

Bhasha Bandhu Hackathon: A Revolutionary Step Toward Bridging Language Barriers in India's Judiciary

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Under the aegis of the **National Language Technology Mission (NLTM)**, the Bhasha Bandhu Hackathon has emerged as a beacon of innovation and inclusivity, addressing India's linguistic challenges in its legal framework. Hosted at the **Global Skills Park Auditorium** in Bhopal, this transformative event marked a significant milestone in leveraging AI-driven solutions to make justice accessible to all, irrespective of language or location.



(L-R) Mr. Amul Kumar, Mr. Balendu Sharma, Mr. Girish Sharma, Mr. Raghuraj Rajendran & Mr. Amitabh Nag at Bhasha Bandhu launch, Bhopal

A [Collaborative Vision Launched](#) by Bhashini in collaboration with Microsoft, presented by ID8NXT, and powered by ID8DEVHUB, the hackathon embodies a collective commitment to inclusivity through technological advancements. It aims to dismantle language barriers in [Indias](#) judiciary, creating a future where justice is not only delayed but also made seamless through AI and natural language processing (NLP).

The [event followed a two-phase launch-an online soft launch](#) on January 23, 2025, which drew over **1,347 viewers**, and an in-person physical launch on January 24, 2025, with over **500 registered participants**. From technologists and legal experts to policymakers and academic innovators, the hackathon united a vibrant community driven by the shared mission of transforming [Indias](#) judicial landscape.

Powerful Opening Addresses

Shri Amitabh Nag, CEO of the Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD), delivered an inspiring keynote at the soft launch, emphasizing the pressing [need to bridge language barriers in legal systems](#).

“Justice should be universal, transcending linguistic and regional divides. The Bhasha Bandhu Hackathon provides a platform for [innovation that will redefine accessibility and inclusivity](#) in our judiciary,” said **Shri Amitabh Nag**.

Anand Raman, Partner Director for Microsoft AI Platforms, echoed this sentiment, urging participants to focus on user-centric solutions:

“Build with empathy, simplicity, and scalability in mind. Let your solutions be the bridge between citizens and justice,” he said, highlighting Microsoft’s commitment to leveraging cutting-edge AI to serve [diverse linguistic](#) communities.

Key Highlights

Inaugural Lamp-Lighting Ceremony The physical launch began with a ceremonial lamp-lighting by dignitaries, symbolizing hope and enlightenment. This was followed by a group photograph capturing the unity and enthusiasm that would define the events spirit.

Showcasing AI for Justice The hackathon featured live demonstrations of Bhashini and Microsoft’s AI-powered tools, including machine translation, speech recognition, and text-to-speech [technologies](#). These tools are designed to enable seamless multilingual interactions, empowering participants to develop pioneering [solutions for India’s](#) judiciary.

Amul Kumar, representing Microsoft, conducted an engaging session on the practical applications of AI in bridging linguistic gaps, offering insights into the transformative potential of these [technologies](#).

Innovative Problem Statements for Real-World Impact
Participants were challenged to [address](#) four key areas of need:

- **Mediation Awareness:** Developing gamified apps to promote mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- **Simplified Legal Filings:** Innovating speech-to-text tools to simplify legal form submissions in regional languages.
- **Legal Literacy Ecosystem:** Building multilingual platforms to [educate](#) citizens about their rights and legal processes.
- **Rural Outreach:** [Expanding access to digital legal platforms for rural](#) and underserved communities.

The event was hosted by **Stanford Dsouza and Sarthak Jain from ID8NXT**, leading interactive sessions to spark innovative thinking among participants. The collaborative spirit was palpable as developers, legal experts, and policymakers came together to co-create solutions that will [redefine India's](#) legal landscape.

Attul Sreenath, CEO of ID8NXT, added, *"The Bhasha Bandhu Hackathon is not just about technology; it's about transforming lives by ensuring justice speaks in every language. Together, we are helping shape a new [era for India's](#) judiciary."*

A historic moment and a milestone

"Participating in the Bhasha Bandhu Hackathon is a unique opportunity to not only innovate but also contribute to a cause that will [shape the future](#) of India's judiciary. I encourage all participants to push the boundaries of technology and come out as champions, creating solutions that

will truly make justice accessible to everyone,” **Raghuraj Rajendran, Secretary, [Technical Education](#), Skill Development, and Employment, Government of Madhya Pradesh.**

The Bhasha Bandhu Hackathon is more than an event; it is a movement to democratize access to justice. The solutions developed during this initiative will have a far-reaching impact, addressing linguistic and digital divides that hinder legal access for millions of Indians.

With over 1,000 AI-trained language models and tools provided by Bhashini and Microsoft, participants are [empowered to create prototypes that enable real-time](#) translations, legal literacy platforms, and voice-to-text aids.

“Bhashini’s efforts are contributing towards an AI powered and empowered Bharat where AI is accessible to every voice in every [language,](#)” said a representative from Microsoft in his address.

As the hackathon progresses toward its March 2025 goal of 10,000+ registrations, 1,000+ submissions, and 100+ prototypes, it is set to redefine legal accessibility for generations to come.

For more details and updates, visit www.bhashabandhu.com.

