

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.

