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JULY-AUGUST 2026 • VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 05 • ₹150



ET Edge

27th Annual Conference

CIO&LEADER

The Agentic Enterprise

PLATFORMS. PEOPLE. POLICY. PROFITS.

THE AGENTIC ENTERPRISE

Over 250 CIOs and distinguished voices from technology, business, sport, AI, space and cinema came together in Jaipur to explore leadership, innovation and the future of the Agentic Enterprise. PG. 06



PROF. TOBY WALSH

Chief Scientist
UNSW AI Institute

HARISH BHAT

Former Brand Custodian,
Tata Sons & Bestselling
Author

DR. MURTHY REMILLA

Former Head, Project
Management, Human
Spaceflight Group, URSC, ISRO

JIM SARBH

Indian Film and
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30 JULY 02 AUGUST 2026

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The **27th Annual CIO&Leader Conference** brought together India's top CIOs & IT leaders for four unforgettable days of bold conversations, transformative ideas and meaningful connections.

218+ CIOs & IT Leaders | 4 Days of Experience

From **Platforms. People. Policy. Profits.** to the possibilities of the **Agentic Enterprise**, the conversations have only just begun.

**To every CIO, IT Leader, speaker and partner —
Thank you for being part of the journey.**

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Data, not models alone, will determine enterprise AI success

The most important conversation at this year's 27th ET Edge CIO&Leader Annual Conference was not about which AI model is the most powerful. It was about whether enterprises have the data, infrastructure, governance and trust needed to make AI truly work at scale.

That question ran through the conversations, debates and experiences shared by more than 250 CIOs, technology leaders, global AI experts and business executives who gathered in Jaipur for our flagship annual edition, themed "The Agentic Enterprise."

The conference came at an important inflection point. Enterprise AI is moving rapidly beyond experimentation, copilots and isolated use cases. Organisations are now asking a harder question: how do we build AI systems that can act autonomously while remaining secure, governed, trusted and firmly connected to business outcomes?

One message stood out clearly: the next phase of enterprise AI will be determined by much more than the quality of the model. The real competitive advantage will come from the quality, availability and governance of enterprise data, coupled with secure infrastructure and the ability to build trusted systems around it.

Across the two days, technology leaders shared practical experiences of deploying AI, scaling use cases and navigating the opportunities and risks that come with increasingly autonomous systems. The conversations moved from the excitement around what AI can do to the more consequential questions of what enterprises should do, and how they can do it responsibly.

For me, this 27th edition was special on two counts. It was our first Annual Conference following our transition to the Times brand, and it took place in Jaipur, a city close to my heart and, perhaps one day, home to my second home.

I am deeply grateful to each one of you who joined us and helped make this edition truly special.

The central takeaway is clear: the era of AI experimentation is giving way to an era of enterprise execution. Success in the Agentic era will not be measured by the number of pilots launched, but by the ability to build trusted, intelligent and resilient enterprises where data, technology, people and policy come together to create sustained business value.

This issue captures the highlights, conversations and insights from the conference. The journey has only begun.

I look forward to continuing this conversation with you. ■

"Thank you for being part of the 27th ET Edge CIO&Leader Annual Conference and for helping us make it yet another memorable and successful edition."



Jatinder Singh

Chief Editor,
Enterprise Tech Publications
ET Edge-The Times Group
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COVER STORY

06-53

27th CIO&Leader Annual Conference The Agentic Enterprise

Over 250 CIOs and distinguished voices from technology, business, sport, AI, space and cinema came together in Jaipur to explore leadership, innovation and the future of the Agentic Enterprise.



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OFFICE ADDRESS 9.9 GROUP PVT. LTD.

(Formerly known as Nine Dot Nine Mediaworx Pvt. Ltd.)
 121, Patparganj, Mayur Vihar, Phase - I
 Near Mandir Masjid, Delhi-110091
 Published, Printed and Owned by 9.9 Group Pvt. Ltd.
 (Formerly known as Nine Dot Nine Mediaworx Pvt. Ltd.)
 Published and printed on their behalf by
 Vikas Gupta. Published at 121, Patparganj,
 Mayur Vihar, Phase - I, Near Mandir Masjid, Delhi-110091,
 India. Printed at G. H. Prints Private Limited, A-256 Okhla
 Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi - 110020.

Editor: **Vikas Gupta**



AI SURVEY

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India's AI Execution Gap
 Is Growing: ET Edge
 CIO&Leader Annual Survey



INSIGHT

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Prophaze Steps Up
 Cybersecurity Push as AI
 Reshapes the Threat...



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When AI starts
 manipulating trust:
 A risk for Indian
 organizations

India's AI Execution Gap Is Growing: ET Edge CIO&Leader Annual Survey



New study reveals 60% of organizations remain stalled in pilot phases, highlighting critical deficits in governance, data readiness, and ROI tracking despite surging investments.

By **CIO&Leader** | editor.tech@timesgroup.com

Indian enterprises are moving decisively into the next phase of AI, but the journey from experimentation to execution remains uneven. This is among the key findings of the ET Edge CIO&Leader Research annual flagship

report, State of AI in Indian Enterprises 2026: Benchmarking AI Adoption, GenAI Production Reality, Governance Maturity, and the Agentic Enterprise themed "The Agentic Enterprise," the benchmark study surveyed over 300 top Indian

technology executives across 18 distinct industries before an audience of more than 250 attending CIOs, CTOs, and business leaders.

The research highlights a sharp divide between strategic ambition and execution reality across the enterprise landscape. While 83% of business leaders cite productivity as their primary motivation for AI adoption, 60% of organizations remain stuck in proof-of-concept (PoC) pilots. Over half (52%) report that fewer than 1 in 4 pilots successfully transition into full production. Furthermore, a mere 12% of Indian enterprises report achieving significant, measurable ROI from their AI investments, while 57% acknowledge having unclear or non-existent ROI metrics.

Addressing the findings, R. Giridhar, Editorial Director, Technology at ET Edge, emphasized the urgent need for structured implementation:

"Enterprises in India are making massive strides in AI investments and piloting emerging tech like Agentic workflows, but enterprise investment without process discipline creates a bottleneck. As our research reveals, the shift from mere experimentation to genuine value creation requires closing the execution gap. Organizations must move away from retrospective ROI tracking and establish baseline success metrics, dedicated ownership, and solid data governance before embarking on AI pilots. Without this rigor, AI investments risk stalling at the proof-of-concept stage."

Key Findings from the Report

- **The DPDP Preparedness Gap:** While 81% of organizations identify data privacy as their top AI-related risk, only 19% report being fully prepared for Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) compliance in AI workflows—a massive 62 percentage-point gap.
- **Emergence of Agentic AI:**



64% of enterprises have moved beyond evaluation into active pilots or deployments of Agentic AI. IT Operations (66%), Customer Service (50%), and Cybersecurity Operations (48%) lead early deployments.

- **Human Oversight Dominance:** Despite accelerating Agentic AI adoption, 62% of organizations enforce active "human-in-the-loop" oversight for agent actions, compared to 38% permitting higher degrees of autonomy.
- **Shadow AI and Training Deficit:** 15% of enterprises offer no formal AI training to employees, contributing to widespread unsanctioned usage; 48% estimate that over 10% of their workforce actively utilizes Shadow AI tools.

Highlighting the operational risks associated with these gaps, Jatinder Singh, Chief Editor, Enterprise Tech Publications at ET Edge Insights, added:

"Data privacy and workforce readiness are the two defining pillars that will dictate enterprise AI success over the coming years. The 62-point readiness

gap in DPDP compliance is a critical wake-up call for Indian enterprises operating on frontier commercial models. Simultaneously, leaving employees without formal AI training directly fuels the rise of unmonitored Shadow AI. Leadership must proactively build governance frameworks, upskill teams, and mandate human oversight to ensure AI adoption is not only fast, but secure and sustainable."

To bridge this discipline gap, the report outlines Four Non-Deferrable Action Items for CIOs: closing the pilot gap via strict intake conditions, establishing discrete ROI infrastructure, enforcing DPDP compliance, and embedding strict agentic AI controls.

About the Study

The State of AI in Indian Enterprises 2026 report by CIO&Leader Research draws from detailed insights, metrics, and strategy sessions gathered across more than 320 C-level technology executives and CIOs representing across 18 distinct industries in India. ■

27TH CIO&LEADER ANNUAL CONFERENCE THE AGENTIC ENTERPRISE

31st July – 2nd August, Fairmont, Jaipur

Over 250 CIOs and distinguished voices from technology, business, sport, AI, space and cinema came together in Jaipur to explore leadership, innovation and the future of the Agentic Enterprise.

By **CIO&Leader** | editor.tech@timesgroup.com



Introduction

The 27th Annual CIO&Leader Conference, held at the Fairmont, Jaipur, brought together India's top technology leaders to explore how enterprises can lead the shift toward Agentic AI. Spread across four days under the theme "The Agentic Enterprise," the conference moved beyond conversations about AI adoption to a deeper examination of autonomy, governance, and the foundations organisations need to build before AI can act independently at scale.

With over 250 CIOs and 100 future CIOs in attendance, the event underscored its increasing significance and prestige as one of India's leading platforms for enterprise technology leadership. The agenda featured an impressive line-up of voices from both industry and academia. Prof. Toby Walsh, Laureate Fellow and Scientia Professor of AI at the University of Sydney, examined what happens when AI stops assisting and starts deciding. Rucha Nanavati, Chief – Farm Advanced Technologies at Mahindra & Mahindra, made the case that trusted, well-governed data is the true foundation of AI speed. Leaders from AMD, Birlasoft, KPMG, Tata Group, Air India, and ISRO, among many others, brought perspectives spanning infrastructure economics, governance, leadership, and real-world lessons from mission-critical systems, rounding out a programme that treated Agentic AI as both a technological and organisational challenge.

Beyond the keynotes and panels, the conference wove in a rich mix of cultural and engagement activities that gave delegates space to connect beyond formal sessions. A heritage tour by vintage car, wellness and yoga sessions, an Ideas Cafe for rapid-fire conversations, roundtable discussions over wine and cheese, a fireside chat with cricket legend Rahul Dravid, and musical performances by artists including Abhijeet Sawant added warmth to an otherwise packed agenda. The NEXT100 Awards and CIO Samman Ceremony further celebrated rising and established leaders in the community, reinforcing the conference's role as a space for both learning and recognition.

DAY 1: SETTING THE STAGE

Day Overview

The first full day focused on framing the enterprise

Agentic AI narrative — combining survey insights, keynote addresses from industry leaders, and early panel discussions on customer experience, infrastructure, and governance. It gave CIOs both research-backed knowledge and practical frameworks to think about autonomy at scale.

Welcome & Survey

- **Welcome Address** — Sunita Quadros, COO, ET Edge – The Times Group, opened the conference and framed the theme of the Agentic Enterprise for the days ahead.
- **State of Enterprise AI 2026 Survey** — Jatinder Singh, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader, presented findings on AI maturity, governance gaps, and enterprise adoption challenges.

Keynote Sessions

- **Customer Zero: AMD's Enterprise AI Journey** — Hasmukh Rajan, Senior Vice President & CIO, AMD used AMD's own transformation as a live case study, laying out the company's data. Hardware, agents, and token-economics strategy for scaling autonomous systems.
- **CIO Priorities in the Age of Autonomous Enterprises** — Vinod Sivarama Krishnan, Chief Information Officer, Birlasoft argued that CIOs now own AI accountability outright, and must dismantle the "pilot factory" in favour of governed, scaled deployment.
- **The Inference Economy** — Jollydeep Kaur, Head-Marketing, NxtGen Cloud Technologies reframed enterprise AI economics around inference rather than training, explaining why agentic workflows cause token consumption to grow exponentially.
- **Building Innovation on a Foundation of Connected Data** — Rucha Nanavati, Chief – Farm Advanced Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra made the case that AI transformation moves only as fast as the trust an organization has in its own data.

Interactive Networking

- **Ideas Cafe** — Delegates engaged in rapid-fire, table-hosted conversations with partners including NxtGen, AMD, Freshworks, Oracle, Commvault, Dynatrace, Delta Electronics, Workday, HPE, Autodesk, and others, exploring sectoral AI use cases.



→
**R. Giridhar, Editorial
Director, ET Edge,**
welcoming delegates to
the conference

Fireside Chat

■ The Relentless Pursuit of Excellence: Learnings from Business, Literature and the Arts

— Jim Sarbh, Indian film and stage actor, in conversation with Ratan Kesh, Executive Director & COO, Bandhan Bank, and Arijit Bonnerjee, Senior Vice President & Head – India Region, Tata Communications, moderated by Harish Bhat, drew parallels between artistic reinvention and enterprise resilience.

Partner Keynotes

- The Quest for Durable AI, Smrithi Menon, Vice President & Solutions Head – India, Tata Communications India — Menon made the case for durability over hype in enterprise AI deployments.
- AI and the Future of the Human Workforce, Ahmad Maredia, Principal Enterprise Architect, Workday — Maredia explored how AI is reshaping productivity and the employee experience.

Breakout Sessions

- **Trust in the Agentic Enterprise: AI, Fraud and the Future of Digital Trust**— Shuchi Mahajan, Senior VP & Head – Fraud Prevention, Analytics, Digital & Customer Awareness,

HDFC Bank examined how AI is reshaping fraud detection and digital trust, and what enterprises must do to stay ahead of increasingly sophisticated, AI-enabled threats.

Panel Discussion — AI at the Edge: Driving the Future of Intelligent Factories & Operations

- Moderator: Deepak Agarwal, Former Executive Director - IS, Indian Oil
- Panelists: Rohan Mahajan, Head – IT/BFSI, Data Center Segment, Delta Electronics India; Amit Shukla, CIO, FIAT Auto; Ravi Kumar, CDIO, Exide Industries; Dr. A. Shiju Rawther, Chief Information & Technology Officer, CareEdge Group; Vinod Khode, Group CIO, Varroc

The discussion explored how manufacturing and industrial enterprises are deploying AI at the edge to build intelligent, self-optimising factories and operations. Panelists shared perspectives on balancing automation, data readiness, and infrastructure investment as AI moves from centralised systems to real-time decision-making on the factory floor.

Inside Godrej's Agentic Enterprise: Agents for HR & IT

Satyavrat Mishra, Head – Corporate IT &

Group CISO, Godrej Industries Group shared how Godrej is deploying AI agents across HR and IT functions, offering a practical blueprint for embedding agentic AI into everyday enterprise operations.

From AI Experiments to Autonomous Enterprises: Lessons from Enterprise Transformation

Ramesh Narayanaswamy, Group President – Digital & Data Intelligence, Hinduja Group traced the Hinduja Group's journey from isolated AI experiments to enterprise-wide autonomous operations, highlighting the organisational shifts needed to make that leap.

Fireside Chat — Beyond the Hyperscaler: Building India's AI-Native Cloud

- Moderator: Ashwani Mishra, Consulting Editor, ET Edge
 - Sharad Sanghi, CEO, Neysa Network; Manik Kapoor, Director of Business Development, AMD; Ravi Kumar Pangal, CIO, IndusInd Bank.
- The panel debated India's ambitions for sovereign AI infrastructure, weighing the case for AI-native domestic cloud capacity against continued reliance on global hyperscalers.

Panel 1: Customer Experience in the Age of AI

- Moderator: Harish Bhat, Former Brand Custodian, Tata Sons & Bestselling Author
 - Panelists: Saurabh Lakhanpal, Account Director, Genesys; Dr. Shakti Goel, Chief Architect & Data Scientist, Yatra Online; Dipu KV, Senior President, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- The session explored how AI is closing the gaps in fragmented customer journeys — from orchestrating connected touchpoints, to anticipating customer needs before they're expressed, to accelerating claims processing at moments of crisis such as the Jammu & Kashmir floods.

DAY 1: WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES

Prototype to Production: Building AI Agenda at Speed

- Speakers: Pramod Rajagopal, Head of Solutions Engineering, Enterprise South Asia, Snowflake; and Abhishek Gupta, Corporate Head – IT, Dish TV India
 - Moderator: Sachin Mhashilkar, Senior Director, ET Edge
- A workshop walking CIOs through building AI agents fast, from prototype to production.

CIO Playbook: The Agentic Enterprise — Platforms. People. Policy. Profits.

- Speakers: Abhishek Kumar Singh, Principal Engineer – AI Engineering, NxtGen Cloud Technologies and Tamaghn K, AI Product Manager, NxtGen Cloud Technologies
 - Moderator: Punam Singh, Senior Correspondent, ET Edge CIO&Leader
- The session mapped the building blocks CIOs need to operationalise agentic AI responsibly.

Round Table: AI-Powered Manufacturing Transformation

- Speaker: Shubham Garg, Head of Strategy – Design & Manufacturing, Autodesk India
 - Moderator: Ashwani Mishra, Consulting Editor, ET Edge
- Discussed how data, AI, and converged workflows will define the next industrial era.

Round Table: Building the AI-Ready Enterprise

- Speakers: Vasuki Kadaba Srinath, Country Head, Enterprise Business, AMD India and Tamal Acharyee, Country Head – Govt Business and MII Strategy, AMD
 - Moderator: Jatinder Singh, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader
- Examined what enterprise readiness for AI at scale actually requires.

Round Table: From Visibility to Intelligence — Rethinking ITAM for the AI Era

- Speakers: Kunal Shridhar Mandpe, Sales Manager, Freshworks and Bhargav Reddy, Regional Head of Solution Engineering, Freshworks
 - Moderator: Kanchi Shah, Chief Editor, ET Edge
- Explored how IT asset management must evolve as agentic AI scales.

Round Table: From AI Chaos to Agentic Enterprise Control

- Speaker: Guruprasad HN, Head of Sales – CRM & Industry Workflows (MRD) India, ServiceNow
 - Moderator: R Giridhar, Editorial Director – Technology, ET Edge CIO&Leader
- Discussed moving enterprises from fragmented AI experiments to governed, workflow-led execution.

The End of AI Experiments: Building an Autonomous Enterprise

Vohuman Bardi, Senior Director & Head – Strategic Sales for Manufacturing, Retail & Distribution, ServiceNow, laid out what it takes to move beyond experimentation into full autonomy.

CIO Samman Ceremony

Felicitation of the Samman Jury members by Jatinder Singh, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader, followed by musical performance by Abhijeet Sawant, cocktails and dinner.

DAY 2: SCALING THE AGENTIC ENTERPRISE

Day Overview

Day 2 pivoted to infrastructure, compute economics, and applied AI strategy — grounding the conference's big ideas in the practical realities of scaling autonomous systems, while celebrating the next generation of leaders at the NEXT100 Awards Night.

Keynote Sessions

- **The Autonomous Enterprise Playbook: When AI Stops Assisting and Starts Deciding** — Prof. Toby Walsh, Laureate Fellow & Scientia Professor of AI, University of Sydney presented his framework for enterprises navigating the shift from AI assistance to AI decision-making.
- **Agentic Systems Engineering: The New CIO Playbook for ROI-Driven AI Adoption** — Parth Sharma, Senior Solution Architect, OutSystems outlined how CIOs can engineer agentic systems that are measured against clear, ROI-driven outcomes rather than experimental novelty.
- **Building Innovation on a Foundation of Connected Data** — Rucha Nanavati, Chief – Farm Advanced Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra reiterated that innovation at scale depends on data that is connected, accurate, and governed.
- **Turning AI Ambition into Action** — Sanjeev Chauhan, Vice President – Technology Solutions Engineering, Oracle India, discussed the practical steps enterprises need to convert AI ambition into measurable execution, rather than stalled intent.

Panel 2: Powering the Agentic Enterprise: Why the Future of AI Starts with the Right Compute Foundation

- Moderator: Jatinder Singh, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader
- Panelists: Deepak Aggarwal, Site Lead - Bangalore & Corporate Vice President - Silicon Design Engineering, AMD; Pratik Pal, Advisor - Data & AI, Chairman's Office, Tata Group; Ananth Subramaniam, SVP & Head - IT, Kotak Mutual Fund; Harnath Babu, Partner & CIO, KPMG; Sanjay Rao, Group CIO, SRF; Dr. Someshwer Dutt Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer, Jakson Green

The panel debated what infrastructure investments CIOs must prioritise as agentic AI scales, concluding that compute strategy is now as strategic a decision as any application choice.

Breakout Sessions

CIO Playbook: From Digital Enterprise to Agentic Enterprise — How Ready Is Your Organization for Autonomous Operations

- Speaker: Philippe Deblois, Vice President, Global Solutions Engineering, Dynatrace
 - Moderator: Punam Singh, Senior Correspondent, ET Edge CIO&Leader
- The session offered a readiness framework for CIOs to assess how prepared their organisations really are for autonomous operations.

Rapid Round Table: Securing AI

- Speaker: Vijay Jayaraman, Sales Engineering Leader, India & South Asia, CrowdStrike
 - Moderator: Kanchi Shah, Chief Editor, ET Edge
- Discussed the emerging security risks specific to AI systems and how enterprises can build defences proportionate to those risks.

Round Table: Building the AI-Ready Enterprise

- Ajay Koul, Regional Manager West – Enterprise Division, AMD
 - Moderator: Jatinder Singh, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader
- Continued the conversation on enterprise AI readiness from a hardware and infrastructure lens.

Round Table: Turning AI Ambition into Action

- Speaker: Vivek Gupta, Senior Director & Head – Technology Cloud Sales, Oracle India and Sanjeev Chauhan, Vice President – Technology Solutions Engineering, Oracle India
 - Moderator: Ashwani Mishra, Consulting Editor, ET Edge
- Revisited the theme of converting AI intent into results, with a focus on execution roadblocks CIOs commonly face.

Fireside Chat

The Captain-Coach Continuum — From Contributor to Force Multiplier

- Rahul Dravid, in conversation with Vinay Sinha, Corporate Vice President & MD Sales, India Mega Region, AMD, moderated by Jollydeep Kaur, Head – Marketing, NxtGen Cloud Technol-



Sachin Mhashilkar,
Senior Director, ET Edge,
thanking the participants
and sponsors for their
valuable contribution and
support

ogies, drew parallels between sporting leadership and enterprise force-multiplication.

Afternoon Keynote Sessions

Governing Autonomous AI Agents

- Harnath Babu, Partner & CIO, KPMG, addressed who is accountable when AI agents act independently, and how enterprises can build governance structures that keep pace with autonomy.

The Future of Employee Experience: Building Proactive, Autonomous Service Operations

- Maneesha Kosaraju, Regional Head of Solution Engineering, Freshworks, outlined how AI is shifting employee service from reactive support to proactive, autonomous operations.

A World Being Rewritten by AI: Observability in the Agentic Era

- Philippe Deblois, Vice President, Global Solutions Engineering, Dynatrace, examined why observability becomes even more critical as enterprises hand more decisions to autonomous systems.

The Digital Nervous System of Manufacturing

- Vinod Bhatt, Chief Digital Officer, Tata AutoComp Systems, explained how data, AI, and automation are being woven into a connected "nervous system" for automotive manufacturing.

Securing and Speeding the AI Pipeline: F5's Blueprint for Enterprise-Grade AI Delivery

- Bhavya Upadhyay, Sales Head – West India, F5, shared F5's approach to balancing speed and security across the enterprise AI delivery pipeline.

Evening Sessions

Round Table: Beyond Automation — Building Trust in Autonomous Customer Experiences

- Speaker: Saurabh Lakhanpal, Account Director, Genesys
- Moderator: Jatinder Singh, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader

Explored what it takes to earn customer trust once AI moves from automating tasks to making autonomous decisions on a customer's behalf.

Workshop: Zero Hour

- Speaker: Ashish Sharma, Senior Sales Engineer, Rubrik
- Moderator: Punam Singh, Senior Correspondent, ET Edge CIO&Leader.

A hands-on session on rapid response and resilience planning for enterprises facing AI-era disruptions.

Round Table: The Promise & Reality of Enterprise AI

- Speaker: Zainab Lakdawalla, Vice President — Sales, STT Global Data Centres India and Anu Kumar, Senior Director — Sales, STT Global Data Centres India
- Moderator: Ashwani Mishra, Consulting Editor, ET Edge

Weighed enterprise AI's hype against its actually delivered value, surfacing where expectations and outcomes still diverge.

NEXT100 Awards Night

Opening AV and welcome by R Giridhar, Editorial Director — Technology, ET Edge CIO&Leader, followed by keynote segments including The Sovereign CIO: Leading India's Digital Decade by Jollydeep Kaur, From AI Ambition to Autonomous Execution by Amit Agrawal from Techno Digital, and Leading in the Age of AI by Gaurav Baheti from Procol AI. The evening honoured 100 future CIOs across award batches, followed by dinner, cocktails, and a cultural evening.

Day 2 Conclusion

The second day delivered strategic frameworks, applied insights, and recognition of the next generation of CIOs, grounding the conference's Agentic Enterprise theme in infrastructure, security, and compute economics.

DAY 3: FORWARD-THINKING

Day Overview

The final day emphasised leadership foresight, legal accountability, and lessons from mission-critical autonomy — closing the conference with reflection on what true enterprise autonomy requires.

Keynotes & Insights

- **Who Is Liable When AI Decides? Legal Governance for the Agentic Enterprise** — Supratim Chakraborty, Partner, Khaitan & Co. examined the accountability questions autonomous AI agents raise for enterprises.
- **Reflections on Agentic AI** — Hasmukh Ranjan,

Senior Vice President & CIO, AMD, closed out his conference appearance with reflections on the broader shifts agentic AI is driving across enterprises, building on his Day 1 keynote on AMD's own journey.

- **Building AI-Native Products: Lessons for the Agentic Enterprise** — Rahul Shetty, Group CPTO, Cardekho shared lessons from building AI-native products at Cardekho, offering a product engineering perspective on what "agentic" really means in practice.
- **Creating a Culture of Continuous Innovation & AI-Human Collaboration** — Rajesh Dogra, Chief Customer Experience Officer, Air India shared how modernising over 140 core systems at Air India is laying the foundation for AI to genuinely improve the customer journey.
- **Leading Autonomous Enterprises: Insights from India's Space Programme** — Dr. Murthy Remilla, Former Head — Project Management, Human Spaceflight Group, U R Rao Satellite Centre, ISRO drew on ISRO's mission-critical systems to argue that true autonomy still keeps humans in the loop.

Closing Recognition

Prestige Points prizes recognised CIO engagement throughout the conference. Lunch and farewells brought the curtains down on the 27th Annual CIO&Leader Conference.

Day 3 Conclusion

The final day closed the conference on a note of reflection and accountability — from legal liability in autonomous decision-making to ISRO's decades of experience keeping humans central to mission-critical autonomy — reinforcing that the shift to the Agentic Enterprise is as much about governance and trust as it is about technology.

Overall Conclusion

Across four days in Jaipur, the 27th CIO&Leader Conference made clear that the shift to Agentic AI is as much about people, data, and governance as it is about technology itself. The overall conversations converged on a shared truth: enterprises that succeed in this new era will be those that build trusted foundations first, and let autonomy follow. From AI strategy and infrastructure to cyber resilience, leadership and organisational change, the discussions highlighted the need to balance ambition with accountability. The message was clear: the future will belong not simply to enterprises that adopt AI, but to those that learn to govern, scale and use it responsibly. ■



DAY 0: THURSDAY, 30TH JULY, 2026 SETTING THE TONE...



↑ **Kicking Off Day Zero with Positivity and Spirituality:** **Madan Sundar Das**, delivers a talk on mastering the mind and building resilience through his PACE framework.



Decoding the Legal Maze of Agentic AI.

Dr. Pavan Duggal,

Advocate, Supreme Court of India & Chairman, International Commission on Cyber Security Law, breaks down the governance and accountability questions autonomous AI agents bring to the boardroom





↑ **Drawing Leadership Lessons from a Legacy of Bold Bets.** **Harish Bhat**, Former Brand Custodian, Tata Sons & Author, draws lessons from the Tata Group's legacy of courage and conviction for leaders navigating the AI era.



↑ **Panel Discussion - Customer Experience in the Age of AI: Connecting the Dots on Customer Journeys.** Moderator: **Harish Bhat**, Former Brand Custodian, Tata Sons & Author, Panelist: **Saurabh Lakhapal**, Account Director, Genesys; **Dr. Shakti Goel**, Chief Architect & Data Scientist, Yatra Online; **Dipu KV**, Senior President, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance; discuss how AI is bridging fragmented touchpoints to deliver seamless, anticipatory customer experiences.



DAY 1: FRIDAY, 31ST JULY, 2026 AS THE DAY UNFOLDED...



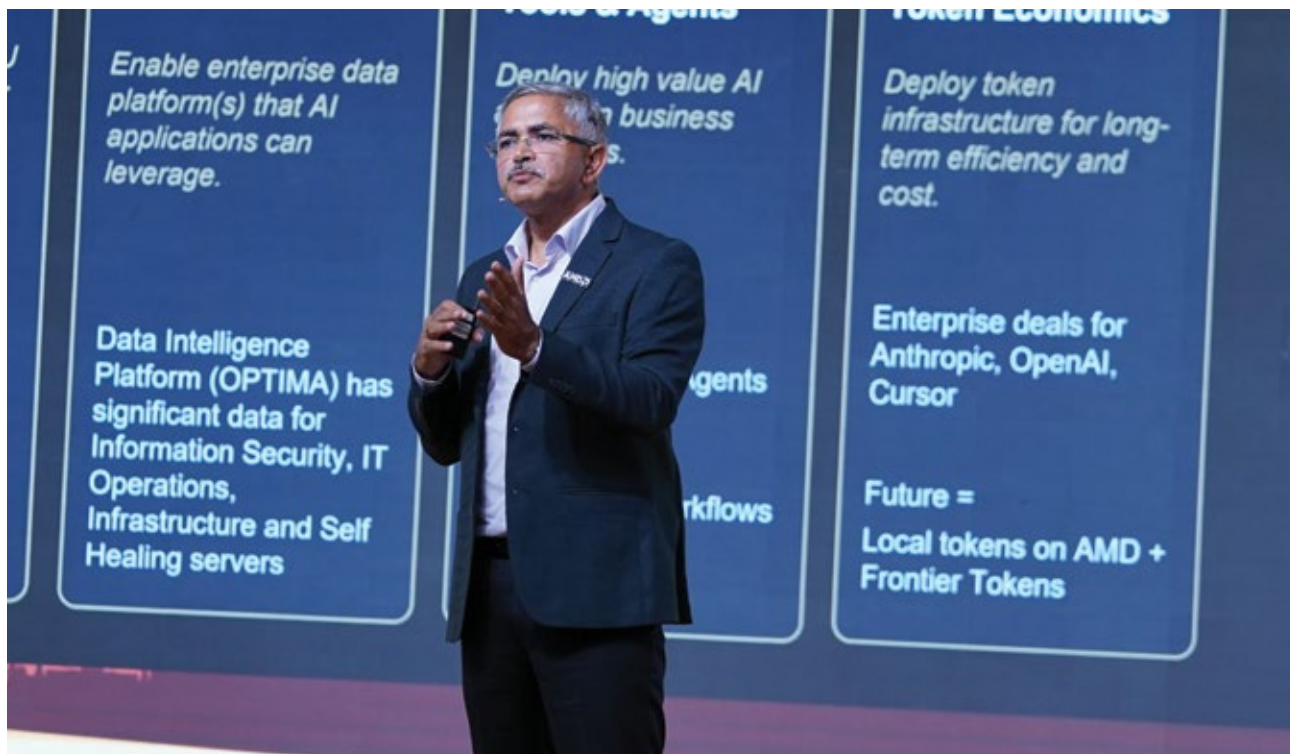
↑ **Breath and Balance Wellness Session (Snowflake):** Grounding Day One with Mindful Movement. A wellness session by Snowflake sets a calm, focused tone before the conference begins.



← **Welcome Note:** Setting the Stage for The Agentic Enterprise. **Sunita Quadros**, COO, ET Edge – The Times Group, welcomes delegates and frames the theme for the four days ahead.



↑ **State of Enterprise AI 2026 Survey:** Decoding Where Enterprise AI Really Stands. **Jatinder Singh**, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader, unveils survey findings on AI adoption and readiness across Indian enterprises.



↑ **Partner Keynote — Customer Zero: AMD's Enterprise AI Journey:** AMD Turns the Lens on Itself. **Hasmukh Ranjan**, SVP & CIO, AMD, shares how the company applies its own AI playbook internally.



↑ **Keynote — CIO Priorities in the Age of Autonomous Enterprises:** Charting the CIO Agenda for an Autonomous Era. **Vinod Sivarama Krishnan**, CIO, Birlasoft, outlines what leaders must prioritise as enterprises grow more self-directing.



↑ **Partner Keynote — The Inference Economy (NxtGen Cloud Technologies):** Powering the Next Wave of AI Economics. **Jollydeep Kaur**, Head – Marketing, NxtGen Cloud Technologies, unpacks the shift toward an inference-driven economy.



↑ **Ideas Cafe:** Brewing Bold Ideas, One Conversation at a Time.

Delegates engage in informal, free-flowing exchanges on the sidelines of the main sessions.



↑ **Fireside Chat: Actor Meets Enterprise: A Conversation on Reinvention.** Jim Sarbh joins Ratan Kesh and Arijit Bonnerjee, moderated by Harish Bhat, for a candid exchange on creativity, change and resilience.



↑ **Partner Keynote — The Quest for Durable AI (Tata Communications):** Building AI That's Built to Last. Smrithi Menon, VP & Solutions Head – India, Tata Communications India, makes the case for durability over hype in enterprise AI.



↑ **Partner Keynote — AI and the Future of the Human Workforce (Workday):** Reimagining Work in an AI-First World. Ahmad Maredia, Principal Enterprise Architect, Workday, explores how AI is reshaping the human side of the enterprise.



↑ **Round Table: From Legacy to Agentic Systems Engineering: How Enterprise Leaders Are Rewriting the Rules of Modernization;** Speaker: **Vivek Ganesh**, RVP & Country Head - OutSystems India; Moderator: **Kanchi Shah**, Chief Editor, ET Edge



↑ **Round Table: Architecting for Token Efficiency: Unlocking Line-of-Sight into LLM Costs, Throughput, and DPU-Accelerated Delivery;** Speaker: **Bhavya Upadhya**, Sales Head - West India, F5; Moderator: **Jatinder Singh**, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader



↑ **Round Table: Self-Driving Networks** Speaker: **Rajesh Kumar**, Technology Head - Enterprise & Government, India, HPE Networking; Moderator: **Ashwani Mishra**, Consulting Editor, ET Edge



↑ **Inside the AMD Lab: Experiencing the Future of AI Infrastructure**



↑ **Keynote session: Trust in the Agentic Enterprise: AI, Fraud and the Future of Digital Trust** by **Shuchi Mahajan**, Senior VP & Head – Fraud Prevention, Analytics, Digital & Customer Awareness, HDFC Bank



↑ **Panel Discussion: AI at the Edge: Driving the Future of Intelligent Factories & Operations.** Moderator: **Deepak Agarwal**, Former Executive Director – IS, Indian Oil. Panelist: **Rohan Mahajan**, Head – IT/BFSI, Data Center Segment, Delta Electronics India; **Amit Shukla**, CIO, FIAT Auto; **Ravi Kumar**, CDIO, Exide Industries; **Dr. A. Shiju Rawther**, Chief Information & Technology Officer, CareEdge Group; **Vinod Khode**, Group CIO, Varroc



↑ **Interactive Session: Foundations for AI-ready Manufacturing.** Moderator: **R Giridhar**, Editorial Director – Technology, ET Edge CIO&Leader; Speaker: **Milind Deshpande**, Vice President – Manufacturing Industry Propositions, Tata Communications



↑ **Keynote session: Inside Godrej's Agentic Enterprise:** Agents for HR & IT by **Satyavrat Mishra**, Head – Corporate IT & Group CISO, Godrej Industries Group



↑ **Keynote session:** Building the Intelligent Enterprise: From Digital Transformation to AI-Driven Growth by **Dr. Kamal Karnatak**, Group CIO, RJ Corp



↑ **Keynote session:** Future of Human+AI Collaboration by **Rajneesh Garg**, Chief Information Officer, ECU Worldwide



↑ **Keynote Session: Self-Driving Networks** Speaker: **Rajesh Kumar**, Technology Head - Enterprise & Government, India, HPE Networking



↑ **Keynote session: The Need of the Hour:** Why Enterprise AI Needs Sovereign AI Infrastructure by **Nitin Jadhav**, Chief Revenue Officer & President- Sales, Alliance, Partner Solution Engineering, BU Head for Cybersecurity, Network, Public Cloud, Yotta



↑ **Keynote Session: Resilience Reimagined:** The CIO's Playbook for the AI Era by **Balaji Rao**, AVP - India & SAARC, Commvault



↑ **Keynote Session: From AI Experiments to Autonomous Enterprises:** Lessons from Enterprise Transformation by **Ramesh Narayanaswamy**, Group President – Digital & Data Intelligence, Hinduja Group



↑ **Keynote Session:** Zero Trust in the Age of AI, Cloud & Autonomous Systems by **Manish Kalra**, Country Director, Nopal Cyber



↑ **Keynote Session:** Enabling Real-time Business Outcomes Through Connected Enterprise Intelligence Layer by **Vijay Balakrishnan**, Chief Digital & Information Officer, Godrej & Boyce



↑ **Fireside Chat — Beyond the Hyperscaler: Building India's AI-Native Cloud.** Moderator: **Ashwani Mishra**, Consulting Editor, ET Edge. Panelist: **Sharad Sanghi**, CEO, Neysa Network; **Manik Kapoor**, Director of Business Development, AMD; and **Ravi Kumar Pangal**, CIO, IndusInd Bank.



↑ **Keynote Session:** The Portal is the Agent: Orchestrating the Agentic Enterprise Securely by **Shubham Srivastava**, Senior Sales Engineer, Liferay



↑ **Keynote Session: Workshop: Prototype to Production - Building AI Agenda at Speed** Speakers: **Pramod Rajagopal**, Head of Solutions Engineering, Enterprise South Asia, Snowflake; **Abhishek Gupta**, Corporate Head - IT, Dish TV India; Moderator: **Sachin Mhashilkar**, Senior Director, ET Edge



↑ **CIO Playbook: The Agentic Enterprise: Platforms. People. Policy. Profits** Speakers: **Abhishek Kumar Singh**, Principal Engineer - AI Engineering, NxtGen Technologies and **Tamaghn K.** AI Product Manager, NxtGen Cloud Technologies; Moderator: **Punam Singh**, Senior Correspondent, ET Edge CIO&Leader



↑ **Round Table: AI-Powered Manufacturing Transformation:** How Data, AI, and Converged Workflows Will Define the Next Industrial Era Speaker: **Shubham Garg**, Head of Strategy - Design & Manufacturing, Autodesk India; Moderator: **Ashwani Mishra**, Consulting Editor, ET Edge



↑ **Round Table: Building the AI-Ready Enterprise** Speakers: **Vasuki Kadaba Srinath**, Country Head, Enterprise Business, AMD India & **Tamal Acharyee**, Country Head - Govt Business & MII Strategy, AMD; Moderator: **Jatinder Singh**, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader



↑ **Round Table: From Visibility to Intelligence:** Rethinking ITAM for the AI Era; Speakers: **Kunal Shridhar Mandpe**, Sales Manager, Freshworks and **Bhargav Reddy**, Regional Head of Solution Engineering, Freshworks; Moderator: **Kanchi Shah**, Chief Editor, ET Edge



↑ **Round Table: From AI Chaos to Agentic Enterprise Control:** How Enterprises Can Move from Fragmented AI Experiments to Governed, Workflow-led Autonomous Execution; Speaker: **Guruprasad HN**, Head of Sales – CRM & Industry Workflows (MRD) India, ServiceNow; Moderator: **R Giridhar**, Editorial Director - Technology, ET Edge CIO&Leader



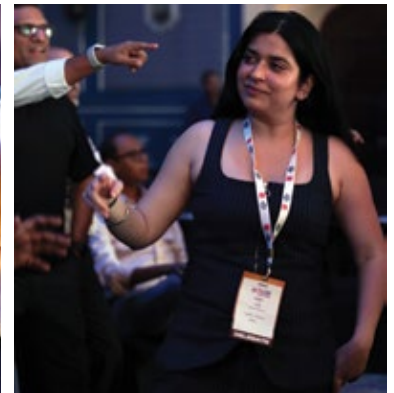
↑ Game — Set — Match by Workday



↑ **Keynote Session: The End of AI Experiments:** Building an Autonomous Enterprise by **Vohuman Bardi**, Senior Director & Head- Strategic Sales for Manufacturing, Retail & Distribution, ServiceNow



↑ Celebrating Technology Leadership and Excellence at the CIO Samman Ceremony.



↑ The audience grooves to a lively musical performance by Abhijeet Sawant.



DAY 2: SATURDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 2026 POWER-PACKED SESSIONS



↑ CIOs take a nostalgic ride through Jaipur on the Heritage Car Tour by Syndrome.



↑ **Keynote Address: The Autonomous Enterprise Playbook:** When AI Stops Assisting and Starts Deciding by **Prof. Toby Walsh**, Laureate Fellow & Scientia Professor of AI, University of Sydney



↑ **Keynote Session: Agentic Systems Engineering:** The New CIO Playbook for ROI-driven AI Adoption by **Parth Sharma**, Senior Solution Architect, OutSystems



↑ **Keynote Session:** Building Innovation on a Foundation of Connected Data by **Rucha Nanavati**, Chief - Farm Advanced Technologies, Mahindra & Mahindra



↑ **Keynote Session:** Turning AI Ambition into Action by **Sanjeev Chauhan**, Vice President- Technology Solutions Engineering, Oracle India



↑ **Keynote Session:** The End of AI Experiments: Building an Autonomous Enterprise by **Vohuman Bardi**, Senior Director & Head - Strategic Sales for Manufacturing, Retail & Distribution, ServiceNow



↑ **Panel Discussion: Powering the Agentic Enterprise:** Why the Future of AI Starts with the Right Compute Foundation. Moderator: **Jatinder Singh**, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader. Panelist: **Deepak Aggarwal**, Site Lead – Bangalore & Corporate Vice President – Silicon Design Engineering, AMD; **Pratik Pal**, Advisor – Data & AI, Chairman's Office, Tata Group; **Ananth Subramaniam**, SVP & Head -IT, Kotak Mutual Fund; **Harnath Babu**, Partner & CIO, KPMG; **Sanjay Rao**, Group CIO, SRF; **Dr. Someshwar Dutt Sharma**, Chief Innovation Officer, Jakson Green.



↑ **CIO Playbook: From Digital Enterprise to Agentic Enterprise:** How Ready is Your Organization for Autonomous Operations by **Philippe Deblois**, Vice President, Global Solutions Engineering, Dynatrace. Moderated by **Punam Singh**, Senior Correspondent, ET Edge CIO&Leader.



↑ **Rapid Roundtable: Securing AI** Speaker: **Vijay Jayaraman**, Sales Engineering Leader, India & South Asia, CrowdStrike; Moderator: **Kanchi Shah**, Chief Editor, ET Edge



↑ **Round Table: Building the AI-Ready Enterprise** Speaker: **Ajay Koul**, Regional Manager West - Enterprise Division, AMD; Moderator: **Sachin Mhasilkar**, Senior Director, ET Edge



↑ **Round Table: Turning AI Ambition into Action** Speakers: **Vivek Gupta**, Senior Director & Head – Technology Cloud Sales, Oracle India and **Sanjeev Chauhan**, Vice President – Technology Solutions Engineering, Oracle India; Moderator: **Ashwani Mishra**, Consulting Editor, ET Edge



↑ **Networking with Power Lunch**



↑ **Fireside Chat: The Captain-Coach Continuum — From Contributor to Force Multiplier**
Rahul Dravid in conversation with **Vinay Sinha**, Corporate Vice President, MD Sales, India Mega Region, AMD and **Jollydeep Kaur**, Head - Marketing, NxtGen Cloud Technologies



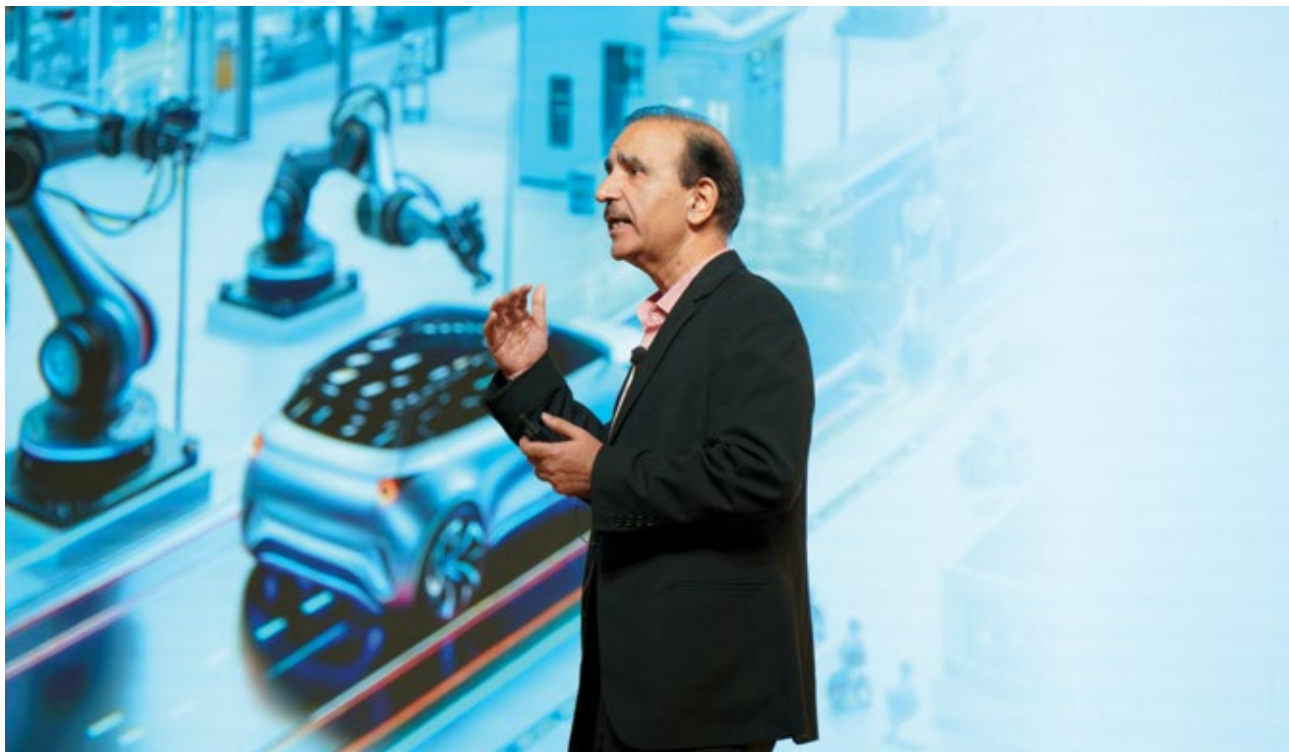
↑ **Keynote Session: Governing Autonomous AI Agents by**
Harnath Babu, Partner & CIO, KPMG



↑ **Keynote Session:** The Future of Employee Experience: Building Proactive, Autonomous Service Operations by **Maneesha Kosaraju**, Regional Head of Solution Engineering, Freshworks



↑ **Keynote Session:** A World Being Rewritten by AI: Observability in the Agentic Era by **Philippe Deblois**, Vice President, Global Solutions Engineering, Dynatrace



↑ **Keynote Session: The Digital Nervous System of Manufacturing:** How Data, AI and Automation Are Redefining the Automotive Enterprise by **Vinod Bhatt**, Chief Digital Officer, Tata AutoComp



↑ **Keynote Session: Securing and Speeding the AI Pipeline:** F5's Blueprint for Enterprise-Grade AI Delivery by **Bhavya Upadhyay**, Sales Head - West India, F5



↑ **Round Table: Beyond Automation: Building Trust in Autonomous Customer Experiences**

Speaker: **Saurabh Lakhanpal**, Account Director, Genesys; Moderator: **Jatinder Singh**, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader



↑ **Zero Hour Workshop by Rubrik** Speaker: **Ashish Sharma**, Senior Sales Engineer, Rubrik; Moderator: **Punam Singh**, Senior Correspondent, ET Edge CIO&Leader

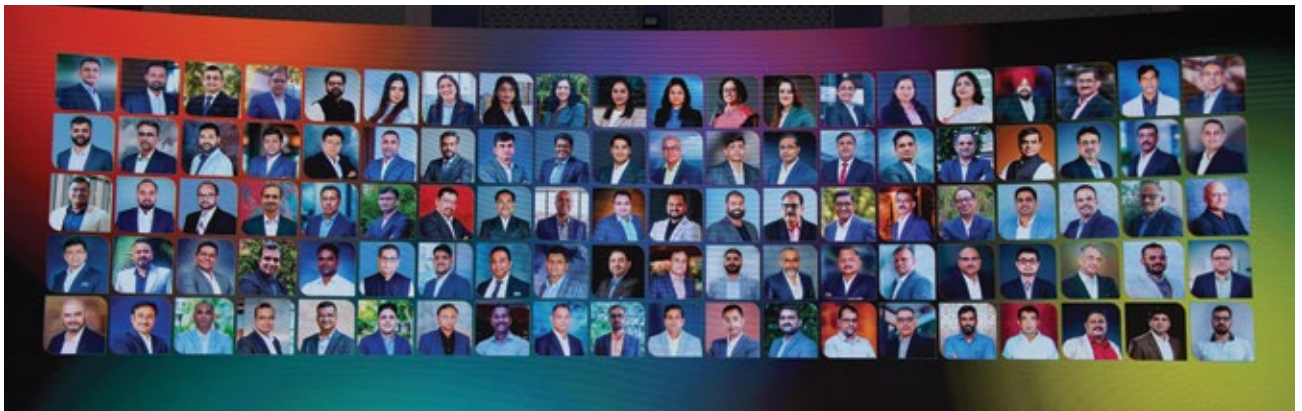


↑ **Round Table: The Promise & Reality of Enterprise AI** Speakers: **Zainab Lakdawalla**, Vice President — Sales, STT Global Data Centres India and **Anu Kumar**, Senior Director — Sales, STT Global Data Centres India; Moderator: **Ashwani Mishra**, Consulting Editor, ET Edge





↑ **Next 100 Awards Night:** Honouring the 2026 Class of Future CIOs



↑ **Keynote Session: From AI Ambition to Autonomous Execution:** Building the Infrastructure for the Agentic Enterprise by **Amit Agrawal**, President, Techno Digital



↑ **Keynote Session:** It is the Best of Times by **Jatinder Singh Pabla**, Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, STT Global Data Centers India



↑ **Keynote Session:** Leading in the Age of AI by **Gaurav Baheti**, Founder and CEO, Procol AI



↑ Giving the Rajasthani touch
with Sufiyana Roots



DAY 3: SUNDAY, 2ND AUGUST, 2026 END ON A HIGH NOTE



↑ **Keynote Session: Who Is Liable When AI Decides?** Legal Governance for the Agentic Enterprise by Supratim Chakraborty, Partner, Khaitan & Co



↑ **Fireside Chat on Reflections on Agentic AI:** From Intelligent Automation to Autonomous Enterprises
Speakers: **Hasmukh Ranjan**, Senior Vice President & CIO, AMD & **Srinivas Jain**, Executive President and Head of Strategy, SBI Mutual Fund; Moderator: **R Giridhar**, Editorial Director - Technology, ET Edge CIO&Leader



↑ **Keynote Session:** Conclusions on Agentic AI by **Hasmukh Ranjan**, Senior Vice President & CIO, AMD



↑ **Keynote Session:** Building AI-Native Products: Lessons for the Agentic Enterprise by **Rahul Shetty**, Group CPTO, Cardekho



↑ **Fireside Chat:** Creating a Culture of Continuous Innovation & AI- Human Collaboration between **Rajesh Dogra**, Chief Customer Experience Officer, Air India and **Jatinder Singh**, Chief Editor, ET Edge CIO&Leader

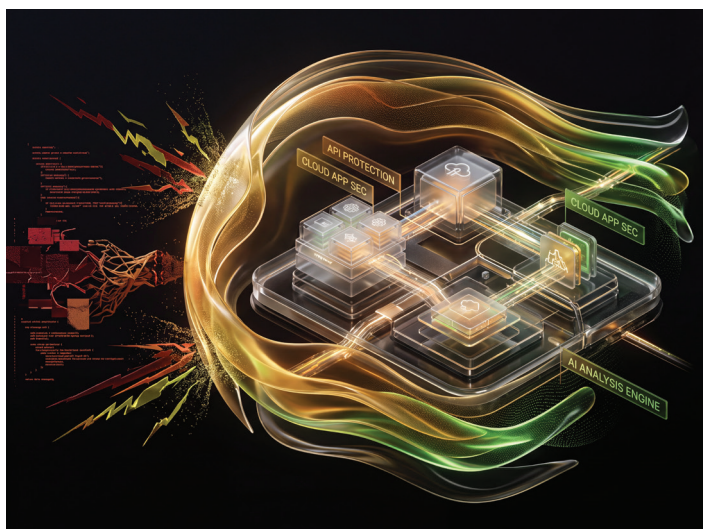


↑ **Keynote Session: Leading Autonomous Enterprises:** Insights from India's Space Programme by **Dr. Murthy Remilla**, Former Head - Project Management, Human Spaceflight Group, UR Rao Satellite Centre, ISRO



↑ **Prestige Point Champions:** Celebrating the conference's most engaged leaders, with Kripadyuti Sarkar, Group CIO, Ambuja Neotia Group, winning the **first prize**—a Maruti Suzuki Fronx.

Prophaze Steps Up Cybersecurity Push as AI Reshapes the Threat Landscape



“Agentic AI represents a significant shift in enterprise technology, but innovation must be matched with robust security. Our collaboration with Prophaze enables us to deliver AI-driven application security that helps organisations innovate faster while maintaining resilience, compliance, and trust.”

—Zakir Hussain Rangwala,
CEO, BD Software Distribution Pvt. Ltd.

Prophaze strengthens AI-era cybersecurity with intelligent, cloud-native application and API protection

By **CIO&Leader** | editor.tech@timesgroup.com

As enterprises move from experimenting with AI copilots to deploying autonomous AI agents across critical workflows, the attack surface—and the very definition of “identity”—is changing fast. Machine identities, agent-to-agent communication, and autonomous decision-making are introducing new categories of risk that traditional perimeter and application security models were never built to handle.

Prophaze Technologies, an AI-powered cybersecurity company specialising in Web Application and API Protection (WAAP), is addressing this shift

head-on, helping enterprises secure the next generation of AI-driven infrastructure with intelligent, cloud-native protection built for modern applications and APIs.

Prophaze’s platform combines AI-native threat detection with WAAP and API security to protect enterprises against application-layer attacks, API abuse, bot-driven threats, and zero-day exploits. This coverage extends naturally to the machine-to-machine traffic patterns generated by autonomous AI agents. As agents begin querying APIs, invoking tools, and chaining actions with minimal human sign-off, Prophaze’s behavioural and anomaly-based detection is designed to distinguish legitimate agent activity from malicious automation, rather than relying on static rules that autonomous systems can outpace.

The company has been recognised in Gartner's Market Guide for three consecutive years and by KuppingerCole, alongside recognition as a G2 High Performer, reflecting sustained analyst validation of its approach.

For CIOs, this shifts the security conversation from perimeter control to continuous, auditable oversight. It provides visibility into what an agent did, why it did it, and whether it should have been allowed. That audibility is increasingly what separates an AI pilot that scales from one that stalls at a compliance review. Prophaze's platform is built to give security and compliance teams visibility without slowing the pace of enterprise AI adoption.

Prophaze's platform has been deployed to protect enterprises across sectors including BFSI, healthcare, manufacturing, government, and critical infrastructure, with recent recognition highlighting the scale of that impact, including its role in defending against a surge of over 85 million cyberattacks during a period of heightened India-Pakistan cross-border tensions.

Prophaze's continued investment in this space comes as it participates as an Associate Partner at the ET Edge CIO&Leader Conference 2026 in Jaipur, where it will engage directly with India's top CIOs and technology leaders on securing the agentic enterprise.

Extending Reach Through BD Software

To accelerate enterprise adoption across India, Prophaze works with a network of trusted regional partners, including BD Software Distribution.

As cyber threats grow increasingly sophisticated and regulatory requirements continue to evolve, BD Software Distribution, one of India's leading value-added distributors of cybersecurity, data protection, and productivity solutions, empowers organisations to strengthen their cyber resilience through a comprehensive portfolio of technologies,



"We built Prophaze because the industry hadn't caught up to how enterprises actually run their infrastructure. Agentic AI is the same story again—the systems are moving faster than the security models built for them, and closing that gap is exactly the problem we set out to solve."

— **Lakshmi Das**, Co-founder & COO, Prophaze

professional services, and partner-led enablement.

With a pan-India presence and a network of 1,800+ channel partners, BD Software delivers enterprise-grade solutions spanning Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR/XDR), Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), Identity and Access Management (IAM/PAM), Data Loss Prevention (DLP), Digital Rights Management (DRM), Data Classification, Web Application Firewall (WAF), phishing awareness and simulation, secure file sharing,

Mobile Device Management (MDM), and AI-powered cybersecurity. The company further enhances customer success through professional services, including Vulnerability Assessment & Penetration Testing (VAPT), security consulting, solution deployment, implementation, and managed security services.

Together, Prophaze and BD Software are enabling organisations across India to adopt AI with greater confidence by delivering intelligent, cloud-native application and API security. ■

When AI starts manipulating trust: A risk for Indian organizations

As AI reshapes enterprise operations, attackers are learning to manipulate trust rather than systems. Indian organisations must strengthen identity security to detect deception, limit access and protect digital resilience.

By **CIO&Leader** | editor.tech@timesgroup.com

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes central to business transformation, a new category of threat is gradually emerging. One that does not simply target systems, but targets trust itself. Often referred to as “vibe hacking,” this form of AI-enabled manipulation uses generative tools to mimic human behaviour, communication patterns, and decision-making processes closely enough to bypass traditional security controls.

Recent findings reveal just how sharply this issue is emerging in India. Around 46% of Indian organizations say identity security friction has already delayed AI initiatives (the highest reported globally.) Additionally, 63% believe identity discovery gaps will continue to exist in AI-related environments.

For employees and even automated systems, the request can appear legitimate

because the “vibe” is accurate. This represents a major shift in enterprise risk. Indian enterprises are taking the route of scaling digital transformation aggressively while still managing legacy security models. This puts them at a much higher risk. As per the recent study, 79% admit they accept standing access under operational pressure.

Business leaders must begin viewing identity security as a strategic business priority rather than a technical function. To fix this, here are four steps organizations can take to revamp their identity security in the age of AI: I:

- **Neutralize vibe hacking with least privilege access:** Every identity, be it human or machine, should be given minimum access just enough to perform their tasks. That way, even if attackers trickle in by manipulation, they are blocked from escalating their reach.
- **Break the loop:** Rotating credentials regularly hamper the automated feedback loops that many AI-enabled attacks rely on. Removing standing access to secrets prevents compromised agents from reusing stolen details.
- **Close the trust gap with OTP access:** Short-lived credentials eliminate one of vibe hacking’s biggest advantages: static, always-on access. By relying on purpose-built tokens that expire quickly, organizations can sharply limit how long manipulated trust can be exploited.
- **Detect the “vibe”:** Modern threats demand a holistic approach that goes beyond static checks, continuously analyzing behavioral and situational signals across all identities. Early spotting of subtle deviations in tone, access patterns, or task requests allow organizations to shift from reacting to incidents toward predicting and preventing them.

Finally, enterprises should invest in identity intelligence that can detect subtle changes in behaviour. Security can no longer focus only on whether access is authorized. It must also understand whether the request itself feels out of pattern. For organizations looking to lead in an AI-driven economy, protecting digital trust may soon become just as important as protecting digital infrastructure. ■



Anand (Jude) Kannabiran
Vice President, Asia at Delinea

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