

AI AND INDIAN PARLIAMENT

Mapping Legislative
Engagement Since 2014



Report on

AI and Indian Parliament

Mapping Legislative Engagement Since 2014

Author

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About Future Shift Labs

Future Shift Labs is a strategic research and policy think tank working to build a sustainable, equitable, and digitally resilient future by advancing responsible and ethical applications of artificial intelligence. Established in 2024, the organisation conducts in-depth research and analysis on emerging AI technologies and their societal impact, advocates for inclusive AI governance, and supports strategic consulting, training, and public engagement to strengthen institutional and community capacity. With a focus on fostering collaboration among researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society, Future Shift Labs seeks to position India as a global leader in digital diplomacy, ethical AI development, and international cooperation on emerging technology challenges

Opening Message

From the Founder, Future Shift Labs

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly redefining how states govern, economies function, and citizens interact with public institutions. In a democracy as vast and diverse as India, Parliament occupies a central role in shaping how such transformative technologies are understood, debated, and ultimately governed. Legislative engagement with AI is therefore not optional, it is foundational to safeguarding democratic accountability, constitutional values, and public trust.

At Future Shift Labs, we believe that evidence-based research must inform policy choices around emerging technologies. This report, *AI and Indian Parliament: Mapping Legislative Engagement Since 2014*, is a critical step toward strengthening democratic oversight of AI. By systematically analysing parliamentary questions and debates over more than a decade, the study offers rare empirical insight into how India's lawmakers have engaged with the opportunities, risks, and governance challenges posed by AI.

The findings reveal a clear evolution; from early optimism about innovation and growth to growing concern around ethics, misinformation, data protection, and accountability. At the same time, they highlight important gaps that demand deeper, more anticipatory legislative attention. It is our hope that this report serves as both a diagnostic tool and a roadmap for Parliamentarians, policy institutions, and civil society seeking to build an AI ecosystem that is ethical, inclusive, and future-ready. As India advances toward its vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*, informed parliamentary leadership will be decisive in ensuring that AI strengthens democracy rather than outpaces it.

Mr. Nitin Narang
Founder, Future Shift Labs

Opening Message

From the Co-founder & Director, Future Shift Labs

Artificial Intelligence has moved beyond being a purely technical or economic subject; it is now a matter of governance, rights, and democratic responsibility. Decisions made today about how AI is adopted and regulated will have long-term consequences for employment, privacy, social equity, and institutional trust. In this context, Parliament's engagement with AI is not merely symbolic, it is structurally essential.

This report represents Future Shift Labs' commitment to strengthening democratic capacity in the age of emerging technologies. By mapping parliamentary engagement with AI since 2014, the study provides a factual and analytical foundation for understanding how legislative discourse has evolved, where it has deepened, and where critical blind spots remain.

What is particularly striking in the findings is the uneven nature of engagement; across regions, parties, and themes. While awareness has grown significantly in recent years, sustained scrutiny of advanced AI risks, environmental impacts, inclusion, and long-term governance frameworks remains limited. These gaps underscore the need for institutional mechanisms, capacity-building, and continuous parliamentary oversight.

We hope this report supports Parliamentarians, researchers, and policymakers in asking better questions, designing stronger safeguards, and ensuring that India's AI journey is aligned with constitutional principles, social justice, and strategic autonomy.

Sagar Vishnoi

Co-founder & Director, Future Shift Labs

About The Author

Pranjal Dwivedi

Pranjal Dwivedi is a public policy and AI governance specialist with over six years of experience at the intersection of technology, ethics, and social inclusion. Co-founder of Inclusive AI, he works on building equitable AI systems that address structural inequalities across gender, caste, religion, and class. His expertise spans ethical AI frameworks, misinformation, and deepfake governance, with extensive collaboration alongside civil society organisations to translate policy into community-level action. He has engaged with global and regional AI governance initiatives, including the Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP) and AI Safety Asia, contributing to policy research, capacity building, and safety focused AI discourse. He holds a B.Sc. from the University of Delhi and is a CPL Public Policy Fellow.

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I. Executive Summary

This report presents a comprehensive, data-driven analysis of Indian Parliamentarians' engagement with Artificial Intelligence (AI) from 2014 till winter session of 2025, tracing how legislative oversight has evolved as AI becomes increasingly central to India's governance, economy, and society. As the country's digital transformation accelerates, Parliament's role in shaping, scrutinizing, and guiding AI's societal impact has grown increasingly urgent

Drawing on extensive records from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the study maps **535** AI-related questions (**233 in the Lok Sabha and 302 in the Rajya Sabha**) and **36 debate** interventions (**14 in the Lok Sabha and 22 in the Rajya Sabha**). These engagements span key themes such as policy, ethics, employment, education, healthcare, and public regulation. Notably, parliamentary attention to AI has risen sharply since **2018**, with the period from **2023 to 2025** witnessing the most significant surge, largely driven by national AI strategy announcements and emerging policy challenges. Recent discussions have begun to incorporate risks such as deepfakes and the broader challenges of AI governance.

Despite this growth, political and geographic participation in AI discourse remains uneven. The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** accounts for the highest number of interventions (**315 in both houses**), followed by the **Indian National Congress (INC)**, **DMK**, **YSRCP**, and **TDP**. **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh** are among the most active states, while several others remain underrepresented. This concentration suggests that awareness and leadership on AI policy are limited to a handful of regions and political actors

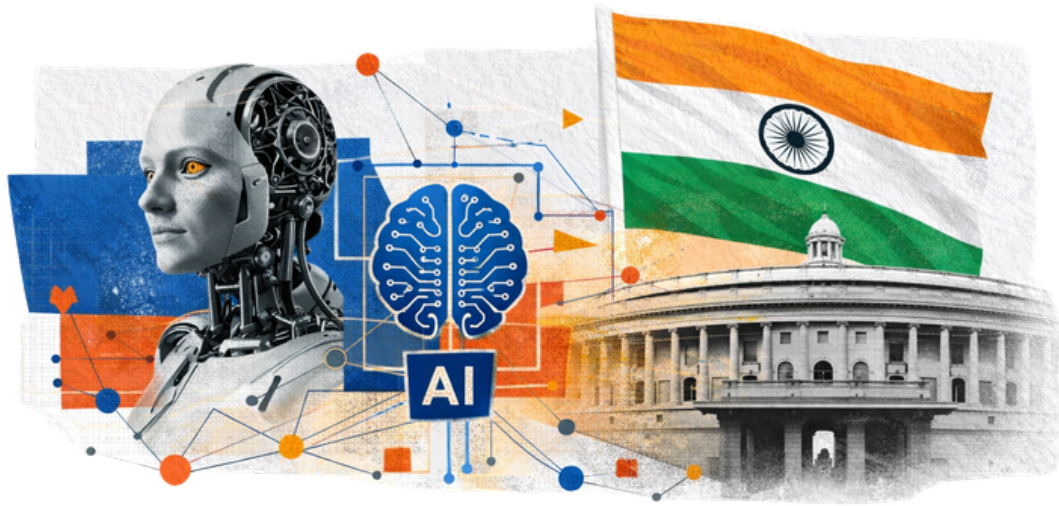
A theme-wise breakdown reveals that **"Usage of AI" and "Policy & Planning"** dominate discussions in both Houses, followed by key concerns like ethics, education, healthcare, and regulation. In the Lok Sabha, there is notable focus on governance, health, deepfakes, and skill development, while the Rajya Sabha has shown deeper attention to education, employment, and research and development. Although sectors like defence, agriculture, and digital arrests are less frequently addressed, their presence signals an emerging awareness of AI's cross-sectoral impact.

Despite increasing interest, the report identifies several persistent gaps in parliamentary engagement. **Environmental concerns** such as water usage and the carbon footprint of AI infrastructure are virtually absent. Discussions rarely touch upon global standards and frameworks, including alignment with OECD and UNESCO guidelines. Advanced topics like **agentic AI, quantum AI integration**, data and chip sovereignty, and domestic capability-building received minimal attention. Socioeconomic and regional inclusion is inconsistently addressed, with limited focus on **rural, Tier 2/3 cities, and marginalized community impacts**. Additionally, deeper ethical and governance-related themes such as **algorithmic bias, surveillance, fairness, accountability**, and long-term regulatory preparedness are explored only sporadically.

Many interventions reflect rising curiosity but fall short of sustained, anticipatory, and systemic legislative inquiry. To address these challenges, the report recommends broadening the scope of parliamentary inquiry to include neglected areas such as environmental impact, rural and marginalized communities, and advanced AI technologies. It also calls for institutional reforms, including the creation of a dedicated **Parliamentary Forum or committee on AI**, mandated ethical and environmental impact assessments in public AI initiatives, and stronger cross-sectoral policy coordination. Building capacity through MP fellowships, research support, and constituency-level awareness programs, especially in underrepresented regions, is also essential.

Ultimately, the report calls for stronger and more consistent democratic oversight of India's AI transformation, so that parliamentary engagement evolves from episodic interventions into a proactive, inclusive, and accountable governance framework. By bridging detailed empirical trends with concrete policy recommendations, this report provides both a diagnosis of current legislative readiness and a strategic roadmap for Parliament's leadership in developing an ethical, inclusive, and future-ready AI ecosystem for India.





II. Introduction

India, the world's largest democracy, derives its strength from the vibrancy of its institutions and the active participation of its people in governance through elected representatives. In this structure, Parliament serves as both a guardian of constitutional values and a mediator between the state and society. As the supreme representative body in a parliamentary democracy, the Indian Parliament is entrusted with the fundamental responsibilities of law-making, executive oversight, and articulating the diverse aspirations of its citizens.

It is not merely a forum for debate, but a constitutional institution that shapes the nation's direction through informed discussion, scrutiny, and accountability. As society evolves under the impact of global and technological transformations, the institution of Parliament must evolve in tandem, expanding its understanding and frameworks to deal with the complexities of the future.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed profound technological transformation in the world. Artificial Intelligence (AI), once confined to academic labs and niche industry applications, has now become a feature of contemporary governance, economy, and society. Its applications range from health, education, agriculture, and governance. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), generative artificial intelligence (AI) could add between USD 359 billion and USD 438 billion to India's GDP by 2029–30, underscoring its role as a critical driver in realising India's 2047 Vision of becoming a developed, innovation-led economy.

While the transformative potential of AI is immense, so are its risks, ranging from algorithmic bias and loss of privacy to job displacement and ethical dilemmas. The deployment of AI systems in public domains such as healthcare, education, defence, law enforcement, and welfare raises urgent questions of transparency, fairness, accountability, and democratic oversight.

Why AI in Parliament Matters

Given the far-reaching implications of AI, legislative institutions must be at the forefront to shape the trajectory of its adoption and regulation. Parliament, as the central deliberative body, must play a proactive role in examining the ethical, social, and economic implications of AI. It must anticipate emerging harms, ensure the safeguarding of rights, and advocate for inclusive innovation that aligns with India's constitutional values.

In the Indian context, there has been relatively limited structured engagement around AI within Parliament. Despite the increasing integration of AI into policy and governance, there remains a gap in legislative awareness, discourse, and oversight. This disconnect can have long-term implications, especially if AI systems continue to be deployed without adequate scrutiny from elected representatives who speak on behalf of the people.

This report seeks to bridge this gap by systematically mapping and analyzing how Indian Members of Parliament have engaged with AI over the past decade (2014 onwards). Through a comprehensive review of parliamentary debates, questions, and interventions, it aims to assess not only the frequency of engagement but also the depth, tone, and thematic focus of legislative attention to AI. In doing so, it contributes to the larger conversation about how democracies can and must govern emerging technologies through informed, participatory, and anticipatory frameworks.

III. Objectives of the Study

This study aims to fill a critical gap by investigating how Indian Parliamentarians have engaged with AI-related issues through formal legislative mechanisms.

The key objectives of this report are as follows:

1. **To map parliamentary references to Artificial Intelligence** through Question Hour, Zero Hour, and general debates in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha since 2014, thereby establishing a baseline of legislative interest and awareness.
2. **To analyze party-wise and region-wise trends** in AI engagement, identifying which parties and geographies are leading or lagging in responding to the developments around AI.
3. **To classify the thematic concerns** raised by Parliamentarians regarding AI, such as employment, skilling, agriculture, education, ethics, automation, deep fakes, and public service delivery—through systematic analysis.
4. **To provide actionable insights and recommendations** to strengthen parliamentary engagement with AI, including a set of suggested questions, a policy brief, and identification of gaps or overlooked sectors in current legislative discourse.

Contribution to Current Policy Discourse

This study contributes to India's evolving digital policy architecture in the following ways:

1. **Empirical Evidence Base:** It provides the first structured, data-driven analysis of AI-related discourse within Indian Parliament, thereby filling a major evidence gap for policymakers, scholars, and civil society actors.
2. **Legislative Capacity Building:** By identifying MPs and regions that have actively engaged with AI, the study can inform targeted training and orientation programmers for legislators to enhance their capacity on emerging technologies.
3. **Participatory AI Governance:** The report advocates for a model of AI governance that is anticipatory, inclusive, and grounded in democratic institutions, aligning with global calls for ethical and rights-based AI development.
4. **Policy Synchronization:** The insights generated here can serve as a reference for synchronizing parliamentary debates with executive action and regulatory developments, ensuring that innovation is matched with institutional oversight.

IV. Methodology

4.1 Data Sources

This study draws upon publicly accessible data from the official archives of the **Lok Sabha** and **Rajya Sabha** between the years **2014 and 2025**. Parliamentary records were accessed through their respective websites and include:

- Starred and unstarred questions
- Statements during Zero Hour and Special Mentions
- Transcripts of debates, including Budget, General, and Private Members' Business

4.2 Keyword Framework

To ensure comprehensive coverage, the study employed a targeted keyword search strategy using terms such as:

- "Artificial Intelligence"
- "AI"
- "Machine Learning"
- "Automation"
- "Deepfake"
- "AI Ethics"
- "Digital Arrest"
- "Autonomous Systems"
- "Algorithmic Bias"
- "Chatbot / Generative AI"

The search was conducted across official portals using both keyword filters and manual verification to ensure semantic relevance.

4.3 Analysis Approach

The analysis was conducted in three interrelated phases:

- **Frequency Analysis:** A quantitative assessment of how often AI-related references occurred each year, broken down by House, party, state, and MP.
- **Thematic Categorization:** A qualitative classification of the nature of concerns raised, such as governance, employment, education, surveillance, misinformation, security, and rights.
- **Narrative & Trend Mapping:** Tracing the evolution of the tone and framing of AI-related discussions—ranging from optimism and innovation to caution and risk—over the past decade. Visual tools such as heat maps, trend graphs, and topic clusters were used to present findings.

4.4 Limitations

While comprehensive in scope, the study has certain limitations:

- **Terminological Variance:** Some AI-related discussions may have occurred without explicit mention of keywords like “AI” or “machine learning,” leading to potential under-reporting.
- **Limitation in Keyword Search:** The use of keyword-based search and content filters to identify AI-related questions may lead to ambiguity due to limitations in the specificity and clarity of search criteria.
- **Language Constraints:** The study focuses primarily on English-language records. Regional language interventions may have been excluded if not transcribed or translated.
- **Contextual Ambiguity:** In a few instances, mentions of “AI” were contextually unrelated to Artificial Intelligence (e.g., abbreviations for other terms like Air India), and these were manually filtered.

Despite these limitations, the report offers a robust empirical foundation for understanding and strengthening parliamentary engagement with one of the most consequential technologies of our time.



Image Credits : Abir Mahanta, FSL

V. Overview of AI-related developments in Parliament

Total Number of Instances Related to AI in Questions and Debates

Between 2014 and 2025, there have been a total of 233 questions related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) raised in the Lok Sabha, and 302 questions in the Rajya Sabha, adding up to a total of 535 questions, indicating a steady, though modest, engagement with AI-related issues across both Houses of Parliament. In terms of deliberative discussions, 14 debates in the Lok Sabha and 22 debates in the Rajya Sabha have included references to AI.

AI in Indian Parliament	
Lok Sabha Questions	233
Lok Sabha Debates	14
Rajya Sabha Questions	302
Rajya Sabha Debates	22

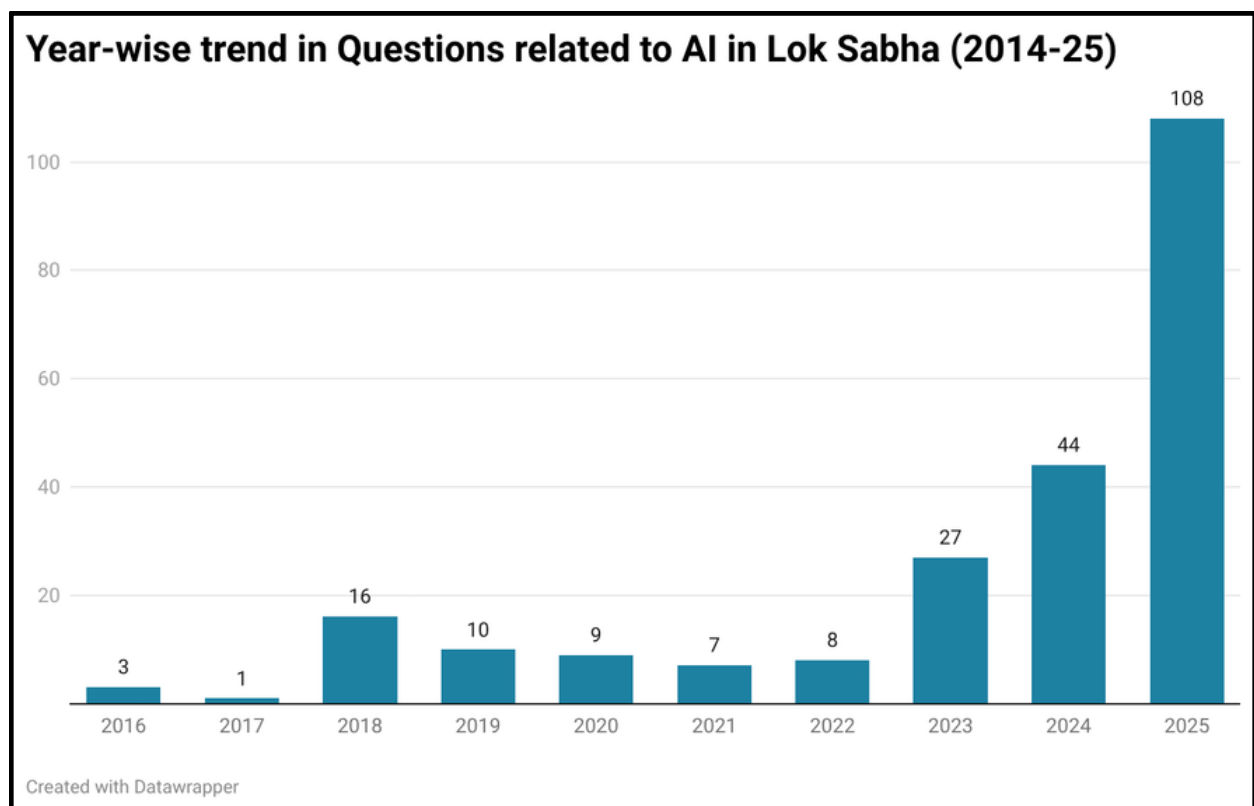
Year-wise trend of AI-related questions in both houses of Parliament

Lok Sabha

An analysis of year-wise data reveals a gradual rise in AI-related questions raised in the Lok Sabha between 2016 and 2025. In the initial years, engagement was limited, with **3 questions in 2016** and only **1 in 2017**.

However, interest began to increase notably from 2018, which saw **16 questions**, followed by **10 in 2019** and **9 in 2020**. Although there was a slight decline in **2021 (7 questions)** and **2022 (8 questions)**, the momentum picked up significantly in **2023, with 27 questions**, peaking in **2024 with 44 questions**, the highest recorded in the decade. The year **2025 witnessed the number climbing to 108**, the highest ever intervention in a year till now.

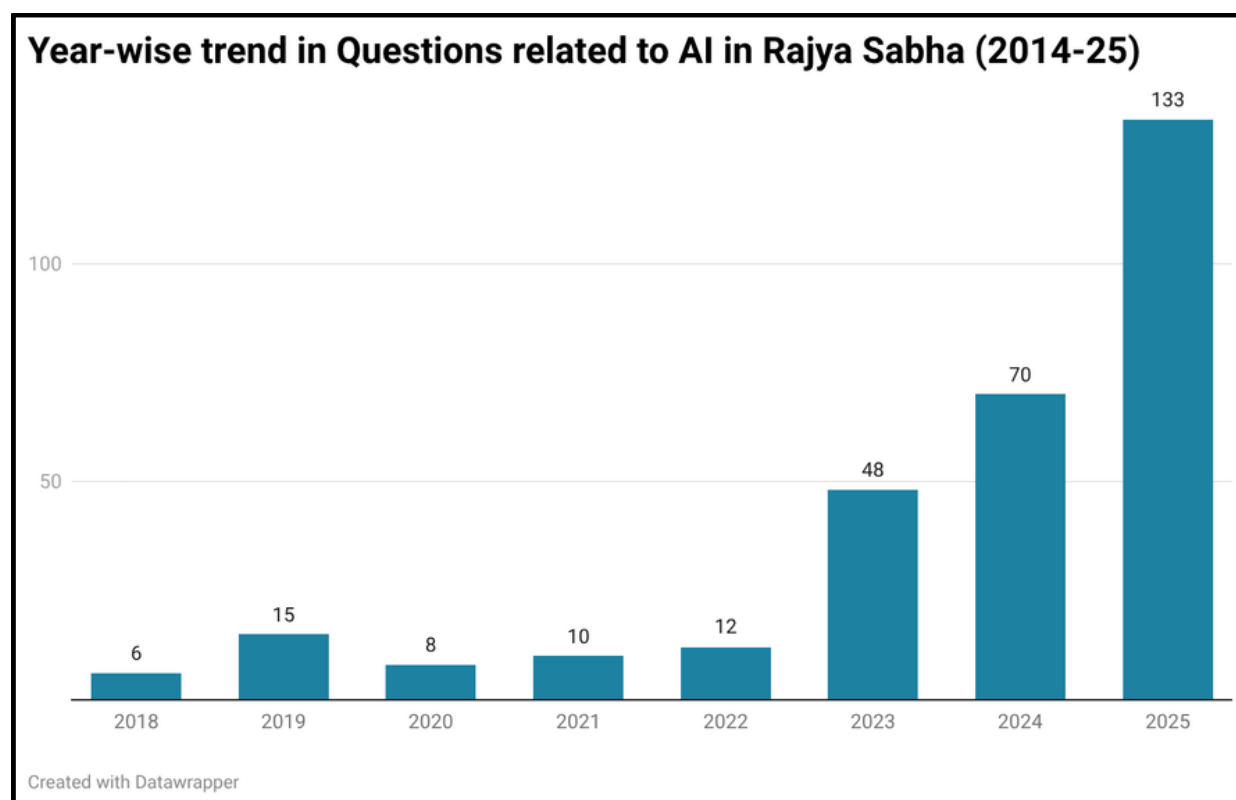
This trend indicates a growing legislative curiosity and concern around Artificial Intelligence, particularly in the years following India's digital and AI policy announcements.



Rajya Sabha

In the Rajya Sabha, the pattern of engagement with Artificial Intelligence shows a similar trajectory of growing interest over the years. Starting with **6 questions in 2018**, the number rose to **15 in 2019**, suggesting increasing awareness among Members.

The subsequent years—**2020 (8 questions)**, **2021 (10 questions)**, and **2022 (12 questions)**—maintained a steady level of engagement. A significant spike occurred in 2023, with 48 questions, marking the highest point of AI-related activity in the Upper House during the observed period. This was followed by an even larger number of **70 questions in 2024**. The number of questions saw an exponential increase in the year 2025 when the number rose to **133**.



Questions on AI in Parliament

Lok Sabha

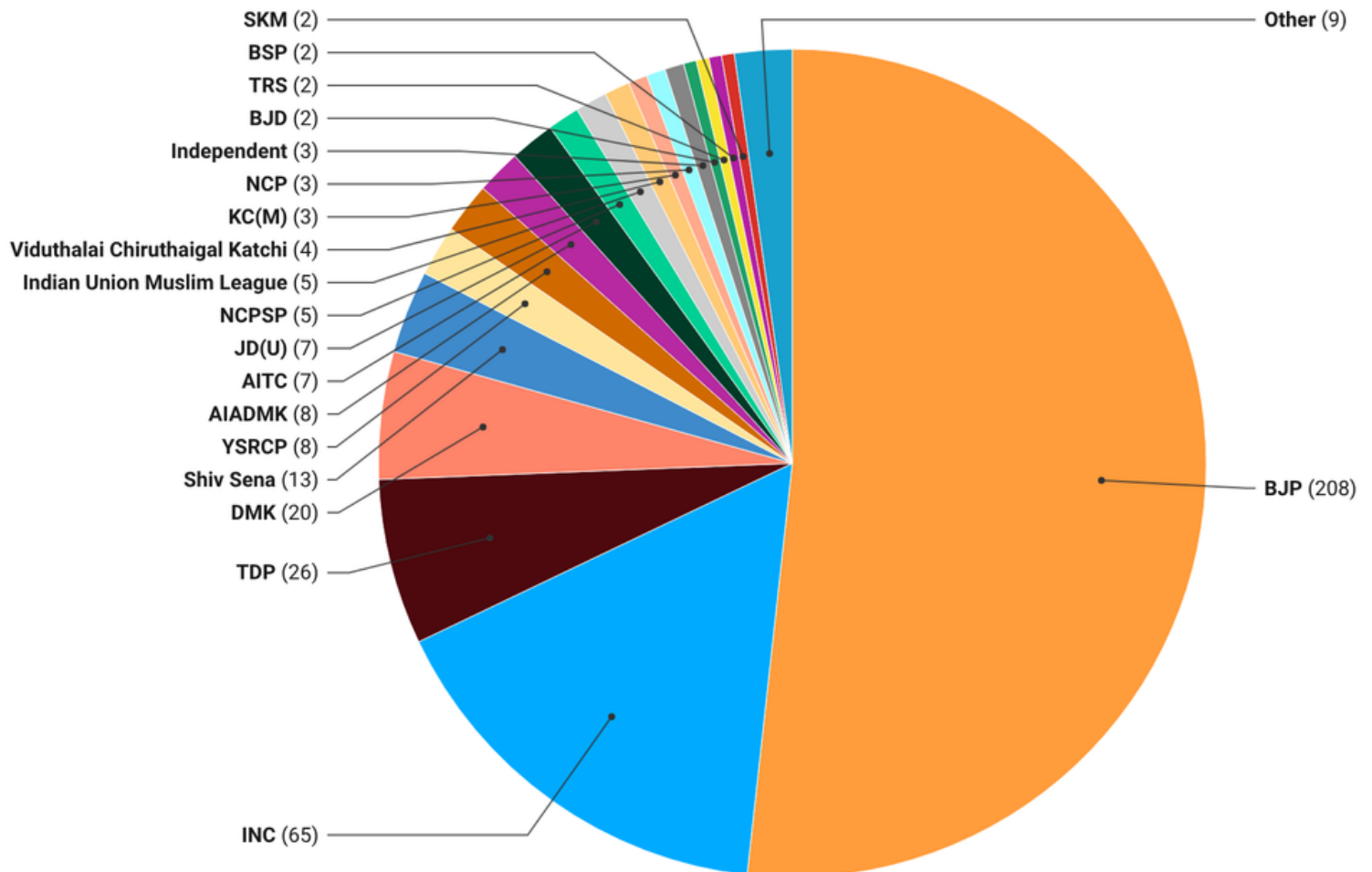
A **party-wise analysis of AI-related engagement in Parliament between 2014 and 2025** reveals that the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** continues to lead the conversation with **208 interventions**, reflecting its parliamentary dominance and active interest in technology-driven governance. **The Indian National Congress (INC)** follows with **65 contributions**, indicating a steady but comparatively moderate engagement with AI-related issues. Among regional parties, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) stands out with 26 interventions, while the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) contributed 20. Other parties such as the Shiv Sena (13), AIADMK (8), and YSR Congress Party (8) also demonstrated sustained interest in the AI discourse.

Smaller but notable contributions came from parties like the **All India Trinamool Congress (AITC, 7)**, **Janata Dal (United) (7)**, **NCPSP (5)**, **Indian Union Muslim League (IUML, 5)**, **NCPSP (5)**, **Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (4)**, **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP, 3)**, **Kerala Congress (M) (3)**, and **Independent MPs (3)**. A limited number of interventions (1–2) were made by the **Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)**, **Biju Janata Dal (BJD)**, **Communist Party of India (CPI)**, **Sikkim Democratic Front**, **Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)**, **Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS)**, and the **Samajwadi Party (SP)**.

In total, **a broad coalition of over 25 political parties** and independents contributed to **AI-related parliamentary discourse, amounting to a total of 402 interventions**. While the engagement remains uneven, the data reflects a growing, cross-party recognition of AI's importance in shaping India's legislative, regulatory, and development agendas.

Party-Wise Distribution of AI-Related Questions in Lok Sabha (2014–2025)

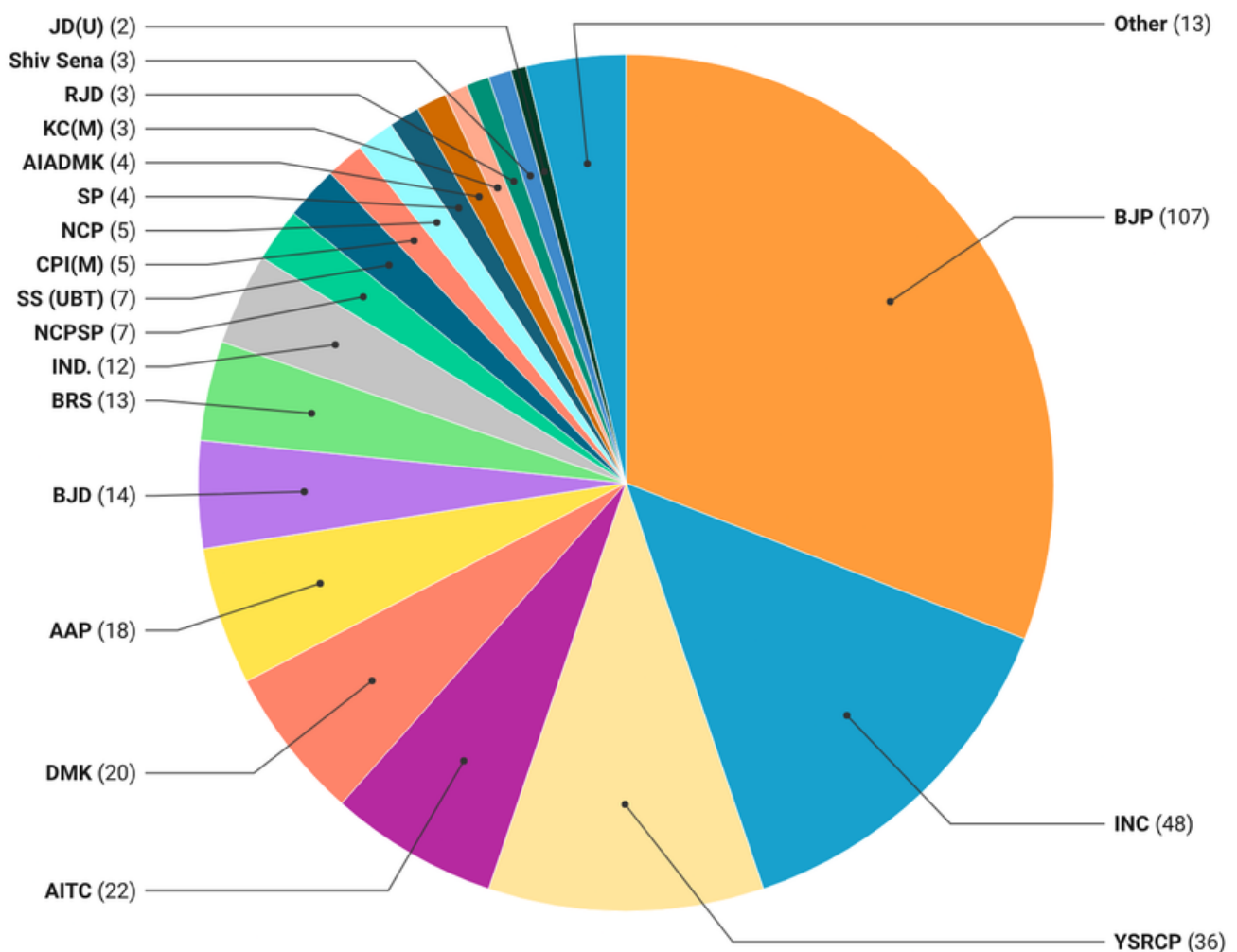
Count includes repeated interventions by the same members



Rajya Sabha

A detailed **party-wise analysis of AI-related interventions in the Rajya Sabha between 2014 and 2025** shows a wide spectrum of political engagement, totalling **346 instances**. The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** leads with **107 contributions**, reflecting both its numerical strength in the Upper House and its policy emphasis on digital transformation. The **Indian National Congress (INC)** follows with **48 interventions**, indicating consistent interest in AI governance across sessions. Regional parties also played a significant role: the **YSR Congress Party (36)**, **All India Trinamool Congress (AITC, 22)**, **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK, 20)**, and **Biju Janata Dal (BJD, 14)** all demonstrated substantial engagement.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) contributed **18 questions**, while parties like the **Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS, 13)**, **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP, 5)**, **Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M, 5)**, and **NCPSP (7)** added to the diversity of voices in the discourse. Notable contributions also came from **Independent MPs (12)** and smaller parties such as the **Samajwadi Party (4)**, **AIADMK (4)**, **RJD (3)**, **Shiv Sena (3)**, **Janata Dal (United) (2)**, **CPI (2)**, and others, including **MDMK, LJD, JMM, PMK, TDP, IUML, and BSP**, each with at least one intervention



Party-Wise Distribution of AI-Related Questions in Rajya Sabha (2014–2025)

Count includes repeated interventions by the same members

Regional Spread in Questions on AI

Lok Sabha

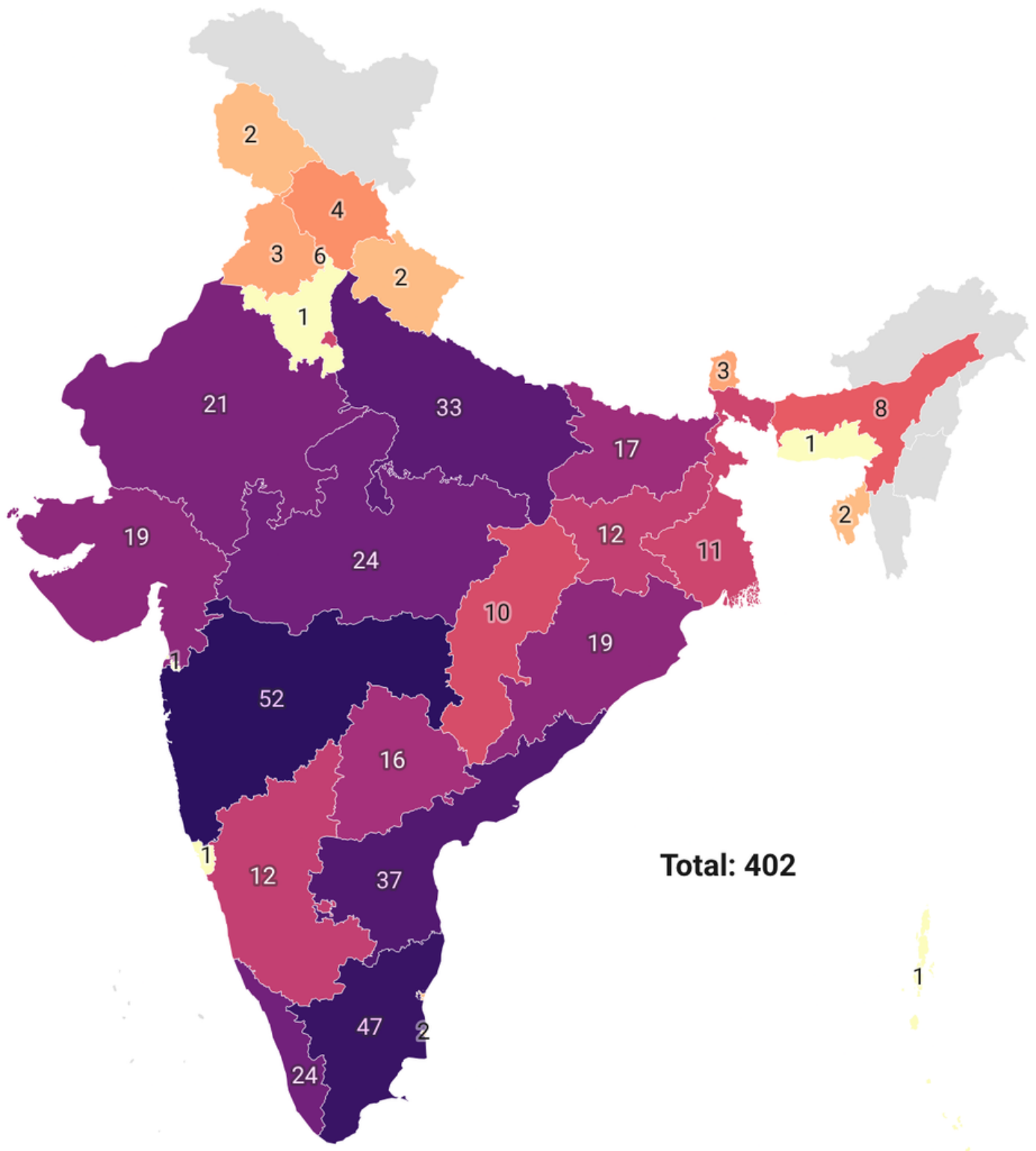
The **regional distribution of AI-related questions in the Lok Sabha** from 2014 to 2025 reveals a strong concentration of engagement in technologically forward and politically influential states. **Maharashtra** leads with **52 questions**, followed closely by **Tamil Nadu (47)** and **Andhra Pradesh (37)** and **Uttar Pradesh (33)**—highlighting sustained interest from large, industrial, and politically significant regions. **Kerala (24)**, **Madhya Pradesh (24)**, and **Rajasthan (21)** also featured prominently, suggesting that southern and central states are actively engaging with AI's legislative discourse.

Other states such as **Odisha (19)**, **Gujarat (19)**, **Bihar (17)**, **Telangana (16)**, **Karnataka (12)**, **Jharkhand (12)**, **NCT of Delhi (11)**, **West Bengal (11)**, and **Chhattisgarh (10)** show moderate levels of participation, reflecting a growing pan-India awareness of AI's implications. Contributions from **Assam (8)** and the northeastern states further extend the geographic diversity of engagement.

Smaller union territories and states—including **Chandigarh (6)**, **Himachal Pradesh (4)**, **Punjab (3)**, **Sikkim (3)**, **Uttarakhand (2)**, **Puducherry (2)**, **Jammu & Kashmir (2)**, **Tripura (2)**, and **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Goa, and Haryana** (each with 1) reflect limited but symbolic inclusion in the AI discourse.

Lok Sabha Engagement on AI: A Regional View

Based on total instances of questions asked by MPs (including multiple questions by the same member)



Regional Spread in Questions on AI

Rajya Sabha

The **regional distribution of AI-related questions in the Rajya Sabha between 2014 and 2025** highlights strong participation from several key states, reflecting both political representation and rising concern over AI's implications across sectors. **Maharashtra** leads with **42 questions**, followed closely by **Andhra Pradesh (39)** and **Uttar Pradesh (31)**, indicating sustained attention from states with significant technological ecosystems and administrative scale.

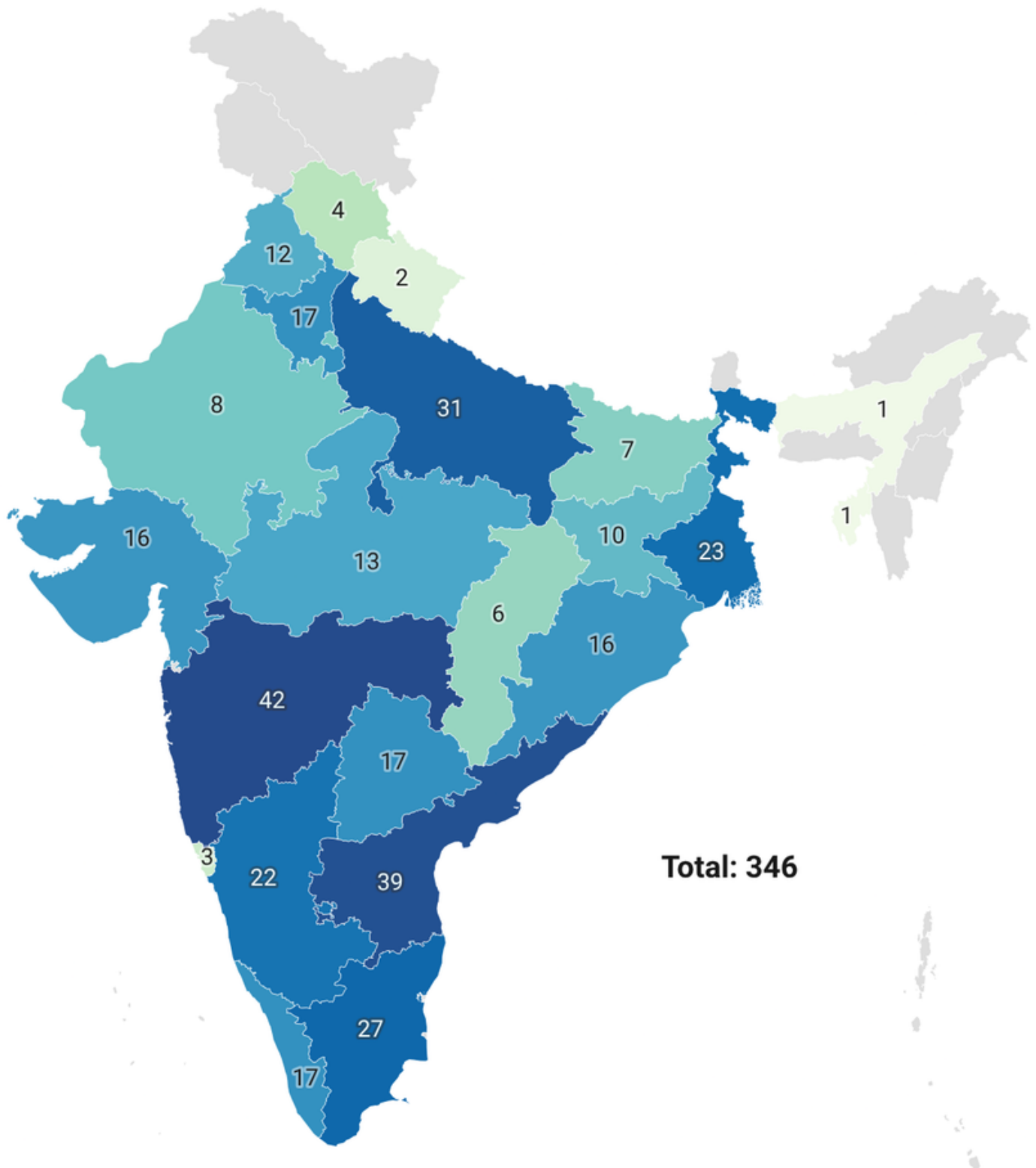
Tamil Nadu (27), **West Bengal (23)** and **Karnataka (22)** also feature prominently, showcasing consistent engagement from southern and eastern regions.

States like **Telangana (17)**, **Kerala (17)**, **Haryana (17)**, **Odisha (16)**, **Gujarat (16)** add further depth to the discourse, while **Madhya Pradesh (13)**, **Punjab (12)**, and **Jharkhand (10)** reflect strong regional interest in AI policy and governance. Mid-level contributors include **NCT of Delhi (8)**, **Rajasthan (8)**, **Bihar (7)** and **Chhattisgarh (6)**, also actively participating despite their limited number of representatives.

Smaller states and union territories such as **Himachal Pradesh (4)**, **Nominated (4)**, **Goa (3)** and **Uttarakhand (2)**, **Tripura (1)** and **Assam (1)** contributed minimally, yet their presence suggests a gradually expanding footprint of AI awareness even in less-represented regions.

Rajya Sabha Engagement on AI: A Regional View

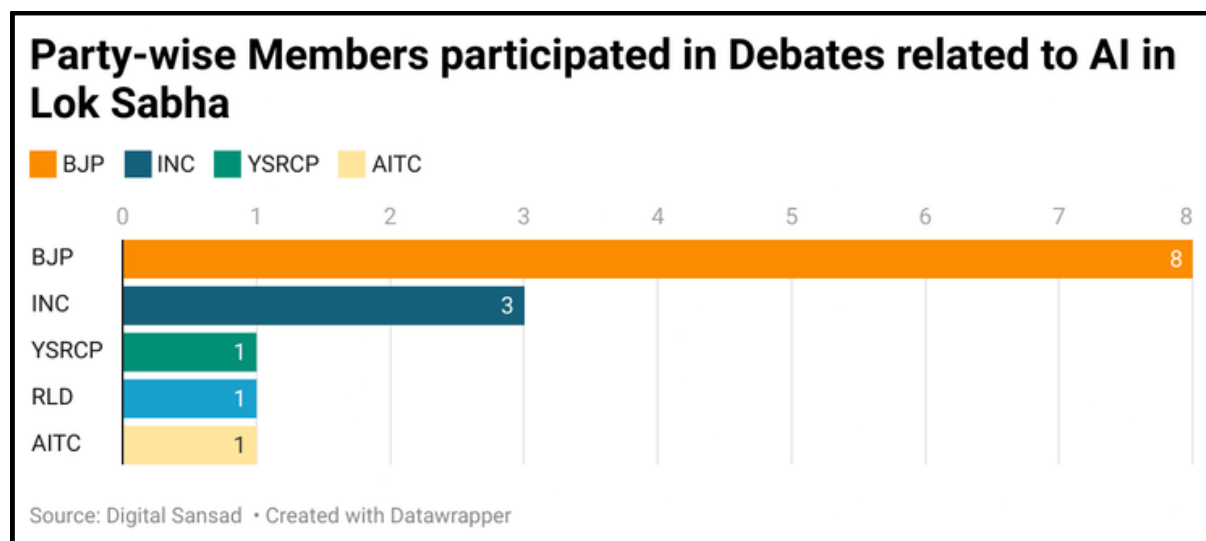
Based on total instances of questions asked by MPs (including multiple questions by the same member)



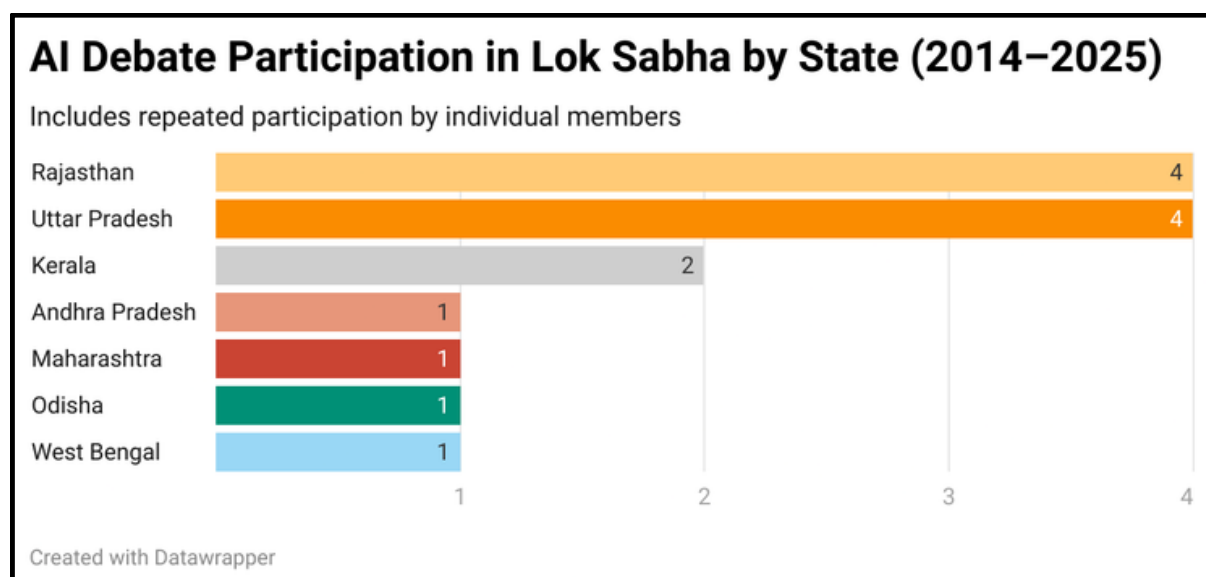
Debates in Parliament

Lok Sabha

Between 2014 and 2025, **14 AI-related debates** were recorded in the **Lok Sabha**, reflecting limited yet noteworthy parliamentary engagement. The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** led with **8 MPs** contributing, while **three MPs** from the **Indian National Congress (INC)** and **one** from the **YSR Congress Party (YSRCP)**, **RLD** and **AITC** each also participated.

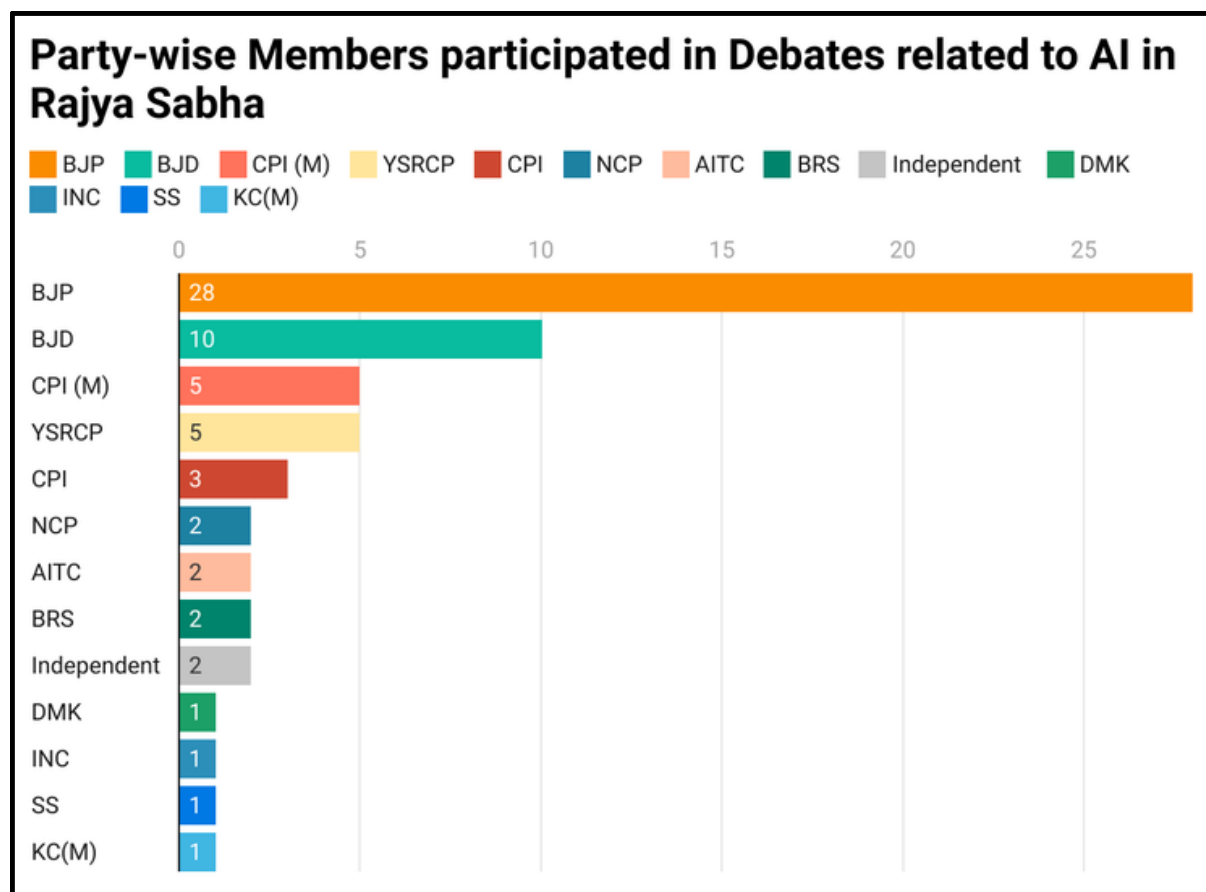


From a state-wise perspective, **Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh** accounted for **four contributions each**. While **two** from **Kerala** and **Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal** had **one participating MP each**, respectively.



Rajya Sabha

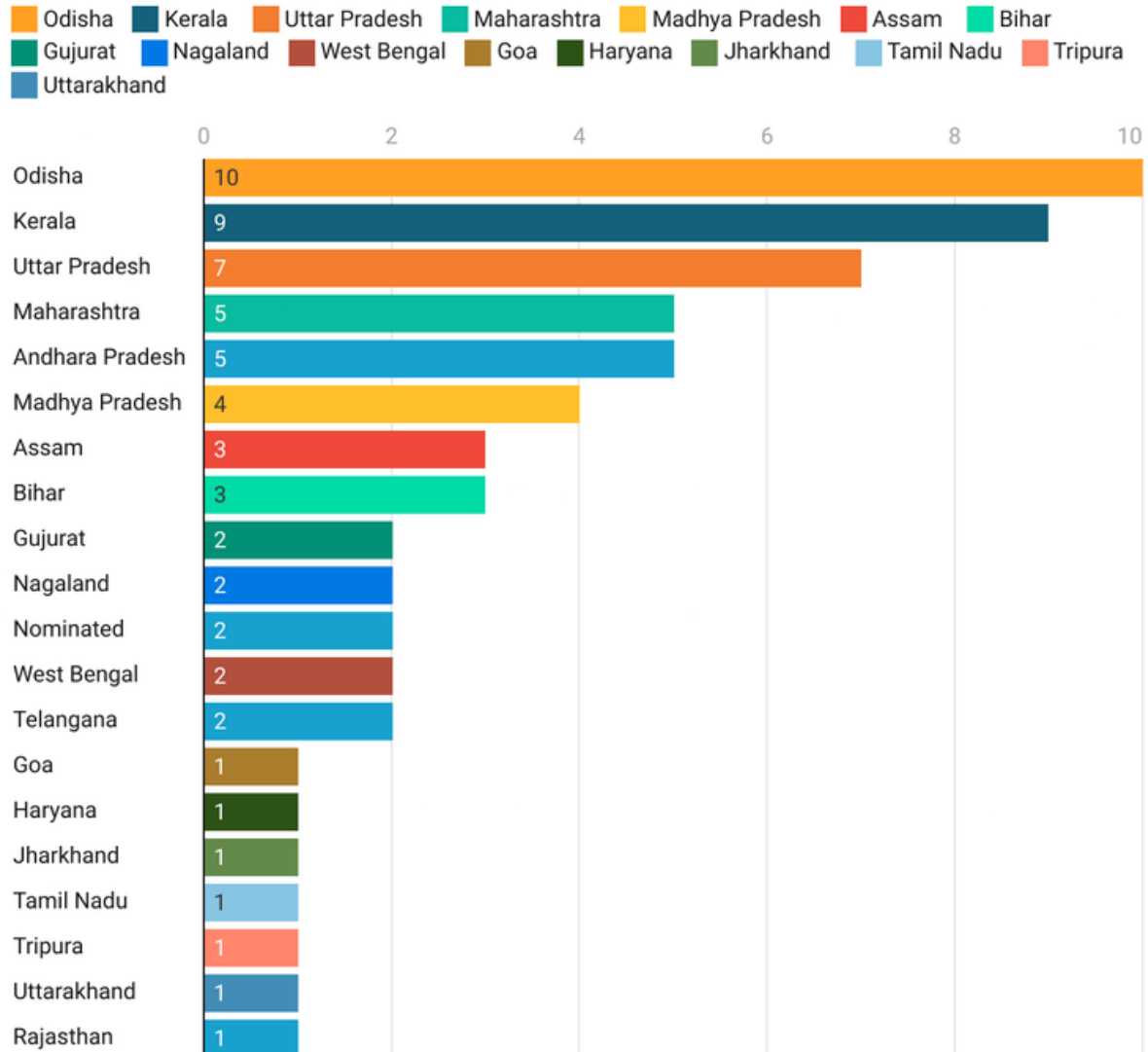
Between 2014 and 2025, the **Rajya Sabha** recorded **63 AI-related debate interventions**, showing a comparatively higher level of deliberative engagement than the Lok Sabha. The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** dominated with **28 contributions**, followed by the **Biju Janata Dal (BJD, 10)**, **Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]** and **YSR Congress Party (YSRCP)** with **5 each**, and the **Communist Party of India (CPI, 3)**. Other participating parties included the **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP, 2)**, **All India Trinamool Congress (AITC, 2)**, **Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS, 2)**, **Independents (2)**, and **one intervention each** from the **DMK, INC, Shiv Sena, and Kerala Congress (M)**.



From a state-wise perspective, **Odisha** led with **10 interventions**, followed by **Kerala (9)**, **Uttar Pradesh (7)**, and **Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh (5 each)**. **Madhya Pradesh (4)**, **Assam and Bihar (3 each)**, and several states including **Gujarat, Nagaland, Telangana, and West Bengal (2 each)** also contributed. Individual contributions also came from states like **Goa, Haryana, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan**, as well as **nominated members**.

AI Debate Participation in Rajya Sabha by State (2014–2025)

Includes repeated participation by individual members



VI. Thematic Classification of AI Discussions

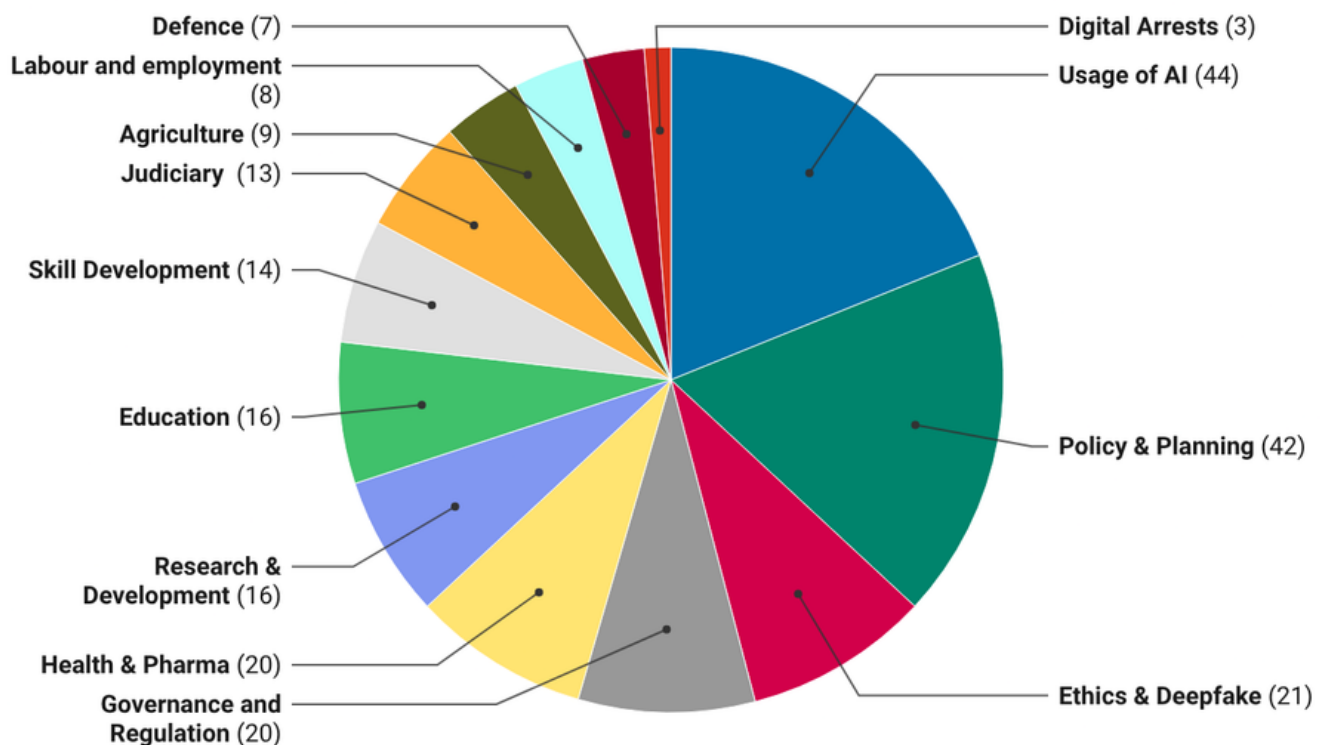
Lok Sabha

The **theme-wise analysis of 233 AI-related questions in the Lok Sabha** from 2014 to 2025 highlights a broadening parliamentary engagement with the opportunities and challenges posed by artificial intelligence. **“Usage of AI” (44 questions)** and **“Policy & Planning” (42)** emerged as the most frequently discussed themes, suggesting a strong interest in both practical applications and the strategic direction of AI in public systems, governance, and national development. Close behind were **“Ethics & Deepfake” (21)** and **“Health & Pharma” (20)**, reflecting concerns around misinformation, deepfake technology, and the integration of AI in critical sectors such as public health.

Equally notable is the attention given to **“Governance and Regulation” (20)**, indicating an evolving awareness of the need for oversight frameworks and institutional readiness. Topics like **Research & Development (16)**, **Education (16)**, **Judiciary and Governance (13)**, and **Skill Development (14)** point to a multidimensional understanding of AI’s systemic impact on learning, legal processes, and workforce preparedness.

Although sectors such as **Agriculture (9)**, **Labour and Employment (8)**, and **Defence (7)** received relatively fewer mentions, their inclusion signals the growing recognition of AI’s cross-sectoral relevance. Emerging areas like **Digital Arrests (3)** reflect the early parliamentary attention to legal and technological safeguards.

Thematic Distribution of AI-Related Questions in Lok Sabha (2014–2025)



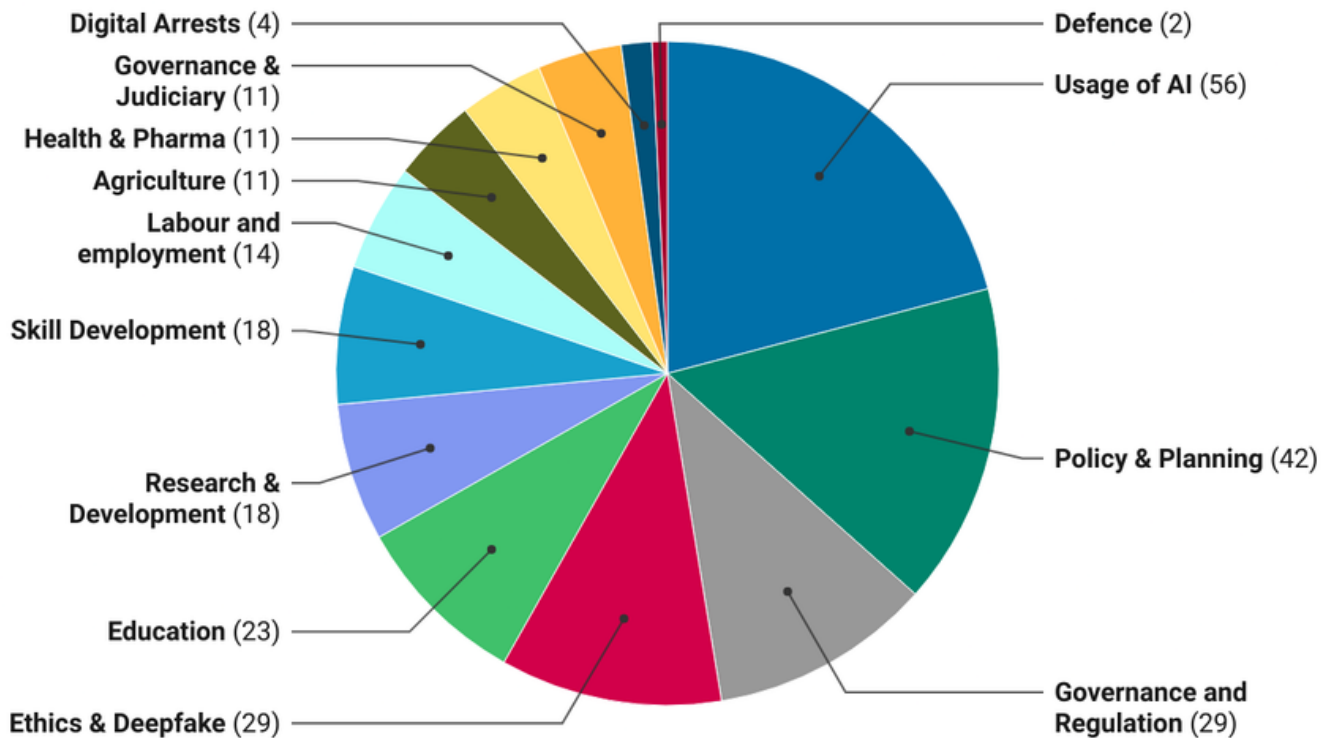
Source: Digital Sansad • Created with Datawrapper

Rajya Sabha

A thematic analysis of **302** AI-related questions in the Rajya Sabha from 2014 to 2025 suggests a broader pattern of parliamentary concerns. These include the diverse impact of AI on sectors and societal structures. The most frequently addressed theme was **“Usage of AI”** with **61 questions**, highlighting MPs’ interest in real-world applications across governance, agriculture, public services, and infrastructure. **“Policy & Planning”** followed with **52 questions**, indicating a strong demand for national strategies, institutional preparedness, and regulatory foresight.

Substantial focus was also seen in **“Ethics & Deepfake”** (29), **“Governance and Regulation”** (30), and **“Education”** (26) pointing to the Upper House’s concern for both systemic governance and the social risks posed by AI misuse. Other recurring themes included **Research & Development** (19), **Skill Development** (19), and **Labour and Employment** (16), reflecting growing awareness of AI’s implications for jobs, innovation, and future readiness.

Sectors such as **Governance & Judiciary (15)**, **Health & Pharma (14)**, **Agriculture (13)**, and also appeared in parliamentary questioning, albeit with comparatively fewer interventions. Niche but emerging concerns like **Digital Arrests (4)** and **Defence (2)** reflect early-stage attention to legal, security, and ethical frameworks.



Thematic Distribution of AI-Related Questions in Rajya Sabha (2014–2025)

VII. Gaps and Missed Opportunities

While the data reveals a growing engagement of Indian Parliamentarians with AI between 2014 and 2025, significant thematic and structural gaps persist in the discourse. Newly emerging and crucial themes—spanning environmental sustainability, global standards alignment, advanced technologies, and regional inclusion—remain significantly underrepresented. Persistent blind spots are evident across the following domains:

1. Environmental Sustainability and Impact

Parliamentary debate has largely overlooked the profound environmental challenges posed by AI infrastructure:

- Water usage by AI data centres and the lack of scrutiny on mandatory water reporting, recycling, and treated wastewater use.
- Carbon footprint and climate impact of AI infrastructure, with little attention given to renewable energy mandates or integration of AI growth with India's climate commitments.
- Environmental impact assessments specific to large-scale AI deployments have rarely featured in discussions.

2. International Frameworks and Standards

Critical gaps exist in aligning India's domestic development with global AI norms:

- OECD AI Principles and UNESCO Ethics Framework are not systematically debated, with limited sustained examination of their adoption, compliance, or impact on India's policies.
- Limited review of participation or obligations in international AI summits and alliances, missing opportunities for India to influence global AI governance.

3. Governance of Advanced and Emerging AI Technologies

Foresight-driven governance of next-generation AI remains superficial:

- Limited attention to agentic AI systems, liability for autonomous AI actions, and the integration of quantum computing with AI.
- Weak parliamentary inquiry into advanced regulatory frameworks, supply chain resilience for AI hardware, or public transparency and audit requirements for high-risk systems.

4. Data, Digital Sovereignty, and Sectoral Sovereignty

Important questions around digital autonomy are not adequately tackled:

- Sparse focus on data ownership, localization, consent for government data usage, and safeguarding sovereignty in the face of foreign platform dominance.
- Semiconductor supply chain resilience and indigenous chip manufacturing strategies, vital for AI independence, remain largely unaddressed.

5. Socioeconomic and Regional Inclusion

There is a lack of comprehensive strategies for equitable AI benefits:

- Inadequate planning for workforce transition in the face of automation, especially across rural, Tier 2/3 cities, tribal, and marginalized demographics.
- Little examination of digital infrastructure and skill-building initiatives beyond metropolitan areas or sectoral support for small farmers and rural enterprises.

6. Ethics, Rights, and Social Justice

While topics like deepfakes and misinformation were occasionally raised, more complex and lasting issues have not received the necessary focus:

- Questions on Algorithmic bias, accountability, fairness, and accessibility in AI systems are remains low.
- Public debate on the social impacts of AI for women, children, minorities, and persons with disabilities is minimal, and systemic reforms ensuring inclusive, human-centric AI are lacking.

7. National Security and Strategic Autonomy

Parliamentary debate seldom addresses the security dimensions of AI:

- India's dependence on foreign AI technologies, digital sovereignty planning, and the use of AI in defense and critical sectors requires more sustained scrutiny.
- The strategic and operational risks of autonomous and agentic AI remain barely explored.

9. Governance Structures and Oversight

A major missed opportunity lies in the absence of structural reforms:

- No dedicated parliamentary AI oversight committee exists to provide regular, cross-sectoral review.
- Gaps persist in tracking national AI commitments, fostering expertise among MPs, and ensuring inclusive policy coordination.

10. Party, State, and Demographic Representation

Engagement remains concentrated among major national parties and more digitally advanced states:

- States with high rural populations or lower digital penetration where AI could significantly transform lives, have limited roles in parliamentary AI debates.
- Many regional and smaller parties have yet to prioritize or even discuss AI policy, highlighting an uneven spread of technological awareness and vision across the political spectrum.

Parliamentarians must expand beyond basic questions of funding and adoption. A holistic, proactive approach that addresses these multi-dimensional gaps is crucial for leveraging AI responsibly and inclusively, both for India's development and for global leadership in the technology's ethical governance.





VIII. Qualitative Findings of the Study

The impact of technology depends not only on innovation itself, but on the decisions institutions make about its use and oversight. Read in this light, Parliament's engagement with Artificial Intelligence offers insight into how India's legislative institution is cognitively processing a fast-moving, system-shaping technology.

The presence of AI-related questions in Parliament as early as **2016**, nearly six years before the introduction of **ChatGPT** and the subsequent global AI boom. This reflects early legislative foresight, with lawmakers discussing AI use cases well before the technology became a part of everyday public consciousness. This early engagement is indicative of the fact that Parliament did not encounter AI as a sudden disruption, but began processing its implications at an early stage.

Over time, parliamentary engagement with AI has expanded significantly. From just **3** questions in **2016 to 2025**, accounting for **241 AI-related questions**. Cumulatively, **535** questions and **36** debate interventions across both Houses signal that AI has transitioned from a niche issue to a recognised subject of legislative concern.

Yet the qualitative character of this engagement reveals important patterns. The AI-related questions still account for less than **1 per cent** of total parliamentary questions, indicating that AI, despite its transformative potential, has not yet become a central or routine subject of legislative scrutiny. This gap points to the distance between AI's real-world impact and its relative weight in parliamentary business.

Engagement appears driven more by external triggers than by an internally anchored legislative agenda. Peaks in parliamentary attention correspond closely with policy announcements, Digital India initiatives, or visible risks such as deepfakes and digital misuse. There is limited evidence of sustained thematic follow-up across sessions, suggesting that AI oversight has yet to be embedded into Parliament's regular governance cycles. Legislative engagement continues to respond to developments rather than anticipate them.

A clear institutional divergence is visible between the two Houses. The **Lok Sabha** tends to frame AI through the lens of **implementation and service delivery**, focusing on deployment, funding, and scheme-level usage. The **Rajya Sabha**, by contrast, demonstrates relatively greater continuity and deliberative depth, engaging more frequently with questions of **education, employment, research**, and governance. While these approaches are institutionally divergent, the lack of coordination between them limits cumulative learning and coherent oversight over the AI ecosystem.

Although AI discourse is broadly bipartisan, sustained engagement is concentrated among a limited set of parties and Members of Parliament who give continuous attention to the developments around AI. Regional participation remains uneven, with representation from the **North-Eastern and Himalayan states** remaining sporadic and low, highlighting persistent disparities in awareness and legislative prioritisation.

Thematic analysis shows a deployment-first framing of AI. Discussions are dominated by **usage of AI and policy & planning**, followed by ethics, deepfakes, healthcare, education, employment, and skill development. Deeper concerns, such as **algorithmic bias, accountability, AI literacy**, and sustainable AI development, receive limited attention, a gap reinforced by the relatively low number of dedicated AI debates.

At the same time, the executive has moved decisively on AI governance through initiatives such as the **IndiaAI Mission, India AI governance guidelines**, the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act**, and large-scale AI literacy frameworks. Taken together, these findings suggest that Parliament stands at a critical juncture, having recognised AI early, yet still needing to transform episodic engagement into structured, forward-looking governance.

While these efforts signal strong policy momentum, sustained parliamentary engagement remains essential to anchor AI governance within democratic oversight, ensure long-term sustainability, and align technological growth with the vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

IX. India's Emerging AI Governance and Regulatory Landscape

These qualitative patterns must be read alongside the evolution of India's AI governance framework, which has developed primarily through executive-led policies, legal adaptations, and institutional guidelines rather than through a single, comprehensive AI statute.

India's approach to governing artificial intelligence has evolved through a layered and adaptive policy pathway, rather than through a single, comprehensive AI law. From early digital infrastructure building to recent governance guidelines and legal amendments, AI regulation in India has emerged by extending and reinterpreting existing legal frameworks while gradually introducing AI-specific principles.

India's AI Governance Journey: Key Milestones

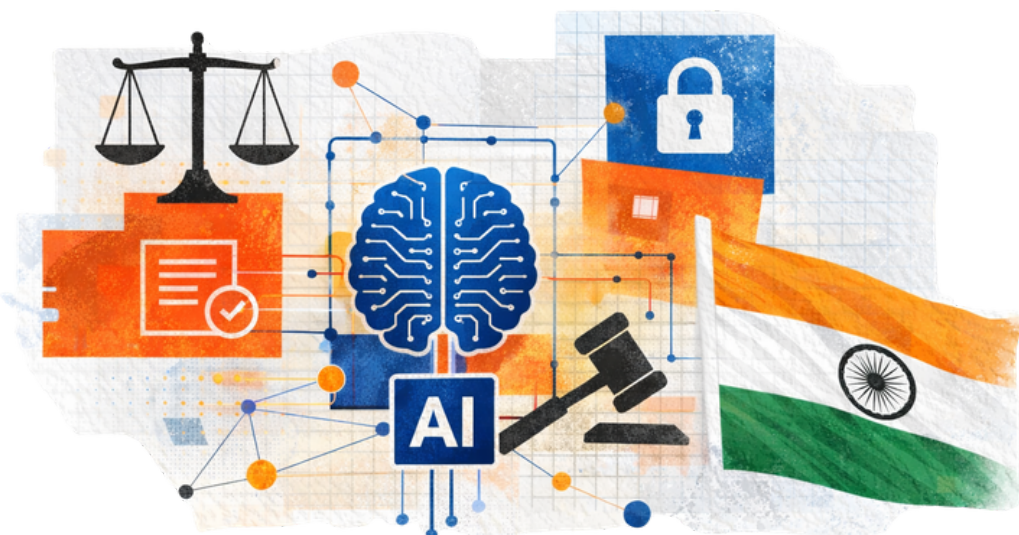


The foundation was laid with the **Digital India programme (2015)**, which prioritised digital connectivity, digital public infrastructure, and e-governance. Although not designed for AI, this phase created the data ecosystems, platforms, and state capacity that later enabled large-scale AI deployment. Against this backdrop, AI entered parliamentary discourse as early as **2016**, well before AI became part of everyday public consciousness, as we have seen in the earlier section, indicating early policy relevance even in the absence of a formal AI framework.

A more explicit articulation of AI policy emerged in **2018**, when **NITI Aayog** released the **National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence: #AIforAll**. This document framed AI as a developmental tool aligned with India's social and economic priorities, identifying healthcare, agriculture, education, mobility, and governance as focus sectors. Importantly, it introduced the idea of responsible and inclusive AI, acknowledging ethical risks, workforce disruption, data challenges, and the need for institutional preparedness. This period marked India's shift from digital enablement to strategic AI thinking.

India's legal response to AI-related harms has largely relied on legacy digital and criminal laws, adapted to address emerging risks. **The Information Technology Act, 2000** provides several provisions relevant to AI-generated disinformation, impersonation, privacy violations, and obscene content, and content blocking. **The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** further impose due diligence obligations on platforms. In parallel, the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023** and laws such as the **Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986** extend criminal liability to harms exacerbated by AI-generated content. However, these frameworks were not designed with generative AI in mind and lack clear definitions of synthetic media or deepfakes, resulting in fragmented and reactive enforcement.

A significant legal milestone was the enactment of the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**, alongside the **DPDP Rules notified in 2025**. The Act directly shapes AI development by mandating explicit consent, purpose limitation, and data security obligations for personal and biometric data, with penalties reaching Rs. 250 crore per violation. The operationalisation of the **Data Protection Board in 2025** further strengthens enforcement.



These gaps in not explicitly defining deepfake (AI-generated content) became visible during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when AI-generated deepfakes targeting political leaders and public figures spread widely, exposing weaknesses in India's misinformation safeguards. In response, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** issued advisories in March 2024, followed by a landmark amendment to the **IT Rules in October 2025**. The amendment formally defined **"synthetically generated information,"** mandated labelling and metadata identifiers for AI-generated content, strengthened obligations on significant social media intermediaries, and linked safe harbour protections to good-faith content moderation. This marked India's first explicit legal recognition of synthetic media risks.

Alongside regulatory measures, India has advanced a governance vision through the **IndiaAI Governance Guidelines introduced in November 2025**, built around **seven core principles (Sutras):** *trust, people-first development, safety, accountability, transparency, fairness, and innovation*. These guidelines reflect India's preference for a principles-based, risk-aware approach, relying on sectoral regulators rather than a single AI authority.

Complementing governance, the **IndiaAI Mission**, with **Rs. 10,371.92 crore** investment, represents a decisive shift toward capacity building. With significant public investment, it focuses on compute infrastructure, datasets, skilling, startups, public sector AI adoption, and nationwide AI literacy, positioning the state as both an enabler and steward of AI.

Taken together, India's AI governance trajectory since 2016 reflects strong executive momentum across infrastructure, strategy, law, and governance guidelines. However, the sustainability and democratic legitimacy of this expanding framework depend on anchoring it within sustained and informed parliamentary oversight, ensuring long-term coherence, accountability, and alignment with India's broader developmental goals.

X. Recommendations for Parliamentarians

As artificial intelligence increasingly shapes India's economy, democracy, and society, Parliamentarians play a decisive role in steering AI toward inclusive, ethical, and sustainable outcomes. While Parliament demonstrated early foresight by engaging with AI as early as 2016, current engagement remains episodic and limited in scale, with AI-related questions accounting for less than one percent of total parliamentary questions. Addressing this gap requires moving from reactive inquiry to institutionalised, forward-looking oversight. The following recommendations integrate critical themes from environmental sustainability and global standards to regional inclusion and advanced technological oversight, ensuring a comprehensive parliamentary response.

1. Deepen and Broaden the Scope of Inquiry

Parliamentarians should expand beyond general questions, integrating underexplored and high-impact themes:

- **Environmental Accountability**

- Scrutinize water usage, recycling practices, and carbon emissions from AI data centres.
- Encourage the implementation of renewable energy requirements and environmental impact assessments (EIA) for all significant AI infrastructure projects.

- **Global Standards Alignment**

- Question India's adoption of OECD AI Principles and UNESCO Ethics of Artificial Intelligence Framework; ensure regular compliance reporting and harmonization within domestic policy.

- **Mainstream AI Across Parliamentary Business**

- Given AI's cross-sectoral impact and its marginal share in total parliamentary questions, Members should integrate AI considerations into discussions on health, education, labour, agriculture, defence, and infrastructure, rather than treating AI as a standalone technology issue.

- **Advanced Technologies and Agentic AI**

- Probe the regulatory readiness for agentic (autonomous) AI, quantum-AI convergence, and indigenous chip/supply chain development.
- Seek clarity on accountability and liability frameworks for autonomous and high-risk AI systems

- **Socioeconomic & Regional Inclusion**

- Champion queries on AI deployment in Tier 2/3 towns, marginalized communities, primary sector (agriculture), and workforce transition plans.
- Address the sporadic and low engagement from the North-Eastern and Himalayan states by actively incorporating regional perspectives into AI-related deliberations.

- **Ethics, Rights, and Social Justice**

- Demand clarity on measures to counter algorithmic bias, ensure inclusivity, protect digital sovereignty, and guard against surveillance abuse.
- Emphasise rights-based and inclusive AI design, particularly for women, children, minorities, and persons with disabilities.

2. Advance Structural and Policy Reforms

To transform parliamentary engagement from episodic to systemic, institutional change is essential:

- **Dedicated Oversight and Coordination**

- Constitute a Parliamentary Committee or Forum on AI and Emerging Tech for expert-led, cross-party oversight.
- Institutionalize quarterly reviews of national AI strategies, sectoral projects, and policy compliance.

- **Mandatory AI Risk Assessments**

- Require that all public digital infrastructure and major procurement projects undergo AI, environmental, and ethics risk reviews.

- **Transparent Reporting and State-Level Equity**

- Mandate ministries to publish State-wise AI Readiness Reports, highlighting gaps in capacity, digital access, and skill development, especially for rural and underserved states.
- Embed periodic parliamentary tracking of India's commitments to global AI treaties, declarations, and responsible AI norms.

- **Foresight in Technology Policy**

- Advocate for structured debate on agentic AI, quantum-AI integration, advanced chip manufacturing, and strategic autonomy for critical technologies.

- **National Security and Defence Oversight**

- Institute structured parliamentary review of AI use in defence and security, including decision-support systems and autonomous technologies, to ensure democratic oversight keeps pace with operational deployment.

- **Strengthen Deliberative Engagement Through Debates**

- Encourage dedicated AI-focused debates in both Houses to discuss cross-cutting issues such as AI literacy, responsible AI development, sustainability, and long-term societal impact, beyond fragmented questions.

3. Build Parliamentary and Public Capacity

Sustained, inclusive AI engagement requires investment in knowledge and community participation:

- **MP Research Support**

- Institute MP Research Fellows focused on emerging technologies, technology policy tracking, and constituency-level impact research.

- **Expand Constituency Engagement**

- Partner with civil society, academia, and industry to organize AI awareness camps targeting rural, marginalised, and Tier 2/3 city constituencies.
- Develop resources and toolkits to engage diverse communities (women, linguistic minorities, persons with disabilities) in local AI development.

- **Transparency and Skills Building**

- Provide MPs with regular briefings on global AI developments, India's international leadership, domestic risks (climate, sovereignty, ethics), and sectoral opportunities.

- **Monitor and Evaluate**

- Establish mechanisms for tracking the implementation of parliamentary recommendations and government commitments on AI across all relevant ministries.
- Frame AI governance as a strategic enabler for **Viksit Bharat @2047**, ensuring that innovation, inclusion, sustainability, and democratic accountability advance together

A forward-looking, coordinated parliamentary strategy rooted in environmental sustainability, global leadership, technical foresight, and social equity is essential for shaping India's AI revolution. This report lays a strategic foundation for how India's Parliament can harness artificial intelligence as a force multiplier for economic growth, social equity, and democratic resilience. The recommendations presented are not just policy prescriptions but a roadmap for embedding AI into the very fabric of India's development journey.

India has already built significant executive momentum through initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission, national AI governance guidelines, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, and large-scale AI literacy programmes. These efforts signal ambition and capacity. However, without continuous parliamentary scrutiny and deliberation, AI governance risks remaining fragmented, executive-driven, and uneven in its reach. Democratic oversight is essential to ensure that innovation advances alongside accountability, rights protection, and public trust.

The forthcoming AI Impact Summit, 2026, presents a timely opportunity to consolidate these efforts and elevate parliamentary engagement on AI. As India prepares to engage domestic and global stakeholders on the future of AI, Parliament can play a central role in shaping national priorities, articulating democratic safeguards, and aligning global commitments with domestic realities.

The recommendations outlined in this report offer more than policy direction. They present a pathway for embedding AI governance within Parliament's core functions, enabling legislators to shape AI in ways that are anticipatory rather than reactive, inclusive rather than concentrated, and strategic rather than ad hoc. By strengthening institutional oversight, deepening deliberation, and broadening representation, Parliament can ensure that AI serves as a force multiplier for national development rather than a source of new inequalities.

Aligned with the vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*, India's Parliament has the opportunity to define a distinctive global model of AI governance, one that combines innovation with justice, growth with sustainability, and technological progress with democratic values. With foresight in action and political will in execution, India can not only harness AI for national transformation but also set global benchmarks for ethical, inclusive, and human-centric artificial intelligence.

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This publication reflects Future Shift Labs' institutional commitment to strengthening parliamentary capacity, promoting anticipatory governance, and supporting evidence-based policymaking in the age of emerging technologies. While FSL has guided the conceptual direction and publication of this report, the analysis and interpretations presented herein are intended to contribute independently to informed democratic deliberation on artificial intelligence and its governance in India.



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