Media Release

'Al Literacy Curriculum Framework' launched under the 'Al Samarth' initiative, paving the way for a future-ready Bharat

- Central Square Foundation, with support from <u>Google.org</u>, and in collaboration with Wadhwani School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (WSAI) at IIT Madras, launched the 'AI Samarth: AI Literacy Curriculum Framework for Students', a research-based and flexible framework for embedding AI literacy within India's school ecosystem.
- The Handbook outlines the curriculum framework's design process, its pillars, topics, subtopics, and learning outcomes focused on fostering meaningful and responsible AI engagement, providing a holistic approach to building AI literacy for middle and high school students from Bharat.

8th May, 2025, New Delhi: Marking a pivotal moment in India's education landscape, Central Square Foundation (CSF), with support from Google.org, and in collaboration with the Wadhwani School of Data Science and AI (WSAI) at IIT Madras, launched the AI Literacy Curriculum Framework for Students at the 'AI Samarth Conclave' in New Delhi. This represents a significant milestone for 'AI Samarth', an initiative to empower over 50 lakh students, teachers, and parents across government and affordable private schools in India with the requisite knowledge and capacity to engage with AI effectively, safely, and responsibly.

Al is rapidly emerging as a transformative force in shaping society, influencing daily life across sectors, including education. As Al profoundly impacts the education sector, it brings opportunities to make learning deeply personalised, adaptive, and efficient. However, realising this potential requires more than just access to technology; it demands awareness, thoughtful integration and meaningful Al engagement by users.

To address this need, AI Samarth has developed a contextualised AI Literacy Curriculum Framework for Students and Teachers in India. The curriculum released today aims to build fundamental AI awareness in students, cultivate critical thinking and responsible use of AI tools—laying the groundwork for a future-ready, AI-literate society. The AI literacy curriculum for educators, to be released soon, will focus on enhancing AI awareness, building capacity to leverage AI for teaching and learning, and guiding students in its safe and informed use. The curriculum has been informed by key learnings from high-quality curricula and courses available globally.

Further, AI Samarth is building an open-source content stack, including a video repository for self-learning for students, parents, and teachers, along with teaching-learning materials for cascaded training for both teachers and students. The multilingual content stack will be released as a public good in English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, and Odia over the next six months, with an intent to expand to additional regional languages subsequently. The content will be disseminated through digital platforms and cascaded training modules, in collaboration with mission-aligned implementation partners, state governments and online learning platforms across Bharat. In its first round of implementation, AI Samarth has partnered with six organisations to build AI Literacy for over 50 lakh (5 million) students, parents and teachers. Looking ahead, AI Samarth is committed to mainstreaming AI literacy into school systems nationwide.

As India embraces the promise of AI, equipping users with the tools to engage with AI critically and responsibly will be key to shaping a future where technology is used with purpose and impact at scale. Through this effort, India is building the groundwork for future generations to lead, create, and shape an inclusive AI-driven future.

About Central Square Foundation (CSF):

Established in 2012, Central Square Foundation (CSF) is a non-profit dedicated to enhancing the learning outcomes of all school-going children across India through system-led reforms. As a catalytic enabler, our initiatives span innovation and policy to practice and focus on learning impact at scale across 14 states.

At the heart of our mission is our strategic focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), which drives our collaborative efforts with 11 state governments to design and execute statewide FLN missions. Additionally, we prioritise EdTech integration, aiming to deploy digital solutions for in-class and at-home learning and establish evidence-based practices while also tapping into the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to augment learning outcomes. We are deeply committed to Early Childhood Education (ECE) reforms, recognising the critical role it plays in laying a strong groundwork for children's learning journey, thereby augmenting FLN outcomes. We also work in the area of School Governance, extending our system-level approach to children in both private and government schools, to strengthen the country's education landscape.

About WSAI and CeRAI @ IITM

The Wadhwani School of Data Science and AI (WSAI) houses the Department of Data Science and AI (DSAI) and Centre for Responsible AI (CeRAI), and brings together several faculty working members together on exciting interdisciplinary problems in Data Science & AI. IIT Madras established the Centre for Responsible AI (CeRAI) to promote the ethical and responsible development of AI-based solutions.

Quotes from the leadership

"The launch of the 'Al Literacy Curriculum Framework' under the 'Al Samarth' initiative marks a pivotal step in equipping students across Bharat for an Al-enabled future. Developed by CSF and IIT Madras, this curriculum introduces middle and high school learners to how Al works and its real-world applications. By fostering critical, ethical, and purposeful engagement with Al, 'Al Samarth' is going beyond building awareness — it is laying the foundation for a future-ready, innovation-driven Bharat."

- Shaveta Sharma-Kukreja (CEO and MD, Central Square Foundation)

"India stands at a pivotal moment where empowering the next generation with Al literacy is crucial for realising our full potential in the digital era. Through Al Samarth, we are taking a decisive step to demystify Al for students and build the capacity of educators and parents to guide responsible engagement. The Al Samarth curriculum fosters critical thinking, ethical awareness, and confident use of Al. I strongly encourage education departments to mainstream Al literacy so our classrooms can become true incubators of innovation and leadership."

- Prof. B. Ravindran (Head, Wadhwani School of Data Science and AI, IIT-Madras)