



# AI Impact Summit 2026

## AI Openness Report



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## 1.0 The AI Impact Summit 2026 - Introduction

Amanda Brock,  
CEO, OpenUK & OpenHQ



The India Impact Summit has been an exciting week in Delhi for open source and AI openness. During it we have seen the US Ambassador, the French Prime Minister, the UK AI Minister and the host nation India's Prime Minister, all endorse the concept of "open source in AI".

OpenUK, OpenHQ and our open source and AI colleagues who have collaborated with us in India are deeply grateful to Abhishek Singh, the Summit lead, and his team at MeITY for their hard work in organising the event and their support in including OpenUK in the content, as well as making me a Keynote and Key Attendee of the Summit, and including me on their website as one of the first ten participants in the Summit.

For openness - one year on from the Paris AI Action Summit - this is far removed from Paris' limited mentions of open source largely umbrellaed under the banner of "public good". And it's a million miles away from 2023's inaugural Bletchley Park Safety Summit, where only the French and US delegations uttered the words "open source". There is even mention of it in the Summit statement.

This shift is undoubtedly due in part to the stark contrast of the hundred leaders focused on safety at Bletchley Park in 2023 and the tens of thousands of people who have joined the festival of AI in Delhi. The Impact Summit's broader inclusion of a wide range of content and participants and being the first Summit in the global south, has inevitably meant that discussions involving open source are an inevitability.

The scale of the Summit meant that despite many more invitees in attendance, the group which actually got to participate in the key conversations narrowed compared with past summits, even the original summit at Bletchley Park with only 100 attendees. This had a dual impact of broadening the conversation whilst at the same time narrowing the decision making.

Civil society was adversely impacted by this as the world leader conversations included 16 financially powerful CEOs of the big techs and not the voices of open source or civil society. The roundtable for CEOs only included 16 CEOs with financial power, not the smaller companies represented in the 100 CEOs at the Inauguration, nor civil society or open source.

Open source community leaders and civil society must have a stronger voice in future discussions and Summits. Only in this way will they be able to support the work of governments, policy makers and enterprises. Without this engagement and opportunity to build understanding, efforts to use and build open source by government will not work out as hoped. To achieve AI's potential and to enable access for all: both access in the form of empowerment and access in the form of competition, requires the level of representative engagement that allows influence.

### Year of the ontology and open washing

I was quoted by NASSCOM, from a panel I participated in with the OECD saying that 2026 may become the "year of the ontology". A theme that became apparent across the event in both reporting and discussion was mis-alignment on the meaning of words being used. Building on the conversations on public good in Paris, that term, and the words digital public good, civil code, civic code, and open source were used and abused in conversations by many. The net effect of this is a significant risk of a new form of open washing as part of the policy capture evident in recent months in global policy discussion and across the Summit.



## AI Openness

The appetite for open source and AI openness across the Impact Summit was huge. It included dozens of events focused on open source and digital public goods. That saw hundreds of speakers and thousands of attendees discussing the topic.

International leaders on behalf of the UK, France, the US and India expressed support for open source in strong terms across a variety of venues and events.

Perhaps unsurprisingly the biggest naysayer voicing anti-open source opinions was Sam Altman, CEO of “OpenAI”, - a company which could be one of the biggest losers to open source success -saying “there’ll be extremely capable biomodels available open source that could help people create new pathogens,” and calling for a body like the “IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) for international coordination of AI.” Unsurprising of course as open source could have a direct impact on OpenAI’s bottom line.

This is a far cry from his personal comment a year ago when he stated, following the release of DeepSeek’s R1, that his own company was “on the wrong side of history” when it comes to open source in AI.

## Shift in consideration of open source from a technical choice to a power and influence one

The open source conversation has however continued to evolve in a meaningful way and we have seen a shift from it being driven only by the Chinese and French at Bletchley in 2023, through considerations of public good in Paris, to its being absolutely recognised as the basis of power and influence (as opposed to a technical choice) as we head into 2026.

Recognition of the UK’s strength in open source software and AI were undoubtedly at the heart of the UK AI Minister’s statement that “the UK will become the home of open source AI” in the run up to the Summit. His support for OpenUK and the open source community in the UK was palpable in the video shared on the main stage at the High Commission party.

## Sovereignty

A year on from Paris it is no surprise that with the geopolitical shift of the past 12 months, the Summit was a confetti of conversation on sovereignty from grass roots level through to Prime Minister Modi’s Inauguration speech. Much of the conversation was unsophisticated, but increasingly we saw discussion of a five level stack and understanding at which level sovereignty was necessary to remove dependency risks for nation states. Resilience and dependency and the value of access for all were discussed in some level of detail.

## Resource pooling

Inevitably the sovereignty discussions moved to resource pooling across “Middle Nations,” not only in the Tony Blair Institute discussions, following their pre-Summit report but increasingly in the conference discussions. Yan LeCun was very clear that he has been trying to herd collaborators into building a global Large Language Model and believes this is very necessary for the global future. This and a Data Commons certainly seem to have traction and I expect that there will be a great deal of discussion of these across 2026.



## Open Source Software Tools

The conversation around tools not rules, began in 2024 when the UK AI Security Institute first shared its Inspect Certification Platform as open source software and it continued in Paris with the creation of [ROOST](#) and its suite of tools. These are open source software tools, enabling all to access them and build better AI. This continued in Delhi led by the OECD offering a site with a list of open source software tools and metrics for AI.

In effect these tools could offer de facto governance for open source, on a cross border basis but for them to be successful there needs to be real engagement in them with the open source communities.

## Global south, learning from the Global North

Inevitably, as the first Summit in the Global South, there was a lot of interest in Global South specific issues, like access to infrastructure and compute. Whilst these challenges are greater in the Global South the issues around access to data and management of data are not so different. There was a large volume of conversation on data sets and access to data through the set up of various Data Commons. Challenges are however equally still faced by the Global North.

## The World Leaders' Day

A small group of world leaders and primarily US AI CEOs address a select audience of 7000, which included me. The world leaders included President Macron along with the host Prime Minister Modi. The outputs of this day included a voluntary commitment known as the New Delhi Frontier, AI Impact Commitments and a Commons. Prime Minister Modi shared his MANAV five point principles and advocated for open source and a data commons.

## Will it have any impact - Summit Outputs

The impact of course not only depends on what happened at the Summit but also what happens next. This follows the Summit outputs shared on the World Leader's Day and through the week.

## Sarvam AI

Sarvam announced the release of two small Language Models, initially shared on proprietary, non-commercial licences, which are to be re-released the week after the Summit as open weight models.

## Pax Silica

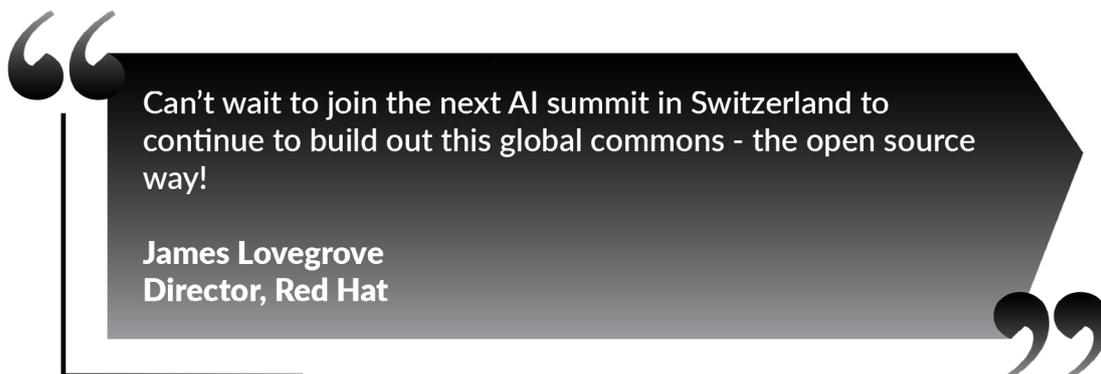
This treaty between the US and India, adds India to the silicon agreement with the US. It's a significant step forward for India deepening its connections with the US on emerging technologies. This supports the need identified in the reporting and Summit conversations of access to infrastructure in India, but as an outcome of the Summit it has less global significance.

## Impact Summit Statement - The New Delhi Declaration

The Summit statement was not provided until after the Summit on 21 February. It was signed by 88 countries and international organisations including the UK and US who did not sign in 2025. Notably, China which was not present at the Summit, signed it.

## 2027 Summit Announced

The [Summit in 2027 has been confirmed as taking place in Switzerland](#), a choice that is the polar opposite of India. As the dust settles on the Impact Summit we will share more on this, its themes and format as this evolves.



What is clear as the summit draws to a close and the delegates from the Global North head home, India has given the world food for thought and openness is high up the agenda of all Nation States, their enterprises and citizens.

## 2.0 World Leaders' Day, 19th February and Summit Outputs

### 2.1 Summit Inauguration Day

The Inauguration included speeches by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and President Macron and a number of keynote speeches. The goal of the Summit was emphasised not to be competition but building bridges.

**Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** provided the opening remarks for the Summit: AI is a foundational technology already transforming how we work and make decisions. Our PM believes that the true benefit is for it to reach the masses, India will cover all 5 layers of the stack.

1. Application layer - is where it will come to the masses, and which every sector is building
2. Model layer - this is where sovereignty comes in. 90% of use cases will be covered with Small Sovereign Models, focused on multi-model and multi layer capabilities.
3. Chip/Compute layer - Considered "public good" and built on a common compute platform with access to 38,000 chips (20,000 further to be added) as low cost compute.
4. Infra layer - "getting the world's data to India" and hope to bring it to India to deliver high value services to the world
5. Energy - including nuclear

The [Stamford Index](#) puts India amongst the world's leading countries but still aware of the challenges facing industry to re-skill and upskill. Must find ways to manage human risk collectively across nations.

**Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata group**, said 'India is a nation of AI optimists. Have witnessed hugely influential digital infrastructure like the Digital Identity and payment systems. India has treated AI as a strategic. AI is the next infrastructure and India wants to put it in the hands of all. Establishing India's first large-scale 100 MGW capacity data centre which will scale to 1MB with OpenAI.

AI Data Insights Platform: totally based on diverse Indian datasets on top of the foundational models, to allow diversity of India data. Will build agentic industry solutions for every industry. Will build chips which are ready for every industry.

**Dario Amodei, CEO Anthropic**: since the first summit growth is incredible and it has been on a Moore's law for intelligence for the last decade. Increasingly close to the country of geniuses in a data centre, a level of capability the world has never seen before, bringing concerns and opportunity. It will create a better world for everyone, but he's concerned by the potential for autonomous behaviour and misuse of them. Anthropic opened an office in Bangalore.

Anthropic is now partnering with non profits including EKStep to use their models, across the Global South, making India a leader, and building metrics around this. They will be sharing data for economic and policy analysis. Understanding that AI will lead to a time of disruption and wants to work with governments to deliver this for all.

**Sundar Pichai, CEO Alphabet and Google**: was welcomed with spontaneous applause, and shared a \$15m investment bringing compute and a sub-sea cable to India. Progress shows what's possible when humanity dreams big. We are on the cusp, allowing emerging economies to leapfrog. Being bold - solve the hardest problems in Science. DeepMind asked an audacious question leading to AlphaFold. Working with Ghana, and providing open source tools to supporting 20 African languages. Must not allow the digital divide to become an AI divide. Governments have critical roles in governance, policy and bringing technology to people.



**Atonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General:** spoke of the future of AI, saying that it cannot be left to a handful of countries or left to the whims of a few billionaires. Embody a clear message - AI must belong to everyone. Setting up a global dialogue where all can have a voice. Need guardrails preserving human oversight and the first session in July will give everyone a voice. There must be a foundation of interoperability, to build trust across borders and turn this into opportunity.

AI must be accessible to everyone.

Calling for a global fund in AI to build capacity in developing countries. Target is \$3bn which is less than 1% of the turnover of a single Tech company. AI must benefit everyone, to accelerate breakthroughs in medicine, extend learning, improve access to vital public services and meet SDGs. Let's build AI for everyone with dignity as the default setting.

**President Macron:** The President co-hosted the Paris Action Summit last year with Prime Minister Modi. “10 years ago a street vendor in Mumbai could not open a bank account. Today the same vendor instantly accepts payments in its phone for free. That is not a tech story, it is a civilisation story. India has built a digital identity for 1.4bn, and 20bn transactions a year on its payment platform.”



A year ago the landscape started to shift - US Stargate, DeepSeek, AI, GPU, Chips are translated in geographical terms. Sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. There is a path for innovation, and strategic autonomy. This path is one that countries like France and Germany must take together.

India made a deliberate choice in SML - small language models - to run on a phone. For India this is granular and smart, and reflected in the announcements this week. France took a different path - Mistral is now worth \$12bn - and has built LLMs - Sovereign and Scaled. Both have chosen different but right paths, independent of but co-operating with the US.

Geopolitics can also deepen inequality and emphasise bias. Data centres and supply chains must move to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and governments must protect people from exploitation and abuse.



The smartest AI is not the most expensive, it is the one built by the right people for the right purpose.

**President Macron**

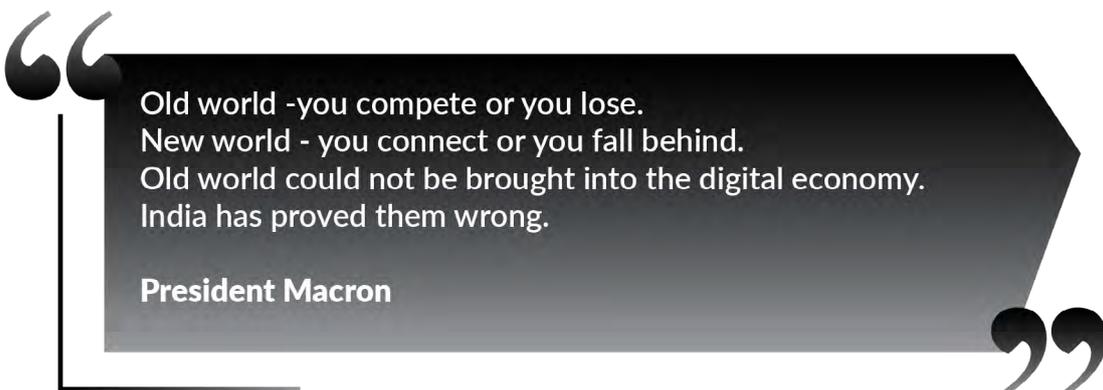
He emphasised that: Adoption is key as Inclusion is key.

Europe is not blindly focused on regulation, it is focused on innovation and investment. It is a safe space and safe spaces win in the long run.

Access to AI for all is critical, A shared vision of a sovereign AI could be used to protect all. No country should serve as a space where others download their models and take their citizens' data.

An aside perhaps, but he spent some time stating that he wants to make the internet a safe space and announced that social networks to be banned for children under 15, Greece, Spain, India, to protect children and teenagers. Stand ready to take all necessary actions to ensure that the digital safe space "Protecting our children is not regulation it is civilization"

AI must be sustainable, more efficient and accessible. AI is not a two nation game. Together we build faster than could alone. Partnerships to create more value together. Not dependency but intelligent convergence.



Old world -you compete or you lose.  
New world - you connect or you fall behind.  
Old world could not be brought into the digital economy.  
India has proved them wrong.

**President Macron**



### Prime Minister Modi’s inauguration Speech

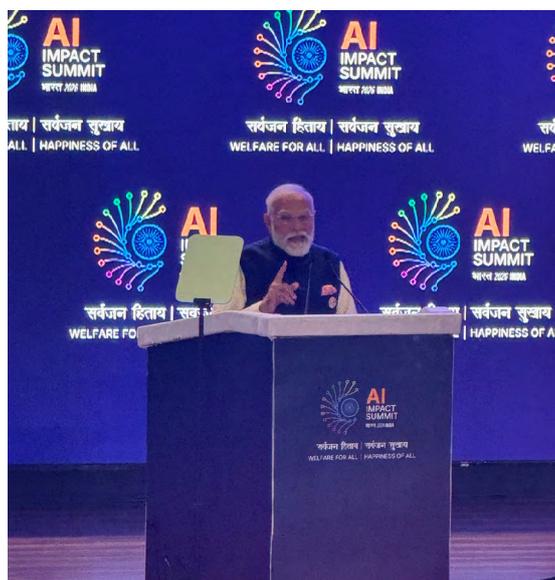
The Prime Minister addressed the audience in Hindi with an audio translation and emphasised the need to be mindful of the generations to come, when over two decades had passed for the real impact of this transformational technology.

What is being accomplished in the present moment should be the focus more than in the future. He compared AI to nuclear power in terms of being an active power that needs direction to avoid it being harmful.

Human beings should not become data, a data point, or mere raw material.

AI must be democratised into a powerful instrument for inclusion and empowerment benefiting the global south with an open sky. Taking control into our own hands and deciding on the direction.

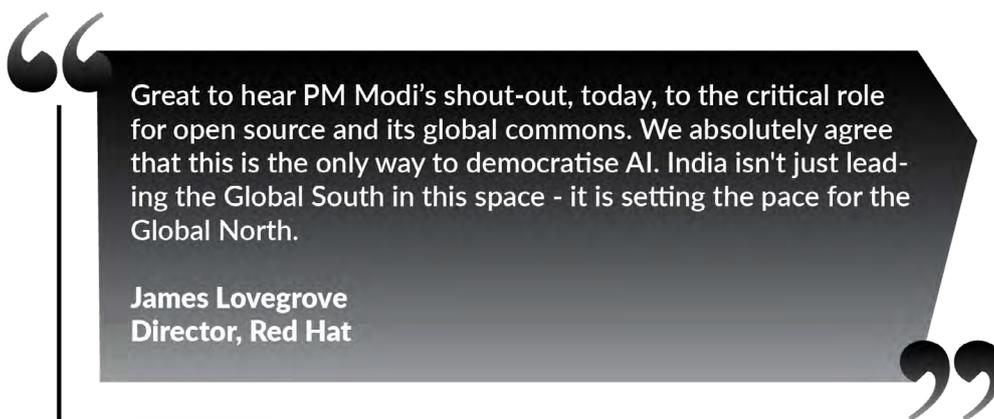
We are entering an era where humans and AI Co-work, co-create and co-evolve.



He shared his M.A.N.A.V Vision. Manav is the Hindi word for human and an acronym for five core principles:

- Moral and Ethical Systems
- Accountable Governance
- Transparent Accountability Mechanisms
- Inclusive and Democratised Access
- Uphold National Sovereignty and reliability

He advocated for open source and the build of a commons to enable access for young minds to build better AI.



## 2.2 Series of Voluntary Collaborative Global Initiatives

1. Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI
2. Global AI Impact Commons - platform to scale and reuse AI use cases
3. Trusted AI Commons - repository of tools, benchmarks and best practices to support secure and trust-worthy AI systems. These however might benefit from a clearer commitment to open source
4. International Network of AI for Science Institutions
5. AI for Social Empowerment Platform
6. AI Workforce Development Playbook and Reskilling Principles
7. Guiding Principles on Resilient and Efficient AI



### 2.3 “New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments”

This output is a set of voluntary commitments from several companies reflecting a shared vision with a global south driven focus.

The companies which signed up to this were:

1. Advance analysis on real-world Usage - the output will be published by the next summit.
2. Strengthen Multilingual and Use-case evaluations - work to advance the evaluation of AI systems for global contexts.

The tech leaders of the companies committed to joining the PM on stage in a Mexican wave of celebration. Some have commented on the fact that OpenAI and Anthropic’s CEOs did not hold hands but pumped fists next to each other.

### 2.4 New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact

The press release to the statement notes that it highlights the importance of open source and accessible AI systems.

Opening with the sentence, “ Inspired by the principle of Welfare for all, Happiness for all, we believe that AI’s promise is best realised only when its benefits are shared by humanity.” The declaration signed on 21 February recognised that “ The choices that we make today will shape the AI-enabled world that future generations will inherit.” It was signed by 88 countries and international organisations. The UK and US who did not sign the last summit statement both signed. It was notable that China, which was not represented at the Summit, also signed.

Global Platforms, Principles and Mechanisms across seven pillars:

1. Democratising AI Resources:With India being the first global south country to join “We recognise the importance of enhancing the affordability of and access to AI resources.”
2. Economic Growth and Social Good - calling out open source

“Wide-scale adoption of AI and AI-based applications hold unprecedented potential to drive economic and social development. Open-source AI applications and other accessible AI approaches, where appropriate, and wide-scale diffusion of AI use cases can contribute to scalability, replicability, and adaptability of AI systems across sectors.

We take note of the Global AI Impact Commons as a voluntary initiative that provides a practical platform to encourage and enable the adoption, replication, and scale-up of successful AI use cases across regions.”

3. Secure and Trusted AI: Reflecting the shift from the Safety discuss
4. AI for Science
5. Access for Social Empowerment
6. Human Capital
7. Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency

### Conclusion

From the perspective of open source and open data the statement may not have gone as far as some would hope, but as an incremental process this is significant and opens the door for the Swiss hosts to shift the open source needle further in 2027.

### 3. The Summit and its Openness Content

#### 3.1 Summit Overview

India's approach was clear and unashamed from the get go. As the first global south host it aligned the potential for AI Impact to its tradition and culture. Fitting for an event which inevitably had a strong theme of sovereignty running through much of the discussion.

**Three Sutras:** People, Planet and Progress, and under these

**Seven Chakras:** Human Capital, Inclusion for Social Empowerment, Safe and Trusted AI, Resilience, Innovation, and Efficiency, Science, Democratizing AI Resources, AI for Economic Growth and Social Good

Spanning five days from 16-20 February 2026, in two New Delhi venues, Barath Mandapan hosting talks and an expo and a scientific symposium. The approach from India was the opposite of that of Bletchley Park. Where Bletchley hosted an exclusive event with 100 global leaders, India welcomed over 150,000 registered participants from the general public on 16-18 and only 20 February was restricted to a one day invite only world leaders day - "Inauguration" on 19 February. This mixed World Leaders - 15 Heads of State and over 60 Ministers with thousands of guests from business, government, academia and civil society.

The Summit ran an open call for content and selected a number of events with hosts who were allocated events choosing speakers. Most were in a panel format and across the Summit there were dozens of events focused on open source, digital public good, public good and civic tech. These terms could be seen throughout the summit but were used inconsistently.

#### 3.2 AI Openness across the Main Summit

Across the four days of Public events at the Summit, there were hundreds events and a large number were focused on openness, digital public good and public benefit. Brief highlights of some key events with an openness theme are shared in this section, along with the key themes discussed.

It is very notable that the events split into two categories which were also reflected in the themes.

##### (i) India Focused events

These saw key themes of:

- Democratisation, Inclusion and the global south/ access for all
- local intelligence or soft sovereignty, including language and culture
- Access to data and an AI Commons
- Access to AI models
- Access to compute
- Building competition and innovation
- Leadership for India's Open Source Community to engender influence

##### (ii) Globally Focused events

These saw key themes of:

- Sovereignty and resilience
- Ontology - meanings of terms like open weights and public good
- Geopolitical shift
- Infrastructure access and compute
- Tools not rules - building governance through open source tooling for AI
- Open standards and protocols
- Data and commons

The discussion was broad and in some cases too short to have the depth and focus it merited.

This was particularly evident in the conversations about open source, where subjects that require deep technical knowledge have become the basis of policy conversations and attach an economic value with the funding streams of organisations engaged in policy.

This inevitably leads to a form of “policy capture” where not only is the policy conversation captured by money (wealthy companies who want to drive the agenda buy their way into the room) but it’s captured by those who have the ability to be in the room because of their policy roles.

In the main the open source experts will not even know the room exists. For those who are aware of the conversations, getting into the room is hard.

In a panel hosted by the Digital Public Good Alliance, Red Hat’s Director of Policy, James Lovegrove mentioned that there are a handful of people in the world with expertise in open source doing policy work. Like the legal experts in open source they are scattered across the planet and all know each other. To have that expertise these experts have worked in open source organisations for many years, often in non policy roles, and understand both the technical nuances of deep tech but also importantly have engagement and understanding with the open source and AI openness community and how it works and the economics and commercialisation of open source.

It was evident across the Impact Summit as it has been in recent policy around digital, AI, sovereignty and open source that many with opinions do not have experience or credibility in open source. That may allow influence with policy makers, but it will not build policy that will ultimately deliver for those policy makers nor will it engage the open source ecosystems. If they are not engaged, attempts to build open source will fail.

That will be critical to the success of nation states in their AI futures.

### **(iii) Ontology and launch of Sarvam AI Small Language Models on a proprietary basis**

There was also a lack of clarity on topics, words and meanings in the discussions at all levels across the Summit.

Terms like ‘open source, open weights, digital public good, public good, civic tech’ were used without clarity of meaning and often, in particular in the case of open source software and digital public good, without knowledge or reference to their well established definitions. In a world of AI graphs, perhaps 2026 will be the year of ontology. Like attempts to introduce software tools however, these cannot be forced on communities. Consensus must be built across industry and community leaders. Only they are able to influence their communities to accept and adopt.

The policy conversation cannot succeed if we continue to speak without clarity at cross purposes. This in turn undermines practical activities and new innovation. At its simplest it’s like baking a cake with the wrong ingredients. A standard chicken egg being substituted by a duck egg or a quail egg, simply will not work. An egg for an egg if it’s the wrong egg (lets call it a bad egg) is not good, but an egg for ghee is worse. We simply must be sure we are talking about the same thing and establish clarity.

### **Sarvam Launch of small language models is proprietary not open source or open weights**

In AI delivery, the India government funded [Sarvam AI](#) which launched small language models during the Summit, trained from scratch using data from the India AI Mission, described as “smaller, efficient open source AI models”. The governments of Odisha and Tamil Nadu have signed up to these as anchor customers supporting the ability of Sarvam to raise significant additional funding. In addition Sarvam has 220 crore (circa \$24m) in funding from the Indian Government, in effect it has created a massive Public Private Investment. The State’s commitment could be viewed as effectively underwriting it.

When the Indian government funded Sarvam in 2025, it said that the models would be open source. To go back to the ontology, there have been discussions about what open source means, but fundamental to it is the concept that anyone can use this for any purpose. This has been enshrined for 30 years in the [Open Source Definition](#). Sarvam's Kaze and Edge Small Language models released on 18 February at the Summit in a blaze of "open source" announcements, are currently licensed on a proprietary licence and are not in any way open source.

The licence under which Sarvam has released these is non-commercial and proprietary saying "Distributed under Sarvam Non Commercial licence 2.4. Commercial Use.\*\*Any use of the Sarvam Model, Derivatives, or Outputs for commercial purposes requires explicit written permission from Sarvam AI. To request such permission, please contact Sarvam AI via the website contact form: <https://sarvam.ai/contact-us/>"

This is neither an open source nor open weights licence, but a straightforward proprietary licence with some aspect of openness included. The licensed AI cannot be freely used and shared as is necessary for it to meet the standard of openness required to be either the lesser open weight /open model, let alone to meet the standard of open source.

Tech Crunch reported the Sarvam launch on 18th February, following the launch at the Summit as a "[major bet on open source](#)". And the Times of India discussed Sarvam's open source ambitions. Sarvam's on-stage launch was about open source, but their LinkedIn post directs readers to the open weights launch next week.

The conversations across the local open source communities flagged deep concern of open washing in this process by Sarvam and others working on AI with the Indian Government

**Open washing** - naming something that is not open source as such, whether intentional or not. This is disingenuous at best. It seeks to reap the benefits of open source and to have people rely on being able to use it for any purpose, and passing it to others to do the same, without the willingness to pay the price of the consequences of open sourcing.

The price of open source is enabling your competitors, whether commercial and enterprise or other nation states, with your innovation. The value received is adoption at scale, becoming a de facto standard and influence.

### **Success in open source requires understanding not only of what but how**

This is a great example of the need for an ontology and agreed language at the heart of the conversation.

It is not simply a case of pulling the wool over the eyes of others, if the formula or recipe is not followed the goals will not be achieved. As well as agreeing on open source "what" it is that we are talking about when we discuss open source needs to be understood.

The report launched this week by NASSCOM and Digital Futures Lab covered in more detail at section 5.2 (i) is also relevant in this discussion. Not only do the ingredients need to be understood but also the techniques do too. Making a meringue will not work if you don't know how. It's not just a question of having the right eggs, but the temperature, how long they are cooked, how they are brought together.

You must know the how of building open source and even open weights. Making open source successful in a business and in a country requires deep knowledge and expertise. It also requires credibility with the communities that are being reached out to for engagement. That is missing from the report. It is a great first step but a baby step with some definite learning required.

### **(iv) What was missing from the conversation?**

Along with some of the deep expertise in open source and an ontology of agreed terms, the conversation at the Summit lacked a focus on global governance which conversation had been built out of the original Bletchley Park Safety Summit to Paris' AI Action Summit, the focus was on building international governance.

## 4. AI Openness Event Highlights

### 4.1 Main Summit Events provided to the Summit by Third Parties

These events were selected by the Summit organisers and organised by third parties following an open call for content. They took place over 4 days, 16-18 and 20 February. There were dozens of events on open source and associated topics, with hundreds of speakers and thousands of people participating in the audience.

#### (i) OpenUK - MCP, Open Standards and Data Workshop

The room was overflowing for the OpenUK first session and we split into 7 groups with each group working to answer one question, which was presented back to the room by the group leader:

1. **How do standards add value?**  
Led by **Karan MV, GitHub**
2. **Can MCP be used as a governance mechanism?** Led by **Rohit Ghumare**
3. **Do closed standards work with AI?**  
Led by **Naresh Vyas**
4. **Could open standards democratise AI?**  
Led by **Saiyam Pathak**
5. **Does Identity secure Agentic?**  
Led by **Shivay Lamba**
6. **Data is the problem and the answer!**  
Led by **James Lovegrove**
7. **Can Data Centres solve our challenge?**  
Led by **Simon Hansford**



#### (1) Perceived Value of Standards

Participants highlighted the following themes regarding the value of standards in AI:

- **Adoption as primary determinant of value**
  - A standard has limited value if it is not widely adopted
  - Publication alone does not create impact
  - Ease of implementation and ecosystem buy-in are critical
- **Interoperability**
  - Standards help reduce fragmentation across tools, models, and agent systems
  - Interoperability lowers integration costs
  - Enables composability across platforms and ecosystems
- **Ecosystem coordination**
  - Standards function as shared reference points
  - Help align multiple stakeholders (industry, open source, policy)

#### (2) Areas Identified as Needing Further Standardisation

##### (2.1) Agent Entitlements and Identity

Participants raised questions around:

- How to define what an AI agent has access to
- How permissions are scoped and enforced
- How an agent's authority is represented
- How delegation ("acting on behalf of") is modeled
- Standardised representation of entitlements

##### (2.2) Traceability and Accountability

Discussion points included:

- Need to track which agent performed which action
- Attribution of actions to users or systems
- Recording inputs, decisions, and outputs

- Standardised logging and provenance models
- Auditability of multi-agent systems

### (2.3) Security and Transport

Security concerns raised included:

- Secure communication between agents
- Secure communication between agents and MCP servers
- Authentication and endpoint verification
- Encryption requirements for agent communication
- Risks of impersonation

Analogy discussed:

- HTTPS as a widely adopted transport-layer trust standard
- Question raised: whether an equivalent trust/security layer is needed for agent ecosystems

Data-related security concerns:

- Handling of input data provided to agents
- Treatment of intermediate artifacts
- Governance of derived outputs
- Data privacy across the lifecycle of agent interactions

### (2.4) Orchestration and Agent Management

Participants discussed:

- Managing multiple agents in a coordinated environment
- Task delegation across agents
- Lifecycle management of agents
- Conflict resolution between agents
- Need (or not) for orchestration-level standardisation

### (3) Architectural Distinction Raised During Discussion

A distinction was discussed between:

- **Standards / Protocols**
  - Define communication rules and data formats
- **Frameworks**
  - Built on top of standards
  - Provide implementation abstractions
- **Harnesses / Orchestration Systems**
  - Operational systems managing agents in practice

Discussion included:

- Not all orchestration concerns may belong at the protocol layer
- Some behaviors may be better handled at framework or implementation level
- Importance of clarity regarding what should be standardised versus implemented

### (4) Protocol Fragmentation and Interoperability Concerns

Participants raised concerns regarding multiple emerging protocols, including:

- MCP (Model Context Protocol)
- A2A (Agent-to-Agent communication approaches)

Questions raised:

- Which protocol should organisations adopt?
- How to ensure interoperability if different ecosystems adopt different standards?
- Risk of increased fragmentation due to competing protocols
- Need for clarity in scope and layering across protocols

### (5) Openness and Governance

Participants discussed the role of openness in standard adoption:

- Publishing specifications openly
- Open-source reference implementations
- Community collaboration (e.g., via GitHub)
- Transparent iteration and governance
- Avoiding internal-only or proprietary standards

Openness viewed as:

- Enabler of trust
- Driver of broader adoption
- Mechanism for cross-industry collaboration

**(ii) OpenMined**

OpenMined convened researchers, policymakers, and technologists to showcase how open infrastructure can transform healthcare and biomedical research in under-served communities.

Co-organised with the Human Genome Project II, the session featured perspectives from researchers in India, Jordan, the Caribbean, and Europe, and presented [biovault.net](https://biovault.net) — open source technology that sends algorithms securely to data rather than centralising it, enabling cross-border genomic analysis while preserving sovereignty.

“ The Summit showcased how open technology is enabling more participatory AI. We’re excited by the opportunity for open tech to empower communities in India and beyond to shape AI’s future on their own terms. ”

**Dave Buckley**  
Policy, OpenMined Foundation

**(iii) Factly and Meta - Commons for the Global South**

FAQTLY INDIai Meta

AI IMPACT SUMMIT  
भारत 2026 INDIA  
सर्वजन हिताय | सर्वजन सुखाय  
WELFARE FOR ALL | HAPPINESS OF ALL

Official Main-Summit Event of  
India AI Impact Summit 2026

**AI Commons for the Global South:**  
Data, Models & Compute for Half of Humanity

Jayesh Ranjan  
Special Chief Secretary,  
Government of Telangana

Prof. PJ Narayanan  
Former Director, IIT Hyderabad

Amanda Brock  
CEO, OpenUK

Osama Manzar  
Founder-Director,  
Digital Empowerment Foundation

Sunil Abraham  
Public Policy Director, Meta

Rakesh Dubbudu  
Founder & CEO, Factly

📅 17 Feb 2026 | 4:30 PM - 5:25 PM  
📍 Room No: 10, Bharat Mandapam,  
New Delhi

Focusing on the challenges of access to data, AI Models and compute for “Half of Humanity” who populate the Global South, the session focused on democratising AI Resources towards an AI Commons, which had been expressed as one of the key priorities of the Impact Summit (see the Summit outputs and declaration at 2.4). It will bring together diverse perspectives on access to data, models, and compute, particularly for the Global South.

Participants across the roundtables emphasised that without deliberate intervention, AI infrastructure risks becoming centralised and inaccessible, benefitting only a narrow set of actors while excluding state institutions, smaller innovators, and communities.

The panel discussion brought together complementary perspectives that reflect the full AI infrastructure stack, such as State Capacity and Governance, Open Source and Legal Frameworks, Digital Inclusion and Last-mile Empowerment, Academic and Research Ecosystems. Like many panels at the Summit the discussion would have benefitted from greater time to delve deeper into not only the challenges but the fixes.

“The AI Impact Summit will serve as a powerful catalyst for potential acceleration in AI adoption across both state and central governments. The many discussions also highlighted the strategic role of open source frameworks and the critical necessity of prioritising trust, safety, and harm mitigation as we move forward.”

**Rakesh Dubbudu**  
Founder of Factly

#### (iv) Digital Public Good Alliance - various events across the Summit

“Bridging the global AI divide requires more than just access; it requires agency. By providing open datasets, open source software, and open AI systems as digital public goods, we enable countries and people to move from mere consumers of technology to architects of their own AI infrastructure. The DPG approach strengthens digital sovereignty and underpins an alternative vision of AI that truly serves the public interest by enabling localisation, ownership and trust.”

**Lea Gimpel**  
Director of Policy & AI Lead, Digital Public Goods Alliance

Digital public goods (DPG) for AI refers to open datasets and open source software that by definition can be freely used in the development, testing, and deployment of AI systems. Software that doesn't meet this criteria is not open source and also doesn't make the grade as DPG.

During the Summit, across various events, the DPGA discussed these resources and emphasised the need for these to be openly available and verified as DPGs. The benefits of AI are less likely to be concentrated among a few and more likely to be shared broadly, as more people can effectively build and use AI to address local challenges.

The Alliance emphasised consistently in the sessions that DPGs as the infrastructure of trust for AI: By providing vetted open data, open-source software, and open AI systems, digital public goods help embed transparency, accountability, and “do no harm” principles into AI from design to deployment.

Despite incorrect uses of digital public good across the Summit, it has a meaning. All digital public goods are assessed against the [DPG Standard](#). This ensures that datasets and software used for AI meet baseline requirements for openness, reusability, and responsible practices, including safeguards to mitigate harm. As transparency declines across the AI ecosystems, the DPG Standard promotes open development practices and reinforces the importance of the open data movement. Like many other organisations and experts the DPGA were not able to participate in and bring their expertise to all conversations referring to public good and DPGs across the summit and the need for the ontology including the standard was evident in some discussions.

The discussions they participated in demonstrated that bridging the global AI divide through equitable access by way of making AI development resources such as open datasets and software available as DPGs, would allow countries and developers to create their own localised solutions.

Digital public goods for responsible AI development were seen to have potential to strengthen digital sovereignty and agency by enabling countries to own parts of AI infrastructure and tailor models to local languages and contexts. Sample DPGs for AI and examples were discussed including [compar:IA](#) (chatbot comparison arena to reduce cultural and linguistic biases in LLMs); [simpleAudit](#) (framework for AI safety testing); and [Mozilla Common Voice dataset](#) (multi-lingual dataset for language technology).

Open data is essential for an AI system to be considered a digital public good (“AI DPG”), its developers must provide the data used to train it under an open data definition-compliant license. This is essential for ensuring the transparency needed for the system to be examined, understood, modified and reused with trust.

There are good reasons why some datasets shouldn't be completely open and reusable by everyone, such as personal privacy, confidentiality and sensitivity. The DPGA, advocated for resources that are appropriate for sharing to be made available to all who have the greatest development impact, while respecting fundamental rights, do-no-harm principles, and taking power structures into account.

The prioritisation of multistakeholder collaboration among governments, civil society, and tech developers to democratise the AI development process and its benefits was seen to be critical and DPGs fundamental to this. This was repeated again and again across the Summit conversations.

DPGs can provide access to resources and ease the use of technology. Scaling responsible AI through international cooperation demonstrates how global partnerships and government-led initiatives can be leveraged to scale open approaches and digital public goods that support digital sovereignty and public-interest AI.

These efforts provide a model that others can join and build upon. To prepare for an AI-enabled future, existing DPGs must be strengthened to support best practices and responsible software development, be able to connect with AI systems responsibly, and position their subject-matter expertise as a differentiator in an environment now dominated by coding agents.

**(v) Mozilla - various events across the Summit**

Mozilla had a strong presence at the summit and was out in force, with all of the Mozilla Foundation and corporate entities represented, including by Chairman Mark Surman, new CTO Raffi Krikorian and UK Senior Manager, AI Policy Camilla de Coverly Veale. The events led by Mozilla and in which they participated had a consistent focus on advancing open, trustworthy and sovereign AI whilst strengthening the open source AI ecosystem. The content across numerous events spanned a number of topics, from building free tools for AI developers to convening artists and filmmakers to examine creativity in AI. The content had a consistent theme, evolving from the open web, ensuring that the future of AI developed along pluralistic and competitive lines.

A key theme evolved across their discussions, being the need to decentralise the AI ecosystem shifting it to the hands of the many and raising a rallying call rather than being observers watching the power concentrate in a handful of closed platforms. The potential for an open AI ecosystem was consistently recognised as the base of competitiveness, innovation, and digital sovereignty, and this was identified as being a critical path for both nations and communities to enable them to build, adapt, and govern AI systems to reflect their local languages, culture and needs.

The impact of investing in open source AI was highlighted with a recognition that this would not be a decision that is just values-based but in this open source moment would be one of the most strategic economic decisions any nation could make in its AI future.

“ The future of AI is being decided now. Open source is how we prevent concentration, protect sovereignty and unlock innovation at scale. That's why it's so important for open source advocates to be at this Summit - it's critical that the counter leverage open source enables must be at the top table wherever AI is discussed. ”

**Mark Surman**  
Chairman, Mozilla

**(vi) OECD: AI Tooling that's open source**

OECD's panel focused on a catalogue of metrics and open source software tooling for AI.

**Democratising trust:**  
Open source tooling for safe, secure, and trustworthy AI

17 February 2026 1:30-2:25 PM IST

AMANDA BROCK (OpenUK), MARK SURMAN (Mozilla), AUDREY HERBLIN-STOOP (Mistral AI), OLIVER JONES (UK AISI), BALARAMAN RAVINDRAN (ITT Madras)

Moderated by Karine Perset, OECD

In the last year the OECD has instigated an initiative to bring guidelines to academic open source software. The next session on this takes place on 6th March in Paris.

Oliver Jones, Director at the UK AI Security Institute discussed the UK’s LLM Certification Platform “Inspect” was one of the first open sourced tools, released in 2024. The AISI contributed a case study to OpenUK’s research and engaged in consultation with the open source community at OpenUK’s State of Open Con conference.

At the Action Summit in 2025, the Robust Open Online Safety Tools, ROOST, was launched with contributions of open source tooling from Big Tech available to AI developers on open source software licensing, and a significant pool of funding.

This sharing of tools has been referenced across many contexts as the “tools not rules” approach and recognised as a pragmatic and practical approach to “de facto regulation” enabling ecosystems of good practice to form, if supported with adequate engagement and community building.

**(vii) OpenUK Panel - Building Resilience and breaking dependency in enterprise and public sector AI - how can open source support this?**

As with all open source discussions across the Summit the room capacity did not accommodate the audience scale.



This conversation focused on 3 key questions:

- Dependency, resilience and sovereignty are slightly different things, where does the panel sit on how these may be managed?
- Where do local AI and models fit for you and how important are they - why they are important
- How geopolitical shift can be surmounted to collaboratively build this - can it bring opportunity

The conversation focused on the underlying issue of dependency and its impact on digital resilience, rather than nationalistic sovereignty. Key talking points included the importance of local and smaller models in reducing dependency, supporting diversity and localisation, whilst addressing specific national needs.

Having powerful processors to run local models was flagged as an exciting development that impacts dependency, vendor lock-in, and privacy concerns in the AI era and the group emphasised the importance of encouraging true open access to models to prevent being locked into large companies and support diversity of culture and language.

Mishi Choudhury emphasised that sovereignty requires collaboration and culture representation. Sovereignty does not mean solitude. She advocated for collaboration in communities across borders, which has led to robust systems.

Anastasia Steneko advocated for decentralised and tailored open source AI to enable access, defining the consequences of access as empowerment of individuals and competitiveness in innovation.

Laura Gilbert stressed that open source collaboration can help reduce global inequality through specific, adaptable models.



Geopolitics, collaboration, and open source values were emphasised by all participants as were concerns around nationalistic behaviours counter to open source. Geopolitical shift was recognised with an emphasis that this must be handled in a way that does not close down open source or lead to open washing, and where it should be recognised that there is a use of globally created open source and giving back to the same.

<p>कर्मका लिपि   कर्मका सुख WELFARE FOR ALL   HAPPINESS OF ALL</p> <p><b>BUILDING RESILIENCE</b> and breaking dependency in enterprise and public sector AI – how can open source support this?</p> <p>Openness isn't just a technical preference, it's a strategic imperative. For middle powers, real sovereignty isn't about building everything from scratch or going it alone. It's about sovereign capability: the practical ability to adapt, deploy and govern AI on your own terms.</p> <p><b>Dr Laura Gilbert</b> Senior Director AI Tony Blair Institute for Global Change</p>	<p>कर्मका लिपि   कर्मका सुख WELFARE FOR ALL   HAPPINESS OF ALL</p> <p><b>BUILDING RESILIENCE</b> and breaking dependency in enterprise and public sector AI – how can open source support this?</p> <p>This AI Summit should be the time in which the specifically India's approach to humanity's transformative technology should become the human approach with fully open, user-enabling AI applications that serve humans rather than replacing them. India must do that from the ground up.</p> <p><b>Mishi Choudhary</b> Founder, SFLC.in</p>	<p>कर्मका लिपि   कर्मका सुख WELFARE FOR ALL   HAPPINESS OF ALL</p> <p><b>BUILDING RESILIENCE</b> and breaking dependency in enterprise and public sector AI – how can open source support this?</p> <p>From Paris to Delhi, the conversation around AI sovereignty has undergone a quiet but decisive shift. A year ago, the question was whether open source AI could compete with frontier labs. Today, the question is how it reshapes who gets to build.</p> <p><b>Anastasia Steneko</b> Co-founder and CEO, Pleias</p>
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The conversation took three key tangents which are also of relevance to the topic:

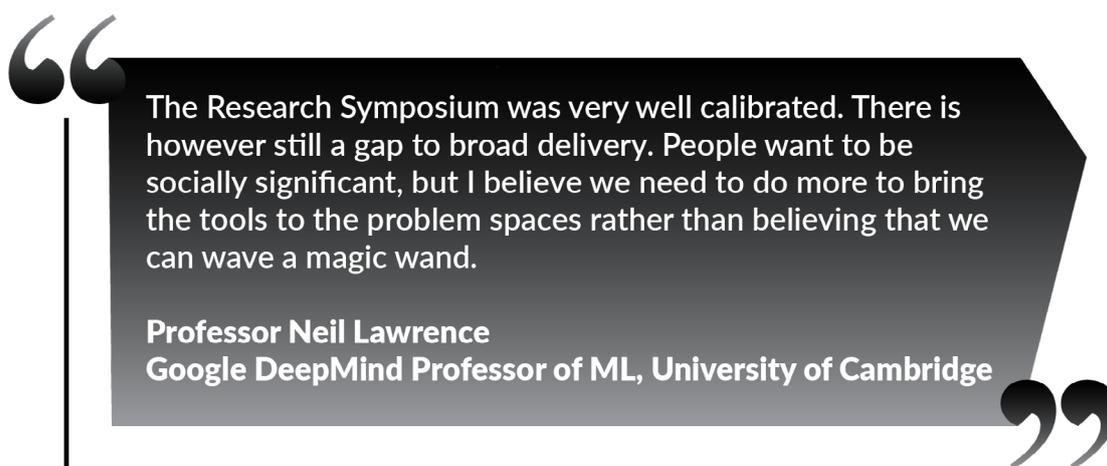
- **Copyright and Data Usage:** Jimmy Wales raised the financial burden on Wikipedia from large AI companies leveraging their open data, explaining the difference in the scope of searches undertaken by bots on content as well as the volume of bots. He also flagged and was supported by other panel members when discussing a more liberal approach to the use of copyright in content, the commons, sharing and the use of copyright to close down access to content.
- **Data Centres:** The need for data centres and supply chain to enable access to the underlying infrastructure as part of the stack, was discussed with the concept of
- **Diversity:** Laura Gilbert flagged the shift from Safety to Security since the first Summit in 2023, and the impact that has had on ensuring diversity etc are supported in the algorithms.

## 4.2 Academic Symposium

At the Research Symposium the UK was well represented with speakers including Dame Wendy Hall who also gave a keynote and Professor Neil Lawrence.

A few ideas from attendee Bonnie Krufft which she shared on LinkedIn:

- AI as a catalyst for accelerating discovery in science and engineering, moderated by Shivkumar Kalyanaraman. It left me reflecting on how we are at an inflection point where AI is not just a tool, but a co-scientist.
- Start with the problem, not the technology. As Prof. Priya Donti reminded us, we must avoid over-abstracting. Science should remain grounded in society and real-world impact.
- Validation matters. Moving beyond hype requires strong benchmarks, metrics, and proof of principle. AI for science will be defined by rigor, not just promise.
- The paradox of progress. As Prof. Neil Lawrence pointed out, while the world needs solutions in health and education, one of the first domains AI disrupted was art. A reminder that technology evolves in unexpected ways.
- From molecules to medicine. Dr. Pushmeet Kohli spoke about protein design and how breakthroughs like DeepMind's AlphaFold are reshaping drug discovery and accelerating biology.
- Democratization is the real unlock. Tools like Microsoft Research's Aurora climate models and AI-enabled clinical trials are bringing advanced science to more researchers, faster. The rise of AI co-scientists and systems such as AlphaEvolve signals a future of collaborative intelligence.



Neil's thoughts align with some of the discussion around the main summit on the use of open source tools to manage "de facto governance".

### 4.3 Impact Summit Fringe

In addition to third party hosted events at the Summit there were a number of events hosted across Delhi and many of which focused on openness in AI. Due to the opportunity for third party events to be hosted within the Main Summit there were fewer of these than seen in Paris at the Action Summit.

#### (i) AI Alliance - Global AI Leadership Reception with Yann LeCun

Yann LeCun, Executive Chairman, AMI Labs, formerly Chief Scientist at Meta and behind the Llama open innovation LLM, was announced as Chief Science Officer for the AI Alliance. He participated in a fireside chat and panel at their evening event. The Alliance focuses on collaborating to advance safe, responsible AI rooted in open innovation with almost 200 members. Its focus is building across software, models and tools. It hosted an evening dinner with Yann.

“The AI Alliance is excited to scale up our support of open source AI globally to help cultivate a foundation of AI data, models and applications that empowers all individuals and organisations to own, control and benefit from their AI.

**Anthony Annunziata**  
 Chair and Executive Director, AI Alliance  
 Director of AI Open Innovation, IBM



LeCun took some time to explain his new business and world models, emphasising the key difference between models that are based on a visual environment and Natural Language Processing (NLP). Whereas a Large Language Model (LLM) are strictly causal and predict the next word, based on the existence of a finite number of options, which makes it predictable. They are tokenised to work. The challenge is different in video when asking the system to predict the next sequence in a video. This is impossible to predict as there are too many visual variables to simulate and it is difficult to tokenise but it simply doesn't work well.

LeCun's JEPA architecture - joint embedding predictive architecture - builds an abstract representation and predicts these variables, training itself to build a good representation of the infrastructure that is predictable. He emphasised that physicists have the prediction down to a fine art and that using this system, the world model can plan an optimal sequence of actions to predict a task. Systems are trained in a self stimulating manner, taking a corrupted image and re-constructing it the original image on the corrupted version.

Explaining his move from Meta, Yann acknowledged that FAIR was a great place to do research, but in the last year there was a re-focus on short term goals to catch up with LLM industry, de-emphasising long term ambitious projects upsetting the dominant paradigm. This shift upset the plans and with LLMs "sucking the air out of the room" and the fact that most of the applications of JEPA are for AI for the real world not digital outputs they don't align with Meta. This shift at Meta combined with his realisation that he could "snap his finger and raise half a billion dollars" to access the resources that could fund it made this real.

### **OpenUK JEPA Hackathon**

OpenUK Ambassador, Anil Madhavapeddy, Professor of Planetary Computing at Cambridge had joined the OpenUK team in Delhi, to lead a hackathon on exactly this topic which is explored at 3.3(ii). Anil has been using Barlow Twins to train a satellite model from space called TESSERA, which has no connection to other physics driven models. Will they all be connected over time with the creation of a connected API?

### **Sovereignty Panel with Jan LeCun and Raffi Krokorian, CTO, Mozilla**

LeCun was joined by Raffi Krokorian, CTO at Mozilla, where they drilled down on sovereignty. Acknowledging different ways to look at sovereignty. In his introduction Anthony suggested that sovereignty in fact goes beyond national considerations to a company or personal level. Today's digital internet systems have been seen to "learn us well", and become close collaborators. Who controls these systems is a concern to companies and individuals as we see a step change in focusing on AI as opposed to today's internet -based sovereignty.

'Can you leave' is the basis of Raffi's view of sovereignty. Yann built on this sharing his main issue is that our entire digital diet will be dictated by AI assistants not today's search engines. We will ask our assistants for the answers. There will be problems if those systems are provided by three companies in the US and a handful of companies in China including linguistic and cultural diversity, political value systems and values.

### **Yann's Global Model and International Consortium**

He was clear that the best models are open source and his recommendation is to form an international consortium where different players from around the world contribute to training a global model that is trained on all the data that is available everywhere, even that which is not publicly or digitally available. This should be shared as true open source would be available to meet proprietary models' functionality.

Yann explained that because it is open source it has the advantage of being customisable and distillable, which could be the trigger to shift to open source. Historically open source has been the infrastructure and not the user interface. There will be a moment in AI when there will be a shift to open source AI, when AI becomes infrastructure.

In the same way as the internet's software infrastructure became completely open source, and the same thing has happened in communications, his long term view is that there is no question that there will be a shift to open source.

What could stop this is the risk of regulatory capture in the meantime that stops the success of this?

## How do we get to a point of open source success in AI?

Open source is bottom up. There is always someone who has an itch to scratch which will lead to the next big thing in AI. The key is how to get that started. There is no need to get governments involved initially as support from governments will follow when there is something to support. Yann discussed that open source must be better and the only way to achieve that is through collaboration for developers across the world with access to wider data sets.

Amanda Brock, discussed the “GitHub moment” in open source software infrastructure with Yann. This shifted open source adoption in the enterprise from being blocked by risk professionals like lawyers, procurement and finance and enabled engineers to simply lift and shift open source software into the enterprise and circumvent the blocker. AI will need a moment like this for AI that is open to be adopted at scale. It is unclear now what that will be but they discussed that it will come.



“As Chief Science Advisor, I hope to help the AI Alliance - alongside initiatives like OPAN - advance a common global model approach, where countries can contribute socio-cultural knowledge without exporting raw data, using federated privacy-preserving model updates, so progress is both socially beneficial and sovereignty-preserving.

**Yann LeCun**  
Chief Science Advisor, AI Alliance

”

(ii) OpenUK Hackathon – Opening India’s AI Future

**Open:UK® & Open:HQ®**  
**AI Impact Summit Fringe Event**  
**Hackathon for Geospatial AI for good**  
 – two brief talks on open tech: TESSERA and CoRE  
 – hack session for a few hours to get everyone going in those technologies  
 Led by Aaditeshwar Seth and Anil Madhavapeddy  
 18th February, 09:00 - 13:00, New Delhi  
 India International Centre, Annexe, Lecture Room 2  
 50 places only. Tea will be included

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Register: [openuk.uk/event-calendar/indiafringeaihackathon](https://openuk.uk/event-calendar/indiafringeaihackathon)

Teams assembled for the first OpenUK TESSERA hackathon on open geospatial models. TESSERA is a fully open model from Cambridge trained on public EU satellite data.

The Indian teams integrated TESSERA with the CoRE Stack ([core-stack.org](https://core-stack.org)), an initiative out of IIT-D to bring the benefits of geospatial AI to rural India, via remote sensing reporting of droughts, water levels, soil health and so on.

The teams got a deep dive into how TESSERA works under the hood, and up and running with open Python and OCaml notebooks and Docker containers.

It was tremendous to see Indian and UK teams working together on TESSERA and the CoRE Stack. This was the first event of its kind. There was so much to follow up on that Anil Madhavapeddy, Professor of Planetary Computing at Cambridge who led this session was invited to visit IIT-Delhi the next day to give a lecture on this and to continue hacking with the students there. The hackathon outputs and work that is going on in this project can bring the benefits of AI to the farming community in India.

Agricultural benefits of AI were discussed many times across the Summit and smallholder agriculture deserves the same real time insights as big corporations benefit from.



“ Open source AI is the path to making this happen quickly, and I’m grateful to OpenUK and the AI Summit for the support and bringing us together!

**Anil Madhavapeddy**  
 Professor of Planetary Computing, Cambridge University

”

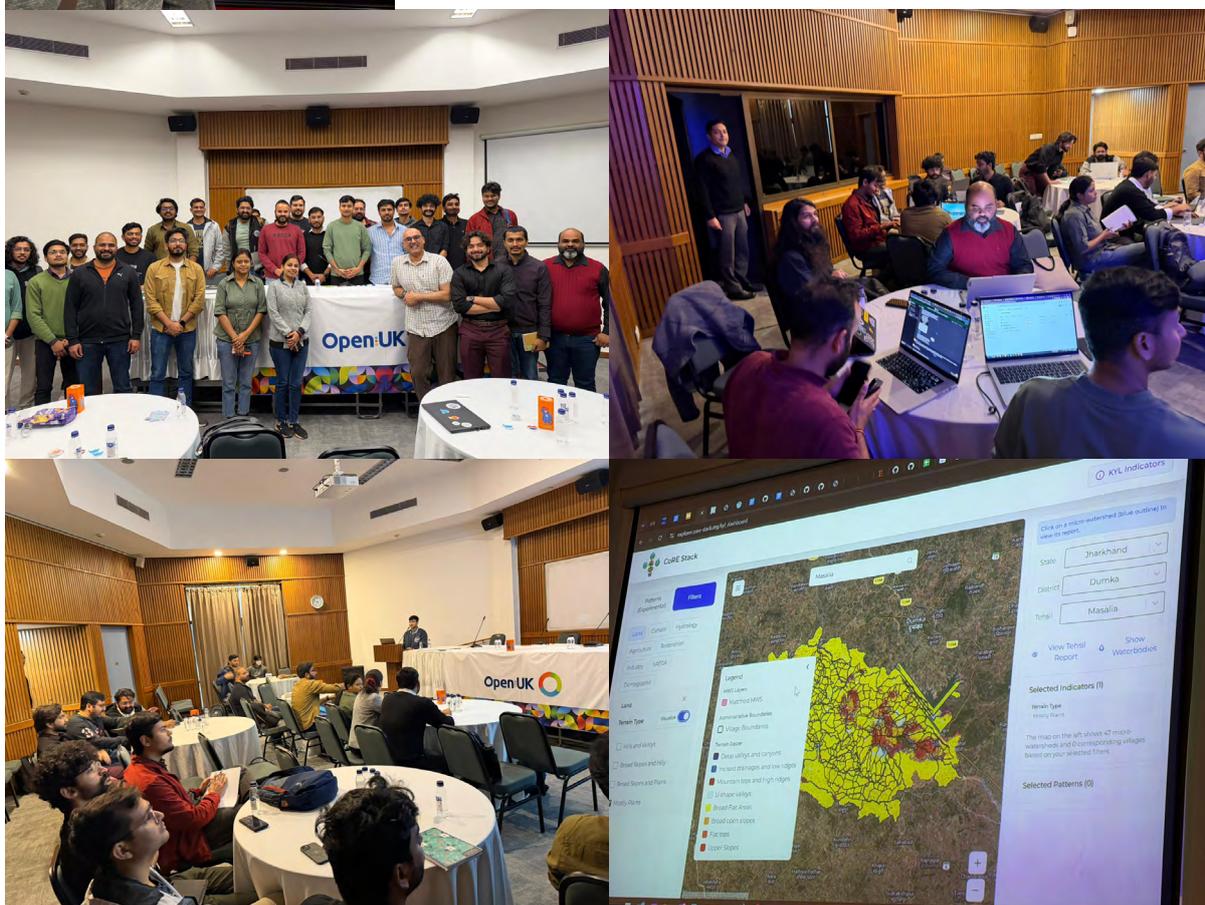


Photo credit: James Lovegrove

**(iii) High Commission: “Shaping Tomorrow – the UK AI Showcase and Reception” hosted on 19 February by the British High Commissioner, Lindy Cameron, at the High Commissioner’s Residence**

The UK’s most senior leaders joined the UK High Commissioner to India, and former CEO of the UK’s National Computing Centre, Lindy Cameron, as guests at a party in the gardens of the High Commissioner’s Residence, Delhi’s largest private garden. The OpenUK team and our colleagues in India joined in force.

The evening included Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy in conversation with former Prime Minister Rish Sunkak.

OpenUK was honoured to be included in the event opening on the main stage, with CEO Amanda Brock joining the UK Minister for AI, Kanishka Naryan, MP, Minister for AI and Digital Safety, as they launched a DocuShort video on the power of the UK’s open source community and OpenUK.

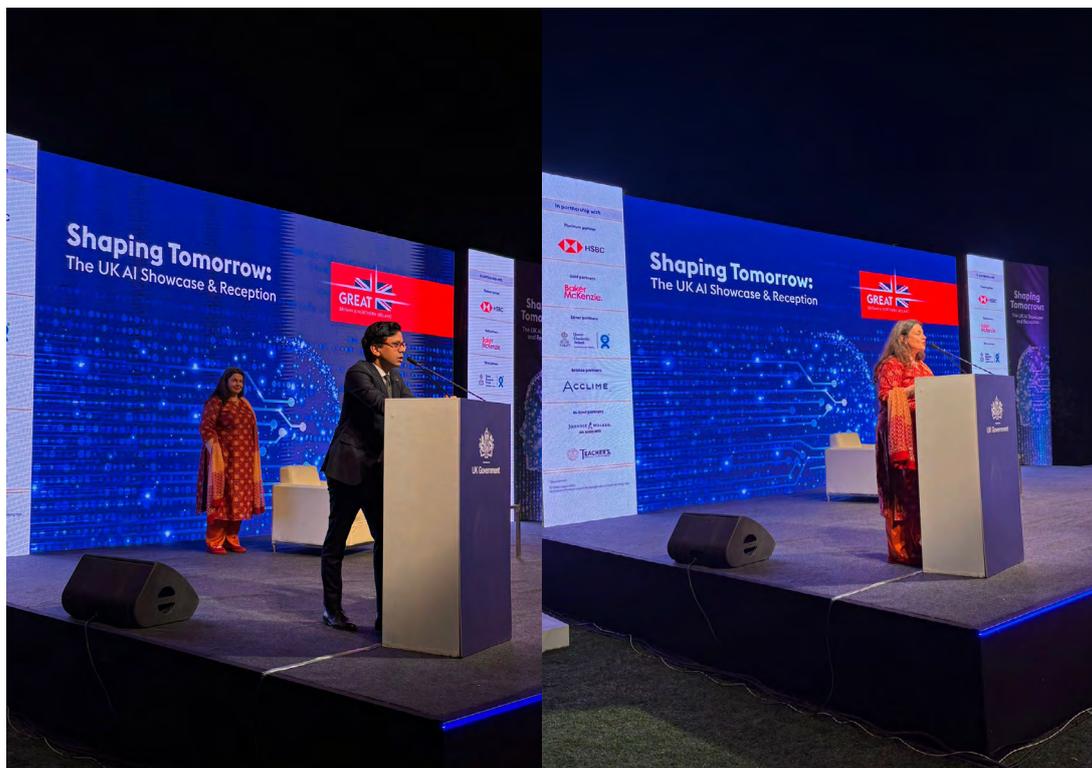


Photo credit: James Lovegrove

The video is now available to watch: [OpenUK AI Impact Summit Video](#)



The talent included are: Professor Amanda Brock, CEO, OpenUK and OpenHQ; Matt Barker, VP of Identity at Palo Alto Networks, and founder of the world's second Kubernetes Company Jetstack, which donated Cert Manager to the Linux Foundation; Global Talent Visa recipient Kunal Kushawa, Senior Developer Advocate EMEA, Cast AI; Dr Laura Gilbert CBE, Senior Director of AI, Tony Blair Institute and Visiting Professor in Practice LSE, formerly at 10 Downing Street; Global Talent Visa recipient Sal Kimmich, Technical Director and Principle Security Compliance Consultant Gadfly AI; and David Soria Parra, co-creator of the MCP protocol.

The video was created in 3 days in London, on short notice based on the opportunity to share this at the HC event and for which we are grateful. The participants are a handful of the incredible talent that lives in the UK's "open source submarine" powering the digital economy (see 5.1).

Whilst often invisible in their home nations, these talented individuals collaborate globally and build the software and AI infrastructure on which we all rely for our digital services.



## Quotes from the video

“

“The UK is a hot bed of open tech innovation and we’re also a world leader in AI, but we can’t go alone. We know that it’s not about control, it’s about collaboration. If we want to build the world’s best technology, including AI, we have to do it together.”

**Amanda Brock**  
CEO, OpenUK and OpenHQ

“One of the fundamental things we’re focused on in the UK government is AI adoption. And the virality, the impact, the enthusiasm of open source as a way of driving that across business and more widely is a really important feature.”

**Kanishka Narayan MP**  
UK Minister for AI and Digital Safety

“

“An open governance just allows you to have trust with developers and allows them to really build with you. And it’s super important to have something that we can build together if you want to have something that everybody wants to adopt.”

**David Soria Parra**  
Co-Creator, MCP

“OpenUK brings together the best of open source talent in the UK and it fosters that community and takes us to a global stage and helps us to get in front of the government which essentially helps us to do better things and drive more innovation.”

**Matt Barker**  
VP Identity, Paolo Alto Networks

“

“Open source is incredibly important for the future of the world. AI technology isn’t ubiquitously available to everybody and particularly lower and middle income countries are falling behind in their ability to provide really good solutions to improve the lives of their citizens. Investing in building shared open source solutions enables all of us to stand on the shoulder of giants and to be able to use this technology quickly and effectively to improve the lives of our citizens worldwide.”

**Dr Laura Gilbert, CBE**  
Senior Director, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

“We can’t build everything here in the UK and we want to make sure we’re partnering with allies to make sure that the future of AI is both prosperous but also full of the values that we share which is why I’m deeply excited about the collaboration with India and with other countries.”

**Kanishka Narayan MP**  
UK Minister for AI and Digital Safety

“So I’m really enjoying OpenUK’s vision for the future reaching out into other countries and making sure that as we build together, we do that in a sincere way.”

**Sal Kimmich**  
Global Talent Visa recipient and Technical Director Gadfly AI

“Open source is making AI more democratic. People are not going to pay for proprietary models when they can get similar sort of performance from open source models. One of the biggest reasons that AI projects fail is lack of skills in this space. Open source bridges that gap by bringing together communities and sharing resources that folks can contribute to.”

**Kunal Kushwaha**  
Global Talent Visa recipient and  
Senior Developer Advocate EMEA, Cast AI

“Openness and that particularly around protocols builds trust with enterprises but all the individual contributors that they know, this will be always open, they can always use this. And this is nothing but a proprietary API that might eventually be put behind closed doors which in the past has happened to things and so having something in the open is very useful for building that trust, that’s really the foundation for building a strong ecosystem.”

**David Soria Parra**  
Co-Creator, MCP

“We have the most dense developer community here, a history of open source being a really fundamental driver of progress. We want the UK to continue to be that. I know OpenUK will play a big role making sure that happens here, happens globally as well.”

**Kanishka Narayan MP**  
UK Minister for AI and Digital Safety

“At significant moments in the history of technology, the history of computing, we’ve seen the UK lead. And when the UK’s led, it’s not been by controlling. It’s been by helping to define collaboratively, the technical standards that drive innovation. Open UK exists to make our future a shared one.”

**Amanda Brock**  
CEO, OpenUK and OpenHQ

(iv) OpenUK Leaders' Roundtable

The poster features a dark background with a night view of a large, illuminated circular building. At the top, the OpenUK and OpenHQ logos are displayed in their signature multi-colored font. Below them, the event title 'The Open Source Leaders Roundtable' is written in large, bold white text, followed by the subtitle 'An AI Impact Summit Fringe Event'. The date and time '17th February, 18.00 - 20.00, New Delhi' and the location 'India International Centre (IIC), Annex' are listed. A note states 'By invite only, non-transferrable' with a QR code and the URL 'luma.com/wh4gftqg'. A section titled 'Thanks to our Summit Sponsor & OpenUK General Sponsors' lists logos for GitHub, arm, Microsoft, Red Hat, RESEARCH, linaro, and Mozilla. Below that, 'Thanks to our Community Partners' lists logos for aapti institute, AI ALLIANCE, CS Cyber Secured India, civo, CHAOSS ASIA, CLOUD NATIVE HYDERABAD, FAQTV, FOSS UNITED, JOINER, kube simplify, TECH INDIA ADVOCATES, sflc.in, and VULTR.

OpenUK hosted local leaders in open source to discuss what they wanted from the Summit, post summit and continued engagement. This was a fishbowl format with open discussion and featured Mishi Choudary, Founder Software Freedom Law Centre and Bidu Nair, of Open Invention Network and Open Chain.

(v) Tony Blair Institute for Global Change - “Governing in the Age of AI: Sovereignty, Impact and Strategy”

The session was opened by former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in discussion with Alexandr Wang, Meta’s Chief AI Officer, who replaced Yann Le Cun in 2025.



The US Ambassador's discussion at the event focused on two pillars:

AI needs energy, it needs data centres to power the deep use and deep use, and to unlock the building of infrastructure and that needs grids and gas turbines and nuclear power.

The second pillar is innovation. Wanting to unblock the geminis and anthropics and recognising that the US will host a lot of startups not even created yet. To unleash them, it needs them not to be dealing with regulatory red tape of the Bletchley Park Summit era.

He went on to say that most relevant to India in this conversation, is to ensure the world uses the American AI stack, from the bottom up meaning semiconductors and advanced AI chips, NVIDIA, AMD, and Google's GPUs, and so on and so forth. And to ensure that the world uses US AI models. Thirdly, for the world to use US applications and to build their local applications on top. To achieve this the US will ensure that it is amazingly easy to do business with.

In the conversation about what sovereign AI means America will have a minimum of \$600 billion in investment across the hyperscalers next year. That's a big investment to power AI training runs, data centres, compute. And the US's allies, including India as a key ally, should be leveraging and building on this infrastructure. For those allies this does not mean giving up on strategic autonomy and Indian companies will need to bring in local bandwidth to support this including local culture.

“The US representative at the sessions was clear that the US had seen a profound shift in the past year or eighteen months from the “doom and risk” of that time to a more positive environment. They set the expectation that the US recognises it is behind on open source models and that this will shift.”

In a panel hosted by Laura Gilbert, H E Paula Cina Lawson, Ministry of Public Sector Efficiency and Digital Transformation TOGO “Trust is earned in drops and lost in buckets”. Trust cannot be understated in terms of the guiding principles for AI. Transparency is the first principle, privacy and our data are next. That ensures inclusivity in the data sets and their testing, and the value of AI. Corporations thinking about competitiveness and the role of AI in business models. Not just creating consumers of AI but beneficiaries of AI. This lent into the future of work conversation.

This was followed by a “Sovereignty and Resilience in the Age of AI Panel” with a focus on open source. “Strategic agency” was mentioned in the opening remarks and at the heart of the conversation.



**George Osborn, Managing Director and Head of OpenAI for Countries, OpenAI:** Countries have two contradictory feelings. First is a “FOMO”, how do we feel the benefits of this for our society and secondly a “perfectly legitimate concern about sovereignty” with frontier models only being produced in two countries, the US and China. Trying to address legitimate questions about control, and China is the only example of a country that is trying to produce a full stack that is independent from the US, what you want to be doing is around data residency. Middle income countries are really taking to the technology and you could argue will turbo charge it. Not every country is going to be able to afford multi-billion pound data centres and nuclear power stations. One thing that struck him about joining OpenAI, is that there are some really forward leaning governments leaning in, like Greece, which has led to integrating AI into its education system. Suggested that countries that adopt AI more will be the winners when it comes to sovereignty.

**H.E. Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT, Rwanda:** On the application layer, countries should be able to determine economic growth and how we are building capabilities for our people. Resilience is around a couple of things, whether foundation and compute we can benefit greatly from collaborating, as capital intensive. Also look at standards and research, which is about whether you have the capacity to evaluate, audit the outcomes of the models and when you want to switch providers, can you. If the answer is yes it is resilience and if the answer is no, then it’s a no. Looking at partnerships which are going to be progressively less necessary, we look at the life expectancy of the relationship and what happens when that is done. It’s not just about the automation of a process but how it adapts to the changing needs of the landscape. Shifting to capability of the landscape is how you measure the partnerships you have outlived and the ones we want to continue. Removing dependency on partnerships and how we build, ongoing. At a policy level you want to have results, but this is taking a step back to look at what is after this, and avoiding being stuck - with partners.

**Mark Surman:** Standards are very important to openness, and we hear about open source as a way to strengthen sovereignty. The idea of open source and standards is sensible and important if you care about resilience. You can make it your own and nobody can take it back from you. I can adapt it, that’s the essence of what open source and standards offer. Break it down to what really matters about open source.

1. Model layer - open weights models are an interesting development . Truly open models that catch up on terms of dependence, and where data is actually disclosed.
2. Developer layer - when we think Linux we don’t just think about the kernel but the ecosystem. There is complexity behind any app a consumer uses, that is critical. Building standards allow developers to flip between these.
3. Optionality in compute. It’s the hardest so we don’t talk about it in the supply chain and chipsets. Software solutions that allow working across different chip sets, in both training and inference. Mentioned Flower in Germany.

This will be the year of small models. The idea that countries other than China and the US won’t be able to build is a false premise, but one that helps to hold those countries back. We can do big things together. This is reflected in the Linux stack. Everyone uses it and the funding for this is a combination of public and private partnerships.

When Carney talks about middle power, sovereignty is not a game of solitude, but about having control and doing that together.

## 5. Reports featuring AI Openness Shared around the AI Impact Summit

Two reports and one press article shared pre Summit and three reports during the Impact Summit are detailed below. They span global governance analysis, geopolitical strategy, socio-economic impact, and domestic policy design, all position open source (and more broadly, AI openness) as a strategic lever rather than a purely technical choice. It is framed as a pathway to democratising access, strengthening digital sovereignty and enabling localisation, while also requiring clearer governance to avoid risks such as “open washing” and uneven practical access due to compute and cost constraints.

There is a consensus that open source ecosystems are essential for achieving sovereign capability, avoiding vendor lock-in, and democratising access for startups and public institutions.

Furthermore, they share a common recommendation that governments must transition from passive regulators to active market shapers through strategic public procurement, infrastructure investments, and the curation of public datasets.

However, marked differences can be seen in approaches and primary focus:

1. OpenUK’s [Road to the AI Impact Summit](#) pre-summit report focuses on the data and brings awareness of the India market, its scale and potential.
2. The [Tony Blair Institute](#) report issues pre-summit, also included a panel at the Summit, and adopts a macro-geopolitical lens advising middle powers on securing global influence and consults a number of open source industry experts from the UK and internationally;
3. Current AI offered a pre-summit [White Paper, Toward an Open, Resilient, Non Aligned AI](#)
4. The [Takshashila Institution](#) report takes an analytical approach to track and predict shifting global governance trends rather than prescribing specific policies;
5. The [Linux Foundation and Meta](#) report applies a socio-economic lens focused on grassroots inclusion and workforce upskilling in India; and
6. The [Digital Futures Lab & NASSCOM](#) policy brief provides a highly granular, technical framework recommending specific regulatory thresholds and developer practices tailored to India’s institutional realities but has missed the opportunity to engage the open source expert community in the how to achieve this.

A consistent theme across the reports is that the greatest value for most countries sits downstream, hence a shift from a model-centric approach to an ecosystem-centric strategy that builds tools, talent and data pipelines for improved ROI. The reports attempt to explain the requirements of this.

Where they differ from each other, is largely in the emphasis between being India-focused and having a broader geopolitical lens.

The India focused evidence highlights an approach focused on the global south that is people-centred and has an inclusive approach, whilst the geopolitical evidence highlights openness as an arena of strategic competition and influence among major powers.

The headline recommendations converge on a more active state role, acting not only as a regulator but also as a promoter, procurer and builder through provision of compute and maintenance funding, curating high quality datasets and using procurement to avoid lock-in. This work aligns with the EU’s recent call for digital evidence, and OpenUK’s ongoing work with UK Research and Innovation on the ecosystem support necessary to build an open source environment that will flourish. Pair this with development best practices focused on meaningful openness, responsible licensing and stronger documentation to make openness more auditable and safer to use.

There is inevitably and necessarily a broad focus on funding. The German Sovereign Tech Fund, has already morphed into the German Sovereign Tech Agency and has taken a first step on the journey to a broader remit as evidence of this. Ongoing calls to nation states to build funds can be seen to be a necessary component of the actions required but long-since out of date, as the single requirement of government.

## 5.1 Pre Summit Reports

### (i) OpenUK The Road to the Indian AI Impact Summit, November 2025

OpenUK published two reports in the run up to the Indian AI Impact Summit [The Road to the Indian Impact Summit Report: AI Openness November 2025](#) and [The Road to the Indian Impact Summit Report: Community and Policy Engagement August 2025](#). The core arguments present AI openness not only as a technical preference, but as the essential foundation for global equity, innovation, and access for all.

#### 1. From “Action” to “Impact” via Openness

The reports document a strategic shift from the 2025 Paris Summit’s focus on Action to the upcoming 2026 India Summit’s focus on impact, arguing that for AI to truly serve humanity it must be open. This openness is defined broadly to include open source software, open standards, and critically, open data, which are necessary to democratise technology and prevent it from being controlled by a few global monopolies.

#### 2. India as the Engine of Open Source

A central finding is India’s rapid ascent as a global AI superpower, driven by open source. The data reveals that India has become the world’s largest open source contributor base, adding over 5 million developers in 2025 alone. With a 50% year-on-year growth in AI repositories, India is outpacing the US and China in expansion rates. Grassroots momentum, combined with government initiatives to build AI as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), positions India to lead the Global South in creating inclusive AI that solves real-world problems like healthcare and education delivery.

#### 3. Redefining Sovereignty

The reports challenge the traditional view of AI sovereignty as isolationism, instead arguing for sovereign capability - the ability to control one’s own digital destiny without dependency on foreign black box systems. Open source is presented as the only viable path to this sovereignty because it allows nations to inspect, modify, and host critical infrastructure locally. However, sovereignty is impossible without open data; without locally representative datasets, sovereign models will still suffer from the biases of Western training data.

#### 4. The Strategic UK-India Partnership

There is a deep collaboration between the UK and India. Despite its smaller population, the UK is India’s second-largest open source collaboration partner after the US. The UK is depicted as a trusted hub of governance and quality (with high per-capita developer concentration), which complements India’s massive scale and deployment capabilities.

#### 5. Collaboration

The future of AI legitimacy lies in the openness of the ecosystem, which allows for distributed innovation and collective oversight. By validating open source as a mechanism for security and economic growth, nations can avoid vertical lock-in to specific vendors and ensure technology serves the public good.

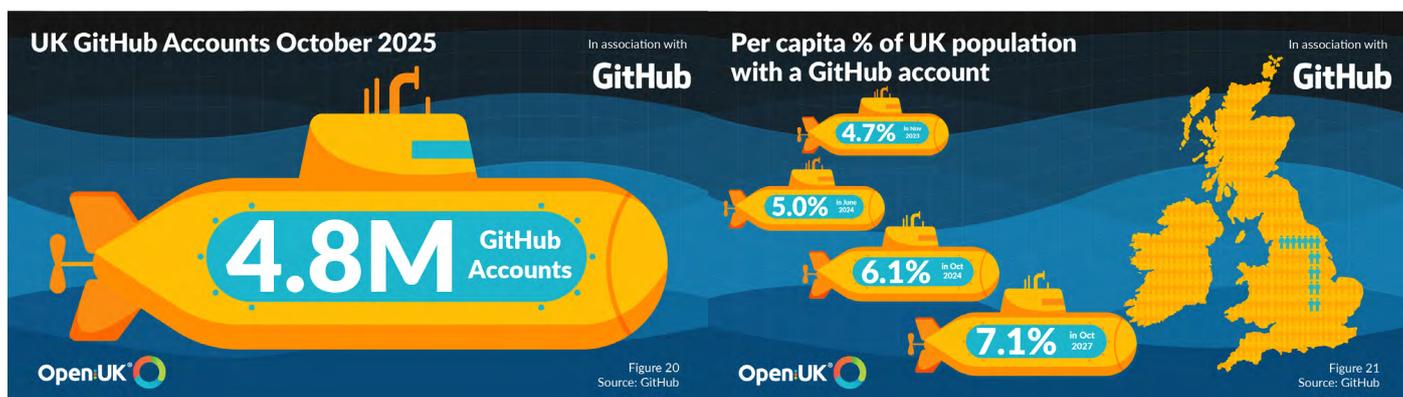
“ We need to bring the Global South into the conversations on AI governance, how to ensure AI is used for the larger good, and how to limit harm. That is one of the key objectives of the Impact Summit. We will not only showcase AI technologies and their potential, but also bring AI users into the key discussions. In doing so, we can involve researchers, developers, and entrepreneurs from across the world in building an AI future that benefits all of us.

**Abishek Singh**  
 Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India

”

OpenUK has evolved the analogy of the submarine under the digital economy, representing the open source community of globally collaborative individuals working closely with skilled colleagues in their particular projects across the planet.

The very British yellow submarine (a play on the song of the same name by the Beatles) reflects the power of this community’s outputs supporting the digital economy, whilst at the same time being a group of unseen individuals working under the radar. This community are often ignored in their home geography - unknown and unclaimed yet key individuals are well known globally, particularly in the US tech hubs like the Bay Area - and China, where open source is understood.



The UK population is diminutive when compared to India or the US, but when viewed per capita, it is 7.1% and higher than any country in the world.

In a humorous way the submarine is expanded into India’s yellow emblem, the tuktuk or rickshaw, as the tuktuk under the Indian digital economy. This reflects the world’s second largest open source community, which should it continue on the same trajectory, will be the world’s largest overtaking the US, by 2030.

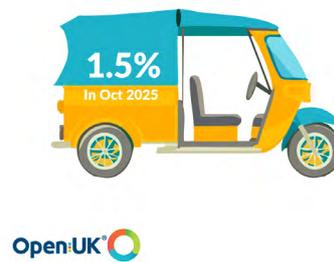
**India GitHub Accounts October 2025**



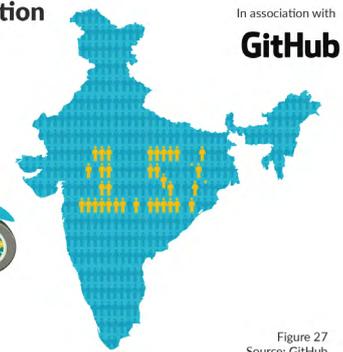
In association with  
**GitHub**

Figure 26  
Source: GitHub

**Per capita % of India population with a GitHub account**



Open:UK



In association with  
**GitHub**

Figure 27  
Source: GitHub

**(ii) Current AI - Public Interest Foundation, France: Prototype local AI device platform, Working Paper**

One year on, [‘Current AI’](#), mentioned by President Macron in his remarks during the inauguration founded at the Action Summit, has a new CEO, Ayah Bdeir. Building on its initial funding by willing nations to the tune of €400m (committed at launch) from the French Government and Omidyar Foundation’s philanthropic funding and backing from commercial entities including [Google](#) and [Salesforce](#) as “core partners,” and Hugging Face, [Instacart](#), AI startup Sakana AI. It seeks to reach \$2.5bn over 5 years but its current funding level was not disclosed.

The foundation’s work to finance ‘data commons’ and ethical AI practices align to its first output, in collaboration with [Bhashini](#), the Indian Government’s AI-powered language translation platform and lent itself to events titled “Reclaiming AI Infrastructure” and “Making AI for Everyone”, picking up on the sovereignty and democratisation of AI themes seen across the Summit, and this was shared as one of the final sessions of the Summit on 20th February.

Described as an alternative vision to make embodied AI accessible to everyone by presenting our prototype for a local AI device platform that empowers communities to create their own AI tools, in their own language, for their own needs, with complete privacy and control.

The working paper, issued pre-summit, focuses on the existential moment in history and power of AI, describing the need for agency and sovereignty, and drilling down to the aspects of the AI stack. Worth considering these and the paper’s discussion on control in the light of the US Ambassador’s comments at the Tony Blair Institute event featured at section, 3.2.

It also recognises the under investment in the open source stack but does not recognise that due to the nature of community and its engagement which is critical, that investment is needed on a very broad basis, and to cover aspects of community engagement and resilience that are not in any way required in a proprietary stack and model.

“  
First, we must recognise that open stacks are smarter, more resilient stacks. Second, it is clear that no country apart from China and the US can aspire to have a fully sovereign stack, where sovereignty is defined as agency and control over all aspects of the stack, the different stages of producing key AI applications. In fact, nor should they want it. Why fight it? Embrace it. The aim should not be a national, sovereign stack, but a global, open, resilient, non-aligned stack, adaptable to the unique needs of each country.  
”

**Martin Tisne**  
Founder and Chair Collaborative AI

## 5.2 Reports shared during the Summit

### Reports Launched at the Summit

#### (i) Advancing Open Source AI in India, Recommendations for Governments and Technology Developers: Panel and Report

Jointly published by [Digital Futures Lab](#), FAIR Forward – Artificial Intelligence for All NASSCOM (implemented by [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#), funded by [Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#)), and the [IndiaAI](#) Mission, the policy brief has been developed through expert consultations with diverse stakeholders across industry and government. It outlines a roadmap for advancing open source AI in India, providing key recommendations for developers and regulators.

This was launched with a keynote by [Dr. Bärbel Kofler](#), Parliamentary State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for Economic and Development Cooperation followed by a Panel Discussion on opportunities and constraints of open source AI for inclusive economic development featuring: Ms [Amanda Brock](#), Chief Executive Officer, [OpenUK](#); Mr [Chockalingam M.](#), Director - Technology, [nasscom](#); Ms [Yasha Khandelwal](#), CEO & Founder, Tech4Biz. Mr [James Lovegrove](#), Director, [RedHat](#); Dr [Urvashi Aneja](#), Founder & Executive Director, [Digital Futures Lab](#); and was Moderated by Ms [Lea Gimpel](#), Director of Policy & AI Lead, [Digital Public Goods Alliance](#).

**Report Launch Panel:** In the launch panel conversation there was a focus on the global south and the learning from the global north.

The banner features the NASSCOM logo and the AI Impact Summit logo with the tagline 'सर्वजन हिताय | सर्वजन सुखाय' (Welfare for all | Happiness of all). The panel discussion title is 'Innovating Together: Harnessing Open-Source AI for Inclusive Economic Development'. The panelists are:

- Lea Gimpel (Moderator)**: Director of Policy & AI Lead, Digital Public Goods Alliance
- Amanda Brock**: CEO, OpenUK
- Yasha Khandelwal**: CEO & Founder, Tech4Biz
- James Lovegrove**: Public Policy Director, RedHat
- Dr. Urvashi Aneja**: Founder & Director, Digital Futures Lab
- M. Chockalingam**: Technology Director, NASSCOM AI

At the bottom, it specifies the date as Feb 18, 2026, time as 11:30AM-12:25PM, and location as Room No. 15, Bharat Mandapam. A quote from Dr. Bärbel Kofler is featured: 'AI inequality isn't just a tech issue — it's a power issue.' attributed to Dr. Bärbel Kofler, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

**Report:** Endorsed by MeITY, the policy brief, [Advancing Open Source AI in India: Recommendations for Governments & Technology Developers](#), by Digital Futures Lab, NASSCOM and Fair Forward, outlines a pathway for advancing open source AI in India, positioning openness as a strategic lever for democratising access to AI, strengthening digital sovereignty and aligning AI development with public-interest goals. It examines how different degrees of openness across the AI stack, spanning data, code and model weights, shape outcomes such as transparency, innovation, and accountability, while also acknowledging the risks, trade-offs, and governance challenges involved.

The report argues that open source AI should not be viewed as a simple binary, but instead as a spectrum. They propose a matrix to help stakeholders understand the opportunities to opening certain elements of AI. For example, opening model weights increases customisability and affordability, whilst opening training data improves transparency and reproducibility.

Conversely, one key warning raised is the problem of “open washing” whereby AI companies claim their foundational models are open by sharing access to certain components, whilst continuing to restrict access to critical information such as underlying data. The report however is itself unclear on its ontology and risks being added to that open washing category.

Open source AI is positioned as a strategic necessity for India’s digital future, offering key advantages over proprietary, “black-box” models, particularly:

- Democratisation and inclusion – open source AI lowers barriers to entry, allowing startups, research teams and public institutions to build and experiment without prohibitive licensing costs.
- Digital Sovereignty – open source AI reduces dependence on global technology vendors, instead allowing India to create, modify and govern AI systems independently.
- Localisation – open source AI models allow for customisation to India’s diverse linguistic and cultural realities, which “black-box” models may not adequately serve.

While outlining these key benefits and advocating for openness, the report also identifies significant challenges to be overcome to achieve openness:

- Infrastructure costs based on high-performance computing resources are often expensive, limiting who can actually utilise these open models.
- Coupled with sustainability issues with open projects often suffering from developer churn
- potential for misuse via malicious actors removing safety features

It concludes that realising the benefits of Open Source AI requires active intervention via roles through Indian government along with specific practices from the development community in order to be successful. It is notable that concerns characterised as being open source like infrastructure costs are in fact not specific to open source but applicable to all AI and reduced in the case of open source where the open source AI reduces cost. Many open source models are also lower in their compute requirement and ease this access requirement.

### **The Role of the Government and Recommendations:**

- Promoter: Provide compute infrastructure to open projects and create grants for the long-term maintenance of high-value datasets.
- Regulator: Establish minimum transparency thresholds for publicly funded AI (e.g., releasing model cards and weights) and clarify licensing frameworks.
- Procurer: Prefer open source solutions in public tenders to avoid vendor lock-in, potentially using a “decision matrix” to weigh open vs. proprietary options. Whilst this is a necessary part of the landscape broader actions will be required to achieve the stated goal.
- Developer: Model best practices by releasing state-built models (e.g., Bhashini) under responsible licenses with full documentation. The suggestion that open source licences tailored to India might be created is a problematic suggestion and sits counter intuitive to the requirements of open source that anyone can use the code for any purpose.

## The Role of Developers:

- Meaningful Openness: Release components that allow scrutiny (weights, training code).
- Responsible Licensing: Use responsible AI licenses that allow access but legally prohibit specific harmful uses.
- Documentation: Publish comprehensive “Data Cards” and “AI Bill of Materials” to ensure lineage and provenance are clear.

When considering the recommendations to the Indian government in this report, these can be seen to be a first step only. One must consider the breadth of these recommendations in light of the [EU’s Call for evidence on open source digital ecosystems](#) which ended on 3 February at 1658 responses, the largest number received for any EU consultation.

That consultation saw the detail of the ecosystem needs required for open source to be successfully explained by many parties. [OpenUK has also been working in collaboration with UK Research and Innovation](#) providing detailed recommendations to build sustainable software and AI for the UK. A broader approach may be required to the landscape, perhaps more in line with the steps China has taken to ensure the necessary components are in place, such as the creation of a national foundation, such as the creation of a National Foundation like Open Atom.

The Indian open source leadership and their understanding of the ‘how’ of open source are notably absent from the list of individuals interviewed in the preparation of this report.

As such there are some key concerns in the recommendations and a risk that the report’s lack of deep understanding of the how of open source, and apparent desire to create a ‘new’ definition of open source could be considered to be open washing. Lack of advisory from the open source community means that whilst the report is a good first step, the depth of understanding to fully map the landscape is missing and additionally some of the recommendations would be problematic in the light of the terms of open source licensing and its free flow.

## (ii) Linux Foundation: AI for Economic and Social Good in India

The Linux Foundation report, [AI for Economic and Social Good in India](#), commissioned by Meta, demonstrates how India is leveraging AI not just for economic gain, but as a tool for large-scale social inclusion and “people-centered” innovation.

The earlier Linux Foundation [Meta commissioned report](#) in May 2025, was notable in leading to [accusations of open washing](#) when its launch was followed by Meta publishing the report on its web site stating Llama is open source, despite considerable challenge to that previous to the report.

Unlike other markets focused on high end innovation, Linux Foundation identifies that India is using AI to solve structural challenges, sometimes considered to be sovereignty-based considerations, including language barriers and access to services.

This inclusive approach, the report suggests, has led to rapid adoption, with adoption rates in India often surpassing global averages and quickly transitioning from experimentation to everyday use. Success of this approach can be seen in the AI market projections, with growth estimation currently stating an increase from \$6 billion in 2024 (the total value of India’s AI market estimated for 2024) to a market projection of \$32 billion for the year 2031, supported by one of the world’s largest startup ecosystems - this would be a fivefold increase in the market’s size and economic contribution.

Open source is recognised as a primary driver for the growth of both private and public sectors in India. It allows start-ups - 76% of Indian startups have built their solutions using open source AI - to compete without the prohibitive costs of proprietary models, and it enables the public sector to ensure data remains local and secure, avoiding reliance on external APIs. This is notable in comparison to the UK, where in 2023 [OpenUK](#) identified that 100% of start ups founded in the preceding 3 years had used open source.

Across key sectors AI is already delivering measurable social benefits. In India particularly in agriculture (see the OpenUK Hackathon report at 4.3 (ii)), healthcare and legal services. For example, Adalat AI applies AI models to courtroom workflows, tackling the 50-million case backlog in Indian courts. Meanwhile AI is being used to democratise access to expert healthcare knowledge, such as AI doctors, which reduce Tuberculosis diagnosis time by 99%.

The report highlights the following recommendations for India's government to achieve sustained growth:

- Create funds to help SMBs to increase the speed to move from proof of concept to commercialisation, as well as access to compute and testing environments.
- Encourage widespread skills development across regions, demographics and jobs to enable AI literacy and capacity building for governments. This includes increasing awareness of AI for the general public.
- Explicitly encourage the procurement of open models and tools through a national vision of open source AI that spans public and private use.
- Develop policies from a scientific and evidence-based approach, understanding the risks of AI, mitigation strategies and history of technology revolutions.

The report ends by suggesting that policymakers in India should “convene a multilateral effort combining government, civil society, and industry to develop an actionable framework to pave the way for accomplishing the vision outlined under cabinet approved IndiaAI mission”. This aligns with the global-south focused conversation had across the Summit.

### **(iii) Tony Blair Institute for Global Change: Open Source: “How Middle Powers Can Build Influence in the Age of AI”**

In the recent report, [Open Source: How Middle Powers Can Build Influence in the Age of AI](#), by The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, it is argued that for most nations, a focus on building a frontier Large Language Model (LLM) is an inefficient use of public resources. Instead, a strategy shift from being Model-centric to being Ecosystem-Centric, enabling tools, data pipelines, talent and infrastructure that allow a country to refine, adapt and deploy any model, should be developed for more effective return on investment (ROI).

While open models may be behind closed models in capabilities, the gap is rapidly closing. Development of frontier models is still concentrated in a few US and Chinese firms, but several “middle power” nations make outsized contributions to open source software (based on GitHub contributions per million population, 2025). The report suggests a shift in overall viewpoint, moving from open source AI being used as a technical preference to it now being used as a tool of geopolitical influence. By collaborating on open standards, benchmarks and tools, middle powers can pool their purchasing power to exert influence in global AI Markets.

For the majority of nations, benefits will be demonstrated downstream, in the intermediary layer where fine tuning and systems integration are real advantages. Open source models lower barriers to entry, allowing domestic firms to build specific applications on top of global models.

Specifically in terms of India, it is cited as a key example of the Distilled Model strategy. The report highlights India (along with the UAE and Sweden) as a country that has chosen to build “distilled national LLMs” rather than attempting to build a frontier model from scratch.

Instead of spending billions to train a massive model from the ground up, India is taking existing open source foundation models and “fine-tuning” them. The report notes this approach allows India to create models that are specifically tailored to fit its bespoke language and culture. India's strategy provides a positive example of how middle powers can secure sovereign capability without wasting resources on a vanity project that would quickly become obsolete.

The report recommends that governments must take an active role as procurer and builder rather than just as a regulator. Priorities should be on creating sovereign tech funds to maintain open source software

libraries that critical infrastructure relies on, building high quality public datasets in strategic sectors and developing sector-specific benchmarks. Meanwhile, establishing a flagship programme, focusing on ecosystem capacity with an aim for sovereign capability removes the reliance on vendors and enhances security without relying on external providers.

#### (iv) Takshashila Institute: The State of AI Governance 2025

[The State of AI Governance 2025](#) report by Takshashila Institution argues that open source and AI openness are not just a technical choice but are critical as a lever for geopolitical influence and strategic autonomy. AI development and governance in major economies has taken the form of an innovation race with geopolitical characteristics. The US, China, and India have prioritised innovation over transparency and accountability.

Major powers are using openness to secure market share and strategic advantage, with open source models becoming a primary battlefield for global AI advantage. Chinese labs have pivoted to releasing open weight models to bypass chip restrictions and gain wider global usage. In addition, the US AI Action Plan (July 2025) explicitly includes the promotion of open weight and open model AI as a key component of maintaining American technological leadership.

AI that is open has been identified as a pathway of technological autonomy and widespread access by all of them. However, with both the US and China prioritising dominating the open AI ecosystem in their national policies, there is a risk of open source turning into a geopolitical battleground.

For regions outside of China and the US, open source is the primary mechanism for avoiding dependence on global proprietary models. Across the EU and India, open models are championed as pathways to strategic autonomy with both regions progressing strategy to promote open source solutions. For example, the IndiaAI mission is fast-tracking the development of open foundational models (like Bhashini and BharatGen) to build domestic capacity and democratise access for startups.

Government frameworks are also beginning to treat open source models differently to protect innovation. The EU AI Act explicitly exempts models released under free and open source licenses from certain evaluation, disclosure and compliance requirements provided they do not present systemic risks.

The report highlights predictions across 2026 with a particular continued trend for Chinese labs to continue to dominate the open weight leaderboards.

Strategies and recommendations adopted by major powers are outlined across the report with notable points being:

- USA – The US “AI Action Plan” promotes open source and open weight AI as a central pillar of its strategy supporting innovation, transparency, and strategic relationships (via exporting the American AI Technology Stack, including open models, to allies as a diplomatic tool)
- European Union – The EU views open source as a mechanism to achieve technological sovereignty and reduce dependence on other countries. Their Apply AI Strategy explicitly promotes a “buy European” approach for the public sector, with a specific focus on procuring open source AI solutions. Likewise, the “InvestAI” initiative funds common European data spaces to create a single market for data, making it available for reuse to train open models.
- China – Due to foreign users often distrusting Chinese “black box” models based on data sovereignty concerns, releasing open weights allow China to gain wider global use, market share and maintain influence in the application layer of AI.
- India – The report notes that India is heavily investing in open source to build domestic capacity and democratise access. The IndiaAI mission (with a budget of \$1.2 billion) is fast-tracking the development of open foundational models to ensure that Indian startups and public services have access to technology.

On this last point note the discussion of Sarvam AI and its failure to open source its outputs at the Summit.

## 6. Conclusion

**Dr Jennifer Barth,**  
Chief Research Officer, OpenUK



The AI Impact Summit 2026 marked a decisive shift in the global AI conversation: from a focus on safety and frontier competition to a broader, more inclusive agenda centred on impact, access, and sovereignty. As documented throughout this report, the Summit elevated openness—encompassing open source software, open standards, open data, and open governance—from a technical preference to a strategic imperative shaping economic, geopolitical, and social outcomes.

Hosted in the Global South for the first time, India reframed AI as infrastructure for inclusion.

Across public panels, hackathons, commentary and fringe events, an almost consistent message emerged: AI must not become the preserve of a handful of companies or countries. Democratising access to data, models, and compute power is essential if AI is to serve economic development, social good, and diversity.

Sovereignty was repeatedly redefined—not as isolation, but as sovereign capability: the practical ability to inspect, adapt, deploy, and govern AI systems without dependency on opaque, foreign-controlled black boxes.

This reframing was supported by policy analysis and evidence across the Summit alongside four major reports launched and debated during the Summit.

Advancing Open Source AI in India: Recommendations for Governments and Technology Developers (Digital Futures Lab, NASSCOM, FAIR Forward, endorsed by MeitY) suggested we consider open source not as binary, but rather a set of degrees of openness across the AI stack—data, code, and model weights. Through this lens it analysed how each layer shapes transparency, customisability, affordability, and accountability. While ambitious, the report also surfaced tensions around sustainability, infrastructure costs, and licensing frameworks—reminding policymakers that openness requires ecosystem depth, not just policy declarations. Its lack of open source leadership engagement is however problematic.

The Linux Foundation report, AI for Economic and Social Good in India, commissioned by Meta, provided empirical evidence of open source as a driver of inclusive growth. The report recommended compute access funds, skills development, open procurement preferences, and evidence-based policymaking—reinforcing the Summit’s call for governments to act as enablers of ecosystem participation. At the same time, the report’s association with contested claims of “open source” around certain models underscored the Summit’s wider concern about clarity of definitions and integrity in the use of the term and consideration of an ontology.

Third, the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change report, Open Source: How Middle Powers Can Build Influence in the Age of AI, shifted the lens from inclusion to geopolitics. It argued that most nations should abandon costly ambitions to build frontier LLMs from scratch and instead adopt an ecosystem-centric strategy: investing in tools, data pipelines, talent, and sectoral integration. The report urged governments to become builders and maintainers of digital public infrastructure, including sovereign tech funds to sustain open source libraries underpinning critical infrastructure.

Finally, The State of AI Governance 2025 by the Takshashila Institution mapped the global governance landscape. It characterised open source AI as a geopolitical battleground, with both the US and China promoting open-weight models as strategic tools. Takshashila’s analysis reinforced the Summit’s central

insight: openness is now intertwined with strategic autonomy, market positioning, and influence. Yet it also cautioned that when openness becomes a vehicle for geopolitical competition, there is risk of fragmentation and regulatory divergence.

Taken together, these reports reveal strong convergence.

All recognise that the greatest value for most countries lies downstream—in integration, adaptation, and application. All argue for a more active state: as market shaper, procurer, dataset curator, and infrastructure investor. All identify open ecosystems as essential to avoiding vendor lock-in and enabling startup participation. Where they differ is in emphasis: inclusion and people-centred development (Linux Foundation), technical governance design (Digital Futures Lab/NASSCOM), geopolitical strategy (Tony Blair Institute), and competitive governance dynamics (Takshashila).

This convergence and differences reinforce the broader activities and discussions across the vast Summit itself - reflecting the broader point that openness has shifted from being a technical characteristic of software to a structural determinant of AI impact. The question is no longer whether open source works, but what it means and how open ecosystems can be designed to deliver sovereignty, resilience, inclusion, and economic growth simultaneously.

The Summit discussions reinforced several structural themes.

First, the shift from “safety” to “security” and resilience reframed the policy agenda. Open source tooling initiatives, such as certification platforms and shared evaluation frameworks, demonstrated a “tools not rules” approach—embedding good practice through shared infrastructure rather than prescriptive regulation alone.

Second, compute power and infrastructure emerged as the hardest layer of sovereignty.

While open code and open models enable flexibility, without equitable access to high-performance compute, openness risks being symbolic. Calls for shared compute platforms, pooled funding, and data commons initiatives reflected recognition that infrastructure access is foundational to meaningful participation.

Third, linguistic and cultural diversity were positioned as strategic assets. India’s emphasis on small language models, multilingual datasets, and culturally grounded applications highlighted that localisation is not peripheral—it is central to equitable AI impact.

Fourth, collaboration was consistently framed as the antidote to isolationist sovereignty. Sovereignty was described not as solitude, but as optionality: the ability to switch providers, adapt systems, and maintain control while cooperating across borders. Open standards and protocols were repeatedly cited as the connective tissue enabling this balance.

Some concerns are important to raise - the use of multiple definitions of open source, and digital public good, and the risk of open washing.

Open source has established legal and licensing foundations, yet some policy and industry discussions risk treating it as a flexible or political label. Creating new or conditional definitions — particularly without deep engagement from established open source communities — risks fragmentation, confusion, and misalignment with global norms.

A central tension lies in conflating different forms of openness. Releasing model weights without training data, providing API access without code, or imposing restrictive usage conditions may be described as “open,” but do not necessarily meet recognised open source or even open weight standards. The report warns that introducing bespoke or restrictive licenses under the banner of open source could undermine the legal clarity and interoperability that make open ecosystems effective.

Closely linked is the concern of open washing and policy capture where organisations claim openness while withholding critical components or retaining structural control. Even where models are technically open, high infrastructure and compute costs may limit meaningful access, creating symbolic rather than practical openness.

The broader risk is that if open source becomes rhetorically attractive but technically diluted, it may lose credibility as a foundation for sovereignty, resilience, and inclusion. This report emphasises the need for meaningful openness, clear licensing, transparency in data and documentation, and sustained engagement with the open source community to ensure that openness remains substantive rather than superficial.

But perhaps most significantly, the Summit broadened participation.

From grassroots developers to heads of state, from hackathon teams building open geospatial tools to ministers debating procurement frameworks, openness is no longer peripheral—it is central. The scale and diversity of engagement demonstrated that AI legitimacy in the coming decade will depend not only on technical performance, but on who can access, adapt, and benefit from the technology. This will be a huge part of India's legacy.

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The industry as a whole has a responsibility: invest in open source infrastructure, support the communities that underpin it, and create the conditions for India's next generation to become the maintainers and leaders who shape the technology the world depends on.

**Karan MV**  
International Developer Relations Director, GitHub

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A consistent theme across the Ai Impact summit discussions was the recognition that the Global South is no longer only a deployment environment for AI, but increasingly a site of political and technical negotiation over how AI systems are built, governed, and accessed.

In this context, openness emerged not as an abstract principle but as a practical condition for participation.

**Jibu Elias**  
Country Lead for India, Mozilla

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## 7. Formalities

### 7.1 Summit AI Openness Events

OpenUK sought to track AI openness events at the Summit and a list can be found on the [website](#).

### 7.2 Contributors

#### **Professor Amanda Brock, CEO, OpenUK and OpenHQ**

OpenUK CEO, Amanda's built one of open source's most recognised and impactful organisations. Executive Producer of State of Open Con (2023- 2025), Amanda's a globally sought-after keynote speaker. A lawyer with 25 years' experience, 5 as GC of Canonical, she's been instrumental in shaping open source's legal frameworks, as she was internet law during the early 2000's. Regularly contributing to tech press, she edited 'Open Source: Law, Policy and Practice', (2022).

Recognition: Computer Weekly 50 Most Influential Women in UK Tech (2023, 2024); Computing IT Leaders 100 (2023, 2024); Lifetime Achievement Award WIPL (2022); Women Who Will Changemaker (2023); INvolve Heroes (2022, 2023); Novi Awards (2024) and Ambassador, Open Charge Alliance.

Advisory Appointments: UK Cabinet Office Open Standards Board; UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure; UKRI Exascale; KDE; commercial boards – Mimoto, Scarf, FerretDB and Space Aye; and is Fellow Open Forum Academy; Distinguished Fellow Rust Foundation; and European Representative, OIN.

#### **Dr Jennifer Barth, Research Director, FSP and Research Director OpenUK**

Jenn has more than 15 years of experience leading independent research on the intersections of emerging technologies and socioeconomic change. She provides companies with independent thought leadership and media engagement opportunities on global issues impacting and shaping our current and future technical-social lives. Her work spans the digital through to social and economic change. She has looked at sustainability, workforce skills and organisational competitiveness strategies through and beyond the pandemic with Microsoft and many other big and small organisations and works as the Chief Research Office researching the role of open source software and its potential to fuel the circular economy with OpenUK. She has experience working on the human impact of artificial intelligence (AI) through fieldwork experiments with IBM Watson, Microsoft and other providers. She is skilled at blending research methods and working with people to bring to life the stories behind numbers. Dr Barth earned her DPhil in Geography from the University of Oxford.

### 7.3 Contributions from Attendees at the Summit

We are grateful to the following people for their quotes from the AI Summit: Abishek Singh, Anastasia Stasenko, Anthony Annuziata, Professor Anil Madhavapeddy, Dave Buckley, David Soria Parra, James Lovgrove, Kanishka Narayan MP, Kunal Kushwaha, Dr Laura Gilbert, Lea Gimpel, President Macron, Mark Surman, Martin Tisné, Matt Barker, Professor Neil Lawrence, Rakesh Dubbudu, Sal Kimmich, Sergio Gor, Sundar Pichai, and Yann LeCun

## 7.4 About the Creators of this Report

### OpenUK and OpenHQ

[OpenUK](#) is the unique open tech industry organisation for the business of open technology in the UK. It spans the opens – software, hardware, data, standards and AI and is the convening point for the UK’s business, academic and contributing communities across open tech. Our work supports the UK’s journey to become “The State of Open”. Our organisation is run with the support of our volunteer community and their leadership in the tradition of open source manner delivering on three pillars: community, legal and policy and learning.

OpenUK’s Community is recognised through our world-leading recognition programme including the OpenUK Awards (the Oscars of Open Source) now in their 7th year, New Year’s Honours Lists and Ambassador Scheme.

OpenUK undertakes research and reporting both on its own account and on a commissioned basis for third parties. Case studies, Thought Leadership, Surveys and desk-based research are included in our reporting which pushes the envelope and leads the way. Our Research and Reporting Show and Tell events coalesce the global open source research communities digitally to regularly update and share research practices and topics. OpenUK is developing a Fellows Network for postgraduate researchers to encourage more academic research across the opens.

The State of Open Con has become one of the world’s leading open source conferences since its inception by OpenUK in 2023. In 2027 we expect to host 1000 people across 8 tracks and plenary sessions, with at least 50 partners in our delegate experience space and over 200 speakers in London. For 2026 we are on the road, with smaller events across the UK, meeting our audience.

[OpenHQ](#) is a sister entity launched in India in August 2025. It supports international work on open tech policy, and is in a stage of build and evolution.

Contact OpenUK mailto:[admin@openuk.uk](mailto:admin@openuk.uk)

### Symmetry & FSP

Symmetry, an FSP company, looks beyond the surface and behind the curtain of the fundamental innovations and trends shaping our society, markets, culture, and values. We are academics and researchers looking at the intersections of emerging technology and socioeconomic impact, producing independent research for thought leadership and business solutions. Symmetry’s mission is to share and grow knowledge about the interaction of technology and everyday lives. We want to understand the past, present, and future of human interaction with emerging technologies and socioeconomic changes—from behaviour to context, nature to nurture, origin to experiences—helping our clients engage their clients and public imagination.

## 7.5 Acknowledgements

The research was led by Dr Jennifer Barth, Founder and Research Director at FSP & Symmetry and OpenUK's Chief Research Officer in partnership with Amanda Brock, CEO OpenUK. Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to volunteers Divya Mohan, Kunak Kushawa, Rohit Ghumare, our Operations Manager at OpenHQ Karan Sanai, OpenUK Design Operations Manager Zin Nwe Zaw Lwin and Elefteria Kokkinia.

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A special thanks to the Indian Open Source Community and its leadership for their good spirits, engagement and Support. Namaste



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