

WORISGO SPECIAL REPORT

AI Impact Summit 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 signalled the shift from AI experimentation to governance-led deployment, establishing "Sovereign AI" and systemic resilience as the new industrial mandates. AI is now the "central nervous system" of commerce, with 78% of global companies (280 million businesses) integrating AI into core functions. Adoption has matured from isolated pilots to cross-functional scaling, led by an agile small-business sector where 89% utilize AI for daily automation.

The summit formalised Sovereign AI—the development of indigenous capabilities for national security and cultural alignment. India, backed by \$270 billion in infrastructure and the \$1.25 billion IndiaAI Mission, has launched models like BharatGen and Sarvam-1 to serve as a "sovereign-first" blueprint for the Global South.

"Trust-by-Design" is now a prerequisite for market entry. The "Trusted AI Commons" provides a collaborative platform for auditing "black box" algorithms, ensuring that as AI scales, mechanisms to monitor Model Drift and social engineering scale in tandem, particularly in high-stakes sectors like finance and healthcare. To combat "blended risks," India leads a 30-country "Action Coalition" to harmonise technical standards. Supported by the New Delhi Frontier AI Commitments, this coalition utilises a shared "red-teaming" database to trigger real-time, coordinated global responses to deepfakes and algorithmic bias.

Most of the evidence we currently have on AI's employment impact comes from a few countries, particularly the United States. In many other regions, including emerging economies, the data simply does not yet exist, making it difficult to draw firm conclusions and underlining the need for the systematic collection of adoption and employment data globally

For 2026, resilience is no longer optional. Commercial viability now depends on the integrity of a firm's trust architecture rather than mere computational power. Businesses must transition to "Applied, Governed AI" to ensure growth remains sustainable and secure.

INTRODUCTION

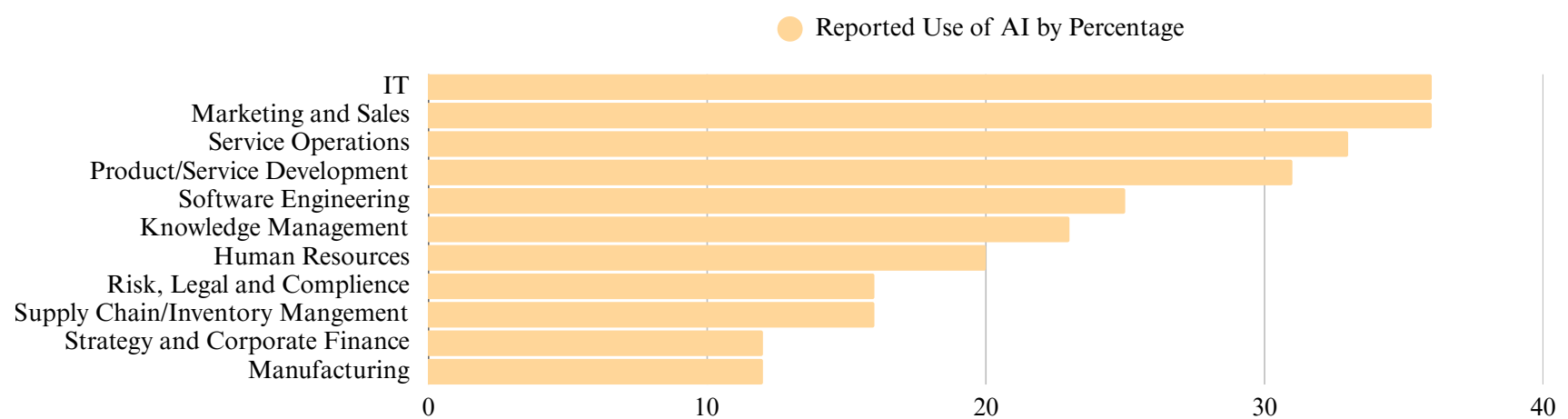


The India AI Impact Summit 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from February 16 to 21, established India as a leading voice in the global AI landscape. Orchestrated under the theme of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (Welfare for All, Happiness for All), the summit focused on three foundational "Sutras": People, Planet, and Progress. It was a massive diplomatic and technological feat, attracting over 500,000 attendees, 20 heads of state, and CEOs from global giants like Google, OpenAI, and NVIDIA. By hosting the first major global AI convening in the Global South, India successfully shifted the conversation toward inclusive development, ensuring that the benefits of artificial intelligence are not confined to a few tech-heavy nations but are accessible to all.

A primary achievement of the summit was the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, endorsed by 88 countries including the US, China, and the EU. This declaration established a "seven-pillar" framework—referred to as the "Chakras"—which prioritizes human capital, equitable access, and energy-efficient AI systems. The event also catalyzed significant economic momentum, drawing infrastructure investment pledges exceeding \$250 billion. Furthermore, the summit demonstrated a unique public engagement strategy, setting a Guinness World Record for the most AI responsibility pledges in a single day, with more than 250,000 valid commitments emphasizing ethical and accountable AI use.

On the technological front, the summit showcased India's burgeoning "sovereign AI" capabilities through the launch of the BharatGen Param2 model and Sarvam AI's advanced large language models. These innovations, designed to support multiple Indian languages and multimodal tasks, reflect a "frugal yet scalable" approach tailored for the unique needs of the domestic market. Strategically, India's decision to join the Pax Silica coalition during the event underscored its intent to become a key node in global semiconductor and AI supply chains. By balancing high-level research symposiums with grassroots initiatives like the YUVAi challenge, the 2026 summit effectively laid the roadmap for India to transition from a data-rich nation to an AI-empowered global powerhouse.

WHY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MATTERS?



Data: Use of AI by Business Functions (2025)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become vital for industries because it significantly enhances efficiency, accuracy, and operational scalability. By automating routine processes, analysing large volumes of data in real time, and reducing human error, AI allows organisations to streamline workflows and lower costs. In sectors such as manufacturing, finance, healthcare, and logistics, AI-driven systems optimise supply chains, detect fraud, improve diagnostics, and predict equipment failures, enabling businesses to move from reactive problem-solving to proactive planning.

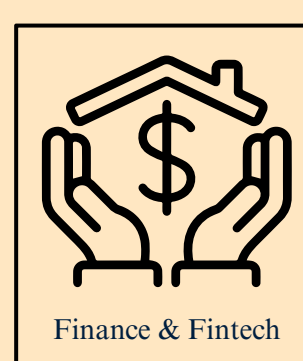
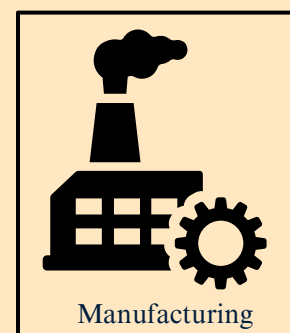
AI is no longer just a "tech" tool; it is becoming the central nervous system of modern industry. By processing massive datasets at speeds humanly impossible, AI transforms raw information into predictive foresight. In sectors like manufacturing and logistics, this means moving from "fix it when it breaks" to "prevent it before it happens," drastically reducing downtime and operational waste. For service-oriented industries, AI allows for a level of hyper-personalization—tailoring products, financial advice, or medical treatments to the specific needs of an individual—that was previously too expensive or complex to achieve at scale.

Beyond efficiency, AI acts as a massive accelerant for innovation. In R&D-heavy fields like pharmaceuticals or materials science, AI models can simulate millions of chemical combinations in seconds, shortening discovery timelines from decades to months. By automating the "grunt work" of data entry, scheduling, and basic analysis, AI also reclaims human capital, allowing workers to focus on high-level strategy, creative problem-solving, and complex decision-making. Ultimately, for any industry today, adopting AI is less about gaining a competitive edge and more about ensuring long-term resilience in an increasingly automated global economy

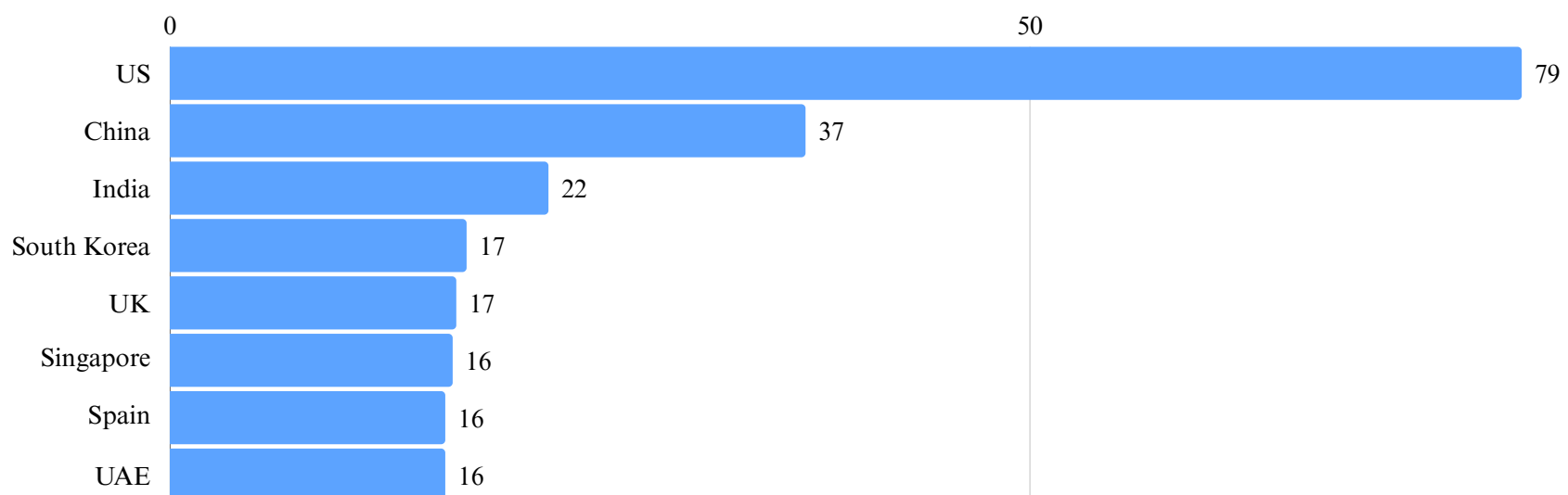
IMPACT OF AI ON INDUSTRIES

- By 2025, 78% of companies worldwide have integrated AI technologies into their operations, marking a sharp acceleration in adoption compared to previous years.
- Of the estimated 359 million businesses globally, nearly 280 million now deploy AI in at least one core business function, underscoring its transition from experimental tool to operational standard.
- Organisations are no longer limiting AI to isolated use cases—the average company now applies AI across three different functions, reflecting a clear expansion in enterprise-wide integration since early 2024.
- AI adoption is not confined to large corporations; approximately 89% of small businesses utilise AI tools for everyday activities, such as marketing automation, customer service, and workflow management.
- In terms of investment leadership, the United States dominates private AI funding with \$109.1 billion, investing nearly twelve times more than China, reinforcing its position at the forefront of global AI innovation and commercialisation.

Industries Likely to Be Transformed by Artificial Intelligence



INDIA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: GROWTH FACTOR



Data: Global AI Vibrancy Rankings
Source: Stanford HAI's 2025 AI Index Report

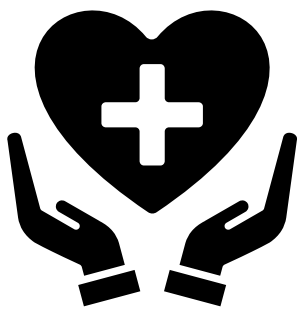
India is currently undergoing a massive transformation, positioning itself as a global "AI powerhouse" through a unique combination of demographic strength and sovereign technological vision. As of 2026, the Indian AI market is experiencing an explosive compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 25–39%, with projections suggesting it could contribute nearly \$500–600 billion to the national GDP by 2030. This growth is anchored by the IndiaAI Mission, a \$1.25 billion government initiative that has democratized access to high-performance computing by deploying over 38,000 GPUs for startups and researchers. Coupled with a robust digital public infrastructure (DPI) and 5G coverage reaching nearly 99.9% of the country, India has created a "sovereign AI" ecosystem that prioritizes indigenous models like BharatGen and Sarvam-1, designed specifically for India's diverse linguistic and cultural landscape.



India demonstrated remarkable progress in artificial intelligence, surging from 7th place in 2023 to 3rd place in 2024 in Stanford University's Global AI Vibrancy Index.

AI IMPACT SUMMIT: THE INDUSTRIAL TREND FOR INDIA

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 served as a definitive turning point for the global industrial landscape, marking the transition from speculative AI experimentation to a robust era of governance-led deployment. With over \$270 billion in infrastructure commitments and the formal adoption of the New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Declaration by 89 nations, the summit established a "sovereign-first" blueprint for the Global South. Furthermore, the summit's primary legacy is the institutionalization of the "Trust-by-Design" framework. This framework mandates that AI integration is no longer just a pursuit of operational efficiency but a strategic alignment with rigorous standards for algorithmic accountability, data residency, and systemic resilience. By shifting the focus to "Applied AI," the summit has effectively catalyzed a movement where industries must now balance aggressive technological scaling with the mitigation of emerging "black swan" risks, ensuring that the AI revolution is both sustainable and legally defensible on a global stage.



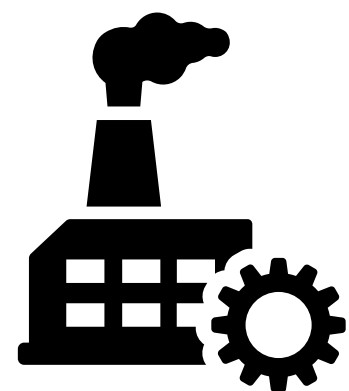
Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals

The Shift: From clinical uncertainty to standardized liability and diagnostic quality.

Benefit: The release of Health AI Casebooks has standardized how AI models handle sensitive patient data under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act. This creates a clear benchmark for the "standard of care," helping organizations mitigate malpractice risks while accelerating drug discovery through secure, AI-driven R&D.

The Shift: Manufacturing and Logistics were redefined through the lens of "Physical AI."

Benefit: the integration of digital intelligence directly into heavy machinery and supply chain assets. The summit emphasized that for India to reach its 400 MT steel capacity target and become a global manufacturing hub, AI must move beyond software into the "factory of tomorrow."



Manufacturing

The Benefit: Transitioning to Foundational AI Infrastructure and Agentic Commerce.

The Revolution: The summit marked a shift from isolated AI tools to a foundational AI layer for the entire payments stack.

- **Sovereign Infrastructure:** NPCI partnered with NVIDIA to build a sovereign AI layer using NeMo models, while unveiling FiMI (Financial Model for India), a domain-specific model trained on Indian financial data for workflows like dispute resolution and mandate management.
- **Agentic Payments:** The industry is moving toward "Agentic Commerce." Mastercard completed the first fully authenticated agentic transaction in a secure, tokenized environment, while Razorpay and superU AI launched a real-time agentic system where AI agents qualify intent and trigger payments instantly via voice.
- **Regulatory Support:** The RBI announced an AI Implementation Sandbox (led by Suvendu Pati) to provide shared data tools and infrastructure for smaller banks and NBFCs to de-risk their AI adoption.



Financial Services & Fintech



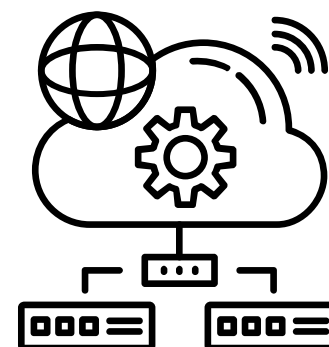
Retail & E-commerce

The Shift: democratizing hyper-local commerce

Benefit: Propelled by \$155 billion in investments from Reliance and Amazon, India's retail market is projected to reach \$2.6 trillion by 2035. Leveraging Sarvam's multilingual models and Zepto's AI-driven logistics, the industry is prioritizing Small AI and ONDC integration to democratize high-efficiency, hyper-local commerce across the nation.

The Shift: Transitioning from reliance on foreign products to embracing sovereign intelligence.

Benefit: Driven by over \$250B in commitments from leaders like Reliance, Adani, and Google, India's IT sector is pivoting toward sovereign intelligence. With the launch of indigenous models like Sarvam AI and BharatGen, and strategic partnerships including OpenAI-TCS, the market is projected to contribute \$1.7T to GDP by 2035.



IT & Tech Services



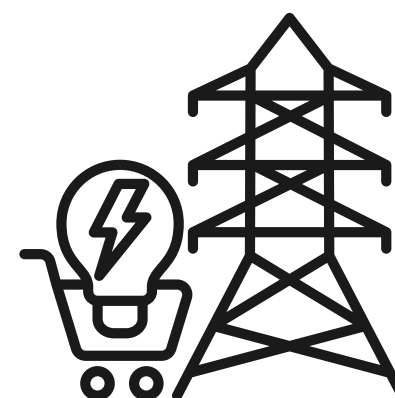
Agriculture

The Shift: Modernize rural productivity by prioritizing "Small AI."

Benefit: The Bharat-VISTAAR platform integrates AI-driven AgriStack with ICAR practices to modernize rural productivity. By prioritizing "Small AI" for low-connectivity environments, the initiative scales smartphone-based pest diagnosis and precision forecasting. These advancements enhance climate resilience and direct market access, significantly reducing input costs while securing livelihoods for millions of farmers.

The Shift: Transitioning toward Green AI infrastructure

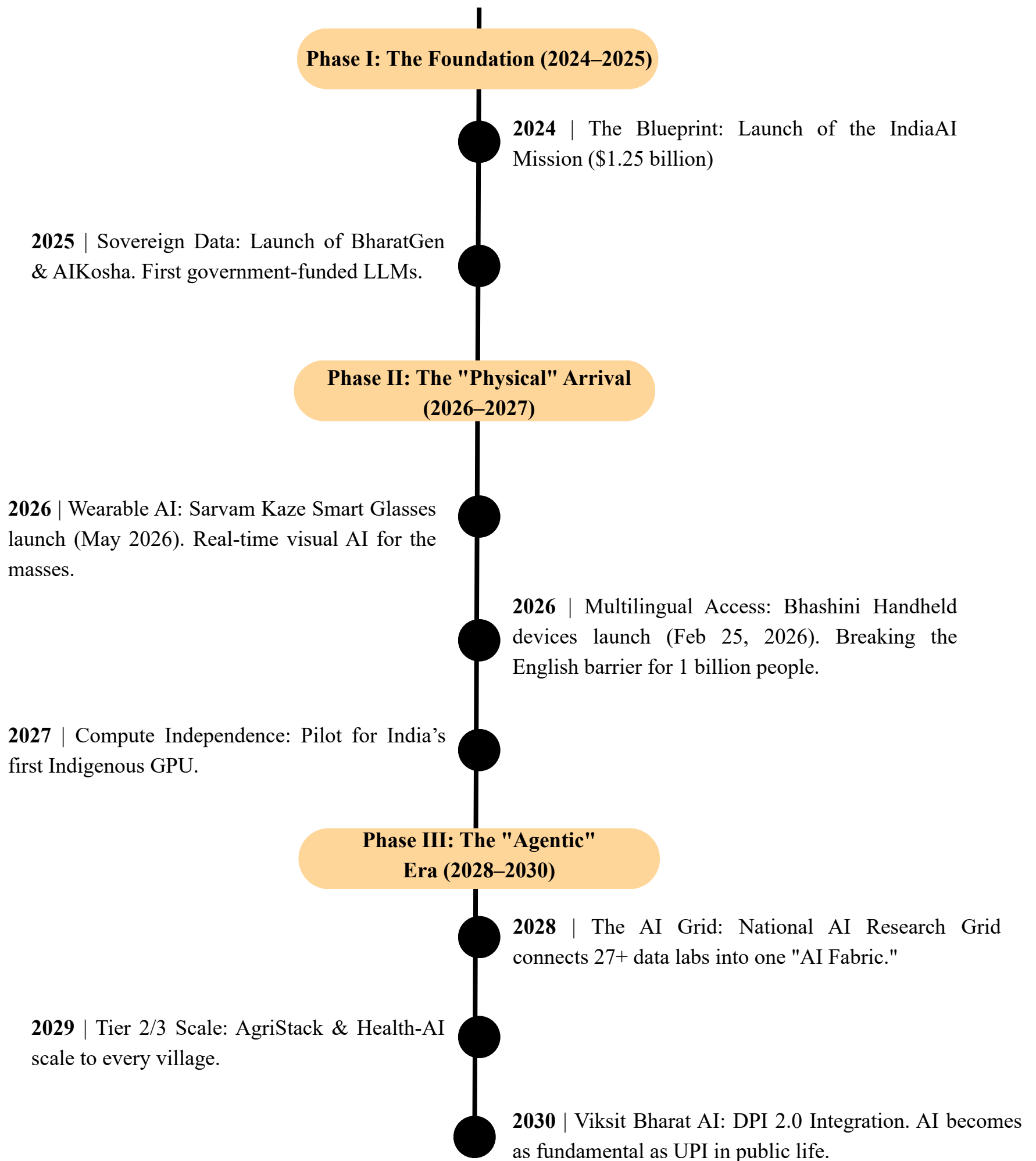
Benefit: The Energy & Utilities sector is transitioning toward Green AI infrastructure, anchored by Adani's \$100B renewable-powered data center commitment and Google's 1 GW Visakhapatnam hub. Through strategic partnerships for scalable climate solutions, AI-powered smart grids now optimize load balancing and predictive maintenance, balancing massive compute requirements with national sustainability targets.



Energy & Utilities

AI IMPACT SUMMIT: THE ROADMAP TO 2030: INDIA'S AI EVOLUTION

The following timeline synthesizes the key announcements from the 2026 Summit and the strategic goals of the IndiaAI Mission.



MULTILATERAL GUARDRAILS: SCALING CROSS-BORDER RISK MITIGATION & AI INTEGRITY

The Summit has fundamentally brought upon transition from abstract ethical guidelines to enforceable, cross-border operational protocols. For risk professionals, the most critical development is India's leadership of a 30-country "Action Coalition" designed to harmonize technical standards for mitigating systemic AI threats. This coalition facilitates a unified response to deepfakes, synthetic media manipulation, and algorithmic bias through a shared "red-teaming" database. By synchronizing regulatory responses across these 30+ jurisdictions, the summit has established a multilateral safety net where a vulnerability identified in one market triggers a coordinated, real-time response globally, effectively closing the gap that malicious actors previously exploited across borders.

A cornerstone of this new regime is the "New Delhi Frontier AI Commitments," a landmark pact signed by global leaders like Google, OpenAI, and Microsoft alongside domestic innovators. These commitments mandate the publication of anonymized risk-sharing data and require rigorous "contextual evaluation" to identify linguistic and cultural biases before a model is deployed. This shift ensures that "Trust-by-Design" is no longer a theoretical preference but a prerequisite for market entry. Furthermore, the operational expansion of the IndiaAI Safety Institute (AISI) introduces a "Governance Testing" layer, where high-impact AI systems must be stress-tested against national-interest risks. For the risk sector, this creates a standardized roadmap for compliance, moving the needle from reactive safety measures to proactive, systemic resilience.

The summit also launched the "Trusted AI Commons," a collaborative platform that consolidates auditing tools and benchmarks for "black box" algorithms, specifically targeting high-stakes sectors like finance and healthcare. Supported by over \$250 billion in infrastructure pledges, this framework ensures that as AI capabilities scale, the mechanisms to monitor "Model Drift" and social engineering scale alongside them. By integrating these technical guardrails into the core architecture of AI development, the 2026 outcomes provide a foundation for sovereign security and public trust, ensuring that AI-driven growth does not come at the cost of systemic stability or human agency.

CONCLUSION

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 marks a decisive shift in the global technological order, signaling the transition of artificial intelligence from a speculative frontier to a core pillar of national and economic doctrine. By successfully anchoring the discourse in the "Global South" perspective, the summit moved the needle beyond theoretical safety risks toward pragmatic, development-oriented deployment. The consensus reached among 88 nations in the New Delhi Declaration reflects a rare geopolitical alignment, suggesting that the future of AI will be governed not by rigid, isolated regulations, but by interoperable frameworks that allow innovation to scale across borders while maintaining essential ethical guardrails.

India's strategic positioning as a "bridge" between advanced economies and emerging markets has effectively elevated its role from a data provider to a global convener. This is backed by tangible infrastructure momentum—most notably the expansion to over 100,000 GPUs and the launch of sovereign models like BharatGen Param2. By integrating AI directly into established Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) like UPI and Aadhaar, India has created a unique "ecosystem effect" that global investors and firms are now viewing as a scalable export model. The summit's focus on workforce reskilling and "augmentation" rather than "displacement" further underscores a commitment to maintaining economic stability amidst rapid automation.

Ultimately, the success of the 2026 summit will be measured by the sustained execution of its ambitious pledges. However, the institutionalization of AI into fiscal planning, sectoral logistics, and international diplomacy suggests that the "India AI" narrative is no longer just aspirational. It has become a foundational architecture for a new era of inclusive global growth, where the "democratization of compute" is as central to sovereignty as traditional resource management.

Bottom Line: The India AI Impact Summit 2026 proved that the global AI economy is no longer the exclusive playground of a few tech hubs. By securing \$250 billion in investment pledges and a historic consensus via the New Delhi Declaration, India has effectively shifted the global AI agenda from "safety-first" to "impact-first," positioning itself as the indispensable architect of a more equitable and inclusive digital future.

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