

INDIA'S AI MOMENT

India stands at a defining moment in its digital journey. As artificial intelligence reshapes governance, business, and everyday life, the question is no longer whether India will adopt AI-but whether it will build AI on its own terms. The rise of Sarvam AI signals a decisive step toward technological sovereignty, linguistic inclusion, and public-centric innovation.

For a country as diverse as India, imported AI models trained largely on Western datasets cannot fully address local realities. India's digital future demands systems rooted in its languages, governance structures, and socio-economic contexts. This is where Sarvam AI's vision aligns closely with national aspirations. By building foundational AI models within India-trained on Indian languages and deployed on indigenous infrastructure-the company is advancing the country's goal of digital self-reliance.

Under the IndiaAI Mission, Sarvam AI is among the select organizations entrusted with developing indigenous large language and speech models. This move is not merely about technological advancement; it is about strategic autonomy. In an era where AI influences national security, public policy, and economic competitiveness, dependence on foreign AI systems poses both operational and geopolitical risks. Indigenous AI models ensure that India retains control over its data, governance standards, and innovation roadmap.

What sets Sarvam AI apart is its full-stack sovereign ecosystem. From compute infrastructure to foundational models and enterprise applications, the entire AI stack is developed and governed within India. Its models-such as Bulbul for text-to-speech, Saaras for speech-to-text, and Vision for document understanding-are tailored to India's 22 scheduled languages, dialect diversity, and even code-mixed speech. This multilingual capacity is not a cosmetic feature; it is a democratic imperative. True digital inclusion can only be achieved when citizens can access services in their own languages.

The company's enterprise platforms further demonstrate how AI can serve as a force multiplier. Sarvam for Conversations handles millions of culturally fluent interactions with minimal latency. Sarvam for Work integrates AI into enterprise workflows. Its content solutions enable multilingual dubbing and translation while preserving tone and context. Edge Intelligence solutions bring real-time AI capabilities to on-device environments, making advanced tools accessible even in bandwidth-constrained regions. Together, these capabilities form the backbone of scalable, population-level digital infrastructure.

Strategic collaborations reinforce this momentum. Partnerships with institutions such as the Unique Identification Authority of India aim to enhance Aadhaar services through AI-powered voice interfaces and fraud detection systems. State-level collaborations in Odisha and Tamil Nadu are laying the groundwork for sovereign AI compute hubs and research parks. These initiatives reflect a larger truth: AI becomes transformative only when embedded into public systems at scale. The broader significance of Sarvam AI lies in its alignment with the vision of a "Viksit Bharat." Technology, when domestically built and responsibly deployed, becomes a tool of empowerment rather than dependency. By strengthening the open-source ecosystem and enabling startups, researchers, and public institutions, Sarvam AI is nurturing an innovation culture that extends beyond corporate boundaries.

India's AI journey must be inclusive, secure, and globally competitive. Sarvam AI embodies this aspiration-demonstrating that world-class AI can be designed in India, for India, and ultimately, for the world.

1994 Sankalp: India's Unfinished National Commitment

■ PROF. VIRENDER KOUNDAL

In February 1994, at a time of intense militancy and cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Parliament of India passed a historic and unanimous resolution. This resolution clearly declared that the entire territory of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. It also affirmed that Pakistan must vacate the areas of the state under its illegal occupation. The resolution reflected not just a political statement, but a national commitment. It represented the collective will of the people of India as expressed through their elected representatives. More than three decades have passed since that resolution, yet its spirit and objective remain deeply relevant.

After independence in 1947, due to invasion and war, a large part of Jammu and Kashmir more than 1.21 lakh square kilometres came under illegal occupation. This includes areas under Pakistan's control, often referred to as Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), and areas under China's control, including Aksai Chin and territories ceded illegally by Pakistan to China in 1963. These lands were part of the princely state that legally acceded to India through the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh on 26 October 1947. This accession was accepted by the Government of India and was complete and final under international law. Therefore, the Parliament's 1994 resolution (Sankalp) reaffirmed a historical and legal truth.

The need for the 1994 resolution (Sankalp) arose from the circumstances of the early 1990s. Jammu and Kashmir was witnessing severe terrorism supported from across the border. There were attempts to question India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In such a situation, the Parliament stood united. All political parties, cutting across ideological lines, passed the resolution unanimously. It was a rare and powerful moment of national unity. The resolution sent a strong message to the world that on matters of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, India speaks with one voice. Since 1994, several steps have been taken to strengthen India's position on Jammu and Kashmir. Diplomatically, India has consistently maintained that the entire territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that Pakistan is in illegal

occupation of certain areas. India has also emphasized that any dialogue with Pakistan must include the issue of vacating these illegally occupied territories.

In 2019, the Government of India took a major constitutional step by abrogating Article 370 and reorganizing the state into two Union Territories-Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. This decision was projected as a measure to fully integrate the region with the rest of India and to ensure uniform application of the Constitution. The move was supported by Parliament and was presented as part of a long-term national strategy for stability, development, and integration. Infrastructure development, increased investment, grassroots democracy through Panchayat and local body elections, and welfare schemes have been implemented with renewed focus. However, while internal integration and development are important, the larger issue raised in the 1994 resolution remains incomplete. The resolution clearly stated that Pakistan must vacate the areas under its occupation. This objective cannot be achieved merely through government action; it requires sustained national will and clarity of purpose. History teaches us that great national goals are achieved when governments and citizens together take a firm and collective resolve.

In Indian tradition, the idea of "Sankalp" carries deep meaning. A sankalp is not just a wish; it is a solemn vow taken with full dedication and moral strength. When Shri Ram took the sankalp to rescue Sita and defeat injustice, he did so despite immense obstacles. His resolve united people across regions and backgrounds. When Bhisma took his great vow, he stood by it throughout his life with discipline and sacrifice. Chanakya took a sankalp to build a strong and united Bharat after witnessing foreign invasions and internal weakness. Through strategy, patience, and determination, he helped establish a powerful empire under Chandragupta Maurya. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj took a sankalp to establish self-rule and protect the dignity of his people. His commitment inspired generations and changed the course of history. These examples show that national transformation begins with clarity of purpose and moral courage. The 1994 Parliamentary Resolution can also be seen as a national sankalp. But a resolution

on paper must be supported by living commitment in society. The question today is: how do we transform this resolution into a people's movement rooted in awareness, unity, and determination?

There are global examples that show how national will can shape history. Israel, since its establishment, has shown unwavering commitment to its sovereignty and security. Despite wars, terrorism, and diplomatic pressures, it has maintained a clear national consensus on key security issues. Its citizens, government, and armed forces operate with a shared understanding of national interest. Germany, after World War II, was divided for decades. Yet the German people never lost hope for reunification. The Berlin Wall fell not only because of political changes but also because of sustained public aspiration and national will. The reunification of Germany in 1990 was the result of long-term determination and favorable international conditions, combined with readiness at home. These examples do not suggest that situations are identical, but they highlight one truth: when a nation keeps its long-term goals alive in public consciousness and policy, possibilities open over time. India too must remember its 1994 resolution not as a forgotten document, but as a living commitment.

What, then, is needed from the government? First, consistent diplomatic engagement at global forums to highlight the issue of illegal occupation and human rights violations in those areas. The voices of people living in those territories should be heard internationally. Second, continued strengthening of border infrastructure, national security, and technological capabilities. A strong and secure India commands respect. Third, economic growth and internal stability are essential. A prosperous and united India will have greater global influence and negotiating power. Fourth, research, documentation, and academic engagement on the history and legal status of Jammu and Kashmir must be encouraged so that facts are clearly understood by the younger generation. The government must also ensure inclusive development in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh so that these regions become models of peace and progress. When these regions flourish economically and socially, it sends a powerful message. Good governance, transpar-

ent institutions, employment opportunities, tourism development, and cultural preservation are all part of strengthening national integration.

However, government efforts alone are not enough. Citizens too have a vital role. First and foremost, awareness is important. Many young Indians may not fully know the historical and legal background of Jammu and Kashmir or the content of the 1994 resolution. Educational institutions, media, and civil society can play a role in spreading balanced and factual information. Awareness should not create hatred; it should create clarity and responsibility. Second, national unity must be preserved. On issues of territorial integrity, divisions based on party politics, region, or community weaken the national voice. The 1994 resolution was passed unanimously. That spirit of unity should be maintained. Citizens should support constructive dialogue, avoid misinformation, and promote peace and stability. Third, economic contribution is also part of national strength. When citizens pay taxes honestly, follow the law, and contribute to economic growth, they strengthen the nation's capacity. A strong economy supports strong diplomacy and defense. Fourth, respect and support for the armed forces and security personnel are essential. They safeguard the nation's borders and endure harsh conditions. Moral support from society strengthens their spirit. Fifth, intellectual engagement is necessary. Scholars, writers, journalists, and policy experts can research and write about the issue with responsibility and depth. International law, geopolitics, regional development, and human rights dimensions need careful study. In a globalized world, narratives matter. India's position should be articulated clearly and calmly in global academic and diplomatic circles.

Turning the 1994 resolution into a mass movement does not mean aggressive slogans or hostility. It means a disciplined, patient, and long-term national commitment. Just as Shri Ram's sankalp was rooted in dharma and justice, India's commitment must be rooted in legality, peace, and fairness. Just as Chanakya used strategy and wisdom rather than mere emotion, India must combine resolve with diplomacy and development. Just as Shivaji Maharaj built institu-

tions and inspired people at the grassroots, India must build strong institutions and inspire citizens.

In today's world, conflicts are complex. Military action alone cannot resolve territorial disputes. International relations involve law, diplomacy, economic interdependence, and public opinion. Therefore, India's approach must be comprehensive. The 1994 resolution provides the moral and political foundation. The path forward requires patience, unity, and strength. It is also important to remember that people living in areas under illegal occupation are part of the larger historical and cultural fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. Any future resolution must ensure peace, dignity, and development for all. The objective is not land alone; it is justice, stability, and the welfare of people. A responsible nation thinks not only of territory but also of human lives.

As India moves forward as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and an important global voice, its confidence is rising. The coming decades may present new diplomatic opportunities and strategic shifts. In such times, clarity of national purpose is essential. The 1994 Parliamentary Resolution should remain part of public discourse, policy thinking, and national education. Now it is our turn. A generation has grown up after 1994. Many may not remember that unanimous moment in Parliament when India declared with one voice that the entire territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the nation. Remembering that resolution is not about revisiting the past with anger; it is about carrying forward a lawful and constitutional commitment with confidence and unity.

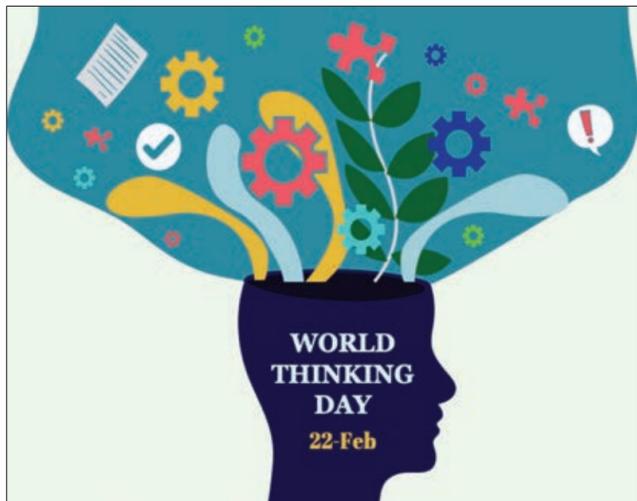
Let us take inspiration from the great sankalps of our civilization. Let us learn from nations that stood firm in pursuit of their legitimate goals. Let us build a strong, united, prosperous India. Let government and citizens together renew the spirit of the 1994 resolution in haste, not in hostility, but in steady and disciplined determination. History shows that when a nation remains united in its resolve, time often works in its favour. The 1994 Parliamentary Resolution is more than a statement; it is a reminder of our collective responsibility. With clarity, courage, and commitment, India can keep this sankalp alive and work patiently towards its realization.

Think Global, Act Now - World Thinking Day

■ DR. VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

World Thinking Day, celebrated annually on February 22, is a significant occasion for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide, fostering global awareness, community service, and environmental stewardship among young people. This special day was first observed in 1926, when delegates from various countries gathered at the 4th World Conference in New York and decided to dedicate a day to thinking about and appreciating the global spread of these movements. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is now 10 million strong across 150

countries, with a movement that started with a handful of dynamic, outspoken girls attending a Boy Scout rally and carving out a space for girls. The date, February 22, marks the shared birthday of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout movement, and his wife Lady Olave Baden-Powell, who became a leading figure in the movement. Initially called "Thinking Day," it was later renamed "World Thinking Day" in 1999 to emphasize its global nature. This day serves as a platform for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to think about their "sisters" and "brothers" worldwide, fostering international friendship, cultural exchange, and awareness of global issues. Participants focus on urgent concerns like poverty, gender inequality, environmental sustainability, and access to education, developing vital life skills like teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and decision-making. The day also raises funds for projects supporting girls' education, health, and well-being worldwide. As Kobe Bryant rightly quoted, "The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do." The tremendous efforts and hard work put forth by girl scouts and girl guides around the world make World Thinking Day a widely celebrated event.



agents of change and leaders in their communities. With the right support and opportunities, these young women can make a significant impact on the world, creating a brighter future for themselves and generations to come. The importance of girls' education cannot be overstated. It is a key factor in reducing poverty and inequality, improving health and well-being, and increasing economic growth and development. Educated girls are more likely to become leaders in their communities, making informed decisions that benefit themselves and those around them. They are also more likely to educate their own children, creating a positive cycle of empowerment and progress. As the world continues to evolve, it is essential that girls and women have access to quality education and opportunities to develop their skills and voices. World Thinking Day is a reminder of the power of collective action and the importance of working together towards a common goal. It is a day to celebrate the achievements of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide and to recognize the impact they have on their communities. As we move forward, let us continue to support and empower young women, providing them with the tools and resources they need to succeed. By doing so, we can create a brighter future for all, one that is built on the principles of peace, justice, and equality.

but providing a safe environment in classrooms and society, allowing them to choose subjects and careers, including those where they are underrepresented, like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This empowers marginalized women, helping them build better futures for themselves and their families. Investing in girls' education transforms a country from a common nation to a prosperous one, reducing crime rates as educated girls become the first teachers for kids. As Zig Ziglar quotes, "Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will." World Thinking Day is observed in over 150 countries, with millions participating, promoting unity, solidarity, and collective action among young women worldwide.

The movement has a strong focus on promoting peace, justice, and equality, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts participate in various activities, including cultural exchange programs, community service projects, and environmental initiatives. The day is a powerful celebration of global sisterhood, empowering young women to become agents of change and leaders in their communities. In conclusion, World Thinking Day is a significant event that promotes global awareness, education, and empowerment among young women. It is a day to think about the world's most pressing issues and work towards creating a better future for all. As the world celebrates World Thinking Day, let's recognize the power of girls' education and empowerment, inspiring young women to become agents of change and leaders in their communities. With the right support and opportunities, these young women can make a significant impact on the world, creating a brighter future for themselves and generations to come.

The importance of girls' education cannot be overstated. It is a key factor in reducing poverty and inequality, improving health and well-being, and increasing economic growth and development. Educated girls are more likely to become leaders in their communities, making informed decisions that benefit themselves and those around them. They are also more likely to educate their own children, creating a positive cycle of empowerment and progress. As the world continues to evolve, it is essential that girls and women have access to quality education and opportunities to develop their skills and voices. World Thinking Day is a reminder of the power of collective action and the importance of working together towards a common goal. It is a day to celebrate the achievements of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide and to recognize the impact they have on their communities. As we move forward, let us continue to support and empower young women, providing them with the tools and resources they need to succeed. By doing so, we can create a brighter future for all, one that is built on the principles of peace, justice, and equality.

World Thinking Day is a reminder of the power of collective action and the importance of working together towards a common goal. It is a day to celebrate the achievements of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide and to recognize the impact they have on their communities. As we move forward, let us continue to support and empower young women, providing them with the tools and resources they need to succeed. By doing so, we can create a brighter future for all, one that is built on the principles of peace, justice, and equality.

Mansar Lake: The Pride of Jammu's Heritage and Natural Beauty



■ BHARTI SHARMA

In the peaceful green hills of the Shivalik range lies Mansar Lake, one of the most beautiful and sacred places of the Duggar region. It is located in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, around 62 kilometers from Jammu city and about 19 kilometers from Samba town. It is widely known for its natural beauty, religious faith and historical importance. Mansar Lake is one of the most visited tourist destinations in the region.

Mansar Lake is deeply connected with the ancient Indian epic, the Mahabharata. According to local tradition, after the great Kurukshetra war, the warrior Arjuna performed the Ashwamedha Yagna. During this ritual, the sacrificial horse entered the region ruled by his son Babruvahana. A battle took place between father and son because Babruvahana did not know Arjuna was his father. In the fight, Arjuna was killed.

When Babruvahana came to know the truth, he felt very sad. To bring his father back to life, he went to the underworld (Patal Lok) to obtain a magical jewel from the serpent king Sheshnag. It is believed that he shot a powerful arrow into the earth to create a tunnel to the underworld. The entrance of this tunnel later became known as Surinsar Lake. After defeating Sheshnag and receiving the divine jewel,

Babruvahana returned to the surface at another place, where the earth split and water emerged, forming Mansar Lake. Because of this sacred story, the lake is often called the "Mansarovar of the Duggar region."

Mansar Lake has been a center of faith for many generations. On the eastern side of the lake stands the Sheshnag Temple, where devotees offer milk and prayers to the serpent god. Other temples such as Durga Temple and Umapati Mahadev Temple are also located around the lake.

Many newly married couples visit the lake to perform parikrama (walking around the lake) to pray for a happy married life. Families also perform the Mundan ceremony (first haircut of a child) here as a sacred tradition. These customs show the deep spiritual importance of the lake for local communities.

Mansar Lake is oval in shape and surrounded by green hills and forests. A well-maintained walking path circles the lake, allowing visitors to enjoy peaceful morning and evening walks. The calm water beautifully reflects the sky and trees, creating a soothing view.

The lake is mainly fed by rainwater and underground springs. In November 2005, Mansar Lake and Surinsar Lake were declared Ramsar Sites, recognizing them as wetlands of international impor-

ance. The lake is part of the Mansar-Surinsar Wildlife Sanctuary.

The sanctuary is home to animals such as spotted deer, nilgai and monkeys, along with many bird species. The lake is especially known for its large tortoises and different kinds of fish. Migratory birds also visit the lake in certain seasons, attracting nature lovers and bird watchers.

Mansar Lake is a popular picnic and tourist spot. Boating is one of the main attractions, with paddle and row boats available throughout the day. Feeding fish is a favorite activity among visitors, especially children.

The lake becomes lively during the Baisakhi festival in April, when a large fair is organized featuring cultural programs, traditional music, local food and handicrafts. Food and Craft Melas held in October or November promote Dogra culture and famous local products like Kalari cheese.

Mansar Lake is not just a lake, it is a symbol of Jammu's history, faith, culture and natural beauty. Its connection with the Mahabharata, its temples and rituals, its wildlife and its peaceful surroundings make it one of the most special places in Jammu and Kashmir. A visit to Mansar Lake fills the heart with peace and pride in our rich heritage. It truly stands as a shining jewel of the Duggar region.