

Swami Suryanil

Profile and Success Story as **Distinguished Fellow** in **Artificial Intelligence**, AI Forum of IIT Alumni Council

Swami Suryanil, formerly known as Dr. Suryanil Ghosh, is a remarkable figure at the intersection of artificial intelligence, social *innovation*, and grassroots entrepreneurship. Honored as a **Distinguished Fellow** in **Artificial Intelligence** by the **AI** Forum of the IIT Alumni Council in July 2024, Swami Suryanil's journey is a testament to the transformative power of harnessing deep technology for the upliftment of underprivileged and marginalized communities.

Life Mission and Philosophical Foundation

A monk by choice and a technocrat by training, Swami Suryanil's mission centers on creating wealth for the bottom of the pyramid—fostering micro and community entrepreneurship in underdeveloped regions. Rooted in the philosophy of “serving those whose existence still matters,” he strives to shift the narrative from elite-driven progress to true community empowerment. His core beliefs highlight that our cosmic insignificance should inspire selfless service, particularly for those who remain unseen and underserved.

Academic and Professional Trajectory

Swamiji's foundation in science and technology is formidable. After excelling in his early academic years at Ramkrishna Mission institutions, he completed his undergraduate studies in Physics and went on to earn a Master's in Computer Applications from Jawaharlal Nehru University, focusing his thesis on artificial intelligence. He later completed his Ph.D. in **AI** from the University of Alberta, Canada—specializing in paraconsistent reasoning and inconsistency handling—thus laying a bedrock for his lifelong engagement with **AI**.

He has held *research*, faculty, and consulting positions at leading institutions such as the University of Alberta, Max Planck Institute for Computer Science, St. Francis Xavier University, and PricewaterhouseCoopers, before embracing full-time social entrepreneurship.

Catalyzing Social Change through AI

As the founder and Chief Catalyst of TotalStart Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Developers, Swami Suryanil created a unique model for incubating, scaling, and mentoring community-owned enterprises. His initiatives like TribalAg Limited (run by tribal and marginal farmers) and MushroomAg (run by differently-abled communities) exemplify the use of **AI** and deep tech to tackle complex agricultural, logistical, and market challenges, turning marginalized groups into tech-savvy entrepreneurs.

Swamiji has been instrumental in launching the Innovation and Incubation Center for Machine Learning (IICML) across Eastern and Northeastern India, fostering grassroots adoption of **AI** and deep tech innovations. His advisory and mentorship efforts pull together government, academia, and industry resources for inclusive, scalable impact.

Recognition and Enduring Impact

For his ground-breaking work, Swami Suryanil was recognized by the Government of India as the National Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Builder in 2019, further confirming his influence on national policy and micro-entrepreneurship. His relentless pursuit of “wealth creation by the underprivileged for

themselves” marks a paradigmatic shift in social *innovation* and **AI**, inspiring a new generation of technologists, policymakers, and changemakers to use artificial intelligence as a vehicle for inclusion and broad-based prosperity.

Swami Suryanil’s legacy is a rare blend of monkhood and machine learning—demonstrating that **AI** can become a force for large-scale societal transformation when wielded with compassion, *vision*, and community spirit.