India Skills Report, 2026

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Economy*

Why in News?

The India Skills Report 2026 has been released recently, was based on 100,000+ candidate assessments through the Global Employability Test (G.E.T.).

- **Launched in –** It has been published ***every year*** since its first release in 2014.
- **Published by –** Jointly by Educational Testing Service (ETS) in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
- **Purpose –** To analyze India's employability landscape, identify skill gaps, and guide policy, industry, and educational institutions in workforce planning.
- **Theme, 2026 –** Gig work, freelancing, AI-supported roles, remote work and entrepreneurship.

Key Findings

- **Employability Growth –** National employability rose from ***46.2% in 2022 to 54.81% in 2025 to 56.3% in 2026***.
- **AI Talent Strength –** India holds ***16% of global AI talent***, projected to reach 1.25 million specialists by 2027.
- **Tech Adoption –** Over 90% of employees reportedly use generative AI tools, reflecting deeper digital integration at workplaces.
- **Gig Workforce Expansion –** India's gig and freelance workforce is expected to ***reach 23.5 million by 2030***, with project-based hiring rising 38% year-on-year.
- **Sectors in Demand –** Technology; Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI); manufacturing; renewable energy and healthcare continue to drive hiring; top skills include AI, data analytics, cloud

computing and cybersecurity.

- **Most Employable States (2026)** – Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka.
- **Significance –** The findings position India as a ***preferred global source of skilled professionals***, reflecting both the scale of its workforce and its adaptability to new technologies.

References

1. NDTV | India Skills Report, 2026
2. Indian Express | India Skills Report, 2026

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