

UNIVERSAL AI AWARDS 2026

The Inaugural India Chapter

Celebrating Impact. Inspiring the Future.

September 17 2026 | Hyatt Regency, New Delhi

An initiative of Knowledge Networks · Post-Event Report

INDIA CHAPTER EXPERIENCE

A landmark Day for Responsible AI

On 17 September 2026, Knowledge Networks brought India's AI community together at the Hyatt Regency, New Delhi for the inaugural Universal AI Awards India Chapter(UAA).

A full-day Leadership Summit paired candid conversations on policy, enterprise adoption, and responsible AI with a Grand Awards Ceremony honoring the people and organizations turning AI into real impact.

Founder & Chairman Sanjay Puri announced the global launch of the Universal AI Awards and the upcoming Miami Chapter, with EY as process advisor.









- UAA Global Launch
- 4 Panels + 2 Talks
- 20+ Awards Categories
- All-Day Leadership Summit

INDIA CHAPTER EXPERIENCE

The Day in Numbers

300+ Delegates	**20+** Award Winners	**20+** Award Categories	**20+** Speakers on stage
100+ Marquee Organizations	**10+** Industry Sectors	**4** Panel Discussions	**Full Day** Leadership Summit











UNIVERSAL AI AWARDS

WHO WAS IN THE ROOM

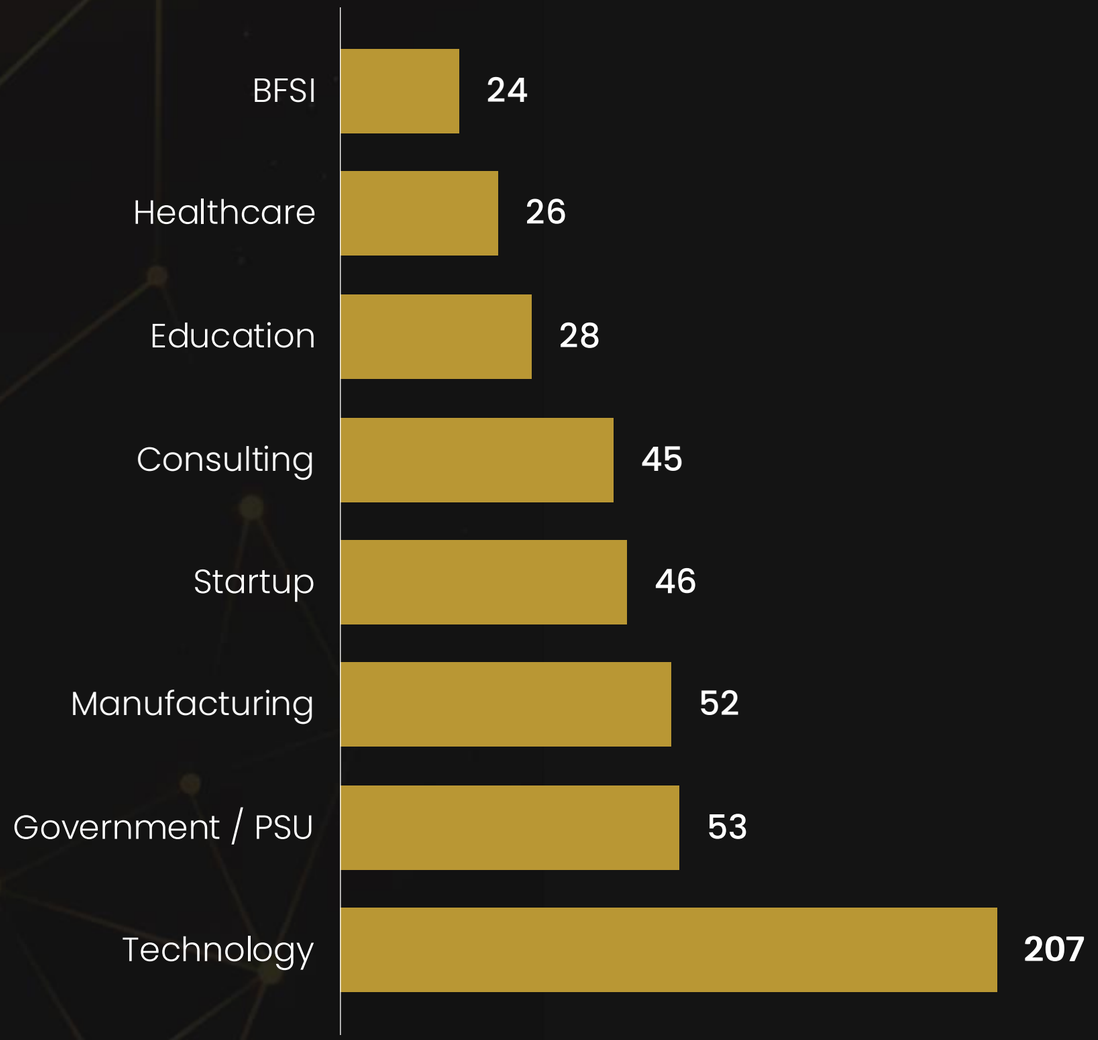
Senior Leaders from the World's Biggest Names in Tech

Organizations Represented



INDUSTRY & ENTERPRISE REPRESENTATION

A cross-industry, national gathering



Audience persona

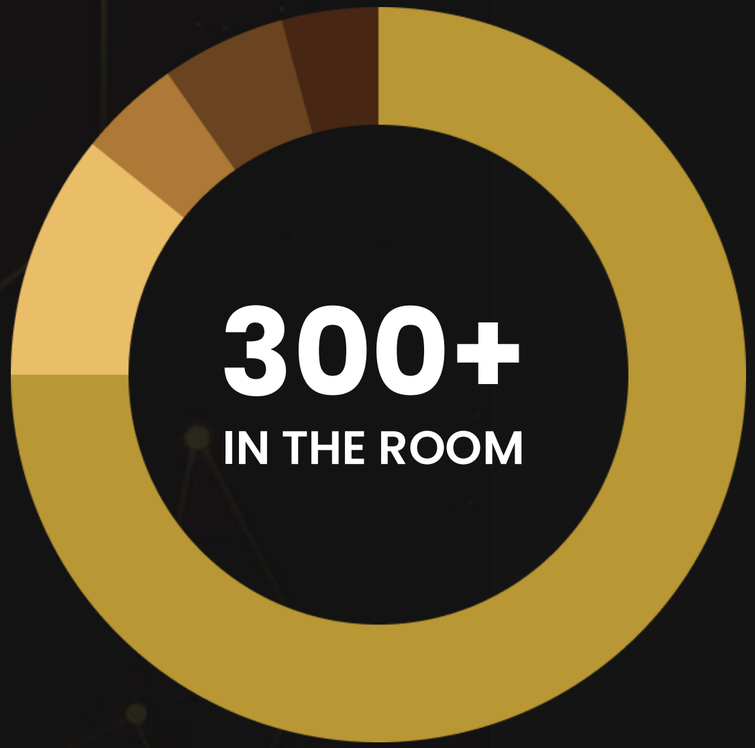
1. C-suite & boardroom (CxOs, VPs, Directors)
2. Enterprise & big tech (Microsoft, IBM, Mastercard, Infosys, TCS)
3. Government & public sector (NIC, C-DAC, DoT, MeitY, PSUs)
4. Startups, founders & investors
5. Academia & research (ISB, universities, labs)





EVENT OUTPUT

Audience & Engagement



Delegates
On-spot
Speakers
Media
Jury

The mix in the room

C-suite and boardroom leaders alongside government, enterprise, startups, academia, and investors, together in one room.

Networking Touchpoints

- Executive Breakfast
- Panel Discussions
- Investor Meetings
- Networking Hi-Tea
- Cocktail Reception
- Gala Dinner







AI THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & KEY CONVERSATIONS

UNIVERSAL AI AWARDS

Four Panels that Framed India's AI Agenda

India's AI Roadmap



Policy, Innovation & Global Competitiveness

Mod: Shakoor Rather (Science Matters). Dr. Shakti Goel (Yatra), Alok Shankar Pandey (DFCCIL), Ankit Bose (NASSCOM).

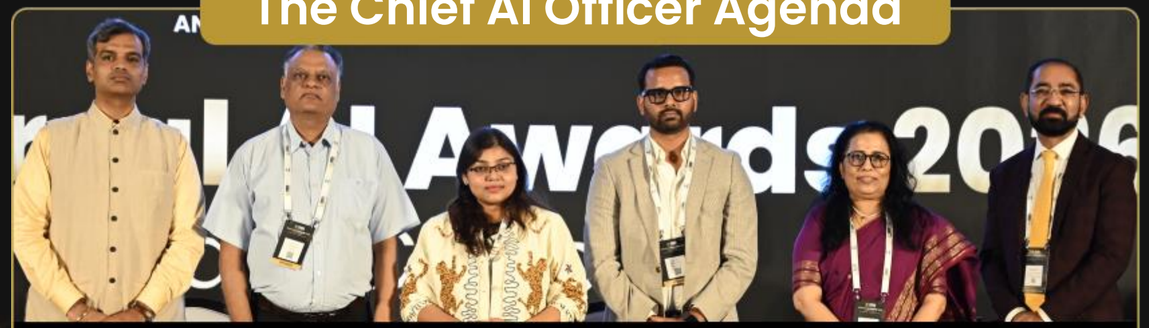
Governing AI Responsibly



Balancing Innovation, Risk & Trust

Mod: Prakhar Garg (ET Edge Insights). Saakshar Duggal (Global AI Leaders Forum), Jibu Elias (Mozilla Foundation), Shubhradeep Nandi (ResponCibleAI), Chandni Nanda (UnitedHealth).

The Chief AI Officer Agenda



Scaling Enterprise AI Across Industries

Mod: Chinmay D. Gavankar (EY). Sudhanshu Mittal (NASSCOM), Rupali Gupta (dunnhumby), Atul Rai (Staqu).

Inside the AI Boardroom



Lessons from Enterprise AI Transformation

Mod: Sanjay Puri (Knowledge Networks). Vikram Malhotra (Microsoft), Ashwin Raguraman (Bharat Innovation Fund), Vicky Nanda (NiramAI), Harish Chandra.

AI THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & KEY CONVERSATIONS

Voices from the Stage

1. **Founder's Address & Global Launch**
   Sanjay Puri, Founder & Chairman, Knowledge Networks

2. **Guest of Honor Address**
   Dr. Buddha Chandrasekhar, Anuvadini AI / AICTE

3. **AI for Social Good: Turning Data into Public Impact**
   Avik Sarkar, ISB (former NITI Aayog)

4. **AI Beyond Tomorrow: The Next Decade of Human Progress**
   Raul John Aju, ThinkCraft Academy / Airealm

5. **The Process Behind the Awards**
   Meher Tavadia, EY (Process Advisor)











UNIVERSAL AI AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence

The Grand Awards Ceremony recognized 20+ winners , honoring AI that delivers real-world impact. From healthcare and education to cybersecurity, sustainability, agriculture, mobility, and financial services, the awards celebrated work that turns AI into outcomes.

EY Building a better working world



"Celebrating Impact. Inspiring the Future."

UNIVERSAL AI AWARDS

The Winners

1. **Visionary Leader of the Year**
   Dr. Buddha Chandrasekhar CEO, Anuvadini AI; CCO, AICTE
2. **Generative AI Application of the Year**
   Dayananda Sagar University, Bangalore
3. **AI in Manufacturing & Industry 4.0**
   IIT Mandi iHub & HCi Foundation
4. **AI in Healthcare & Life Sciences**
   Moolchand Kharaiti Ram Hospital
5. **AI in Cybersecurity & Digital Trust**
   Trustnow Technologies LLP
6. **AI for Social Good**
   Niramai Health Analytix
7. **Academician / Research Professional**
   Dr. D. Abraham Pradeep
   Associate Professor, RL Institute of Mgmt. Studies
8. **AI in Sustainability / Climate Impact**
   LivNSense GreenOps Pvt Ltd.
9. **AI in Education**
   Dayananda Sagar University, Bangalore
10. **AI in Robotics & Automation**
    Dayananda Sagar University, Bangalore
11. **AI Transformation of the Year**
    Dayananda Sagar University, Bangalore
12. **Innovative Use of AI for Marketing & Comm.**
    Capgemini
13. **Chief Data & Analytics Officer of the Year**
    Tanin Chakraborty Principal Consultant, Persistent Systems
14. **AI Innovation of the Year (Product/Platform)**
    Jio Platforms Ltd.
15. **AI in Food & Beverage (F&B)**
    Henchu
16. **AI in Agriculture & Rural Impact**
    Niqo Robotics
17. **AI in Mobility & Transportation**
    Zeex AI
18. **AI Entrepreneur of the Year**
    Ankit Bansal Chief AI Architect, NirvanaIntelix
19. **AI Startup of the Year**
    Henchu
20. **AI-Powered Augmented / Virtual Reality Systems**
    E16 AI XR Technology Pvt Ltd
21. **AI in Financial Services & FinTech**
    GreenPointGlobal

UNIVERSAL AI AWARDS

Celebrating Our Winners



Dr. Buddha Chandrasekhar



Dayananda Sagar University, Bangalore



Moolchand Kharaiti Ram Hospital



Trustnow Technologies LLP



Niramai Health Analytix



Dr. D. Abraham Pradeep



LivNSense GreenOps Pvt Ltd.



Dayananda Sagar University, Bangalore



Dayananda Sagar University, Bangalore

UNIVERSAL AI AWARDS

Celebrating Our Winners



Jio Platforms Ltd.



Tanin Chakraborty



Jio Platforms Ltd.



Henchu



Niqo Robotics



Zeex AI



Ankit Bansal



Henchu

PARTNER & BRAND VISIBILITY

Partners who powered the day

PROCESS ADVISOR

EY Building a better working world

Oversaw the evaluation and selection process behind the Universal AI Awards. Represented by Meher Tavadia, Event Risk Management Services.

DELEGATE PARTNER

C2 Client's Ropeway to Customer

Delegate partner for the Universal AI Awards India Chapter.

MEDIA PARTNERS

StartupNews.fyi

siliconindia

mojo4industry

Market & Business Analysis
www.marketandbusinessanalysis.com

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MAGAZINE

THE GLOBAL HUES World Meets Media

CAPITALBAY NEWS

science matters

Times Of AI

Industry Events

TIMES INTERNATIONAL
YOUR GATEWAY TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
www.timesinternational.in

ET INSIGHTS

EVENT IMPACT & AMPLIFICATION

Reach that carried beyond the room

UNIVERSAL AI AWARDS

Media & Press



Coverage via StartupNews.fyi, The Global Hues, Mojo4Industry, plus on-ground media interviews.

Social Amplification



Winner announcement carousel, individual winner spotlights, and speaker features across LinkedIn.

Content Suite



Post-event press release, event newsletter, digital magazine, and winner statics.

On-Ground Visibility



Partner showcases, experience lounge, and live media interactions through the day.

12
Media Partners

1.46L+
CTR

79L+
Engagements

FROM INDIA TO MIAMI

The Next Chapter

With the India Chapter, the Universal AI Awards launched globally. The journey now heads to Miami, carrying forward a shared vision, governance framework, and roadmap for trustworthy AI.



The Americas

Thank You