

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at the Curtain Raiser Event
From Paris to Delhi: AI Impact Summit India 2026
February 17, 2026**

- Excellency Vice Minister Dr. IMAGAWA Takuo from the Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications,
- Your Excellency Ambassador Ms. Béatrice LE FRAPER DU HELLEN,
- Joint Secretary (Cyber Diplomacy) from MEA Amit Shukla (who is joining us virtually)
- Distinguished speakers,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

With less than two days left for the AI Impact Summit in India to commence, it is a privilege to welcome you all to this curtain raiser event that the Embassies of India and France are jointly hosting today. The journey we mark today—*from Paris to India*—is not merely geographic. It is a journey of ideas, responsibility and shared global purpose. It feels special that we are doing this event in Tokyo—one of the world’s foremost centers of technological excellence and innovation – and a place where AI sits at the intersection of policy, research, and enterprise.

The theme “*From Paris to Delhi*” evokes the spirit of continuity and shared responsibility. The discussions in Paris affirmed a common understanding: artificial intelligence is transforming our world at unprecedented speed, and the choices we make today will define its impact for generations to come. Artificial intelligence has the power to transform economies, reimagine governance, and reshape societies. Yet without inclusion, ethics, and trust, that same power can widen divides and deepen inequality.

India enters this conversation with clarity of purpose. For us, AI is not an end in itself—it is a means to empower people, strengthen institutions, and enable sustainable development. In a country as large and diverse as India, technology must work at scale, across languages, regions, and socio-economic realities. This perspective shapes our vision for the AI Impact Summit India 2026. India approaches AI from a simple but profound principle: **technology must serve people, not the other way around.**

Friends,

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The **AI Impact Summit India 2026** stands on three pillars, referred to as Sutras.

- **People:** Promoting human-centric AI that safeguards rights, enhances access to services, builds trust, and ensures equitable benefits across societies.
- **Planet:** Advancing environmentally sustainable AI by encouraging energy-efficient systems, responsible resource use, and applications that support climate action and environmental resilience.
- **Progress:** Enabling inclusive economic and technological advancement through innovation, capacity building, and the use of AI to drive productivity, growth, and development outcomes.

We are working with both France and Japan in this AI Summit through different working groups to strengthen these Sutras. France is our country co-chair for the Working Group on 'Resilience, Innovation & Efficiency'. The working group envisions that AI systems are designed to be efficient, sustainable, and resilient, capable of operating effectively in varied contexts and with limited resources. And that efficiency is not seen as a limitation but as a foundation for innovation and accessibility.

With Japan, we are co-chairs of the Working Group on 'Safe & Trusted AI'. The aim is enabling innovation that people and societies can trust. And this is done through fostering inclusive dialogue, building global capacity, promoting interoperable governance approaches, and exploring actionable pathways to operationalize AI safety.

This Summit therefore will focus on **impact, not just innovation**—on solutions that are deployable, scalable, and measurable. It will bring together **governments, global companies, startups, investors, researchers, and policymakers** on a single platform. And it will give voice to both advanced and emerging economies, ensuring that AI's future is inclusive and globally relevant.

So in short, what does the AI Impact Summit India mean for all of us? This Summit is an **open invitation**.

- An invitation to global technology leaders to innovate and invest.
- An invitation to researchers and academics to shape the next generation of AI.
- An invitation to policymakers to align governance with growth.
- And an invitation to startups and young innovators to scale their ideas on a global stage.

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It is now clear that Artificial intelligence will shape the next chapter of human progress. The question is **who it will serve, and how**. Let the AI Impact Summit India 2026 be remembered as a moment when the global community chose cooperation over competition. From Paris to India, and in close partnership with Japan, let us build an AI future that is innovative, inclusive, and worthy of the trust placed in it by our people.
