



AI IMPACT SUMMIT

भारत 2026 INDIA

PEOPLE • PLANET • PROGRESS

BACKGROUND NOTE

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INDIA - AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands at the threshold of fundamentally reshaping human civilization, pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve. This technological revolution opens unprecedented opportunities for advancements across every domain of human endeavor, while profoundly challenging the very foundations of society in an increasingly complex and evolving geopolitical order.

For developing countries, AI offers an unprecedented opportunity to leapfrog traditional developmental pathways. The multi-modal and multi-lingual capabilities of AI create new possibilities through which access to benefits can be made available at scale.

As a result, AI is seen not merely as a technological advancement but as a strategic tool to enable inclusive growth and expand access to opportunities that have historically been out of reach for large segments of the population.

Recognizing this transformative potential, the past four years have witnessed a remarkable surge in multilateral initiatives dedicated to harnessing AI's potential responsibly and equitably. From the G20 AI Principles to the UN and Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) Resolutions on AI, the African Declaration on AI, and most recently, the Hamburg Declaration on Responsible AI, these efforts reflect unprecedented international recognition that AI's transformative impact transcends borders and requires coordinated global action.

Despite these high-level commitments, a fundamental gap persists between global aspirations and the reality on the ground. The Global AI Divide continues to widen, with AI resources and capabilities concentrated among select nations and corporations. This concentration fundamentally limits the development of social, cultural, and linguistically contextual AI solutions, constraining AI's potential to accelerate progress toward our collective development goals, especially for the Global South.

Simultaneously, AI's rapid proliferation across society is creating new challenges that demand urgent attention: disrupting traditional employment patterns, exacerbating existing biases, and driving exponential increases in energy consumption. These developments underscore the urgent need to move beyond aspirational frameworks toward concrete, measurable impact that addresses both AI's promise and its perils.

THE MANTRA

A TIME FOR IMPACT

In 2026, leaders of the world will gather in India for the first Global AI Summit of this series to take place in the Global South. The India - AI Impact Summit represents a critical inflexion point, building upon existing multilateral initiatives while advancing new priorities, deliverables, and cooperative frameworks that shift focus from high-level political statements to demonstrable impact and tangible progress in global AI cooperation.

The Summit charts a path towards a future where AI delivers transformative impact that serves humanity, advances inclusive growth, fosters social development, and promotes people-centric innovations that protect our planet.

THE THREE SUTRAS

The India - AI Impact Summit will be anchored on three foundational principles, known as '*Sutras*'—a Sanskrit term meaning guiding principles or essential threads that weave together wisdom and action. These three *Sutras* define how AI can be harnessed through multilateral cooperation for collective benefit:

◆ PEOPLE :

The people *sutra* embodies the fundamental principle that AI must serve humanity in all its diversity, respecting cultural identities, preserving human dignity, and ensuring that no one is left behind in the AI revolution. This *sutra* aims to ensure that AI development prioritizes human-centered outcomes across three fundamental dimensions: fostering human development in an AI-enabled world; advancing inclusivity through multilingual, gender-equitable, accessible, and culturally contextualized AI systems; and establishing robust frameworks for safe and trusted AI deployment. This *sutra* is grounded in the principle that AI must serve diverse human needs while upholding the highest standards of safety, trust, and inclusive participation.

◆ PLANET :

The planet *sutra* is grounded in the dual imperative of making AI development and deployment more resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable, while at the same time leveraging AI capabilities to accelerate climate resilience, environmental protection, and breakthrough scientific discoveries. It recognizes that AI is expanding the frontiers of how we interpret, interact with, and ultimately influence the biological systems that sustain humanity. This *Sutra* embodies the principle that technological advancement must align with planetary stewardship, ensuring that AI contributes to rather than compromises global sustainability goals.

- ◆ **PROGRESS :** The progress *sutra* focuses on ensuring that the benefits of AI are equitably distributed, closely aligned with global development priorities, and strategically leveraged to enhance economic productivity and inclusive growth. It seeks to bridge the digital and AI divide by democratizing access to critical AI resources, such as datasets, computational infrastructure, and advanced models. This *sutra* also emphasizes the application of AI to accelerate socio-economic development across key sectors, including healthcare, education, governance, and agriculture.

These three *Sutras*: People, Planet, and Progress, will permeate the deliberations and activities in the run-up to the Summit through seven focused themes, termed '*Chakras*'—centers of focused energy and action in the Sanskrit tradition. Each *Chakra* represents a specific domain of multilateral cooperation that channels collective efforts toward tangible outcomes and deliverables, ensuring that the global AI agenda moves decisively from aspiration to impact.

THE SEVEN CHAKRAS

Building upon the three foundational *Sutras*, the deliberations at the AI Impact Summit will be organized around seven interconnected *Chakras*, areas of multilateral cooperation designed to channel collective energy toward holistic societal transformation. These Seven *Chakras* represent focused domains of international collaboration that translate the broader principles of People, Planet, and Progress into concrete areas of action:

- ◆ Human Capital
- ◆ Inclusion
- ◆ Safe and Trusted AI
- ◆ Resilience
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Democratizing AI Resources
- ◆ Social good

Each *Chakra* represents a distinct yet interconnected sphere of multilateral engagement through which the transformative potential of AI can be harnessed to deliver tangible benefits aligned with the three *Sutras*. Together, they offer a comprehensive framework that enables countries, international organizations, and stakeholders to coordinate AI deployment strategies that enable the maximization of collective benefits while still addressing shared challenges.

◆ Human Capital

Impact of AI on Employment, Skilling & Workforce transformation

The use of AI across industries is fundamentally reshaping the global employment landscape, creating both unprecedented opportunities and significant disruptions to traditional work patterns. While AI has the potential to augment human capabilities, enhance productivity, and create new categories of employment, its rapid deployment has raised concerns about job displacement, skills obsolescence, and widening inequalities between those who can adapt to AI-enabled work environments and those who cannot. The challenge is particularly acute in developing economies, that lack access to the skilling/reskilling infrastructure needed for workforce transition.

Current approaches to managing AI's impact on work remain fragmented, with limited coordination between stakeholders and insufficient focus on ensuring equitable access to future skills development. The absence of comprehensive frameworks for workforce transition, coupled with inadequate investment in AI literacy and technical education, threatens to exacerbate existing socio-economic disparities and leave entire communities behind in the AI transformation.

The *Human Capital Chakra* envisages addressing these challenges by developing global frameworks/mechanisms/platforms for equitable AI literacy and skills development, enabling workforce transition, and establishing mechanisms that ensure the benefits of AI-driven productivity gains are shared broadly across society. This *chakra* is anchored in the principle that technological advancement must enhance rather than undermine human potential, ensuring that AI becomes a tool for inclusive economic growth and social mobility rather than a source of division and displacement.

◆ Inclusion

Inclusive, Culturally Grounded, and Accessible AI

The current AI development landscape is characterized by a profound concentration of capabilities among a few dominant actors, resulting in AI systems that primarily reflect the languages, cultures, and contexts of the regions in which they are being built. This excludes the linguistic diversity, cultural knowledge systems, and contextual needs of billions of people worldwide. Indigenous languages remain largely absent from AI capabilities, gender biases are embedded in AI systems due to a lack of diverse datasets, and communities whose cultures are not reflected face barriers to meaningful participation in the digital economy and risk the marginalization or loss of their traditional knowledge systems.

As with all transformative technologies, the deployment of AI risks exacerbating existing inequalities and perpetuating new forms of exclusion. Yet when developed and deployed thoughtfully, AI offers unprecedented opportunities to ensure that those currently excluded and overlooked are offered equal access to its transformative benefits.

The *Inclusion Chakra* addresses these challenges by fostering the development and deployment of AI systems that are inclusive by design, locally relevant, culturally respectful, and reflective of diverse

knowledge systems. This *chakra* focuses on the design, development, and deployment of AI systems that actively account for and accommodate the diverse needs, identities, and experiences of all users, ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities, cultural and linguistic representation, and meaningful participation in AI development and usage.

This *chakra* aims to ensure the meaningful participation of all individuals and communities, particularly those traditionally left behind, enabling them to actively shape and benefit from AI's transformative opportunities while preserving and celebrating the rich diversity of human experience.

◆ Safe and Trusted AI

Technology-Led Governance for All

As AI systems become key levers for socio-economic transformation, concerns around safety, transparency, and trust have come to the fore and highlight the need for robust, technology-enabled safeguards. While traditional regulatory approaches have focused primarily on policy instruments and compliance mechanisms, there is a growing recognition that effective AI governance requires technology-enabled solutions that can match the sophistication and scale of modern AI systems. Current governance approaches remain fragmented, with limited access to advanced governance tools such as machine unlearning capabilities, privacy-enhancing technologies, algorithmic auditing systems, and automated bias detection mechanisms. This technological governance gap is particularly pronounced in the Global South, where regulatory capacity may be limited along with a lack of access to the technical tools necessary for effective AI oversight.

Critical gaps persist in democratized access to pre-deployment safety testing tools, algorithmic transparency technologies, and automated compliance monitoring systems. This technological divide threatens to create a two-tiered global governance system where effective AI oversight becomes a privilege of technologically advanced regions rather than a universal capability.

Further, the absence of interoperable governance and assurance mechanisms underscores the urgency of collective action to ensure that AI advances are safe, inclusive, and aligned with shared values.

The *Safe and Trusted AI Chakra* addresses these challenges by democratizing access to technology-enabled governance tools and frameworks. Rather than relying solely on regulatory instruments that may stifle innovation, this *chakra* focuses on empowering all nations and stakeholders with the technical capabilities needed to govern AI effectively. This *chakra* ensures that robust AI governance becomes accessible globally, enabling the Global South to participate meaningfully in AI oversight while fostering continued innovation and technological advancement.

◆ Resilience

Sustainable AI for Resource-Efficient Innovation

The development and deployment of AI systems require significant energy resources, posing challenges

for many countries, particularly those facing existing infrastructure constraints. For such countries, the high resource demands associated with training, fine-tuning, and deploying AI models can limit their ability to fully harness the potential of AI. As reliance on AI technologies grows globally, it is equally important to ensure their consistent and dependable availability.

The *Resilience Chakra* seeks to promote innovations that enhance the energy efficiency and sustainability of the entire AI lifecycle, from model development to deployment. This is essential to ensure that all countries, including those with limited resources, can equitably access and benefit from AI-enabled solutions.

◆ Science

AI to Advance Global Science

AI is increasingly demonstrating its potential to advance scientific discovery by accelerating research, enabling complex simulations, and generating new insights across disciplines. However, access to AI tools, infrastructure, and collaborative research opportunities remains uneven across regions and institutions. This disparity contributes to persistent gaps in scientific capacity, funding, and representation, particularly in the Global South.

The *Science Chakra* focuses on expanding avenues for the responsible use of AI to accelerate scientific innovation and discovery. It promotes inclusive collaboration and cooperation within the global scientific community, particularly by strengthening research ecosystems and partnerships in the Global South, enabling AI to be more effectively leveraged to address shared and region-specific challenges. This *chakra* also emphasizes the importance of open, interdisciplinary research, ensuring that AI-driven science contributes meaningfully to global knowledge and sustainable development.

◆ Democratizing Resources

Equitable Access to Foundational AI Resources & Infrastructure

The rapid evolution of AI capabilities has significantly increased the resources required for developing competitive AI systems. Currently, these resources are economically and geographically concentrated in specific AI development centers. This concentration has led to AI solutions that often rely on structurally limited training datasets and a narrow user base for innovation, design, evaluation, and testing. As a result, these AI systems often fail to represent the diverse global social realities, including economic, linguistic, and cultural diversities, as well as regional priorities. Efforts to make these resources more widely available have been insufficient, exacerbating existing inequalities within and between countries. If AI is to benefit the Planet and all its People for the Progress of all, we will need to ensure the democratization of resources critical for its development.

The *Democratizing AI Resources Chakra* addresses these fundamental imbalances by fostering multilateral frameworks for equitable access to the essential building blocks of AI innovation. This *chakra* aims to transform AI development from a privilege of the few into a collaborative endeavour that

harnesses collective intelligence and serves collective needs. By ensuring that all nations have access to the tools necessary for AI innovation, this *chakra* will enable the emergence of diverse AI solutions that reflect the full spectrum of human experience and contribute to truly inclusive technological progress.

◆ Social Good

AI to Advance Development Goals

AI has the potential to advance Development Goals by enhancing service delivery, expanding access, and driving inclusive growth. However, its application in public interest sectors remains limited and uneven, particularly across countries in the Global South. Fragmented solutions, lack of scalable infrastructure, and the absence of shared frameworks hinder the effective and context-sensitive deployment of AI for social good.

The *Social Good Chakra* addresses these challenges by enabling the identification and scaling of AI applications that advance public interest goals across critical sectors. This *chakra* focuses on creating frameworks and platforms that enable successful approaches to be adapted and replicated across different geographies. By establishing mechanisms for knowledge and resource sharing and cross-border collaboration, this *chakra* ensures that AI-driven innovations for social good can be more widely and equitably realized, allowing all countries to benefit from proven development solutions.

THE IMPACT OF AI

The world stands at a pivotal moment. Artificial Intelligence is reshaping societies, economies, and ecosystems at an unprecedented scale, offering transformative potential for inclusive growth and sustainable development. The choice before us is clear: we can allow AI to widen existing divides, or we can work together to ensure it becomes a force for equity and shared prosperity.

Achieving this vision requires global consensus on how AI is developed and applied in ways that serve the Planet, its People, and the Progress of all. This includes rethinking how data is managed, how AI models are designed and deployed, and how these technologies are integrated into our social and economic fabric. The India AI Summit aims to build consensus on all these issues so that AI's Impact is realized equitably by all.

The AI Impact Summit represents more than a gathering of leaders; it embodies a commitment to amplify the positive impact of AI. Through the three foundational *Sutras* and seven focused *Chakras*, the global community will forge concrete pathways that ensure AI serves the Planet, empowers all People, and accelerates Progress for every nation.