



BACKGROUNDERS
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Government of India

India's AI Moment

20,000 additional GPUs power India's next phase of AI leadership

AI IN INDIA
FROM VISION TO IMPACT

February 17, 2026

India is preparing to take a decisive and confident leap in artificial intelligence. On 17 February 2026, during the India AI Impact Summit 2026 being held in New Delhi from 16 to 20 February, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India will expand its compute capacity beyond the existing 38,000 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), with an additional **20,000 GPUs** to be added in the coming weeks. The announcement was not merely technical. It was strategic. It signalled that India is scaling up with intent and positioning itself firmly among the world's leading AI powers.



The declaration came on the second day of the summit themed *Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya*, meaning Welfare for All, Happiness of All. The event is already being described as the largest AI gathering anywhere in the world. Inside Bharat Mandapam, the energy was unmistakable. Conversations were bold, forward looking and grounded in action. The expansion of compute infrastructure, the Minister noted, marks the next phase of India's AI strategy, combining deeper capacity with responsible deployment. The theme was not symbolic. It defined the tone of the impact summit 2026.



सर्वजन हिताय | सर्वजन सुखाय
WELFARE FOR ALL | HAPPINESS OF ALL

India's approach stands out globally. In many countries, advanced AI infrastructure remains concentrated in the hands of a few corporations, shaping who gets to innovate. India is building a different model, anchored in the **₹10,300+ crore IndiaAI Mission**, which is expanding access and enabling responsible AI for public good. Under the Mission, the existing 38,000 plus high-end GPUs have been made available at **₹65 per hour**, lowering compute barriers for startups, researchers, students and public institutions. At its core, this reflects a powerful belief. **Technology must be democratise.**

Artificial Intelligence, the Minister observed, is driving what he described as the fifth industrial revolution. Its impact cuts across agriculture, healthcare, education, manufacturing, governance and climate action. India is not watching this revolution from the sidelines. It is actively shaping it. The

expansion of GPU capacity reflects a nation determined to match ambition with infrastructure, and vision with execution.

The Summit opened on 16 February 2026, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India AI Impact Expo at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The symbolism was powerful. A defining global technology conversation was unfolding in the Global South, led by India. The message was subtle yet strong. Leadership in AI is no longer confined to traditional centres of power. New voices are shaping the agenda.

The Summit is witnessing unprecedented participation, with over **20 Heads of State, 60 Ministers, and 500 global AI leaders**. Policymakers are engaging with technologists. Innovators interacting with academics and industry leaders. The summit has become a convergence point for ideas, partnerships and commitments. It is clear that the world is not just observing India's AI journey. It is engaging with it.

The enthusiasm extends far beyond formal sessions. On the first day of the summit alone, more than **2.5 lakh students across India took a pledge to use AI for responsible innovation**. The initiative has been submitted for recognition by **Guinness World Records**. The image of students participating in a collective pledge captured the spirit of a nation embracing AI with responsibility and optimism. A new generation is stepping forward, ready to lead.

Investment momentum has followed swiftly. Hon'ble Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw expressed strong optimism that more than **USD 200 billion worth of investment** is likely to flow into India's AI ecosystem over the next two years. Venture capital firms are committing funds to deep tech startups across all five layers of the AI stack. Large solutions and major applications are attracting backing. The scale of interest signals global confidence in India's AI trajectory.

Investment confidence is being matched by technological capability on the ground. India's sovereign AI models have emerged as a highlight of the Summit. Several models launched here have been rigorously tested against global benchmarks. When compared with leading international systems, many Indian models have been rated better across multiple parameters. This is not incremental progress. It is competitive excellence. It reinforces India's emergence as a serious global AI player with original capabilities.

Global recognition adds further weight. **Stanford has ranked India among the top three AI nations in the world**. India is increasingly seen as a hub where talent, policy and infrastructure converge. The expansion from 38,000 to more than 58,000 GPUs strengthens that foundation and sends a clear message. India is building for leadership.

At the heart of this leadership is democratisation. **Democratisation of AI** means more than access to finished applications. It includes access to compute power, datasets and model ecosystems. When these foundational resources are available at scale and at affordable costs, innovation flourishes. Startups can experiment boldly. Researchers can test ambitious ideas. Public institutions can deploy AI solutions that reach millions. Infrastructure becomes empowerment.

The Summit's intellectual framework rests on three foundational Sutras. The first is **People**, affirming that AI must serve humanity in all its diversity while preserving dignity and inclusivity. The second is **Planet**, ensuring that innovation aligns with environmental stewardship and sustainability. The third is **Progress**, emphasising that AI's benefits must be equitably shared across societies. Together, these principles blend ambition with responsibility.

Building on these Sutras, deliberations are structured around seven Chakras that translate philosophy into action. The **Human Capital Chakra** focuses on building an equitable AI reskilling ecosystem and preparing the workforce for the AI economy. The **Inclusion for Social Empowerment Chakra** explores shared AI solutions that strengthen last mile service delivery. These discussions are pragmatic and forward looking.

The **Safe and Trusted AI Chakra** concentrates on translating global principles into interoperable governance frameworks, strengthening domestic oversight while enabling innovation. The **Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency Chakra** addresses the environmental and resource challenges posed by large scale AI systems, ensuring that growth remains sustainable. These are not peripheral concerns. They are central to long term leadership.

The **Science Chakra** aims to harness AI to accelerate discovery in health, agriculture and climate while correcting inequities in access to research capacity. The **Democratizing AI Resources Chakra** envisions equitable participation in global AI value chains. The **AI for Economic Growth and Social Good Chakra** identifies high impact use cases that can transform economies and communities. Each Chakra reflects India's determination to link AI with measurable outcomes.

This commitment to outcomes was reflected in a major announcement at the Summit. The Government of India launched **6 sectoral AI Impact Casebooks** that together showcase over 170 deployed and scalable AI innovations across priority sectors including Health, Energy, Gender Empowerment, Education, Agriculture and Accessibility. These casebooks do not present prototypes or pilot ideas. They document solutions already delivering results, offering a repository of tested models that can be replicated and scaled.

The momentum did not stop at documentation. The spirit of implementation carried forward into the Summit's high impact panel discussions, where principles and proven models were interrogated, refined and aligned with sector specific realities. RailTel Corporation of India Ltd curated two sessions on AI powered public health, focusing on collaborative models for inclusive healthcare for Bharat and beyond, as well as accessible and universal healthcare delivery. Experts examined how AI can strengthen public health systems and enhance reach across diverse regions.



As part of the **second day of the Summit**, the session titled **AI in Governance: Revolutionising Government Efficiency** brought together global researchers and senior policymakers to examine how artificial intelligence can strengthen public service delivery at scale. The discussion moved decisively beyond pilots and theoretical promise. Speakers emphasised measurable impact, rigorous evaluation and responsible deployment. The focus was on systems level readiness across government, ensuring that AI integration is thoughtful, scalable and accountable.

The focus was not limited to systems and service delivery. It extended to people and the future of work. A high-level session on the future of employability in the age of AI brought together policymakers, industry leaders, educators and innovators. The discussion highlighted the shift from narrow technical skills to human led capabilities. India's demographic strength was repeatedly cited as a defining advantage in the AI era.

In the session titled **From Algorithms to Outcomes**, speakers emphasised that compute, models and data must lead to deployable applications that enhance productivity, strengthen governance and deliver tangible benefits to citizens. Similarly, the discussion on **Scaling Impact from India's Sovereign AI and Data** explored how India can decisively move from being primarily a consumer of AI to becoming a creator of systems with global resonance.

Across these conversations, one underlying reality became unmistakable. Ambition at this scale demands infrastructure at scale.

As the Summit advances, the addition of 20,000 GPUs stands as a defining milestone. It represents scale. It represents access. Above all, it represents belief. India is not content with incremental progress. It is building capacity at speed and with clarity of purpose. By combining infrastructure expansion, global collaboration and a strong ethical framework, India is asserting itself as a leading global AI player, determined to shape a future where innovation drives welfare, prosperity and shared progress for all.

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