



## Theme 2


### **Technological Transformation and Inclusive Development**

The rapid pace of technological transformation has the potential to drive economic growth and reshape societies. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, automation, and the Internet of Things are at the heart of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which has immense potential for contributing to economic growth and social progress.

One of the most pressing concerns is the impact on the labour market in general and women in particular. Automation threatens to displace many traditional jobs while simultaneously creating new ones that require advanced skills. This shift raises critical questions about the future of work, nature of employment and equitable participation of all segments of the labour force in the coming decades. For development to be inclusive, it must provide benefits across all levels of society. The digital divide—a technological access gap—poses a significant barrier to achieving this goal. Ensuring everyone has the skills and access needed to participate in the digital economy is crucial.

Education systems must adapt to prepare individuals for this rapidly changing technological landscape. This includes imparting technical skills and fostering adaptability, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. Technology also has the potential to revolutionize education itself, providing personalized learning experiences and opening up new opportunities for remote and underserved populations.

India's technological landscape is burgeoning, with its digital economy growing at an unprecedented rate. However, disparities in access to technology and digital literacy are significant. As a leader in software and services, India faces the challenge of leveraging its technological prowess for inclusive growth and bridging the digital divide. The country's demographic dividend could either be an asset or a liability, depending on how effectively it manages technological disruption and skilling its workforce.




The governance of policies for technology advancement is a critical issue. Regulators strike a balance between encouraging innovation and protecting public interests. This includes developing frameworks for ethical AI, data governance, and cybersecurity. As technology advances, the need for effective governance structures that can adapt to new challenges will only grow more acute.

Thus, technological transformation offers tremendous opportunities for growth and development. However, harnessing these opportunities benefits to benefits everyone requires careful management, foresight, and a commitment to inclusivity. As we stand on the brink of a technological revolution, our choices will shape tomorrow's society.

Some of the key issues that can be considered for prospective paper writers on this theme are:

- ❖ Technological transformation, employment and strategies for mitigating the risks of job displacement.
- ❖ Green technology innovations that support sustainable growth while ensuring environmental protection.
- ❖ Governance of technological progress and their implications for society and the environment.
- ❖ Innovative financing models that leverage technology to allocate funds effectively toward sustainable development goals.
- ❖ The role of digital platforms in fostering financial inclusion and sustainable economic participation.
- ❖ Collaboration between technology firms, civil society, and government to drive inclusive technological growth.
- ❖ Strategies to alleviate the impact of AI and automation on employment in India, with a focus on transitioning the workforce to new opportunities.
- ❖ Ensuring that technological progress in India is equitable, fostering an environment where advancements benefit all segments of society, thereby narrowing socio-economic divides.
- ❖ Ethical application of AI and safeguarding data privacy within India's burgeoning digital landscape.
- ❖ Capitalizing on technological innovation to advance financial inclusivity and



enable broader economic engagement across diverse population groups in India.

- ❖ Evaluating the adoption of robots, digital tools, and technologies across various sectors in developing countries and their consequences on employment, with an emphasis on strategies to mitigate job displacement risks.
- ❖ Implications of new technologies on occupational profiles, tasks, and skills, and assessing how they reorganize work and contribute to job polarization.
- ❖ Gendered impacts of new technologies on labour productivity, wage dispersion, and working conditions, particularly assessing whether these technologies perpetuate traditional gender roles through increased home-based work.
- ❖ Evaluating how digital labour platforms influence or perpetuate inequities and discrimination along gender, race, citizenship, and age, as well as the rise in precarity and informality associated with these platforms.