



JUST AI AWARDS

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION 2025





Just AI Report

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Message from Curators

We, the Government of Telangana and the Digital Empowerment Foundation, acknowledge with gratitude the support and contributions of all institutions and partners who made the Just AI Awards 2025 – Asia-Pacific Edition possible, as well as the Digital Citizen Summit 2025 under which the awards were organised.

We thank T-Hub for serving as the Organising Partner of the 7th Digital Citizen Summit 2025 and for facilitating collaboration among stakeholders from government, civil society, industry, and academia.

We extend our appreciation to UNESCO’s Women for Ethical AI – South Asia Chapter for its role as the Inclusion and Equity Partner, and to MXR.World as a Platform Partner of the initiative. We also acknowledge the World Summit Awards for providing the global framework within which the Just AI Awards are positioned.

We thank the jury members for their time and careful evaluation of the submissions, and we appreciate the efforts of all applicants and finalists from across the Asia-Pacific region whose work reflects diverse approaches to ethical and socially impactful AI. We also acknowledge the speakers, participants, community partners, and the organising teams whose contributions ensured the smooth conduct of the awards and associated sessions.

Osama Manzar
Founder-Director of Digital
Empowerment Foundation;
Curator of the Just AI Awards

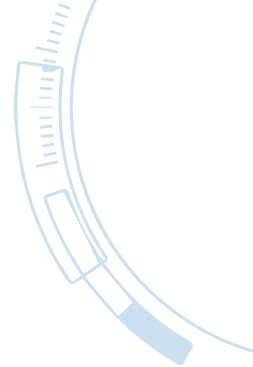
Jayesh Ranjan
IAS, CEO, Industry and
Investment Cell; CEO, SPEED,
Government of Telangana,
Curator of the Just AI Awards



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Just AI – Data and Algorithms for Communities

Founded in 2002, the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) is a leading Indian community-driven, social impact organisation working to bridge the digital divide and ensure that technology becomes a tool for social and economic empowerment rather than exclusion. With a mission to extend digital access, information, and opportunities to the last mile, DEF operates across 26 states and over 250 districts, reaching more than 10,000 villages through a nationwide network of 2,400+ digitally trained community entrepreneurs, known as SoochnaPreneurs.

These hyperlocal, largely women and PwD-led service providers enable rural and underserved communities to access welfare entitlements, healthcare, education, financial services, employment opportunities, and business support. Through this model, DEF has supported over 35 million individuals in engaging meaningfully with digital services and public systems. With more than two decades of grassroots experience, DEF's work spans digital access and infrastructure, digital literacy and education, governance and entitlement delivery, rural entrepreneurship, and research on digital rights and inclusion.

In response to the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies and their increasing role in public service delivery and governance, DEF launched the Just AI: Data & Algorithms for Communities initiative. This effort advances a



people-centred approach to AI, focused on ethical, transparent, and accountable systems grounded in social justice, particularly in contexts where communities face heightened risks of exclusion, bias, and data exploitation.

Just AI promotes community-centred AI literacy and capacity building across DEF's centres nationwide. In parallel, it leads research, policy engagement, and community dialogue on responsible AI, algorithmic bias, privacy, informed consent, and data rights. By centering lived realities and citizen participation, the framework challenges extractive digital models and advocates for AI systems that serve public interest and collective benefit.

As part of this effort, DEF conceptualised the Just AI Awards, in partnership with the Government of Telangana, to recognise and showcase ethical AI innovations that demonstrate measurable social impact. The awards highlight practical applications of AI that advance equity, inclusion, sustainability, and accountable governance.

DEF also contributes to global AI governance processes through platforms such as UNESCO's Global Civil Society and Academic Network and the Women4Ethical AI South Asia Chapter, ensuring that community perspectives from the Global South are reflected in international policy discussions. DEF's annual Digital Citizen Summit has further strengthened this engagement and was recently recognised as a pre-summit event of the India AI Impact Summit.

DEF's grassroots legacy and the Just AI framework reflect a long-standing commitment to ensuring that technology functions as a means of empowerment rather than extraction. This approach aligns closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).



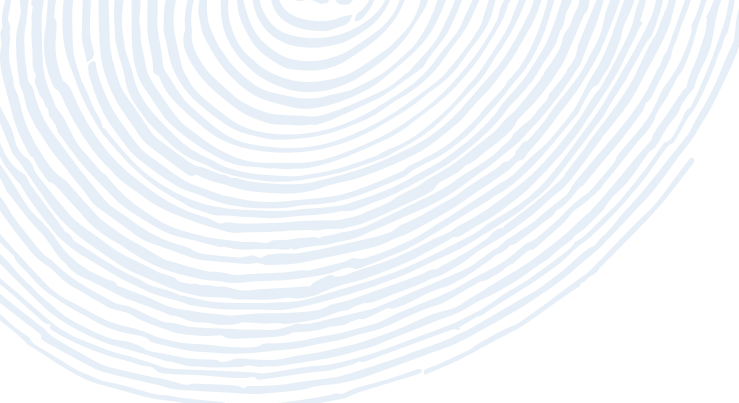
About Just AI Awards

Instituted in 2024, the Just AI Awards: Ethical AI-solutions for Social Good were conceptualised by the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and institutionalised as an annual awards platform in partnership with the Emerging Technologies Wing of the Government of Telangana, under the World Summit Awards (WSA) framework.

The awards were designed to recognise AI-driven best practices in India that demonstrate measurable, people-first impact at the grassroots, particularly in contexts where technology is needed to reduce exclusion and improve access to essential services. The award mandate emphasises initiatives that use AI to break social and digital barriers, reduce socio-economic inequalities, strengthen crisis response, and advance democratic and feminist principles of the internet.

A defining feature of the Just AI Awards is its focus on responsible, context-aware innovation. Beyond technical performance, special consideration is given to solutions that:

- Prioritise ethical data collection through participatory development methods,
- Promote gender justice and broad inclusivity,
- Support linguistic diversity as part of decolonising the internet, and



- Contribute to universal and affordable internet access and enabling digital infrastructure.

Through this lens, the awards aim to spotlight AI models that treat technology as a social good and directly engage with the risks that accompany unregulated or opaque AI deployment such as algorithmic bias, discrimination, privacy and data-rights violations, and the harms that arise from unmoderated datasets and unchecked automation.

In its first edition, the Just AI Awards were anchored within the wider public dialogue on AI governance and citizen-centric innovation, including being held as part of the Global AI Summit hosted by the Government of Telangana (September 5–6, 2024), reinforcing the awards’ intent to bridge policy, innovation, and lived realities.

Overall, the Just AI Awards strengthen DEF’s broader Just AI vision by identifying and amplifying solutions that are inclusive by design, accountable in practice, and demonstrably aligned with public interest, offering practical models that can be learned from, adapted, and scaled responsibly.





Just AI Awards 2025 - Asia-Pacific Edition

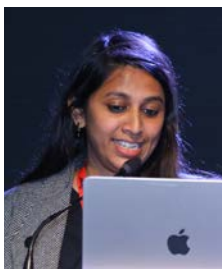
The Just AI Awards 2025 is part of the Digital Citizen Summit 2025, which is an officially affiliated pre-summit event of the India–AI Impact Summit 2026.

The Just AI Awards 2025 – Asia-Pacific Edition is the second edition of the initiative that began in India in 2024. It is a flagship initiative of the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), in principal partnership with the Government of Telangana, under the Global Framework of the World Summit Awards (WSA), with UNESCO’s Women for Ethical AI – South Asia Chapter (W4EAI SAC) as the Inclusion & Equity Partner, MXR.World as the Platform Partner, and T-Hub as the Organising Partner of the 7th Digital Citizen Summit 2025. It now opens up to innovators across the entire APAC region to spotlight ethical, inclusive, citizen-centric AI for social good. The awards invite entries from startups, civil society organisations, academia, and public-sector teams that are building context-aware AI which advances equity, accountability, and real-world impact.

The Digital Citizen Summit 2025 initiative is officially recognized as a presummit event under the India AI Impact Summit 2026, as both emphasize the importance of responsible, inclusive, and people-centric AI development. By bringing together innovators, policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers, DCS contributes to building an ecosystem where technology advances in harmony with societal needs and ethical frameworks. This shared commitment to human-centric innovation supports India’s national mission to shape AI that empowers individuals, drives equitable growth, and strengthens digital trust. In this era of rapid transformation, the collaborative spirit behind events like DCS reinforces the broader goal of positioning India as a global leader in safe, responsible, and impactful AI.



Opening Ceremony and Welcome Address



The session commenced with welcome remarks by Dr. Arpita Kanjilal, Lead – Just AI: Data and Algorithms for Communities Initiative, who introduced the Just AI Awards 2025 and articulated the vision guiding the initiative. Conceptualised in 2024, the awards were established to recognise and celebrate individuals and organisations advancing ethical, inclusive, and participatory approaches to artificial intelligence. She emphasised that the Just AI framework seeks solutions that are not only technologically innovative, but just by design, placing citizens and communities at the heart of digital systems, governance, and decision-making processes.

Dr. Kanjilal highlighted that artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping critical domains such as governance, communication, education, employment, and social interaction. However, she cautioned that when AI systems are deployed without strong ethical safeguards and rights-based frameworks, technologies introduced in the name of efficiency can reinforce structural inequalities, deepen algorithmic and social biases, and exacerbate exclusion. These risks, she noted, disproportionately affect vulnerable and underserved populations, particularly communities already impacted by the digital divide, underscoring the urgent need for people-centred, transparent, and accountable AI governance.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr. Osama Manzar, Founder & Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation, and Curator of the Just AI Awards, who drew on nearly three decades of engagement with successive waves of digital transformation, from the early evolution of the World Wide Web and the dot-com era to the rise of mobile technologies and app-driven ecosystems. He observed that while each technological cycle has been accompanied by promises of inclusion and empowerment, the benefits have often accrued to a limited few, leaving millions on the margins of digital progress.

Mr. Manzar expressed concern over the current pace and trajectory of artificial intelligence adoption, which he noted is increasingly driven by powerful corporate interests, with limited participation from civil society and local communities. He highlighted critical challenges related to the erosion of public trust, lack of accountability, and large-scale extraction of personal and community data. In response to these concerns, he explained, the Just AI Awards were conceived as a purpose-driven intervention, aimed at recognising and amplifying innovators who deploy AI for Social Good, prioritising people over data, equity over efficiency, and meaningful impact over technological rhetoric.





Fireside Chat

What role can India play in shaping global standards for Socially Intelligent, Just and Ethical AI?

A multi-stakeholder conversation examining ethical AI, governance failures, data justice, and the role of civil society in shaping inclusive and accountable digital futures.

Speakers

Facilitator: Osama Manzar, Founder & Director,
Digital Empowerment Foundation

Panelists

Uma Kalkar, Strategy Lead, AI Safety Connect

Anivar Aravind, Head of Engineering, FoodHub

Sonia Jorge, Executive Director, Global Digital Inclusion
Partnership

Rahul Bhatia, Author, The Identity Project

Anriette Esterhuysen, Senior advisor on Global and Regional
Internet Governance, Association for Progressive Communications

Anita Gurumurthy, Founder & Executive Director, IT for Change





Key Takeaways

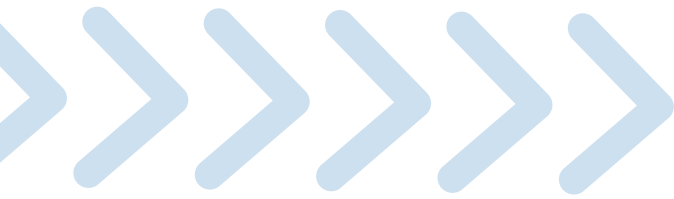
The opening remarks set the tone by contrasting the hype surrounding the startup ecosystem with a sustained, long-term effort, dating back to 2005, to use technology as a tool for empowering communities at the margins. A central theme was the critical role of civil society in demanding ethical artificial intelligence, serving as a necessary counterbalance to both corporate and state power.

Concerns around data extraction and authenticity were underscored by the observation that widespread professional identity-building such as constant profile updates on platforms like LinkedIn often relies on data practices that remain opaque and unaccountable. This highlighted deeper anxieties about ownership, consent, and trust in digital ecosystems.

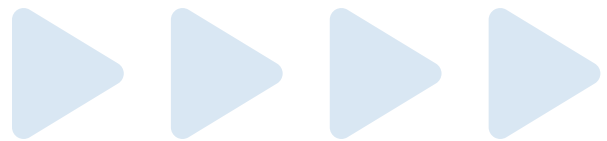
From a civil society perspective, three key failures were identified. First, diffusion without understanding, where AI tools are disseminated rapidly without sufficient attention to safety, social impact, or ethical context. Second, data about people rather than for people, reflecting data collection practices that lack meaningful engagement with the communities they extract from. Third, a broader governance disconnect, marked by uncertainty over how AI should be organised and regulated, and by weak communication between AI developers, scientists, and policymakers.

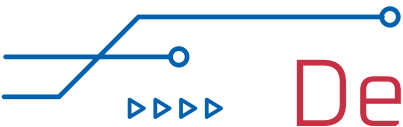
The discussion also acknowledged that the breakneck pace of AI development, particularly in areas such as text generation, makes it difficult for civil society actors to keep up. A significant emerging shift is the movement of AI to edge devices, which presents new risks but also opens opportunities for more localised, contextual, and carefully governed applications.





The session concluded on an empowering note, emphasizing that the Global South must move beyond critique to actively shape the future of AI. Doing so requires a clear vision of socially meaningful use cases and a collective commitment to bringing that vision to life. AI, it was argued, is ultimately a normal technology rather than an exceptional disruptor, and within this normalcy, there remains space for responsibility, imagination, and even enchantment.





Design Concept of the Just AI Trophy

The artwork by Osama Manzar offers a critical commentary on the contemporary realities of digital citizenship and the complex dynamics that shape individuals' interactions within data-driven systems. It visually foregrounds the tension between human agency and technological power within the expanding digital ecosystem.

In this context, the trophy serves as a symbolic representation of the broader AI-centred environment. It illustrates how artificial intelligence systems continuously extract user data, perpetuating an endless cycle of data collection, machine learning, and algorithmic optimisation. Individuals contribute personal data, often unknowingly or without adequate transparency or informed consent, and once this data enters the system, they are unable to fully withdraw. Their information remains permanently stored, processed, repurposed, and frequently monetised.

This closed loop becomes self-reinforcing, disproportionately benefiting dominant technological and corporate actors while diminishing the autonomy of ordinary users. The imbalance of power embedded in this process highlights how users lose control over their digital identities and decision-making capabilities.



Ultimately, the artwork depicts a persistent cycle of data dependency in which individuals are enveloped and absorbed into an AI-driven mechanism, struggling to maintain agency or ownership over their personal information. It serves as a visual critique of the socio-technical forces that shape digital life today and underscores the urgent need for greater accountability, transparency, and rights-based governance in the digital sphere.





Finalists

Out of a total of 65 entries received from across the Asia-Pacific region, 31 were selected as finalists after a rigorous evaluation process. These finalists represent diverse and innovative approaches to ethical and socially impactful AI, demonstrating strong commitment to community centered design, technological responsibility, and measurable social good. The shortlisted initiatives are listed below:

Category- Social Justice

JPMorganChase

JPMorgan Chase for InclusiveShield

InclusiveShield is a bias-aware, AI-powered fraud detection tool designed to protect digitally underserved communities from payment fraud, particularly in low-resource settings where conventional systems fall short.



mAlté

Highly inclusive, socially driven innovation that addresses digital exclusion by offering multilingual, privacy-preserving access to public services via low-tech channels like SMS and WhatsApp. Its human-centered, co-creative development approach ensures real relevance and usability among marginalized communities, especially immigrants, seniors, and the digitally underserved.



Jupitice Justice Technologies Pvt. Ltd. for SAYA

Jupitice offers an AI-powered digital justice platform that transforms traditional dispute resolution through online, affordable, and accessible legal services. Its AI assistant, Saya, guides users—especially individuals and MSMEs—through mediation, arbitration, and conciliation, removing the need for court visits.



EnAble India for their project DISH

A centralized AI-powered platform developed by EnAble India to simplify access to assistive solutions for people with disabilities (PwDs). It addresses the challenge of fragmented, imprecise, and inaccessible resources scattered across various global channels.



Youth Ki Awaaz for their project Yoot

The platform's technological ambition is deliberately modest, focusing on design choices rather than breakthrough AI innovation. While this makes it feasible and ethical, it also means the system could be replicated by others without much technical difficulty. Ensuring that the most marginalized, such as rural or non-Hindi speaking youth, are equally represented will be an important test of its inclusivity.



Misinformation Combat Alliance for Deepfakes Analysis Unit

It is a standout solution addressing the urgent and evolving threat of AI-generated misinformation, particularly during elections. Its multilingual WhatsApp tipline, open-source AI engine (Feluda), and human-in-the-loop verification model demonstrate ethical, inclusive, and scalable design. With active use across multiple countries and strong partnerships with fact-checkers, DAU shortens the harmful content lifecycle effectively.



Dignity in Difference for Bunk with kindness

It is a behaviorally informed, kindness-centered AI platform designed to combat misinformation and polarization, especially in the Global South. Unlike traditional fact-checking tools, it empowers grassroots democracy defenders—often young,

mobile-first women and marginalized leaders—to respond empathetically and constructively to online falsehoods. By combining AI feedback on tone and bridging language with cultural contextualization, the platform helps users practice prosocial digital dialogue.



Article 14 for Grid

AI-driven platform for detecting disinformation in media narratives across 18 Indian languages. Unlike traditional fact-checking, it analyzes the structural techniques of manipulation—such as framing, omission, and linguistic cues—rather than political content, maintaining strict analytical neutrality.



South Asian Institute of Crime and Justice Studies for Suraksha Lens

AI-powered early warning and risk mapping platform tackling the overlooked intersection of climate-induced displacement and human trafficking in South Asia. By combining geospatial AI, local-language NLP, and machine learning, it detects emerging hotspots, recruitment patterns, and vulnerabilities before exploitation occurs.



Reap Benefit Foundation for Samajaa

Samaaja demonstrates a thoughtful and responsible use of AI by linking grassroots youth actions to skill development through its Digital Changemaker Portfolio and by leveraging Samaaj Data for pattern recognition and governance insights.



Speak2Sign

Speak2Sign is an AI-powered mobile app enabling real-time two-way communication between Deaf and hearing individuals through sign-to-speech and speech-to-sign translation. It addresses a critical accessibility gap with an inclusive, ethically designed solution involving the Deaf community and ensuring data privacy.





Indiaspeaks research labs private limited for Ethical TTS & Multilingual NMT for Bharat

IndiaSpeaks VoiceStack is a cutting-edge, multilingual voice AI platform designed to bridge India's digital and linguistic divide through ethical, inclusive, and accessible AI. The solution integrates natural-sounding, low-resource-friendly systems tailored for Indian languages.

Category- Health



ZMQ Development for AI Toy BOTS - MAMA and TIKA Toys

AI Toy BOTS is an inclusive, offline AI solution using voice-interactive toys to deliver personalized maternal and child health advisories in local languages via NFC tags. Designed for low-literate, marginalized communities in India and Uganda, it stands out for its culturally grounded co-creation process, ethical safeguards, and hyper-local voice AI.



BrainsightAI for VoxelBox

SaaS platform that harnesses AI and resting-state fMRI to revolutionize neuropsychiatric diagnostics. Tackling long-standing issues in mental healthcare—like delayed diagnosis, limited imaging access, and lack of clinician-friendly tools—VoxelBox dramatically reduces scan processing time from weeks to hours.



Myna Mahila Foundation for Myna Bolo

a multilingual AI-powered WhatsApp chatbot delivering confidential, culturally contextual, and medically accurate sexual and reproductive health (SRH) guidance for women in underserved urban slums across India. Built on 1.7 lakh real queries from target communities and co-created with local women trained as "healthcare prompt engineers," it operates in Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, and Hinglish via text and audio.



Aba Dhukka Enterprises for Dhukka Didi

Dhukka Didi is Nepal's first privacy-first, AI-powered chatbot that delivers culturally sensitive, stigma-free menstrual health education in Nepali and local dialects. Designed for adolescent



girls and women in rural and underserved communities, the chatbot provides anonymous, accurate information on menstrual hygiene and health, filling a critical void where traditional education is limited by taboo and access.

Category- Education



ENB SETU for ENB QUANTUM

Comprehensive AI-driven educational platform targeting students from Classes 6–10, particularly in rural and underserved regions, to enhance subject clarity, career alignment, and emotional learning.



Katha India for Katha AI

AI for Transformative Education integrates ethical, inclusive AI into its long-running StoryPedagogy model to serve Dalit, Adivasi, coastal, and nomadic communities in Tamil Nadu.



Cognitii

AI + human hybrid platform designed for inclusive education in low-resource settings, focusing on neurodivergent children such as those with autism, ADHD, and intellectual disabilities.



Vishvas News, Jagran New Media for AI literacy: Bridging the Gap

The AI Literacy: Bridging the Gap initiative by Vishvas News stands out as a dynamic and scalable educational intervention. By creatively integrating tools like ChatGPT, HeyGen, and Play.ht, it produces engaging videos explaining AI concepts—from basics to complex issues like deepfakes—using relatable avatars, multilingual content, and regional relevance.



Educational Initiatives for Ei Mindspark

A robust AI-powered personalized adaptive learning platform designed to tackle foundational literacy and numeracy gaps among children from marginalized communities across India and beyond. Operating in over 1,000 government schools and reaching 500,000+ students—including tribal learners, girls, and first-generation school-goers—Mindspark uses real-time diagnostic algorithms, localized and multilingual content, and



offline functionality to ensure that every child can learn at their own pace regardless of social or geographic barriers

BossMa OPC Private Limited for NariBot

It is a well-crafted, mobile-first, vernacular AI chatbot designed to support first-generation women entrepreneurs across rural and semi-urban India. Its strength lies in personalized business guidance in local languages through voice/text, helping women access schemes, manage finances, and build enterprises with confidence.



Audiopedia Bharat

Audiopedia Bharat is a deeply impactful, technically sound, and highly scalable AI initiative focused on overcoming language and literacy barriers among underserved rural women in India.



TheDonutai

AI-powered educational platform designed to enhance critical thinking in K-12 students by guiding—not replacing—their learning processes. Unlike typical AI tools that offer direct answers, DonutAI provides adaptive hints based on each student's unique "Learning DNA," which captures behavior patterns like hesitation, retries, and hint usage.



Category- Environment

CivicData Lab for Intelligent Data Solution for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDS-DRR)

Highly advanced, domain-specific AI solution addressing disaster risk reduction with a rare blend of technical rigor, participatory governance, and ethical AI principles.



CultYvate- Farms2Fork Technologies Pvt Ltd for IoT-enabled Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) solution for paddy farming.

It uses AI, IoT sensors, computer vision, and satellite data to optimize paddy irrigation, saving up to 40% water (3–4 million liters/ha/season), boosting yields by 10–20%, and reducing methane emissions for carbon credit revenue.



Global Institute for Circular Economy and SDGs for Sustainability Exchange

AI-based multi-subsystem platform designed to bridge critical gaps in recyclable resource management. It operates as a B2B digital marketplace connecting sellers and buyers of recycled materials, with transparent classification, pricing, and quality details.



The Association Of People With Disability for Yes To Access - app

The Yes to Access app is a community-driven, AI-powered platform enabling large-scale accessibility audits of public spaces across India. Using computer vision and contrast analysis, it scans user-submitted images to detect ramps, signage, tactile paths, and handrails—automating compliance checks and flagging inconsistencies for retraining.



KSITIPRAGYA PRIVATE LIMITED

An AI-driven agricultural companion aimed at helping farmers make better, more profitable, and sustainable decisions. It offers: Multilingual Chatbot, Next Crop Prediction Model, AI-Based Crop Disease Detection, Irrigation & Fertilizer Management.



Palakiya Foundation for EktaAI

Ekta AI is a voice-enabled WhatsApp chatbot designed to support tribal, Dalit, and women farmers with reliable, localized agricultural information—ranging from seed conservation to drafting administrative letters.



Bote Central, Inc. for Basilio Air Roaster

Basilio Air Roaster by Bote Central is an AI-powered, precision coffee roasting system designed for smallholder farmers—particularly women and youth—in the Philippines. Its patented air-based chamber and AI algorithm automate complex variables like temperature and airflow, ensuring consistent roast quality across diverse bean types.





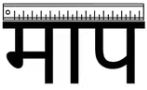
Winners



Adalat ai

Legsys.AI Technology Foundation for ADALAT AI

A pioneering AI platform built to address systemic delays in India's judiciary—where over 50 million pending cases and widespread undertrial incarceration disproportionately harm marginalized communities.



Revolutionize for MAAP

MAAP is an AI-powered health platform tackling child malnutrition in underserved areas using just one smartphone photograph to estimate height, track growth, and create personalized nutrition plans.



Disaster Map Foundation for PetaBencana

An AI-powered disaster response platform that turns social media into real-time, community-verified crisis maps, enabling rapid, decentralised coordination for citizens and emergency responders.



Digital Green Trust for FarmerChat

FarmerChat is a people-centred AI initiative designed to support smallholder farmers with timely, localised agricultural advice. Using generative AI and participatory design, the platform delivers context-specific guidance on crops, weather, and markets through text, audio, and video—making it accessible even for farmers with low literacy or limited connectivity.



Vowels of the People Association for Mission NIPUN Maharashtra

Large-scale AI-powered foundational learning initiative reaching 70 lakh students across 1.2 lakh government schools. This project deploys contextual, privacy-preserving AI models to assess oral reading, handwriting, and numeracy skills in real time—generating granular, actionable learning insights.





Special Mentions



Nomology Technology Private Limited for CORD – Centre for Online Resolution of Disputes

CORD is a standout AI-powered Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform that reimagines access to justice through a legally enforceable, multilingual, and fully digital system. What distinguishes CORD is its robust technical architecture, integration of human-in-the-loop AI, and demonstrated institutional trust—from SEBI to the Supreme Court of India.





Torchit for JYOTI AI

Jyoti AI Pro is a wearable, offline, AI-powered assistive device designed for persons with disabilities, especially the visually impaired and those with learning disabilities. Available as modular glasses, a ring, or a reader, it enables users to read printed/handwritten text, recognize objects, faces, currency, and navigate spaces through voice-based interaction.

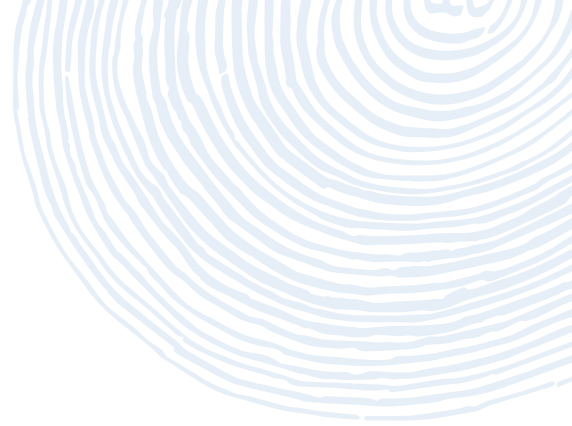




Conclusion

The Just AI – Data & Algorithms for Communities initiative celebrates advances in artificial intelligence that prioritise ethics, inclusion, and the public good over unrestrained automation and extractive innovation. It brings visibility to ethical and socially impactful AI initiatives addressing real-world challenges across the Asia-Pacific region, championing systems that remain accountable to the communities they affect. At its core, the initiative advances an understanding of AI as a public interest technology, one that protects rights, fosters participation, and empowers people rather than reinforcing existing forms of exclusion.

Designed to engage a diverse range of stakeholders, the Just AI initiative focuses on individuals, communities, and organisations that are directly or indirectly shaped by AI and data-driven systems. It places particular emphasis on empowering marginalized communities, including women, persons with disabilities, youth, and rural populations, by promoting AI literacy, digital skills, and access to essential resources. Through the SochnaPreneur Model, the initiative supports local digital entrepreneurs in bridging the digital divide, strengthening community-based information ecosystems, and enhancing digital autonomy. Its emphasis on decentralised, self-sustaining Smart Villages reflects a commitment to ensuring that AI responds meaningfully to the lived realities and aspirations of underserved



regions. At the policy level, the initiative also contributes to advancing ethical AI governance, supporting policymakers in shaping more equitable and accountable technological futures.

The Just AI Awards Ceremony marked the culmination of Track 4: Just AI at the Digital Citizen Summit 2025, translating the Summit's normative and ethical discussions into concrete recognition of practice and impact.

The recognition of the Just AI Awards within the broader India AI Impact Pre-Summit context further reinforced their relevance to national and regional AI conversations. It underscored the importance of embedding justice, inclusion, and community accountability at the heart of India's evolving AI ecosystem, while amplifying voices and innovations from the Global South that are shaping alternative, people-centred AI pathways.

In bringing together policymakers, technologists, civil society actors, community practitioners, and innovators, the event demonstrated that ethical AI is not an abstract ideal, but a lived practice grounded in local contexts and collective action. The Just AI initiative thus stands as a continuing commitment to ensuring that the future of artificial intelligence is shaped with communities, for communities, and in service of democratic digital futures.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all partners who supported this effort, to the applicants and participants who engaged with the awards, to the jurors for their time, rigour, and commitment, and to the speakers and contributors who shared their insights and experiences. Their collective engagement made the Just AI Awards a meaningful and impactful milestone within the Digital Citizen Summit 2025 and beyond.



7th DIGITAL
CITIZEN
SUMMIT
2025

People & Platforms:
Let's Talk Accountability



AI
IMPACT
SUMMIT
भारत 2025 INDIA

Official Pre-Summit Event



Principal Partners



Organising Partner



Inclusion & Equity Partner



Platform Partner



Global Framework



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