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 End-User Policy for AI Services on the Cloud
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Glossary of Terms

AI Artificial Intelligence

APAAR Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry

BOM Bill of Materials

CA Chartered Accountant

CEO Chief Executive Officer

CoE Centre of Excellence

DIC Digital India Corporation

DPIIT Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

GPU Graphics Processing Unit

HOD Head of Department

IAIC IndiaAI Innovation Centre

IBD Independent Business Division

INR Indian Rupee

IP Internet Protocol

JS Joint Secretary

LLP Limited Liability Partnership

MD Mission Director

ML Machine Learning

MSH MeitY Startup Hub

MSME Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

OCR Optical Character Recognition

OTP One-Time Password

PG Postgraduate

PMEC Program Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

PPP Public-Private Partnership

PSU Public Sector Undertaking

UG Undergraduate

VM Virtual Machine

AI cloud services End-User Policy

IndiaAI recognizes the rising demand for AI compute resource across industries and remains committed to promoting adoption of artificial intelligence to ensure global competitiveness. To democratize access to AI computing resources, IndiaAI has empaneled AI services on cloud and intends to offer AI compute infrastructure to academia, MSMEs, startups, research community, governments, public sector agencies and other entities registered and approved by IndiaAI. This AI cloud services end-user policy outlines the guidelines for accessing and leveraging the empaneled AI services on cloud.

IndiaAI recognizes the evolving legal and regulatory environment surrounding AI and anticipates this policy will evolve. Users should regularly review and revisit this policy to stay abreast of any changes in the policy.

1. IndiaAl Mission

The IndiaAI Mission aims to create a robust ecosystem that accelerates AI innovation through strategic initiatives and collaborations spanning both public and private domains. By democratizing access to computing resources, enhancing data quality, nurturing homegrown AI expertise, attracting top talent, fostering industry partnerships, supporting startup ventures, promoting socially impactful AI projects, and emphasizing ethical practices, the mission seeks to foster responsible and inclusive growth within India's AI landscape. Towards this, Ministry of Electronics, and Information Technology, MeitY, has established IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IndiaAI) under Digital India Corporation for implementing the IndiaAI mission

The IndiaAI mission is poised to catalyse the AI ecosystem through its seven key pillars as mentioned below:

- a) **IndiaAI Compute:** Public AI cloud infrastructure will be set up in a PPP model with 10,000 or more GPU capacity. Further, an AI marketplace will be designed to offer AI as a service and pre-trained models to AI innovators.
- b) **IndiaAI Innovation Centre (IAIC):** The AI Innovation centre will develop and deploy indigenous Large Multimodal Models (LMMs) that will be trained on Indiaspecific data.
- c) **IndiaAI Datasets Platform:** The IndiaAI Datasets Platform will be developed to improve access, quality, and use of public sector datasets to make it AI ready.
- d) **IndiaAI Application Development Initiative:** The IndiaAI Application Development Initiative will develop, scale, and promote the adoption of impactful AI solutions to effectively tackle significant problem statements.

- e) **IndiaAI FutureSkills:** IndiaAI FutureSkills will mitigate barriers to entry into AI programs by focusing on all levels of higher education in AI. Further, Data and AI Labs will be set up in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across India, to impart foundational-level courses in Data and AI.
- f) **IndiaAI Startup Financing:** A spectrum of startup development stages starting from product development to commercialization will be supported.
- g) **Safe & Trusted AI:** This pillar will enable the implementation of Responsible AI projects including the development of indigenous tools and frameworks, self-assessment checklists for innovators, and other guidelines and governance frameworks

For democratizing access to AI infrastructure critical for innovation and ensuring global competitiveness, IndiaAI is looking to empanel AI services on cloud and offer the services to academia, MSMEs, startups, research community, governments, public sector agencies and other entities approved by IndiaAI.

2. IndiaAI empaneled AI cloud services

The empanelled AI services on cloud being offered include –

- a) **AI compute Instances** A VM instance equipped with a single AI compute unit or more than one AI compute unit instances with peer-to-peer connectivity.
- b) **Network Services** Data transfer services that allow end users to access to public internet for both ingress and egress operations.
- c) **Storage Services** Cloud-based services that allow users to store and manage data, files, and other digital assets. Following storage types would be offered
 - I. High Speed Block Storage / File Storage
 - II. Object Storage
- d) **AI platforms and other services** AI platform is a collection of software, tools, libraries, frameworks, services (including MLOps, LLMOps), workspaces and processes that allow developers and operations teams to design, develop, deploy and maintain AI applications. Other services include all those cloud services that are not part of the AI platform and that are used in developing foundational models or fine tuning the models or building the applications. E.g. PaaS services, AI services for translation, transliteration, OCR services, audio processing services, etc. All cloud services available on the empanelled agencies' platform can be accessed by end users under this service type.

3. Eligibility for using IndiaAI empaneled AI services on cloud

End users need to meet the below criteria and submit requested documents / data on the IndiaAI cloud portal to register and use the empaneled services.

3.1Researchers, Research Group and Academic Faculties

This category applies to Independent AI researchers and AI researchers and faculty affiliated to academic institutions. This category also includes PhD students who have been awarded the IndiaAI fellowship

Criteria		Documents / Data to be provided during registration	
•	The lead / sole researcher or faculty should have an h index greater than or equal to 5 OR		ad researcher / Sole researcher or culty profile - Google Scholar profile with h-index / ORCID profile / Scopus Author ID
•	The lead / sole researcher or faculty should have published in a journal in ML/AI or allied domains with impact factor greater than 2.5 OR	•	Profile of the AI researcher with the hindex, track of publication records (National / International AI journals / conferences) and experience in AI/ML and allied domains
•	The lead / sole researcher or faculty should have published research papers with minimum 150 citations (consolidated) in ML/AI or allied domains		

3.2 IndiaAI Fellowship Awardees

This category applies to students in various UG/PG courses who are an IndiaAI fellowship awardee.

Criteria	Documents / Data to be provided during registration		
Students should be selected as a part of IndiaAI fellowship (Active fellowship)	Apaar ID against which fellowship was granted		

•	Email iss	ued to	student	by	IndiaAI
	confirmin	g their	fellows	hip	against
	nominatio	n			

3.3 Students

This category applies to students in various K-12/UG/PG courses who are not IndiaAI fellowship awardees.

Criteria	Documents / Data to be provided during registration		
Students with projects in AI/ML	 Apaar ID Profile of the student with major/minor subjects, track of publication records (National / International AI journals / conferences) and/or projects in AI/ML and allied domains Endorsement by appointed academic faculty verifier and endorser or IndiaAI CEO 		

3.4 Startups & MSMEs

This category applies to startups & MSMEs who are DPIIT registered and have either generated revenue or raised funds

Criteria	Documents / Data to be provided during registration		
Must be registered as a startup under the Startup India initiative or recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)	Valid DPIIT startup recognition certificate along with DPIIT ID		
	2. Certificate of Incorporation as per Companies Act, 1956 or 2013		
	OR		
	LLP Act 2008/ Partnership Act, 1932		
	OR		
	A partnership firm registered under Indian LLP act 2008 and subsequent amendments thereto		

	OR
	A registered sole proprietorship (As per latest applicable Shops and Establishment Act)
	Startup's profile along with one or more of the below may be submitted in support of this criteria
	Citations for projects executed in the AI/ML space
Experience in AI / ML	2. Patent certificates for patents secured in the field of AI/ML
Experience min / ME	3. Resumes of director(s) /partner(s) including education qualification, professional experience, publications in reputed journals and other relevant experience.
	4. Awards / Recognition received by the startup
Startup should have an annual revenue of INR	Work orders/ client certificates in support of ongoing / completed AI projects towards meeting the criteria
50-200 Lacs	OR
OR Funding of INR 100 Lacs and above	2. Self-undertaking with details of funding received through equity investments or loan towards meeting this criterion with supporting documents

3.5 Central and State Government ministries and departments/ PSUs / Government Section 8 firms or registered societies / Government agencies & entities

This category applies to government entities willing to leverage the IndiaAI compute infrastructure

Criteria	Documentary Proof
Government Approval for AI related project	Letter of request from Director / Managing Director / General Manager / Authorized officer

3.6 Early-stage startup (pre-revenue / funding)

This category applies to pre-revenue / funding startups.

Criteria	Documents / Data to be provided during registration
Expertise in AI research.	• Relevant experience - Founder(s) / permanent staff with experience of 4 years (In AI or similar domain) / research experience
	• Endorsement by CEO IndiaAI / JS rank officer and above

3.7 Early-stage researchers

This category applies to early-stage researchers who do not meet the criteria for research groups in 3.1

Criteria	Documents / Data to be provided during registration
Academic credentials and work done in AI/ML and allied fields.	 Apaar ID Profile of the AI researcher with the hindex, track of publication records (National / International AI journals / conferences) and experience in AI/ML and allied domains Endorsement – Head of Institute / Registrar / Head of Department / Research Guide / CEO IndiaAI

3.8 Project details

Apart from the above, interested & eligible end users need to provide details of the project for which they intend to use the empaneled AI cloud services. This should be submitted on an online form on the IndiaAI cloud portal. The format of the form would be as per Annexure I.

4. End user workflow and approval process

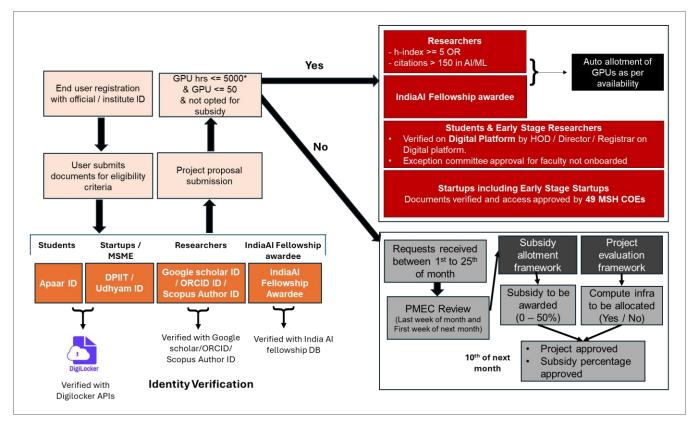


Fig 4.1 – Compute Approval and Allocation Workflow

The above diagram depicts the workflow for applying for and accessing the IndiaAI cloud services. The following sections describe each step of the flow in detail -

4.1 End User registration with official / institute ID

To access the IndiaAI compute platform users would be required to register on the IndiaAI compute portal with their name, institute / organization email address and mobile number. Email address and mobile number would be verified with an OTP.

4.2 User submits documents for eligibility criteria check

Users registering on the portal would be required to mandatorily submit the below details to verify their profile as part of the documents sought for establishing eligibility for access the IndiaAI compute infrastructure and approving their profile.

- a. APAAR ID for UG/PG students
- b. DPIIT recognition for startups
- c. Udhyam ID for MSMEs
- d. Google Scholar ID with h-index / ORCID ID / Scopus Author ID for researchers

e. IndiaAI fellowship awardee

These IDs would be verified electronically, and specific data fields required for further eligibility checks would be fetched.

4.3 User submits project proposal

User submits project proposal in the format outline in Annexure I. Complete details for the project as sought in the annexure, including the project BOQ need to be submitted.

4.4 GPU allocation based on GPU hours, GPUs and subsidy sought

GPU allocation workflow would be determined based on the user's eligibility criteria, GPU hours and no. of GPUs sought and whether the user has sought subsidy or not.

4.5 GPU hours sought by user are equal to or below 5000 GPU hours, with max 50 GPUs requested and user has not sought subsidy

- **Researcher** In such a scenario, if a researcher has an h-index of greater than 5 or have greater than 150 citations, they would be allocated GPU instances automatically, based on availability.
- IndiaAI Fellowship awardee In case the end user requesting compute is an IndiaAI Fellowship awardee (B.Tech / M.Tech / PhD) they would be allocated GPU instances automatically, based on availability.
- **Students, Early-stage Researchers & Faculties** The application from other students and researchers would be verified and endorsed on a digital platform (IndiaAI compute portal) by a verification and endorsement faculty/ies appointed by the institute.
- **Startups including early-stage startups** The applications from startups, including early-stage startups would be reviewed by **MSH CoEs** appointed by IndiaAI for this activity.

In case the documents submitted by the end user towards meeting the eligibility criteria have not been verified and approved, they would be done at this stage. Eligibility documents would be verified once every 2 years.

4.6 GPU hours sought by registered user are greater than 5000 GPU hours or GPUs sought is greater than 50 or end user has sought subsidy

• Users can only seek requests under this workflow if their profile is already approved on the platform for accessing AI compute.

- Requests received between the 1st and the 25th of the month would be collated and submitted to the Program Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (PMEC) for review.
- PMEC would meet twice to review and process the applications received (Last week of the running month and first week of the next month).
- Applications would be reviewed based on a project evaluation framework and subsidy allotment framework devised by the PMEC.
- Project may be evaluated for capacity and subsidy allotment based on the below parameters –

Project parameters

- o Clarity in project description
- o Nature of Project Research (Fundamental / Applied) / Application Dev
- Similar projects done elsewhere (Project uniqueness)
- National Importance project (May impact 10,00,000 or more citizens when deployed or May lead to an economic impact of 500 crores or more)
- o Critical sector / social good alignment (Aligned to SDGs)

Research / Dev Team experience

- o Patents granted / applied for in AI/ML or allied research area
- Publications (h-index) for any team member
- \circ Work orders in AI/ML (Value more than 5 Lac) for applying entity
- Professional Experience in AI/ML for any team member
- o Past performance/ experience on IndiaAI Compute cloud
- Based on the above, PMEC would take a decision to allocate the sought capacity (Go / No Go) and/or award subsidy between o to 50%
- The list of projects awarded capacity and the subsidy percentage approved would be published by PMEC on the 10th of the next month.

5. Governance structure and implementing entities

5.1 IndiaAI IBD

IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IndiaAI) has been incorporated under Digital India Corporation for implementing the IndiaAI mission. IndiaAI mission will be responsible for implementation of this end user policy and making any updates to the policy in the future,

5.2 PMEC Committee

IndiaAI will constitute a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (PMEC) to monitor and make any recommendations to IndiaAI on the IndiaAI compute platform. PMEC would review the requests from the end users to consume the empaneled AI services on cloud and approve the suitable applications above a pre-defined limit (Greater than 5000 GPU hours or more than 50 GPUs requested) or applications seeking a subsidy on their cloud BOM.

PMEC would create a project evaluation and a subsidy allotment framework to review and evaluate the requesting entity's credentials and project proposal and determine if their AI compute request should be approved. Additionally, they will also determine the quantum of subsidy that would be allocated to each requesting party.

A subsidy maximum up to 40% will be provided to the eligible end users which will be borne by IndiaAI mission. PMEC will decide on the subsidy amount on the user proposals after evaluation.

5.3 Verification entities for user eligibility approval

IndiaAI would appoint verification entities specific to the entity type to evaluate and determine if their profile may be approved for accessing AI compute on the platform in the future. These entities would also review approve any non-subsidy compute requests lesser than 5000 GPU hours or requiring less than 50 GPUs. Below are the verification authorities for each entity type –

- a. For researchers with h-index greater than or equal to 5 or more than 150 citations, compute requests would be auto approved post verification.
- b. For IndiaAI fellowship students, requests would be auto approved post verification with the IndiaAI fellowship database.
- c. For other students and researchers, requests would be verified and approved on a digital platform (IndiaAI compute portal) by a verification and endorsement faculty authorized by their academic institute. Faculties and/or institute staff may submit a request to be onboarded on the IndiaAI compute portal as a verification

and endorsement faculty along with an endorsement letter from the HOD / Director / Dean / Registrar or equivalent.

- d. An exception committee would be setup
- e. For startups including early-stage startups, requests would be reviewed and approved by the 49 MeitY Startup Hub CoEs. Requests from the startups would be forwarded to the applicable CoE based on their geographic location or industry domain.

6. Monitoring and Leakage prevention

Below tools and checks would be implemented to ensure that the empaneled AI services are not misused for any purpose apart from the intended use for which approval has been sought by the project team-

6.1 Input checks

Input Checks would be carried out while onboarding end users as a part of eligibility criteria to ensure credibility

- a. **Past experience in AI** Work orders, founders resume, researcher profile
- b. **Technical Team Size and Profile** Resumes of team members and experience
- c. **Previous experience with GPU usage** Cloud invoices for IndiaAI cloud
- d. Approval from authorized personnel (In case above credentials are not present)
 - i. Endorsement from appointed faculty officer for academic researchers
 - ii. IndiaAI fellowship letter
 - iii. Letter from Director / MD / Authorized officer for Govt entity with justification
- e. Validate use case / proposed implementation with experts (PMEC)

6.2 Process checks

These are security controls that would be implemented while end users are leveraging the empaneled services to prevent misuse

- a. **IP address whitelisting** for instances to prevent misuse and unauthorized access
- b. **Login only with secure authentication mechanisms** Multi-factor authentication and user activity logging
- c. Role based access controls
- d. Geofencing

6.3 Transparency and tools

Tools and practices would be implemented to ensure transparency in the onboarding process and track any misuse

a. **Public end user list** with details of infrastructure and subsidy allocated to end users for transparency

- b. **Periodic audits** of projects and infrastructure by PMEC
- c. Frequent logging of utilization metrics to **examine deviation** (unexpected increase or decrease in load / constant load)
- d. Use of tools for log monitoring and visualizing utilization

7. Accessibility and Usage

- a. Access & permission Subject to the usage policy, IndiaAI may grant limited, personal, nonexclusive, revocable, non-transferable permission to access and use the AI compute resource solely for academic, research and scientific purposes related to the end user's project (and not for service bureau, time-sharing or similar services). User shall not exceed the scope of access to use the AI compute resources, and user shall not provide User's Account information to another User for any reason, including, without limitation, in order for such other User to access additional features if any. Users are not permitted to use the access provided on behalf of third parties without the written consent of competent IndiaAI authority.
- b. **Accessibility and maintenance of resources** CSPs shall be solely responsible for providing, maintaining, and ensuring the compatibility of all hardware, software, electrical and other physical requirements necessary for user's accessibility to the AI cloud services including ensuring uptime as per notified SLAs
- c. Service unavailability and non-accessibility User understands and agrees that IndiaAI would not be responsible for ensuring availability and accessibility to the empaneled AI cloud services. Empaneled agencies would be solely responsible for ensuring availability and accessibility as per the SLAs defined in the AI cloud services empanelment RFE.
- d. Account In order to access the AI compute resource, user may be required to register with IndiaAI and select a username and password (a User's "Account"). This account shall be used only by User, and User may not share or otherwise disclose User's Account information to any other party. User shall be responsible for the security, confidentiality, and integrity of User's Account, any authorized or unauthorized access and use of User's account by any person, and all information that User receives, transmits through or stores using or through the access. If, at any time, User learns or suspects that User's Account information was disclosed or made known to any person other than User, User agrees to immediately notify IndiaAI. User agrees to keep User's Account information current. User agrees not to access the allocated compute resource through any technology or means other than through User's Account.
- e. **Monitoring -** IndiaAI reserves the right to monitor User accounts.
- f. **Privacy** User agrees that IndiaAI may collect, store, and use data about Users, User's system, and User's use of the AI Compute resource.

8. Payment Terms

- a. IndiaAI would make the payments for the utilized AI services of the approved projects from the end users to the extent of the approved subsidy subject to the conditions laid in section 5 ("Terms and conditions").
- b. End users would have to bear the additional costs over and above the amount subsidized by IndiaAI. End users need to make payments to the empaneled AI cloud service provider as per the service provider's billing and payment cycle.
- c. For the AI compute, network services, storage services, and AI platform, the prices published as per the empaneled rate list would be used for billing based on the actual consumption.
- d. For the 'Other AI services', the prices would be continuously updated in-line with the changes in the list price published for general public and the discovered discount rate. The updated prices on the day would be considered for billing based on the actual consumption. Empaneled AI service cloud providers may choose to bill the end users at a discount rate higher than the empaneled discount rate. Any other AI services that are not listed during empanelment but added subsequently and are being offered at the discount rate mentioned in the financial proposal, would be paid at the actual discounted rate.
- e. The subsidy component for each of the service is calculated using the approved subsidy percentage applied on the actual discounted price offered for the project (+ service) request.
- f. IndiaAI would make payments for the subsidy component of services quarterly in a post-paid manner to the empaneled AI cloud services provider
- g. IndiaAI would not be responsible for payment of any cloud services consumed by the end user beyond the maximum approved list of services/value. IndiaAI would not be responsible for the payment of any cloud services consumed which are not empaneled as part of this empanelment or any cloud services which IndiaAI has not received / approved for an end user. These would be borne by end users
- h. Approvals for using the IndiaAI empaneled cloud services would have a validity of 30 calendar days. End users need to mandatorily start using their approved services within this period. IndiaAI would not make payments for any expired approvals / requests.
- i. IndiaAI would not make any payments towards unused reserved AI compute instance and the empaneled agency should invoice the end-user for the entire amount

9. Terms and Conditions

- a. End users can submit project specific requests for accessing the IndiaAI empaneled AI cloud services on the IndiaAI cloud portal. These requests would be evaluated and approved / rejected by a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. For each request and the service, IndiaAI would pay the approved subsidy percentage directly to the service provider
- b. The project/service request approvals would have a validity of 23 calendar days before which the end users are expected to consume the services. The users would be notified of the expiry and will be given a grace period of additional one week in case they have started the project but couldn't complete the full utilization. All the unutilized approvals would expire automatically. In case of services reserved (reserved instances) for greater than 1 month period, the end users need to start consuming their services before the end of the 30-day approval period.
- c. IndiaAI wouldn't pay the subsidy for any unused capacity for e.g, in case of a reserved instance, IndiaAI would pay subsidy to the extent of utilized hours, the cost of the unused reserved AI compute would be borne by the end-user.
- d. IndiaAI wouldn't pay the subsidy for the services from the expired project (+service) requests.
- e. A service request would expire if the empaneled AI cloud services provider isn't able to provision AI compute within a stipulate time period. A demand of upto 100 AI compute hours shall be met immediately, upto 500 AI compute hours shall be met within 2 days and demand of more than 500 hours of AI compute shall be met within 7 days.

A. Annexure I: Sample form for applying for IndiaAI empaneled AI services

- i. Online Registration Form (This only needs to be filled the first time)
 - Name as per Aadhar
 - Designation
 - Official Email ID
 - Communication Address
 - Mobile number
 - Applying as Individual / Organization
 - If, Individual Independent or Academic researcher / IndiaAI Fellowship Student

Researchers

- i) Profile (Resume) of the AI researcher with the track of publication records (National / International AI journals / conferences)
- ii) Google Scholar ID / ORCID / h-index / Research Interest Score
- iii) Link to public GitHub repo
- iv) Affiliated Organization Name
- v) Affiliated Organization Address
- vi) Affiliated Organization Type Private Entity / R&D Firm / Independent Researcher

<u>IndiaAI Fellowship student</u>

- i) Letter issued to student by IndiaAI confirming their fellowship against nomination
- ii) University Name
- iii) College Name
- iv) Roll No
- v) Course/ Degree being pursued
- vi) Course Duration
- vii)Expected Year of Graduation
- If, Organization Government entity / PSU/ Govt. Section 8 firms or societies / Startup / MSME

Government entity / PSU/ Govt. Section 8 firms or societies

- i) Organization Name
- ii) Organization Address
- iii) Government Order or equivalent for AI based project(s) / initiative(s) for which the entity is seeking access to AI services from IndiaAI cloud OR Letter of request from Director / Managing Director / Authorized officer

Startup

- i) Startup Name
- ii) Startup Communication Address
- iii) Valid DPIIT startup recognition certificate
- iv) Certificate of Incorporation as per Companies Act, 1956 or 2013
- v) OR LLP Act 2008/ Partnership Act, 1932 OR a partnership firm registered under Indian LLP act 2008 and subsequent amendments thereto / OR a registered sole proprietorship (Shops and Establishment Act)
- vi) Shareholding pattern certificate from CA (In case the firm is registered)
- vii)Domain of Expertise
- viii) Work orders or client certificates in support of ongoing / completed AI projects in last 5 years (optional)
- ix) Patent certificates for patents secured in the field of AI/ML (optional)
- x) Resumes with previous relevant experience of director(s) /partner(s)

ii. Project Details

Details of Project / Initiative proposed to be executed with IndiaAI empaneled AI cloud services					
Project / Initiative Title:					
Description:					

New Project / Renewal:					
Technical Approach:					
Envisioned Impact / End Benefit:					
Industry Domain:					
Project Start Date:	Project End Date:				
Team Leader / Individual Researcher Name:					
Team Leader / Individual Researcher Area of Expertise:					
Previous Projects:					
Team Members Name & Role (Apart from Team Leader):					
Summary of Team Member's Previous Experience:					
Funding Source:					
Funds budgeted for infrastructure:					

iii. Estimated Bill of Materials

S No.	Service code	AI cloud service description	Quantity (in hours / kb / days), as applicable	Price per unit as per rate chart	Cost

Signature of Applicant:

Name of Applicant:

Designation:

Date:

Place:

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