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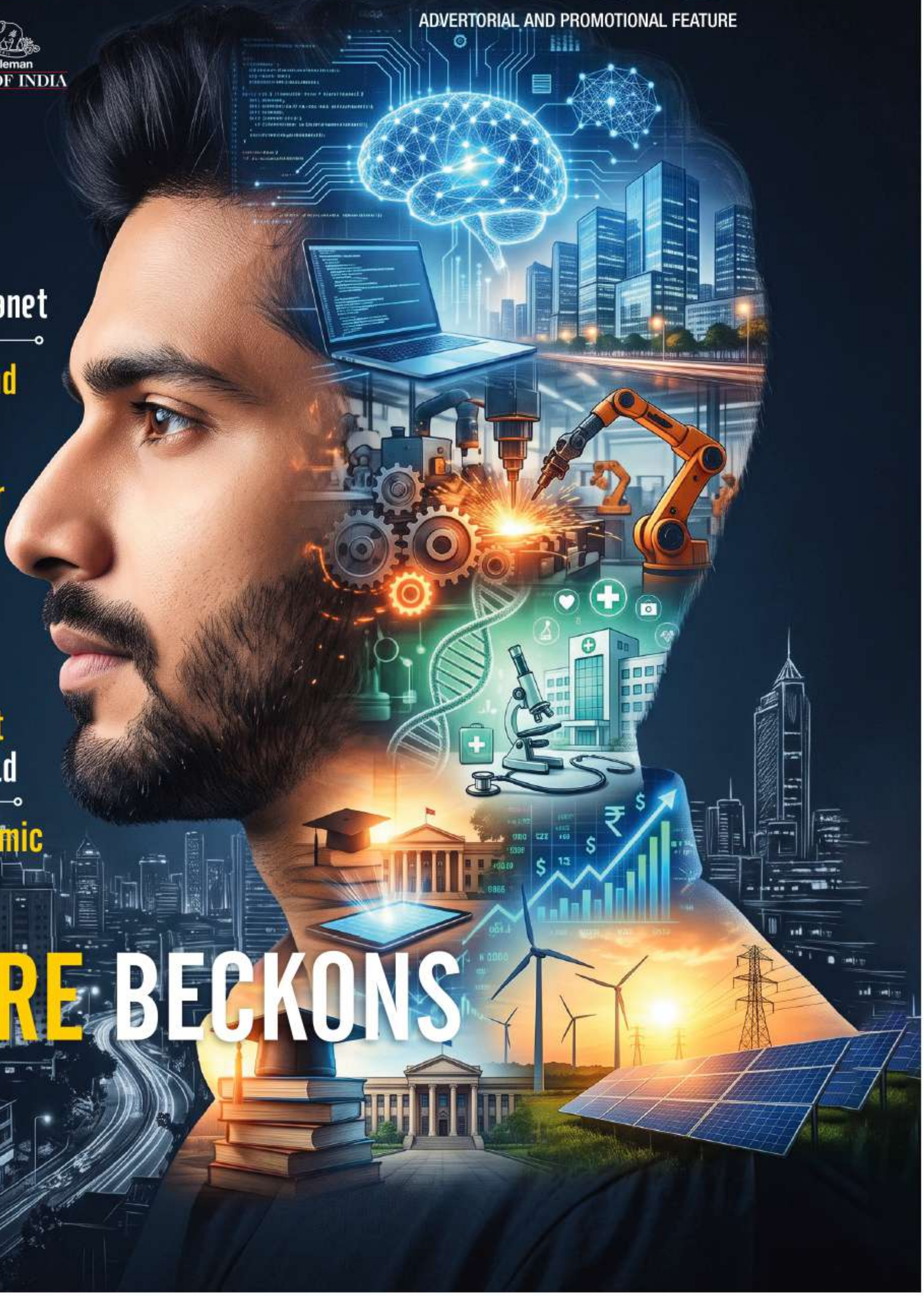

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Learning beyond boundaries

A new dawn for better health

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Innovation that moves the world

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FUTURE BECKONS

July 2026

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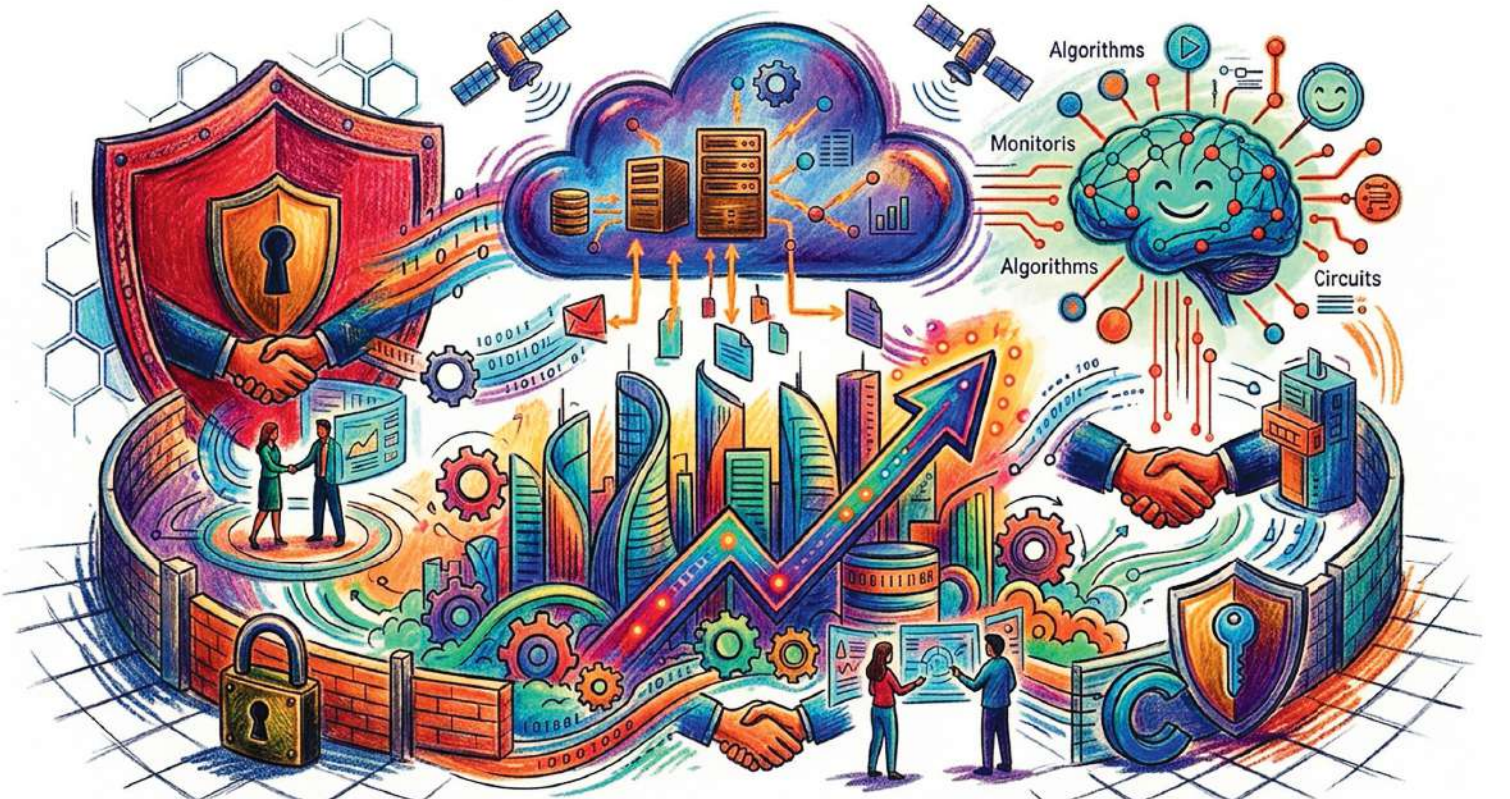

AI Genrated Image

FROM BYTES TO BREAKTHROUGHS

With growing capabilities in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and enterprise innovation, India's software and technology sector is reaching new global growth milestones

■ **Artha.Neog@timesofindia.com**

As artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, cloud computing, and enterprise software become central to global business strategy, India's technology and software sector is undergoing a profound transformation. Long recognised for its IT services expertise, the country is emerging as a hub for innovation, advanced digital capabilities, software development, and AI-led solutions.

The nation's technology sector is entering a new phase of growth. Annual revenues are projected to cross USD 280 billion this year, underscoring technology's expanding role in economic activity and business transformation. "India's technology ecosystem has evolved beyond IT services, supported by a growing pool of engineers, architects, and innovators. There is a gradual shift towards developing products and intellectual property for global markets," says Anant Agrawal, CEO and MD, Skillmine Technology Consulting.

From execution to innovation

India hosts more than 1,800 Global Capability Centres (GCCs), including over 500 dedicated to artificial intelligence-related functions. Far removed from their traditional support roles, these centres now drive product engineering, research, analytics, cybersecurity, cloud architecture, and innovation initiatives for global markets. "India has emerged as a major source of cybersecurity talent, with professionals contributing to threat intelligence, incident response, and security operations worldwide. As cyber threats grow more complex and AI reshapes the landscape, demand for advanced cybersecurity skills is increasing," shares Sunil Sharma, managing director and vice president – sales (India & SAARC), Sophos.

At the same time, India's startup ecosystem continues to flourish, with around 1.8 lakh startups and nearly 89 per cent of new ventures integrating AI into their products or services. This reflects a broader shift towards intelligent, innovation-led solutions, positioning the country as a growing hub for developing and scaling technology for global markets.

AI moves into the mainstream

According to the NASSCOM AI Adoption Index, India scores 2.45 out of 4, with 87 per

KEY FIGURES

India's technology sector is projected to generate over **USD 280 billion** in revenue in 2026

1,800+ GCCs operating in India, including 500+ AI-focused centres

1.8 lakh startups, making India one of the world's largest startup ecosystems

89% of new startups launched last year integrated AI into their offerings

87% of enterprises are actively using AI solutions

6 million+ professionals employed across the technology and AI ecosystem

26% of companies have achieved AI maturity at scale

India's enterprise software market is projected to reach **USD 40.92 billion** by 2033

cent of enterprises actively using AI solutions. This signals a maturing digital landscape where AI is being integrated into operations, customer engagement, supply chains, and strategic planning. "Growing demand for AI, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and digital transformation is creating new opportunities for India's technology sector. A strong talent base and continued investment in innovation are supporting this transition," avers Ankush Sabharwal, CEO and founder, CoRover.ai.

The largest contributors to AI-driven value creation are industrial and automotive, consumer goods and retail, banking, financial services and insurance, and healthcare. Together, these sectors account for around 60 per cent of AI's overall value generation, illustrating the technology's growing impact across the economy.

Rishi Bal, CEO, BharatGen, says, "India's multilingual AI capabilities are gaining relevance as organisations seek solutions for diverse linguistic markets. Collaboration with international institutions highlights the growing interest in developing AI technologies jointly with India."

The next challenge is scaling adoption. Around 26 per cent of Indian companies have achieved AI maturity at scale, moving beyond pilot projects to integrate AI into core operations. Meanwhile, India's enterprise software market, valued at USD 13.18 billion in 2025, is projected to reach USD 40.92 billion by 2033 at a CAGR of 15.4 per cent. The country accounted for about 4.5 per cent of the global enterprise software market in 2025, highlighting its growing role in the digital economy.

"As AI adoption expands, customised semiconductor technologies are becoming increasingly important for performance, security, and energy efficiency. Building capabilities across chip design, computing infrastructure, and software will play a key role in the AI economy," points Dr Sandeep Kumar, chief executive, L&T Semiconductor Technologies (LTSCT).

The power of talent and innovation

At the heart of this transformation is India's talent advantage. With over 6 million professionals across the technology and AI ecosystem, the country has one of the world's largest digital workforces. Backed by a strong STEM foundation, growing investments in innovation, and proven expertise in building large-scale digital public infrastructure, India is well positioned to develop and scale emerging technologies.

"The services sector is gradually moving towards outcome-based models, supported by AI-driven solutions tailored to business needs. This shift is encouraging companies to focus on value creation rather than effort-based delivery," says Arani Chaudhuri, co-founder and CEO, AI Library.

Road to global competitiveness

As India builds an inclusive AI ecosystem, its progress is gaining global recognition. International assessments place India among the top four countries in AI skills, capabilities, and policy frameworks, underscoring its growing influence in shaping the future of digital innovation.

The rapid expansion of enterprise software, cloud adoption, AI deployment, and cybersecurity investments reflects a broader digital transformation underway across industries. As organisations invest in intelligent technologies and data-driven platforms, software is becoming a critical driver of competitiveness and productivity.

Maintaining this momentum, however, will require continued investment in advanced research, digital infrastructure, computing capacity, and workforce development. Organisations must also address challenges related to responsible AI deployment, data governance, cybersecurity, and sustainability. "Rising domestic demand for cybersecurity is creating opportunities for innovation and practical problem-solving. Strengthening industry-academia collaboration and hands-on training will be important to building globally relevant expertise and products," shares Sarthak Dubey, co-founder and COO, Mitigata.

As India's digital economy continues to evolve, technology, IT, software, and AI are emerging as key drivers of growth and competitiveness. The convergence of talent, innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital transformation is creating an ecosystem capable of meeting domestic needs while contributing to global advancement. In the process, the country is steadily evolving from an IT services leader into a hub for next-generation software, AI, and digital innovation.