerging technologies such as AI require collaborative approaches rather than siloed functioning. He underscored that the Government is committed to enabling innovation through supportive policies, early-stage funding and openness to private participation, ensuring that India keeps pace with global advancements.

The session also featured presentations by Shri Rishi Bal, CEO BharatGen; Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan, Principal Investigator, IIT Bombay; Prof. S. Ravi Kiran, IIIT Hyderabad; and Dr. Amol Gite, Vice President, BharatGen, who outlined the ecosystem, data journey, deployment-ready platforms and sectoral partnerships. Addresses were delivered by Dr. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, NMICPS; Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary MeitY; Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary DST; and Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser. An MoU exchange between BharatGen and the IIT Bombay Heritage Foundation also took place in the presence of the Minister.

Concluding his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that BharatGen represents a new phase in India's AI journey combining sovereign capability, collaborative execution and inclusive design and will play a vital role in building a robust national AI infrastructure aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

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