DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

A SYMPOSIUM ON

AI and the *Human Condition*

Agency · Creativity · Meaning · Moral Standing

26 NOVEMBER 2026
9:30 AM – 6:15 PM | IIT Kanpur

THEME

The problems of today are technological, the problems of tomorrow become business problems seeking sustainability. And the problems of the day after tomorrow become philosophical — questions of how these forces reshape us, both as individuals and as a civilization. The trajectory of artificial intelligence is compressing this timeline: even as the technology matures and its business models take shape, we are already in direct confrontation with its philosophical weight. AI is fast becoming a formidable force in human existence, unsettling long-held assumptions about what it means to be human. Human agency, creativity, productivity, and autonomy are all impacted by AI, altering the way we make meaning in life. Further, researchers caution us that the day is not far off when we will have to reckon with the troubling question of what we owe to AI agents. With ever more sophisticated demonstrations of cognitive complexity, AI models are forcing us to rethink not only what it is to be a human but who else gets to have moral standing. This symposium brings together speakers from various disciplines to exchange ideas on this defining churn between technology and the human condition that is being played out.

VENUE: IIT KANPUR · KANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH

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