

‘Cut out the red tape, roll out the red carpet’

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India must create highly productive jobs, accelerate AI adoption across sectors, and spread economic growth beyond a few states if it wants to meet its 2047 targets, a panel of experts said at the summit.

Speaking on the theme “India’s \$10 Trillion Goal: How to grow sustainably and inclusively”, the panelists stressed three priorities for policymakers: build decent manufacturing and services jobs; bring AI and technology into every industry, and fix basic public services so workers are ready for higher-productivity roles.

Ashish Dhawan, founder-CEO of The Convergence Foundation, said basic education is the building block, but fast growth requires “massive deregulation”. Instead of chasing high-tech symbols, India needs “boring” manufacturing and MSME clusters to create jobs. “Cut out the red tape and roll out the red carpet for investors,” he added.

Ruchi Kalra, co-founder of OfBusiness and Oxyzo, said real growth in MSMEs comes when enterprises scale beyond micro size. “Each location pan-India should have that opportunity to grow,” she added.

Prachi Mishra, director and head of the Isaac Center for Public Policy at Ashoka University, highlighted the need for balanced state-level development and sustainable public finance.

Nasscom president Rajesh Nambiar said, “Almost 80% of jobs should have some kind of AI infusion.” He added that India’s advantage would lie in developing reasoning models and enterprise solutions rather than competing in large language models.

Nilesh Shah, MD of Kotak Mahindra AMC and member of PM’s Economic Advisory Council, said, “We already reverse-engineer farm machinery... so we can reverse-engineer a lot more and build a much stronger R&D.”

Abhishek Singh, additional secretary in the IT ministry and CEO of IndiaAI Mission, said India’s AI mission was closing gaps in computing, data, and funding.

