

Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, PhD
May 16th, 2026
New Delhi

To,
Shri Narendra Modi Ji,
The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
Government of India
New Delhi

Subject: Urgent Need for a National AI & Innovation Mission for India's Strategic Future

Respected Prime Minister
Namaste

I write this letter with a deep sense of urgency and national concern regarding India's position in the global Artificial Intelligence race. As the AI researcher and creator of the world's first AI Maturity Model – Functional AI Pyramid, I can say that in 2030, the world will be totally different. Most of the large organizations that lead today will be done and dusted, and large countries will pass through tough times. The window for action is weeks, not months for a nation like ours, with over 1.46 billion people will be affected in an unimaginable manner.

Artificial Intelligence is no longer merely a tool of efficiency, but a determinant of economic power, strategic superiority, national productivity, employment patterns, governance capability, and global influence. AI supremacy may, in many ways, become even more consequential than traditional scientific leadership because it will influence every domain simultaneously; economy, healthcare, education, defence, agriculture, governance, media, and national security.

Despite India's strengths in digital public infrastructure and software talent, I believe we have missed a critical strategic opportunity in AI adoption and implementation. While other nations are moving aggressively toward AI-led economic transformation, India risks being pushed into the back seat of the global innovation economy if immediate corrective measures are not taken.

I had shared similar concerns with the Cabinet Secretary on 14th July last year, much ahead of the India AI Summit, highlighting the need for a mission-mode national response focused not merely on AI discussions, but on implementation, deployment, innovation ecosystems, talent acceleration, and strategic leadership.

As the creator of the **Functional AI Pyramid – The AI Maturity Model** outlining the five stages of AI evolution from Conversational AI to Organizational AI, and as someone who has

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worked extensively in AI capacity building globally, I have witnessed firsthand how rapidly nations are reorganizing themselves around AI. India sits on a massive opportunity. What I feel is, that most people are excited about AI without understanding the details of how AI works, also, the fundamental difference I believe is, that *while the west is training AI, we are training with AI, so we have become the consumers of AI and not creators of AI, and we have to reverse this quickly and just funding AI models is not enough.*

In 2019, on the invitation of the Office of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, I had the opportunity to contribute to the drafting of Bangladesh's AI Policy. Subsequently, as Chairman of the Commonwealth AI Consortium for Capacity Building, I have closely observed the seriousness with which nations are investing in AI readiness, skilling, governance frameworks, and innovation ecosystems. As the Chairman of the United Nation's Internet Governance Forum's Dynamic Coalition on Digital Economy, I am spearheading the project to create jobs using technology. Recently, given my global contribution to the field, the United Nations' Secretary General nominated me on the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF). This role entails advising the United Nations Secretary-General on global Internet governance and digital policy issues and helping shape the IGF's programme and multi-stakeholder dialogue. This comes at a particularly critical time in today's technology-driven era, where digital governance is shaping societies, economies, and global cooperation. I believe, India must now take the boldest unconventional step to bring things to speed.

India now requires a bold, mission-led approach, and it should not be under MeitY.

I humbly propose the launch of a national mission-mode initiative titled: **TIME- Technology Innovation Mission for Everyone**

A simple, inclusive, and implementation-focused national mission aimed at democratizing technology adoption and accelerating innovation across governance, education, healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, MSMEs, defence, and public services.

Alternative strategic expansions could include:

- **TIME - Technology Innovation Mission for Economic Growth**
- **TIME - Technology Innovation Mission for Employment**

The objective must be to move India from being primarily a consumer of global AI systems to becoming a creator, deployer, and exporter of AI-enabled solutions at scale. For that, I strongly believe India urgently needs institutional leadership for AI at the highest level of government.

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I respectfully recommend the creation of the position of: **Chief AI & Innovation Officer to the Government of India (Preferably within the Prime Minister's Office or as an official with a Cabinet Rank)**

Such a role would ensure:

- Strategic coordination across ministries
- Faster AI adoption in governance and public systems
- Alignment between industry, academia, startups, and government
- National AI implementation roadmaps
- Talent and skilling acceleration
- Global AI diplomacy and competitiveness
- Focused accountability for innovation outcomes

India cannot afford fragmented AI efforts at this stage. The pace of global transformation is unprecedented. Nations that move decisively in the next one year will define the economic and geopolitical architecture of the next several decades. India has the demographic strength, digital infrastructure, entrepreneurial energy, and policy capability to lead. But leadership now requires speed, technical depth, implementation-oriented governance, and mission-mode execution.

We are behind time, and this requires urgent national attention. I remain available for a discussion about shaping such a national mission for India.

with high regards



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Chairman – Digital First Foundation

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CC: 1. Dr. T.V. Somanathan, IAS, Cabinet Secretary, Government of India
2. Secretary, MeitY, Government of India