



AI-IN-FINTECH BHARAT CONCLAVE

Designing AI for India. Scaling It for the World, responsibly

FEB 6, 2025, The Ritz Carlton, Bengaluru

EVENT REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Dear all,

The idea of creating a singular and credible national dialogue platform for the Fintech eco-system of India stood strong with **India Fintech Foundation and Unified Fintech Forum** when both the organisations came together last year. At this crucial intersection in India's Fintech journey of AI becoming indispensable, we knew it was important to create a formal platform to create a 2 way communication channel with policymakers and the eco-system to ensure innovation & growth are aligned responsibly for the fintech future and we did just that.

Our special thanks to **Mr. M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services** and **Mr. S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** for their impactful presence. We are deeply grateful to our distinguished Guests, Speakers, Founders, Participants and Sponsors who made the event - **AI in Fintech Bharat Conclave a grand success on Feb 6th**.

We focused on topics shaping India's Fintech future from responsible AI, governance, infrastructure, compute, trust to scalability with 2 secretaries to Government of India, 3 Fireside chats, 4 Panel discussions, 36 Speakers, Masterclass, Roundtable, Report Launch and more. The result was meaningful and impactful and crucial to shape priorities for India's fintech landscape.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

36

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INDUSTRY MIXER

We look forward to seeing you all again, next year.

Thank you!



Sai Sudha
CEO
India Fintech Foundation



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**SPEAKER****M. Nagaraju, Secretary, DFS, Ministry of Finance****KEYNOTE****Government vision & initiatives for Fintech sector & AI**

The AI in Fintech Bharat Conclave reached a landmark moment with the keynote address by Shri M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS). His address delivered a strategic roadmap, positioning India at the "cusp of a profound transformation" driven by Artificial Intelligence.

AI: The Horizontal Force Multiplier

Shri Nagaraju characterized AI as a "horizontal foundational capability"—a force multiplier that transcends simple technological upgrades. He highlighted that AI has now become the bedrock for payments, risk management, and customer engagement, fundamentally redefining "access, inclusion, trust, and efficiency" across the Indian financial spectrum. This evolution is underpinned by India's robust DPI, which provides the "scalable foundation" necessary to turn AI into an engine for economic transformation.

The "FREE AI" Framework: Trust as the North Star

A central pillar of the address was the delicate balance between rapid innovation and systemic stability. Shri Nagaraju highlighted the FREE AI framework (Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of AI) recommended by the RBI.

He emphasized that for AI to truly serve India, it must be "fair, explainable, people-centric, and accountable". The technological advancement is hollow if it compromises safety; hence vision must remain **trust-centric innovation**




**KEYNOTE
(Contd)**
Fortifying the Digital Frontier

Shri.Nagaraju, addressing the "red map" of cyber fraud hotspots across the country, unveiled a critical defensive initiative: the India Digital Public Intelligence Platform. Set to be operationalized within two months, this specialized agency will act as a "bulwark against cyber frauds," leveraging AI to fight AI-enabled threats. He also underscored the government's commitment to infrastructure, citing the India AI Mission's massive budget of ₹10,300 crore to provide access to 38,000 GPUs for domestic innovation.

The Human Centricity of Viksit Bharat

An evocative portion of the keynote was the focus on the "informal worker" and the "last mile". From successful CBDC (Digital Rupee) pilots for "purpose-bound" cash transfers to women in Delhi, to empowering 490 million informal workers, the goal is a "human-centric" ecosystem.

He concluded by referencing a newly finalized inter-ministerial report on fintech—a roadmap designed to power India toward Viksit Bharat 2047. His message was clear: AI in Fintech is not about chasing technology for its own sake, but about building a resilient, inclusive, and globally competitive India.




SPEAKERS

NS Vishwanathan (Ex-Deputy Gov, RBI) & Alok Prasad (Ex-CEO, MFIN) Mod : Harshvardhan Lunia, LendingKart

Journey to building India's Self-Regulatory Architecture for Fintechs

FIRESIDE

Moderator Harshvardhan Lunia started by highlighting that the strategic merger of UFF and IFF as a pivotal inflection point, creating a unified voice to navigate the sector's emerging areas of volatility.

Former RBI Deputy Governor NS Vishwanathan stated that a Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) is indispensable where innovation impacts the masses. Acting as a buffer against heavy regulation, the SRO balances rapid systemic change against potential "negative outcomes," ensuring the sector governs itself where formal regulators lack real-time oversight.

Alok Prasad characterized the SRO as a "principal interlocutor"—a vital bridge helping regulators "connect better" with AI-driven frontiers through high-quality data and "enlightened self-interest". He pointed out that, differentiated by its independence, the SRO must act as a fair arbiter for firms of all sizes. He stated that 5-year roadmap envisions a big-tent institution providing developmental shelter while maintaining rigorous enforcement and compliance for the growth of the sector.



REPORT LAUNCH



Beyond Borrowing: AI's Language of Risk



PRESENTED BY

Saikrishna, MD, Experian
Majjid, Product Head, Experian

Experian in collaboration with **India Fintech Foundation** and **Unified Fintech Forum** released a report on AI's new language of Risk. The report was launched by Manish Jain (Country MD, Experian). The report examines how India's DPI and expanding data ecosystems are reshaping credit underwriting, moving from static score-based models to dynamic, behaviour-led risk assessment. It details the maturation of digital personal lending, the integration of bureau and alternative data, and the growing role of analytics-led underwriting. The report also addresses regulatory developments led by the RBI and the implications of the DPDPA, emphasizing governance, consent, and responsible AI as central pillars of fintech growth.



India's Financial DPI Stack

SPEAKER

Sahil Kini, CEO, RBIH

Sahil Kini delivered a high-octane call to action, urging founders to move beyond "self-serving" automation toward radical financial product design. Representing the RBI's "youngest subsidiary," Kini detailed the rollout of three critical Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs): the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), designed to "do for credit what UPI did for payments," and two AI-driven fraud-fighting platforms, Mule Hunter and the Digital Payments Intelligence Platform (DPIP).

Kini's central thesis: infrastructure must collapse the cost of servicing to reach the poor. He urged the ecosystem to bridge the "cash flow mismatch" by leveraging new data : from land records to GSTN—to engineer small-ticket, flexible credit that mirrors the lived realities of Bharat for inclusive growth of Fintech




SPEAKERS

**Mr. Manish Jain, Country MD, Experian India ; Moderator :
Anuj Kacker, Founder, Freo**

Evolving Role of Credit Bureaus in an AI-First Fintech Ecosystem

FIRESIDE

The discussion, moderated by Anuj Kacker with Manish Jain, focused on the role of AI in driving financial inclusion in India, particularly in expanding access to credit for underserved populations and how AI and data can help fintech companies provide small-ticket loans and financial services to the masses. The key theme of the discussion was the importance of data in credit assessment. While India has abundant and real-time digital data due to its strong digital infrastructure, the main challenge lies in processing and utilizing this data effectively at scale. AI can help analyze large volumes of data, reduce costs, improve underwriting, and enable better risk assessment by evaluating repayment capacity and borrower intent.

The discussion also highlighted a shift from traditional single credit scores to advanced models using multiple signals and alternative data sources, including digital behaviour and transaction patterns. Data is increasingly viewed as a form of collateral, enabling lenders to assess individuals without formal credit histories. Overall, the session emphasized that AI-driven data analysis and evolving credit infrastructure can significantly enhance financial inclusion, though challenges related to trust and standardization remain.



PRODUCT LAUNCH



SPEAKER

Navya Anand, Associate Director, Product at Accumn, Yubi

LAUNCH

Optima AI - Transforming Underwriting

Optima AI (by Yubi & Accumn) unveiled - a high-speed AI Analyzer and Thought Partner built to transform underwriting. Designed to mirror your actual credit workflows, Optima AI helps teams underwrite faster and smarter by bringing intelligence directly into decision-making.

Navya demonstrated how Optima AI is natively pre-integrated with the India Stack - including MCA, GSTN, Account Aggregator, ITR, credit ratings, and litigation databases - it seamlessly connects with both internal and external data sources through agentic integrations.

It was further highlighted how Optima AI automatically reconciles and triangulates structured and unstructured data across sources to flag mismatches instantly. With purpose-built agents like the CAM Builder, Hindsighting Agent, and Conversational Deep Dive Agent, underwriters no longer chase data - they converse with intelligence. Optima is Enterprise-grade secure, cloud-flexible, and built for retail and corporate lending.





SPEAKER

Prakash Pimpale, Scientist E, C-DAC

MASTERCLASS

Masterclass: AI Compute, GPUs & India's Readiness

In a compelling masterclass, Prakash Pimpale demystified the "third pillar" of the AI revolution: Compute. While data and algorithms are increasingly accessible, Pimpale argued that the specialised hardware required to process them—Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)—has become a restricted, geopolitical asset.

The GPU: A Geopolitical Battery

Pimpale highlighted a stark reality: GPUs are no longer just products; they are "global engineering" feats with a dangerously narrow supply chain. Dominated by NVIDIA and fabricated primarily by TSMC, these chips are subject to "organic and created scarcity". With hyperscalers pre-ordering even raw materials, and the U.S. utilising export sanctions as a way to maintain technological dominance, GPUs have transformed into high-stakes geopolitical leverage.

Sovereignty Through Indigenous Infrastructure

India's response is a strategic pivot toward a sovereign technology stack. Pimpale detailed how national initiatives like the India AI Mission and the National Supercomputing Mission are bridging the readiness gap. With a current national facility of 38,000 GPUs and the development of indigenous hardware like PARAM, C-DAC is ensuring that India's AI future is not just "consumed" from global giants but built on home-grown, resilient foundations.



PANEL DISCUSSION



SPEAKERS

Vivek Raghavan (Tezz Capital), Anirudh Narayan (Lyzr), Sasidhar N. Thumuluri (Sub-K), & Vishal Chopra (WeRize) x Mod: Srikanth, Perfios AA

Founders' Panel: How can AI solve India's hardest financial problems?

PANEL

Moderator Srikanth Rajagopalan noted that while financial inclusion has reached 67%, a third of India remains underserved. The panel deconstructed this via the "Three Indias" lens: Vishal Chopra observed that credit is still concentrated in the top 5%, arguing that for "India 2" and "India 3," trust requires a human-led, assisted distribution model rather than just digital rails.

Bridging the Data & Distribution Chasm

Vivek Raghavan highlighted a credit "stacking" paradox—despite the GST network's wealth of data, 90% of registered MSMEs remain underserved. He advocated for leveraging government infrastructure to build credit models directly on anonymized existing data.

AI: Beyond POC Fatigue

Anirudh Narayan emphasized that AI success hinges on organized "Knowledge Graphs" and workflows over fragmented tools. However, Sasidhar N. Thumuluri cautioned against tech-only solutions for Bharat's "data invisibles," advocating for a permanent "human-in-the-loop" to prevent algorithmic bias. While document processing shows "fantastic results," the consensus remains that full-scale productivity gains are 1–3 years away, necessitating significant internal change management.


SPEAKERS

**Krishnan. S, IAS, Secretary, MEITY;
Moderator : Kunal Shah CRED**

Plenary Fireside Chat: Scaling India's AI Identity on the Global Stage
FIRESIDE

In a high-octane plenary session, Krishnan S., Secretary of MEITY, and Kunal Shah explored India's trajectory from an engineering hub to a global AI powerhouse. The conversation, moderated by Kunal Shah of CRED, served as a prelude to the AI Impact Summit (February 16–20, 2026, in New Delhi), a landmark event marking the first time a nation from the Global South hosts this prestigious international summit.

The AI Race: Applications Over Infrastructure

Addressing the "catch-up" narrative, Krishnan asserted that India is far from late to the race; in fact, the Stanford AI Vibrancy Index 2025 now ranks India as the third most vibrant ecosystem globally. While the world has obsessed over the supply side—chips and GPUs—Krishnan argued that India's true strength lies in the application layer.

"We are making fewer cat videos than the rest of the world and doing something more useful," he remarked, noting that only 40% of AI usage in India is for entertainment, compared to over 70% globally.

FIRESIDE

Architecting a Sovereign Stack

For Indian founders, the roadmap involves a sophisticated five-layer stack. Krishnan emphasized the development of an orchestration layer that allows businesses to leverage global reasoning models while keeping sensitive Indian data sets secure and localized. This "frugal model" of innovation, supported by the India AI Mission, aims to release sovereign models that prioritize national interests and data privacy.

The Jobs Myth: Net Additive Growth

Countering the fear of AI-induced unemployment, Krishnan cited a NITI Aayog report suggesting a net positive outcome for the labor market. While approximately 2 million traditional roles may evolve, an estimated 4 million additional jobs will be created in deployment and application management. To meet this shift, the government is aggressively retooling the workforce through initiatives like Future Skills Prime and updating school curricula to treat AI as a foundational horizontal skill.

A Call to Fintechs

Krishnan stated 3 fintech challenges to be solved for Viksit Bharat 2047:

1. **Deepen Credit Penetration:** Move beyond the top 15% to reach the "9/10ths of the iceberg" currently underwater.
2. **Reinvent Appraisal:** Shift from collateral-based lending to AI-driven business case assessment.
3. **Velocity of Activity:** Use technology to accelerate the overall speed of economic transactions.

The session concluded with a vision of AI as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), built on a spontaneous, public-private partnership model that will define India's unique global identity.



PANEL DISCUSSION



SPEAKERS

Rahul P (Moneyview), Sivaram Kowta (Zeta Tech), Bharat K (Yubi), Ankush S (BharatGPT), Bikram Singh (Experian) x Mod: Dr. Tarun Agarwal, DICGC

CEO & CXO Panel: Redefining Data Ownership, Unlocking the Next 100 Mn Users

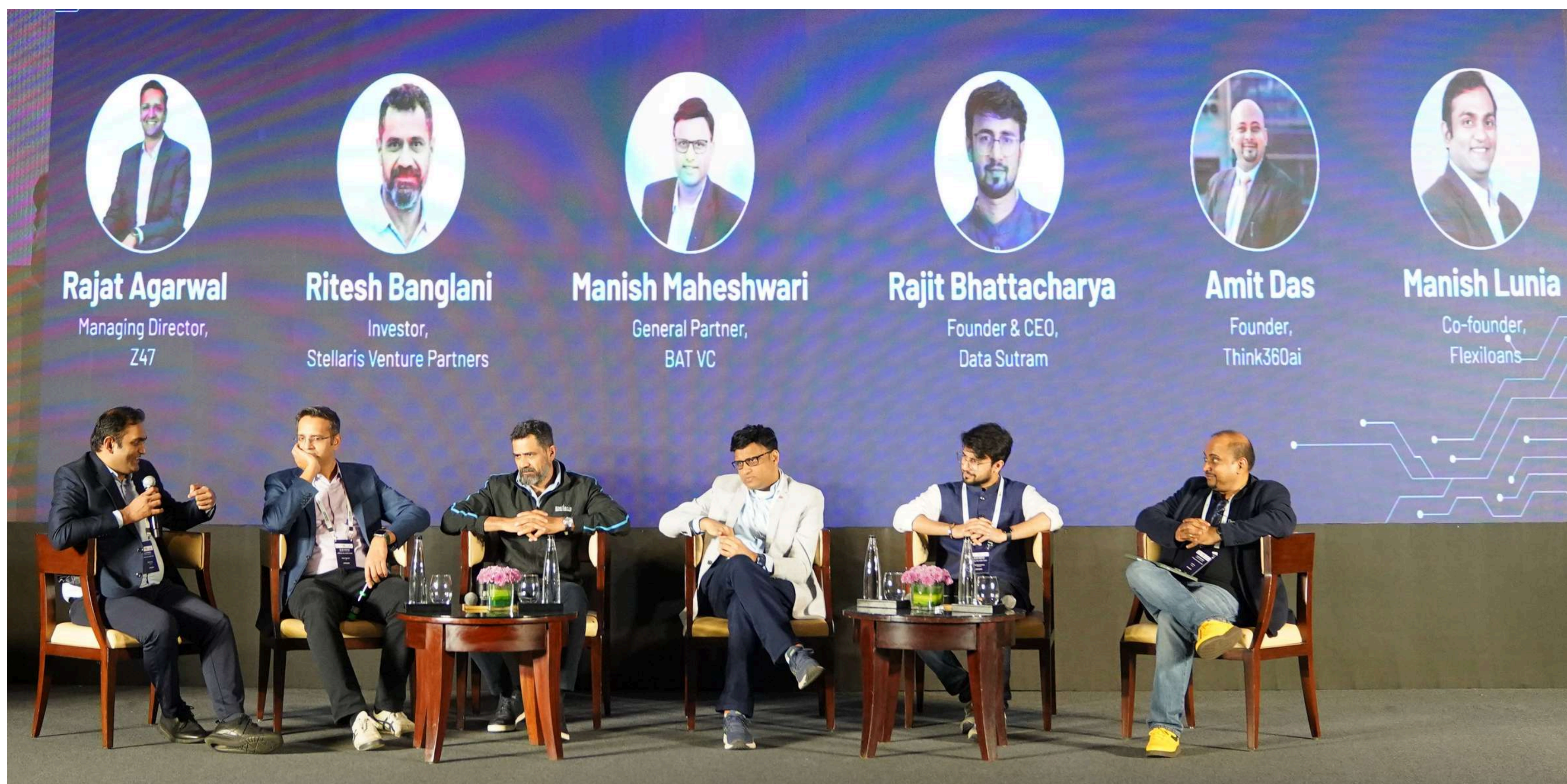
PANEL

Moderator Dr. Tarun Agarwal (DICGC) opened the panel by framing the challenge of balancing rapid financial inclusion with rigorous data governance. Bikram Singh (Experian India) identified the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act as the cornerstone of this transition, noting that its emphasis on purpose-specific, revocable consent is vital for building trust among thin-file borrowers.

On credit access, Rahul Patidar (Moneyview) argued that sustainable growth relies on transaction-led products and the ethical use of alternative data. However, Sivaram Kowta (Zeta India) and Bharat Krishnamurthy (Yubi) emphasized a cautious approach, prioritizing regulatory guardrails, infrastructure readiness, and interoperability before scaling AI within banking. Ankush Sabharwal (CoRover AI & BharatGPT) added that vernacular enablement is the primary tool for building trust at scale across diverse populations.

The panel concluded that while India Stack laid the foundation, the next wave of inclusion will be driven by the synergy of responsible AI, trust, and the DPDP framework.

PANEL DISCUSSION



SPEAKERS

Rajat Agarwal (Z47), Ritesh B (Stellaris Ventures), Manish Maheshwari (BAT VC), Rajit B (Data Sutram), Amit D (Think360.ai) x Mod: Manish Lunia, Flexiloans

Panel Discussion

Investors & CXO Panel: Capital Meets AI & Fintech

The "Capital Meets AI & Fintech" panel, moderated by Manish Lunia, signaled a pivot from digital speculation to economic gravity. The consensus was definitive: AI's value is no longer theoretical—it is operational, economic, and inevitable.

Rajat Agarwal and Ritesh Banglani identified Voice AI as the primary engine for immediate traction, particularly in customer engagement. Banglani noted that the most compelling ventures are now "AI-native"—businesses whose scalability is impossible without machine intelligence. Manish Maheshwari observed that while investment fundamentals remain, capital requirements have plummeted, allowing lean, high-conviction teams to solve deep pain points. Operationally, Rajit Bhattacharya highlighted the shift in credit underwriting, where AI agents now standardize the 70% of lending decisions previously bogged down by manual evaluation.

Looking ahead, Amit Das and the panel compared AI's impact to electricity—a foundational force reorganizing workflows around outcomes. As automation scales, the premium on human, relationship-driven roles will paradoxically increase, defining a new hybrid intelligence model.

PANEL DISCUSSION



SPEAKERS

Sonika Chandra (PhonePe), Sandesh G S (BureauID), Chiranth Patil (Riskcovry), Ankit Ratan (Signzy) x Mod : Jatinder Handoo (UFF)

GRAND DEBATE : Will AI Change the Rules of the Game in the next 5 years ?

Grand Debate

The Grand Debate, moderated by Jatinder Handoo, navigated the high-stakes transition from rigid, rule-based finance to an intelligence-led frontier. The panel—featuring leaders from PhonePe, BureauID, Riskcovry, and Signzy—confronted a landscape where AI is simultaneously a catalyst for scale and a vehicle for sophisticated deepfake fraud.

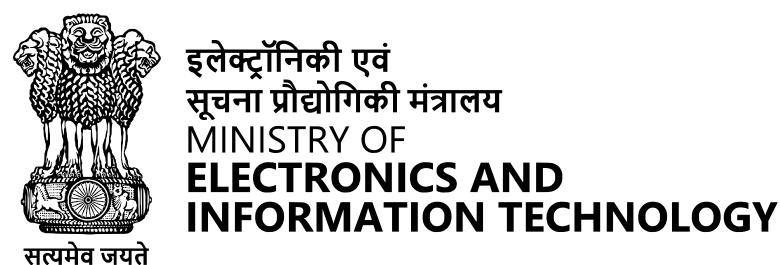
Sandesh GS and Ankit Ratan exposed the growing "accountability dilemma": as banks integrate fintech-driven AI, the risks of model hallucination and opaque algorithms demand resilient, multi-layered regulatory oversight. Sonika Chandra echoed this caution, emphasizing that while adoption is inevitable, it remains evolutionary rather than binary, requiring human supervision to mitigate systemic risk.

Even in specialized fields like embedded insurance, Chiranth Patil argued that AI can refine contextual matching if anchored by human-defined guardrails. The session concluded that while AI will commoditize backend processes, the next era of fintech growth belongs to those who prioritize digital trust and differentiated, human-centric experiences.

ROUNDTABLE



FOUNDERS ROUNDTABLE with MR. KRISHNAN, SECRETARY, MEITY



A closed-door founders-only roundtable with S. Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, was organised at the conclave. The roundtable convened 15+ fintech leaders for an in-depth policy dialogue. The session brought together founders from lending, payments, account aggregators, neobanks, regtech, AI infrastructure, digital banking infrastructure, and credit bureaus, alongside participation from an Ex-RBI Deputy Governor, veteran bankers, RBIH and Venture Capitalists. The key takeaways for the participants included policy clarifications, regulatory guidance on the Digital Personal Data Protection framework and how fintechs can leverage India's public digital infrastructure to build innovative, compliant, and scalable solutions for Viksit Bharat, responsibly.



EVENT AGENDA



OFFICIAL PRE SUMMIT EVENT

AI-in-Fintech Bharat Conclave

Designing AI for India. Scaling It for the World, responsibly

FEB 6, 2026

10 - 5 PM

THE RITZ, BENGALURU

AGENDA

- 10:30 am Welcome Address and Context Setting, **Sai Sudha (CEO, IFF) & Jatinder (CEO, UFF)**
- 10:45 am Plenary Keynote: Government vision & initiatives for Fintech sector & AI
Nagaraju M, IAS, Secretary, DFS, Ministry of Finance
- 11:10 am Report Launch : Beyond Borrowing: AI's Language of Risk, **Manish Jain, Country MD, Experian**
- 11:20 am Fireside Chat: Journey to building India's Self-Regulatory Architecture for Fintechs
NSV (Ex-Deputy Gov, RBI) & Alok Prasad (Ex-CEO, MFIN) x (Mod : Harsh Lunia, LendingKart)
- 11:45 pm Session : RBIH's role in shaping India's Financial DPI Stack, **Sahil Kini, CEO, RBIH**
- 11:55 am Fireside Chat: The Evolving Role of Credit Bureaus in an AI-First Fintech Ecosystem
Manish Jain, Country MD, Experian India x (Mod : Anuj Kacker, Freqo)
- 12:15 am Masterclass: AI Compute, GPUs & India's Readiness Gap
Prakash Pimpale, Scientist E, C-DAC
- 12:30 pm Product launch: Yubi

12:40 PM | Lunch & Networking

- 1:25 pm Founders' Panel: How can AI solve India's hardest financial problems?
Vivek Ragahvan (Tezz Capital), Anirudh Narayan (Lyzi), Sasidhar T (Sub-K), Vishal Chopra (WeRize)
 Mod: Srikanth, Perfios AA
- 2:05 pm Plenary Fireside Chat: Scaling India's AI Identity on the Global Stage
Krishnan. S, IAS, Secretary, MEITY x (Mod : Kunal Shah CRED)
- 2:50 pm CEO & CXO Panel: Redefining Data Ownership, Unlocking the Next 100 Mn Users
Rahul P (Moneyview), Sivaram Kowta (Zeta Tech), Bharat K (Yubi), Ankush S (BharatGPT), Bikram Singh (Experian)
 Mod: Dr. Tarun Agarwal, DICGC
- 3:35 pm Investors & CXO Panel: Capital Meets AI & Fintech
Rajat Agarwal (Z47), Ritesh B (Stellaris Ventures), Manish Maheshwari (BAT VC), Rajit B (Data Sutram), Amit D (Think360.ai)
 Mod: Manish Lunia, Flexiloans
- 4:20 pm GRAND DEBATE : Will AI Change the Rules of the Game in the next 5 years ?
Sonika Chandra (PhonePe), Sandesh G S (BureauID), Chiranth Patil (Riskcovry), Ankit Ratan (Signzy)
 Mod : Jatinder Handoo, UFF
- 4:55 pm Closing Address, **Jitendra Gupta, Jupiter**

5:00 PM | High-Tea

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CLOSING SUMMARY

The full day's multi-segmental deliberations reaffirmed one key truth: fintech is no longer a sector on the sidelines of India's economy – it is a core driver of financial inclusion, DPI adoption, and innovation in financial services. Across our discussions, 3 themes consistently emerged: the need for regulatory clarity, responsible innovation, and deeper collaboration between industry, regulators, and ecosystem partners. Fintech founders are not just building companies; they are building solutions that expand credit access, democratize payments, strengthen compliance, and power India's digital economy and platforms like this conclave are essential because they enable candid dialogue and shared learning. As industry, policymakers, and institutions continue to work together, the next decade will position India as a global benchmark responsible financial innovation.

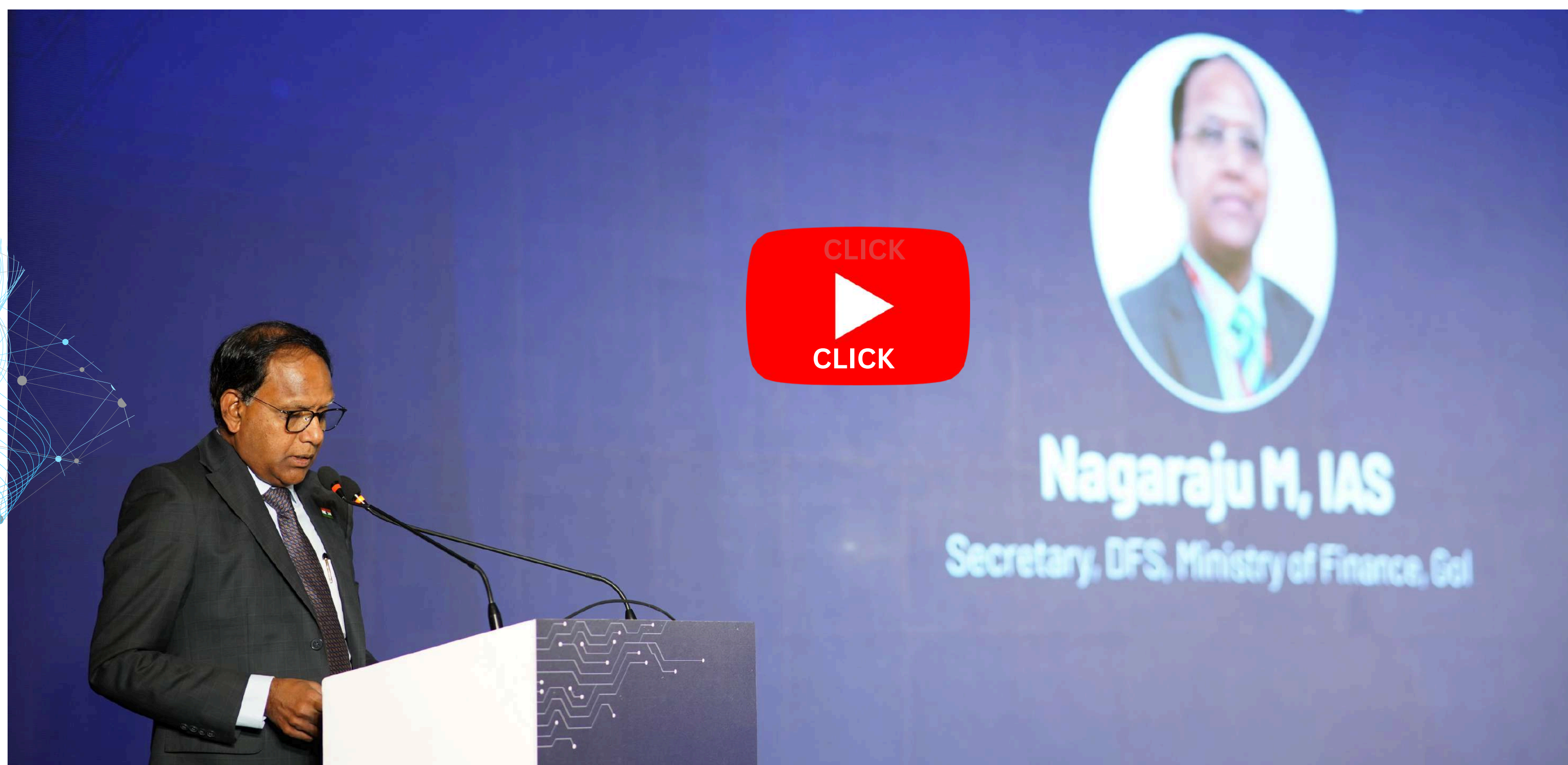
We thank you all for your participation and in ensuring we have moved closer to Viksit Bharat. See you all next year at AI-in Fintech Bharat Conclave 2.0



Jatinder Handoo
CEO
Unified Fintech Forum



VIDEO HIGHLIGHT



WATCH (1:52 MINS)

We have curated a short video of the conclave. We hope you'll enjoy it!

Meet the Team



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THANK YOU!

