

AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026 CONCLUDES WITH ADOPTION OF NEW DELHI DECLARATION

The AI Impact Summit 2026, held in New Delhi on 18-19 February, 2026 concluded with the adoption of the **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact**, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation on artificial intelligence.

The Declaration has been **endorsed by 89 countries and international organisations**, reflecting a broad-based global consensus on leveraging AI for economic growth and social good.

A Shared Global Vision for AI

Guided by the principle of “*Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya*” (Welfare for all, Happiness for all), the Declaration underscores that the benefits of AI must be **equitably shared across humanity**.

It emphasizes:

- Strengthening international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement
- Respecting national sovereignty
- Advancing AI through accessible, and trustworthy frameworks

Seven Pillars (Chakras) of Action

The Declaration is structured around **seven key pillars**, forming the foundation of global AI cooperation:

1. Democratizing AI Resources
2. Economic Growth & Social Good
3. Secure & Trusted AI
4. AI for Science
5. Access for Social Empowerment
6. Human Capital Development
7. Resilient, Efficient & Innovative AI Systems

Major Global Deliverables Announced

The Summit delivered a series of **voluntary, collaborative global initiatives**, including:

1. *Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI*
 - Promotes **affordable access to foundational AI resources**
 - Supports **locally relevant innovation ecosystems**
2. *Global AI Impact Commons*
 - Platform to **scale and replicate AI use cases globally**
 - Enables cross-country collaboration for **development impact**

3. *Trusted AI Commons*
 - Repository of **tools, benchmarks, and best practices**
 - Supports development of **secure and trustworthy AI systems**
4. *International Network of AI for Science Institutions*
 - Facilitates **global scientific collaboration**
 - Enhances **AI-driven research capabilities**
5. *AI for Social Empowerment Platform*
 - Enables **knowledge exchange and scalable solutions**
 - Focuses on equitable AI adoption
6. *AI Workforce Development Playbook & Reskilling Principles*
 - Supports **AI skilling, reskilling, and literacy**
 - Prepares nations for an **AI-driven economy**
7. *Guiding Principles on Resilient & Efficient AI*
 - Focus on **energy-efficient AI systems**
 - Supported by a **Playbook on AI Infrastructure Resilience**

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MORE COUNTRIES JOIN THE NEW DELHI DECLARATION ON AI IMPACT

The AI Impact Summit 2026, held in New Delhi on 18-19 February, concluded with the adoption of the **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact**, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation on artificial intelligence.

As on 21 February, 2026, 88 countries and international organisations had endorsed this declaration. Since then, 3 more countries - Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Guatemala have joined the declaration, taking the total number of signatories to 91 countries and organisations.

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M.A.N.A.V. : PM's HUMAN-CENTRIC AI ODYSSEY

At the India AI Impact Summit 2026, India brought together technology leaders and policymakers across the globe to deliberate on the future of artificial intelligence. At Bharat Mandapam, the discussions reflected a shared aspiration, to shape AI in a manner that places humanity at its core. The India AI Impact Summit was held in New Delhi from February 16-20, 2026.

During his inaugural address at the India AI Impact Summit on February 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined a nuanced approach to AI not as an autonomous force driven solely by data and algorithms, but as an extension of human aspirations, ethics, and dignity. He encapsulated this human-centric vision in the acronym **M.A.N.A.V.**, presenting a roadmap where technological advancement progresses in harmony with societal values: **Moral and Ethical Systems, Accountable Governance, National Sovereignty, Accessible and Inclusive AI, and Valid and Legitimate Systems.**

India's M.A.N.A.V. vision reflects an ongoing national commitment to building a strong foundation through coordinated programmes and policy initiatives. These measures translate guiding principles into actionable outcomes across education, digital infrastructure, governance, and innovation ecosystems. Anchored in inclusivity, security, and public good, they ensure that India's AI strategy remains both forward-looking and socially responsible. Together, they underscore that the vision is backed by concrete action and sustained institutional commitment.

The first pillar of the MANAV vision underscores that AI must be rooted in strong **Moral and Ethical system.**

The National Education Policy 2020 prioritises digital and AI literacy, integrating computational thinking and AI concepts across educational levels.

Ethics also found powerful public expression at the Summit, where India set a global benchmark in responsible AI engagement by securing a **Guinness World Records** title for the highest number of pledges received for an AI responsibility campaign within 24 hours. An extraordinary 250,946 pledges transformed ethical AI from a policy principle into a collective national commitment.

The second pillar of MANAV vision, **Accountable Governance**, transparent rules and robust oversight, reinforces that trust in AI must be anchored in transparency, robust oversight, and clear institutional responsibility.

At the heart of this vision is the **IndiaAI Mission**, approved with an outlay exceeding ₹10,300 crore. This not only strengthens compute, data, skilling, and innovation capacity, but also embeds governance mechanisms into the AI ecosystem from the outset.

National Sovereignty forms the third pillar of the MANAV vision. The Prime Minister asserted that in an AI-driven world, sovereignty extends beyond territorial boundaries to encompass data, algorithms, and digital infrastructure.

The fourth pillar of MANAV is **Accessible and Inclusive AI**. It affirms that artificial intelligence must serve as a multiplier for society, not a monopoly of a privileged few.

India's **Digital Public Infrastructure** is enabling AI solutions to scale rapidly and affordably across healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance. Platforms such as **MeghRaj GI Cloud** and the **IndiaAI Compute Portal** are democratising access to shared computing

resources including Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) and Tensor Processing Units (TPUs) significantly lowering entry barriers for startups, researchers, and institutions.

The fifth pillar of MANAV places **Trust, Safety, and Legality at the centre of AI deployment.** The Prime Minister underscored that AI systems must be verifiable, lawful, and transparent particularly at a time when deepfakes and synthetic media pose risks to democratic discourse and social trust.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026 formally define and regulate synthetically generated content, strengthening accountability in the digital ecosystem.

M.A.N.A.V., presents a civilisational perspective on artificial intelligence to the world. By aligning innovation with ethics, governance with accountability, sovereignty with openness, inclusion with scale, and legitimacy with trust, India is shaping an AI future that advances not only technology, but humanity itself.

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TECHNOLOGY SERVICES – REIMAGINATION AHEAD ROADMAP RELEASED BY THE NITI AAYOG'S FRONTIER TECH HUB

NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub has released a ten-year roadmap on '**Technology Services – Reimagination Ahead**', outlining how India's ~\$265B technology services sector can scale to **\$750–850B by 2035** while strengthening global competitiveness in the AI era and supporting the *Viksit Bharat 2047* vision.

The roadmap spotlights that artificial intelligence marks a structural shift in the industry: value will move from labour-arbitrage services toward IP-led, outcome-oriented, and platform-driven delivery models. India now has the opportunity to evolve from services leadership to global leadership in building AI-native systems.

The roadmap identifies five priority growth levers:

- **Agentic AI**
- **Software & Products**
- **Digital Infrastructure**
- **Innovation-led Engineering**
- **India-for-India solutions**

To unlock these, the roadmap calls for coordinated action across government and industry: accelerated enterprise AI adoption, scaled investment in IP and R&D, workforce reskilling at national scale, and regulatory predictability to enable global market access.

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INDIA–UK STRENGTHEN AI AND TELECOM PARTNERSHIP

On the sidelines of the AI Summit in New Delhi, Ministry of State for Communications, Government of India, held a bilateral meeting with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for AI and Online Safety, United Kingdom.

During the discussions, the emphasis was laid on the fact that India views artificial intelligence as central to the future of telecommunications. It was noted that combining India's scale with the United Kingdom's research strengths can help shape global standards in AI-native networks, Open RAN, and 6G, ensuring that technology drives both growth and trust. Both sides reviewed progress under the Department of Telecommunications–DCMS MoU and welcomed the operationalization of the India–UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre, India's National Quantum Mission and pointed out the enormous potential for collaboration in quantum communications and secure networks was also highlighted.

Discussions focused on deepening cooperation in AI applications for telecom networks, including autonomous network management, AI-driven cybersecurity, spectrum innovation, and non-terrestrial networks. Both sides expressed interest in joint research, pilot deployments, and coordinated engagement in global standardization forums such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and 3GPP.

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INDIA AND SWEDEN CONVENE BILATERAL TALKS TO STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC COOPERATION IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL INNOVATION

A bilateral meeting was held on 18 February, 2026 between Union Minister of Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, India, and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden and Minister for Energy, Business, and Industry, at New Delhi, to review ongoing cooperation and explore new avenues of collaboration in telecommunications and digital transformation, with discussions also reflecting Sweden's emphasis on sustainability, inclusive enterprise development, and sustained global climate leadership.

Both sides reaffirmed that digital and telecom cooperation constitutes a key pillar of the India–Sweden strategic partnership, reflecting shared priorities in next-generation connectivity, secure digital infrastructure, innovation-driven growth, and sustainability, with emphasis on ensuring that digital transformation remains inclusive, economically viable, and aligned with clean energy transitions.

Both sides acknowledged the India–Sweden Joint Working Group (JWG) on Digital Technologies and Economy, which serves as the principal institutional mechanism for structured policy and technical engagement. The two sides expressed intention for early scheduling of the third JWG meeting in Stockholm to advance implementation-oriented outcomes.

Cooperation in Open RAN, network modernization, and trusted supply chains was highlighted as an area of mutual interest. The two sides emphasized the need to strengthen diversified and resilient telecom ecosystems, including collaboration among operators, original equipment manufacturers, startups, and research institutions, and identified five broad pillars of cooperation covering 5G use cases, 6G collaboration and advanced test beds, Open RAN, quantum technologies, and industry–academia partnerships, with emphasis on developing a structured work plan and stakeholder mapping under each pillar supported by periodic review mechanisms.

Emerging areas, including quantum communication, post-quantum cryptography, and secure network architectures, were also discussed, reflecting a forward-looking approach to future-proofing critical digital infrastructure. Structured engagement on cybersecurity, telecom fraud mitigation, and risk-based regulatory frameworks, including continued institutional dialogue such as cybersecurity discussions in Stockholm, was identified as another priority domain.

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AI FACTS AND TERMINOLOGY

ALGORITHM

A set of rules that a machine can follow to learn how to do a task.

CHATBOT

A chatbot is program that is designed to communicate with people through text or voice commands in a way that mimics human-to-human conversation.

NATURAL LANGUAGE GENERATION (NLG)

This refers to the process by which a machine turns structured data into text or speech that humans can understand. Essentially, NLG is concerned with what a machine writes or says as the end part of the communication process.

NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING (NLP)

The umbrella term for any machine's ability to perform conversational tasks, such as recognizing what is said to it, understanding the intended meaning and responding intelligibly.

TURING TEST

Named after Alan Turing, famed mathematician, computer scientist and logician, this tests a machine's ability to pass for a human, particularly in the fields of language and behavior. After being graded by a human, the machine passes if its output is indistinguishable from that of human participant.

NEURAL NETWORK

A neural network is a deep learning technique designed to resemble the structure of the human brain. It requires large data sets to perform calculations and create outputs, which enables features like speech and vision recognition.

<https://tinyurl.com/pkd9db9b>, <https://tinyurl.com/bhntfrt>