

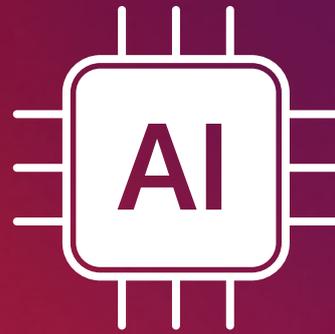
**AI**  
**IMPACT**  
**SUMMIT**  
भारत 2026 INDIA

Pre-Summit  
Event

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

# HEALTH OF INDIA SUMMIT 2026

Building a  
**Healthier India**  
with



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## REPORT 2026

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#### **Hosted by DataLEADS**

DataLEADS is an award-winning, globally recognized digital media and technology company at the forefront of information integrity, health communication and literacy, data intelligence, sustainable development communications, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence.



#### **Co-hosted by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW)**

National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It serves as an apex technical institute and a national think tank supporting the design, implementation, and strengthening of health and family welfare programmes across the country.



#### **Convened by First Check**

A global health information initiative by DataLEADS, which is safeguarding public health against misinformation, one fact-check at a time. A verified signatory of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), First Check also runs an AI-powered WhatsApp Tipline, collaborates with publishers like The Week, and manages a network of 53 experts across 24 countries.

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**THE HEALTH OF INDIA SUMMIT 2026 POSITIONED THE DELIBERATIONS ON AI AND HEALTHCARE AS A STRATEGIC PUBLIC GOOD THAT MUST BE SCALED THROUGH COORDINATED POLICY ACTION, INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING, AND SUSTAINED COLLABORATION.**

India stands at a critical juncture where advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are reshaping public systems, and healthcare has emerged as one of the most consequential arenas for this transformation. Recognising both the responsibility and the opportunity inherent in this transformational AI journey, the Health of India Summit 2026, held on 28 January 2026, convened leaders across government, healthcare, technology, academia, civil society, and the media to deliberate on actionable pathways for responsible AI adoption in India's health ecosystem.

Hosted by DataLEADS, the Summit served as the official Pre-Summit to the India Impact AI Summit 2026, aligning its deliberations with the national IndiaAI vision and the broader aspiration of Viksit Bharat. The one-day convening brought together 250+ delegates and 60 speakers, with discussions reaching over one million people through social media, the Summit demonstrated both sectoral relevance and public engagement.

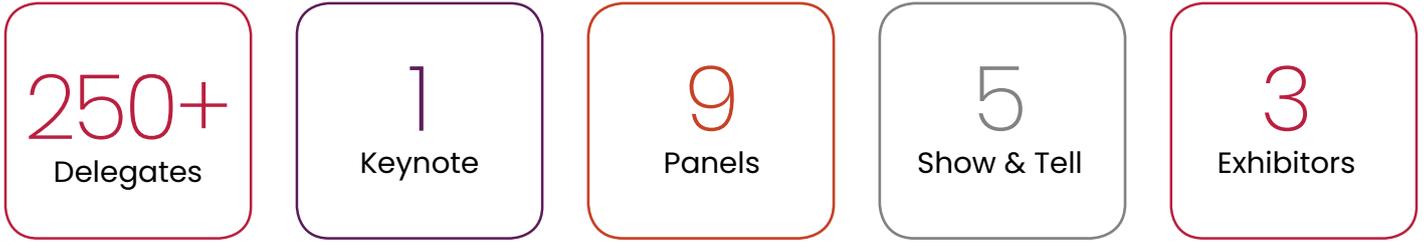
Across high-level panels and innovation showcases, the Summit explored AI's role in transforming India's healthcare paradigm from late-stage treatment to prevention, early diagnosis, predictive public health and strengthening AI capacities within the healthcare workforce. Discussions covered a wide range of applications, including clinical decision support, disease surveillance, mental health, medical education, and drug discovery. A consistent theme across sessions was that AI must function as an enabler for healthcare professionals—augmenting clinical judgment and system efficiency rather than replacing human care or accountability.

Participants also addressed the structural and governance challenges that accompany AI adoption at scale. The sessions underscored the policy imperative for representative, India-specific datasets, interoperable digital health infrastructure, and robust data governance aligned with the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) framework. Speakers cautioned against fragmented, stand alone pilot initiatives/approaches and highlighted the importance of holistic, system-wide approach grounded in evidence-based validation, continuous monitoring, and ethical oversight to ensure patient safety and public trust.

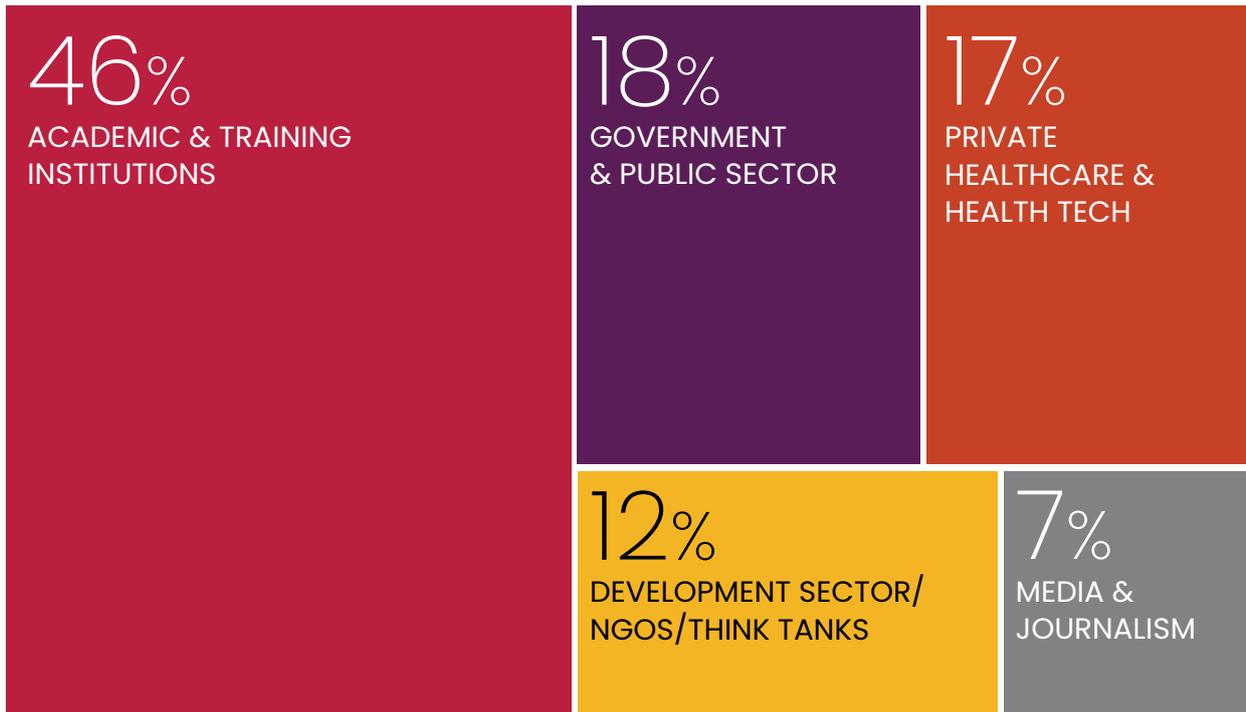
Equity and inclusion were pivotal principles guiding the Summit's deliberations. Panellists underscored the importance of contextual factors, noting that persistent digital divides across geography, language, gender, and socio-economic status must be accounted for while designing and deploying AI based tools and approaches within India's healthcare ecosystem. The esteemed panellists called for AI systems that are context-aware, inclusive, and deployable at the primary care and community level to ensure last mile reach of AI in healthcare. Capacity building, AI literacy, and workforce readiness were identified as critical enablers for sustainable and responsible adoption. The Summit also reinforced the importance of health information integrity in an AI-enabled health ecosystem. As the health sector confronts challenges related to misinformation, opaque algorithms, unintended risk associated with AI integration, there is a need for evidence-based approach, robust healthcare governance, and transparency as foundational pillars to effectively navigate the challenges.

Finally, the Health of India Summit 2026 positioned the deliberations on AI and healthcare as a strategic public good that must be scaled through coordinated policy action, institutional capacity building, and sustained collaboration. This will require sustained dialogue and deliberation to develop actionable governance and trust frameworks, ensuring that AI-driven interventions advances equitable, inclusive, resilient, and human-centric healthcare in India.

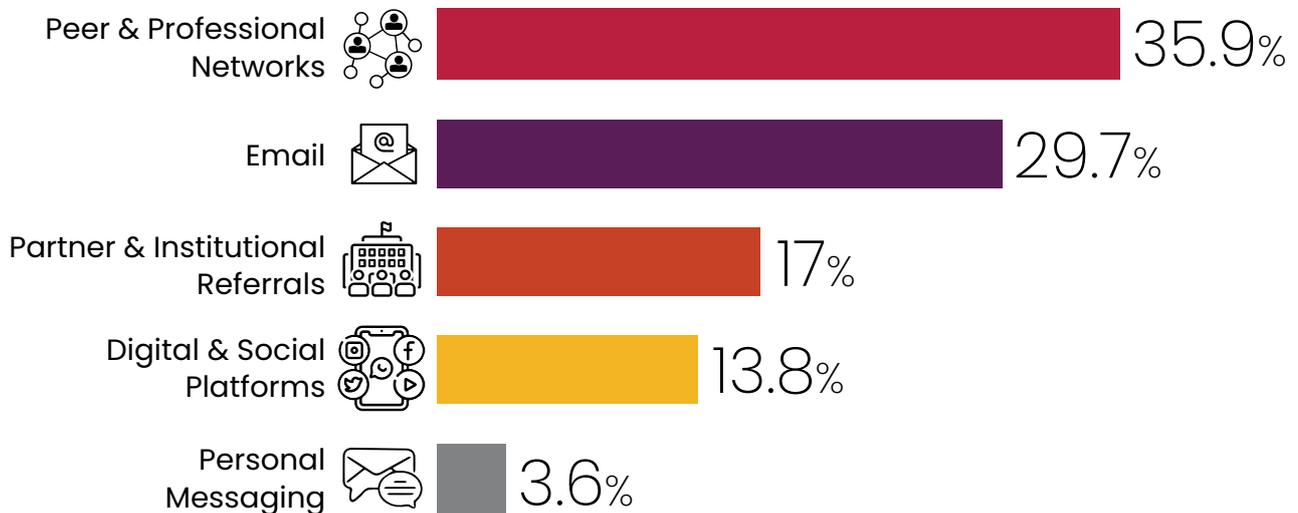
## SUMMIT IN NUMBERS



## DELEGATE PROFILE



## HOW DID THE WORD SPREAD?



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India National Health Authority Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Healthcare Sector Skill Council Microsoft Google (APAC) PwC Samsung U.S. Embassy, New Delhi Embassy of the Netherlands in India World Health Organization (WHO) BMJ Wadhvani Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Jhpiego JSI Research & Training Institute Global Health Strategies Evidence Action Khushi Baby European Institute for Healthcare Excellence Care Health Insurance Ltd AI Health Highway FrontierView Koan Advisory Group RGF Scope Impact BrainX AI (USA) Max Healthcare Medanta ApolloHospitals Fortis Healthcare Paras Hospital Mahajan Imaging & Labs Eka.care Immuneel Therapeutics NeuroDX Remidio Innovative Solutions CellStrat Inc. Progno.Tech HealthSutra Analytics Pvt. Ltd. National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Ashoka University Jawaharlal Nehru University Noida International University SGT University, Gurugram Maulana Azad Medical College PGIMER, Chandigarh Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla Pt. B. D. Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences DPSRU (Delhi Pharma-ceutical Sciences and Research University) MAHE – Manipal Academy of Higher Education Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health IGNOU ITM University, Gwalior Press Trust of India (PTI) Asian Dispatch TV9 Deutsche Welle First Check Daily Salar SocioScript Centre for Health Equity Law & Policy Foundation for People-centric Health Systems DoctorsHealingLives Aarogya Seva TB Alert India

# SUMMIT SPEAKERS



**DR SUNIL KUMAR BARNWAL, IAS**  
CEO, National Health Authority (NHA)



**DR K. SRINATH REDDY**  
Padma Bhushan, Founder President, PHFI; Former Head of Cardiology, AIIMS



**DR (LT. GEN) AJIT SINGH NARULA**  
Principal Director, Nephrology, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute



**DR HARSH MAHAJAN**  
Padma Shri Awardee, Founder, Mahajan Imaging & Labs



**MANOJ JHALANI**  
Director, Health Systems Development, WHO SEARO



**HARSH DHAND**  
GenAI and Research Partnerships Head, Google APAC



**PADMA JAISWAL, IAS**  
Secretary to the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi



**DR MONA DUGGAL**  
Director, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Digital Health and Science



**DR ROLI MATHUR**  
Scientist G & Head, ICMR Bioethics Unit, Bengaluru



**SUJAYA KRISHNAN**  
Former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI



**PROF. (DR) V K TIWARI**  
Dean of Studies & Head of Department, NIHF



**PRAKASH KUMAR**  
CEO, Wadhvani Centre for Government Digital Transformation, Wadhvani Foundation



**DR NEERJA BHATLA**  
Padma Shri Awardee, Former Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at AIIMS Delhi



**RAMAN SANKAR**  
Senior Director, Global Health Strategies



**DR SHUBNUM SINGH**  
Principal Advisor, Healthcare, CII



**DR RAVINDER K DEWAN**  
Principal Consultant, Thoracic Surgery, National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases



**DR RAJESH RANJAN**  
HOD, Department of Epidemiology, NIHF



**DR ANURAG AGRAWAL**  
Dean, BioSciences, Ashoka University



**DR RAHUL BHARGAVA**  
Principal Director & Chief, Haematology, Hemato Oncology, BMT & CAR T Cell, Fortis Hospital, Gurugram



**DR KRITIKA RANGARAJAN**  
Associate Professor, Radiology, AIIMS Delhi



**DR AARTI**  
Professor, Pt. B. D. Sharma PGIMS, Rohtak



**DR SHIRSHENDU MUKHERJEE**  
Managing Director, Wadhvani Innovation Network



**PAVAN DUGGAL**  
Senior Advocate & Chief Architect, International AI Law Framework Initiative



**DR MEENAKSHI SINGH**  
Professor, Gynaecologist, LHMC



**SUBODH PS**  
Group Head, Health Technology Group, C-DAC



**DR ANITA KAUL**  
Clinical Director & Sr Consultant, Fetal Medicine and Genetics, Apollo Hospital



**DR SIDDHARTH PANWAR**  
Founder, NeuroDX



**DR PUNEET AGARWAL**  
Principal Director (Neurology), Max Healthcare & Founder, NeuroDX



**DR ASHWANI AGGARWAL**  
Director, Intelligent Business Transformation, PwC



**KEERTI BHATT**  
Social Media Editor/Content Manager, Deutsche Welle

# SUMMIT SPEAKERS



**VIBHAV MITHAL**  
AI & IPR Lawyer,  
Anand and Anand



**ATANTRA DASGUPTA**  
Advisor of Invent, Chair  
of Medical Device  
Committee of PHDCCI



**DR ARJUN DANG**  
CEO & Partner,  
Dr Dangs Lab



**DEEPAK TULI**  
Co-Founder & COO,  
Eka Care



**KAMAL SHARMA**  
Director and HOD,  
Samsung Health &  
Medical Equipments (HME),  
South West Asia Biz



**VIKRAM MALHOTRA**  
Director - Artificial  
Intelligence Tech  
Strategist, Microsoft



**VARUN DUBEY**  
Founder & CEO,  
Superhealth



**DR PRASHANT MISHRA**  
Managing Director,  
BMJ Group



**DR AMIR ULLAH KHAN**  
Member of the Telangana  
Public Service Commission  
and Visiting Professor at ISB



**PRATYUSH RANJAN**  
Chief Editor - Digital  
Services, AI Integration  
and Fact Check, PTI



**RAKESH KHAR**  
Editor, English Cluster,  
TV9 Network



**ANUSHA PURUSHOTHAM**  
Head of Health Systems  
& Policy, Remidio



**SWAPNIL WAICHALE**  
Head of Strategy &  
Corporate Development,  
Immuneel



**CHHITIZ KUMAR**  
Founder &  
Managing Partner,  
TDR Enterprises



**NICO SCHIETTEKATTE**  
Counsellor for Health,  
Welfare & Sport, Netherlands  
Embassy in India



**SHIVANGI RAI**  
Deputy Coordinator &  
Lead (Digital Technology),  
Centre for Health  
Equity Law & Policy



**DR CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA**  
Founder-Director,  
Foundation for People-  
centric Health Systems



**DR JAYASHREE DASGUPTA**  
Clinical Psychologist &  
Co-Founder, SocioScript



**PAYAL SAXENA**  
Co-Founder & Director,  
SocioScript



**DR SABITA MISHRA**  
Director Professor & Former  
Head of Anatomy, Maulana  
Azad Medical College



**DR VANDANA CHAWLA**  
Vice-President, Academic  
& Research, Ujala Cygnus  
Healthcare Services



**DR AVNEESH KHARE**  
Clinician turned Med AI  
Educator, Researcher  
and Advisor



**DIVYA SARAF**  
Lead, Strategic  
Partnerships, Periwinkle  
Technologies



**DR ARCHANA KUMARI**  
Associate Professor,  
Centre for Media  
Studies, JNU



**DR SMRITI PAHWA**  
Director, Scale Up  
Programs, Arogya World



**DR DHARMENDRA YADAV**  
Assistant Professor,  
NIHFW



**SYED NAZAKAT**  
Founder & CEO,  
DataLEADS



**DR. SABBA MEHMOOD**  
Co-Founder & Director,  
DataLEADS and First Check

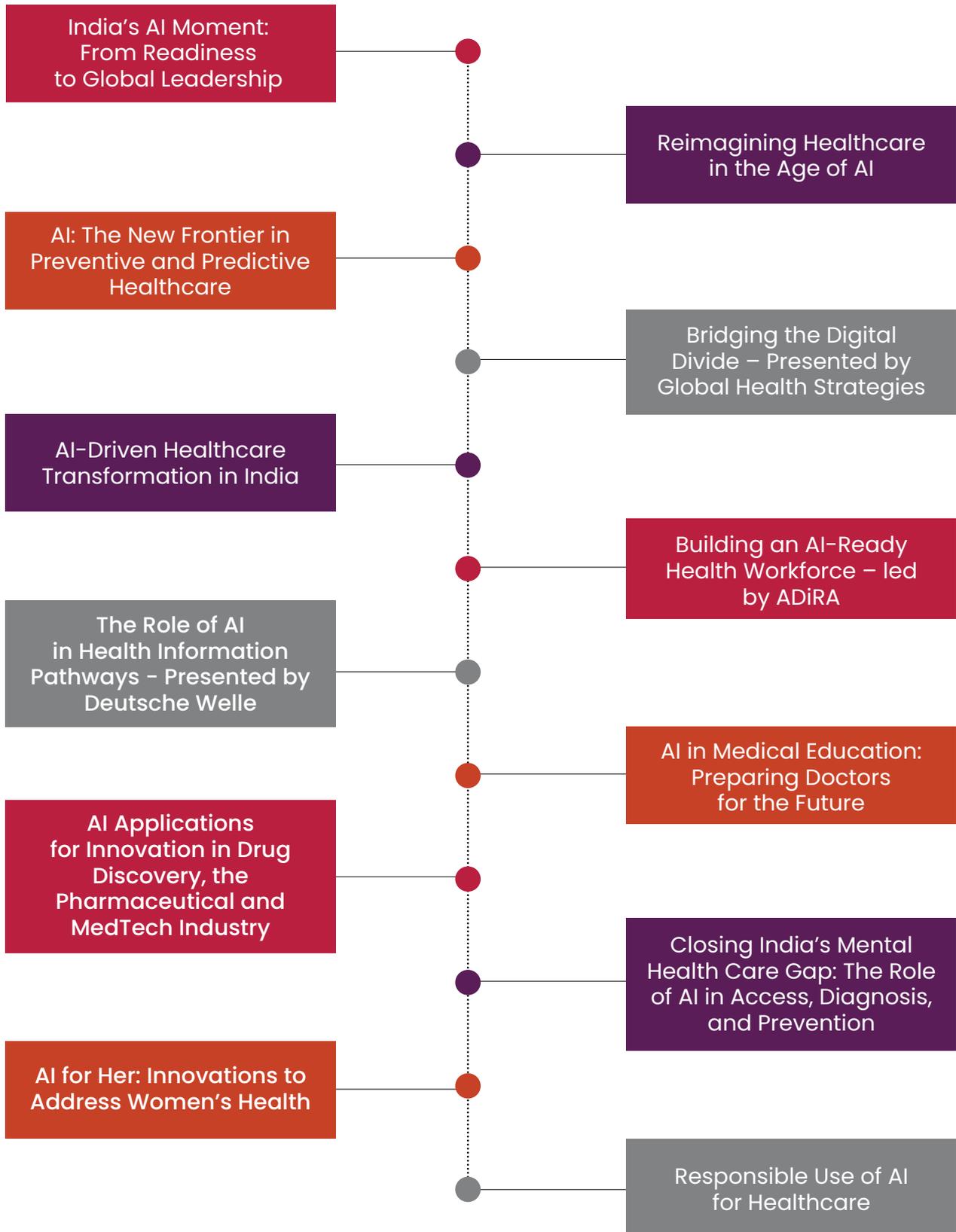


**SURBHI PANDIT NANGIA**  
Group Vice President,  
DataLEADS



**PARUL GOSWAMI**  
Deputy Director,  
DataLEADS

## THEMES DISCUSSED



## SHOW AND TELL: INNOVATORS BREAKING NEW GROUND

The Health of India Summit 2026 featured Show and Tell sessions with innovators who are breaking new ground in India's health sector. These sessions illustrated how AI-enabled diagnostics and evidence-based systems are already improving access, screening, and decision-making in real-world public health settings.



### EVIDENCE GOVERNANCE IN AI-ASSISTED CLINICAL PRACTICE

**Dr. Prashant Mishra**,  
Managing Director  
– India & South  
Asia at BMJ Group,  
highlighted why  
evidence and strong  
governance are

critical for trustworthy AI in healthcare. He explained how evidence-based, structured, and well-governed clinical knowledge enables AI to support safe, transparent, and consistent clinical decision-making, helping reduce errors and improve patient care.

### AI AND EEG-BASED BRAIN HEALTH DIAGNOSTICS

**Dr Siddharth Panwar**, Founder of NeuroDX, spoke about their work on building an AI model trained on EEG signals to improve the detection and understanding of brain disorders. The session highlighted how combining neurotechnology and AI can support clinicians with faster, more accurate, and data-driven diagnosis.



### USE OF TECH-NOLOGY FOR DETECTION OF TB IN REMOTE AREAS

**Dr Animesh Sinha**, HIV/TB/Hepatitis Advisor at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), shared how technology is being used to improve TB detection in remote and hard-to-reach areas. The session highlighted practical, frontline-ready solutions that enhance accessibility and can be integrated with public health programmes to strengthen early diagnosis and care.



### OCULOMICS AND AI-ENABLED EYE CARE FOR EARLY DISEASE DETECTION

**Anusha Purushotham**, Head of Health Systems and Policy at Remidio, spoke about Oculomics and how AI-enabled, portable tools can help detect eye and chronic diseases early. She highlighted how these solutions can strengthen health systems and improve access to timely screening and diagnosis.



### AI-POWERED IMAGING AND DIAGNOSTICS: EXPANDING ACCESS THROUGH INNOVATION

**Kamal Sharma**, Director and HOD, Samsung Health & Medical Equipment, South West Asia Biz shared how Samsung is aligning global health-tech innovation with India's healthcare needs by strengthening its healthcare research presence in the country and integrating AI across both premium and affordable devices. The session highlighted Samsung's work with doctors to build cost-effective, AI-powered imaging and diagnostic tools, including real-time ultrasound classification and automated measurements. The focus remains on expanding access to quality diagnostics, especially in remote and underserved areas.

### ADiRA

ADiRA – AI for Digital Readiness & Advancement, an initiative to build an AI-ready workforce in India, is supported by the AI Opportunity Fund: Asia-Pacific by AVPN, with support from Google.org and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The initiative aligns with IndiaAI’s Mission, focusing on building human capacity and enabling responsible AI adoption in healthcare through free hands-on workshops.



### National Health Authority

The National Health Authority (NHA) set up a stall at the Summit to promote the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The Mission aims to build the foundational digital backbone for India’s integrated health infrastructure. By creating interoperable digital health systems, ABDM seeks to bridge existing gaps across the healthcare ecosystem and enable seamless coordination among key stakeholders through secure digital highways.

### Raftaar.ai

Launched in early 2026, Raftaar.ai is an innovative technology platform designed to revolutionize the construction and hospitality industries. Developed by Tech Campus, it serves as India’s first unified ecosystem specifically engineered to control and compress hotel construction timelines. The platform addresses the “4.2-year critical threshold” where projects often stall, aiming to deliver results within 18–24 months instead. By linking architects, contractors, and developers in real-time, Raftaar.ai replaces “construction by chance” with precision engineering and national-level project visibility.



1

## **ADOPT A “ONE NATION, ONE PLATFORM” APPROACH FOR AI IN HEALTHCARE**

Establish a unified, nationally governed AI framework and interoperable platforms to address fragmented pilots and enable scalable, equitable access to AI-enabled healthcare delivery services across states and institutions.

2

## **STRENGTHEN INDIA-SPECIFIC HEALTH DATA ECOSYSTEMS**

Prioritise high-quality, representative, India-specific health datasets through standardisation, normalization, and robust data infrastructure, recognising that the reliability and effectiveness of AI systems are fundamentally dependent on the quality of data on which they are trained.

3

## **POSITION AI STRICTLY AS CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT—NOT CLINICAL REPLACEMENT**

Mandate that AI tools augment doctors, nurses, and frontline workers, with final clinical decisions always remaining under human oversight.

4

## **OPERATIONALISE ETHICAL GOVERNANCE, PRIVACY, AND CONSENT BY DESIGN**

Align AI deployment with the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) framework, strengthen institutional ethics committees, and ensure transparency, explainability, bias audits, and patient consent across AI systems.

5

## **ENABLE EVIDENCE-BASED SCALE-UP BEYOND PILOTS**

Build on rigorous validation, real-world evidence generation, continuous performance monitoring, and post-deployment audits before scaling AI tools at population or national levels.

6

## **BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE THROUGH INCLUSIVE, CONTEXT-AWARE AI DESIGN**

Develop AI tools that reflect India’s linguistic, socio-economic, and regional realities, with co-design involving frontline healthcare professionals/communities and a contextual ethical framework guiding responsible use across the AI lifecycle.

7

## **STRENGTHEN AI CAPACITY ACROSS MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION**

Integrate AI literacy, responsible use, and critical evaluation into medical curricula, public health capacity building, and continuous professional development programmes for healthcare workers and administrators.

8

## **LEVERAGE AI TO SHIFT HEALTHCARE FROM LATE-STAGE TREATMENT TO PREVENTION**

Prioritise AI applications in early diagnosis, screening, surveillance, and predictive public health—especially for NCDs, mental health, maternal and child health, and outbreak forecasting.

9

## **ESTABLISH CLEAR REGULATORY PATHWAYS FOR AI-ENABLED MEDTECH AND PHARMA**

Develop harmonised regulatory standards for AI-based diagnostics, medical devices, and drug discovery, including validation protocols, safety benchmarks, and approval pathways.

10

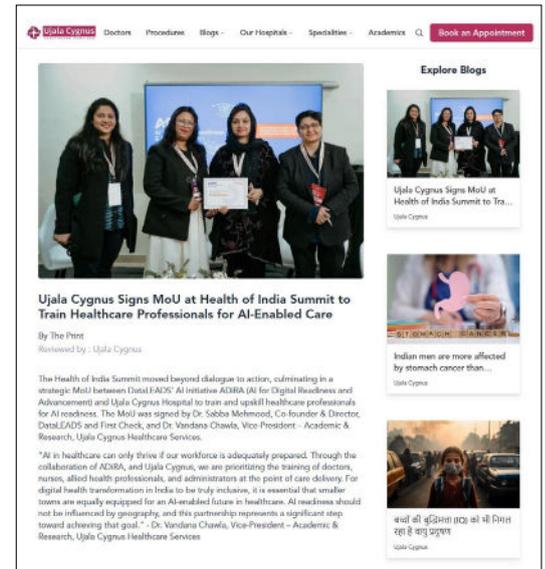
## **INSTITUTIONALISE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION AND PUBLIC TRUST-BUILDING**

Create formal mechanisms for sustained collaboration among government, academia, industry, civil society, and media, anchored in evidence-based practice, transparent communication, and public accountability.

## DataLEADS and Ujala Cygnus Hospitals

The Health of India Summit moved beyond dialogue to catalyse concrete action through the signing of a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DataLEADS' AI initiative, ADiRA (AI for Digital Readiness and Advancement), and Ujala Cygnus Hospitals. The partnership aims to train and upskill healthcare professionals across India to build readiness for the adoption and responsible use of AI in healthcare. The MoU was signed by Dr Sabba Mehmood, Co-founder & Director, DataLEADS and First Check, and Dr Vandana Chawla, Vice President – Academic & Research, Ujala Cygnus Healthcare Services.

**ADiRA** is an initiative focused on building an AI-ready workforce in India and is supported by the AI Opportunity Fund: Asia-Pacific by AVPN, with backing from Google.org and the Asian Development Bank.



## Research Ethics & Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Workshop and Poster Presentation Session

In parallel to the Summit, the host partner NIHF conducted an online workshop on Research Ethics and Good Clinical Practice (GCP) on 28 January 2026, aimed at strengthening participants' understanding of ethical principles, regulatory frameworks, and best practices in clinical and biomedical research in India. The workshop was attended by 170+ participants.

A poster presentation session was organised in collaboration with the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHF), featuring four posters and ten research paper presentations focused on Health and AI. The session was conducted in a hybrid format, with participation from NIHF as well as external institutions and campuses. Three outstanding posters were recognised and awarded at the end of the programme: Bridging the Gap: AI-Driven Resilience Across the Disaster Life Cycle; Artificial Intelligence in Public Health Research: Advancements, Challenges and the Road Ahead; and Beating the Bacillus: AI and India's Fight Against Tuberculosis.



## WHAT OUR SPEAKERS HAD TO SAY



DataLEADS, through FirstCheck, has been able to create a network of health professionals, collaborators, and companies working in health tech and AI, in a way that it can be leveraged to build capacity and use the opportunities that are being created by AI in healthcare. I see a lot of value in the Health of India Summit, and as an annual event, this year's edition has even greater significance in the context of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 and its strong focus on AI and health."

**DR SUNIL KUMAR BARNWAL**

CEO, National Health Authority (NHA)



"Supported the Summit because health remains one of the most critical challenges in India and across South Asia. At DW, we give utmost importance to ensuring that reliable, accessible, and trustworthy health information reaches our audiences. In the age of AI, the stakes are even higher: while AI can amplify misinformation, it also offers powerful opportunities to bring verified, multilingual, and life-saving information to millions who are still 'lost in translation'. This dual responsibility drives our commitment to initiatives like the Summit."

**DEBARATI GUHA**

Director of Programs, DW Asia

It was a delightful experience partnering with DataLeads on the fabulously organized and thoughtfully curated Health of India Summit. The diversity of stakeholders, across government, industry, academia, and civil society, and the depth of perspectives shared truly stood out. It was an absolute pleasure to participate in these conversations. The potential role of AI in strengthening public health systems in India cannot be overemphasised. Platforms like this are critical to help streamline and structure discourse, ensuring that AI delivers a definitive yet equitable impact on public health and society at large."

**RAMAN SANKAR**

Senior Director, Global Health Strategies



I must congratulate the team for convening this wonderful summit on such a timely and important topic. I am confident that this platform will continue to drive meaningful conversations and impact in the years ahead."

**PRAKASH KUMAR**

CEO, Wadhvani Centre for Government Digital Transformation, Wadhvani Foundation



The session, the entire event per se, had a very good collection of speakers—from policymakers and strategists to users. That really stood out for me, and I think this is something much required to take AI to the last mile. Otherwise, we talk about policy and decide on things, but the execution part remains separate. Here, we are bringing in a cohesive working culture by inviting people from all fields. Industry is also part of it, because whatever technology and policies we decide on have to come from industry."

**KAMAL SHARMA**

Director and HOD, Samsung Health & Medical Equipment, South West Asia Biz



This is a very timely event, especially as India is hosting the AI Impact Summit in February. There is already a lot of excitement around it, and this felt like a strong pre-summit that builds toward the larger event. I am confident that the recommendations from today's discussions will feed into what we see in February."

**DR PRASHANT MISHRA**

MD, BMJ Group

The goal of this Summit is very clear: to leverage AI to make healthcare accessible, affordable, and high-quality for everyone, particularly those in our rural and marginalized communities. We are not just discussing algorithms; we are exploring how AI can support our doctors, ASHA workers, and nursing staff to make quicker, more accurate diagnoses, whether it is in radiology, cancer care, or TB screening."

**DR RAJESH RANJAN**

HOD, Epidemiology, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare



Healthcare must be built on awareness, access, affordability, quality, and continuity of care. AI offers an opportunity to shift health systems from reactive responses to proactive support, while empowering frontline health workers with better tools for care delivery. Its true strength lies in scalability, but social determinants will always remain central to shaping health outcomes."

**DR K. SRINATH REDDY**

Padma Bhushan, Founder President, PHFI; Former Head of Cardiology, AIIMS



## WHAT OUR SPEAKERS HAD TO SAY



“With mental health treatment gaps in India ranging from 70–90 percent, the question is not whether we use AI, but how responsibly we deploy it at scale. While AI can support screening and access, mental well-being remains deeply relational, and we must not lose sight of community care and the human touch. This summit marks the start of a larger conversation on AI in mental health—one that must move beyond innovation spaces into policy and governance frameworks to shape how care is supported and protected in communities.”

### **DR JAYASHREE DASGUPTA**

Clinical Psychologist and Co-Founder, SocioScript



“I think this is an excellent combination. You have tried to bring panelists from IT, regulatory, governance, and health backgrounds together. Unless everyone comes on a common platform and works in a collaborative manner, it is very difficult to do meaningful research and bring change. This is a good system that you have created.”

### **DR MONA DUGGAL**

Director, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Digital Health and Science

“It was a great collection of experts from across the country, and it gave me a sense of how best to leverage the strategies and resources currently available in India to deliver NeuroDX. It was a very good experience being exposed to where the opportunities are, and the diverse set of speakers truly enriched me. Healthcare is a sector where no one company or individual can make a mark alone; it requires a whole community of policymakers, regulators, and others to come together. This summit is a great initiative, and I hope it continues annually.”

### **DR SIDDHARTH PANWAR**

Founder, NeuroDX



“What stood out to me most was the focus on the right priorities – how to make AI systems truly useful for the country, especially through preventive and predictive approaches. I also think DataLEADS has chosen the right focus – data. Ultimately, data is the oil that powers all of this. Ensuring the right data is available to enough people is what will truly unlock AI’s potential in healthcare.”

### **DR ANURAG AGRAWAL**

Dean, BioSciences, Ashoka University



“The summit had a clear focus on acknowledging that AI is here, AI is going to be a useful tool, and AI needs to be used with the right amount of optimism, care, and readiness. It’s a great step forward in the regulatory space for using AI in healthcare in India. What I really admired is how DataLEADS has given this discussion and this challenge a direction—by integrating the policies, laws, and guidelines we already have, looking at worldwide practices, putting them in the context of India’s diverse healthcare system, and bringing together a system that can deliver high-quality healthcare to the last mile.”

### **DR AMIR ULLAH KHAN**

Member of the Telangana Public Service Commission and Visiting Professor at ISB



“Attending the Health of India Summit 2026 was a truly insightful experience. The conversations around AI in healthcare reinforced how critical technology will be in driving better outcomes, informed decision-making, and scalable impact across India’s healthcare ecosystem.”

### **SYED ISHTIYAQ**

Founder & CEO, Rafttaar.ai

“DataLEADS is doing a great job of bringing together a truly diverse group—professionals, doctors, startups, and policymakers—on one common platform. These interactions across disciplines are what will lead to meaningful AI solutions that can actually address real-world challenges. By connecting experienced leaders with young startups, and engaging closely with government stakeholders, DataLEADS is helping galvanize AI development, enable policy change, and open up funding pathways for emerging innovators.”

### **DR HARSH MAHAJAN**

Padma Shri Awardee, Founder, Mahajan Imaging & Labs



“I commend DataLEADS for thoughtfully organising the Health of India Summit as the pre-event to the India AI Impact Summit 2026 and for creating a meaningful platform that brings together diverse voices from healthcare, policy, technology and media. AI has the power to transform health communication by making it faster, smarter and more accessible, but without ethical guardrails, clear policies and bias checks, it can also amplify harm.”

### **PRATYUSH RANJAN**

Chief Editor - Digital Services, AI Integration and Fact Check, PTI



# GLIMPSES FROM THE SUMMIT



# GLIMPSES FROM THE SUMMIT



# SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

**National Health Authority (NHA)**  
108.6K followers  
1w · 🌐

During the Keynote Address at the Health of India Summit 2026, a pre-summit event to the #IndiaAIImpactSummit, Dr. Sunil Kumar Barnwal, CEO, NHA, spoke on 'Reimagining Healthcare in the Age of AI' and opened with two core questions: can India deliver timely, quality care, and can we do it without pushing families into debt?

NHA aims to move India from fragmented encounters to longitudinal healthcare centred around continuity. Major government initiatives like #ABDM and AB PM JAY together empower patients and health workers alike to achieve this vision of coordinated and timely care.

5 comments · 6 reposts

**Remidio**  
12,335 followers  
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From the HCl Summit 2026: Anusha Purushotham shared insights on Oculomics - on how AI-enabled, portable solutions can strengthen health systems through early detection of retinal and chronic systemic diseases.

#hoia26 #AIinHealthcare #HealthSystems #DigitalHealth #RetinalHealth #EarlyDetection #HealthTechIndia #Remidio #Oculomics #FutureOfHealth #AIforGood #remidio

3 comments · 1 repost

**Mehak Rohilla** · 3rd · Public health student  
1w · 🌐

Attended the Health of India Summit 2026 #HOIA26 at NIHF, where technology, policy, and public health came together to reimagine healthcare delivery for the future. Truly inspiring conversations and perspectives.

1 comment

**IndiaAI**  
22,420 followers  
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As part of the #RoadToImpact, CW DataLEADS, through its First Check Health initiative, hosted the Health of India Summit 2026. Building a Healthier India with AI. The fourth edition convened 200+ healthcare CXOs, AI researchers, policymakers, startups, and media to spotlight India-led AI innovations addressing critical healthcare gaps.

The summit explored AI-driven advancements in diagnostics accuracy, clinical decision support, hospital efficiency, and patient empowerment, while emphasizing ethical, transparent, and human-centered AI deployment ahead of the India-AI Impact Summit 2026.

To partner or host a pre-summit event, visit: <https://lnkd.in/d/KmVg5y5>

#IndiaAIImpactSummit2026 #ResponsibleAI #PeoplePlanetProgress

Ashwini Valishaw Jitin Prasada S Krishnan Abhishek Singh Kavita Bhatia Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Digital India Programme MyGov India DataLEADS

**Dr. Aneesh Khare** · 3rd · Catalysing Med AI Literacy | Goo...  
6d · Edited · 🌐

A special moment from the award ceremony during the Health of India Summit 2026 (New Delhi) at the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHF), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), GOI.

Honored to have received the 'AI Excellence Award in Healthcare Training' under the ADIRA - AI for Digital Readiness & Advancement initiative by DataLEADS.

This recognition reinforces something I strongly believe: AI literacy is no longer optional in healthcare. It has become a core clinical and educational cor...more

49 comments · 2 reposts

**AI IMPACT SUMMIT**  
PRE-SUMMIT EVENT

संयुक्त विचार | संतुलित विकास  
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**Health of India Summit 2026 - Building a Healthier India with AI**

DataLEADS

**Rutuparna Priyadarshini** · 3rd · physiotherapist | public health enthusiast | Master's student  
1w · 🌐

Yesterday's #HOIA26 Summit at NIHF was an enriching experience 🌟 Hosted by DataLEADS, co-hosted by NIHF, and convened by FirstCheck, the summit sparked meaningful conversations around how AI can reshape healthcare delivery and policy.

**Sarika Barkhar** · 3rd · MPH Student (Community Health) | Public Health Policy & Hea...  
1w · 🌐

#HOIA26  
The Session on 'AI-Health driven Health care transformation in India' highlight key national health priorities, participated in the Health of India Summit 2026 focused on national public health priorities. Gained insights into health system strengthening, policy planning, digital health, and innovation in healthcare delivery.

**AI IMPACT SUMMIT**  
PRE-SUMMIT EVENT

संयुक्त विचार | संतुलित विकास  
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**Health of India Summit 2026 - Building a Healthier India with AI**

DataLEADS

**Ananya Thakur** · 3rd · Public Health | Yr 2 Undergrad  
1d · Edited · 🌐

Thrilled to have attended the Health of India Summit 2026, hosted by DataLEADS in partnership with the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare. This official pre-event for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 dove deep into 'Building a Healthier India with AI,' featuring insights from Dr. Sunil Kumar Barnwal- CEO, NHA, who spoke on 'Reimagining Healthcare in the Age of AI' leveraging digital infrastructure for predictive healthcare, AI's role in frontline worker capacity and the upcoming National AI Strategy for Health.

Key highlights included panels on AI in preventive care, drug discovery and medical education, plus an MOU between (IATL PAU), ADIRA initiative and Iqisa Cygnus for AI upskilling—exciting steps toward an AI-na...more

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**DataLEADS** · 10.9K followers · 6d · 🌐

Wonderful to see such thoughtful takeaways from the Summit.

Bringing together leaders across government, academia, and healthcare to explore AI in...more

**AI IMPACT SUMMIT**  
PRE-SUMMIT EVENT

संयुक्त विचार | संतुलित विकास  
WELFARE FOR ALL | HAPPINESS OF ALL

**Health of India Summit 2026 - Building a Healthier India with AI**

January 28, 2026

**SPEAKER**  
**Keerti Bhatt**  
Social Media Editor/Content Manager  
Deutsche Welle

Looking forward to moderating an important conversation at the annual Health of India Summit, 2026 being held in New Delhi on January 28. The summit has been officially recognized as a Pre-Summit Event for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 taking place in February.

It'll be moderating a panel on 'Use of AI in health information pathways', exploring how AI is reshaping the way health information is created and shared across newsrooms, on digital platforms and public health systems.

As a journalist with Deutsche Welle, working at the junction of health, media, and technology, I am particularly interested in questions of access, accountability, equity and trust as AI j...more

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**Katharina Heppke** · 3rd · Co-Geospatial/Health Topics for emp...  
2w · 🌐

Wonderful, Keerti. Wishing you much of success on your panel.

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**VIDEO | Delhi: "AI can help address the shortage of healthcare professionals in rural areas by improving access to quality care. Through AI-supported video consultations and analysis of patient data, it can guide diagnosis, identify the need for advanced care, and assist doctors at rural PHCs and CHCs in interpreting X-rays where radiologists are unavailable", says Prakash Kumar, CEO Wadhvani Foundation.**

(Full video available on PTI Videos - [ptivideos.com](https://ptivideos.com))



6:06 PM - Jan 28, 2026 - 1,898 Views

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Home > National > India must focus on leveraging digital...

**India must focus on leveraging digital data infrastructure to build AI solutions: NHA CEO**

NEW DELHI: (Jan 28) National Health Authority (NHA) CEO Dr Sunil Kumar Barmwal on Wednesday highlighted how Artificial Intelligence can be used to strengthen India's healthcare infrastructure, noting that India needs to focus on leveraging digital data infrastructure to build AI solutions.

He was speaking at the fourth edition of the Health of India Summit 2026, hosted by DataLEADS and FirstCheck in partnership with the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare.

With a central theme of 'Building a Healthier India with AI', the Health of India Summit 2026 opened with a keynote address from Barmwal focusing on reimaging healthcare in the age of AI.

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**India must focus on leveraging digital data infrastructure to build AI solutions: NHA CEO**

At the Health of India Summit 2026, NHA CEO Dr Sunil Kumar Barmwal underscored AI's crucial role in strengthening India's healthcare infrastructure. He emphasized leveraging digital data to build AI solutions that streamline care delivery and empower frontline workers. A National AI strategy for health will launch in the next few months, and as AI is being used to build healthcare professionals for AI solutions.

**What You Need to Know**

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The event brought together senior government officials, public health experts, and artificial intelligence innovators.

"We all know the way AI will change healthcare delivery. It will change the way the patient gets treatment, the way doctors perform the clinical case and improve the capacity of the health profession and the workers," Barmwal said, adding that much of their non-clinical work can be taken care of by AI.

"Similarly, we are looking at AI as a big opportunity for building the capacity of frontline health workers, and ASHA workers can actually segregate a chronic patient from a normal patient. They can ensure and make sure of some kind of early detection of a severe disease which may be likely to have," he added.

The Health of India Summit was recognised as the official pre-summit event of the upcoming India AI Impact Summit 2026, a flagship initiative led by the Government of India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the IndiaAI Mission to advance safe, responsible, and inclusive AI innovation.

The IndiaAI Impact Summit will be held in the national capital between February 19 and 20. This will be the first global artificial intelligence summit hosted in the Global South.

Barmwal also focused on creating Indian datasets so that AI solutions can be tailored to predict diseases in the Indian context.

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**India must focus on leveraging digital data infrastructure to build AI solutions: NHA CEO**

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With a central theme of 'Building a Healthier India with AI', the Health of India Summit 2026 opened

**First Check**

**From diagnostics to policy: How AI is transforming healthcare in India**

As AI promises early detection, preventive care and efficiency gains, experts warn that weak regulation, data gaps and misuse could undermine public health

**How can India leverage AI for health?**

Dr Mona Duggal, Director at ICMR - National Institute for Research in Digital Health and Science, stressed that AI can significantly strengthen healthcare screening at the grassroots level, especially by empowering frontline health workers.

She explained that the challenge is not always the absence of doctors, but their limited physical reach. "Doctors are not always available at the doorstep. At the doorstep, it is the frontline workers who play a crucial role. If AI tools can support them, screening coverage can improve substantially," she said.

However, Dr Duggal cautioned that expanding screening must go hand in hand with strengthening referral and treatment systems. "When screening improves, the number of people entering the health system will rise. That means we must ensure the system is ready to handle this demand, from referrals to follow-up care," she noted.

The Indian government has been actively integrating AI into the public health ecosystem, for instance, by designating AIIMS Delhi, PGIMER Chandigarh, and AIIMS Rishikesh as 'Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence'; and through initiatives like the Media Disease Surveillance system, the Clinical Decision Support System in eSanjevani, and AI-driven TB screening tools such as 'Cough Against TB'.

**THEWEEK**

**Need local language-based models to bridge digital gaps for health outcomes Govt official**

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI) There is a need to have a decentralised system utilising local language-based models in order to bridge the digital gap in a diverse country like India, Secretary to the Government of National Capital Territory of India Jaiwant Jaiswal said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the Health of India Summit 2026 here, the noted that India will have to develop its own system based on the ground realities and not copy what is being done in other countries globally.

"In India, we have to implement hybrid models. We will have to set up 50-60 small units of our own language-based models. It will have the data which will be trained with the local realities, local events, local situations, and then only we will be able to achieve the health outcomes," Jaiswal said.

He noted that such systems have been implemented as pilot projects in places like Goa and Puducherry. Results were very promising when it came to making of health workers at the local level, Jaiswal said.

He noted that if the country keeps implementing large language models and large datasets in the localised environments and situations, there won't be much success.

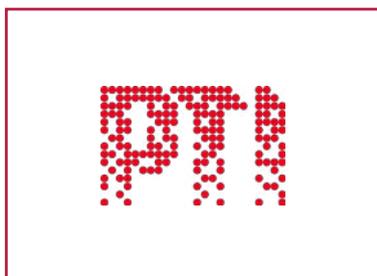
"And diagnostics and diagnostics will be up to that kind of a standard and their health outcomes will also not be achieved, so therefore we have to focus on the decentralised and distributed models," Jaiswal said.

He noted that the government has set up an AI mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). He noted that India will have to follow its own unique model because of its diversity and the multitude of languages.

"Even if we implement those big, large language models at the localised level, it will not give that much of output and return on investment, and the productivity and the health outcomes will not be very fruitful," Jaiswal stated.

(This story has not been edited by THE WEEK and is auto-generated from PTI)

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