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MAGAZINE NOTES

India AI Mission and the AI Impact Summit 2026

1 March 2026 ·

SCIENCE & TECH

ECONOMY

POLITY

GS2

GS3



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India AI Mission and the AI Impact Summit 2026

 **PIB Special Features** Chapter 7 · 4 min read ·

Source: New India Samachar, Vol. 6, Issues 17–18 (March 2026) | newindiasamachar.pib.gov.in

The India AI Impact Summit (February 16–21, 2026) brought together 500,000+ delegates from 118 countries, generated \$250+ billion in investment pledges, and positioned India as a global AI governance leader — backed by the ₹10,300 crore India AI Mission.

INDIA AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026 — KEY NUMBERS

METRIC	VALUE
Dates	February 16–21, 2026
Delegates	500,000+ from 118 countries
Heads of State	20+
Student participants	2.5 lakh
Pre-summit events	550
Investment pledges	\$250+ billion (infrastructure)
Deep-tech VC commitments	~\$20 billion
Guinness Record	2,50,946 people pledged to responsible AI in 24 hours

MAJOR CORPORATE INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS

COMPANY	COMMITMENT
Reliance Industries	\$110 billion over 7 years
Adani Enterprises	\$100 billion by 2035
Google	\$15 billion (Visakhapatnam data centre)
Lightspeed Venture Partners	\$10 billion
Tata Group	\$11 billion (Maharashtra)
General Catalyst	\$5 billion
AI data centres (total)	\$70 billion underway; \$90 billion additional announced

INDIA AI MISSION (INDIAAI MISSION)

Allocation: ₹10,300 crore over 5 years (approved 2024)

Key Pillars:

- 1 **AI Compute Infrastructure** — 10,000+ GPUs; now scaled to 38,000 GPUs deployed + 20,000 planned
- 2 **India Datasets Platform** — curated, high-quality Indian language and domain datasets
- 3 **AI Application Development** — governance, agriculture, health, education applications
- 4 **AI Safety & Trust** — India AI Safety Institute (hub-and-spoke model)
- 5 **AI in Research** — 500 PhD scholars + 5,000 PG + 8,000 UG supported
- 6 **Startup Ecosystem** — 100+ AI startups recognised
- 7 **AI Skilling** — FutureSkills Prime, SOAR, National AI Skilling Initiative

INDIA'S MANAV FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE AI

Announced at the Summit — India's ethical AI framework:

LETTER	PRINCIPLE
M	Moral / Ethical AI development
A	Accountable — transparent systems
N	National Sovereignty — indigenous development
A	Accessible / Inclusive — AI for all
V	Valid / Legitimate — lawful applications

AI INFRASTRUCTURE — INDIA'S NUMBERS

INFRASTRUCTURE	STATUS
GPUs deployed	38,000
Additional GPUs planned	20,000
Supercomputers operational	37 (39 petaflops combined)
Supercomputers being added	10 more
Param Rudra units installed	6,000
Data & AI Labs (Tier-2/3 cities)	27 operational; 543 more approved

AI IN GOVERNANCE — APPLICATIONS LAUNCHED

Healthcare:

- **SAHI** (Strategy for AI in Healthcare): TB detection, cancer screening, telemedicine
- **BODH** (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI): safe AI use in hospitals
- Indo-French Centre for AI in Health: at AIIMS Delhi

Disaster Management:

- IIT Bombay cyclone damage model (aerial imagery)
- Landslide monitoring: 90%+ accuracy; 3-hour advance warning in 60+ Himachal Pradesh locations
- ILDAS, BrahmaSATARK, GBM-CLIMPACT flood forecasting systems

Agriculture:

- Bharat-VISTAAR AI platform: dial **155261** for real-time crop advisory (weather, pest, mandi prices, soil)

Justice:

- Generative AI tool: analyses Supreme Court judgments since 1950
- AI translation of court decisions into regional languages

Local Governance:

- SabhaSaar: Voice-to-text AI generating gram sabha meeting summaries in 14 languages

Urban Planning:

- AI Vihangam Drishti: satellite imagery analysis for development and solar potential mapping

AI TALENT AND ECONOMY

METRIC	VALUE
AI market projected (2032)	\$131.31 billion
CAGR	42.2%
India's economy addition by 2035	\$1.7 trillion
India's share of global AI talent hiring	~33% annually
AI penetration (vs global avg)	2.5× higher
AI job premium	Up to 28% higher than non-AI jobs

NEW DELHI AI DECLARATION

- Endorsed by **91 countries** and international organisations
- Built on **7 pillars** including “AI for All” — equity, access, cooperation
- Establishes India as a bridge between the Global North's AI capacity and Global South's AI needs

DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT, 2023

- Notified: November 13, 2025
- Requires **consent** before data use by any agency
- Data fiduciaries accountable for protection
- Data usage restricted to stated purpose; prior consent for third-party sharing
- DPDP Rules 2025: operational framework

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS3 — Science & Technology:

- India AI Mission: compute → data → applications → safety pipeline
- AI in agriculture (Bharat-VISTAAR), health (SAHI), disaster management
- Critical infrastructure: GPUs, supercomputers, data centres
- Critical minerals nexus: AI data centres need reliable power + cooling

GS2 — Governance:

- MANAV framework: ethical AI governance
- DPDP Act 2023 + Rules 2025: data sovereignty
- AI in judiciary (SC judgments), local governance (SabhaSaar)
- New Delhi AI Declaration: multilateral governance

GS4 — Ethics:

- AI bias, deepfakes, algorithmic accountability
- Responsible AI principles; India AI Safety Institute
- Privacy vs. innovation trade-off (DPDP)

Key Distinctions:

- IndiaAI Mission ≠ Digital India (older programme) — IndiaAI is specifically for AI compute + ecosystem
- SAHI ≠ Ayushman Bharat — SAHI is an AI overlay on health systems
- Param Rudra = Indian supercomputer; not PARAM (which is the older series name)

FACTS CORNER

- Summit: Feb 16–21, 2026; 5 lakh delegates; 118 countries; 20+ heads of state
- Investment: \$250B+ pledged; \$20B deep-tech VC
- India AI Mission: ₹10,300 crore; 5 years; 38,000 GPUs deployed
- MANAV: India's responsible AI ethical framework
- Bharat-VISTAAR: AI farm advisory via phone (155261)
- SabhaSaar: gram sabha minutes in 14 languages via voice-to-text
- New Delhi AI Declaration: 91 countries; 7 pillars; "AI for All"
- DPDP Act 2023: notified November 13, 2025

- AI economy: \$131B market by 2032; India adds \$1.7T by 2035



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