BHASHINI showcases multilingual AI for healthcare at GDHS 2026

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News

The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) showcased multilingual AI solutions for healthcare at the Global Digital Health Summit (GDHS) 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 20–21 November 2026. BHASHINI's speech-to-text, text-to-speech and translation tools enable voice-based medical records, voice prescriptions and multilingual doctor–patient communication. Demonstrations included e-BHASHINI integrated with the e-Sushrut hospital management system at JIPMER, Puducherry; at AIIMS, speech-to-text integrated with the National Informatics Centre's e-Hospital prescription module, and cross-language doctor–patient conversation; and 'Dhanwantri' of the Army's Directorate General of Medical Services, which turns spoken clinical notes into text. Also shown were 'Shrutlekh', a real-time multilingual transcription tool, the BHASHINI mobile app, the language-data contribution platform 'Data Daan for Health' (maps everyday symptom words to medical terms, e.g. 'pet me paani bhar gaya hai' → oedema), 'BhashaDaan for Health' and 'Granthika' (collects and digitises written and oral language resources). Reports say BHASHINI supports 36 Indian languages in text, 23 in voice and 35 international languages. DIBD CEO Amitabh Nag said that "language must not become a barrier in the delivery of essential services".

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	Global Digital Health Summit (GDHS) 2026, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi – 20–21 Nov 2026
Showcased by	Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), MeitY
JIPMER	e-BHASHINI with e-Sushrut HMIS – voice clinical records
Army	'Dhanwantri' – DGMS (Army) voice-notes system
Other tools	Shrutlekh, BHASHINI app, Data Daan for Health, BhashaDaan for Health, Granthika
Languages	36 Indian (text), 23 (voice), 35 international (reported)
CEO	Amitabh Nag
BHASHINI launched	July 2022, Gandhinagar – National Language Translation Mission

Background

- BHASHINI stands for 'BHASHa INterface for India'. It was launched in July 2022 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, under the National Language Translation Mission, and is run by DIBD, an independent business division of Digital India Corporation.
- The Constitution's language provisions are in Part XVII (Articles 343–351). Article 343: Hindi in Devanagari is the Union's official language, with English continuing for an initial 15 years. Article 344 provides for an Official Language Commission and a Parliamentary Committee; the first Commission, under B.G. Kher, was set up on 7 June 1955 and reported in 1956.
- Technically, converting speech to text is 'Automatic Speech Recognition' (ASR), text to speech is 'TTS', and one language to another is 'Machine Translation' (MT). Turning a doctor's spoken notes into text at once cuts paperwork and frees time for patients.
- JIPMER traces its roots to the 'École de Médecine de Pondichéry', founded by the French Government in 1823. After Puducherry's transfer to India it was briefly 'Dhanvantri Medical College' and was later renamed JIPMER; an Act of Parliament made it an Institution of National Importance in July 2008.

Tamil Nadu link: After the 1965 anti-Hindi agitation in Madras State (today's Tamil Nadu), the Official Languages Act, 1963 was amended in 1967: English stays in use until resolutions ending it are passed by the legislature of every State that has not adopted Hindi and by both Houses of Parliament. Tools like BHASHINI, which work in Tamil and other languages, help people reach public services without a language barrier; JIPMER in Puducherry, next to Tamil Nadu, is an early user.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: Global Digital Health Summit (GDHS) 2026, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi – 20–21 Nov 2026; Showcased by: Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), MeitY; JIPMER: e-BHASHINI with e-Sushrut HMIS – voice clinical records; Army: 'Dhanwantri' – DGMS (Army) voice-notes system.

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. JIPMER, Puducherry, which uses e-BHASHINI in e-Sushrut, traces its roots to an 1823 medical school founded by which government?

A) British

B) Dutch

C) French

D) Portuguese

Answer: C – Explanation: French – the 'École de Médecine de Pondichéry'. A July 2008 Act made JIPMER an Institution of National Importance.

2. What does 'BHASHINI', the Centre's language-technology platform, stand for?

A) Bhasha Interface for India

B) Bharat Speech Hub

C) Bhasha Integrated Network

D) Bharatiya Shabd Kosh

Answer: A – Explanation: BHASHa INterface for India – launched in July 2022 at Gandhinagar under the National Language Translation Mission.

3. Who headed the first Official Language Commission, set up in 1955 under Article 344?

A) Govind Ballabh Pant

B) K.M. Munshi

C) N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar

D) B.G. Kher

Answer: D – Explanation: B.G. Kher – 7 June 1955; report in 1956. G.B. Pant chaired the Parliamentary Committee (1957) that examined it.

4. As in BHASHINI's health tools, the AI technology that turns a doctor's spoken notes into text is called:

A) ASR (speech recognition)

B) OCR (character recog.)

C) TTS (text-to-speech)

D) Machine translation

Answer: A – Explanation: Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR). OCR turns printed or handwritten images into text; TTS turns text into speech.

5. After the 1965 anti-Hindi agitation in Madras State (now Tamil Nadu), which law was amended in 1967 to keep English in use?

A) Constitution (Art. 343)

B) Official Languages Act 1963

C) States Reorganisation Act

D) Govt of India Act, 1935

Answer: B – Explanation: The Official Languages Act, 1963 – English continues until all non-Hindi State legislatures and both Houses of Parliament resolve otherwise.

Sources: Digital India BHASHINI Division release (GDHS 2026; ANI, 20–21 Nov 2026); globalsummit.health (event dates/venue); Constitution of India, Part XVII (legislative.gov.in); Official Languages Act, 1963 as amended 1967 (rajbhasha.gov.in); JIPMER Act, 2008 and jipmer.edu.in (history); Lok Sabha Debates (eparlib.sansad.in). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.