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Advancing India's AI Future: A Blueprint for Trusted, Secure and Nationwide Success

Date: Friday, 20 February 2026
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Unveiling by:

Dr. Vivek Mohindra
Special Advisor to the Vice Chairman & COO, Dell Technologies Global

Manish Gupta
President & Managing Director, Dell Technologies India

Foreword

Vivek Mohindra, Special Advisor to Vice Chair & COO, Dell Technologies Global

India stands at a defining moment in its digital transformation. Over the last decade, the country has demonstrated how technology, when designed at population scale, can become a force multiplier for inclusion, efficiency, innovation, and national competitiveness. Platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, and the wider Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) ecosystem have shown that India can not only adopt technology but shape global best practice in how digital systems serve citizens and economic development.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) now represents the next frontier in this journey. Mass AI adoption has the potential to accelerate productivity across every sector of the economy, strengthen governance, unlock new models of service delivery and position India as a global leader in digital innovation. At the same time, AI introduces new imperatives: the need for trusted infrastructure, resilient energy systems, secure data foundations, advanced skills, and governance frameworks that protect citizens while enabling innovation.

The Government of India has already laid strong and ambitious foundations through initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, and its evolving framework for Safe and Trusted AI. Together, these provide a robust policy architecture for India's AI future. The next challenge is implementation at the national scale. Translating ambition into impact will require coordinated investment in AI infrastructure, a sustained focus on innovation and skills, and governance models that evolve in step with technology.

Dell Technologies has been a trusted partner to India's digital transformation for decades, supporting mission-critical platforms that serve hundreds of millions of citizens. As the world's leading provider of end-to-end AI infrastructure, Dell is committed to helping India build a sovereign, resilient and inclusive AI ecosystem that aligns with its national priorities and positions the nation for leadership in the years ahead.

This Blueprint outlines a practical framework to accelerate India's AI leadership. It is anchored in a simple premise: that AI should be harnessed as the nation's foremost population-scale **public priority -** accessible, trusted and beneficial to all. Through strategic investment, collaborative innovation and agile governance, India can ensure that its journey toward Viksit Bharat 2047 is powered by AI that is not only advanced, but equitable, secure, and nationally empowering.

Executive Summary

India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 — to become a developed, inclusive and innovation-driven economy by the centenary of its independence — places technology at the heart of national progress. AI is poised to become a foundational engine of this transformation. Properly harnessed, AI can drive productivity growth, modernise public services, expand access to opportunity, and strengthen India's leadership in the global digital economy.

The key to realize its AI ambition is implementation. AI at nation scale is not achieved through isolated pilots or fragmented infrastructure. It requires deliberate, coordinated action across compute, energy, data, skills, governance, and security. It requires treating AI not merely as a technology programme, but as the next layer of India's Digital Public Infrastructure — designed for scale, trust, sovereignty, and inclusion.

This Blueprint proposes a clear framework through three mutually reinforcing pillars:

- **INVEST** – Build scalable and resilient AI infrastructure: National-scale compute, energy-secure data centres, and lawful, federated data foundations.
- **INNOVATE** – Drive AI leadership through collaboration and skills: A future-ready workforce and AI deployment across government and public services.
- **EVOLVE** – Implement responsible, agile, and future-ready governance: Trust, security, and resilience through adaptive regulation and intrinsic security.

Together, these pillars can translate India's policy vision into predictable capacity, inclusive adoption, and trusted governance. They complement — rather than replace — existing national programmes and convert ambition into execution.

Advancing India's AI Future: From Vision to Execution

With India's principles-based AI policy framework firmly in place, the focus now shifts from vision to execution. AI adoption will be driven primarily by infrastructure: scalable compute planned in lockstep with power, connectivity, and lawful data governance. Industry outlooks predict India's AI market growth at 25-35% CAGR through 2027 (NASSCOM IDC) while the IndiaAI Mission focuses on expanding common AI compute via public-private models. Meeting this scale of demand will require rapid expansion of sovereign compute capacity, infrastructure designed for reliability and energy efficiency, and safety-by-design assurance mechanisms, supported by transparent milestones that build confidence and sustain momentum.

Pillar 1 — INVEST

Building Scalable National AI Infrastructure

India's AI ambitions ultimately depend on infrastructure. Compute capacity, energy resilience, and secure data foundations will determine whether AI remains confined to isolated projects or becomes a national engine of growth. Investing in scalable AI infrastructure is not only a technological priority, but a strategic one — supporting economic resilience, national security, and long-term competitiveness.

This pillar focuses on three foundational areas:

1. AI Compute at National Scale
2. Energy Resilience for Sustainable AI Growth
3. Secure, and Federated Data Foundations

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1. AI Compute at National Scale

AI workloads driven by generative models, advanced analytics, and agentic systems are growing exponentially. India has already taken important steps through the IndiaAI Mission, including rapid expansion of GPU capacity under subsidised access models. Scaling this further is essential to enable research, startups, public services, and industry to innovate.

National compute ensures that sensitive data, strategic models, and critical workloads remain under strategic control while providing predictable capacity for innovation across academia, MSMEs, and government agencies.

Key considerations

- The Indian AI market is projected to grow at 25-35% CAGR through 2027 and this has triggered the need for relevant AI skills in the market (NASSCOM).
- Under the IndiaAI Mission, more than 38,000 high-end GPUs have been onboarded and are available at ₹65 per hour, which is nearly one third of the global average cost (PIB).
- Demand will increasingly shift toward high-density inference and "always-on" workloads, including agentic AI systems.
- Domestic chip design, packaging, and manufacturing are critical to reducing reliance on imports and strengthening supply-chain resilience (India Semiconductor Mission).
- Trust in common compute depends on transparent allocation rules, utilisation visibility, and clear service-level commitments.

Policy recommendations

- Establish a **National AI Compute Strategy** with measurable targets (GPUs/exaFLOPS), sector allocations, and regional distribution aligned to IndiaAI.
- Designate **AI Compute Growth Zones** co-located with upgraded power and fibre, anchored around research institutions and innovation clusters.
- Expand public–private partnerships for HPC and cloud infrastructure using transparent service tiers and SLAs that democratise access for startups, MSMEs, academia, and public services.

- Integrate IndiaAI common compute pools with **IndiaAI Kosh** and publish **queue, utilisation, and access dashboards** to build predictability and trust.
- Align compute expansion with the **India Semiconductor Mission** by accelerating domestic manufacturing and packaging pathways under incentive schemes, progressively increasing domestic content in the AI hardware stack.
- Ensure national AI infrastructure is **agentic-ready by design**, supporting always-on inference, low-latency orchestration, high-throughput storage, and secure workload scheduling required for autonomous and multi-agent systems. This includes investment in larger rack designs, high-density power delivery, advanced liquid cooling, and disaggregated storage architectures optimised for continuous reasoning and action loops.

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2. Energy Resilience for Sustainable AI Growth

AI infrastructure is energy intensive. As India expands data-centre capacity and high-performance computing, power demand and cooling requirements will rise sharply. Without proactive planning, energy constraints could become a bottleneck for AI adoption.

India's commitment to renewable energy and grid modernisation provides a strategic advantage. AI infrastructure can act as a catalyst for cleaner, smarter, and more resilient energy systems when digital infrastructure planning and energy policy are aligned.

Key considerations

- Some projections suggest data centres could consume up to **8% of India's total electricity by 2030** (McKinsey India).
- India's target of **500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030** provides a solid foundation for sustainable AI growth (MNRE).
- AI data centres require high-density power, advanced cooling, and grid stability to operate reliably.
- Energy efficiency must be embedded into infrastructure design from the outset.

Policy recommendations

- Establish an **AI Energy Task Force** to coordinate compute expansion with grid readiness, renewable procurement, and siting decisions.
- Incentivise energy-efficient **AI** data centres with advanced cooling, heat recovery, and renewable **PPAs** (Power Purchase Agreements) tied to concrete **PUE** (Power Usage Effectiveness) / **WUE** (Water Usage Effectiveness) targets.
- Modernise transmission and distribution networks in AI Compute Growth Zones using AI-enabled grid optimisation and demand-response mechanisms.
- Streamline siting and permitting through **single-window clearances** tied to sustainability benchmarks.
- Where appropriate, publish cluster-level energy telemetry and workload energy dashboards to accelerate optimisation and accountability.

3. Secure and Federated Data Foundations

Data is the strategic fuel for AI. India's public and private sector data is vast, diverse, and distributed. The most effective way to scale AI is not by centralising all data, but by bringing AI to where data already resides—securely and in line with existing regulation and governance.

Federated architectures allow AI to operate across government systems, state platforms, and cloud environments while respecting data sovereignty and DPDP (Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023) obligations.

Key considerations

- DPDP establishes strong privacy rights but requires operational templates for AI training and inference at scale.
- Training provenance and dataset documentation are essential for Safe & Trusted AI assurance.
- Privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs) and synthetic data widen access while reducing privacy and safety risks.
- Interoperability across state and sector data exchanges is critical to avoid fragmentation.

Policy recommendations

- Promote **"data-in-place" AI architectures** under IndiaAI, enabling federated analytics across distributed datasets.
- Operationalise DPDP obligations using sector templates, clarifying consent and shared-responsibility models.
- Publish dataset documentation and **training provenance standards** under the Safe & Trusted AI pillar.
- Align state and sector data exchanges with **IndiaAI Kosh** and DPDP compliance models to create interoperable AI-ready data spaces.
- Encourage PETs and synthetic data approaches through Safe & Trusted AI guidance.

Pillar 2 — INNOVATE

Driving AI Leadership Through Collaboration

India's long-term AI leadership will be determined not only by infrastructure, but by its ability to mobilise talent, institutions, and partnerships at scale. With one of the world's youngest populations and a rapidly expanding digital economy, India has a unique opportunity to build the largest and most diverse AI-ready workforce globally. At the same time, AI must be translated into tangible public value through modernised government services and citizen-centric applications.

This pillar focuses on three priority areas:

1. Strengthening the AI Workforce and FutureSkills
2. Unlocking AI for Government Efficiency and Citizen Services
3. Building Open, Sovereign AI Ecosystems

1. Strengthening the AI Workforce and FutureSkills

India's demographic dividend can become its greatest strategic asset in the AI era. However, the gap between general digital literacy and advanced AI capability remains significant. Building a workforce that can design, deploy, govern, and operate AI systems at scale requires sustained, coordinated action across education, industry, and government.

AI skills must extend beyond specialists to include practitioners in healthcare, agriculture, education, manufacturing, and public administration who can integrate AI into real-world workflows.

Key considerations

- India is projected to require approximately **1 million AI professionals by 2030** to support nation-scale adoption (NASSCOM).
- India now accounts for 16% of the world's AI talent, making it one of the largest global hubs for AI-ready professionals (CII India Skills Report 2026).
- Adoption velocity depends on both specialist depth and practitioner capability across domains and the civil service.
- Tier-2 and Tier-3 inclusion is essential for balanced opportunity and broad-based economic impact.

Policy recommendations

- Launch a **National AI Workforce Strategy** with multi-agency coordination and outcome-based metrics (certifications, placements, project deployments).
- Integrate AI literacy and computational thinking across higher education, supported by teacher training and curriculum-aligned resources which enables workforce readiness and employment outcomes.
- Establish and expand **AI Centres of Excellence** and applied research labs across universities, including deep coverage in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, aligned to IndiaAI FutureSkills.
- Create **Civil Service AI Academies** to build adoption, procurement literacy, and governance capability across ministries and state administrations.
- Scale apprenticeships and work-integrated learning through sector skill councils and industry partnerships, with transparent outcomes tracking.

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2. Unlocking AI for Government Efficiency and Citizen Services

AI offers a powerful mechanism to modernise governance, improve service delivery, and enhance policy effectiveness. India's public sector manages vast datasets and complex workflows that are ideally suited to AI-enabled optimisation. However, legacy systems and fragmented data architectures limit the ability to deploy AI consistently at scale.

By adopting AI across government operations, India can improve targeting of welfare programmes, enhance healthcare delivery, strengthen agricultural advisory services, and increase the efficiency and transparency of public administration.

Key considerations

- MeitY Annual Report 2022023 documented major national-scale modernisation programmes intended to replace, upgrade or standardise aging government digital infrastructure. Legacy IT systems limit the readiness for AI deployment and scaling (MeitY).
- High-impact use cases depend on connected data spaces and reusable AI modules.
- Procurement pathways and disclosure requirements (explainability, provenance, testing) shape trust and adoption outcomes.

Policy recommendations

- Conduct **AI readiness audits** across major ministries and priority schemes to sequence modernisation investments.
- Adopt **cloud-smart reference architectures** and reusable AI building blocks aligned to IndiaAI Application Development frameworks.
- Stand up **connected data spaces** across major programmes and departments to enable cross-programme analytics with appropriate safeguards.
- Standardise procurement disclosures covering provenance, performance, risk testing, and auditability to accelerate trust-based adoption.
- Establish **State-level AI Cells or Task Forces** to coordinate pilots, scale proven use cases, and interface with IndiaAI and AISI testbeds.

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3. Open, Sovereign AI Ecosystems

AI leadership will also be shaped by India's ability to build and sustain open ecosystems: indigenous models, curated datasets, and safe experimentation pathways that allow startups, MSMEs, and research institutions to innovate with predictable access.

Key considerations

- Indigenous foundation models and strong Indic language capability are essential for citizen-scale adoption and public-sector deployment.
- Safe, supervised experimentation reduces systemic risk while accelerating innovation.
- MSME onboarding requires predictable access to tools, compute, and curated datasets.

Policy recommendations

- Support indigenous models and expand **IndiaAI Kosh** dataset pipelines with clear quality, provenance, and documentation standards.
- Run **AISI-supervised sandboxes** for priority sectors to enable safe experimentation, evaluation, and scaling.
- Provide **MSME toolkits** and predictable access to common compute pools, paired with lightweight governance guidance.

Pillar 3 — EVOLVE

Responsible, Agile, and Future-Ready Governance

India's AI ambition must be anchored in trust. As AI systems become more powerful and more deeply embedded in critical sectors, governance frameworks must evolve in step with technology. The objective is not to slow innovation, but to ensure that AI development is secure, accountable, and aligned with national values and constitutional principles.

India's principles-based, sector-led, and institutionally coordinated governance model provides a strong foundation. The priority now is to operationalise this framework at scale with clarity, consistency, and agility.

This pillar focuses on three priorities:

1. Principles, Pillars, and Institutions
2. AI Cybersecurity and National Resilience

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1. Principles, Pillars, and Institutions

India's AI Governance and Assurance Guidelines, grounded in the "Seven Sutras," are supported by institutions such as **IGG** (AI Governance Group), **TPEC** (Technology & Policy Expert Committee), and **AISI** (AI Safety Institute). Together, they provide coordination, expert guidance, and safety research capability so that rules evolve with practice.

Key considerations

- Governance is principles-based and sector-led, using existing legal mandates.
- Institutional coordination is essential to avoid fragmentation.
- Voluntary commitments and codes of practice can accelerate responsible adoption.

Policy recommendations

- Translate the Seven Sutras *(seven core AI governance principles)* into time-bound implementation actions across priority sectors.
- Operationalise clear interfaces between **AIGG, TPEC** and **AISI** for policy coordination, testing, and oversight.
- Promote voluntary commitments and publish guidance notes to support early and responsible adoption.

2. AI Cybersecurity and National Resilience

AI expands the cyber-attack surface and introduces adversarial threats such as data poisoning, evasion, and prompt injection. CERT-In reporting indicates cyberattacks increased by approximately **28% in 2024**, reinforcing the urgency of resilient design.

Key considerations

- Critical National Infrastructure requires coordinated AI security standards.
- Supply-chain assurance and telemetry are essential to trust.
- Zero Trust must become the default security posture.

Policy recommendations

- Standardise **Zero Trust architectures**, adversarial testing, and provenance protections for AI systems.
- Run joint red-team exercises under **AISI**, aligning notification and response playbooks with CERT-In guidance.
- Publish sector baselines for AI systems in Critical National Infrastructure.

Conclusion

India has laid the foundation to become one of the world's defining AI leaders. With the IndiaAI Mission, the DPDP Act, and its Safe and Trusted AI framework, the country has articulated a vision that is sovereign, trusted, inclusive, and capable of strengthening public services and economic competitiveness. The next phase of leadership will be defined not by policy ambition alone, but by disciplined execution.

By **investing** in secure, sovereign scalable and resilient infrastructure, **innovating** through talent and collaboration, and **evolving** governance with trust and resilience, India can position AI as its next Digital Public Infrastructure layer—accessible, trusted, and built for population-scale impact.

This is the foundation on which India can realise its ambition of ***Viksit Bharat 2047*****:** an AI-powered nation that leads with confidence, responsibility, and global influence.
