

## **Safe AI in Education: Practitioner Insights from the Global South**

The discussion, hosted by the Center for Responsible AI at IIT Madras, features a diverse panel including Swati (Khan Academy India), Shaveta Sharma Kukra (Central Square Foundation), Professor Srinivasan Parthasarathy (Ohio State University), Anil Ananthaswamy (IIT Madras), and philanthropist Sunil Wadhvani. The content explores the multi-layered architecture of "co-intelligence" systems, emphasizing that safety must be integrated into everything from data infrastructure to the human-AI interaction layer. Key practitioners highlight that tools like Khanmigo prioritize safety by using curated content and Socratic tutoring methods that lead students to answers rather than providing them directly. The experts address the tension between technical perfection and the urgent need for educational access, noting that while AI models may never be 100% accurate, their potential to scale literacy and learning gains—as seen in large-scale deployments in Gujarat and Rajasthan—outweighs the risks if managed through human-in-the-loop systems. The report concludes that accountability for AI harm is a shared responsibility between developers and deployers, and that true safety in the Global South requires building AI literacy among students, teachers, and parents to move them from passive users to empowered, active participants in a digital-first society.

The "**AI Innovators Exchange: Startup and Industry Synergy**" session, organized by the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) at IIT Delhi, highlights India's emergence as a global AI powerhouse through strategic collaborations between startups, established industry leaders, and international partners. The exchange featured prominent figures such as Sandeep Nailwal (Polygon Foundation), who emphasized the need for high-quality capital markets to empower India's global-class talent, and representatives from Maruti Suzuki and Microsoft who detailed how corporate-startup synergy accelerates the deployment of new-age technologies like quantum computing and AI for social good. International perspectives from Korea, the UK, and France underscored the importance of cross-border R&D funding and soft-landing programs to help AI startups scale globally, while domestic manufacturing leaders like Sona Comstar discussed embedding AI for precision engineering and supply chain visibility. Ultimately, the session concluded that by humanizing AI and fostering inclusive innovation that reaches beyond urban hubs, India is well-positioned to transition from a service provider to a global AI OEM, leveraging its unique problem-solving capabilities to create impactful solutions for the world.

The "**Workforce Transformation in the Age of AI**" discussion at the IndiaAI Impact Summit 2026 highlights a shifting paradigm where AI serves as a "capability multiplier" rather than a simple replacement for human labor. Panelists, including industry veterans like Sanjeev Bikhchandani and Vineet Nayar, argue that while AI automates "sub-skills" and specific tasks—much like the industrial revolution once did—it simultaneously creates a massive demand for "macro-skills" such as problem-solving, reimagination, and human creativity. Smita Prakash noted the existential threat to traditional media models and intellectual property but also demonstrated how adapting content formats (like AI-generated reels) can recapture revenue, illustrating that upskilling is essential for survival. In sectors like healthcare, experts predict that AI could be a net job creator, enabling new roles such as

"care navigators" and allowing professionals to reach underserved populations more effectively. The consensus among the experts is that the focus of education and professional development must shift from rote knowledge to lifelong learnability and the strategic use of AI tools, ensuring that humans remain accountable for the high-level outcomes and innovations that machines cannot replicate.

The "**AI and the Future of Learning and Work**" leadership dialogue at the IndiaAI Impact Summit 2026 underscored the urgent need to transition from "sub-skilling" to "macro-skilling," focusing on high-level human capabilities like problem-solving, ethical judgment, and "re-imagining." Global leaders, including OpenAI's Sam Altman and Microsoft's Bill Gates, emphasized that while AI will inevitably automate routine tasks, it acts as a "capability multiplier" that can accelerate economic growth and broaden access to quality education. A central highlight was India's "MANAV" Vision—prioritizing **Moral systems, Accountable governance, National sovereignty, Accessibility, and Validity**—which frames AI as a public utility to empower the Global South. The session concluded that the future of work belongs to "humans in the lead," where professionals leverage AI to navigate complex social challenges, while national policies, such as introducing computational thinking in schools from Grade 3, aim to ensure the next generation is prepared for a collaborative human-AI ecosystem.

The panel discussion "**AI Competitiveness: Turning Insight into Action**" features leaders from **AMD, Anthropic**, and the **Technology and National Security Program** exploring the shift toward a multi-polar AI landscape where nations like **India** are building strategic "sovereign AI" stacks. The speakers emphasize that global competitiveness now depends on more than just raw compute; it requires **open-source ecosystems**, "human-in-the-loop" governance for **agentic AI**, and deep public-private collaboration to solve "lighthouse" problems in sectors like healthcare and education. A central takeaway is that while the race for model scale is accelerating, true national impact will be driven by **AI literacy** and the democratization of technology in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, ensuring that a young, tech-savvy population can translate infrastructure into economic value.

During the India AI Impact Summit 2026, TCS hosted a **masterclass on physical AI**, showcasing the convergence of digital intelligence and industrial robotics through live demonstrations of their humanoid robot, Echo, and the quadruped "robo-dog," Poochie. The session detailed a shift from deterministic, rule-based automation to agentic AI, where software-defined physical intelligence allows machines to perceive, reason, and act in real-world environments. Experts highlighted India's unique opportunity to leapfrog traditional industrial stages by building AI-native factories and "robotics-as-a-service" models that augment human labor rather than replacing it. The technical presentation introduced a low-code AI Orchestrator platform designed to simplify the deployment of complex vision-language models and route optimization algorithms onto physical assets. By discussing real-world use cases like hazardous warehouse inspections and construction site monitoring, the speakers emphasized that the future of industrial competitiveness lies in the

seamless orchestration of multi-modal AI agents and sophisticated hardware capable of autonomous action.

The **AI Openness** Forum at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 brought together a diverse ecosystem of researchers, startups, government officials, and industry leaders to discuss building trust through transparency and international collaboration. The session highlighted the breathtaking pace of AI development, noting recent specialized releases like Claude for finance and healthcare, and emphasized that the future of the industry will be defined by exponential growth in compute capabilities and personalization. A significant portion of the forum focused on "agentic AI"—autonomous agents capable of planning and interacting with one another—which necessitates new frameworks for governance and cybersecurity assurance. Participants also explored the "World Cafe" format to co-create practical pathways for managing the varying interests of different stakeholders while fostering open-source innovation. Furthermore, the discussion touched upon the critical role of the semiconductor industry, which is projected to hit a \$1 trillion valuation this year, and addressed specific "lighthouse" challenges such as using AI to reduce food wastage in the agriculture sector through better data analysis and infrastructure.

The "**Immersive AI Training: Personalised Learning at Scale**" session at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 explores how AI-powered platforms like Eton are revolutionizing education and professional development through immersive simulations and personalized feedback. Led by a panel of experts across healthcare, finance, and technology, the discussion highlights the shift from traditional, rote-learning pedagogy to "learning by doing," where virtual mentors provide real-time guidance in safe, simulated environments. The session details significant productivity gains and training efficiencies in corporate sectors, while also addressing the broader social impact of AI, such as expanding healthcare diagnostics to rural India via "ambient intelligence" and democratizing financial credit through alternative data analysis. Emphasizing a "people-first" approach, the speakers advocate for responsible AI governance, human accountability, and an "AI-first" design tailored specifically to India's unique multilingual and socio-economic landscape to ensure that technological progress translates into inclusive human capital growth.

The "**Safe and Trusted AI Standards in the Age of Generative AI**" panel at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 highlights the critical role of international and national standardization in fostering responsible AI deployment. Experts from ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42, BSI, TCS, and the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) discuss the evolution of trustworthy AI frameworks, specifically referencing the **ISO/IEC 42001** Management System standard as a foundational tool for organizations to mitigate risks such as deep fakes, hallucinations, and IP infringement. The conversation emphasizes that while high-level governance guidelines—like the India AI Governance Framework released in November 2025—provide a pro-innovation vision, technical standards are the "operational backbone" needed to translate that intent into measurable practices like red teaming and benchmarking. Key takeaways include the move toward **continuous rather than static assessment** of AI

systems, the necessity of sector-specific standards for high-stakes areas like healthcare and finance, and the ongoing development of **ISO/IEC 42007** for product-level testing. Ultimately, the panel underscores that for India to lead in the AI era, it must not only adopt international standards but also create unique benchmarks that reflect its diverse, multilingual socio-economic context while balancing innovation with user safety.

The **"AI for Learning Outcomes"** session at the AI Impact Summit 2026 emphasizes that 2026 is the pivotal year for moving beyond pilot programs to system-wide AI adoption in education. Estonian President Alar Karis and UNICEF's Pia Britto opened the discussion by highlighting that while AI is already being used by students, education systems must catch up by focusing on equity, safety, and measurable learning outcomes. A key theme throughout the panel—featuring experts from Estonia, Finland, and Kenya—is that technology does not replace teachers but rather serves as a multiplier to differentiate instruction and reduce administrative burdens. Estonia's "AI Leap" serves as a model for national scaling, while Kenya focuses on AI literacy for teachers to bridge the digital divide, and Finland advocates for sovereign, multilingual AI models that respect diverse cultural values. The experts conclude that the primary challenge is not the technology itself but the "culture shift" required within schools and governments to ensure that innovation serves all learners, especially the most marginalized, rather than widening existing inequities.

**"The Open Revolution: Why Open Source is Key to AI for All"** highlights the critical role of open-source hardware and software in democratizing AI, moving it from abstract software to physical applications in industries like agriculture and healthcare. Fabio Violante (VP and GM of Arduino) and Gunit Bedi (Senior Director at Arduino) emphasize that India, with its massive developer community and ability to innovate under constraints, is uniquely positioned to lead this "physical AI" revolution. The presentation showcases several collaborative initiatives, including a \$150 million Qualcomm venture fund for Indian startups and the launch of "AI for All," a program aimed at educating millions of learners. Practical demonstrations from university teams and industry partners illustrate how Arduino's open-source platform allows for rapid prototyping and scaling, such as AI-enabled elderly care sticks, motorcycle safety helmets, and precision agricultural robots that detect and spray weeds. Ultimately, the session underscores that the future of AI will be shaped by a broad ecosystem of builders—ranging from students to global enterprises—working together to create accessible, reliable, and transformational technology.

**"AI 2.0: The Future of Learning in India"** features a panel discussion hosted by the Center for Policy Research and Governance (CPRG) focusing on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in the Indian education sector. The session begins with the release of a significant survey report on AI adoption in school education, which reveals that nearly 50% of students in Delhi's private schools use AI tools multiple times a week, primarily for academic information and writing assistance. While students perceive these tools as helpful for exam preparation and understanding complex topics, they still value traditional human interaction and consider AI a supplementary tool rather than a replacement for teachers. Panelists, including esteemed educators and industry leaders from organizations like Intel,

discuss the necessity of reimagining educational institutions for 2050 and beyond, emphasizing a shift from degree-awarding to problem-solving models. They highlight the potential of AI to dismantle language barriers through real-time translation and adaptive learning, while also cautioning against challenges like AI hallucinations, ethical concerns, and the digital divide between urban and rural areas. Ultimately, the discussion concludes that embracing AI responsibly and ethically is vital for India to capitalize on its young population and secure its position as a global leader in the emerging technological landscape.

The "**Responsible AI for Shared Prosperity**" panel session emphasizes the critical need for an equitable, inclusive, and safe artificial intelligence landscape, particularly within the Global South. Key highlights include the launch of "Lingua Africa," a collaborative initiative involving the Masakhane community, Microsoft, and the Gates Foundation, which aims to integrate over 2,000 African languages into AI models to prevent cultural extinction and ensure representation in the age of intelligence. The discussion underscores that while AI has the potential to solve global challenges in health, agriculture, and education, its current diffusion in the Global North is double that of the Global South, creating an urgent priority to bridge this digital divide. Efforts such as investing in Africa's first dedicated public sector AI computer cluster at the University of Cape Town and supporting startups like Atorn AI in Morocco are central to providing the necessary computing power and local infrastructure. Ultimately, the panelists advocate for a shift from a consumption-based to a production-based approach in these regions, where AI is used as a force for good to empower underserved communities and reflect the diverse realities of people's lives globally.