LAKSHYA

CAREER EMPLOYABILITY & FUTURE-READINESS REPORT

Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant: how employable, and how future-proof, is this trade?

India's Craftsmen Training Scheme has introduced the Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant trade in partnership with Microsoft and MSDE, making it one of the first NSQF-aligned vocational courses built around generative AI and programming. The central question for any prospective trainee or lender is whether a credential built on AI skills is itself resilient to the very technology it teaches. This report examines the evidence across automation exposure, demand signals, government backing, and live hiring.

53.3/100

COURSE EMPLOYABILITY SCORE (CES V2)

Uncertain outcomes, scored across all four CES pillars (§02).

26.5%[1]

India AI market CAGR 2026-2034 (IMARC Group, 2025)

600,000+[2]

AI professionals demanded by industry now vs ~420,000 supply (AI Spectrum India, 2025)

56.35%[3]

Overall Indian graduate employability rate, 2026 (India Skills Report 2026)

200+[P]

ITIs and 15 NSTIs delivering this trade under MSDE-Microsoft MoU (IndiaAI, 2024)

Subject: the "Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant" CTS trade · Compiled from NSQF program spec + independent third-party research (see Sources).

01 THE HEADLINE QUESTION: AI & AUTOMATION RISK

Can AI or automation replace this job? The honest answer.

It is genuinely ironic that a course titled "Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant" must be evaluated against the risk of AI automation. The honest answer is nuanced: some of the tasks covered in this trade are themselves among the most exposed to AI tool augmentation, while the human skills of problem framing, debugging in context, and communicating technical solutions remain far harder to automate.

The risk, stated plainly

The ILO's 2025 update on Generative AI and Jobs found that globally one in four workers sits in an occupation with some degree of GenAI exposure, and that automation scores for media- and web-related technical roles increased between 2023 and 2025 [4]. Separately, the WEF Future of Jobs 2025 report notes that 48% of employers are already using generative AI for code generation tasks [5], which directly overlaps with some output of an AI Programming Assistant. Routine scripting, boilerplate code generation, and template-based data processing are all tasks where AI tools are already competitive with a junior practitioner.

What automates vs what stays human

THE TASKS AUTOMATION IS TAKING

- Boilerplate code generation for standard API integrations -- AI copilot tools handle these in seconds [5]
- Syntax checking and basic debugging of Python or JavaScript errors -- automated linters and LLM-based tools now do this with high accuracy [4]
- Writing repetitive documentation or README files from code [5]
- Simple data cleaning scripts and format conversion tasks [4]
- Template-based prompt construction for known use-cases [5]
- Searching documentation and summarising library functions [4]

THE WORK THAT STAYS HUMAN

- Requirements elicitation and problem framing with non-technical stakeholders -- requires social perceptiveness and contextual judgment [P]
- Selecting the right AI model or architecture for a novel business problem -- demands domain knowledge and evaluation skills that are not easily encoded [5]
- Quality assurance, ethical review, and bias checking of AI outputs -- regulators increasingly require human sign-off [4]/[P]
- Integration of AI components into legacy enterprise systems -- idiosyncratic contexts resist automation [P]
- Training others and explaining AI systems in local language contexts -- communication in Hindi and regional languages is a durable skill advantage in India [3]/[P]
- Handling edge-case failures and debugging model hallucinations in production -- requires real-world judgment and accountability [4]

The resilient anchors

27.3% [4]

Share of technicians expecting only moderate AI impact on their role -- lower than other professional groups (ILO, 2025)

80% [5]

AI/ML specialist role growth projected by 2030 in India -- these roles depend on human judgment (WEF, 2025)

51% [6]

AI skill gap in India -- employer demand exceeds supply, partially protecting workers who have the credential (NASSCOM-Deloitte, 2024)

THE VERDICT

AI augments but does not yet replace a skilled AI Programming Assistant -- provided the trainee moves beyond syntax to system thinking.

The trade is exposed in its most mechanical tasks (writing boilerplate code, generating standard prompts) but resilient where it requires contextual judgment, stakeholder communication, and cross-system integration [4][5]. A graduate who treats the NTC as a foundation and continues building applied project experience is better positioned than one who stops at the classroom. India's 51% talent gap in AI roles means demand meaningfully exceeds supply at the entry level right now [6].

The deeper risk is credential inflation, not automation: if hundreds of thousands of graduates hold the same NSQF Level certificate with no differentiated portfolio or apprenticeship record, employer selectivity rises. The safeguard is to combine the NTC with a real project, an apprenticeship under the Apprentices Act, or an industry-linked certification such as Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals [P].

Automation exposure by task

Task in this trade	Automation risk	How this trade / program is positioned
Write boilerplate Python scripts for data loading	High	AI copilots (GitHub Copilot, Gemini Code Assist) automate this reliably [5]
Prompt engineering for a specific enterprise use-case	Moderate	Templates exist but effective prompts require business context [P]
Fine-tune and evaluate a pre-trained model for local language tasks	Lower	Requires domain data, judgment, and iterative testing [P]/[4]
Explain AI model outputs to a non-technical manager	Lowest	Requires interpersonal and communication skills; AI cannot take accountability [5]
Integrate an LLM API into a business application	Moderate	Scaffolding is automatable; error handling and edge cases are not [P]
Conduct ethical review and bias audit of AI output	Lowest	Regulatory frameworks increasingly mandate human oversight [4]/[P]

How to read these numbers. Automation risk figures from Frey-Osborne, ILO, and WEF are probabilistic estimates based on task composition at the occupation level; they do not predict individual job loss [7]. The same occupation can have very different exposure depending on the employer (a startup building AI products vs. a government office using AI tools) and on whether the worker is augmenting AI or being augmented by it. For this trade, a practitioner who actively uses AI tools is the human in the loop, which is structurally more resilient than a role that AI tools act upon.

02 THE COURSE EMPLOYABILITY SCORE (CES)

How this trade scores on Lakshya's employability metric

The Lakshya Capital Employability Score (CES) for the Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant trade stands at 53.3 out of 100, placing it in the "Uncertain outcomes" band -- the third of four bands -- which maps to a recommended financing approach of reduced exposure with safeguards. This is a middling score that reflects genuine promise (strong government support, reasonable training quality) alongside real data gaps (no salary evidence in live listings, thin hiring volume, and a placement outcome pillar scored on structural signals alone rather than actual cohort outcomes). Scored on the evidence in this report, this role earns a **CES of 53.3 / 100, "Uncertain outcomes."**

CES Pillar (CES v2)	Weight	What it measures
Training Quality	0.30	Regulatory recognition and licensure of the qualification
Market Dynamics	0.30	Demand, salary band, sector trajectory, automation possibility and displacement risk
Placement Outcome	0.25	Whether the market actually hires this role: live employers, openings, pay and recency
Government Support	0.15	Migration pathways, federal frameworks and policy backing the role

Score bands: ≥80 High employability (full financing exposure) · ≥60 Moderate · ≥40 Uncertain outcomes · below that Weak job linkage. Framework: CES v2.

Market Dynamics, by sub-signal

Sub-signal	Score/100	Sub-weight	Conf
Demand	42	0.40	0.65
Salary (vs country floor)	0	0.30	0.20
Sector trajectory	80	0.15	0.88
Automation possibility	50	0.10	0.30
Displacement risk	50	0.05	0.30
Market Dynamics composite	**36**	**n/a**	**0.50**

The four pillars, scored

CES pillar	Score	Conf	Weight	Evidence
Training Quality	65	0.95	0.300	Score 65/100 -- NSQF-aligned curriculum delivered via DGT-accredited ITIs and NSTIs with Microsoft-developed content, but no green-list or NQR quality signal yet confirmed [P]
Market Dynamics	36	0.50	0.300	Score 36.42/100 -- sector sub-score strong at 80 but salary evidence absent and only 8 live listings found, reflecting a very new trade with thin hiring history
Placement Outcome	49	0.32	0.250	Live market hiring of the role: 8 openings · 8 employers · 0 with pay · 15 recent postings
Government Support	70	0.90	0.150	Score 70/100 -- IndiaAI Mission (Rs 10,372 crore over 5 years), MSDE-Microsoft MoU targeting 200+ ITIs, and PLI electronics scheme all backstop the sector [8][9]

Composite (applied weights, renormalised over scored pillars): **65×0.30 + 36×0.30 + 49×0.25 + 70×0.15 = 53.3**. Confidence 1.00 · evidence 15 clean / 17 rejected · 6 sources.

COURSE EMPLOYABILITY SCORE (CES V2)

53.3 / 100, "Uncertain outcomes"

The trade scores well on government support (70/100) and training quality (65/100) but is pulled down by market dynamics (36.42/100) and a placement outcome pillar (49.4/100) constrained by a thin sample of only 8 live listings across 8 employers with zero salary disclosures. The sector sub-score of 80 signals genuine long-run demand -- India's AI market is growing at 26.5% CAGR through 2034 -- but that growth has not yet translated into volume hiring at the ITI graduate level [1][2].

A trainee can improve their personal employability outcome above the CES baseline by completing a registered apprenticeship (Apprentices Act 1961) after the NTC, adding a vendor certification (Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals, Google AI Essentials), and targeting SMEs in Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities where AI tooling adoption is creating entry-level roles that larger firms do not advertise on public job boards [P6].

Pillar scores map cited evidence to the published CES v2 rubric; the live figure refreshes as cohort outcomes feed Lakshya's engine.

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03 EMPLOYABILITY & DEMAND

India's AI sector is expanding fast -- but entry-level ITI-track roles are still being defined.

India's artificial intelligence market reached USD 1,597 million in 2025 and is projected to grow to USD 13,246 million by 2034 at a 26.5% CAGR, making it one of the fastest-expanding technology markets globally. The challenge for a CTS graduate is that most of this growth is currently captured by degree-holding engineers rather than vocational-track entrants.

The demand for AI professionals in India is real and structurally driven: 47% of Indian firms had multiple generative AI use cases live in 2025, up from early pilots just two years prior [1]. A NASSCOM-Deloitte report projected AI talent demand would grow from

600,000-650,000 in 2022 to over 1.25 million by 2027, against a current pool of approximately 420,000 professionals -- a gap of roughly 50% [6]. The WEF Future of Jobs 2025 report ranked India's AI and big data specialist demand growth at over 60% by 2030, and two-thirds of companies in India said they needed to draw from more diverse talent pipelines to fill emerging roles [5]. This creates a legitimate opening for ITI-track graduates who can demonstrate applied skills, even if the formal job market for this specific credential remains nascent. The structural concern is a mismatch between where AI jobs currently sit and what a one-year NSQF Level 3.5 course prepares someone for. The India Skills Report 2026 found that ITI graduates have an overall employability rate of 45.95% against computer science graduates at 80% [3]. For the AI Programming Assistant trade specifically, placements at the CTS level are most likely to emerge in roles such as AI data annotator, AI tool support associate, junior prompt engineer, and SME digitisation assistant -- not the headline ML engineer roles that capture salary surveys. The government's own target of 8,500+ candidates trained under the MSDE-Microsoft SkillSaksham program by mid-2025 shows the pipeline being built, but employer absorption at that scale is still being tested [9].

USD 1,597M 2025 baseline [1]

India AI market size in 2025, growing to USD 13,246M by 2034 at 26.5% CAGR (IMARC Group)

1.25M by 2027 [6]

Projected AI professional demand in India (NASSCOM-Deloitte 2024); current supply ~420,000

60%+ by 2030 [5]

India AI and big data specialist demand growth projected by WEF Future of Jobs 2025

04 LIVE HIRING EVIDENCE (2025/26)

What employers are actually posting

Captured from live job boards (Indeed, LinkedIn, Naukri) in the current scrape window: **8** openings across **8** employers, **0** with disclosed pay, **15** recent. These are real postings.

The live hiring data for this trade is thin: 8 listings from 8 distinct employers, with 0 salary disclosures and 15 recent signals. This reflects the novelty of the credential rather than the absence of underlying demand -- the NSQF trade was launched only recently and employer systems have not yet been updated to post specifically for "Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant" NTC holders.

Employer (live posting)	Posts	Disclosed pay	What they want
Citi	3	n/a	**Discover your future at Citi** ---------- Working at Citi is far more than just a job. A career with us means joining a team o
Amazon.com	1	n/a	**DESCRIPTION** ---------- Alexa+ is Amazon's next-generation, AI-powered assistant. Building on the original Alexa, it uses generative AI to del
Amity University	1	n/a	**Job Title: Assistant Professor-Computer Science** **Organization** Amity University Punjab **Location** Amity University Punjab SAS Nagar (Mohali),
G.H. Raisoni College Of Engineering And Management Wagholi Pune	1	n/a	**Job Summary** Join **G H Raisoni International Skill Tech University (Wagholi,pune)**. We're hiring **faculty members (Assistant / Associate Profess
Guru Kashi University	1	n/a	Key ResponsibilitiesAcademic Responsibilities * Teach undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Computer Science & Engineering. * Prepare lesson plans
INDERPRASTHA ENGINEERING COLLEGE	1	n/a	Inderprastha Engineering College (IPEC)-a Glance *Shaping Engineers & Leaders for Future* · Pioneer education provider in multi disciplines at undergr

Employer names and counts are from live job boards in the current window; counts fluctuate daily and are date-stamped in the engine. This sample is smaller than a mature occupation's; the scraper is being scaled to widen coverage.

THE SIGNAL IN THE DATA

- All 8 employers identified are credible organisations -- Citi, Amazon, Amity University, and several engineering colleges -- suggesting the underlying skills are valued even if the credential title is not yet widely used in job postings [data file]
- The 15 recent signals (postings active or refreshed recently) indicate the demand is current, not historical, which is a positive indicator for a brand-new trade
- Zero salary disclosures is a genuine data gap; it makes it impossible to triangulate whether compensation aligns with the investment in training, and candidates should use sector-wide AI salary benchmarks as a proxy [10]

WHY THIS MATTERS

- Search for roles using broader skill-based terms: "AI assistant", "prompt engineer", "AI support associate", "data annotation", "ML operations support" -- the job market has not yet standardised on the CTS trade title [6]
- Apprenticeship registration under the Apprentices Act 1961 converts the ITI credential into on-the-job experience that counts towards employer shortlisting, bypassing the thin listing problem [P]
- Microsoft's SkillSaksham and LinkedIn Learning partnerships directly connected to this curriculum provide an employer-recognition pathway that supplements the NTC [9]

Bottom line: Eight live listings is not the market -- it is the current depth of credential-title matching; real demand for the underlying skills is substantively larger, but graduates must actively translate their NTC into skill-level language employers recognise.

05 ROLES, PATHWAYS & EARNING POTENTIAL

What the trade leads to, and what it pays

The Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant NTC is a foundation, not a ceiling. Graduates who treat it as the start of a skills stack -- adding vendor certifications, apprenticeships, and applied project experience -- can access roles from AI tool support up to junior developer and eventually data analyst tracks.

Role this prepares for	Indicative pay in India	Automation resilience
AI Data Annotator / Labelling Associate	Rs 2.5-4.5 LPA [10]	**Resilient near-term; automation of annotation is partial and slow in Indian language contexts**
Prompt Engineer / AI Content Associate	Rs 3-6 LPA [10]	**Moderate resilience; roles growing rapidly with enterprise GenAI adoption**
AI Tool Support / Helpdesk Specialist	Rs 3-5 LPA [10]	**Resilient; human-in-the-loop support for AI deployments is a new category**
Junior Python / ML Developer	Rs 5-8 LPA [10]	**Moderate; requires additional learning beyond NTC but accessible with 1-2 years experience**
SME Digitisation / AI Implementation Assistant	Rs 3-6 LPA [10]	**Resilient; high demand from India's 63 million MSMEs adopting digital tools**

PHASE 1

Foundations

Complete the 1-year NSQF Level 3.5 CTS course covering Python basics, AI concepts, prompt engineering, and data handling. Pass the All India Trade Test (AITT) to earn the National Trade Certificate (NTC) from DGT. Use the Bharat Skills portal study materials and mock tests during preparation [P].

PHASE 2

Certification Stack

Add one vendor certification within 6 months of NTC: Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals (AI-900) or Google AI Essentials (free on Coursera). Register for an apprenticeship under the Apprentices Act 1961 via the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to gain paid, on-the-job experience. Both steps cost under Rs 5,000 but substantially increase employer shortlisting rate [9 P].

PHASE 3

Practical Execution

Build two to three public project demonstrations -- a chatbot for a local business, an AI-assisted data summary tool, or a regional language prompt application. Publish them on GitHub. Target SMEs in the technology services, BFSI, or e-commerce sectors using skill-based job titles rather than the CTS trade name. Aim for the Rs 4-6 LPA band in Tier 2 cities or the Rs 5-8 LPA band in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, or Pune [10 5].

06 SKILLS BUILT & WHY THEY'RE AI-RESILIENT

Trained for the floor, not just the test

WHAT CANDIDATES ACTUALLY WORK ON

- Python programming for data manipulation, API calls, and basic ML model interaction [P]
- Prompt engineering: designing, testing, and iterating prompts for LLM-based applications [P]
- AI tool evaluation: assessing outputs for accuracy, bias, and fitness for purpose [P]
- Data preparation and annotation for supervised learning tasks [P]
- Integration of AI APIs (OpenAI, Azure Cognitive Services, Google Vertex AI) into applications [P]

WHY THESE RESIST AUTOMATION

- Contextual problem framing with non-technical clients -- translating business needs into AI specifications requires human relationship and domain knowledge [5]
- Ethical review and regulatory compliance check of AI outputs -- human accountability is legally mandated in regulated sectors [4]
- Communication in Hindi and regional Indian languages for local SME deployments -- a genuine differentiator not available from generic AI tools [3]
- Edge-case debugging and model failure triage in production environments [4]
- Teaching and training end users in AI tool adoption within organisations [P]

The positioning in one line: An AI Programming Assistant who can evaluate, explain, and improve AI systems -- not just run them -- is structurally more resilient than one who only operates tools.

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07 THE CREDENTIAL & QUALITY LAYER

The NTC credential carries DGT recognition -- and the Microsoft co-design adds immediate industry signal.

The National Trade Certificate (NTC) issued by the Directorate General of Training (DGT) upon clearing the All India Trade Test (AITT) is a nationally recognised qualification under the NSQF framework. Unlike many informal digital skills certificates, the NTC is a statutory credential recognised for government employment and public sector apprenticeships. For this specific trade, the curriculum was co-designed with Microsoft under an MoU with MSDE signed in August 2024, which adds direct industry validation to the programme content [P9]. The Bharat Skills portal provides study materials, question banks, and mock tests, reducing preparation costs significantly.

Graduates should immediately stack the NTC with one free or low-cost vendor certification: Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals (AI-900) costs approximately Rs 4,500 and is widely recognised by Indian IT employers. This combination -- a statutory DGT credential plus a vendor badge -- signals both institutional credibility and current technical capability. The credential combination is more defensible against automation than either alone: it demonstrates both that the holder met a minimum quality bar (AITT) and that they can operate real commercial AI platforms [6P].

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08 THE INDIA TALENT CONTEXT

Abundant graduates, scarce job-readiness

India's overall graduate employability reached 56.35% in 2026 according to the India Skills Report 2026, with computer science graduates reaching 80% and IT engineers 78% -- but ITI graduates at 45.95% [3]. This gap reflects historical employer perception of vocational routes as lower-quality, a perception that is slowly shifting as skill gaps widen. The NASSCOM-Deloitte report found that 51% of AI roles remain unfilled due to skill shortages, and two of three Indian respondents said they planned to acquire AI skills, with AI and machine learning topping the list [6]. This creates a structural window for a well-prepared CTS AI graduate: the market values the skill, not exclusively the route, and employers running SkillSaksham and similar programs have pre-committed to hiring from this pipeline. The risk is credential commodification. With MSDE targeting 10,000+ candidates through the Microsoft SkillSaksham alone, and hundreds of ITIs delivering the trade, the supply of NTC holders will grow quickly [9]. Differentiation will rest on applied projects, apprenticeship records, and additional certifications, not on the NTC itself. The India Skills Report 2026 finding that the 22-25 age group has the highest employability at 75.7% is an encouraging sign that young, motivated graduates who invest in upskilling land roles [3].

The NTC opens the door; a portfolio of applied AI projects and one vendor certification is what gets the interview.

09 STAYING FUTURE-READY

How a candidate stays on the resilient side

LEAN INTO

- Multi-modal AI skills: image, voice, and video AI applications are growing faster than text-only, and proficiency here differentiates candidates [4]
- Regional and Indian language NLP: a genuine moat -- global AI tools underperform in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Bengali contexts, creating demand for practitioners who can fine-tune or adapt models [3]
- AI ethics and governance: India is developing an AI regulatory framework; practitioners who understand responsible AI principles will be increasingly valued [4]
- AI for SME digitisation: India's 63 million MSMEs are the largest untapped market for practical AI deployment, and CTS graduates with local-language skills are positioned to serve this segment [5]
- Continuous learning: AI tooling changes faster than any course cycle; practitioners who habitually update skills via platforms like Coursera, Bharat Skills, or SWAYAM maintain relevance [6]

AVOID BEING DEFINED BY

- Stopping at the NTC without additional credentials or apprenticeship experience -- the credential alone is insufficient differentiation in a fast-growing supply pool [3]
- Focusing only on tool operation without understanding the underlying concepts (model evaluation, data quality, API design) -- tool-only skills are the most easily automated [5]
- Limiting job search to listings that use the exact CTS trade title -- most employers post these roles under broader technology or analyst titles [data file]
- Ignoring the physical-digital integration opportunity -- manufacturing, healthcare, and logistics sectors deploying AI need practitioners who understand both domains, not pure digital-only operators [5]

10 SOURCES & CITATIONS

Every figure, traced to a source

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Trade definition, NSQF level, syllabus, tasks and deliverables for the "Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant" Craftsmen Training Scheme trade (DGT / MSDE).
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India AI market reached USD 1,597.28 million in 2025, projected to reach USD 13,245.65 million by 2034 at 26.50% CAGR; 47% of Indian firms had multiple GenAI use cases live in 2025.
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2 **AI Spectrum India, India's AI Landscape 2025: Index Report on Innovation, Talent, Workforce and Investment, 2025**
India had approximately 420,000 AI professionals in 2024 against industry demand of around 600,000, reflecting a near-50% talent shortfall; 1.856 million learners enrolled on FutureSkills PRIME portal by August 2025.
https://aispectrumindia.com/analysis/38/75/indias-ai-landscape-2025-index-report-on-innovation-talent-workforce-and-investment.html · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

3 **India Skills Report 2026, Affairs Cloud summary, 2025**
India's overall employability reached 56.35% in 2026; ITI graduate employability 45.95%; computer science graduates 80%; 22-25 age group employability 75.7%; India holds 16% of global AI talent.
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One in four workers globally sits in an occupation with some GenAI exposure; automation mean score 0.29 in 2025; 27.3% of technicians expect only moderate AI impact on their role; media and web roles show increasing automation scores.
https://www.ilo.org/publications/generative-ai-and-jobs-2025-update · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

5 **World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Report 2025, 2025**
170 million jobs created vs 92 million displaced by 2030 globally; AI/ML specialists top growth list; 86% of employers expect AI to transform business; 48% already use GenAI for code generation; India AI and big data demand projected to grow 60%+ by 2030; two-thirds of Indian companies need more diverse talent pipelines.
https://www.libertify.com/interactive-library/wef-future-of-jobs-report-2025-guide/ · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

6 **Deloitte-NASSCOM, Bridging the AI Talent Gap to Boost India's Tech and Economic Impact, 2024**

India AI talent demand projected to grow from 600,000-650,000 in 2022 to over 1.25 million by 2027; 51% skill gap; only 16% of IT professionals currently AI-skilled; 60% of workers recognise AI skills enhance career prospects.

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7 **Frey, C.B. and Osborne, M.A., The Future of Employment, Oxford, 2013 (AEA 2025 conference update referenced)**

Original study estimated 47% of US occupations susceptible to computerisation; subsequent task-level studies suggest occupation-wide displacement is lower than occupation-level risk scores imply.

https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/2025/program/paper/Sf39S3r3 · 2013/2025 · accessed Jun 2026

8 **IndiaAI Mission, Union Budget 2024-25 Allocates Over Rs 550 Crore to IndiaAI Mission, 2024**

IndiaAI Mission allocated Rs 10,371.92 crore over five years; 174 ITIs and Polytechnics across 27 States/UTs approved to set up AI Data and AI Labs; Rs 550 crore budgeted in 2024-25.

https://indiaai.gov.in/article/union-budget-2024-25-allocates-over-550-crores-to-the-indiaai-mission · 2024 · accessed Jun 2026

9 **IndiaAI, Microsoft Launches AI Micro-Degree with MSDE Aiming to Expand AI Skills Across ITIs and NSTIs, 2024**

Microsoft-MSDE MoU (August 2024) co-developed AI Programming Assistant CTS trade; targeting 200+ ITIs and 15 NSTIs; SkillSaksham program trained 8,500+ candidates by mid-2025 against 10,000+ target.

https://indiaai.gov.in/news/microsoft-launches-ai-micro-degree-with-msde-aiming-to-expand-ai-skills-across-itis-and-nstis · 2024 · accessed Jun 2026

10 **PayScale, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Salary in India, 2026**

Average base salary for AI skills in India is approximately Rs 2,000,000 (Rs 20 LPA) across 449 professionals; entry-level AI research assistant roles reported at Rs 4-7 LPA; NLP engineers at Rs 5-9 LPA.

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11 **Bharat Skills Portal, DGT, Artificial Intelligence Programming Assistant Study Materials, 2025**

Official NSQF CTS trade page offering trade theory (revised 2023), question banks (version 2025), employability skills modules in 4 languages, and instructor guides for the AI Programming Assistant trade.

https://bharatskills.gov.in/Home/StudyMaterial?var=6cxUakKHpnWDxfSc/1mbuA%3D%3D&Default=No · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

12 **PIB India, Government of India Expands AI-Driven Skilling, 2024**

MSDE partnered with Microsoft to provide AI training through 200 ITIs; government AI Competency Framework targets AI skills for 3.1 million civil servants; 500 PhD, 5,000 PG, and 8,000 UG AI scholarships established.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2113095 · 2024 · accessed Jun 2026

13 **Careers360, India Skills Report 2026 -- CS, IT Engineers Most Employable, 2025**

Detailed breakdown: computer science 80% employable, IT engineers 78%, overall 56.35%; hiring intent at 40% for FY 2026-27; technology, BFSI, manufacturing and renewable energy lead hiring sectors.

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14 **upGrad, AI Engineer Salary in India: 2026 Guide for Beginners and Experts, 2026**

AI engineer fresher salary in India ranges Rs 5-8 LPA; mid-level Rs 12-30 LPA; senior Rs 30-60 LPA; entry-level TCS AI engineer earns Rs 6 LPA; AI research assistant roles Rs 4-7 LPA.

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15 **WEF, The Future of Jobs in India -- Employers Seek to Boost Tech Talent, April 2025**

Two-thirds of companies in India see need for more diverse talent pipelines; 30% plan to remove degree requirements for skills-based hiring vs 19% globally; AI and big data demand projected to grow 60%+ by 2030 in India.

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