

## Leaders Discuss the Role of Data & AI in Strengthening Education Governance at Mumbai Roundtable



### **Mumbai, February 27, 2026:**

Sterlite EdIndia Foundation, hosted the **Data & AI for Education Governance Roundtable** on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at the Sterlite Electric Office, BKC, Mumbai, bringing together senior leaders from municipal corporations, district administrations, education departments, and leading education foundations from across the country. Improving student learning outcomes and efficient planning at the administrative level, which is at par with the New Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework, was the central theme of the conference.

The roundtable focused on the growing need for insight-driven systems to strengthen education planning, monitoring, and evaluation at classroom level. The dignitaries discussed how data and artificial intelligence are supporting evidence-based decision-making and helping education systems become more integrated and future-ready. The transparency and accountability that come with data are evident and are helping educators reach the students who struggle the most in classrooms.

The discussions highlighted practical use-cases from states and urban local bodies, including the use of data for monitoring student learning outcomes, improving teacher deployment, tracking attendance, and strengthening program implementation. Participants also reflected on the importance of building institutional capacity so that data is not just collected but meaningfully used by administrators and educators at all levels.



The roundtable brought together senior government officials from municipal corporations, district administrations, and state education systems, along with leaders from prominent education foundations and system partners. Key government representatives included **Prachi Jambhekar**, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, MCGM; **Kavita Borkar**, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, MBMC; **Sachin Sangale**, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, TMC; **Mohit Patil**, Project Manager (Education), MBMC; **Dr. M. Sudhish**, Assistant Director, Samagra Shiksha, Chhattisgarh; and **Dr. Keshab Sarmah**, District Planning Officer, Namsai District Administration.

Education system leaders and foundation heads present included **Nikita Ketkar**, Founder & CEO, Masoom Foundation; **Tiasha Banerjee**, CEO, Adhyayan Foundation; **Sanjay Dalmia**, CEO, Open Links Foundation; **Manoj Puttur**, Director Education Program, Vipla Foundation; and **Aditya Bhatkal**, Team Lead, Dasra. Representatives from NMMC, KDMC, PMC, and Sattva Consulting also part of the deligation.

The conference was led by **Sonakshi Agarwal**, Managing Director, Sterlite EdIndia Foundation, and **Antony Nellissery**, Head of the Foundation, who emphasised the need to move beyond fragmented systems and work towards cohesive data ecosystems that enable timely and informed decision-making, so that every child in the country can get quality education.

**Sonakshi Agarwal**, Managing Director, Sterlite EdIndia Foundation, said, “Our focus is to help institutions gain the confidence to make data-driven decisions as part of everyday governance. When public and private partners come together, we build scalable solutions whose impact continues long after the project ends.”

**Antony Nellissery**, Head, Sterlite EdIndia Foundation, shared, “In academic practice, evidence is central. Data brings rigour to decision-making, and AI enhances our ability to interpret complex learning patterns at scale. This combination allows education systems to shift from reactive correction to proactive improvement.”

**Tiasha Banerjee**, CEO, Adhyayan Quality Education Foundation, emphasised the role of AI in strengthening governance, noting, “AI strengthens governance in education by turning system data

into timely, actionable insights. When grounded in evidence, multi-year planning shifts from ambition to accountable and measurable improvements.”

**Aditya Bhatkal**, Team Lead, Dasra, highlighted the importance of insights-driven systems and long-term planning, stating, “Insights-driven systems enable us to act on real-time data from the last mile and amplify community voices. Leading with data-driven planning helps systems move towards measurable outcomes faster and with greater clarity.”

Sharing learnings from field implementation, **Manoj Puttur**, Director, Education Program at Vipla Foundation, said, “Transformation begins when systems move beyond tracking completion to understanding mastery. Insights-driven planning helps educators and administrators see patterns, not just numbers. Technology should strengthen human judgement and enable early, equitable interventions.”

The roundtable concluded with a shared emphasis on collaboration across government, foundations, and system leaders to design responsible, transparent, and scalable data-driven education systems that ultimately improve learning outcomes for all students.

Sterlite EdIndia Foundation has been working in the field of teacher-education, data analytics support, and institutional strengthening of the education system. The foundation is a CSR initiative and it is incubated by Sterlite Electric, Resonia and Serentica.