



# THE AI ERA BRIDGING CREATIVITY & COMMERCE

1-2 DECEMBER 2025; MUMBAI

## 12<sup>th</sup> CII Big Picture Summit

The AI Era – Bridging Creativity and Commerce  
1-2 December 2025 | JW Marriott Juhu | Mumbai

### 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025

1030 hrs.  
onwards

#### PowerTalk I: AI-Native Transformation for M&E CEOs

**Ms Nayna Raut**, Design Strategy & Innovation Head, Interactive, LTIMindtree  
**Mr Darryl Vaz**, Sr. Director Product and Program Management, LTIMindtree

1100 hrs.  
onwards

#### Inaugural Session

*Setting the tone for India's Media & Entertainment transformation in the AI decade. Leaders from industry and government outline the opportunity ahead for the Big Reset.*

*Opening  
Remarks*

**Ms Amita Sarkar**  
Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

*Keynote*

**Mr Gaurav Banerjee**  
Chair, CII National Council on Media & Entertainment  
MD & CEO, Sony Pictures Networks India

*Keynote*

**Mr Rajan Navani**  
Co-Chair, CII National Council on Media & Entertainment  
MD & CEO, JetSynthesys

*Special  
Address on  
'The AI Era'*

**Mr Ravi Rajamani**  
Managing Director, Global Head of AI Blackbelts, Google  
California, United States

*Keynote*

**Ms Gunjan Soni**  
Co-Chair, CII National Council on Media & Entertainment  
Country Managing Director, YouTube India

#### *Release of a CII White Paper on Priority Policy Reforms for a Globally Competitive Creative Economy of India*

*Inaugural  
Address*

**Shri Sanjay Jaju**  
Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,  
Government of India

#### *Homage to M&E icons (AV)*



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1215 hrs.  
onwards

## Plenary I: Unlocking the \$100 Billion Future: A Regulatory Roadmap for India's M&E Transformation

*India's Media & Entertainment sector stands on the brink of exponential growth, yet unlocking a \$100 billion future demands a new regulatory architecture that is clear, modern and innovation friendly. This plenary unpacks the CII White Paper's reform agenda and brings together industry leaders and policymakers, to explore how coherent regulation can unleash 1–2% added GDP value and position India as a true creative-economy powerhouse.*

Session Chair  
& Moderator

**Mr Rajan Navani**

Co-Chair, CII National Council on Media & Entertainment  
MD & CEO, Jetsynthesys

Distinguished  
Panellists

**Sri Kandula Durgesh**

Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Culture & Cinematography,  
Government of Andhra Pradesh

**Mr Avinash Pandey**

Secretary General, Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation

**Mr Hiren Gada**

Chief Executive Officer, Shemaroo Entertainment

**Mr Yatish Mehrishi**

Chief Executive Officer, Entertainment Network India Ltd (Radio Mirchi)

**Mr Biren Ghose**

Founder & CEO, Astra Studios

1300- 1400 hrs      **Networking Lunch**

1400 hrs.  
onwards

## Plenary II: Bridging the Funding Gap: Unlocking Investment for India's M&E Sector

*This session explores the evolving investment landscape of India's Media and Entertainment sector—spanning film, digital, television and emerging IP-led ventures. Industry leaders and investors decode growth drivers and the strategic flows of capital shaping the future of content and distribution.*

Session Chair  
& Moderator

**Mr Shibashish Sarkar**

Chair, CII Investors Meet &  
Group CEO, Reliance Entertainment



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*Distinguished  
Panellists*

**Mr Nicolas Granatino**  
President, Stem AI, United Kingdom

**Mr Joachim Laqueur**  
Founding Partner, 432 Legacy Ventures, Netherland

**Mr Atul Phadnis**  
Founder, Vitrina AI

**Mr Anup Chandrasekhar**  
COO – Regional Content – Network  
The EPIC Company

**Mr Karan Taurani**  
Executive Vice President. Elara Capital

**Mr Aneesh Dev**  
Managing Director, WAMINDIA

**1500 hrs.  
onwards**

## **Plenary III: Cinema Infrastructure: Building India's Screen Density**

*Expanding India's screen count with emphasis on Little Cinema and Modern Cinema Infrastructure to create equitable entertainment access*

*Session Chair  
& Moderator*

**Mr Senthil Kumar**  
Founder, Qube Cinema

*Distinguished  
Panellists*

**Ms Amrapali Kata**  
Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation,  
(APTDC), Government of Andhra Pradesh

**Mr Prosenjit Chatterjee**  
Indian Actor and Producer

**Mr Ravi Kottarakara**  
Storywriter & Film Producer, Ganesh Pictures  
President, South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce

**Mr Abhay Kumar Sinha**  
President, Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association

**Mr Yusuf Shaikh**  
Founder & CEO, Janta Cinema



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1545 hrs.  
onwards

## Plenary IV: The Digital Media Explosion: India's Next Growth Story

*Visionaries, technologists and entrepreneurs discuss how digital ventures are redefining content creation, distribution and audience engagement for the future.*

Session Chair

**Ms Gunjan Soni**

Co-Chair, CII National Council on Media & Entertainment  
Country Managing Director, YouTube India

Distinguished  
Panellists

**Mr LV Krishnan**

Chief Executive Officer, TAM Media Research

**Ms Shilangi Mukherji**

Director & Head, Amazon Prime Video SVOD Business

**Mr Neeraj Roy**

Managing Director, Hungama Digital Entertainment

**Mr Darryl Vaz**

Sr. Director Product and Program Management, LTIMindtree

1630 hrs.  
onwards

## ScreenSense I: The Mahavatar Narasimha Blueprint

*In this session **Mr Ashwin Kumar** and **Ms Shilpaa Dhawan** present success insights on how they reimagined 4,000-year-old Hindu scriptures (Vishnu Purana, Narasimha Purana, Shrimad Bhagavat Purana) with cutting-edge 3D animation, photorealistic VFX, and storytelling depth for audiences.*

1700 hrs.  
onwards

## ScreenSense II: How Kurukshetra re-imagined Mahabharata for modern audiences

**Mr Anirban Roy Choudhury**, Senior Associate Editor - ET Brand Equity

*In conversation with*

**Ms Tanya Bami**, Series Head, Netflix India

**&**

**Mr Ashish Thapar** (CEO Hi-Tech Animation & Executive Producer, Kurukshetra)

1730 hrs.  
onwards

## PowerTalk II: From Breakouts to Blockbusters: Reflecting on the Most Defining Decade of India's Media and Entertainment Industry

*An actor, director and producer's perspective on the most defining decade for the Indian media and entertainment industry where Indian stories and creators found local fandom and global recognition. To mark Netflix's 10-year journey in India, Ms Monika Shergill*



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*hosts this PowerTalk with Mr Rajkummar Rao, Mr Sudip Sharma and Mr Sameer Nair, diving into the craft behind unforgettable stories and the opportunities that will shape the next decade.*

**Ms Monika Shergill**

Vice-President (Content), Netflix India

*In conversation with*

**Mr Rajkummar Rao**

National Award-Winning Actor & Producer

**Mr Sameer Nair**

Managing Director, Applause Entertainment

**Mr Sudip Sharma**

Writer & Filmmaker; Co-creator and Showrunner of *Kohrra*

**1815 hrs.  
onwards**

## Plenary V: Stories from India to the World

*As Indian content gains global appeal, this session explores how strategic partnerships, platform alliances, and innovative distribution models can extend its reach across borders. Industry leaders will share insights on scaling legacy and regional content through syndication, telecom integration, and OTT platforms.*

*Session Chair*

**Ms Jyoti Deshpande**

President – Jio Studios

(Media and Content Business- Reliance Industries Limited)

*Distinguished  
Panellists*

**Mr Charlie Morrison**

Senior Vice President, Thunder Road

**Mr Dinesh Vijan**

Founder and CEO, Maddock Films

**Ms Guneet Monga Kapoor**

Oscar Winning Filmmaker

Founder and Producer, Sikhya Entertainment

**Mr Ishaan Khatter**

Actor, Homebound (India's Official Entry to The Oscars)

**Mr Manish Malhotra**

Fashion Designer, Couturier and Filmmaker

Founder & Producer, Stage5 Production





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## Mr Shekhar Kapur

Festival Director, International Film Festival of India  
Internationally Acclaimed Filmmaker

## Mr Sriram Raghavan

National Award Winning-Filmmaker

1915 hrs.  
onwards

### PowerTalk III: Building M&E Titans: The Uday Shankar School of Leadership

*How does one leader consistently produce some of the most influential executives in India's media and entertainment industry? This session explores the unique leadership ethos, talent philosophy, and decision-making frameworks that defined Uday Shankar's journey and shaped a generation of powerhouses who now lead some of the country's most prominent media businesses.*

## Mr Gaurav Banerjee

Chair, CII National Council on Media & Entertainment  
MD & CEO, Sony Pictures Networks India

*In conversation with*

## Mr Uday Shankar

Vice-Chairman, JioStar

2000 hrs  
onwards

### Networking Evening and Gala Dinner at Ballroom

## End of Day 1

## 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025

0900 hrs.  
onwards

### Registration, Recap of Day 1 and Setting the Stage

1000 hrs.  
onwards

### Plenary VI: AI - New Driver of Reinvention: Changing the Face of the Gaming Industry

*In today's gaming world, AI is more pervasive than ever. From enhancing graphics to personalizing gameplay experiences, the applications are nearly everywhere. Compared to the early days of basic programmed opponents, today's advanced AI-driven characters and procedurally generated worlds show the huge impact AI has had- and continues to have on gaming.*

Moderator

## Mr Aditya Mani

Founder & CEO, YOLOGram



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*Distinguished  
Panellists*

**Mr Girish Menon**  
Chief Strategy Officer, JetSynthesys

**Mr Narinder Kapur**  
Senior Analyst & Global Business Development - Niko Partners

**Mr Manoj Padmanabhan**  
Head M&E Games and Sports, AWS

**Mr Nicolas Granatino**  
President, StemAI, United Kingdom

**Mr Chaitanya Chinchlikar**  
Vice President & CTO, Whistling Woods International

**1045 hrs.  
onwards**

## **Special Homage: Celebrating Piyush Pandey The Soul of Indian Advertising and Its Journey to the World**

*This session honours Pandey's legacy as the architect of India's creative voice in advertising, while exploring how his principles of authenticity, cultural insight, and emotional storytelling can propel Indian brands onto the global stage.*

**Mr Sudhanshu Vats**  
Chairman, ASCI & Managing Director, Pidilite Industries

In conversation with

**Mr Prasoon Pandey**  
Director and Co-founder, Corcoise Films

**Ms Hephzibah Pathak**  
Executive Chairperson, Ogilvy India

**1115 hrs.  
onwards**

## **PowerTalk IV: Is Digital the Future of Print?**

*As audiences shift, platforms converge, and consumption habits evolve, the relationship between digital and print is being rewritten in real time. The session explores whether digital will ultimately redefine, disrupt, or rejuvenate the traditional print ecosystem and examines the future of credibility, business models, audience trust, and the hybrid pathways that may shape India's news landscape in the decade ahead.*

**Keynote** **Mr Shekhar Gupta**  
Editor-in-Chief and Founder, ThePrint



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**1145 hrs.  
onwards**

## **Plenary VIII: Champions & Changemakers: India's Big Bet on Sports as Mainstream Entertainment**

*This session brings together visionaries and champions who are driving the transformation of sports into a powerful engine of entertainment, aspiration, and growth.*

*Session Chair*

**Mr Shashwat Goenka**

Chair, CII Eastern Region  
Vice-Chairman, RPSG Group

*Distinguished  
Panellists*

**Mr Rajan Navani**

Co-Chair, CII National Council on Media & Entertainment  
MD & CEO, JetSynthesys

**Ms Deepti Sharma**

Indian Cricketer,  
Player of the Tournament, ICC Women's World Cup 2025

**1230 hrs.  
onwards**

## **Plenary IX: Women Breaking the Glass Ceiling in ShowBiz**

*Exploring how women are redefining the M&E industry by challenging norms and creating new pathways for success with insights on leadership, inclusivity, and the evolving power of female-driven narratives in media and entertainment.*

**Ms Gunjan Soni**

Co-Chair, CII National Council on Media & Entertainment  
Country Managing Director, YouTube India

In conversation with

**Ms Ektaa R Kapoor**

Promoter And Joint Managing Director, Balaji Telefilms

**Mrs Manu N. Wadhwa**

Chief Human Resources Officer, Sony Pictures Networks India

**1300 hrs.  
onwards**

## **PowerTalk V: Prime Video and the Next Frontier of India's Entertainment Revolution**

**Mr Nikhil Madhok, Head of Originals, Amazon PrimeVideo India**

*In conversation with* **Ms Suhani Singh, Deputy Editor, India Today Magazine**

**1330- 1430 hrs**

**Networking Lunch**





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1430 hrs.  
onwards

## Plenary X: Esports - Building India's Competitive Edge

*This session will discuss India's preparedness and strategy for participation at the Olympic level, focusing on talent development, infrastructure, policy support, and associated governance. The conversation will examine the roadmap to strengthen India's competitive presence, build sustainable esports ecosystems, promote athlete training, support investments, and align stakeholders toward achieving podium-level outcomes on the world stage.*

**Session Chair** **Mr Girish Menon**  
Chief Strategy Officer, JetSynthesys

**Address** **Mr Ashutosh Mohle**  
CEO, WaveX

**Distinguished  
Panellists** **Mr Narinder Kapur**  
Senior Analyst & Global Business Development - Niko Partners

**Mr Sanand Mitra**  
Founder & CEO, Sportech

**Mr Rohit Jagasia**  
CEO & Founder, RNT Esports

**Mr Vishal Parekh**  
COO, Cyber Power PC

**Mr Sudhanshu Sinha**  
CEO, MetaNinza

1515 hrs.  
onwards

## Plenary XI: Responsible AI and the New Frontiers of Storytelling: Is there a Lakshman Rekha?

*As technology reshapes the creative process, this session brings together some of India's most acclaimed storytellers to explore how human imagination and cultural depth continue to define cinema in an era of artificial intelligence.*

**Moderator** **Mr Biren Ghose**  
Founder & CEO, Astra Studios

**Distinguished  
Panellists** **Mr Sudhir Mishra**  
Film Director & Screenwriter; Cineraas Entertainment

**Mr Anand Neelkantan**  
Author, Screenwriter, and Columnist



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## Ms Sunita Uchil

Founder & CEO, Karman Unlimited

## Mr Ram Madhvani

National Award-Winning & Emmy-Nominated Filmmaker

## Ms Gitanjali Sehgal

Co-Founder, GenVR Research AI

1600 hrs.  
onwards

### PowerTalk VI: Scaling Local Stages: Concert Economy as India's Next Creative Powerhouse

*Live events, concerts, and large-format shows have become one of the fastest growing engines of India's creative economy — shaping tourism, talent, brand partnerships and global cultural reach. This session will examine how large-scale productions, touring circuits, and immersive fan experiences can unlock new economic and cultural value for India in the AI-driven decade*

## Mr Sabbas Joseph

Co-Founder and Director at Wizcraft Group

## Mr Kunal Khambhati

Founder & COO – Events, District by Zomato

### 1630 hrs onwards Special Homage: The Eternal He-Man: A Tribute to Dharam Ji

*From iconic action hero to romantic lead, Dharmendra leaves behind a legacy embodying strength and soul. This session celebrates the man, the myth and the magic, exploring his influence on storytelling, stardom and India's cinematic imagination.*

## Dr Bhuvan Lall

Author, Filmmaker and Creative Entrepreneur

In conversation with

## Mr Ramesh Sippy

Filmmaker & Producer

## Mr Rohan Sippy

Filmmaker & Producer



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1700 hrs.  
onwards

## Valedictory: Honouring the Visionaries Shaping India's Media & Entertainment Future

*At this year's CII Big Picture Summit, we celebrate: Mr Gaurav Gandhi — for driving innovation, expanding access, & establishing streaming as a mainstream entertainment force across Asia.*

*&*

*Mr Manoj Bajpayee — for redefining modern Indian storytelling with performances rooted in authenticity, depth, and cultural impact.*

Session  
Chair &  
Moderator

**Mr Rajan Navani**

Co-Chair, CII National Council on Media & Entertainment  
MD & CEO, JetSynthesys

Distinguished  
Guests

**Mr Gaurav Gandhi**

Vice President - APAC, Prime Video

**Mr Manoj Bajpayee**

National Award-Winning Actor

1730 hrs.

## Hi-Tea & Close of Program



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## Notes

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## Notes

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