

NITI Aayog Unveils Groundbreaking Roadmap on AI for Inclusive Societal Development

Placing India's 490 Million Informal Workers at the Heart of Viksit Bharat 2047

Posted On: 08 OCT 2025 5:04PM by PIB Delhi

NITI Aayog today released a pioneering study, *AI for Inclusive Societal Development*, a first-of-its-kind effort to systematically explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and frontier technologies can be harnessed to transform the lives and livelihoods of **India's 490 million informal workers** – the **backbone of the nation's economy**.

While global discourse on AI has largely centered around white-collar jobs and the formal economy, this landmark study, developed in partnership with Deloitte, shifts the spotlight to the informal sector, which contributes nearly half of India's GDP yet remains excluded from formal systems of protection, opportunity, and productivity.

The report emphasizes that **AI will not automatically transform the informal sector**. Technology alone cannot break systemic barriers. Without deliberate human intervention, focused investments, and an enabling ecosystem, the promise of AI risks remaining out of reach for those who need it most.

To address this, NITI Aayog has called for **Mission Digital ShramSetu**—a proposed national mission to create the roadmap and ecosystem that will make AI accessible, affordable, and impactful for every worker. The mission will harness AI, blockchain, immersive learning, and other frontier technologies to dismantle structural constraints—ranging from financial insecurity and limited market access to lack of skilling and social protection—and empower informal workers with tools and platforms that amplify their skills, increase productivity, and ensure dignity in work.

This proposed mission emphasises on **building inclusion requires human intent, coordinated action, and collaboration across government, industry, academia, and civil society**. Only then can AI serve as a true equalizer—lifting the millions at the margins into the mainstream of India's growth story and turning the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 into reality.

The roadmap also underscores the **high cost of delay**: at the current trajectory, informal workers' average annual income will stagnate at \$6,000 by 2047—far below the \$14,500 target necessary to secure high-income status for India. Immediate, coordinated action is essential to avoid leaving millions behind and weakening India's growth story.

Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, said, *"Empowering India's informal workers is not just an economic priority, it is a moral imperative. The goal of Digital Skilling in AI for workers aligns perfectly with our national skilling agenda by leveraging AI and frontier technologies to make learning adaptive, accessible, and demand-driven. By bringing together government, industry, and civil society, this mission will ensure that every worker—whether a farmer, artisan, or healthcare aide—has the skills, tools, and opportunities needed to thrive in the digital economy of tomorrow."*

Mr. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog, emphasized the non-negotiable need for collaboration:

"If we are serious about transforming the lives of India's 490 million informal workers, collaboration is not

optional—it is non-negotiable. This goal demands cross-functional action: from focused R&D that reduces the cost of frontier technologies, to building a sustainable ecosystem of innovation tailored to the informal sector, to skilling and reskilling at scale. Only by uniting government, industry, academia, and civil society can we ensure that this mission delivers not just technology adoption, but real, lasting empowerment.”

Ms. Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog and Chief Architect of the Frontier Tech Hub, added:

“For India to achieve its \$30 trillion Viksit Bharat 2047 aspiration, we cannot leave behind the 490 million workers who power our economy every day. AI will not transform their lives on its own—it requires us to deliberately build the roadmap and ecosystem that make these technologies accessible and affordable. This roadmap is unique because it finally puts their voices, challenges, and aspirations at the centre of the AI conversation and lays out a mission-mode approach as the pathway to turn this promise into reality.”

The Roadmap was launched by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon’ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education; Dr. V. K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog; Shri B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog; Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Ms. Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog, and other distinguished guests and dignitaries.

The launch saw keen participation from industry members and development partners, including the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), NASSCOM Foundation, the World Bank, Gates Foundation, Sattva Consulting, Haqdarshak, and the Piramal Foundation, among others, with Deloitte serving as the Knowledge Partner.

Access the Roadmap here: https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-10/Roadmap_On_AI_for_Inclusive_Societal_Development.pdf

About NITI Frontier Tech Hub:

The **NITI Frontier Tech Hub** is an action tank for *Viksit Bharat*. In collaboration with over 100 experts from government, industry, and academia, it is shaping a 10-year roadmap across 20+ key sectors to harness frontier technologies for transformative growth and societal development. By empowering stakeholders nationwide and driving collective action, the Hub is instilling urgency to act today, laying the foundation for a prosperous, resilient, and technologically advanced India by 2047.

MJPS/SR

(Release ID: 2176362)