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Annual Report 2025-26

Awarded as the Best AI Governance & Technology Law Consultancy 2026 - India by

APAC Insider

Our Founder was selected to be part of our 2025 Class of EuropeIndia40 Leaders List by

EICBI
Europe India Centre for Business & Industry

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About Indic Pacific Legal Research

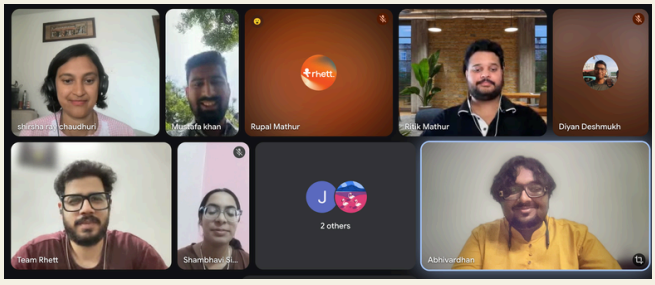
Indic Pacific is an award-winning research & market intelligence firm that solves AI governance, market & safety issues.

We are also specialised in advisory & research support on legal, economic and policy issues around AI and digital technologies.

We host India's biggest technology law and policy research ecosystem through AIACT.IN and IndoPacific.App.

Our leadership and their research solutions have been featured in Times of India, Swarajya, Hindustan Times, LiveMint, Business Standard Hindi, The Legal Wire and many others.

Some Visual Highlights



PART 0: ABOUT INDIC PACIFIC

Key Highlights & Achievements

- **Indic Pacific was awarded as the Best AI Governance & Technology Law Consultancy 2026 - India by APAC Insider for "stellar expertise in the adaptive side of AI governance through its India-specific AI policy research database and strategic partnerships & supports to technology startups and institutions in achieving their AI impact and governance goals".**
    - **The "AI Policy research database" as referred to by APAC Insider is the IndoPacific.App, which hosts 430 Live Contributions (Standalone + Chapters) by 200+ indexed authors and editors.**
- **Our Founder was selected to be part of our 2025 Class of EuropeIndia40 Leaders List by Europe India Centre for Business & Industry.**
- **We currently host 10 incumbent Knowledge Partnerships, the most recent of which were with ANRAK and Chandigarh University Uttar Pradesh.**
- **We co-developed The LegalTechPolicy.com Playbook, a Legal Technology Strategy Playbook in partnership with DreamLegal. The Playbook was launched in March 2026 at Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar.**
    - **The Forewords of this Playbook were authored by Padma Awardee Dr Saurabh Srivastava, Co-Founder, NASSCOM, Dr M. Sutaone, Director of IIIT-Allahabad and Manohar Samal, Partner at Ratan Samal Associates.**
- **We developed India's first AI Diffusion Report on Uttar Pradesh, UP.AIACT.IN, which was developed through a pan-India community support of 28 industry, risk management, specialist, technology, legal and startup stakeholders.**
    - **The Report covers 77 AI Diffusion Recommendations spanning across 10 sectors.**
    - **The Report's Forewords were authored by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University, and Dr Pitabas Mohanty, Professor, XLRI Jamshedpur.**
    - **The Introduction to the Report was authored by Rupak Chattopadhyay, President & CEO, Forum of Federations.**
- **We co-developed India's first AI and Dispute Resolution Rules, AiARB.IN Rules in collaboration with WebNyay.**

PART 0: ABOUT INDIC PACIFIC

Key Highlights & Achievements

Bibliography of Publications from our Leaders for 2025-26

- **Abhivardhan & Supratim Bapuli, Predictive Policing Meets Procedural Law—Crafting Admissibility Standards for AI-Driven Forensic Tools in Indian Criminal Justice, in Artificial Intelligence and Legal Evidence: The Indian Policy and Perspective (Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan et al. eds., 1st ed. 2026).**
- **Abhivardhan and Deepanshu Singh. "India's AI choices at the 2026 AI Impact Summit amid structural drifts in global markets." The Times of India, February 13, 2026**
- **Abhivardhan, and Arunima Jha. "India's AI Opportunity Lies In What It Chooses To Not Do." Swarajya, February 2026.**
- **Abhivardhan, Ranjan Singhania & Ayush Chandra, The LegalTechPolicy.com Playbook (Indic Pacific Legal Research & KYLT Automations Private Limited, 2026).**
- **Abhivardhan (2025). Data Governance. In: Xu, W. (eds) Handbook of Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence. Springer, Singapore.**
- **Abhivardhan & Dr Abhishek Sharma, The AI Dimension of India's Act East Policy, The Diplomat (June 2026).**
- **Abhivardhan & Genevieve Donnellon-May, Dawn of AI and Geopolitics: Regulation, Norms and Power Beyond Hardware, Geopolitical Monitor (June 2026).**
- **Abhivardhan & Jagannath Panda. "Chips, Code, and Control: Rewriting the Economics of Old Tech Wars." Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP), Issue & Policy Briefs (June 2026).**
- **Abhivardhan & Aditya Jakki, Beyond the Fable Ban: Why Tech Diplomacy Needs a '2+2+T' Upgrade, The Times of India (June 2026).**
- **Abhivardhan & Arunima Jha, An Indian Trade Secret Bill May Reshape the AI x Copyright Dead-end: An Explainer (2025), The Legal Wire.**
- **Abhivardhan, Getting AI Adoption Right: India's Digital Supply Chains Need Both the What and Why, The IMC Journal (2025).**
- **Abhivardhan and Deepanshu Singh, Government with Algorithms: Managing AI in India's Federal System: Occasional Paper Number 70, Forum of Federations, Canada (2025).**

PART 0: ABOUT INDIC PACIFIC

Key Highlights & Achievements

Current Partnerships

Media Features of our Leaders

PART 1: CASE STUDIES ON TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

Case Study 1: The Indian Market's Capacity Building Needs on AI Governance

Chandigarh University Uttar Pradesh	Centre for Development of Intellectual Property and Research	Prodapt	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University
The Sambhav Initiative	NFSU Gandhinagar	JanyuTech	The IP Press
Invest Karnataka	Gravitas Legal	Observer Research Foundation	ET Edge
Observer Research Foundation	Manipal Academy of Higher Education	42.ai	KLE Law College
CLEA India	ICFAI Dehradun	Young Odisha	iFEEL Pune
CUTS-CIRC	NSB Academy	upGrad	Future Shift Labs
Indian Forum for Public Diplomacy	NUALS Kochi	CUTS International	Mahindra University

This is a non-exhaustive list of organisations, where Indic Pacific's representatives including our Founder engaged in different formats, roundtables, capacity building courses and programmes and even survey-based engagements.

In fact, Indic Pacific representatives participated in around 30-40+ such engagements from January 2025 until August 2026.

Here's why these many engagements are important.

- **They show a good geographical expanse that our representatives covered throughout India.**
- **They also show how the Indian talent, tech and policy market looks at the kind of AI governance needs they actually have.**

PART 1: CASE STUDIES ON TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

Case Study 1: The Indian Market's Capacity Building Needs on AI Governance

Geographical Estimations

- Roughly **half** of our engagements take place across **Southern and Western India**, where the focus leans heavily toward **commercial technology and practical implementation. Southern India** accounts for approximately **30% of our total engagements and interventions,** driven by hands-on sessions with tech companies, startups, and law schools in hubs like **Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi, and Manipal.** These engagements are centered on **practical AI compliance, AI research ethics, and legal training.** Similarly, **West India** makes up about **18% of our outreach,** focusing on **legal education engagements, AI and government affairs events, and media summits across Mumbai, Pune,** and **Gandhinagar.**

- Our work across **Central and Northern India** grounds the regulatory and policy dimensions of our research. **Central and North-Central India** represents around **20%** of our activity, encompassing state government summits, regional AI governance blueprints, and university partnerships across Uttar Pradesh and surrounding hubs—with **Hyderabad** functioning as a vital bridge between the central and southern regions and **Lucknow** functioning as a vital bridge between Northern and Eastern India. **North India** accounts for another 20%, focused primarily on national policy roundtables, think-tank discussions, and regulatory sandboxes centered in Delhi-NCR.

- To ensure our research remains grounded outside major metropolitan tech bubbles, **East India** accounts for **roughly 4%** of our engagements through grassroots youth and civic tech programs in **Odisha**. These sessions offer direct insight into how technology policies and digital tools operate in non-metro settings.

- **Finally, National and Global forums make up the remaining 8%,** spanning pan-India digital cohorts and multilateral engagements such as the Startup20 dialogues in Brazil, or the India Think Tank Forum 2025 to align regional, on-the-ground insights with international standards.

Total institutional engagements (approximately 45–50 sessions) were distributed across 36.7% Law Faculties & University Departments (spanning multi-departmental lectures, research colloquia, and curriculum workshops), 22.4% Economic & Regulatory Policy Institutes, 18.4% DeepTech Enterprises & Engineering Collectives, 12.2% Specialized Legal Practices & Domain Platforms, and 10.3% State-Level & Regional Civil Society Initiatives.

PART 1: CASE STUDIES ON TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

Case Study 1: The Indian Market's Capacity Building Needs on AI Governance

Demand Signals Across the Indian AI Ecosystem

- Indian government and judicial stakeholders intend to regulate **artificial intelligence**. However, they are well-aware of the sector-specific, regional governments-specific and even colonial and post-colonial period laws & regulations that create regulatory cholestrol for start-ups and technical talent. However, Yet—much like the Reserve Bank of India adjusting and de-cluttering its regulatory literature—government stakeholders are actively looking for governance use cases that can be applied as pilots. This does not indicate much regulatory clarity for now, because government tech priorities (digital public infrastructure) don't necessarily align with the AI industry policy priorities across the 5 layers of AI.

- This was also emphasised in this paper: ***Abhivardhan and Deepanshu Singh, Government with Algorithms: Managing AI in India's Federal System: Occasional Paper Number 70, Forum of Federations, Canada (2025).***

- In our engagements with Indian private stakeholders—spanning businesses, law firms, think tanks, universities, and technical professionals (both tech and non-tech) in the **January 2025 - August 2026 period**, several realities are clearly discernible:

  - **Rejection of Unadapted Standards**: Stakeholders seek actionable direction on data privacy, legal tech adoption, and AI governance strategies. However, they explicitly resist copy-pasting ISO or EU GDPR-based frameworks without adapting them to local realities, while still seeking clear regulatory positions from domestic authorities.

  - **The Specialist vs. Generalist Gap**: A persistent challenge across the legal and policy fraternity is the saturation of generalist commentary. Enterprise leadership frequently reports fatigue with high-level "AI ethics" commentary that lacks the technical depth needed to deliver actionable outcomes.

  - **Shift Away from Performative Forums:** Many conventional industry panels and public events have leaned toward broad networking and pre-determined agendas rather than rigorous, open-minded problem-solving. As a result, serious stakeholders are increasingly looking for focused, substantive engagements over high-level event participation.

PART 1: CASE STUDIES ON TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

Case Study 1: The Indian Market's Capacity Building Needs on AI Governance

Demand Signals Across the Indian AI Ecosystem

- **Market Noise & Disconnects**: Organizations still struggle to identify and establish working arrangements with genuine technical policy and AI governance specialists. This friction is largely driven by three factors:
  - **Divergent positions taken by frontier AI labs regarding closed versus open-source models,**
  - **Evolving government policy timelines, and**
  - **Generalist practitioners misrepresenting their technical domain depth to an evolving market.**

- In response to prevailing market noise, our institutional stance rests on strict operational integrity:
  - **Uncompromising Domain Specialization**: We adhere strictly to specialized research. We do not pontificate on domains outside our proven expertise (such as general real estate, tax, or nuclear law), nor do we overestimate our technical reach in areas like IP law without hands-on practice.
  - **Rejection of Content "Slop":** We refuse to dump low-value, AI-generated slop or superficial posturing onto the market to chase empty engagement metrics.
  - **High-Signal Engagement:** We deliberately step back from performative corporate events, focusing instead on direct, high-impact institutional engagements, hands-on learning solutions, executable handbooks, and direct contractual risk assessments handled with the utmost sensitivity.

- This has been reflective in our advisory and training efforts, which is further elaborated in **Case Study 2.**

PART 1: CASE STUDIES ON TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

Case Study 2: How has our Grounded Advisory Approach Evolved in 2025-26

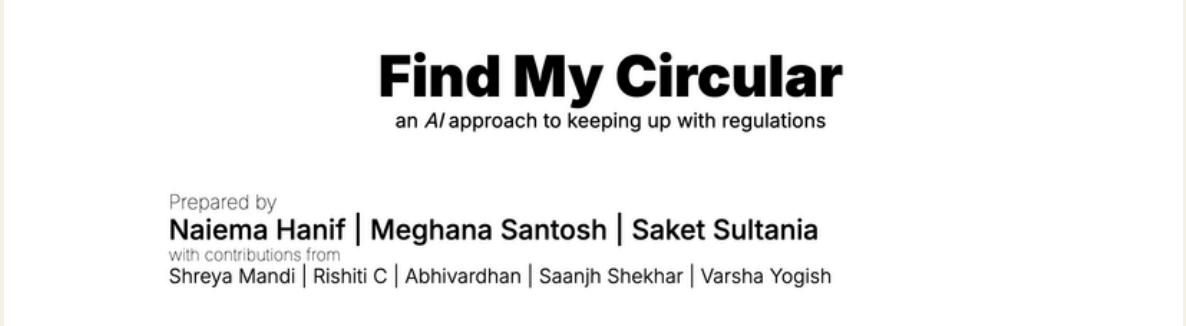
Why Our Advisory Is Grounded

Our advisory avoids theoretical commentary, abstract ethics statements, and unadapted regulatory templates copied from foreign jurisdictions. Instead, our work derives its credibility directly from technical architecture, legal classification frameworks, and empirical trial across commercial and public-interest deployments.

We treat AI governance as a **techno-strategic legal / policy mapping problem**. Hence, we believe that grounded advisory requires assessing code pipelines, data flows, edge hardware constraints, and contractual risk allocation before drafting policy or structuring legal compliance. Throughout **2025–2026**, this approach has evolved across key operational pillars:

- **Enterprise Advisory & DeepTech Commercialization**: Our Founder advised Vision AI startup Bipolar Factory in their commercial engagements with Reliance Industries Limited. **The advisory focused on data protection frameworks, governance controls around edge video processing, and structuring commercial contracts to manage automated computer vision liabilities and enterprise privacy requirements.**

- **Legal Technology & Regulatory Architecture**: Conducted a legal technology evaluation with **People+AI** to transform regulatory search discoverability on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) portal. **The intervention focused on where it mattered most, i.e., moving beyond static keyword queries by architecting Knowledge Graphs to map semantic relationships across dense, layered RBI circulars, master directions, and regulatory updates**.

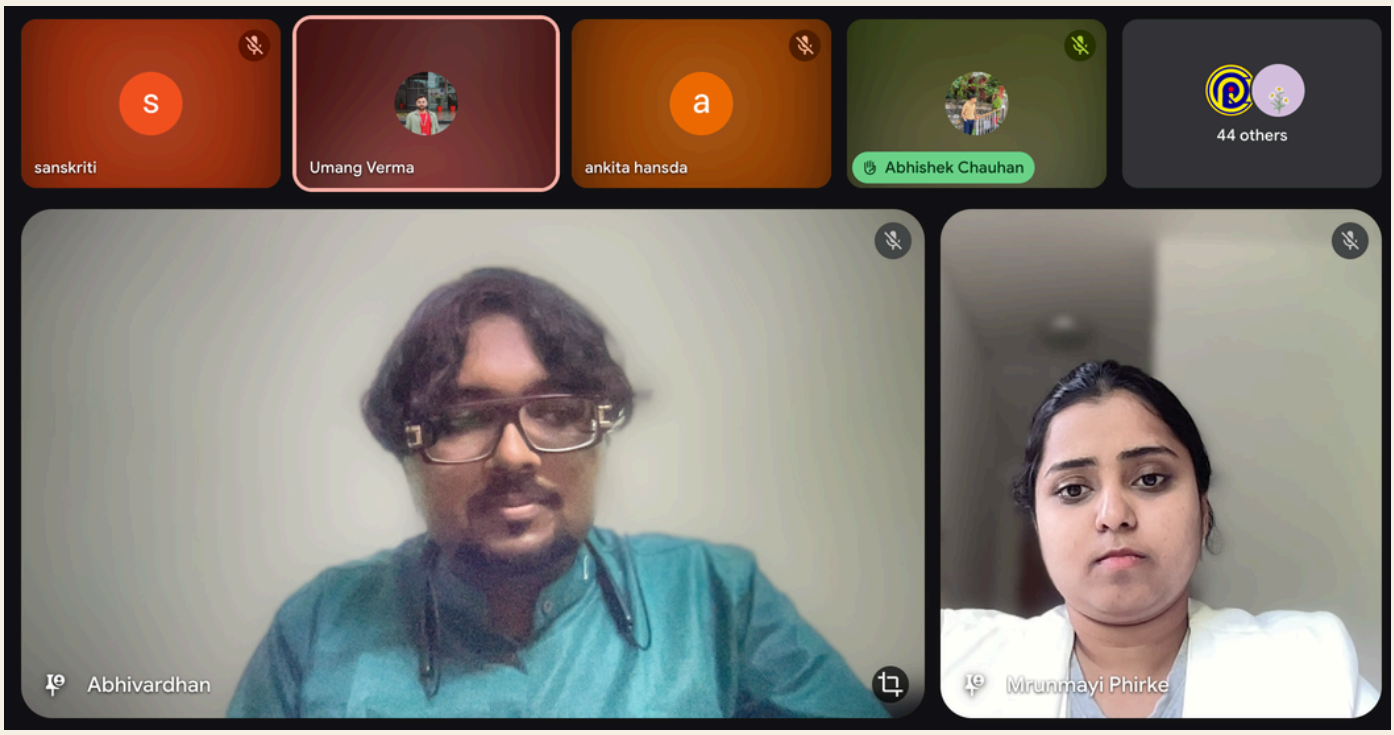


PART 1: CASE STUDIES ON TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

Case Study 2: How has our Grounded Advisory Approach Evolved in 2025-26

Why Our Advisory Is Grounded

- **Centre for Development of Intellectual Property and Research (CDIPR / Naovina Foundation)**: Engaged for a capacity-building briefing on AI Ethics during the 2026 AI Policy Fellowship, we bypassed the standard curriculum of speculative ethical frameworks to map human rights enforcement directly onto architectural and compute realities.
    - **We reoriented the cohort's baseline by translating abstract governance risks into quantifiable infrastructural deficits**. Our Founder established the financial penalty of the "Tokenization Tax"—where Indic scripts incur a 4 to 5 times API cost overhead. Through this insight, we demonstrated **how reliance on Western-centric foundational models inherently distorts digital sovereignty and public-sector economics**.



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- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) Research Colloquium 2025**: Our Founder was invited by the PhD researchers of Kasturba Medical College and the Directorate of Research to keynote on AI ethics.
    - We anchored the institutional mandate for research integrity in the formal release of the **Indo-Pacific Research Ethics Framework on Artificial Intelligence Use (IPac-AI). Bypassing theoretical ethics, the intervention established a strict, four-part legal classification matrix that categorizes AI tools by concept-based rights, technical architecture, commercial delivery models, and risk profiles**.
    - **To neutralize systemic "AI Framework Fatigue," the guidance deployed hard operational protocols for workflow accountability, mandating the precise documentation of data provenance, third-party vendor vetting, and manual verification checkpoints.**
    - This empirical baseline **equipped scholars to actively red-team their interdisciplinary research operations and insulate their analytical pipelines** against market hype and unverified AI use and involvement.

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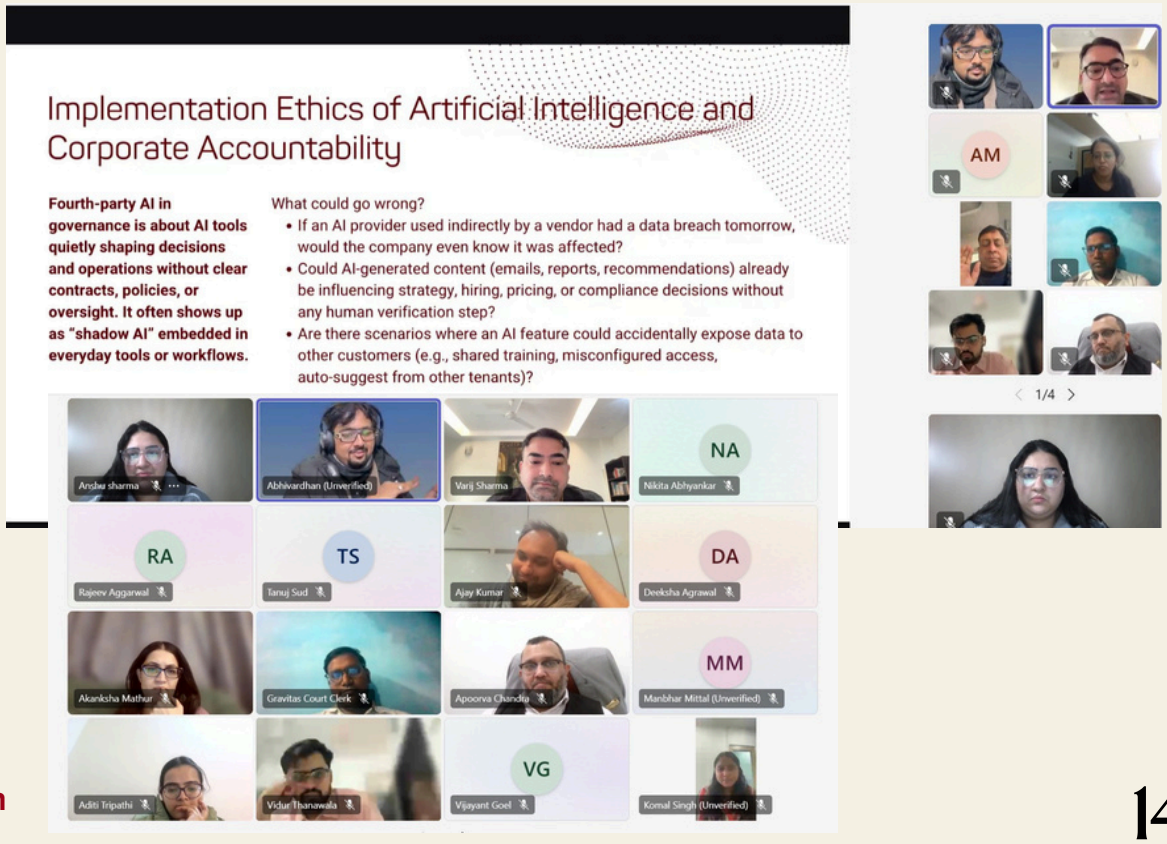
Why Our Advisory Is Grounded

- **Gravitas Legal**: For a capacity-building engagement with multi-sectoral legal teams across Mumbai and Delhi, our Founder anchored the integration of LegalTech strictly in empirical utility and pipeline architecture.
    - We executed a rigorous stress-test of commercial platforms—including Claude Sonnet, Gemini Flash, LITT, WebNyay, Clauseo.chat, and the aiact.in regulatory tracker—requiring practitioners to evaluate algorithmic outputs across high-liability transactional verticals, specifically property law, bankruptcy, BFSI regulation, and intellectual property.
    - **The session established a concrete feedback loop for contract lifecycle management (CLM) and legal articulation, equipping the firm with an actionable methodology to map AI use risks directly onto core law firm workflows.**



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Why Our Advisory Is Grounded

- **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University (RMLNLU):** Addressing a cohort of future legal practitioners at the Youth Dialogue on AI in **December 2025**, our Founder intercepted the academic tendency to treat AI regulation as a speculative thought experiment, anchoring their understanding of entrepreneurship strictly in structural market realities, in a 1-hour session.
    - **By dissecting "AI Accelerationism" as a commercial ideology that recklessly scales unverified "research previews" into consumer deliverables**, we demonstrated how market **FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) and FOBR (Fear of Being Replaced)** actively affect regulatory capacity and **distort the tendency to co-opt and develop intellectual property and startup development strategies for new AI startup founders**.
    - The intervention stripped away sci-fi distractions, **equipping the students with a hard operational directive for future tech advisory, i.e., to evaluate technological claims through the rigid lens of proprietary data loops, algorithmic infrastructure, and consumer law compliance** rather than succumbing to the volatility of LLM hype cycles.

APPENDIX

Statistics related to Publications on IndoPacific.App as of July 28, 2026

200+

Number of Original Authors registered in the archive (the archive was formed in 2023)

430 approx.

Total Live Contributions (Standalone + Chapters)

433 approx.

Total number of times authors have been attributed as "authors" or "contributors" in our archives (Number of Individual Authorship Credits)

~69.2%

of the Knowledge Base on IndoPacific.App consists of Technology Law and AI Ethics & Governance Publications, mostly authored, contributed to by or developed by Indian stakeholders.

~43.7%

How much of it is published by Indic Pacific?

(Why do we ask: The IndoPacific.App is a digital archive jointly administered by Indic Pacific & the Indian Society of Artificial Intelligence and Law)

Statistics related to the Indic Pacific Glossary as of July 28, 2026

120

as of November 2025

Distinct, high-impact definitions spanning the A-Z spectrum

44

of these technical terms stood up to heavy AI stress-testing from 2024 through 2026

1,526

documented cross-reference links embedded across the dataset of these technical terms

If you look up one average technical term in this dictionary, it immediately points you to **15** other technical, legal, or financial concepts and technical terms

Some high-liability concepts in the Glossary feature up to **56** cross-references

APPENDIX

Statistics related to the Indic Pacific Glossary as of July 28, 2026

Exact word occurrences across the raw entry text illustrate the dictionary's focus:

Keyword / Concept	Direct Text Occurrences	Focus Area
AI / Algorithms / Models	263	System capabilities & technical behavior
Data	85	Provenance, training sets & privacy mechanics
Law / Legal / Rules	76	Liability, compliance & statutory interpretation
International / Geopolitics	41	Cross-border trade, sovereignty & global standards
Economic / Market / Cost	30	Token economics, compute costs & enterprise viability
Compute / Ethics / Risk	37	Operational bottlenecks, red-teaming & system failure modes

32.3% unique vocabulary ratio (demonstrating dense, non-repetitive technical prose rather than generic marketing text).

APPENDIX

Statistics related to AIACT.IN as of July 28, 2026

59% **of the regulatory documents classified in the AIACT.IN India AI Regulation Tracker are categorized as "Legally binding instruments enforceable before courts."**

26 **of the regulatory documents classified in the AIACT.IN India AI Regulation Tracker are distinct court precedents, which overwhelmingly focused on personality rights, deepfakes, and unauthorized AI use**

26 **of the regulatory documents classified in the AIACT.IN India AI Regulation Tracker are distinct court precedents, which overwhelmingly focused on personality rights, deepfakes, and unauthorized AI use**

Across all 64 documents, the database maintains 529 **hard-coded relational links with Indic Pacific's larger AI policy database**

On average, every single law, court precedent, or circular is connected to. 8.27 **other data nodes in the Indic Pacific AI Policy database / ecosystem**

Even the single least-connected document in the system still holds 3 **direct links to surrounding legal context**

What does it speak about India's largest India-specific AI policy database, under the Indic Pacific ecosystem?

It proves that while the rest of the market remains politely bogged down in theoretical ethics manifestos, **Indic Pacific has quietly built the region's most empirical operational radar for AI governance.**

By weaving 64 live Indian regulatory instruments and 120 standardized architectural terms into a unified graph of over 2,000 hard-coded relational links, we have converted regulatory ambiguity into pure signal.

Do you need our help? Please contact us at **research@indicpacific.com.**

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