

## The Next AI Powerhouse? India's Bold Bet on AI Dominance

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**The race for artificial intelligence (AI) leadership is a global endeavor with economic and investment implications. While the US and China have grabbed most of the headlines, India also seeks to be a serious contender. India recently announced the “AI for India 2030” initiative, which is intended drive AI adoption and to help India along its path of economic development.**

Indian Secretary for Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, S. Krishnan stated that “AI for India 2030 is an important initiative... enabling stakeholders across industry and start-ups to partner with the government to realize the potential of AI.”<sup>1</sup> This highlights the country’s leadership focusing on increased collaboration between government, industry, and start-ups to create an AI ecosystem rather than emphasizing individual technologies.

Investors may want to take note that Microsoft recently announced that it would spend billions of dollars to advance AI capabilities in India. Nadella said “We are going to equip around 2 million+ people in India with AI skills. At the end of the day, taking the workforce and making sure they have the skills in order to be able to thrive in the new age is the most important thing that any of us can do. It is not just the skills but it is also the jobs that get created.”<sup>2</sup> Indeed, Microsoft plans to train 10 million people by 2030 in India and invest \$3 billion for cloud and AI infrastructure over the next two years.<sup>3</sup>

India’s AI ambitions are not new. While “AI for India 2030” is its latest initiative, it’s not the first. In 2024, the Indian government formally launched a national program called IndiaAI Mission.<sup>4</sup> Until recently, IndiaAI had been focused on securing GPU semiconductors required for large language model training and operation.<sup>5</sup> But

<sup>1</sup> Source: World Economic Forum, P. Kaushik et al., “AI for India 2030: A Blueprint for Inclusive Growth and global Leadership,” January 22, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Business Today, “India’s \$500 billion AI GDP by 2025: Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella Highlights Potential of AI in Economic Growth,” February 7 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Microsoft, “Microsoft Announces US \$3 Bn Investment over Two Years in India Cloud and AI Infrastructure to Accelerate Adoption of AI, Skilling and Innovation,” January 7, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Carnegie Mellon, A. Suri, “The Missing Pieces in India’s AI Puzzle: Talent, Data, and R&D,” February 24, 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. According to IndiaAI – the government program has secured 18,000 GPUs.

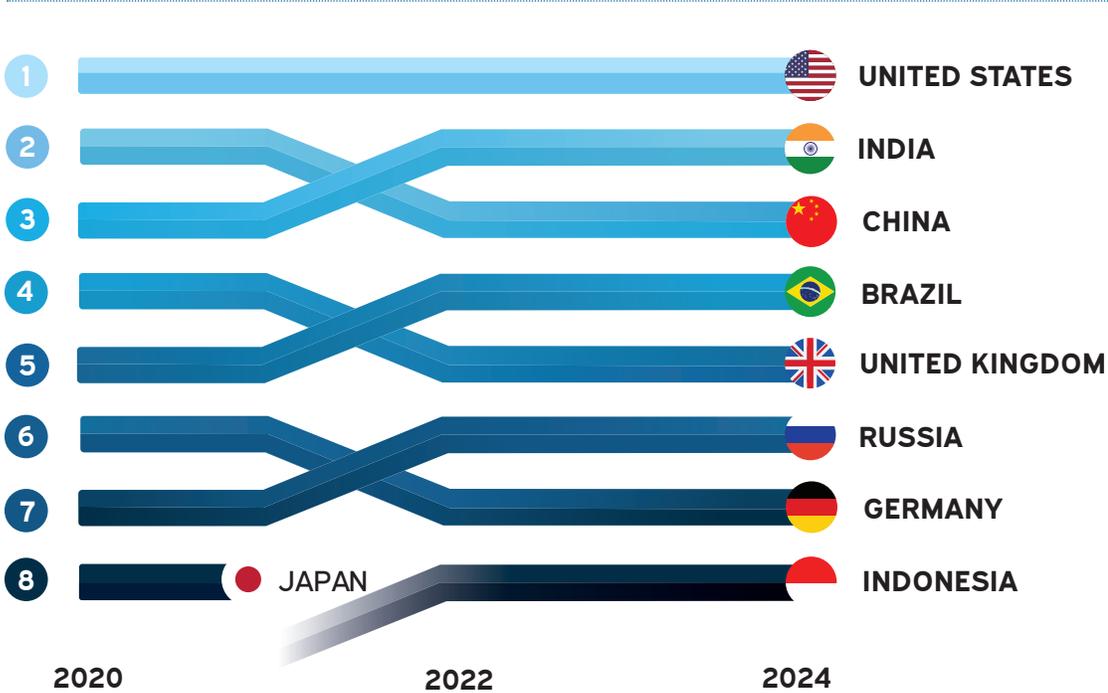
But questions remain as to whether India will be able to lead the global AI race without further investment in the entire AI ecosystem.<sup>6</sup>

One area where India has consistently been a leader has been in the size of its community of developers. AI application development is soaring and India now ranks second in public generative AI projects on GitHub (see Figure 1).<sup>7</sup> GitHub CEO Thomas Dohmke wrote in a post on X, "Now the fastest-growing developer population on the planet, India's rise as global tech titan is inexorable."<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Source: Carnegie Mellon, A. Suri, "The Missing Pieces in India's AI Puzzle: Talent, Data, and R&D," February 24, 2025.

<sup>7</sup> Source: Business-Standard, N. Anand et al., "India's Fastest-Growing Developer Community on Github; PM Modi Praises Youth," October 30, 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.



**FIGURE 1**  
**India's Developer Community Grows (Rankings of the Largest Developer Populations on GitHub by Year)**  
 Source: GitHub as of December 2024. And Statista as of December 2024.

As IndiaAI and AI for India 2030 evolve, it will likely make sense to closely monitor how government policy, private capital, and corporate initiatives align to build a self-sustaining AI ecosystem. While challenges remain, India's push to integrate AI into its economic future signals a new frontier for global AI investment.

To better understand India, read more on navigating AI investment risks and opportunities, or to read our last connective, India and Technology Investment, please visit the **Thought Leadership** section of our **website** or click the links here to learn more.



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