



**CENTER OF POLICY
RESEARCH AND GOVERNANCE**



**AI ACTION
SUMMIT**
February 11, 2025

PARIS AI ACTION SUMMIT 2025





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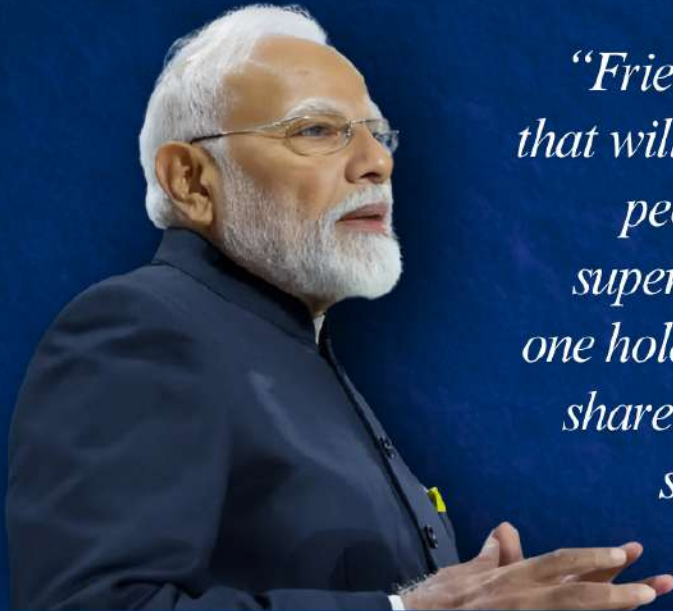




CENTER OF POLICY
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AI ACTION
SUMMIT



“Friends, we are at the dawn of the AI age that will shape the course of humanity. Some people worry about machines becoming superior in intelligence to humans. But, no one holds the key to our collective future and shared destiny other than us humans. That sense of responsibility must guide us.”

~ Prime Minister Narendra Modi

We need to know how we can have trust in artificial intelligence and the use thereof because that will be the key part of its success because if we can't trust it then we won't have artificial intelligence adopted around the world or spread around the world.

~ Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron



OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT AT THE PARIS AI ACTION SUMMIT 2025

The Center of Policy Research and Governance (CPRG), in collaboration with AI4India, organized an official side event at the AI Action Summit 2025 on February 11 in Paris.

The two-day summit, held on February 10-11, 2025, at the Grand Palais in Paris, aimed to establish scientific foundations, solutions, and standards for sustainable AI that serves collective progress and the public interest. Co-chaired by India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the summit emphasized the transformative potential of AI, with the Prime Minister stating in his opening remarks that AI is not merely a tool but a powerful force poised to reshape human society.

CPRG's participation in the AI Action Summit 2025 represents a significant milestone in its broader mission to examine the societal impact of emerging technologies. As the only Indian non-governmental organization invited to organize an official side event at the summit, CPRG demonstrated its leadership by successfully hosting a side event alongside prestigious international bodies including UNESCO, UNDP, and the European Commission. This involvement aligns with global efforts to promote responsible AI and reinforces CPRG's commitment to advancing both national and international discussions on AI adoption.

Our side event, titled "Data for Development: Building AI in the Global South," aimed to harness the power of AI to accelerate technology-driven development in the Global South. The panel discussions were designed to explore critical data-related challenges that hinder the creation of effective and mature AI systems in these regions. By facilitating an exchange of insights among leading scholars, industry experts, and senior bureaucrats, the event fostered a dynamic dialogue on leveraging AI for sustainable and inclusive growth globally.

The primary objective of the side event was to bring together multiple perspectives from diverse stakeholders and enable knowledge sharing in a holistic, solution-oriented, and engaging manner. The event aimed to create an actionable roadmap to overcome challenges observed during the effective deployment of AI tools, particularly for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The Summit took place at a pivotal moment when AI is reshaping industries, job markets, and governance worldwide. The urgency to formulate well-defined policies for equitable growth is more pressing than ever. As AI continues to drive economic progress, ensuring equitable access to AI-driven opportunities remains a crucial policy imperative. In his remarks, Dr. Ramanand, Director of CPRG, highlighted the importance of addressing these challenges, stating, "The Global South includes societies that lack adequate technological infrastructure or expertise. At CPRG, we study technology's impact on societies and human behavior, focusing on how they will evolve over the next 5 to 10 years."

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

OPENING REMARKS



Dr. Ramanand
*Director, Center of Policy
Research and Governance*

PANEL 1

Reimagining Economies: AI's Role in Driving Growth in the Global South



Dr. Sean Dougherty
*Senior Advisor,
OECD*



Dr. Joël Ruet
*CNRS, Ecole
Polytechnique, CRG-i3*



Mr. Ravi Kaushik
*Executive Director, Centre for
Indo-European Cooperation*



Mr. Parikshit Dume
AI Innovation Expert

PANEL 2

Global South & AI: The Data Sovereignty Challenge



Mr. Abhishek Singh
*Additional Secretary, Government
of India & CEO, IndiaAI*



Mr. Shashi Shekhar Vempati
*Co-Founder,
AI4India*



Dr. Gunjan Bhardwaj
*Co-Founder & CEO,
Partex N.V.*



Mr. Chetan Aggarwal
*Public Policy Consultant,
Visiting Fellow, CPRG*

PANEL 3

Shaping Workforces: AI's Influence on Non-Skilled and Semi-Skilled Labor



Mr. Anthony O' Sullivan
*Partner and Director,
Whiteshield Partners*



Mr. Alok Agrawal
*Co-Founder,
AI4India*



Mr. Sriram Subramanian
*Founder & Principal,
CloudDon*



Mr. Ravi Kaushik
*Executive Director, Center for
Indo-European Cooperation*



Mr. Shashi Shekhar Vempati
*Co-Founder,
AI4India*

CLOSING REMARKS

Panel Discussion and Outcomes

The event featured three insightful panel discussions that explored the intersection of AI, governance, and economic resilience:

1. Reimagining Economies: AI's Role in Driving Growth in the Global South

In this discussion, experts explored how AI can help developing countries grow their economies. Dr. Joël Ruet (CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique, CRG-i3) and Dr. Sean Dougherty (Senior Advisor, OECD) shared examples of how AI is already creating new markets in countries across the Global South. Dr. Ruet highlighted successful AI implementations in agricultural forecasting systems in Kenya and healthcare delivery platforms in Rwanda that have shown measurable economic benefits. Dr. Dougherty presented comparative data on how countries with supportive AI policies experienced faster growth in digital sectors.

Mr. Parikshit Dhume (AI Innovation Expert) provided insights into how emerging AI solutions are reshaping traditional industries, emphasizing their role in improving supply chain efficiency and financial accessibility in underserved regions. Mr. Ravi Kaushik (Executive Director, CIEC) brought in perspectives on policy and governance, highlighting the role of regulatory frameworks in fostering AI innovation while safeguarding national economic interests.



The panelists examined case studies from India, Brazil, and Nigeria, where AI tools helped small businesses access new markets and increase productivity by 30-40% in some sectors. They debated different funding models for AI development, from public-private partnerships to international development assistance specifically targeting AI capabilities.

2. Data Sovereignty in the Global South: Leadership in the Age of AI

This panel focused on how emerging economies can assert control over their data assets while promoting equitable global collaboration. Opening the discussion, Mr. Abhishek Singh (Additional Secretary, MeitY, GoI & CEO, IndiaAI) stated, "Data is often compared to oil, but deriving value from data requires skills, tools, computing power, and integration with the global economy." Dr. Gunjan Bhardwaj (Co-Founder & CEO, Partex N.V.) and Mr. Shashi Shekhar Vempati (Co-Founder, AI4India and Advisory Board Member, CPRG) enriched the discussions by sharing their experiences with data management projects.



Mr. Chetan Aggarwal (Public Policy Consultant and Visiting Fellow, CPRG) noted, "Data is the new oil, and sovereignty will shape who benefits from its value. If AI relies on data from the Global North, its outputs—and economic gains—will reflect those biases." The experts discussed practical approaches to data governance that can protect national interests while enabling innovation. They also addressed how countries can develop their AI research capabilities using local data to solve local problems, rather than relying entirely on solutions developed elsewhere.

3. Shaping Workforces: AI's Influence on Non-Skilled and Semi-Skilled Labor

This panel addressed the important question of how AI will affect jobs, especially for workers without advanced education. Mr. Anthony O'Sullivan (Partner and Director, Whiteshield Partners) presented research on which job sectors are likely to face disruption or experience growth. Mr. Sriram Subramanian (Founder & Principal, CloudDon) provided insights into how businesses are leveraging AI-driven automation to enhance workforce efficiency while creating new avenues for semi-skilled labor. Mr. Alok Agrawal



(Co-Founder, AI4India) shared a positive outlook on the job market disruption, stating, "AI will create numerous job opportunities, upskill existing roles, and enhance productivity, aligning with the government's vision of an evolved workforce."

The discussion covered examples of workers transitioning to new roles after AI adoption and highlighted successful training programs. Panelists also addressed concerns about inequality, suggesting policies to ensure AI benefits reach workers at all skill levels. They emphasized the need for cooperation between government agencies, like the internationally recognized "Data Daan" platform, which democratizes access to anonymized private data for AI development in India. The panel concluded by discussing how findings from recent economic surveys could guide workforce development strategies.



MEDIA COVERAGE AND GLOBAL IMPACT

The side event received significant media attention, with coverage from leading outlets including ANI, Economic Times, DD News, and Times of India. Media reports highlighted the event's focus on the three critical themes at the side event. These themes resonated with both national and international audiences, sparking important conversations about technology's role in economic transformation. This widespread media presence helped amplify the event's key messages about creating AI systems that address the unique needs and challenges of developing economies.

As AI continues to reshape global economic and social landscapes, CPRG remains committed to its mission of developing comprehensive frameworks that maximize AI's benefits while upholding ethical standards and ensuring equitable access across society. Through its ongoing research, policy advocacy, and engagements like this conclave, CPRG is helping create an environment where emerging technologies genuinely contribute to societal progress and serve the public good, rather than reinforcing existing disparities.





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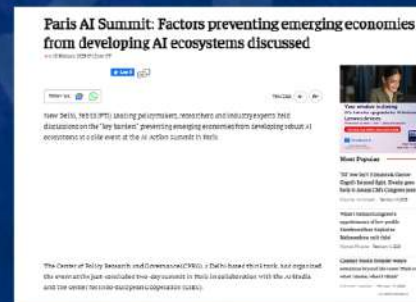


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AI समिट तैयार की जाएंगी गाइडलाइंस**NDTV****AI समिट**
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डायरेक्टर, CPRG

NDTV INDIA**THE SOLE NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION INVITED FROM INDIA****AI ACTION SUMMIT**

FUTURE OF SOCIETY INITIATIVE:

Through its Future of Society initiative, CPRG continues to lead critical research on AI governance and innovation in developing economies. This initiative aims to explore emerging technologies' societal impact, anticipate rapid shifts, and construct forward-looking policy agendas across key areas like education, economy, and urban development. The initiative has been fostering multi-stakeholder engagement through innovative programs.

Further, the organization's strategic initiatives are designed under three interconnected pillars: research and evaluation, capacity building, and policy engagement. Together, these initiatives aim to address the challenges & opportunities posed by emerging technologies. They are as follows:



1

The State of AI in India Report 2025 examines the integration of AI across critical sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, law, and tourism. This project aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how AI drives economic growth and societal transformation.



2

The Policy Conclave Series is a multi-stakeholder platform to examine the impact of technological innovations in the Indian economy. A notable example is the Conclave on "Economic Impact of AI and Automation" held at IIM Mumbai in August 2024.

3

Data for AI Development focuses on addressing data-related challenges for AI growth in India. It examines issues such as data availability, quality, and security to create a supportive environment for AI innovation. A Data Daan portal has also been developed to facilitate secure donation of private, anonymized data.



**4**

The Data as a Service Report investigates the potential for job creation in India through the AI industry. This project explores how AI can generate new employment opportunities and contribute to economic resilience in an evolving job market.

**5**

The AI in Education Report explores the influence of AI on pedagogy, learning outcomes, and educational access within the Indian education system. It aims to assess how AI can enhance educational outcomes and improve access to quality education, thus contributing to human capital development.

**6**

The Transforming Society through AI Fellowship provides young professionals with an opportunity to research on AI's socio-economic impact in India under expert mentorship.

Recognizing its influential role in policy discussions, CPRG was one of the very few institutions invited globally to participate in the Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit 2024 in Belgrade, Serbia. This international platform allowed CPRG to engage in global discussions on AI ethics, governance, and development, reinforcing its position as a thought leader in the field of emerging technologies.

Panel Discussion on ‘AI and the Future of Finance in India’

February 6, 2025 – The Center of Policy Research and Governance (CPRG) hosted an engaging panel discussion on “AI and the Future of Finance in India” at IIT Bombay, one of India's premier institutes renowned for its academic excellence and cutting-edge research. This event, organized as part of the lead-up to the AI Action Summit 2025 in Paris, brought together eminent experts to explore the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in reshaping the financial landscape, including its impact on Corporate Governance, Taxation, and Financial Inclusion.

The panel featured distinguished speakers, including Shri Ravi Shankar Shrivastava, Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Mumbai, and Shri Rohan Angrish, former CTO of Capital Float and current consultant at McKinsey. Their insights highlighted the opportunities and challenges associated with integrating AI into financial systems. The discussion was expertly moderated by Professor Varadraj Bapat, Professor of Finance at IIT Bombay, ensuring a dynamic exchange of ideas. Participants delved deep into the complexities of AI adoption in finance, debating its implications from multiple perspectives, both during the panel and in informal interactions during the high tea session that followed.

The event not only facilitated thought-provoking dialogues but also emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in navigating the rapidly evolving intersection of AI and finance. CPRG remains committed to fostering such knowledge-sharing platforms, contributing to informed policy-making in India's digital economy.



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**CENTER OF POLICY
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The Center of Policy Research and Governance (CPRG) is a policy research think tank dedicated to promoting a people-centric policy ecosystem in India. As an Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)-recognized institution, it engages in research and analysis across diverse policy areas to develop effective solutions for contemporary policy challenges. It works in close cooperation with leading public policy practitioners and scholars globally. Additionally, it focuses on policy engagement efforts and capacity-building initiatives for a variety of stakeholders.



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