Report of successful completion of 6 weeks Online Short-term Training Course on *AI Foundations: Understanding its Impact on Society and Public Policy*

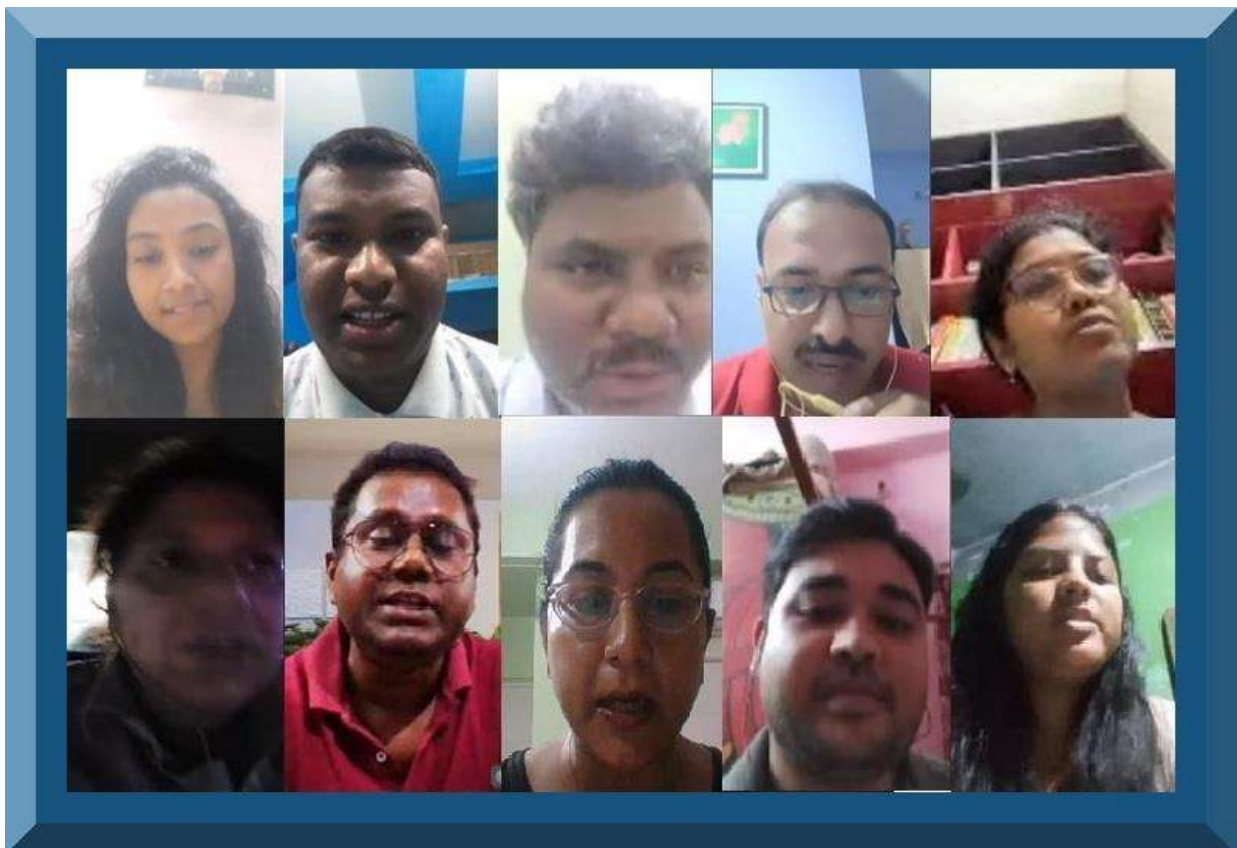The 6 weeks Online Short Term Training Course on "*AI Foundations: Understanding its Impact on Society and Public Policy*" which was offered by The NSOU Centre for Social Studies (NSOUCSS) under the School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University, was held between **2nd September 2023 to 15th October 2023** with a total of **40hours** of content (14 hours Live Audio-Video Lectures and 26hours of non-video content) held on the Google Classroom platform with the participation of **47 learners**, has been successfully concluded.

The programme aimed to provide participants with an introductory understanding of the *AI Foundations: Understanding its Impact on Society and Public Policy*, in tune with NEP 2020 to develop employable skills among learners, and the curriculum was majorly aligned to selected units of AI For Everyone, Applications of AI in different domains of society, and Public Policy and Governance, which comprised of detailed topics of the following Units/Modules distributed over 6 weeks-

- Nature of Public Policy Cycle
- Different domains of Society & important thinkers
- AI History, Development and Utility
- Machine Learning
- Deep Learning
- Applications of AI in Society, Economy, Science & Tech
- Issues related to AI: Ethical framework, UNESCO / UN principles, Risks

The online lectures were delivered by both faculties and officers of the School of Social Sciences, School of Sciences, and IT Officer NSOU, as well as External faculties from other Universities of the state and the online programme was conducted and coordinated by Debajit Goswami, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, School of Social Sciences, NSOU, who also delivered lectures, besides coordinating the STC.

The **participant profile** included working professionals, public servants, as well as students both from NSOU and outside, including 3 CID officers (Cyber Division Kolkata), 14 were faculties from Colleges and Schools, 8 were students or University learners, and many came from diverse professions including Lawyer, HR professionals, Central service employees, Airport security officials, Librarians, and 5 participants also joined nationally, ie. from outside of West Bengal.

The programme covered a total of 40hours including 14 hours of live online video lectures delivered with the usage of ICT teaching-learning methodologies, and 26hours of non-video content including reading material, discussion forum and assignments, regularly posted on the Google Classroom. The programme was concluded with a 10 marks assignment in written format and 40marks online assessment with MCQ type of questions, which was successfully completed by 32 learners who were all given e-certificates upon successful completion.

Acknowledgement and feedback from the participants were recorded live on the concluding session of the 6 weeks STC on AI Foundations. This multi-disciplinary short term training course enriched the participants with a deeper understanding of the diverse applications of AI and its various facets, and many learners also requested for the conduct of a longer term / advanced diploma course on AI Foundations, to aid their further pursuit of knowledge in this practical domain. It has greatly encouraged the faculties of the School of Social Sciences, NSOU and NSOUCSS to offer more such programmes on AI and Social Sciences in the near future and contribute to greater academic knowledge generation globally and to the skill development of learners across India, with special reference to the students of West Bengal.

Reported by Debajit Goswami, Programme Coordinator of STC on AI Foundations: Understanding its Impact on Society and Public Policy & Assistant Professor of Public Administration, School of Social Sciences, NSOU.