

TN all set to become India's Destination AI

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With investments and projects coming from Google, PayPal, Applied Materials, Amazon Web Services, and many others, Tamil Nadu is fast becoming the favourite destination for artificial intelligence (AI) initiatives in India.

Google is betting big on the state for long-term play in AI, as the Tamil Nadu AI Labs of the company is set to be on track soon.

According to sources, the interests of these companies may even revolutionise the transportation system in Chennai as an AI-enabled one. It may link the suburban rail to buses and taxi services under one platform.

Also, Google and the government are targeting to train 2 million youths on AI, through a curriculum-based approach, starting from engineering colleges in the state.

Tamil Nadu contributes 17 per cent of engineers – the highest by any state – out of the 1.5 million graduating in India annually.

The company aims to skill 2 million youths in AI via Naan Mudhalvan and collaborate with startups. It wants to enable micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the rural economy



\$7-10 bn

Size of Indian AI market now

\$22 bn

Size of Indian AI market by 2027

RECENT AI PLANS IN CHENNAI

Amazon Web Services: To launch generative AI startup hub programme in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub

Google: To skill 2 million youth in AI via Naan Mudhalvan, collaborate with startups, and enable micro small and medium enterprises and the rural economy with advanced technology

PayPal: Advanced development centre in Chennai, which will generate 1,000 jobs

Applied Materials: An advanced AI-enabled technology development centre for semicon manufacturing and equipment in Taramani



to use advanced technology.

This may lead to the development of an overall ecosystem in the long run, which may lead to more investments by Google in future, said industry sources. Google did not respond to queries from *Business Standard*.

“Tamil Nadu is the first government in the country to come up with a safe and ethical AI policy. It has one of the most vibrant policy ecosystems, among all the states. In Bengaluru, it is the private sector that is taking most of the initiatives.

Google already has a tie up with IIT

Madras's Wadhvani School of Data Science and AI, supporting its research centre to explore the fair and ethical development and use of AI. Other than Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka are the states that are leading in AI initiatives,” said Jibu Elias, an AI industry expert.

During the ongoing visit of Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin to the United States, digital payment solutions provider PayPal already signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Guidance Tamil Nadu for establishing a state-of-the-art advanced centre in

Chennai. It would focus on AI and machine learning (ML) to generate over 1,000 high-end jobs.

On the other hand, Applied Materials, one of the largest semiconductor manufacturers in the country, is looking to come up with an advanced AI-enabled technology development centre. It would be for semiconductor manufacturing and equipment in Taramani, Chennai, creating 500 jobs.

Google remained tight lipped when asked about the possibility of a tie up with the state in changing its transportation ecosystem.