



SARVAJANIK UNIVERSITY
Sarvajani College of Engineering & Technology
Computer Engineering Department
in association with R & D Cell, SCET



EVENT REPORT - R&D Expert Talk

Embodied AI: Towards a Companion Robot

Event Details

Title of the Event	Embodied AI: Towards a Companion Robot
Type of Activity	R&D Expert Talk
Date of the Event	9th September 2026
Speaker	Dr. Chayan Sarkar, Senior Scientist, TCS Research, Delhi
Faculty Coordinator	Dr. Nirali Nanavati and Dr. Rachana Oza
Student Volunteers	Dwarkesh Ramani, Dhruvil Sopariwala, Mansi Limbachiya, Ahaan Mehta
No. of Students	193 UG students and 8 PG students

Event Poster



SARVAJANIK UNIVERSITY
Sarvajani College of Engineering & Technology
R & D CELL, SCET
Presents
Expert Talk on

**Embodied AI:
Towards a
Companion Robot**

Date:
9th September, 2026

Faculty Coordinators:
Prof. (Dr.) Nirali Nanavati
Prof. (Dr.) Rachana Oza



Dr. Chayan Sarkar
Senior Scientist,
TCS Research

Short Summary of the Event

The Department of Computer Engineering, in association with the R&D Cell, SCET, organized an expert talk on “Embodied AI: Towards a Companion Robot” on 9th September 2026. The session was delivered by Dr. Chayan Sarkar, Senior Scientist, TCS Research, Delhi, and provided students with insights into the emerging field of Embodied AI and intelligent companion robots.

The talk introduced Embodied AI as AI systems that can perceive, understand, learn, and interact with the physical world through a body or robotic platform. The speaker Dr. Sarkar discussed how artificial intelligence, robotics, perception, cognition, learning, decision-making, and Human–Robot Interaction (HRI) come together to build intelligent systems capable of operating in real-world environments. Real-time problems addressed using Embodied AI were also discussed, helping students understand its practical relevance.

The online session included an interactive question-and-answer segment. Students asked about the roadmap for entering Embodied AI, the impact of AI on society and future jobs, and whether embedded systems and mechanical engineering concepts are necessary for this field. The speaker advised students interested in Embodied AI to explore AI concepts and ROS (Robot Operating System) and to develop a strong interest in the domain. He explained that AI and Embodied AI can support industrial tasks, homes, and workplaces, while the nature of jobs is expected to evolve, making continuous learning and analytical thinking important. He also clarified that students may work on the algorithmic side of Embodied AI or choose to learn AI along with relevant mechanical and electronics concepts depending on their interests.

Overall, the expert talk provided students with a broader understanding of Embodied AI, its applications, research possibilities, and the interdisciplinary skills required to explore this emerging area.

Speaker Profile

Dr. Chayan Sarkar is a Senior Scientist at TCS Research, working in the areas of Robotics, Autonomous Systems and Embodied AI. He holds a Master's degree from IIT Bombay, and a Ph.D. from Delft University of Technology, Netherlands. He has also worked as a researcher at SICS, Sweden.

His research interests include Embodied AI, Human–Robot Interaction and Multi-Robot Systems. His work explores how intelligent agents can perceive their environment, understand human instructions, reason about tasks, and act autonomously in real-world settings. He has contributed to research on multi-robot task allocation, natural-language interaction with robots, social robotics, and embodied AI-based telepresence systems. His research and talks focus on the practical challenges of moving AI from digital environments into the physical world, making him an excellent speaker on the emerging field of Embodied AI and intelligent systems.

Session Overview

The session focused on the concept of Embodied AI and its role in creating intelligent systems that can perceive, understand, learn, and interact with the physical world through a body or robotic platform.

The speaker discussed the roadmap for developing intelligent companion robots, covering perception, cognition, learning, decision-making, and Human–Robot Interaction (HRI). The discussion also included real-time problems solved using Embodied AI and highlighted opportunities for further exploration and research in the field.

The expert talk was followed by an interactive Q&A session in which students raised questions related to learning pathways, the impact of AI on society and future jobs, and the interdisciplinary knowledge required for Embodied AI.

Student Interaction & Q&A

1. What would be the roadmap for students wanting to go into Embodied AI?

Answer: Students should learn and explore concepts of AI and ROS (Robot Operating System) and should have a genuine interest in the field.

2. What is the impact of AI on society and the future?

Answer: AI is beneficial, and Embodied AI can support various industrial tasks, homes, and workplaces. Jobs are expected to evolve, so students should maintain a strong learning and analytical mindset.

3. Do students need to study embedded systems and mechanical engineering concepts to enter Embodied AI?

Answer: It depends on the student's interests. Students can work on the algorithmic side of Embodied AI, or they can learn AI concepts along with the required mechanical and electronics concepts.

Key Takeaways

- Understanding the concept, working principles, and applications of Embodied AI.
- Learning how AI, robotics, perception, cognition, learning, and decision-making contribute to intelligent companion robots.
- Understanding the role of Human–Robot Interaction (HRI) in real-world intelligent systems.
- Exploring learning pathways involving AI and ROS (Robot Operating System).
- Recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of Embodied AI and the relevance of mechanical and electronics concepts based on individual interests.
- Exploring future opportunities and research challenges in AI, robotics, and Human–Robot Interaction.

Acknowledgement

The Department of Computer Engineering, in association with the R&D Cell, SCET, expresses sincere gratitude to Dr. Chayan Sarkar, Senior Scientist, TCS Research, Delhi, for sharing his expertise and practical insights on Embodied AI and companion robots.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our honorable principal Dr. Hiren Patel for permitting us to organize this talk. His constant support inspires us to organize such enlightening events for our students and colleagues. We are also thankful to Dr. Utpal Pandya, Dean, R&D and Dr. Mayuri Mehta, HOD, Department of Computer Engineering for encouragement and support. We would also like to thank Dr. Purvi Tandel (CO R&D committee member) for her support and assistance. Sincere thanks to all the student volunteers and lab assistants for making necessary arrangements for this session. Thanks to all staff members of the Computer Engineering department for extending their help in all the possible ways whenever required. Last but not the least, we are very thankful to all the participants for their active presence during the session.

Event Photographs





