AI4India

CSTEP

AI for India Summit 2025

Making Impact in India and Beyond

Event Report

AI for India Summit 2025

28th June, 2025

Infosys Science Foundation,
Bengaluru

Shashi Shekhar Vempati
Co-founder, AI4India and Former CEO, Prasar Bharati

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, the AI for India Summit 2025 was not just an event, it was an ecosystem convening. As someone who has long believed in the transformative potential of technology for public good, I was heartened to see the depth of dialogue and diversity of stakeholders present.

India is uniquely positioned to lead in designing AI solutions that are not only scalable but deeply contextual. The summit's emphasis on aligning AI innovation with national and local priorities, from rural development to governance, was a timely and necessary intervention.

This report is an invitation to continue the work we've begun, to deepen collaboration across sectors, rethink infrastructure and data governance, and shape policies that center citizen well-being in the age of AI.

Alok Agrawal
Co-Founder, AI4India

The AI for India Summit 2025 marks a critical moment in our national journey, where conversations around artificial intelligence have moved beyond potential and into action. As we build a future where AI is inclusive, ethical, and grounded in India's developmental priorities, platforms like this summit become indispensable.

Our vision at AI4India has always been to ensure that the evolution of technology in our country reflects the needs of its people. From agriculture and education to climate action and healthcare, the promise of AI lies not in replacing human agency but in amplifying it.

This report is an invitation to build on the efforts of IndiaAI Mission, to deepen collaboration across sectors, rethink infrastructure and data governance, and shape policies that center citizen well-being in the age of AI in line with the clarion call given by PM Modi.

AI for India Summit 2025
Making Impact in India and Beyond

AI4India, in collaboration with the Centre for Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), hosted the AI for India Summit 2025, with the theme "Making Impact in India and Beyond,". The summit created a platform for actionable collaboration among industry leaders, deep tech startups, academia, civic bodies, and policymakers.

AI4India is on a mission to realise PM Modi's vision to make AI work for all Indians. It is a public-interest initiative working to build India's AI ecosystem through open innovation, ethical research, and collaborative capacity building. Its #DataDaan campaign and national engagements aim to make AI work for every Indian. Building further on the IndiaAI Mission's initiatives, AI4India is creating a collaboration between various stakeholders– researchers and developers, academia, industry, government and civic bodies. AI4India was earlier invited to host a session at the Paris AI Action Summit 2025.

Seeking to address critical issues shaping the Artificial Intelligence ecosystem in India the AI for India Summit 2025 saw a unique convergence of use cases and models with a focus on India and beyond.

The AI for India Summit 2025 focused on the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence, particularly in the Indian context, moving beyond theoretical discussions to practical applications and societal impact.

Sessions showcased AI Applications and startups, importance of data and related services opportunities, developing a market ecosystem, and ways to unlock opportunities. In addition, the Summit provided an opportunity for industry and civic bodies to have engaging conversations with developers and startups.

Key Takeaways from the AI for India Summit 2025:

1. **India-First, Population-Scale AI:** Solutions must be **designed specifically for India's unique context,** focusing on affordability, multilingual support (including local dialects), cultural nuances, and addressing the needs of the masses, particularly those with low digital literacy or residing in rural areas. AI must be **accessible, available, and affordable** for all, including people with disabilities.
2. **Strategic Importance of Foundational Models:** Building **indigenous Large Language Models (LLMs)** for Indian languages is a strategic imperative for **sovereignty**, cultural reflection, and ensuring AI can truly serve specific national needs without external dependencies. Efforts by Sarvam and BharatGen are crucial in this domain.
3. **Bridging the Pilot-to-Production Chasm:** A significant challenge for AI adoption is moving solutions beyond successful pilots to large-scale production. This requires a **problem-first approach**, focusing on data quality, robust testing, legal and ethical guardrails, and managing the dynamic evolution of technology.
4. **The Critical Role of Data and Infrastructure:** High-quality, context-specific data is fundamental for training effective AI models, especially for India's diverse scenarios. The demand for **sovereign, air-gapped, and cost-effective GPU infrastructure** is rising, especially from regulated industries. Innovative approaches to data collection and curation, including leveraging citizen volunteering, are being explored.
5. **Collaborative Ecosystem is Key:** Success in AI diffusion in India hinges on **deep and sustained collaboration** between government, academia, industry, and startups. This includes sharing knowledge, open-sourcing, and providing structured engagement opportunities like incubation centres and joint R&D.
6. **Embracing Co-intelligence:** The future of AI in India lies in the **synergistic integration of human and artificial intelligence**, moving beyond simple collaboration to co-creation and co-evolution. This shift demands that enterprises rethink their entire management systems to embrace variability and foster open ecosystems.

7. **Responsible AI and Trustworthiness are Paramount:** Beyond accuracy, AI systems must embody **explainability, fairness, model privacy, safety, and security.** A "test first approach" to AI development is vital to mitigate biases (including unique Indian social dimensions like caste) and ensure reliable, trustworthy deployments, especially given emerging global regulations.
8. **Transformative Impact on Livelihoods and Sectors:** AI is poised to significantly augment human capabilities, enhance productivity (e.g., in coding), create new models for entrepreneurship (e.g., AI co-founders), and revolutionise sectors like agriculture, education, healthcare, and public services through personalised, efficient, and accessible solutions.
9. **A dedicated body for AI participants in India:** AI development needs a collaborative effort. A need was felt to constitute an industry body comprising of all participants in AI development – Researchers and developers, infrastructure providers, startups, enterprises, civic bodies and governments. The body would create common framework for engagement, identify opportunities, address challenges and suggest policy initiatives to advance AI development in India.
10. **India AI Stack for Public Good:** It was identified that there needs to be a common framework for collaboration among all participants. The India AI Stack for Public Good proposes a comprehensive, modular architecture designed to foster collaboration among researchers, startups, enterprises, government agencies, and educational institutions. This stack aims to provide standardized protocols, interoperable layers, and shared resources to accelerate AI innovation while ensuring ethical, secure, and sovereign development.

Session Overview and Key Highlights:

1. Opening Conversation

This session set the stage by discussing India's position in the AI landscape.

Moderator

Shashi Shekhar Vempati
Co-Founder - AI4India

Speakers

Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan
Professor IIT Bombay

Prof Rishikesha Krishnan
Director IIM Bangalore

- **Paradigm Shift Opportunity:** India has a unique opportunity to lead in AI through co-creation, leveraging its status as a "use case capital" to also become a "generator of technology".
- **R&D Investment:** There's a critical need for increased R&D investment across both industry and academia, as historical challenges in this area must be overcome.
- **AI in Education:** AI has already significantly impacted classrooms, with students using it extensively. The challenge for educational institutions like IIM Bangalore is to integrate AI tools effectively without impeding

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the development of critical thinking and analytical abilities in students. Evaluation and assessment methods also need to evolve to account for AI-generated work, as AI outputs, while well-structured, often lack creativity and out-of-the-box thinking.

- **Indian Languages and Context:** Emphasising the National Education Policy's focus on Indian languages, the importance of building AI models that truly understand and operate within the diverse linguistic and cultural nuances of India was highlighted. This includes capturing phonetic vocabulary and grammatical structures common across Indian languages, rather than solely relying on Western models.

2. Keynote: Mr Manoj Jain, CMD BEL

Manoj Jain
CMD - BEL

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- **Ubiquitous Understanding of AI/ML Basics:** Mr Jain stressed that a basic understanding of AI and Machine Learning (ML) should be mandatory for all engineers in an organization, similar to how C language was essential in the past. This widespread knowledge is crucial for AI's real impact to be felt across all aspects of business operations and for developing tools and solutions for end customers.
- **AI Integration Across Products and Technologies:** The goal is to integrate AI into all products and technologies, such as radars, communication radios, C4I solutions, and sonars, to add extra value for users.
- Comprehensive Training and Recruitment:
- Critical Infrastructure Needs:
- **Challenges with Data Accessibility:** A major hurdle, especially in defence, is the difficulty in obtaining data due to secrecy and extensive approval processes. Without data, training AI models and developing solutions is impossible.
- Collaboration with Startups and Academia:
    - **Incubation Centres:** To overcome data accessibility issues and leverage external expertise, BEL has created AI incubation centres where users (defence forces) and startups can collaborate. These are successfully running for the Army and Navy, with plans for the Air Force.

- **Engagement Pathways:** Startups can engage with BEL through collaborative R&D, the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) initiative, direct engagement at incubation centres, or even via academic incubation centres, which offer more flexibility due to less stringent due diligence requirements.

- User Ownership and Decision Support Systems (DSS):
  - **User Ownership is Key:** Nothing significant can happen in defence until the end-user (e.g., Army, Navy, Air Force) owns the concept. Awareness building started with users, then industry, leading to a robust ecosystem.
  - **Focus on DSS:** While AI is widely used in sensors for data analysis, there is a significant need for more research and development in decision support systems (DSS) that can mimic or replace human expert minds for defence applications and C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence).

3. Panel Discussion: AI in Industry - Going Beyond PoC

This session explored the applications and challenges of scaling AI beyond pilot projects in various industries.

- **High AI Adoption, Low Production:** India shows high AI adoption rates, but many pilot projects fail to reach production (88% globally).
- Industry Applications:
  - **Banking:** Making banking simpler through multilingual conversational AI (net banking, mobile banking), improving operational efficiency, and enhancing fraud detection.

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- **Financial Sector (Account Aggregator):** Focusing on fraud detection and improving language accessibility for consent forms, especially through audio and video, as many Indians can speak but not read certain languages.
- **Manufacturing (Consumer Goods):** Improving manufacturing efficiencies (equipment, predictive maintenance, safety), enhancing supply chain management, using conversational AI for customer service, leveraging generative AI for marketing campaigns, and improving employee engagement.
- **IT Services:** AI is significantly augmenting productivity in coding (40-50% improvement), transforming product management (strategy, validation, roadmap), and disrupting marketing.

- Challenges Beyond PoC:
  - **Data Quality and Readiness:** Enterprises often lack good quality, universal data, with siloed systems impeding AI deployment.
  - **Regulatory and Legal Guardrails:** Organisations are often unprepared for AI-related liabilities, controls, and risks, leading to delays in contract finalisation.
  - **Orchestration and Evolution:** Managing the fast pace of AI technology and orchestrating multiple AI and non-AI technologies is complex, requiring senior management buy-in for a "zigzag" path.
  - **Cost and Sovereignty:** High cost of GPUs for production-scale inferencing is a dilemma. Regulated industries (banking, defense) demand air-gapped, sovereign solutions due to data security concerns, preferring internal hosting over hyperscalers.
  - **Skill Gap:** A significant skill gap exists, with a need for practical AI training and industry engagement for students.
- **Industry Collaboration:** Companies are open to collaboration, offering startup accelerator programs, credits for GPU access, and opportunities to work on real-world problems.

4. Keynote: Mr. Gokul Subramaniam, Intel India President

This keynote focused on the diffusion of AI at a population scale in India.

Gokul Subramaniam
Intel India President

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- **"AI Diffusion":** The concept refers to taking AI "everywhere to everyone," with a focus on population scale and inferencing rather than just frontier models and training.
- solutions for India must align with the country's fabric, prioritising livelihood, cost-effectiveness ("frugal AI"), and practical value (e.g., vehicle mileage over airbags). India can leapfrog by focusing on areas with a lack of technology penetration.

- **Evolution, Not Revolution:** AI is an evolution of decades of work in machine learning, data analytics, NLP, and computer vision, requiring maturity and reliability for population-scale deployment.
- **Key Leapfrog Verticals:** Agriculture, education, and healthcare were identified as prime areas for AI innovation in India, with examples like precision agriculture using drones, direct-to-mobile education, and AI-assisted medical diagnostics.
- **Open Ecosystem and Scalable Solutions:** Building a scalable, sustainable, and cost-sensitive AI ecosystem requires collaboration with startups, ISVs, and ODMs, focusing on open AI software and reducing Total Cost of Ownership.
- **Agentic AI for Engineers:** There's a need to develop engineers who work with "exoskeleton" like AI assistants to enhance productivity in complex fields like semiconductor engineering.
- **Talent Development:** Intel India's efforts include K12 AI programs (reaching over 5 million students) and AI/entrepreneurship initiatives to build future talent.

5. Panel Discussion: AI Diffusion

This panel explored strategies for taking AI to the masses, focusing on edge computing.

Moderator

Shashi Shekhar Vempati
Co-Founder - AI4India

Panelists

Gokul Subramaniam
Intel India President

Parag Naik
CEO - Saankhya Labs

Shashi Kiran
CTO - Wadhwani Foundation

Prof GK Ananthasuresh
Professor - IISc

Dr. Neeta Trivedi
CEO - Inferq, Ex DRDO

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- **AI at the Edge:** A crucial path for India to "leapfrog" global leaders in AI is to focus on innovations at the edge, moving beyond massive cloud-based computing infrastructure. This requires affordable, small hardware and efficient AI operations software.
- **Addressing the "Bottom Two Aspects":** There's an excessive focus on models and applications, but not enough on the underlying AI DevOps layer and hardware/chips, which are critical for innovation and widespread adoption, especially in India.
- **Hardware Ecosystem Challenges:** Scaling AI to mobile phones and laptops requires addressing issues like low laptop penetration, ensuring value to students (e.g., curated content, personalised learning), and supportive policies.
- Application-Specific Challenges:
    - **Drones & Robotics:** Power consumption is a major issue for AI-enabled drones due to heavy batteries needed for video processing, limiting endurance. Edge processing is vital to overcome this. AI can enable cognitive work beyond physical and digital tasks, leading to intuitive and predictive assistance (e.g., elderly care).
    - **Education:** AI can be good for both teachers and students, but their needs are different, requiring tailored content and support systems.
    - **Skilling & Entrepreneurship:** AI can help scale entrepreneurship by acting as an "AI co-founder" for first-time founders. For skilling, AI can provide role-specific training (e.g., effective communication for a software engineer vs. a tourist guide).
- **Feature Phones and Standardization:** A significant portion of India's population still uses feature phones (200-300 million users) with limited capabilities (2G, no touchscreen). Delivering AI benefits to this segment requires extremely frugal architectures (hardware costing 20-30 rupees), voice/gesture interfaces, and potentially a new business model (e.g., 5-10 rupees/month for skilling). Standardisation of AI inference on diverse mobile hardware is crucial for confident solution delivery.

6. Keynote: Mr. Munish Moudgil, IAS

The keynote from a government perspective highlighted the unique challenges and opportunities in public sector AI adoption.

Munish Moudgil
IAS, Govt of Karnataka

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- **Government as Low-Hanging Fruit (with challenges):** Despite the immense potential of AI in governance, internal structures and "red tape" make technology adoption extremely difficult.
- **Relationship over Product:** For the private sector, the key to successful engagement with government is building long-term relationships (10-20 years) and working "from within" rather than just selling products or services.
- **Data Paranoia and Trust:** Government entities are often paranoid about sharing data due to security concerns and potential legal repercussions, making internal collaboration or working within government premises a more comfortable option.
- **Immense Scale and Impact:** Even rudimentary AI applications within government can impact millions, offering significant satisfaction and scale for those who successfully navigate the challenges.

7. Keynote: Dr. Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar, Samarthanam Foundation

This keynote passionately advocated for inclusive AI, particularly for people with disabilities.

Dr. Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar
CEO Samarthanam Foundation

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- AI for Inclusive Development: AI has a crucial role in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.
- **Accessibility, Availability, and Affordability:** The call to action for developers and innovators is to create AI devices and solutions that are accessible (universally designed), available, and affordable. Current specialized devices (e.g., talking thermometers) are significantly more expensive, creating a barrier for marginalised populations.
- **Retrofitting vs. Inclusive Design:** It was stressed that designing inclusively from the outset is far more cost-effective than retrofitting accessibility features later.
- **Long Way to Go:** Despite potential, less than 4% of AI content is currently accessible to blind individuals, highlighting a significant "discrimination" and unmet need.

8. Panel Discussion: AI for Citizens

This session explored how AI can be meaningfully applied to improve citizens' lives, considering societal implications.

Speakers

Moderator

Dr. Jai Asundi
Executive Director - CSTEP

Manish Srivastava
CTO - eGov Foundation

Jagadish Babu
COO Ekstep Foundation

Dr. Ramanand
Director - CPRG

Shekar Sivasubramanian
CEO - WadhwaniAI

Dr. Sarayu Natarajan
Founder - Aapti Institute

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- **Critical Standpoint on AI:** It's essential to critically assess how AI can be better applied for citizens, addressing questions of inclusion, access, and governance.
- **Beyond Technology:** Many societal problems (e.g., traffic) are not solely technology problems but also policy and institutional issues.
- **Understanding the Problem First:** Solutions must start by deeply understanding the citizen's problem, not just applying technology for technology's sake.
- **Scaling Solutions:** Working with trusted government partners to drive exemplar projects at scale, making solutions open-source, and influencing policy changes are key to widespread adoption.
- **Labour in AI Making:** Discussions often overlook the labour involved in AI development, such as data annotation and labelling, highlighting questions of scaling and fairness in AI creation.
- **Impact on Society:** Research is needed to understand the broader impact of AI on society and how citizens will react to and interact with these technologies.
- **Long-Term Commitment & Alignment:** Engaging in this space requires a long-term view (10-15 years), perseverance through failures, and an ideological alignment to serve and care for people.
- **Multidisciplinary Approach:** AI development for citizens benefits from collaboration across various subjects and industries, not just technology experts.

- **"Problem First, People First":** AI is a "door subservient" technology; the focus must always be on people and solving their problems.

9. Fireside Chat: Co-Intelligence Revolution

This foundational discussion introduced the concept of co-intelligence and its implication

Moderator

Dr. Jai Asundi
Executive Director - CSTEP

Speakers

Krishnan Narayanan
Co-Founder and President
-Itihaasa Research & Digital

Prof Venkat Ramaswamy
Ross School of Business,
University of Michigan

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From Co-creation to Co-intelligence: The concept of "co-intelligence" was presented as bringing intelligence together not just between humans, but also between humans and machines (AI), evolving from earlier ideas of cooperation, collaboration, and co-creation. This fundamentally transforms how value gets created, making co-creation more viable and elevating human ingenuity.

- **"Life x Verse":** This concept describes a "sigma of life experiences across different physical and digital environments". AI systems can understand natural language, fulfilling diverse needs from a farmer's government scheme queries to factory workers' problem-solving, by learning and adapting to individual contexts.
- **AI Learning and Co-evolution:** AI systems, like L'Oréal Perso, can learn from user interactions and feedback (e.g., skin type, product preferences), continuously adjusting to provide highly personalised experiences. This involves "machine teaching," where humans teach the AI their values and preferences, leading to a co-evolution of human and AI intelligence.
- **Enterprise Transformation:** The adoption of co-intelligence necessitates a complete reimagining of enterprise management systems, moving from a focus on reducing variability (as in industrial value chains) to embracing variability to create personalised experiences. Companies must

become “living systems” that operate within an experience ecosystem, fostering collaboration with diverse partners and leveraging software capabilities.

- **New Risks in Open Systems:** Moving to an open-loop, experience-driven system introduces new risks, such as disinformation warfare or supply chain vulnerabilities, which require reimagined management and governance approaches.

10. Startup Showcase (LatLong, Paralaxiom, Pienomial, AI Ensured, Ask Junior)

This session presented practical AI solutions from various startups.

- **LatLong (Geospatial Intelligence):** Leverages location as fundamental, offering affordable and 2x to 4x more accurate location APIs than Google Maps across 51 countries. Their “Anuga” app facilitates complex data capture for field operations. They used AI early for standardising place names and geocoded 200 million voters for hyperlocal marketing, demonstrating significant impact on election vote share. They are building an AI-based platform using LLMs to intuitively answer location-related queries (e.g., land prices, demographics, voting patterns).
- **Paralaxiom (Vision AI for Safety):** Focuses on prevention in industrial and public safety using

live CCTV monitoring AI agents. The system detects near misses and sends automated notifications, having reduced safety violations by 90% in some cases. They've collected over 10-15 terabytes of context-specific data (e.g., factory safety gear) and monitor over 10,000 cameras globally. They also collect Indian-context street data (e.g., Dhotis, Burkas, Auto rickshaws) for public safety applications.

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- **Pienomial (Enterprise Intelligence):** Advocates for "small is beautiful" AI, prioritising "signal over scale" and "talent over compute" for India. They address the high failure rate of AI pilots by focusing on traceability, consistency, accuracy, and security. Their "Satyaki AI" uses a knowledge graph combining data with tiny, specialised AI models (e.g., 3.8 million parameters, 1.7GB memory consumption, target 200MB) trained on minimal data (e.g., 400 data points). This proprietary approach provides extremely low compute and high accuracy for pharmaceutical clients in drug trials and market approval.
- **AskJunior (AI for Legal Ecosystem):** Aims to make "justice not just for lawyers" by building AI tools for the entire legal ecosystem, including citizens. They work with high courts and NGOs, deploying systems that help citizens generate RTA requests or legal notices. They employ a "lawyer in a loop" concept, validating AI-generated legal workflows. To foster adoption and trust, they have open-sourced 17 legal workflows and anonymised data with an open evaluation framework. The system handles challenges of legal documents, including multilingual scanned and noisy files, and aims to build an infrastructure layer for the justice system.
- **AI Ensured (Trust Layer for AI Models):** Addresses the trustworthiness of AI systems, functioning as the "glue between pilot to production AI". They focus on preventing "concept drift or decay" and "AI with thorns" (incomplete, opaque, biased, insecure). They advocate for responsible AI beyond mere accuracy, covering explainability, fairness, model privacy, safety, and security. A-Studio offers a coverage-driven AI testing tool for these dimensions, helping clients improve models by providing ethical hack vectors and augmented corner-case scenarios for retraining. They test LLMs for prompt injection attacks and biases, noting the lack of Indian social dimensions of discrimination (e.g., caste) in global datasets. The goal is to foster a "test first approach" to AI to improve the ecosystem and meet regulatory demands (e.g., EU AI Act).

11. Sarvam Showcase

This session provided a dedicated showcase of Sarvam's contributions to India's foundational AI models.

- **India-First Generative AI:** Sarvam focuses on building foundational AI models for India, recognising their fundamental impact on every citizen and business process.
- **Key Principles:** Building for India means focusing on voice, cost-effectiveness, and language diversity. They adopt a vertical approach, working at both the foundational model layer and the application layer to solve India-specific problems.
- **Sarvam LLM:** Launched as the first LLM trained for Indian languages (2 billion parameters, 4-5 trillion tokens), it was superior to comparable models globally.
- **Conversational AI Agents:** Leveraging their models, Sarvam built conversational agents fluent in 11 Indian languages, accessible over phone and WhatsApp, reaching 45 million people in 10 days, a scale previously unattainable by human agents.

- **Sarvam Model:** An open-source, 24 billion parameter hybrid model (open weights) that demonstrates best-in-class performance globally on benchmarks like reasoning, math, and programming, while also excelling in Indian languages.
- **Multimodal Development:** Sarvam is building a large, multimodal model (audio, text, image) trained from scratch in India, aiming for state-of-the-art performance.
- **Speech and Dubbing Capabilities:** High-quality speech recognition models (transcribing Indian languages into English) and no-touch dubbing into multiple Indian languages are key for diverse content consumption.
- **Ecosystem Enablement:** Sarvam actively participates in hackathons and provides APIs for others to build applications using their models, fostering a collaborative ecosystem.
- **Affordability for Scale:** Models of Sarvam's size can run efficiently on a single GPU and offer incredibly low costs (e.g., ₹2 per lakh tokens), making AI accessible for mass education.
- **Sovereignty and Diversity of Approaches:** The existence of multiple efforts (like Sarvam and BharatGen) in building foundational models is seen as beneficial, fostering competition and catering to diverse market needs and objectives, including strategic sovereignty.

Team Sarvam

Vivek Raghavan
Co-Founder - Sarvam

sarvam.ai

12. BharatGen Showcase

This session provided a dedicated showcase of BharatGen's foundational AI models and ecosystem approach.

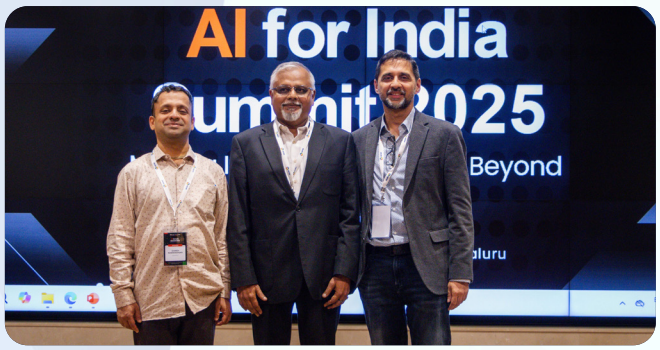
- **Unique Structure and Funding:** BharatGen is a non-profit AI startup, 100% government-funded, and a Section 8 company housed within IIT Bombay, with seven academic consortium partners. This setup aims to combine deep research with high-scale engineering.
- **Why an Indic LLM?** The necessity stems from **sovereignty** (ensuring access regardless of global geopolitical factors, knowing what's in the models for sensitive applications), **language, culture, and perspective** (reflecting Indian perspectives in learning and problem-solving), and **serving underserved sectors** (e.g., agriculture, fisheries) without waiting for global solutions.
- **Rapid Progress and Modality Focus:** In just over eight months, BharatGen has built its own **text models from scratch** (not fine-tuned Llama), text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and vision models (specifically for document understanding in India's digitising economy).

Team BharatGen

Rishi Bal
Head - BharatGen

Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan
Professor IIT Bombay

- **Speech as a Powerful Enabler:** Given low functional literacy in a vast majority of India, speech is a critical enabler for creating access to information and services.
- **Beyond Models – The Full Stack:** Building foundational models is not enough; the entire stack from models to applications requires efficient fine-tuning (for smaller, affordable models), robust frameworks (multi-turn, memory, retrieval-augmented generation), and high-scale engineering for data generation (tens of trillions of words).
- **Ecosystem Growth:** BharatGen actively contributes to the larger AI ecosystem through upskilling programs (workshops, trainings, hackathons) and open publishing of their learnings.
- **Research-Driven Innovation:** The strong academic partnership enables original research tailored to Indian languages and contexts, rather than just copying existing models. This includes leveraging "linguistic solidarity" across Indian languages and pursuing data/compute efficient ML.
- **Practical Applications and Collaboration:** They've showcased downstream applications in partnership with government organisations (e.g., Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Indian Army) and industry (IBM, Zoho, Nvidia), demonstrating how R&D translates into winning bids and real-world impact.



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Panel Discussion: AI Diffusion
Panelists
Moderator


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Panel Discussion: AI for Citizens
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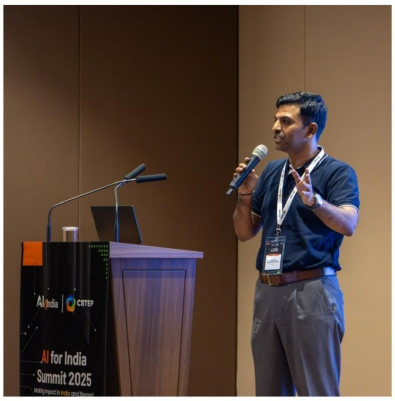
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Summit 2025


Dr. Jai Asundi
Executive Director - CSTEP


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SPEAKERS

Dr Jai Asundi

Dr Jai Asundi is Executive Director at CSTEP, where he has led research on climate, energy, AI, and urban systems since 2009. He played a key role in establishing the Centre for Air Pollution Studies and spearheading AI for Social Impact at CSTEP. His expertise lies in decision support systems for public policy. He holds a PhD from Carnegie Mellon University and is an adjunct faculty member there.

Prof. Rishikesha Krishnan

Prof. Rishikesha Krishnan is Director of IIM Bangalore and a noted expert in innovation and strategy. Previously Director at IIM Indore, he has authored award-winning books on innovation in India. He serves on multiple corporate boards and national committees. He studied at IIT Kanpur, Stanford, and IIM Ahmedabad and has been featured in Thinkers50 India.

Shri Manoj Jain

Shri Manoj Jain is Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). With over 30 years in defence R&D, he has contributed to key developments in radar systems, avionics, and network security. A gold medalist from REC Jaipur (MNIT), he has received multiple national innovation and defence awards for his work.

Sunil Gupta

Sunil Gupta is Co-founder, Managing Director, and Chief Executive Officer of Yotta Data Services. Known as India's 'Data Centre Man', he has led transformational digital infrastructure projects across the country. His groundbreaking contributions have earned him a place in Data Economy's APAC 50 list, recognising him as one of the Global 100 most influential personalities shaping the future of global data centres, cloud markets, and AI technologies. He is an alumnus of Columbia University and NIT Kurukshetra.

Gokul V Subramaniam

Gokul Subramaniam is Intel India President and VP of Intel's Client Computing Group. He oversees Intel's India engineering operations and leads global platform and system innovations. Gokul drives reference design strategy and system technology innovations focused on new form factors and experiences for personal computing. He is a pioneer in sustainable computing and device lifecycle management. Gokul received his master's degree in computer science and engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington. He completed the Executive Program in General Management from MIT Sloan School of Management.

Dr Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar

Dr Mahantesh is Founder of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled. A social change agent, disability leader, and role model, he has positively impacted the lives of thousands of people with disabilities. He has travelled extensively worldwide to raise funds for his numerous projects, speaking at events ranging from the World Blind Union conference in Geneva to World Blind Cricket Council meetings in Cape Town, UAE, and London. Dr Mahantesh and his team successfully organised the inaugural T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind in 2012. His accolades include the Aryabhatta International Award in 2009 and National Awards from the President of India for Child Welfare in 2010 and 2014. Despite challenges posed by his visual impairment, he has achieved significant academic milestones, including an MA and MPhil in English Literature.

Parag Naik

Parag Naik is Chief Executive Officer andCo-founder of Saankhya Labs, India's first private fabless semiconductor company. He holds over 50 international patents and is globally recognised as one of the foremost experts on Software Defined Radios (SDR) and Cognitive Radios, with a particular focus on their application in 5G telecom infrastructure and broadcasting. Parag has received several honours, including the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Telecom Innovation Award, the Techno Visionary Award, and recognition among Economic Times' 50 Promising Entrepreneurs. Parag holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering from Karnatak University, India.

Manish Srivastava

Manish Srivastava is the Chief Technology Officer at eGov Foundation, leading the DIGIT open-source platform for digital governance across 1,000+ Indian cities. He also co-leads an AI Centre of Excellence at IIT Kanpur, focused on developing AI-driven solutions to enhance climate resilience, promote sustainable urban development, and improve the efficiency of public service delivery in Indian cities. An IIT-BHU alumnus, he previously held leadership roles at Infosys Labs and LitmusWorld.

Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan

Prof. Ganesh Ramakrishnan is Bank of Baroda Chair Professor in Digital Entrepreneurship at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay. He leads BharatGen's large language model efforts. A leader in data-efficient AI and public-good technologies, he holds multiple awards for his research, including the National Gold Award for eGovernance (Gold Award) in 2022, the Dr P K Patwardhan Award for Technology Development 2020, and IIT Bombay Impactful Research Awards. He earned both his BTech and PhD from IIT Bombay.

Dr Neeta Trivedi

Dr Neeta Trivedi is Founder of Inferigence Quotient and Former Scientist 'G', DRDO. She has 35 years of experience in defence and aerospace. She worked on Computerised Land Wargames for the Indian Army, which extensively relied on geospatial technologies. Post that, she led the Cockpit Display Software team for Indian LCA Tejas and then Payload Data Processing team for UAVs, where she worked on Advanced Navigation and ISTAR technologies. Neeta is a recipient of many awards and recognitions, including the DRDO Technology Award, the INAE Young Engineer Award, the DRDO Young Scientist Award, the ADE Young Scientist Award, and the Woman of Excellence Award from Indian Achievers' Forum.

Shashi Shekhar Vempati

Shashi Shekhar Vempati is Co-founder of the DeepTech for Bharat Foundation, which runs the 'AI4India' initiative. A former Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati, he also serves as the Chairperson of the Apex Advisory Committee for Science & Technology Communication at the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and is Chairperson of Experts Committee of the University Grants Commission on Educational Media. He advises global media organisations, startups, public institutions, and the Government of India on technology, media, and public policy. An IIT Bombay alumnus, he has been instrumental in shaping India's digital public infrastructure and policy discourse.

Alok Agrawal

Alok Agrawal is Co-founder of AI4India and Managing Partner at The Growth Labs, bringing over 34 years of experience in branding, strategy, innovation, and media. He has held leadership roles at Prasar Bharati, Network18, Zee Media, and Cheil Worldwide. At AI4India, he drives collaborative efforts to make AI accessible to all Indians. Through The Growth Labs, he helps corporates scale innovation via partnerships and technology adoption. Alok advises leading firms and mentors startups at IIT Delhi, IIM Bangalore, IIM Kozhikode, and MARG-Startup India. He is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur, IIM Bangalore, and The Wharton School.

Prof. Venkat Ramaswamy

Venkat Ramaswamy is a globally recognised innovation expert and Professor of Marketing at the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan. He is a globally recognised thought leader, idea practitioner, and eclectic scholar with wide-ranging interests in innovation, strategy, marketing, branding, IT, operations, and the human side of the organisation. Venkat's award-winning book in 2004, The Future of Competition, co-authored with the late C K Prahalad, introduced co-creation as a revolutionary concept. He is the co-author of The Co-Intelligence Revolution: How Humans and AI Co-Create New Value.

Krishnan Narayanan

Krishnan Narayanan is the Co-founder and President of itihaasa Research and Digital, where he studies emerging technologies and innovations. Previously, he was a member of the Infosys Labs Management Council. He is an award-winning author of Against All Odds: The IT Story of India. He is the co-author of The Co-Intelligence Revolution: How Humans and AI Co-Create New Value. Krishnan serves as the founding board member of AquaMAP Water Centre, advisor to the Global Learning Council, and teaches and researches at IIT Madras and its Centre for Responsible AI. Krishnan holds degrees from IIT Madras and XLRI Jamshedpur.

Dr Ramanand

Dr Ramanand is the Founder-Director of the Center of Policy Research and Governance. A public policy expert with nearly a decade of experience, he has contributed extensively to policy design, stakeholder consultation, implementation, and analysis. His research spans a wide range of domains, including education, tech policy, social policy, economy, employment, and public diplomacy. He has previously served as an advisor to the Union Ministry of Education for the design and implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Dr Ramanand has authored numerous research papers and regularly shares his insights through leading national media platforms.

Shekar Sivasubramanian

Shekar Sivasubramanian heads Wadhwani AI and has close to 40 years of experience managing large, complex organisations in the technology and business sectors. He drives large-scale AI deployments in health, agriculture, and education to benefit the underserved. His current mission is to bring AI to a billion people and beyond. Shekar holds a bachelor's degree from IIT Bombay and an MBA from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. He has a long-standing research association with Carnegie Mellon University in information retrieval and language technologies.

Dr Sarayu Natarajan

Dr Sarayu Natarajan is the Founder of Aapti Institute. Aapti works on equity and justice for individuals and communities, at the intersection of technology and society in India. Sarayu's research and practice have focused on digital infrastructure, citizenship, and inclusion and governance of technologies. In the past, she used to co-host a podcast on the idea of the Indian republic. She has a PhD in political science from King's College London, a master's degree in public policy from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and an arts and law degree from the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

Dr Srinivas Padmanabhuni

Dr Srinivas Padmanabhuni is the Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of AIEnsured, an AI assurance product company. He is recognised as an Eminent Engineer by the Institution of Engineers. He has decades of experience in research and innovation in the areas of AI, software engineering, and cybersecurity. He has a PhD in AI from the University of Alberta, Canada, an MTech in computer science from IIT Bombay, and a BTech in computer science from IIT Kanpur. He was the Associate Vice President and Head of Research at Infosys Labs. He has a book, several research publications, and patents to his credit.

Shashi Kiran

Shashi Kiran is the Chief Technology Officer of Wadhwani Foundation. He has over 25 years of experience in building large-scale technical solutions across EdTech, EV, telecom, banking, and media sectors. As a former entrepreneur and CTO, Shashi has scaled startups to funding and acquisition. He is passionate about using AI in education and skilling. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Mysore University and a Diploma in Business Administration from ICFAI.

B G Mahesh

B G Mahesh is Chief Executive Officer of Sahamati and founder of OneIndia.com. A pioneer of Indian language internet content, he now champions financial inclusion through public digital infrastructure. His work bridges technology, policy, and community empowerment. His leadership is characterised by humility, compassion, and a genuine concern for the well-being of others. He fosters an environment of collaboration and nurtures talent, inspiring those around him to reach new heights of excellence. He holds an MS in Computer Science from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Rishi Bal

Rishi Bal leads BharatGen's multimodal LLM. An entrepreneurial leader with a proven track record, Rishi has driven the creation of industry-leading products and scaled teams across AI, SaaS, and related domains, contributing to over a billion dollars in revenue. His extensive experience spans startups, Google Research, and Microsoft, where he consistently delivered successful outcomes through innovative products, strategic partnerships and organizational development. He completed his BE from Savitribai Phule Pune University and MS from Carnegie Mellon University.

Kshitij Sharma

Kshitij Sharma is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Paralaxiom. He is a seasoned engineer with two decades of rich experience in software development, deep learning, analytics, computer vision, cloud computing, and enterprise software areas. He has several years of experience in building and leading engineering teams and programmes, creating and implementing processes and developing an overall strategy for software engineering for large multinationals like Cisco Systems, Microsoft and Aruba Networks. Prior to Paralaxiom, Kshitij has also served as the Chief Technology Officer for two deep tech startups, solving complex problems in the domain of machine vision. Kshitij completed his BTech in Electrical Engineering from IIT Bombay.

Omkar Patil

Omkar Patil drives technological strategy at Pienomial, where computational intelligence meets biological discovery. A seasoned inventor with 7+ patents and an extensive research portfolio, he architects generative AI systems and large concept model frameworks that reshape healthcare problem-solving. His expertise transforms intricate scientific challenges into practical breakthroughs. He completed his BE from Shivaji University and MTech from IIT Delhi.

Renu Gupta

Renu Gupta is a seasoned commercial litigator and arbitration lawyer with more than 18 years of experience. She is a Co-Founding Partner of Olive Law, a boutique disputes firm. She is the Co-Founder of a legal tech company, Ask Junior, which builds AI solutions that integrate into the workflow of court-going lawyers, the judiciary, and policy think tanks, aiming to increase access to justice. Renu completed her 5-year integrated degree in Social Sciences and Law from Symbiosis Law School, Symbiosis International University, Pune, and her Master of Laws in International Business Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom.

Puranika Narayana Bhatta

Puranika Narayana Bhatta is the Chief Executive Officer of Latlong.ai, a SaaS location intelligence platform helping customers leverage the power of spatial data. Latlong's location intelligence software stack helps businesses become more effective across business processes. Bhatta is an investor in technology startups and is on the Board of Directors of Sportytrip Experiences. He has been a strategy and technology consultant for two decades and has worked extensively in the US and UK. He brings diverse experience across consulting, marketing, finance, client engagement, and software implementation. He completed his BTech in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Bombay and MBA in Finance and Systems from IIM Calcutta.

Dr Vivek Raghavan

Dr Vivek Raghavan is an entrepreneur, technologist, and creator of Digital Public Goods (DPG). He is the Co-Founder of Sarvam AI, which focuses on developing full-stack Generative AI solutions for India. As Chief AI Evangelist at the EkStep foundation, he was an advisor to Digital India Bhashini (National Language Translation Mission), which aims to make available all services and information to citizens in their local language. He was also Chief Mentor for the Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat, IIT Madras. Vivek was the Chief Product Manager and Biometric Architect at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). He was a member of the AI committee of the Supreme Court of India, where he was responsible for the rollout of Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS) for translating judgements and orders into Indian languages. He has an MS and PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and a BTech from IIT Delhi.

Prasad Hebbar

Prasad Hebbar is Senior Executive Vice President at HDFC Bank and leads multiple digital and AI programmes. He was the Co Founder and Chief Technology Officer of ReCast Technologies and Vice President, Business Analytics and Research, of Fidelity Investments. He has nearly 30 years of experience in Technology and Analytics across large financial services firms and startups. He is a graduate from IIT Bombay and has completed his MBA from XLRI Jamshedpur.


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