



WADHWANI SCHOOL OF AI
& INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

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Introduction

The Wadhvani School of AI & Intelligent Systems (WSAIS) was set up with a vision to pioneer academic programs in intelligent systems that connect machine intelligence with the material world to enhance the productivity of the Indian workforce, and to create intelligent systems with global impact. The school currently encompasses five centres and a new Department of Intelligent Systems

WSAIS has established a robust academic and research ecosystem comprising:

Department

- Department of Intelligent Systems (DIS)

Research Centres

- Wadhvani Center for Robotics (WCR)
- Wadhvani Center for AI Policy and Outreach (WCAPO)
- Wadhvani Center for Developing Intelligent Systems (WCDIS)
- Wadhvani Center for Cybersecurity of Critical Infrastructure (WC3i)

Translation Centre

- Wadhvani Superhub Translation Center (WSTC)

This structure ensures both foundational research and translational impact across sectors.

Leadership and Faculty

The School is led by faculty members with expertise spanning Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Cybersecurity, Computer Vision, Economics, and Intelligent Systems.

The School is headed by Prof. Nitin Saxena, Dean, WSAIS, who also serves as the Coordinator of the Wadhwani Center for Developing Intelligent Systems (WCDIS). He is joined by Prof. Indranil Saha, Head of the Department of Intelligent Systems (DIS); Prof. Shakti S. Gupta, Coordinator of the Wadhwani Center for Robotics (WCR); Prof. Vimal Kumar, Coordinator of the Wadhwani Center for AI Policy and Outreach (WCAPO); Mr. Abhishek Singh, CEO, Wadhwani Superhub Translation Center (WSTC) and Prof. Somitra Sanadhya, Coordinator of the Wadhwani Center for Cybersecurity of Critical Infrastructure (WC3i). Together, they provide strategic leadership in shaping the School's academic, research, translational, and policy initiatives.

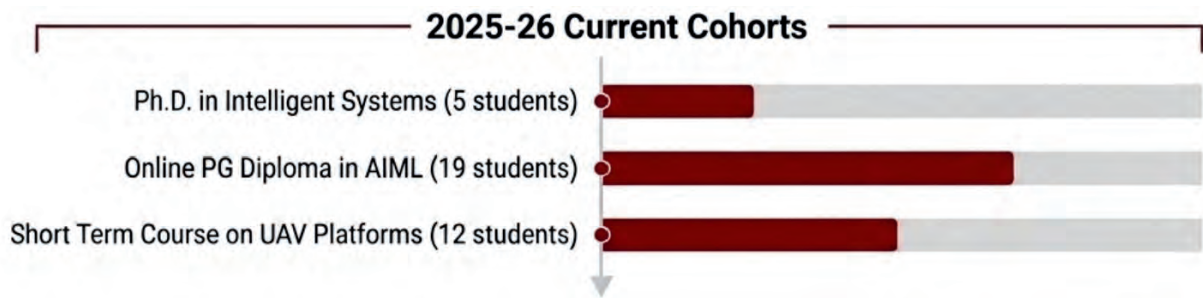
The School currently comprises 20 faculty members representing multiple departments of IIT Kanpur, enabling interdisciplinary research across diverse domains of Artificial Intelligence.

Academic Programmes

The Department of Intelligent Systems commenced its academic journey by launching the Ph.D. programme in Intelligent Systems and an Online Post Graduate Diploma in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML).

These programmes emphasize rigorous theoretical foundations combined with practical implementation, preparing students to solve complex problems using intelligent systems.

Building upon this foundation, the School has received Senate approval to launch undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including B.Tech., M.Tech., MS by Research, and Online M.Tech., beginning in the following academic year. These programmes are designed to produce graduates capable of leading innovation across academia, industry, and government.



Lecture Series

To cultivate an intellectually vibrant academic environment, the Department initiated two lecture series during the year.

1. Intelligent Systems Lecture Series

The Intelligent Systems Lecture Series invites internationally recognised researchers and industry leaders to share advances in intelligent systems research. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Prof. Jyotirmoy Deshmukh from the University of Southern California.



2. Emerging Minds Talk Series

Complementing this initiative, the Emerging Minds Talk Series provides a platform for early-career researchers and young innovators. Speakers during the year included Dr. Sabyasachi Basu from Microsoft Research India and Dr. Nikhil Naik from the University of Southern California.

These engagements expose students and researchers to frontier developments while fostering global academic collaborations.

Patents

WSAIS faculty continued to advance innovation through intellectual property generation, reflecting the School's commitment to translating research into impactful technologies.

1. Classification-First Association, Multi Model based Sequential Adaptive Multi-Radar Tracking and Context-Adaptive Hybrid Fusion of Camera–Radar–V2V” / 2026E01309 IN (BGL) / SSW

Author: Dr. Anirban Roy, WSAIS, IITK & Sanglap Sarkar

2. Computer-Implemented System with a Lattice-Based Designated Verifiable zk-SNARKs for Verifying Proofs and Method Thereof

Authors: Dr. Angshuman Karmakar, WSAIS, IITK, Supriya Adhikary and Puja Mondal

Translation

1. Wadhvani Center for Developing Intelligent Systems (WCDIS)

The Wadhvani Center for Developing Intelligent Systems (WCDIS) focuses on translating cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence research into deployable solutions that address national priorities across digital governance, healthcare, transportation, urban intelligence, education, and public services. During the year, the Centre strengthened collaborations with government agencies, industry partners, and research organizations to develop scalable AI systems with societal impact.

The Centre's research portfolio spans intelligent public infrastructure, predictive analytics, digital health, smart cities, examination systems, and AI-enabled decision support, reflecting its commitment to advancing India's digital transformation agenda.

Major Sponsored Projects

Focus Area	Representative Projects	Sponsor
Digital Governance	Centre for Developing Intelligent Systems	IIT Kanpur
Public Digital Infrastructure	Software Integration, Operation & Maintenance	ICICI
Intelligent Transport	AI-powered Predictive Analytics Layer for MoRTH EDAR	Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
Sustainable Energy	Forecasting Models and Predictive Maintenance	Airawat Research Foundation
Defence Knowledge Systems	Digital Open Library	Ministry of Defence
Digital Health	Advanced Digital Health Infrastructure for Uttar Pradesh	ICICI
Health Insurance Analytics	AI-enabled Claims Processing	Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare
Education Technology	Secure Examination Logistics & OMR Processing	National Testing Agency
Smart Cities	AI Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cities	Google Online India Pvt. Ltd.

2. Wadhvani Center for Robotics (WCR)

The Wadhvani Center for Robotics (WCR) is dedicated to advancing intelligent robotic systems capable of operating in complex and extreme environments. By combining expertise in robotics, autonomous systems, perception, control, and Artificial Intelligence, the Centre develops next-generation robotic platforms with applications in space exploration, industrial automation, and national missions.

The Centre partnered with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to design and develop a quadruped robotic platform for future interplanetary missions.

3. Wadhwani Center for Cybersecurity of Critical Infrastructure (WC3i)

The Wadhwani Center for Cybersecurity of Critical Infrastructure (WC3i) is dedicated to developing advanced cybersecurity technologies for protecting India's critical information infrastructure. Through interdisciplinary research and close collaboration with government agencies, public sector organizations, and industry partners, the Centre addresses emerging cyber threats across transportation, energy, ports, finance, manufacturing, and defence.

During the year, WC3i expanded its national footprint through projects focused on Security Operations Centres (SOC), cybersecurity audits, blockchain-based solutions, digital forensics, crypto crime investigation, cybersecurity maturity assessment, and operational technology (OT) security.

Sponsors



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE



Startups

1. xTerra Robotics



xTerra Robotics, guided by Prof. Shakti S. Gupta, represents a significant milestone in the School's innovation ecosystem. The startup focuses on developing next-generation intelligent legged robotic platforms that enhance human capabilities and enable autonomous operations across challenging environments.

Driven by the vision of integrating advanced robotics into everyday industrial applications, xTerra Robotics is pioneering indigenous robotic technologies that combine mobility, perception, and artificial intelligence for high-impact use cases.

The startup achieved several important milestones with the development of innovative robotic platforms, including:

SVAN M2 – India's first commercial quadruped robot

COBOT C1 – Revolutionize Automation with Precision and Efficiency

SCORP – India's First Legged Mobile Manipulator

These intelligent robotic systems are designed for applications in thermal power plant inspection, power station inspection, construction surveying, and public safety, enabling safer, more efficient, and autonomous operations in complex environments.

The startup also witnessed significant adoption of its technologies during the year, with deployments across six organizations, including five IITs, one NIT, and two universities, demonstrating the growing acceptance of indigenous deep-tech robotics solutions developed at WSAIS.



SVAN M2

India's **first** commercial quadruped robot



SCORP

India's First Legged Mobile Manipulator



COBOT C1

Revolutionize Automation with Precision and Efficiency

Products Deployed



2. CDIS Private Limited

CDIS Pvt. Ltd. serves as a dedicated vehicle for commercializing advanced Artificial Intelligence solutions developed at IIT Kanpur. The company bridges the gap between academic innovation and industry adoption by transforming cutting-edge research into scalable products and technology solutions that address real-world challenges.



Driven by a mission to solve India-specific challenges while adhering to global standards, CDIS Pvt. Ltd. leverages the expertise of IIT Kanpur faculty and researchers to deliver high-impact AI solutions across government, industry, and strategic sectors. Its multidisciplinary team combines research excellence with rapid execution, enabling the seamless transition of technologies from laboratory prototypes to production-ready deployments.

Key Collaborations



Government of India
**Defence Research and
Development Organisation**



विज्ञान एवं
प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**



nasscom



इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं
सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**



International Outreach

As part of its commitment to building a globally connected research ecosystem, a WSAIS delegation comprising Prof. Nitin Saxena (Dean, WSAIS), Prof. Indranil Saha (Head, Department of Intelligent Systems), Prof. Ketan Rajawat, and Prof. Somitra Sanadhya visited leading universities across the United States to promote academic collaboration and showcase the vision of WSAIS.

The delegation visited 16 premier universities and interacted with over 100 faculty members, researchers, and students. The engagements provided an opportunity to present WSAIS's academic programmes, research initiatives, and multidisciplinary centres while connecting with prospective faculty members and exploring avenues for collaborative research, student exchange, and international partnerships.

The outreach strengthened WSAIS's global visibility and laid the foundation for future collaborations with internationally renowned institutions in Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems.



NYU Tandon School of Engineering



Texas A&M University



Harvard University



University of Central Florida.

Faculty Alumni Collaborative Endeavour (FACE) 2025

WSAIS played a prominent role at the inaugural Faculty Alumni Collaborative Endeavour (FACE) 2025, hosted by IIT Kanpur at Stanford University, a global platform designed to foster academic collaborations and engage prospective faculty members.

Prof. Nitin Saxena, Dean, WSAIS, chaired the AI & Cybersecurity track, with Prof. Indranil Saha, Head, Department of Intelligent Systems, serving as Co-chair. Prof. Somitra Sanadhya participated as a panelist, while Prof. Ketan Rajawat moderated the track.



The event brought together IIT Kanpur alumni, leading researchers, academicians, and prospective faculty members from globally renowned institutions, providing an opportunity to showcase WSAIS's vision, research ecosystem, and collaborative opportunities. The participation strengthened WSAIS's international visibility and facilitated discussions on future research partnerships and faculty recruitment.

National Outreach

WSAIS actively engaged with academic institutions, government bodies, and research communities across India to promote Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity, and intelligent systems. Through invited talks, keynote addresses, and technical sessions, WSAIS faculty shared insights on emerging technologies, research translation, and AI-driven solutions for national development, strengthening the School's role as a thought leader in India's AI ecosystem.

Winter Workshop on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence

Prof. Nitin Saxena, Dean, WSAIS, delivered an invited talk at the Winter Workshop on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, organized by IIT Kanpur and supported by the Airawat Research Foundation. He presented the vision of WSAIS, highlighting its academic programmes, interdisciplinary research centres, and AI-driven solutions addressing national priorities.

Prof. Nisheeth Srivastava also delivered a technical session on AI Digital Public Goods for Healthcare, discussing frameworks for trustworthy AI model validation and the opportunities for deploying scalable AI solutions in public health.





Highlights

- Showcased WSAIS vision and research ecosystem
- AI for Healthcare and Digital Public Goods
- 60+ participants from academia and research

3rd International Conference on Cryptology & Network Security with Machine Learning (ICCNSML-25)

Prof. Nitin Saxena and Prof. Somitra Sanadhya were invited as keynote speakers at the 3rd International Conference on Cryptology & Network Security with Machine Learning (ICCNSML-25), organized by Allenhouse Group of Institutions.



The sessions highlighted emerging trends in Artificial Intelligence, Cryptology, and Cybersecurity, emphasizing the importance of secure AI systems, interdisciplinary research, and innovation in strengthening India's digital future.

AI Manthan 2026

Prof. Nitin Saxena was invited to deliver a keynote on "Recharge UP with AI" at AI Manthan 2026, held at Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), Lucknow, in collaboration with CSJMU, Kanpur.



The workshop was inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor and Chancellor Smt. Anandiben Patel, in the presence of Shri Ashish Patel, Minister of Technical Education, and Vice-Chancellors from 27 state universities. The event provided a platform to discuss AI-led innovation, higher education, and technology-driven economic development in Uttar Pradesh.

Highlights

- Keynote on "Recharge UP with AI"
- Engagement with leadership from 27 State Universities
- Strengthened collaboration with higher education institutions



Government Engagement & Capacity Building

WSAIS continued to strengthen its engagement with government institutions by contributing to policy discussions, capacity building, and the adoption of Artificial Intelligence across the public sector. Through interactions with policymakers, senior administrators, and government agencies, the School showcased its research ecosystem and explored opportunities to leverage AI for governance, public service delivery, and national development.

Samanvay 2025

At Samanvay 2025, Prof. Nitin Saxena, Dean, WSAIS, presented the vision of the newly established the School and its mission to advance academic programmes and research in Intelligent Systems. He highlighted WSAIS's focus on developing AI-driven solutions in Robotics, AI Policy, Cybersecurity, and Intelligent Systems that address national priorities while creating global impact.

The event was graced by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, who congratulated IIT Kanpur on this significant initiative. The programme also featured addresses by Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT Kanpur, and Dr. Harrick Vin, Chief Technology Officer, Tata Consultancy Services.



Advancing AI Capacity Building for Government Officers

WSAIS hosted a delegation from the National Academy of Direct Taxes (Regional Campus), Lucknow, led by Dr. Neil Jain, Additional Director General, to explore opportunities for AI-driven capacity building for government officers.

Discussions with Prof. Nitin Saxena, Prof. Vimal Kumar, and Prof. Sruti Srinivasa Ragavan focused on developing structured online and offline training programmes aimed at enhancing the use of Artificial Intelligence in governance. The interaction highlighted the growing role of AI in improving efficiency, decision-making, taxation, compliance, and public service delivery.

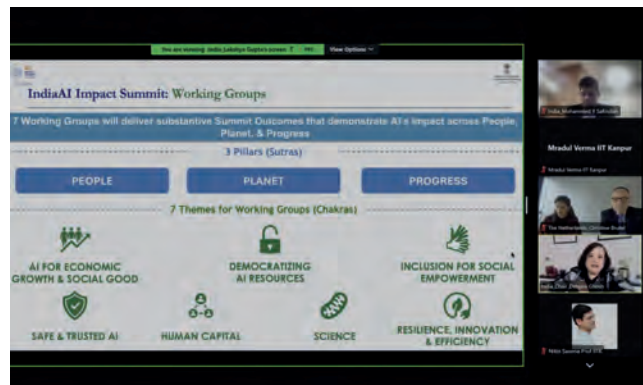


WSAIS at India AI Impact Summit 2026

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 provided a national platform for WSAIS faculty to contribute to policy dialogues, technology demonstrations, research dissemination, and AI-driven solutions addressing national priorities. Through active participation in working groups, panel discussions, product launches, and innovation showcases, WSAIS reinforced its commitment to building responsible, scalable, and impactful AI ecosystems.

Shaping National AI Policy

Prof. Nitin Saxena participated in the Working Group on AI for Economic Growth & Social Good, chaired by Ms. Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog. The discussions focused on developing scalable AI ecosystems, global AI collaboration, governance frameworks, and sustainable implementation models.



Thought Leadership

WSAIS faculty contributed to multiple panel discussions during the Summit.

- Prof. Nitin Saxena participated in the panel on Responsible AI for Bharat, sharing perspectives on translational research, deployable AI products, trustworthy data ecosystems, and AI for India's scale.
- He also served as a panelist on AI Centres of Excellence Panel, highlighting AI innovations in sustainable cities, energy forecasting, predictive maintenance, and digital twins.
- Prof. Manindra Agrawal addressed the Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference, advocating affordable and scalable AI solutions for healthcare.
- Prof. Nisheeth Srivastava spoke on Quality Control in Healthcare AI, emphasizing benchmarking, validation, transparency, and trust in AI systems.



Research & Innovation Showcase

WSAIS showcased its research translation capabilities through major national initiatives.

BODH: Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI

Developed by IIT Kanpur in collaboration with the National Health Authority, BODH was launched by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda. Under the guidance of Prof. Nisheeth Srivastava, the platform enables secure and federated benchmarking of healthcare AI models to support trustworthy, scalable, and responsible AI deployment.



SVAN M2: INDIA'S FIRST COMMERCIAL QUADRUPEL ROBOT

Developed by xTerra Robotics under the guidance of Prof. Shakti S. Gupta, SVAN M2 was showcased as one of the Summit's flagship innovations, demonstrating WSAIS's commitment to translating research into deployable deep-tech products.

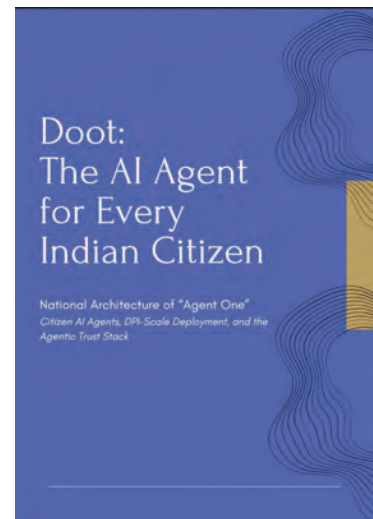
SVAN M2 captured international attention, drawing praise from leaders, policymakers, industry, Engineers, academicians, robotics enthusiasts, and media platforms. The innovation was widely covered across leading news channels and digital platforms.



Research Contributions

WSAIS continued to contribute to India's AI policy ecosystem through research publications.

Prof. Nitin Saxena co-authored the Summit white paper, "Doot: The AI Agent for Every Indian Citizen," proposing a trusted AI agent architecture built upon India's Digital Public Infrastructure to enable inclusive, secure, and citizen-centric access to digital services.



International Visibility & Media Impact

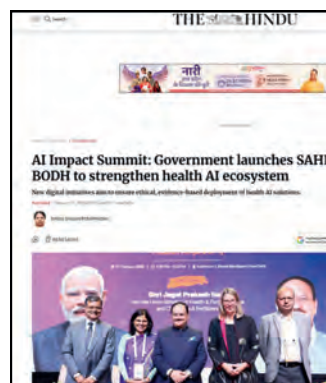
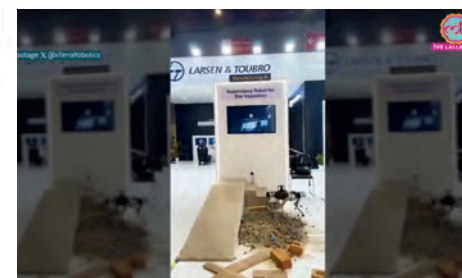
WSAIS's contributions at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 received widespread recognition across national and international media platforms. Research innovations, policy contributions, and technology demonstrations attracted significant attention from policymakers, industry leaders, academic institutions, and the global AI community.

Flagship initiatives such as SVAN M2 – India's first commercial quadruped robot, the launch of BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI), and WSAIS faculty participation in high-level panel discussions and working groups were extensively featured across print, digital, television, and social media platforms. This visibility further strengthened WSAIS's reputation as a leading institution driving responsible AI innovation and translational research.

DAINIK JAGRAN, KANPUR CITY (PAGE-1) 20-02-2026

आईआईटी का बोध बेहतर करेगा स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं

जगप्रसिद्ध स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के लिए आईआईटी का बोध बेहतर करेगा स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं।
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HINDUSTAN (PAGE-04) 20-02-2026

आईआईटी देगा रिपोर्ट, इलाज में मदद करेगा एआई

तकनीक

कानपुर, प्रमुख संवाददाता।
रिपोर्टिंग की प्रणाली व सरल करने के लिए एआई द्वारा व तकनीक का उपयोग किया जाएगा।
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अवसर

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आयुष्य

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Industry Collaboration

WSAIS continues to foster meaningful collaborations with industry to bridge academic research with real-world applications. During the year, the School partnered with CRISIL Limited to strengthen industry engagement, experiential learning, and career opportunities for students.

The collaboration introduces two initiatives:

- **CRISIL Lecture Series** – Invited talks by industry leaders to share insights on AI, cybersecurity, robotics, and emerging technologies
- **CRISIL Student Award** – To recognise academic excellence among students of the Department of Intelligent Systems, WSAIS



The partnership also creates opportunities for internships, industry-sponsored projects, recruitment, and collaborative problem-solving, enabling students to gain practical experience while addressing real-world challenges.

Leadership & Institution Building

IITK PRIME Leadership in Research, Translation & National Service

WSAIS played a leading role in organising the IITK PRIME Leadership in Research, Translation & National Service Conclave, bringing together 30+ distinguished speakers and 80+ participants from academia, industry, and government.



The conclave explored three strategic themes:

Research Leadership – Advancing impactful and fundamental research.

Translational Leadership – Accelerating the journey from laboratory research to societal impact.

Institution Building – Strengthening academic leadership and institutional excellence.

Organised under the leadership of Prof. Nitin Saxena and Prof. Amey Karkare, the conclave provided a platform for dialogue on research excellence, technology translation, and national service. The event concluded with the felicitation of Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT Kanpur, in recognition of his exemplary leadership.

The Vision for the Future

Building on its strong foundation, WSAIS remains committed to advancing education, research, innovation, and technology translation in Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems. The School will continue to expand its academic offerings, strengthen global partnerships, foster industry collaborations, and develop deployable AI solutions that address national priorities while creating global impact.

Strategic Priorities

Expand undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes.

Accelerate the translation of research into deployable AI products and startups.

Advance national leadership in AI policy, digital public infrastructure, and intelligent systems.

Deepen international collaborations and recruit world-class faculty.

Strengthen industry partnerships and CSR-supported research.

Enhance the productivity of the Indian workforce through responsible and impactful AI innovation.

WSAIS envisions becoming a globally recognised institution in Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems where education, research, innovation, and translation converge to create technologies that empower society, strengthen national capabilities, and shape the future of intelligent systems.



WADHWANI SCHOOL OF AI
& INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/wsais-iitk/>



<https://iitk.ac.in/wsais/index.php>



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Uttar Pradesh, India