KASE CHRONICLE

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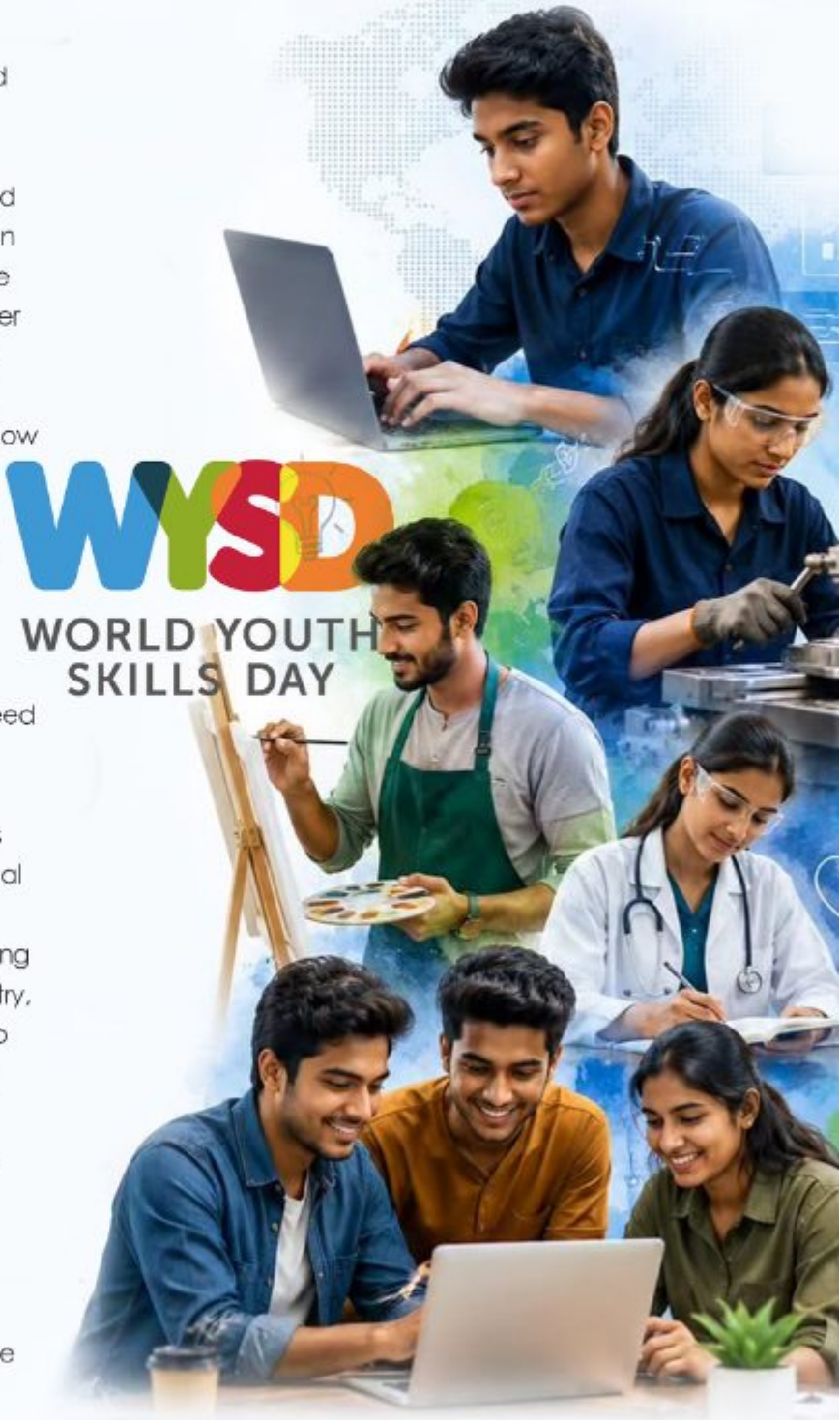
SKILLS FOR A SHARED FUTURE

UNESCO MARKS WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY 2026, PROMOTING 'SKILLS FOR A SHARED FUTURE'

UNESCO-UNEVOC commemorated World Youth Skills Day 2026 on 15 July under the global theme, "Skills for a Shared Future," reaffirming the critical role of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in fostering inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies. The observance brought together policymakers, educators, industry leaders, youth representatives, and development partners from across the world to discuss how skills development can prepare young people for an evolving world of work shaped by digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and the transition to green economies.



The global campaign underscored the need to equip youth with a balanced combination of technical, digital, entrepreneurial, and social competencies while promoting lifelong learning and equal access to quality skills training. It also highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration among governments, industry, educational institutions, and civil society to modernize vocational education systems and create pathways to decent employment, innovation, and sustainable development. The event reinforced UNESCO's continued commitment to empowering young people through future-oriented skills that enable them to thrive while contributing to a more inclusive and shared global future.

INDIA AND AUSTRALIA DEEPEN COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN TVET QUALITY

India and Australia have reinforced their commitment to advancing vocational education and training through the signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI) between the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, and the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). The agreement, signed as an important outcome of the Prime Minister of India's visit to Australia, marks a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the regulation and quality assurance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

The partnership aims to deepen collaboration between the two countries by promoting institutional linkages between their national quality assurance regulators. Under the LoI, NCVET and ASQA will collaborate on quality assurance frameworks, regulatory approaches, accreditation practices, monitoring systems, capacity building, staff exchanges, and joint workshops. The partnership will also facilitate cooperation in areas such as mutual recognition and benchmarking of qualifications, digital credentialing mechanisms, alignment of occupational standards, and the exchange of labour market insights.

The initiative reflects the shared vision of India and Australia to build credible, learner-centric, and globally benchmarked TVET systems that meet evolving industry requirements. By fostering knowledge exchange and regulatory cooperation, the partnership is expected to enhance the quality and international recognition of vocational qualifications while supporting India's efforts to modernise its skilling ecosystem and develop a globally competitive workforce.

MSDE LAUNCHES INDIASKILLS COMPETITION 2026–27 TO NURTURE FUTURE SKILL CHAMPIONS

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) officially launched the IndiaSkills Competition 2026–27 on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day 2026, marking the beginning of India's flagship skill competition to identify and nurture the country's most talented youth. The competition will be conducted across 63 skill categories, providing participants with a platform to demonstrate technical excellence, innovation, and professional competencies while promoting vocational education as a pathway to rewarding careers.

A key highlight of this edition is the launch of the WorldSkills India Champions Club, a national mentorship initiative comprising former WorldSkills medalists and experts who will guide aspiring competitors through training, knowledge sharing, and industry exposure. The initiative aims to strengthen India's performance in international skill competitions, particularly the WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, while fostering a culture of excellence, innovation, and industry readiness among young professionals. The competition reinforces the Government of India's commitment to building a globally competitive workforce and positioning the country as a leader in skills development.

INDIA WINS FIVE MEDALS AT GLOBAL SKILLS CHALLENGE AUSTRALIA 2026

India delivered an impressive performance at the Global Skills Challenge (GSC) Australia 2026, securing five medals—three Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze—at one of the world's premier international skills competitions. Held in Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia, from 23 to 29 June 2026, the event was organised by WorldSkills Australia as a preparatory competition for the 48th WorldSkills Competition, scheduled to be held in Shanghai later this year. Bringing together competitors, experts, and officials from 16 countries, the Global Skills Challenge provided participants with an opportunity to benchmark their technical skills, experience international competition standards, and refine their preparations ahead of the global championship.

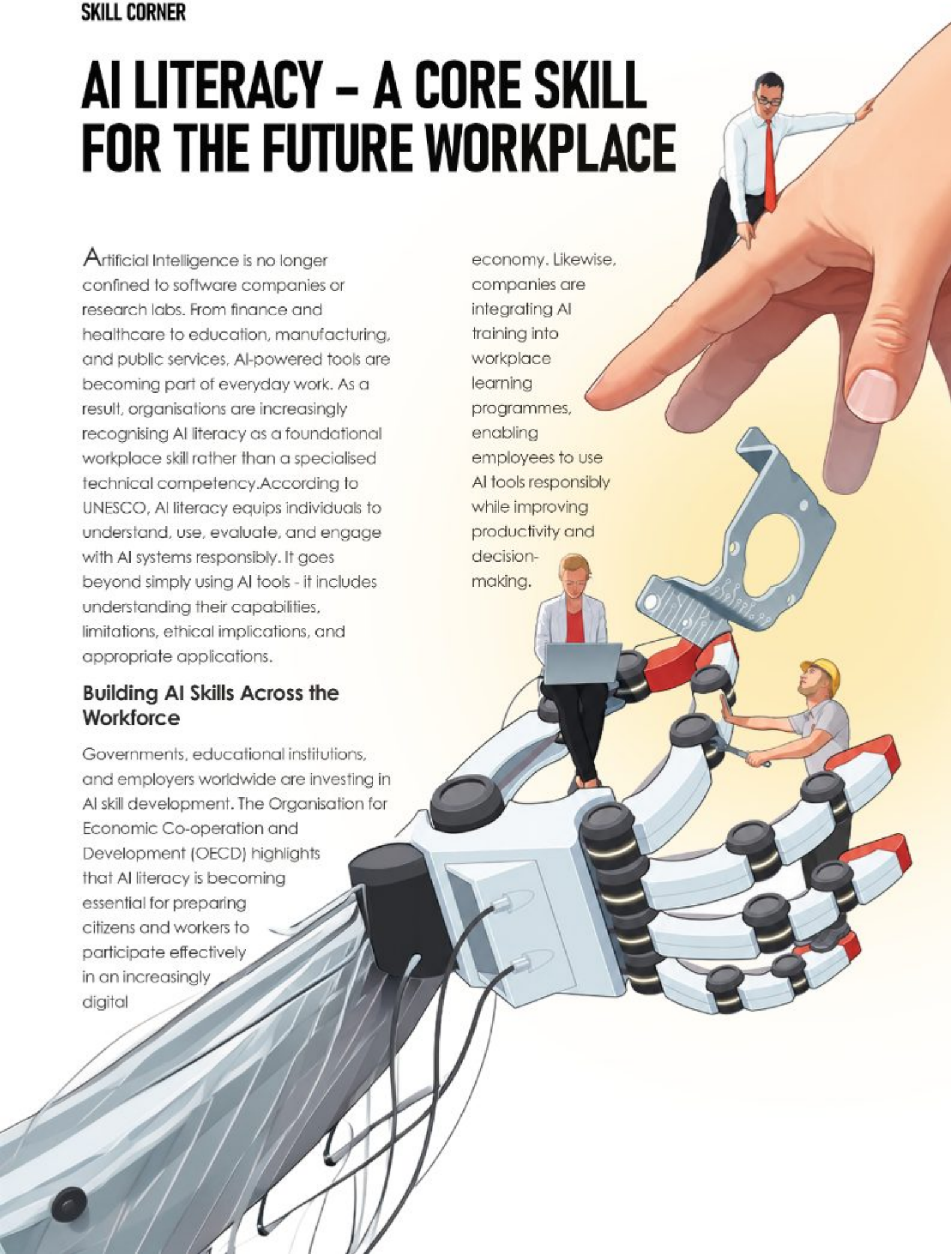
Representing the country with distinction, Team India won three Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze medal, reflecting the nation's growing excellence in vocational skills. The gold medals were awarded to Pavan Bhadravati Suresha (Additive Manufacturing), Mausam Kumar Giri (Cloud Computing), and Vishnupriya Sunil (Health and Social Care). Harsh Ramesh Pawar secured the Silver medal in 3D Digital Game Art, while Muskan earned the Bronze medal in Painting and Decorating. The remarkable achievement underscores India's continued progress in developing a globally competitive, industry-ready workforce and provides strong momentum for the country's campaign at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, often regarded as the "Skills Olympics."

AI LITERACY – A CORE SKILL FOR THE FUTURE WORKPLACE

Artificial Intelligence is no longer confined to software companies or research labs. From finance and healthcare to education, manufacturing, and public services, AI-powered tools are becoming part of everyday work. As a result, organisations are increasingly recognising AI literacy as a foundational workplace skill rather than a specialised technical competency.According to UNESCO, AI literacy equips individuals to understand, use, evaluate, and engage with AI systems responsibly. It goes beyond simply using AI tools - it includes understanding their capabilities, limitations, ethical implications, and appropriate applications.

Building AI Skills Across the Workforce

Governments, educational institutions, and employers worldwide are investing in AI skill development. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) highlights that AI literacy is becoming essential for preparing citizens and workers to participate effectively in an increasingly digital economy. Likewise, companies are integrating AI training into workplace learning programmes, enabling employees to use AI tools responsibly while improving productivity and decision-making.



Building AI Skills Across the Workforce

AI literacy is no longer limited to programmers or data scientists. Professionals across sectors can benefit by learning how to:

- Use AI tools responsibly and effectively.
- Evaluate AI-generated information critically.
- Understand data privacy and ethical considerations.
- Combine human judgement with AI-assisted decision-making.

As AI becomes a routine part of daily work, these capabilities are emerging as valuable employability skills across industries.

The Skill Takeaway

Artificial Intelligence is changing how work is performed, but its greatest value lies in empowering people - not replacing them. Developing AI literacy enables individuals to work confidently with emerging technologies, make informed decisions, and adapt to evolving workplace expectations. In the future of work, understanding AI will be as important as understanding digital technology today.

SKILL TERM

AI Orchestration

AI Orchestration is the ability to strategically coordinate multiple artificial intelligence tools, human expertise, and digital workflows to accomplish complex tasks efficiently. Rather than relying on a single AI application, it involves selecting, integrating, and managing AI systems while applying human judgement to achieve optimal outcomes. As AI becomes embedded across industries, AI orchestration is emerging as a critical workplace competency.

Sector: Artificial Intelligence / Future of Work

SKILL THOUGHT

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

Alvin Toffler
American Futurist and Author

KASE HIGHLIGHTS

ലോക യുവജന നൈപുണ്യ ദിനം 2026: സംസ്ഥാനത്തുടനീളം നൈപുണ്യ വികസന - കരിയർ മാർഗ്ഗനിർദ്ദേശ പരിപാടികളുമായി കെയ്സ്

കേരള അക്കാദമി ഫോർ സ്കിൽസ് എക്സലൻസിന്റെ (KASE) ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ 2026-ലെ ലോക യുവജന നൈപുണ്യ ദിനം സംസ്ഥാനത്തുടനീളം വിപുലമായ പരിപാടികളോടെ ആഘോഷിച്ചു. 'Skills for a Shared Future' എന്ന ആഗോള പ്രമേയത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച പരിപാടികൾ, നൈപുണ്യ അംഗീകാരം, കരിയർ ഗൈഡൻസ്, യുവജന പങ്കാളിത്തം, മികച്ച തൊഴിലധിഷ്ഠിത പരിശീലനം ലഭ്യമാക്കൽ എന്നിവ ലക്ഷ്യമിട്ടുള്ളവയായിരുന്നു.

ആഘോഷങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗമായി കെയ്സും ഇന്ത്യൻ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ഓഫ് ഇൻഫ്രാസ്ട്രക്ചർ ആൻഡ് കൺസ്ട്രക്ഷനും (IIIC) സംയുക്തമായി പി.എം.കെ.വി.വൈ (PMKVY 4.0) പദ്ധതിക്ക് കീഴിലുള്ള ക്വാളിറ്റി ടെക്നീഷ്യൻ കോഴ്സ് വിജയകരമായി പൂർത്തിയാക്കിയവർക്കുള്ള സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് വിതരണം സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു. കൊല്ലം ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്ലാനിംഗ് ഓഫീസർ ശ്രീമതി ആനി ജൂല തോമസ് ഐ.എ.എസ് ചടങ്ങിൽ മുഖ്യാതിഥിയായി പങ്കെടുക്കുകയും പരിശീലനാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റുകൾ വിതരണം ചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്തു.

ആര്യനാട് എൻ.പി.എം (NPM) ഗവൺമെന്റ് ഐ.ടി.ഐ-യിൽ പി.എം.കെ.വി.വൈ 4.0 പദ്ധതിക്ക് കീഴിൽ ഡ്രോയിംഗ് ആൻഡ് പെയിന്റിംഗ് ആർട്ടിസ്റ്റ് കോഴ്സിലേക്ക് പ്രവേശനം നേടിയ 25 പരിശീലനാർത്ഥികൾക്കായുള്ള ഓറിയന്റേഷൻ പരിപാടിയുടെയും രജിസ്ട്രേഷന്റെയും ഉദ്ഘാടനവും ഇതിനോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് നടന്നു. കേരളത്തിലെ ഒരു ഐ.ടി.ഐ-യിൽ ആരംഭിക്കുന്ന ആദ്യത്തെ പി.എം.കെ.വി.വൈ 4.0 പരിശീലന ബാച്ചാണിത്. വ്യവസായ അധിഷ്ഠിത തൊഴിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ ശക്തിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിലും യുവജനങ്ങൾക്കായി നൈപുണ്യ പരിശീലന അവസരങ്ങൾ വ്യാപിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലും ഇതൊരു സുപ്രധാന ചുവടുവെപ്പാണ്.

വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ ഭാവിക്ക് അനുയോജ്യമായ തൊഴിൽ മേഖലകൾ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കാൻ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനായി പാലക്കാട് ജില്ലാ നൈപുണ്യ വികസന കേന്ദ്രത്തിന്റെ (DSDC) ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ

"അൺലോക്കിംഗ് ദി സ്കിൽസ് ഓഫ് ടുമാറോ: കരിയർ ഗൈഡൻസ് ആൻഡ് സ്കില്ലിംഗ്" എന്ന പേരിൽ കരിയർ ഗൈഡൻസ് പരിപാടി സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു. പട്ടാമ്പി ഐ.ടി.ഡി.എഫ് (ITDF) കോളേജിലെ ശ്രീമതി ശ്രുതി കൃഷ്ണൻ നയിച്ച സംവേദനാത്മക സെഷനിൽ വിദ്യാർഥികൾക്ക് ഭാവി തൊഴിൽ സാധ്യതകൾ, നൈപുണ്യ വികസനം, വ്യക്തിത്വ വളർച്ച, തുടർച്ചയായ പഠനത്തിന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യം എന്നിവയെക്കുറിച്ച് മാർഗനിർദേശം നൽകി. ആർട്സ്, സയൻസ്, എഞ്ചിനീയറിംഗ് കോളേജുകളിൽ നിന്നുള്ള മുപ്പതിലധികം വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളും അധ്യാപകരും പങ്കെടുത്ത ഈ പരിപാടി തൊഴിൽ സാധ്യതകളെയും നൈപുണ്യ ആവശ്യകതകളെയും കുറിച്ചുള്ള മികച്ച ചർച്ചകളോടെയാണ് സമാപിച്ചത്.

തൊഴിലവസരങ്ങളും കരിയർ വളർച്ചയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ നൈപുണ്യത്തിന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യം ഊട്ടിയുറപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി കോഴിക്കോട് ജില്ലാ നൈപുണ്യ വികസന കേന്ദ്രവും ലോക യുവജന നൈപുണ്യ ദിനാഘോഷം സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു. ഭാരത് സേവക് സമാജ് ജില്ലാ പ്രോഗ്രാം ഓഫീസർ ശ്രീ. കെ. അനിൽകുമാർ പരിപാടി ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. സ്കിൽ ടു കരിയർ ഡയറക്ടർ പ്രൊഫ. വി. വേണുഗോപാൽ മുഖ്യപ്രഭാഷണം നടത്തി. മെറാൽഡ ജ്വൽസ് മാനേജിംഗ് ഡയറക്ടർ ശ്രീ. അബ്ദുൾ ജലീൽ എടത്തിലിനെ ചടങ്ങിൽ ആദരിച്ചു. എൻ.എസ്.എസ്. വളണ്ടിയർമാർ, വിദ്യാർഥികൾ, വിവിധ മേഖലകളിലെ പ്രതിനിധികൾ എന്നിവരുൾപ്പെടെ 40-ഓളം പേർ പരിപാടിയിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു.

ARTICLE

REDESIGNING ENTRY-LEVEL WORK FOR THE AI ERA: THE FIRST RUNG ON THE LADDER

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer a futuristic concept confined to research laboratories or science fiction. Over the past several years, Generative AI tools have moved from experimental technology to everyday workplace companions. From drafting emails and summarizing documents to generating code and analyzing complex datasets, AI agents are now embedded in the daily workflows of millions of workers across industries.

Entry-level roles have long been the primary gateway into the workforce, paving the path for skill development and professional growth. Today, these foundational positions are transforming significantly as AI reshapes how work gets done. The World Economic Forum's latest insight report, "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Entry-Level Work," produced in collaboration with PwC, provides a comprehensive framework for navigating this transition.

The scale of change is substantial. Globally, more than one in three young workers (37%) are employed in occupations with medium to high exposure to AI-driven task changes . Regional variations are stark: three in four young workers in Eastern Asia, and two in three in Northern America and Europe, face significant workplace transformation driven by AI. Financial Services, Information and Communication, Professional Services, and Education are identified as the most affected sectors, whereas Agriculture, Construction, and Food Services are considered comparatively less exposed.

A Complex Hiring Picture

Current hiring data reveals a nuanced story. Analysis shows declines in entry-level job postings are most pronounced in occupations with higher AI exposure, though the trend began before ChatGPT's public release in November 2022, suggesting broader economic factors are at play.

However, employer interviews reveal a more complex reality. Many organizations report in expanding headcount rather than undertaking widespread reductions. Counterintuitively, many employers expect AI adoption to increase entry-level hiring, shifting early career work away from routine tasks toward more complex responsibilities.

The 'Seniorisation' of Entry-Level Roles

Perhaps the most striking finding from PwC's 2026 Global AI Jobs Barometer analyzes the emergence of 'seniorised' positions. AI-exposed entry-level roles are now seven times more likely to require traditionally senior-level skills such as judgement, leadership, and creativity. Job openings for these 'seniorised' entry-level roles have grown 35% since 2019, while other entry-level roles have declined by 10%.

Risks to Capability Building

The acceleration of entry-level work creates both opportunities and risks. PwC analysis shows that 68% of entry-level workers report productivity gains from AI, but 45% also report spending more time working as a result .

Experts caution against over-reliance on AI tools without developing foundational understanding. Experts highlight the risk of 'cognitive atrophy'—where short-term efficiency gains come at the expense of long-term capability building. This means we might be more efficient in the short term but increasingly fragile and commoditised over time" .

The traditional "learning by doing" model is weakening, creating a risk that critical judgement and domain expertise may not be developed at scale. Some leaders express particular concern about entry-level workers skipping fundamental learning steps that build essential professional intuition.

Building Education Systems for Continuous Change

The report identifies a critical challenge. Skill requirements for entry-level roles are evolving faster than education systems can adapt. Entry-level roles in the highest AI-exposure quartile exhibit nearly twice the rate of net skills change compared to non-entry-level roles, while 28% of entry-level workers believe half or fewer of their current skills will remain relevant in three years .

Industry leaders increasingly emphasise that traditional degrees alone are no longer sufficient indicators of workplace readiness. Employers increasingly look for applied experience, exposure to real work contexts, and evidence that individuals can adapt as technologies reshape tasks. Notably, 68% of Gen Z workers believe they could do their job without a degree, highlighting changing perceptions of formal credentials .

A Framework for Action

The World Economic Forum report outlines a four-dimensional framework for safeguarding and reinventing early career pathways:

1. **Job Access**: Organizations must make entry-level hiring an explicit component of strategic workforce planning, with clear targets to maintain or grow intake alongside AI adoption.

2. **Job Design**: Employers should establish clear models for effective AI-enabled job redesign, ensuring roles continue building critical skills rather than simply layering AI onto existing ways of working.

3. **Talent Pipelines**: Organizations need to move toward capability-based models of talent development that intentionally design career pathways and proactively match talent to evolving roles.

4. **Education System Alignment**: Building more continuous and responsive alignment between employers, educators, and policymakers, strengthening alternative pathways alongside traditional degrees.

The Path Forward

The impact of AI on entry-level work—in terms of both risks and opportunities—is not predetermined. Outcomes will depend on intelligent choices made by organizations and wider systems. The next few years will be critical in shaping how AI transforms entry-level work. The choices made by leaders today will determine whether AI becomes an enabler of opportunity or a source of new barriers for the next generation entering the world of work.

Department of Labour and Skills
Government of Kerala

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