

World Bank's 1st Digital Strategy

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Why in news?

The World Bank (WB) Group has launched its first digital strategy to expand access and create jobs.

- **Objective of WB's digital strategy**
 - To bring together its public and private sector capabilities to help developing countries expand affordable digital access, improve services, and create jobs.
 - Brings together the World Bank Group's financing, policy advice, private investment, and guarantees around country priorities.
 - Provides a basis for working with governments, technology companies, development partners, and philanthropy to extend digital opportunities to more people and businesses.
 - To help countries turn digital access into higher productivity, better services, and more opportunities to earn a living.
- **Need for this strategy** - Developing countries face challenges such as
 - Limited financial resources
 - Growing demand for employment opportunities
- Over the next 10 to 15 years, around 1.2 billion young people will enter the working-age population in developing countries, while only about 420 million jobs are expected to be created.
- **4 priorities/focus areas** -
 - Expanding connectivity;
 - Making devices and data more affordable;
 - Strengthening digital services and skills; and
 - Helping countries build the foundations to benefit from artificial intelligence.
- **Focus on "Small AI"** - Rather than concentrating only on advanced AI systems, the strategy promotes "Small AI", which refers to AI applications designed for specific local tasks such as
 - Detecting crop diseases for farmers
 - Assisting healthcare workers
 - Managing business inventories
 - Improving public service delivery.
- **AI Infrastructure and Readiness Initiative** - A new effort to help governments in emerging markets access affordable compute capacity—and put small AI to productive use—through shared, pay-as-you-go GPU infrastructure, offering a practical alternative

to standalone national data centres.

- **Initial focus** - On Africa and Latin America, with knowledge partners including Cassava Technologies and NVIDIA.
- **Challenges identified** - Over 2 billion people were offline globally in 2025.
- Only 23% of people in low-income countries used the internet, compared with 94% in high-income countries.



Reference

[World Bank Groups | World Bank Group Launches First Digital Strategy](#)