

AI will redefine tech jobs, coding will no longer be core: Nilekani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Bengaluru

Artificial Intelligence is rewriting the grammar of software development. And writing codes will no longer be the central role for tech professionals, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani said Tuesday.

AI, he said, is being adopted faster than any previous technological transition, from the internet to smart phones, and is poised to fundamentally reshape how businesses operate.

"Talent will have to deal with a world where writing code will not be the goal. It'll actually be making AI work, orchestration, and those kinds of things," Nilekani said at Infosys' Investor Day.

"Customer journeys, operating models, and mental models all have to change. Every enterprise must rethink how it operates." While coding may end, new jobs will be created.

The talent transformation is huge, he said adding there will be a need for AI engineers, forward deployment engineers, forensic analysts - roles that didn't exist a few years ago.

Greenfield coding productivity is not the real challenge. The real world is managing trillions of dollars in legacy systems with undocumented dependencies, he said.

He highlighted the unprecedented speed of AI adoption, noting that while the internet took over a decade to reach a billion

users and smartphones five years, AI adoption is happening in just a couple of years, enabled by the infrastructure of prior tech eras.

"While the internet took over 10 years to reach a billion users and smartphones five years, AI adoption is occurring in just a couple of years," he said. "Each technology transition has had implications, but this time, it's a fundamental change in the way businesses operate. Customer journeys, operating models, talent - everything has to change."

Nilekani stressed that legacy system modernisation can no longer be deferred, citing high maintenance costs, siloed data, and rising security risks.

"Accumulated tech debt



Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani

over decades must be paid. You no longer have the option to defer this," he said, noting that AI provides tools to modernise faster and more economically, though implementation remains complex.

He also emphasised the shift from buying software to building AI solutions, with enterprises layering agentic AI interfaces on existing systems to simplify customer journeys. "Foundational systems will increasingly become systems of record, but the interface will be agentic," Nilekani said.

On legacy systems and modernization, he said accumulated tech debt over decades must be paid. Many large companies spend 60 per cent to 80 per cent of their IT budget on maintenance.

That has zero business value. It's time to flip the ratio. AI gives us the tools to modernise fast, economically, and at scale - but implementation is the hard part, he said.

Highlighting the deployment gap between AI capabilities and enterprise implementation, he noted the urgent need for talent transformation, change management, and cleanup of technical debt. "It's not about using AI tools. It's about productivity out of those tools. Otherwise, you'll get false productivity," he said.

Nilekani concluded that enterprises must adopt first-principle thinking, agnostic system design, and cross-firm collaboration to harness AI successfully.

Ethics key to optimal use of AI in health sector: Jitendra Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Ethics will be a key determinant of how effectively artificial intelligence (AI) is used in the health sector, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday.

Citing the example of the Government's sovereign multilingual AI engine Bharat Gen, he said the present Government is ready to come forward even at the formative stages of a new phenomenon. "Ethics will be a very important determinant of how optimally AI can be used in the health sector," the minister said. He was

speaking at a session in the AI Impact Summit.

Singh said Bharat Gen is a Government-owned sovereign model, but there are other private sector players also who are working on these models, such as digital health and digital case histories. "In the times to come, we would also have to integrate. Neither can they work in isolation, nor can we. So, we have to be prepared for that," he said.

Launched in October 2024, Bharat Gen is a Government project to develop a sovereign AI model which will provide services like Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) models and Text-to-Speech (TTS) models for Indian languages.



Jitendra Singh, minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy of India

At the session, Bharat Gen unveiled its new 17B (billion) parameter LLM (large language models).

Currently, Bharat Gen's AI models support several Indian languages, including Hindi, Assamese, Bengali,

Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil and Telugu.

Bharat Gen has released domain-specific fine-tuned models for Ayurveda (Ayu Param), Indian agriculture

(Agri Param) and Indian legal domain (Legal Param).

In addition, all Bharat Gen models (text, speech and vision) are useful for applications across healthcare, agriculture, education and governance.

The 17-billion-parameter multilingual AI model, called Param2, will support 22 Indian languages. The model is developed under the Bharat Gen consortium, which operates out of the Technology Innovation Hub at IIT Bombay and is supported by the Department of Science and Technology.

Rishi Bai, CEO of Bharat Gen, said Param2 is a "mixture of experts" model built to work across 22 Indian languages.



Visitors witness a demonstration during the India AI Impact Summit 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Tuesday

India needs to embrace new tech in cargo handling: EAC-PM member

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

India needs to embrace new technology and can save up to ₹20,000 crore by using AI for cargo handling at ports, said Member of Economic Advisory Council to PM Gourav Vallabh on Tuesday.

Speaking at session 'AI-Powered Ports: Reimagining Efficiency and Operations' at the AI Impact Summit here, Vallabh said India is emerging as a global leader in the field of new technology.

"There is an approximate saving by uses of AI of ₹20,000 crore in our handling. And every year we can save ₹15,000 crore as far as the logistic cost is concerned," he said. The question is not whether AI will transform India's ports, Vallabh said adding "the question is whether we are going to lead it or not."

He noted that India's logistics cost at 7.57 per cent of GDP is competitive, "but for Viksit Bharat 2047 aim, our ports should be intelligent and should have intelligent ecosystem."

He said India needs accelerated policy initiatives to reduce the logistics cost. He pointed out that 95 per cent of total volumes of India's trading is by maritime, but "in spite of annual growth of 13.5 per cent, our ports are not comparable to the biggest ports of the world



Gourav Vallabh, member of Economic Advisory Council to PM

as far as the handling capacity is concerned". So, gap is both of infrastructure as well as intelligence, he added.

Vallabh listed out several

areas of AI application in ports to improve performance. "AI is right now in front of us, it is up to us, we have to accept it," Vallabh noted. Subrat

Tripathy, President Business Development APSEZ Ltd, shared idea of introducing virtual concierge in the ports industry.

"We've been thinking of developing what is called a virtual concierge. In all interactions on a platform which are not human-based. This is not about replacing human beings, but having a particular tool where we bring in the multiplicities of interactions, vessels, agents, transporters, multiple stakeholders that we have," Tripathy said.

He said AI can also help in predicting weather conditions, navigation and safe operations of ports. Susanta Kumar Purohit, Chairperson, VO Chidambaram Port

Authority, said, "Artificial intelligence is not merely a technological upgrade for ports; it is a structural shift in how we plan, operate and govern maritime infrastructure."

Aprajita Rana, AZB & Partners, spoke on legal aspects on usage of AI in the industry including safety and authenticity of the data.

"I think, going forward, what we really need to promote in the industry is having some sort of AI governance mechanism. You actually need to have some governance standards about how you're going to deploy AI and to what extent, what kind of functionalities," Rana said.



A visitor clicks pictures during the India AI Impact Summit 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Tuesday

Fears that AI will replace doctors largely misplaced: Anupriya Patel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

When India speaks of AI in healthcare, it is not limited to sophisticated algorithms or the promise of precision alone, but is measured by the extent to which technology touches lives and addresses health inequities across the country, Minister of State for Health, Anupriya Patel, said on Tuesday.



Anupriya Patel, minister of State for Health

India's vast and diverse population, the rural-urban divide, and the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases present unique challenges, the minister said.

In such a context, she underscored, technology, particularly AI, becomes an indispensable enabler.

Patel also noted that AI has been integrated across the entire continuum of health-

care "from disease surveillance and prevention to diagnosis and treatment."

She highlighted how the Media Disease Surveillance System, an AI-enabled tool that monitors disease trends in 13 languages, generates real-time alerts, and strengthens outbreak preparedness.

This system, she said, showcases the power of AI in augmenting India's disease control efforts and enhancing its surveillance capacity.

Under the One Health Mission, she said, the Indian Council of Medical Research has launched AI-based tools for genomic surveillance, capable of predicting potential zoonotic outbreaks even before transmission from animals to humans occurs.

She made the remarks while addressing a session on 'Innovation to Impact: AI as a Public Health Game-Changer' at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at the Bharat Mandapam here.

The session spotlighted the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in advancing public health outcomes and strengthening India's healthcare delivery systems.

"AI for India, as our Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisions, is not merely Artificial Intelligence but AI-Inclusive Intelligence," Patel said.

As India advances towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, health forms one of the most critical pillars of development, she said.

Need to control way AI models function: MeitY Secretary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Government has invested in developing indigenous and sovereign artificial intelligence models to address concerns related to bias and to ensure that India has AI systems primarily trained on Indian data, a senior official said on Tuesday.

S Krishnan, Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), said that sovereignty is a very important issue, and India needs to have AI models where "nobody else has the kill switch, and it was always with us".

According to him, a country of the size of India needs to necessarily have control over the way AI models function.

There was a debate initially whether India should actually invest in creating indigenous or sovereign models or should it use open source models which have been created elsewhere in the world, because creating an indigenous model was



S Krishnan, secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

felt to be expensive and time-consuming, the secretary said. But after some discussion and debate, India went ahead and created its own AI models for certain important reasons.

"First and foremost is to address the issue of bias... Making sure that we have models which are based primarily on Indian data and data which is created in a multiplicity of Indian languages. That is very critical," Krishnan said.

Regulations for artificial intelligence to help innovations thrive: Jitin Prasada

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The regulations for artificial intelligence are not meant to over-regulate but to ensure enough regulation for innovations to thrive in the country, Union Minister Jitin Prasada said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the Amazon Web Services (AWS) New Delhi Symposium 2026, the minister emphasised that everyone should be able to reap the benefits of technology transformation.

India is a fast-growing market that offers opportunities for various technological innovations, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions. "Scale, speed, innova-



Union Minister Jitin Prasada

tion and inclusion" are the strengths of India, Prasada said. Prasada is the Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology as well as Commerce & Industry.

Talking about AI, he said, as far as the policy for regulations goes, they are not aimed at over-regulating and that the regulations are enough for innovations to thrive. "India

will not call itself successful until all (those in) the bottom-up segment reap the benefits of the technology transformation that is happening," Prasada said. The transformation, the minister said, should be able to increase productivity of individuals as well as levels of income and also improve the standard of living. The benefits should reach one and all, he added.

AWS India & South Asia President Sandeep Dutta said India's success with AI would truly depend on the ability to democratise technology and one of the pillars that would underpin this success would be the scope and expanse of the digital public infrastructure.

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Need much stronger regulation on deepfakes, talks on with industry: Ashwini Vaishnaw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

The problem of deepfakes is growing rapidly and requires stronger regulation to protect children and society at large, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday, adding that the Government has begun consultations with the industry on additional safeguards beyond those already in place.

He said discussions are underway with social media platforms on tackling deepfakes and age-based restrictions, to determine the most appropriate way forward on the issue.

The minister said any company - be it Netflix, YouTube, Meta, or X - must abide by the legal framework and the Constitution of India. Vaishnaw said the problem of deepfakes is growing



Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw addresses a press conference on the sidelines of India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi

day by day and asserted that stronger regulation is needed. "I think we need a much stronger regulation on deep-

fakes. It is a problem growing day by day. Certainly there is a need for protecting our children and our society from these harms... We have initiated a dialogue with industry on what kind of regulation will be needed beyond what we already have," the minister said.

The parliamentary committee, too, has studied the issue in depth, he said. "We need much stronger regulations on deepfakes and we must definitely create that consensus within Parliament for creating those significantly stronger restriction on deepfakes so society can be protected from these harms," the Minister said at a briefing during the AI Summit.

He pointed out that many countries have accepted the need for age-based restrictions.