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Article For Reading:

Averting Engels' pause: On the AI Action Summit in Paris

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's **stance** on the evolving Artificial Intelligence (AI) landscape at the AI Action Summit in Paris on February 11, stressing the need for "governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks, and build trust". This perspective is also reflected in the joint statement signed by India and over 50 other countries. Commitments to trust, safety, and universal access align well with India's efforts to advance AI technologies while mitigating risks. The nation's approach to AI will be crucial as the technology progresses and costs decline. Innovations such as Chinese firm DeepSeek's breakthrough reasoning models **underscore** the growing risks to labour markets. The IT and services sector constitutes a significant portion of India's economy but employs a relatively smaller workforce. AI-driven efficiency gains present an attractive business proposition, yet the potential for job losses or **stagnant wage** growth in this sector poses serious risks. The Prime Minister rightly pointed out that technological advancements historically create new employment opportunities. However, as noted in the Economic Survey, there is a valid concern regarding an Engels' pause, a phase where firms **reap the benefits** of new technology while real wages stagnate.

India cannot afford even a brief period of such economic strain, making **proactive** policy responses essential.

The summit's emphasis on sustainable AI growth and energy efficiency is equally timely, given global climate **imperatives**. The United States produces more than twice the electricity of India, despite having just a quarter of its population. A growing share of this energy is now consumed by data centres, which power AI training and **deployment**. As AI-driven energy demand surges, ensuring that this growth is powered by renewable sources is critical. Commercial AI success remains **elusive**, with substantial investments flowing into top market players but offering limited financial returns. While India may not **replicate** this high-investment, low-return model, developing foundational AI models that are tailored to Indian needs is imperative. **Leveraging** emerging efficiencies and maximising AI's potential must remain central to India's strategy. The IndiaAI Mission's initiatives, such as subsidised access to Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) clusters and funding for promising projects, are encouraging steps toward this goal. Looking ahead, integrating AI education and skills training at scale will be essential. Even if a significant share of top AI talent moves abroad, India must ensure that its domestic industry retains sufficient expertise to remain competitive.

AI will undoubtedly reshape industries, and preparing a **robust talent pipeline** will be key to ensuring that India not only adapts but also **thrives** in this transformation.

Summary:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at the AI Action Summit in Paris, emphasized the need for AI governance, risk mitigation, and trust-building. India, along with over 50 nations, committed to responsible AI development. While AI offers efficiency gains, concerns about job losses and wage stagnation persist, making proactive policies essential. The summit also highlighted sustainable AI growth and energy efficiency, crucial given rising AI-driven power consumption. India aims to develop AI tailored to its needs through initiatives like the IndiaAI Mission. To stay competitive, India must integrate AI education and skill development while ensuring a strong domestic talent pool.

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Vocabularies:

1. Avert (Verb) (टालना)

Meaning: To prevent something bad from happening.

Synonyms: Avoid, prevent, deter.

Antonyms: Allow, permit, enable.

Example: The quick response of the firefighters helped avert a major disaster.

2. Stance (Noun) (रुख)

Meaning: A particular position or opinion on an issue.

Synonyms: Position, viewpoint, perspective.

Antonyms: Indecision, neutrality.

Example: The government's stance on environmental protection has been widely debated.

3. Underscore (Verb) (जोर देना)

Meaning: To emphasize or highlight something as important.

Synonyms: Highlight, stress, emphasize.

Antonyms: Ignore, downplay, overlook.

Example: The report underscores the need for better healthcare facilities

4. Stagnant (Adjective) (स्थिर/रुका हुआ)

Meaning: Not moving, growing, or developing.

Synonyms: Still, inactive, sluggish.

Antonyms: Active, dynamic, growing.

Example: The stagnant economy led to higher unemployment rates.

5. Reap (Verb) (प्राप्त करना)

Meaning: To gain or receive something as a result of effort.

Synonyms: Harvest, gain, obtain.

Antonyms: Lose, forfeit, surrender.

Example: Hard work and dedication will help you reap success in your career.

6. Proactive (Adjective) (सक्रिय/पहले से तैयारी करना)

Meaning: Taking action in advance to prevent problems.

Synonyms: Anticipatory, forward-thinking, preventive.

Antonyms: Reactive, passive, unprepared. **Example:** A proactive approach to studying can improve exam performance.

7. Imperative (Adjective) (अत्यावश्यक)

Meaning: Absolutely necessary or important.

Synonyms: Essential, crucial, vital.

Antonyms: Optional, unnecessary, trivial.

Example: It is imperative to wear a seatbelt while driving for safety.

8. Elusive (Adjective) (दुर्लभ/समझ से परे)

Meaning: Difficult to find, catch, or achieve.

Synonyms: Mysterious, evasive, tricky.

Antonyms: Obvious, clear, attainable.

Example: The solution to the problem remained elusive despite several attempts.

9. Leveraging (Verb) (फायदा उठाना)

Meaning: Using something to maximum advantage.

Synonyms: Utilize, exploit, capitalize.

Antonyms: Waste, misuse, neglect.

Example: The company is leveraging technology to improve customer service.

10. Thrives (Verb) (फलना-फूलना/समृद्ध होना)

Meaning: To grow, develop, or succeed.

Synonyms: Flourish, prosper, succeed.

Antonyms: Decline, wither, struggle.

Example: The business thrives in a competitive market due to innovation.

12. Wage (Noun) (वेतन/मजदूरी)

Meaning: Payment received for work done, usually on an hourly or daily basis.

Synonyms: Salary, earnings, income.

Antonyms: Debt, loss, expense.

Example: Many workers demand a higher wage due to rising inflation.

11. Deployment (Noun) (तैनाती/प्रयोग)

Meaning: The process of putting something into use or position.

Synonyms: Implementation, utilization, positioning.

Antonyms: Withdrawal, removal, inactivity.

Example: The deployment of AI in healthcare is revolutionizing patient care.

12. Replicate (Verb) (नकल करना/दोहराना)

Meaning: To copy or reproduce something exactly.

Synonyms: Duplicate, reproduce, imitate.

Antonyms: Original, innovate, create.

Example: Scientists attempted to replicate the experiment to verify the results.

Idiomatic Expressions from the article:

1. Reap the benefits

Meaning: To gain advantages or rewards from an effort or investment.

Example: After months of hard work, she finally reaped the benefits of her dedication by securing a promotion.

2. A robust talent pipeline

Meaning: A strong and continuous supply of skilled professionals.

Example: Universities need to focus on AI education to build a robust talent pipeline for the future.