

INDIA-AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026



India AI Impact Summit 2026

Background Note

Overview

India will host the **AI Impact Summit** in **February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, as a global convening to shape the future of inclusive, responsible, and resilient Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Building on the momentum of previous multilateral initiatives including the Bletchley Park, Seoul, Paris, and Kigali Summits, the AI Impact Summit is envisaged to mark a shift from aspirations to impact, demonstrating how AI can deliver tangible outcomes for *People, Planet, and Progress*.

As the first Global AI Summit of this series to take place in the Global South, the Impact Summit will advance a future where the transformative impact of AI serves humanity, advances inclusive growth, fosters social development, and promotes people-centric innovations that protect our planet.

The Summit builds on extensive groundwork, including five rounds of public consultations and global outreach sessions in Paris, Berlin, Oslo, New York, Geneva, Bangkok, and Tokyo. Regional events across India have ensured grassroots voices are represented, while over 50 affiliated Pre-Summit Events worldwide have generated actionable insights and broadened participation. Complemented by curated consultation sessions for the flagship events and working groups, these efforts reflect India's deeply participatory approach to the Impact Summit.

Themes & Working Groups

AI today stands at an inflection point, with the power to reshape economies, accelerate scientific discovery, and address urgent global challenges, but also the potential to widen divides if left unchecked. The Summit provides a platform to bridge this gap, ensuring that the future of AI is shaped by collective action and shared responsibility.

To translate this vision into action, the Summit is anchored in **three guiding principles** or *Sutras of People, Planet, and Progress*, which frame how AI should serve humanity,

safeguard the environment, and drive inclusive growth. These guiding *Sutras* are further operationalized through **seven *Chakras*** or **thematic working groups**, each focusing on a critical dimension of AI's global impact. Together, the *Sutras* and *Chakras* provide a cohesive framework that moves the conversation from aspirational commitments to measurable outcomes, ensuring that the benefits of AI are equitably realized across the world.

The Seven Chakras:

1. **Human Capital:** AI is changing the nature of work at an unprecedented pace, creating new opportunities while also disrupting traditional livelihoods. The Human Capital Chakra focuses on equipping people with the skills and literacy needed to thrive in an AI-driven world. It emphasizes reskilling, inclusive workforce transition strategies, and ensuring that productivity gains are shared widely. This theme recognizes that AI must enhance, not undermine, human potential.
2. **Inclusion for Social Empowerment:** Much of today's AI reflects the languages, cultures, and contexts of a handful of regions, leaving billions without meaningful representation. The *Inclusion Chakra* seeks to address this by fostering the development and deployment of AI systems that are inclusive by design, locally relevant, and culturally respectful.
3. **Safe and Trusted AI:** With AI increasingly embedded in critical systems, ensuring safety and trust is essential. This *Chakra* focuses on democratizing access to technology-enabled governance tools and frameworks, empowering all nations and stakeholders with the technical capabilities needed to govern AI effectively. It promotes technology-enabled solutions for oversight that can be adopted across regions, ensuring AI remains transparent, accountable, and aligned with shared values.
4. **Resilience, Innovation & Efficiency:** The scale of resources consumed by modern AI solutions presents myriad challenges for the environment as well as exacerbates existing AI divide between nations. This *Chakra* prioritizes the development of frugal, energy-efficient, and sustainable AI innovations. It aims to

ensure that AI systems can be deployed equitably in resource-constrained settings, making them resilient, adaptable, and environmentally responsible.

5. **Science:** AI has the potential to accelerate global scientific progress by enabling advanced simulations, data-driven discovery, and cross-disciplinary insights. Yet, access to research infrastructure remains highly unequal. This *Chakra* focuses on building inclusive scientific partnerships, expanding AI research ecosystems in the Global South, and ensuring that scientific innovation is both collaborative and globally accessible.
6. **Democratizing AI Resources:** The resources required to build competitive AI systems, including datasets, compute power, and advanced models, remain concentrated in a few nations and corporations. This *Chakra* seeks to redress that imbalance by advocating equitable access to these foundational tools. By broadening access, it enables innovations that reflect diverse global realities and contribute to shared progress.
7. **AI for Economic Growth & Social Good:** AI can significantly advance development goals, including across healthcare, education, agriculture, among others. However, deployment in these sectors remains fragmented. This *Chakra* focuses on scaling successful solutions, creating frameworks for cross-border collaboration, and ensuring that AI for social good is practical, replicable, and accessible to all countries.

Status of Working Groups

- Working Group themes have been defined through months of extensive consultations, including [public consultations](#) through the **MyGov platform** inviting over **600 citizen responses**, **open stakeholder consultations** with over **500 organizations participating**, and multiple brainstorming sessions held nationally as well as around the world (Oslo, Tokyo, New York, Paris, among others).
- The **first working group meetings for each of the 7 working groups is scheduled to take place from the week of 3rd November.**

Cities for Hybrid Meetings of Working Groups (one each)

Working group meetings will **begin from Early November** and continue till end of December. Each working group will **convene at least thrice virtually** and once in hybrid mode.

Working Group	City (Tentative)
Human Capital	Guwahati
Inclusion for Social Empowerment	Hyderabad
Safe & Trusted AI	Chennai
Resilience, Innovation, & Efficiency	Bengaluru
Science	Mumbai
Democratising AI Resources	Bhubaneswar
AI for Social Good & Economic Development	Kanpur

Co-Chairs of Working Groups

Aligned with our overarching principles of inclusion and diversity of voices, each of the seven Working Groups of the Summit will be co-chaired by two other countries alongside India. Together, these fourteen partner countries represent all major regions of the world, ensuring balanced and truly global perspectives in the deliberations.

Working Group	Co-Chairs
Human Capital	• The Philippines; • Rwanda
Inclusion for Social Empowerment	• Nigeria; • Switzerland
Safe & Trusted AI	• Brazil; • Japan

Resilience, Innovation, & Efficiency	• France; • UAE
Science	• Singapore; • Canada
Democratising AI Resources	• Egypt; • Kenya
AI for Social Good & Economic Development	• Indonesia; • The Netherlands

Flagship Events

In the run-up to the India AI Impact Summit, a series of flagship initiatives have been conceived to sustain global momentum, broaden participation, and demonstrate the transformative power of AI. Collectively, they embody India’s vision of an AI ecosystem that is inclusive, participatory, and aligned with the broader objectives of People, Planet, and Progress.

Each flagship event is carefully designed to highlight a different dimension of AI’s societal impact, from empowering youth and women innovators to supporting startups, scaling social-good solutions, showcasing global innovations, and advancing applied research.

YUVAi – Global Youth Challenge: A global youth challenge inviting students to design AI-based solutions for real-world challenges. Through mentorship and applied learning, it nurtures innovation and ethical awareness, with finalists showcasing their work at the Summit.

AI by HER – Global Impact Challenge: A global innovation challenge inviting women technologists to demonstrate AI solutions tackling large scale or novel real-world public challenges.

AI for ALL - Global Impact Challenge: The AI for All: Global Impact Challenge strives to identify solutions that use AI to enable large-scale impact. The leading solutions get showcased at the India - AI Impact Summit to be held in New Delhi, India in February 2026.

UDAAN – Global AI Pitch Fest: A showcase for high-potential AI startups addressing critical societal needs. Selected ventures will pitch before investors, policymakers, and technology leaders, catalysing visibility, partnerships, and socially aligned entrepreneurship.

AI Impact Expo: A experiential showcase at Bharat Mandapam (16–20 February 2026), featuring international, state, enterprise, and startup pavilions. It will demonstrate AI's applications across critical sectors.

Research Symposium on AI & its Impact: The Symposium is conceived as an interdisciplinary forum that brings together leading researchers and practitioners from India, the Global South, and the wider international community to present frontier work on the impact of AI, exchange methods and evidence, and forge collaborations.

Status of Flagship Events

- **Research Symposium launched** on the **18th of September** in partnership with **IIIT Hyderabad**.
 - The **call for submissions** for the Global South Showcase (GSS) is live now with a **deadline of 31st October**. The GSS will feature research work that appeared in the top global AI forums from authors based in a global south geography. [More details can be accessed here](#).
- The **Global Challenges** (YUVAi, AI for ALL, AI by HER) have been launched, with details of each present on the Summit Website.

Pre-Summit Events

In the run-up to the Summit, a series of Pre-Summit Events are being organised across India and globally, to enrich the deliberations of the main Summit by bringing in diverse perspectives and highlighting innovative use cases.

Pre-Summit Events are independently hosted convenings that receive official affiliation to the India - AI Impact Summit 2026. They are intended to widen stakeholder participation ahead of the Summit, surface actionable inputs aligned with its themes, and provide decentralized platforms for knowledge exchange.

Apply to Host a Pre-Summit Event: The call for proposals for Pre-Summit Events is available at: <https://impact.indiaai.gov.in/home/pre-summit-events>

As of October 2025, more than **80 Pre-Summit Events have been held**. The geographic footprint spans **15 Indian states** and **20 cities**, with international participation extending to six countries. In total, **650+ applications** have been received so far.

Together, this growing ecosystem of Pre-Summit Events is creating a distributed global dialogue on AI, surfacing perspectives from across geographies, and feeding insights directly into the Summit process.

Provisional Agenda

Date	Event	Remarks
15 th February 2026	Cultural Day	Central Park & Other areas around Delhi
16 th - 18 th February 2026	Flagship Event Finales	
19 th February 2026	Summit Day 1	Leaders Plenary CEO Roundtable
20 th February 2026	Summit Day 2	GPAI Council Meeting Panel Discussions Keynotes Roundtables

Summit Logo

In line with the spirit of Jan Bhagidari or citizen participation, Government of India launched a nationwide logo design contest on the MyGov platform to encourage citizen participation in shaping the Summit's visual identity. The contest received enthusiastic responses from across the country, with ~600 entries reflecting a wide range of creative interpretations. The final logo draws upon elements from the winning entry, adapted to align with the Summit's global character and visual standards.

The logo for the India - AI Impact Summit 2026 embodies the spirit of innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability, drawing inspiration from the rich cultural heritage and forward-looking vision of India. The design seamlessly weaves together the Summit's core philosophy of "सर्वजन हिताय | सर्वजन सुखाय" (Sarvajana Hitaya | Sarvajena Sukhaya) - meaning "for the welfare of all, for the happiness of all".