

# MIMA TIMES

Monthly Newsletter for knowing happenings @ MIMA

# 900

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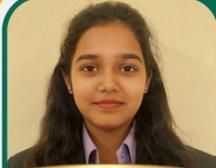
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## DRIVING MSME GROWTH: YOUTHBUILD FOUNDATION ORGANISES VENDOR DEVELOPMENT MEET UNDER MSSIDC-RAMP



YouthBuild Foundation organised Anchor Vendor Development Program at Chinchwad on 20th February 2026. under the aegis of MSSIDC, GoM. under rising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme.

46 entrepreneurs from Automobile and Engineering industry participated in the event. SEDMEC Mechatronics Pvt. Limited was the anchor company.

Mr Om Singh, head - supply chain interacted with the participants.

Mr Satyajit Kulkarni, Associate Director of YouthBuild Foundation briefed about various schemes of MASIDC and gave the presentation on Flatted Gala Rent Scheme of MSSIDC, GoM.

YouthBuild Foundation, Pune is the implementation partner of MSSIDC for capacity building of MSMs in Maharashtra.

## AI IMPACT SUMMIT: A REAL TURNING POINT FOR INDIA OR MERE IMAGE-BUILDING?



**Dr. Amey Pangarkar**

The AI Impact Summit, held from February 16–20, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi under the IndiaAI Mission, has generated international attention.

With global leaders,

startups, policymakers, and researchers participating, it is being projected as a milestone in India’s technological journey. Yet a crucial question remains: Is this a genuine leap forward or a well-curated image-building exercise?

Framed around the themes of “People, Planet, and Progress,” the summit emphasizes AI adoption across healthcare,

agriculture, education, governance, and industry. Its seven focus pillars — human capital, social empowerment, trustworthy AI, inclusive growth, sustainability, sovereign security, and global leadership—reflect ambitious intent. However, ambition must translate into measurable action.

India has already demonstrated digital transformation through Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker. In AI too, the government announced the IndiaAI Mission and allocated ₹2,000 crore in the Union Budget. Yet reports indicate that only around ₹800 crore was actually spent. This gap highlights a recurring challenge: announcements often outpace implementation.

One of the summit's strongest opportunities lies in expanding access to computing power. Making GPUs accessible to startups and MSMEs, building large datasets in Indian languages, and encouraging industry-academia collaboration are essential steps. Without strong indigenous research and open-source contributions, India risks remaining a consumer rather than becoming a creator of AI technologies.

Skill development is equally critical. Training millions in AI sounds promising, but without industry-aligned curricula, hands-on learning, and employment pathways, such initiatives may become certification exercises. Rural adoption—especially in agriculture, healthcare, and education—will require reliable connectivity, electricity, and localized language tools to avoid widening the digital divide.

Efforts like AIKosh and the IndiaAI Foundation Models initiative aim to build a national AI ecosystem focused on Indian datasets and languages. If implemented effectively, they could enable more inclusive digital services in regional languages, including Marathi, making AI more accessible and socially relevant.

However, operational challenges at the summit—such as long queues, entry confusion, and technical disruptions—raise concerns about execution capacity. If large-scale implementation of AI initiatives mirrors such inefficiencies, outcomes may fall short of expectations.

To ensure real impact, clear benchmarks are needed: time-bound action plans, transparent GPU allocation data, measurable outcomes from AI deployments in public services, and tracking of employment results from skill programs. Accountability must accompany ambition

India possesses key strengths—a young population, strong IT capabilities, and vast data resources. With transparent funding, regulatory clarity, ethical safeguards, and sustained execution, it can emerge as a serious AI leader.

Ultimately, the true measure of this summit will not lie in speeches or international presence, but in tangible results—AI improving farms, classrooms, hospitals, and public offices. If measurable change follows, the AI Impact Summit will mark a historic shift. If not, it risks being remembered as another impressive but symbolic event.



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