



CONFai

CONFERENCE ON

artificial intelligence

2026

OCT **30** - NOV **1**

Plaksha University Campus,
Mohali, Punjab

Organized by

**Harish and Bina Shah School
of AI & Computer Science,**
Plaksha University

Overview

ConfAI 2026, hosted by the Harish and Bina Shah School of AI & Computer Science, is a three-day academic conference that highlights the potential of AI to address pressing societal challenges. Through talks and discussions, it brings together students, researchers and practitioners from across AI domains to share knowledge, collaborate and shape the future of research, development and real-world applications in the AI landscape.

• **6+**

Keynote
Speakers

• **25+**

Oral
Presenters

• **75+**

Poster
Presenters

• **500+**

Attendees

Conference Highlights

- **Engage with Prominent Keynote and Guest Speakers:**
Top leaders from industry and academia will share their research across eight curated tracks.
- **Explore Latest AI Research:**
Attend cutting-edge research presentations highlighting the newest breakthroughs in AI.
- **Gain Practical Frameworks and Insights:**
Explore critical questions around AI, innovation, emerging technologies and their broader societal impact.
- **Be a Part of Collaborative Networking:**
Build visibility for research collaborations and engage in industry conversations.

Featured Keynote Speakers*



Dr Balaraman Ravindran

Head, Department of Data
Science & AI, **IIT Madras**

PhD - University of Massachusetts Amherst



Dr Manish Gupta

Senior Director, **Google DeepMind**

PhD - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Dr Parag Singla

Professor, Department of Computer
Science and Engineering, **IIT Delhi**

PhD - University of Washington



Dr Ponnuram Kumaraguru

Visiting Scientist, **ANRF**

Professor, **IIIT Hyderabad**

PhD - Carnegie Mellon University



Dr Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay

Former Director, **ISI Kolkata**
Padma Shri awardee

PhD - Indian Statistical Institute



Dr Santanu Chaudhury

Dean, Vachani School of Advanced
Computing; Professor, **Ashoka University**

PhD - IIT Kharapur

**Non-exhaustive list. Additional speakers to be announced.*

Track 1

TRACK CO-CHAIRS



Alok Ranjan

Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University



Nikhil George

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University



Divyanshu Jain

Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University

AI in the Economy

This track examines AI as a force reshaping three interlocking pillars of modern economies: labor markets, financial systems and governance structures.

In labor markets, topics of interest include automation and job displacement, AI-augmented productivity, monitoring and evaluation, reskilling and workforce transitions and the distributional effects of AI adoption.

In finance, the track covers algorithmic trading and market microstructure, AI-driven credit scoring and lending, fraud detection, robo-advisory systems and the use of large language models in financial forecasting and regulatory compliance.

In governance, the scope runs from AI in public administration and policy design to algorithmic accountability and auditing, AI regulation frameworks and the role of AI in macroeconomic policymaking and central banking; it extends to public systems, including smart city infrastructure, AI-driven traffic and mobility optimization, land-use modeling and the equitable allocation of public resources across communities.

Track 2

AI in Healthcare

AI systems can be designed and deployed to deliver personalized healthcare while ensuring fair and inclusive access. This track examines both goals: personalizing healthcare and widening access to it.

Topics of interest include precision medicine, early disease detection and adaptive care pathways. In access and delivery, presentations cover low-cost diagnostics, telemedicine and language-inclusive tools that extend healthcare reach. The track equally welcomes work on the limitations and risks within each of these areas, including algorithmic bias, data underrepresentation, the digital divide, and the risk of widening existing health disparities.

TRACK CO-CHAIRS



Sunita Chauhan

Dean of Research; Professor,
Plaksha University



Monika Sharma

Program Chair,
Biological Systems Engineering
Associate Professor,
Plaksha University



Sandeep Manjanna

Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University



Chaitanya Lekshmi Indira

Director, Center for Equitable and Personalized Healthcare
Associate Professor,
Plaksha University



Track 3

TRACK CO-CHAIRS



Anil K. Roy

Professor,
Plaksha University



Praveen Kumar

Associate Professor,
Plaksha University

AI in Sensing

Track 3 focuses on intelligent application domains, hardware-software co-designing of sensors and deployment physics. Contributions are from researchers working on sensors, data acquisition boards and intelligent transducer networks that support prediction and real-time decision systems. Previously published work is eligible for submission.

Topics include accessibility, clean water, cognitive load assessment, critical infrastructure, Edge AI hardware systems, education, entertainment, environment, food security, gaming, green energy, haptics, Industry 5.0, life on poles, PolSAR imaging, quantum materials for circular electronics, quantum sensors, rehabilitation, sanitation, satellite technology, security and surveillance, smart agriculture, sports, underwater world and wearables.



Track 4

Reasoning in Vision Language Models

As AI models get better at processing visual and textual information, it becomes increasingly important to understand whether they can actually reason through complex problems. Benchmark scores measure performance, but they do not necessarily explain the reasoning behind it. Therefore, researchers need more comprehensive ways to evaluate reasoning capabilities.

The track spans benchmarking for reasoning; fine-tuning and inference time scaling; probing and analysis techniques; and training methods and architectures built for reasoning. It brings researchers and practitioners together to present recent advances; it also invites discussion and collaboration on strengthening both the benchmarks and the reasoning capabilities of vision-language models.

— TRACK CO-CHAIRS —



Pankaj Pansari
Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University

Deepan Muthirayan
Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University



Track 5

TRACK CO-CHAIRS



Anupam Sobti

Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University



Malini Balakrishnan

Director,
Center for Water Security
Professor,
Plaksha University



Prashanth Suresh Kumar

Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University



Pankaj Pansari

Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University

AI4Cities: Resilience & Liveability

Tier-2 and Tier-3 Indian cities are expanding quickly while facing extreme weather driven by climate change. The result is strain on urban infrastructure: erratic power and water supply, inadequate solid waste and wastewater management, urban flooding and traffic congestion. Traditional planning approaches cannot keep pace with such rapid development.

AI offers a route to predictive urban management through real-time, data-driven insight. It supports anticipating water and energy demand, optimizing waste and wastewater systems and raising the overall quality of living.

Track 5 includes work from predictive urban management and infrastructure systems to the governance, data-sharing and institutional questions that decide whether such tools reach the cities that need them.



Track 6

Responsible and Ethical AI

AI is reshaping institutions, economies and social relations faster than governance structures can adapt. Foundational ethical theory informs practical governance models, including structures for accountability, transparency and stakeholder participation. Algorithmic fairness, epistemic risks, power concentration, and the design of cross-jurisdictional regulatory frameworks are central concerns, particularly for generative and agentic AI systems.

Track 6 examines the ethical, legal and sociotechnical dimensions of responsible AI, drawing on computer science, law, philosophy, political science and sociology. Contributions that treat responsible AI as a human and social problem, not simply a technical one are included.



— TRACK CO-CHAIRS —



Rajesh Sharma

Associate Dean, Harish and Bina Shah School of AI and Computer Science
Program Chair, Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence
Professor,
Plaksha University

Dr Shachindra Nath

Co-founder & Chief Innovation Officer,
Anādi Intelligence

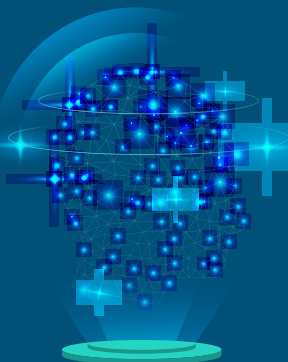


Track 7

AI and Logic: Relations and Applications

Logic and AI shape each other. Logic gives AI its foundations, from theorem proving and model checking to event calculus, ontology-based reasoning on the web, and epistemic reasoning in multi-agent systems. It also supplies the rigorous guarantees needed to protect data privacy and sensitive information. AI, in turn, can be trained to solve logical problems, including mathematical ones.

Track 7 comprises submissions across the full span of work connecting AI and logic.



TRACK CO-CHAIRS



Deepak Khemani

Professor,
Plaksha University



Saeed Salehi

Professor,
Plaksha University



Tapas Pandit

Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University

Track 8

Recent Advances in AI

Presentations are not limited to the seven tracks. Any work within the scope of the conference is welcome, whether ongoing research or previously published.

— TRACK CO-CHAIRS —



Ankur Nahar

Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University



Sushant Vijayan

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University

Srijita Chakraborty
Visiting Assistant Professor,
Plaksha University



Event Sponsors

ConfAI 2026 is sponsored by partners who share our commitment to advancing AI research and its real-world impact in India.

Lenovo

A global technology company operating in more than 180 markets, Lenovo's portfolio spans intelligent devices, data center infrastructure and technology services, from ThinkPad and Legion PCs to servers, edge computing and cloud solutions. The company's key focus is Hybrid AI, which brings together AI-enabled devices, AI-ready infrastructure and AI-powered services to help organizations adopt AI at scale.

Fore Solutions Pvt Ltd

An NVIDIA Elite Partner and Certified DGX Authorized Reseller, the company has more than 100 AI infrastructure deployments across India. Its portfolio spans AI labs and Centers of Excellence, AI factories, DGX lifecycle management and NVIDIA software integration. Its work includes projects at Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala and Dayananda Sagar University, Bengaluru.

Vehant Technologies

Incubated at IIT Delhi in 2005, Vehant Technologies is a leading provider of AI-powered security, surveillance and safety solutions. Its portfolio spans video analytics, X-ray imaging and RF technologies, including baggage and cargo scanners, under-vehicle scanning systems and intelligent traffic enforcement. Vehant's solutions serve aviation, critical infrastructure, smart cities, highways, and logistics and ports.

The Lenovo logo, consisting of the word "Lenovo" in white sans-serif font on a red rectangular background.The FORE logo, featuring the word "FORE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below it is a horizontal line of small, stylized icons representing various AI and technology concepts.The vehant TECHNOLOGIES logo, with "vehant" in a lowercase, orange, sans-serif font and "TECHNOLOGIES" in a smaller, uppercase, grey, sans-serif font below it.

Technical Program Committee

- **Alok Ranjan** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- **Amruta R Behera** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IISc Bengaluru
- **Anil K. Roy** - Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IIT Delhi
- **Ankur Nahar** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IIT Jodhpur
- **Anupam Sobti** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IIT Delhi
- **Appan Rakaraddi** - Visiting Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – NTU Singapore
- **Arshdeep Sidhu** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – University of Twente
- **Chaitanya Lekshmi Indira** - Associate Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IISc Bengaluru
- **Deepak Khemani** - Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IIT Bombay
- **Deepan Muthirayan** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – University of California, Berkeley
- **Divyanshu Jain** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IIM Ahmedabad
- **Dr Anirban Sen** - Assistant Professor, Ashoka University; PhD – IIT Delhi
- **Dr Arun Kumar** - Associate Professor, IIT Ropar; PhD – IIT Bombay
- **Dr Shachindra Nath** - Co-founder & Chief Innovation Officer, Anādi Intelligence; PhD – Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London
- **Malini Balakrishnan** - Director, Center for Water Security; Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IIT Delhi
- **Mayank Ratan Bhardwaj** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IISc Bengaluru
- **M Balakrishnan** - Distinguished Visiting Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IIT Delhi
- **Monika Sharma** - Program Chair, Biological Systems Engineering; Associate Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IIIT Hyderabad
- **Nikhil George** - Visiting Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – Carnegie Mellon University
- **Pankaj Pansari** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – University of Oxford
- **Prashanth Suresh Kumar** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – Delft University of Technology
- **Praveen Kumar** - Associate Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IIT Delhi
- **Rajesh Sharma** - Associate Dean, Harish and Bina Shah School of AI and Computer Science; Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – NTU Singapore
- **Rucha Joshi** - Associate Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – Purdue University
- **Saeed Salehi** - Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – University of Turku
- **Sandeep Manjanna** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – McGill University
- **Sandilya Garimella** - Visiting Faculty, Plaksha University; PhD – Purdue University
- **Sanjeev Khosla** - Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – IISc Bengaluru
- **Siddharth** - Associate Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – UC San Diego
- **Srijita Chakraborty** - Visiting Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – Indiana University
- **Sunita Chauhan** - Dean of Research; Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – Imperial College London
- **Sushant Vijayan** - Visiting Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
- **Swagata Halder** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – University of Oxford
- **Tapas Pandit** - Assistant Professor, Plaksha University; PhD – ISI Kolkata

Organizing Team



Prof M Balakrishnan
Mentor



Prof Rajesh Sharma
General Co-Chair



Prof Siddharth
General Co-Chair



Pawan Kumar
Event Lead



Palak Bisht
Team Member



Ishani Jain
Team Member



Shradha Rathour
Team Member



Khyati Sagar
Team Member



Abhijeet Singh
Team Member

Agenda

DAY 1: FRIDAY, OCT 30, 2026

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM	Breakfast
08:30 AM - 09:30 AM	Registration & Refreshments
09:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Welcome Address & Discussion on ConfAI Vision
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Plenary Keynote Dr Santanu Chaudhury
10:55 AM - 11:05 AM	Tea Break
11:05 AM - 12:45 PM	Parallel Track Presentations
11:05 AM - 11:35 AM	AI in Healthcare <i>Track Keynote</i>
11:35 AM - 12:45 PM	<i>Track Oral Presentations</i>
11:05 AM - 11:35 AM	AI and Logic: Relations and Applications <i>Track Keynote</i>
11:35 AM - 12:45 PM	<i>Track Oral Presentations</i>
12:55 PM - 01:10 PM	Group Photograph
01:10 PM - 02:00 PM	Lunch
02:10 PM - 03:00 PM	Plenary Keynote Dr Parag Singla
03:10 PM - 04:50 PM	Parallel Track Presentations
03:10 PM - 03:40 PM	AI in the Economy <i>Track Keynote</i>
03:40 PM - 04:50 PM	<i>Track Oral Presentations</i>
03:10 PM - 03:40 PM	AI in Sensing <i>Track Keynote</i>
03:40 PM - 04:50 PM	<i>Track Oral Presentations</i>
04:50 PM - 05:40 PM	High Tea Break/ Poster Presentation
05:40 PM - 06:00 PM	Campus Tour
06:00 PM - 07:15 PM	Break
07:15 PM onwards	Networking Dinner

DAY 2: SATURDAY, OCT 31, 2026

07:00 AM - 09:00 AM	Breakfast & Refreshments
09:00AM - 09:10AM	Day 2 Opening Remarks
09:10 AM - 10:00AM	Plenary Keynote Dr Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay
10:10 AM - 11:00 AM	Plenary Keynote Dr Ponnurangam Kumaraguru
11:00 AM - 11:20 AM	Tea Break
11:20 AM - 01:00 PM	Parallel Track Presentations
11:20 AM - 11:50 AM 11:50 AM - 1:00 PM	AI4Cities- Resilience & Liveability <i>Track Keynote</i> <i>Track Oral Presentations</i>
11:20 AM - 11:50 AM 11:50 AM - 01:00 PM	Recent Advances in AI <i>Track Keynote</i> <i>Track Oral Presentations</i>
01:00 PM - 01:15 PM	Group Photograph
01:15PM - 02:10PM	Lunch
02:15 PM - 03:00 PM	Plaksha Conversations
03:00PM - 03:50PM	Plenary Keynote Dr Manish Gupta
04:00 PM - 05:00 PM	High Tea Break/Poster Presentation
05:00 PM - 06:15 PM	Panel Discussion
06:30 PM - 07:30PM	Plaksha Cultural Event
07:30 PM onwards	Gala Dinner

DAY 3: SUNDAY, NOV 1, 2026

07:00AM - 09:00 AM	Breakfast & Refreshments
09:00 AM - 09:10AM	Day 3 Opening Remarks
09:10 AM - 10:00 AM	Plenary Keynote Dr Balaraman Ravindran
10:10 AM - 11:40 AM	Track Presentation
10:10 AM - 10:40 AM 10:40 AM - 11:40 AM	Reasoning in Vision Language Models <i>Track Keynote</i> <i>Track Oral Presentations</i>
11:40 AM - 12:00 PM	Tea Break
12:00 PM - 01:00PM	Track Presentation
	Responsible and Ethical AI
01:00 PM - 01:10 PM	Valedictory & Concluding Remarks
01:10PM - 01:40PM	Awards
01:40 PM - 02:30 PM	Lunch
02:30 PM onwards	Chandigarh Tour & Departure



Contact us

Email: confai@plaksha.edu.in
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/confai-plaksha/>

Address: Sector 101, Alpha, IT City Rd,
Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Punjab 140306, India



Scan the QR to register