

Ministry of Electronics & IT



BHASHINI, Current AI and Kalpa Impact Conclude VYOMA Innovation Challenge, Showcase Open-Source AI Solutions for India

Four Innovations were recognised at the Finale Hosted at IIIT-Delhi; 10 Finalist Teams Showcased their Prototypes

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The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in collaboration with Current AI and Kalpa Impact, hosted the finale of the **VYOMA Innovation Challenge** at IIIT-Delhi, bringing together researchers, students and startups developing practical applications of open-source AI hardware for diverse Indian contexts.

The challenge invited participants to build on **Suno Sutra**, an open-source, multilingual handheld AI reference design co-developed by BHASHINI and Current AI, and explore how AI hardware and software can be adapted for public-interest applications and localised deployment.

The VYOMA Innovation Challenge brought together **10 finalist teams** to demonstrate their working prototypes at the finale. The solutions addressed a range of high-impact areas including **healthcare, agriculture, welfare access, legal services and accessibility**, reflecting the potential of AI designed around India's diverse needs and real-world constraints.



The finale featured prototype demonstrations by the 10 finalist teams, followed by questions and feedback from the jury. The teams presented their solutions and demonstrated how open-source AI hardware can be adapted to address specific challenges across sectors and communities.

The challenge also brought together the broader ecosystem around **open-source AI hardware, multilingual AI and Edge AI**, with participants engaging with experts on hardware optimisation, model quantisation, accuracy and pathways for taking promising ideas towards real-world deployment.

Speaking at the finale, **Kavita Bhatia, Scientist ‘G’, MeitY**, said: *“India is moving decisively from being a consumer of global AI to building open, public-interest technologies for its own needs. But the real measure of success is not what works in a laboratory or a pilot, but what works for millions of citizens in the real world. VYOMA brings together open-source hardware and BHASHINI’s language capabilities to take AI closer to the citizen through solutions that can work locally, function offline, reduce bandwidth dependence and protect privacy. By enabling AI to operate on affordable, handheld devices in native languages, this initiative demonstrates how technology can become more personal, accessible and relevant to the last mile.”*

Tarun Pandey, Scientist 'E', MeitY, said: *"Hackathons such as VYOMA provide an important platform for bringing together young innovators, researchers and technology practitioners to develop practical applications of emerging technologies for public good. The initiative reflects BHASHINI's commitment to fostering innovation, strengthening indigenous AI capabilities and enabling inclusive language technologies that respond to India's diverse needs. The solutions emerging from the challenge have the potential to contribute to a broader ecosystem of accessible, open and locally relevant AI technologies."*

Amitabh Nag, CEO, Digital India BHASHINI Division, said: *"Language is one part of inclusion, but reaching the last mile is another. VYOMA emerged from the need to explore open, offline hardware that can make AI more inclusive, particularly in diverse and connectivity-constrained environments. What we have seen from these teams is that open hardware can translate into solutions with real-world potential. Today is a milestone, but it is also the beginning of a new journey. The focus now must be on improving these solutions through user feedback, collaboration and the velocity of learning."*

The finale also featured a showcase of the **Suno Sutra** reference design and discussions on the evolution of the VYOMA Innovation Challenge, the emerging use cases developed by participating teams and the broader potential of open-source AI hardware and embedded AI ecosystems.

Four innovations were recognised as winners of the VYOMA Innovation Challenge. Each winning team received a **prize money** in recognition of their innovation and potential for public-interest deployment.



The top four winners recognised by the esteemed jury at the VYOMA Innovation Challenge were **Team Asha Sahayak, Team Shravan, Team Sangrah – Apna Saathi, and Team Sahyak Mitra – A.V.E.R.A. (Autonomous Voice-enabled Edge Rural Advisor).**

The VYOMA Innovation Challenge builds on the vision behind **Suno Sutra**, unveiled at the India AI Impact Summit in February 2026, to advance open-source, multilingual and human-centric AI hardware. By putting the reference design in the hands of emerging builders, the challenge sought to encourage experimentation and adaptation for diverse environments, use cases and deployment contexts.



Beyond the challenge, VYOMA aims to contribute to an open ecosystem for **open-source software and hardware**, while advancing multilingual and Edge AI that can be adapted to India's varied linguistic, technological and deployment environments.

The finale marked a milestone in bringing together innovators, researchers, government stakeholders and ecosystem partners around the development of practical, accessible and locally relevant AI solutions.

About Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)

The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), is building a national ecosystem for AI-powered multilingual digital inclusion. BHASHINI supports **36 Indian text languages, 23 Indian voice languages and 35 international languages**, powers **800+ government websites**, has enabled **9 billion+ cumulative AI inferences** and processes **24 million+ AI inferences daily**, helping make Digital Public Infrastructure more accessible through Language AI. National Hub for Language Technology (NHLT) is one of the largest inferencing platforms in the Global South, supporting the growing adoption of Language AI across government and public-facing digital services.

Vinod Kumar / Kanishk Sharma

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