

IT firms honing AI skills with domain-specific LLMs, training

BETTER APPROACH. Industry sees greater value in AI-enabled solutions, consulting and managed services rather than training foundational models from scratch

Sanjana B
Bengaluru

Leading Indian IT firms are deepening their AI capabilities by integrating large language models (LLMs), focusing on domain-specific applications and upskilling employees to meet the growing demand for AI-driven solutions.

Nikhil Malhotra, Chief Innovation Officer & Global Head of AI and Emerging Technologies at Tech Mahindra, said the company pioneered building LLMs in India with Project Indus, a foundational model it built from the ground up.

An independent study by The Assam Kaziranga University in Jorhat compared various models and found that Indus outperforms many counterparts in tokenisation efficiency, he shared.

"The speed of tokenisation is influenced by the number of parameters and the model's size. It is safe to say Indus has shown the possibility of outperforming even larger models by using optimised techniques. We are also leveraging LLMs to enhance our services for customers and to improve delivery. We are utilising OpenAI models to finetune our

LLMs. The usage varies depending on the specific use case, which is determined through our research to compare the models and select the appropriate one."

"TAILORED TO NEEDS" Deepak Bagchi, VP of AI CoE at CoForge, said Quasar, its AI platform, has integrated 23 LLMs, combining open-source and licensed models. This allows the platform to handle a range of tasks, from natural language processing to complex data analysis.

"We plan to finetune models tailored to client requirements. They will be optimised for tasks and industries, ensuring higher accuracy and efficiency. We are also focused on working with SLMs custom-built for specific use cases, which will be designed to address unique business challenges and provide targeted solutions."

Sridhar Mantha, CEO of Generative AI Business Services (GBS) at Happiest Minds Technologies, explained that rather than competing in the generic LLM space, the company focuses on utilising existing LLMs to create domain-specific applications leveraging its domain expertise to deliver business impact through industry specific



ALLAYING FEARS. "Contrary to the prevalent fear of job losses, AI has the potential to create opportunities, particularly for machine learning engineers, data scientists and AI researchers"

solution and use cases.

The challenges companies face in building LLMs, he explained, is "about strategic decision-making. Building proprietary LLMs requires massive investments in infrastructure, talent and R&D, making it less viable for most IT services firms. Considering it is a fast-evolving space, the investments need to be near-perpetual to keep ahead of the technology curve. Instead, we focus on fine-tuning existing models for enterprise-specific needs, balancing customisation with cost efficiency."

The industry sees greater value in AI-enabled solutions, consulting and managed services rather than training foundational models from scratch, he added. AI is a fundamental driver of its long-term growth strategy, with the company investing heavily to stay ahead of the curve.

With a dedicated business unit for GenAI, Happiest Minds is aligned with its 2031 vision of becoming a \$1 billion company, he said. The company's AI, GenAI and Analytics business already contributes significantly to its overall revenue, account-

ing for 11 per cent.

"By partnering with leading AI providers and specialising in verticalised AI applications, security and responsible AI, IT firms can deliver high-impact solutions without the overhead of LLM development. While fullscale LLM development remains uncommon, specialised AI innovations tailored for business transformation are gaining momentum."

While Indian IT companies are making significant strides in AI, widespread concern remains about it potentially replacing various job roles. Acknowledging

this, CoForge's Bagchi noted that AI has the potential to create new job opportunities, particularly in roles like machine learning engineers, data scientists and AI researchers.

This has led to a focus on reskilling and upskilling existing employees to meet the demands of said AI-driven roles. "We have set up a dedicated CoE to formalise the process across all the labs. The centralised AI CoE is led by the leadership team with over 250 AI practitioners, of which over 100 are certified professionals in technologies including MS Azure, GCP and AWS. The skills span areas like AI/ML, Data Science, Data Science Platform Engineers, Machine Learning Operations, and Integration Engineers. We have trained all employees directly working on AI/ML projects and have certified over 25,000 employees on relevant AI content as part of the 'AI Spark' module with advanced courses for top performers," he said.

JOB CREATION

Mantha noted that job creation happens in the new demands being created in AI. For example, GenAI-driven hiring is directly proportional to business adoption

and demand. While there has been immense interest in GenAI, its adoption follows a hockey-stick trajectory — initial exploration and gradual implementation, followed by a sharp acceleration once businesses integrate this into their core operations.

"Currently, companies are prioritising upskilling and reskilling their workforce to align with Generative AI-driven workflows rather than engaging in largescale hiring. However, as GenAI adoption matures and more enterprises move from experimentation to full-scale deployment, we can expect a corresponding surge in hiring — particularly in specialised areas like AI model engineering, data science and AI operations. This shift will mirror the upswing of a hockey stick, where increased adoption drives greater workforce expansion."

He said Happiest Minds has established a dedicated business unit for GenAI and an AI CoE to drive AI literacy across the organisation. Investments include Gen AI training programmes at various levels, from foundational AI awareness to deep technical expertise.

With inputs from Vallari Sanzgin in Mumbai
Jaspreet Bindra, co-

founder of AI & Beyond, said upskilling in AI and making targeted investments in AI-driven innovations are no longer just strategic options for Indian IT companies. Instead, they have become operational imperatives. With shrinking margins and intense competition, companies failing to adapt risk falling behind. Reskilling the workforce in AI tools like generative models, automation frameworks and data-driven decision-making processes is essential for maintaining relevance, he added.

"While these investments may incur short-term costs, they act as a hedge against long-term margin erosion. By embedding AI into core operations, companies can streamline processes, reduce overheads, and improve service delivery. This enhances productivity and operational efficiency and allows for innovative, AI-powered solutions that differentiate them in the global market. In a world where AI proficiency will define the next era of technology services, Indian IT firms must seize this opportunity to future-proof their business and secure sustained growth," he said.

French shipping major CMA CGM to play a key role in IMEC

TE Raja Simhan
Chennai

French shipping major CMA CGM will play a pivotal role in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), the company said in a statement after the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with French President Emmanuel Macron to the group's headquarters in Marseille on Wednesday.

The leaders were welcomed by Rodolphe Saade, Chairman and CEO of the CMA CGM Group, at the Group's headquarters.

Discussions focused on the IMEC, which is a strategic trade route designed to enhance connectivity between India and Europe.

The CMA CGM Group, which is a global player in maritime, land, air and logistics solutions, intends to actively contribute to this initiative, the statement said.

TO ENHANCE TRANSIT
The IMEC project aims to enhance transit between



TRADE BOOST. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron (left) and Rodolphe Saade, Chairman and CEO of the CMA CGM Group, in Marseille.

Europe and India through integrated maritime and land infrastructure while also facilitating energy transport and telecommunications via a subsea cable.

With a modern fleet adapted to alternative energy sources and key port hubs in India, the UAE and the Mediterranean, CMA CGM will be a key contributor to the corridor's efficiency.

Additionally, a network of dry ports along the IMEC rail route — stretching from India through Saudi Arabia and the Middle East to Europe — will leverage the Group's lo-

gistics expertise, reinforcing the economic and strategic vision of this alternative trade route.

STRONG PRESENCE
With a presence in 160 countries through 400 offices, 750 warehouses, 1,60,000 employees and a wide fleet of 620 vessels, CMA CGM serves 420 of the world's 521 commercial ports and operates more than 250 shipping lines.

It has been in India for the last 34 years, with a workforce of nearly 17,000 employees.

RBI clears Temasek unit picking 7% stake in AU Small Finance Bank

Our Bureau
Mumbai

AU Small Finance Bank announced on Thursday that the Reserve Bank of India has approved Zulia Investments Pte. Ltd, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore's Temasek Holdings, to acquire up to 7 per cent stake in the bank.

The shares of AU Small Finance Bank were trading at ₹554.65, up by ₹ 0.25 or 0.05 per cent on the NSE on Thursday at 11.40 am.

RBI LETTER
The approval, granted through an RBI letter dated February 12, 2025, allows Zulia Investments, along with persons acting in concert and associate enterprises, to purchase the shares within one year, subject to regulatory compliance.

If the acquisition is not completed within this timeframe, the approval will be cancelled.

Shriram Finance raises \$500 m via SACE ECB loan facility

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Shriram Finance raised \$500 million via SACE External Commercial Borrowing Push loan facility, with a term of 10 years, the company said in a statement.

SACE is an Italian export credit agency run by the government of Italy.

Shriram Finance raised over \$2.5 billion in offshore

funding in the current financial year. Umesh Revankar, Executive Vice-Chairman of Shriram Finance, said the transaction shows the NBFC's strong ability to navigate global financial markets and forge strategic partnerships with international lenders.

This loan facility enhances the NBFC's ability to finance Italian vehicles and equipment.

RUBFILA
International Limited

Regd. Office: New Indl. Dev. Area, Menonpura Road, Kanjikoode, PALAKKAD
Kerala-678 621. Ph: 0491 2567261 - 64, e-mail: rubfila@gmail.com
Website: rubfila.com CIN L25199KL1993PLC007016

Extract of Un-Audited Financial Results for the Quarter / Nine months ended 31.12.2024 (As per Regulation 33 read with Regulation 47(1) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015)

The Board of Directors of the Company, at its meeting held on 12th February, 2025 approved the unaudited financial results of the Company, for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2024.

The result along with the Limited Review Report given by the Statutory Auditors, has been posted on the Company's website at <https://rubfila.com/images/OutcometheBoard.pdf> and can also be accessed by Scanning the QR Code.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
RUBFILA INTERNATIONAL LTD
Sd/-
G. KRISHNA KUMAR
Managing Director

Place: Palakkad
Date: 12-02-2025

CtrlS Datacenters to inaugurate Chennai campus on February 25

TE Raja Simhan
Chennai

The Hyderabad-based CtrlS Datacenters Ltd will inaugurate its ₹4,000 crore data centre in Chennai on February 25. Chief Minister MK Stalin is expected to inaugurate the centre located in the Ambattur industrial estate.

Named **Namma Datacenter** (our data centre), the Chennai campus marks a pivotal moment in the company's mission to strengthen India's digital infrastructure.

In February 2024, CtrlS Datacenters Ltd unveiled its upcoming data centre park in Chennai — its fifth hyperscale DC campus in India following Mumbai, Hyderabad, Noida and Bengaluru.

NEW JOBS

The company is expected to create about 500 direct jobs and over 9,000 indirect jobs. Located in the Ambattur industrial area, the campus will include two data centre buildings with a combined built-up area of almost 1 million square feet and 72 MW IT load capacity.

CtrlS Datacenters, which began operations in 2007, operates 15 data centres across eight key markets.

Cadence Enterprises Private Limited				
Ground Floor, New Usdan Bhatwari, Opposite Terminal-3, IGI Airport, New Delhi 110037. CIN: U52100DL2008PTC172118				
Statement of standalone unaudited financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2024				
S. No.	Particulars	(All amounts in ₹ Lakhs unless otherwise stated)		
		Quarter Ended 31.12.2024	Previous Year Ended 31.03.2024	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	1,14.19	1,365.15	4,693.06
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)*	(16.66)	(97.99)	(225.61)
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)*	(16.66)	(97.99)	(225.61)
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after Tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)*	(14.25)	(97.99)	(251.87)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value ₹/- each)	(381.69)	(169.23)	(331.14)
7	Reserves (other equity) (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	-
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-
9	Net worth	(380.69)	(168.23)	(330.14)
10	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	10,562.00	17,170.00	17,170.00
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	(78.06)	(121.99)	(64.85)
13	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)*	(142.47)	(979.87)	(2,518.71)
14	1. Basic (amount in ₹)	(142.47)	(979.87)	(2,518.71)
15	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
16	Debiture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
17	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.11	0.14	0.48
18	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.99	0.94	0.96
19	Current ratio	0.02	6.78	0.00
20	Long term debt to working capital	(0.00)	93.70	(1.59)
21	Bad debts to accounts receivable ratio	N/A	N/A	N/A
22	Current liability ratio	0.51	0.00	0.39
23	Total debt to total assets ratio	1.01	1.01	0.62
24	Debtors turnover ratio	N/A	N/A	N/A
25	Inventory turnover ratio	N/A	N/A	N/A
26	Operating margin (%)	(-1.41%)	(-6.86%)	(-4.24%)
27	Net profit margin (%)	(-1.28%)	(-7.18%)	(-5.37%)

* There is no exceptional and/ or extraordinary items adjusted in the statement of profit and loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules.

Not restated/ revised for the year ended March 31, 2024

Notes to the Unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2024:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly standalone financial results filed with the BSE Ltd under Regulation 32 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly standalone financial results are available on the website of BSE Ltd www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website: www.cadenceenterprises.in
- The applicable information required to be furnished under Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 has been submitted to the BSE Ltd and the same can be accessed at www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website: www.cadenceenterprises.in
- There is no impact on net profit/ loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial items (due to change) in accounting policies.
- Debt Equity ratio represents (Borrowings/ Share holder's Funds). Shareholder's Funds is equity shares plus other equity.
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio represents earnings available for debt services (net profit after taxes + Depreciation + Finance Costs)/ Debt Service Interest paid + principal payments of borrowings)
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio represents earnings available for interest services (net profit after taxes + depreciation + finance costs)/ Interest paid.
- Capital redemption reserve/ Debenture redemption reserve - Nil.
- Current ratio represents current assets/current liabilities.
- Long term debt to working capital represents (long term borrowings)/ (current assets- current liabilities)
- Current liability ratio represents current liabilities/current assets.
- Total debts to total assets represents total debt/total assets.
- Debtors turnover represents revenue from operations/average trade receivables.
- Inventory turnover - Not applicable.
- Operating profit margin represents (earnings before interest and tax)/ total revenue.
- Net profit margin represents (net profit after tax)/ total revenue.
- Net worth represents paid-up equity share capital plus other equity.
- Net profit after tax represents total comprehensive income after tax.
- Earnings per share represents net profit after tax/weighted average number of shares.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of
Cadence Enterprises Private Limited
Sd/-
Ravi Majeti (DIN: 07106220)
Director

Date: 12th February, 2025

THE HINDU
on Sunday IN SCHOOL

AN EXCLUSIVE WEEKENDER FOR CHILDREN

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

SPECIAL ISSUE DATED 23rd FEBRUARY 2025

Collector's Edition @ ₹ 25 ONLY

IDEAL FOR AGES 11-17

India's scientific journey

DIY science projects & puzzles

Famous science destinations

The science behind our everyday lives

Micro organisms

Unique STEM courses

The greatest scientific minds

As always, we are sure this issue will keep you enthralled and engaged.

PRE-BOOK YOUR COPY WITH YOUR NEWSPAPER AGENT TODAY

To Subscribe, visit www.thehindu.com/theseekend or call us at 1800 102 1878
For bulk bookings, email us at reach.inschool@thehindu.co.in

FREE LIMITED EDITION SCHOOL BAG WITH ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

SCAN HERE FOR MORE