



QS WORLD FUTURE SKILLS INDEX: REPORTS & INDICIES

NEWS: New QS future skills report ranks India 2nd in job market readiness, 25th overall

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

India ranks second globally in the QS World Future Skills Index 2025, just behind the United States, positioning the country as a strong contender in future job skills, especially in digital, artificial intelligence (AI), and green competencies. However, the country faces challenges in bridging the skills fit gap and fostering innovation in sustainability, which need attention to ensure long-term economic transformation and global competitiveness.

1. QS World Future Skills Index:

- **Purpose:** The QS World Future Skills Index evaluates countries' readiness to meet the rapidly evolving demands of the global job market. The index assesses how well nations align their education and workforce development with future skills, such as digital literacy, AI expertise, and green competencies.
- **Goal:** The index is designed to empower governments to make informed decisions to help their populations stay competitive in a future economy shaped by technological advancements, sustainable industries, and innovation. This tool fosters a holistic understanding of how well countries are preparing their workforces for the jobs of tomorrow.

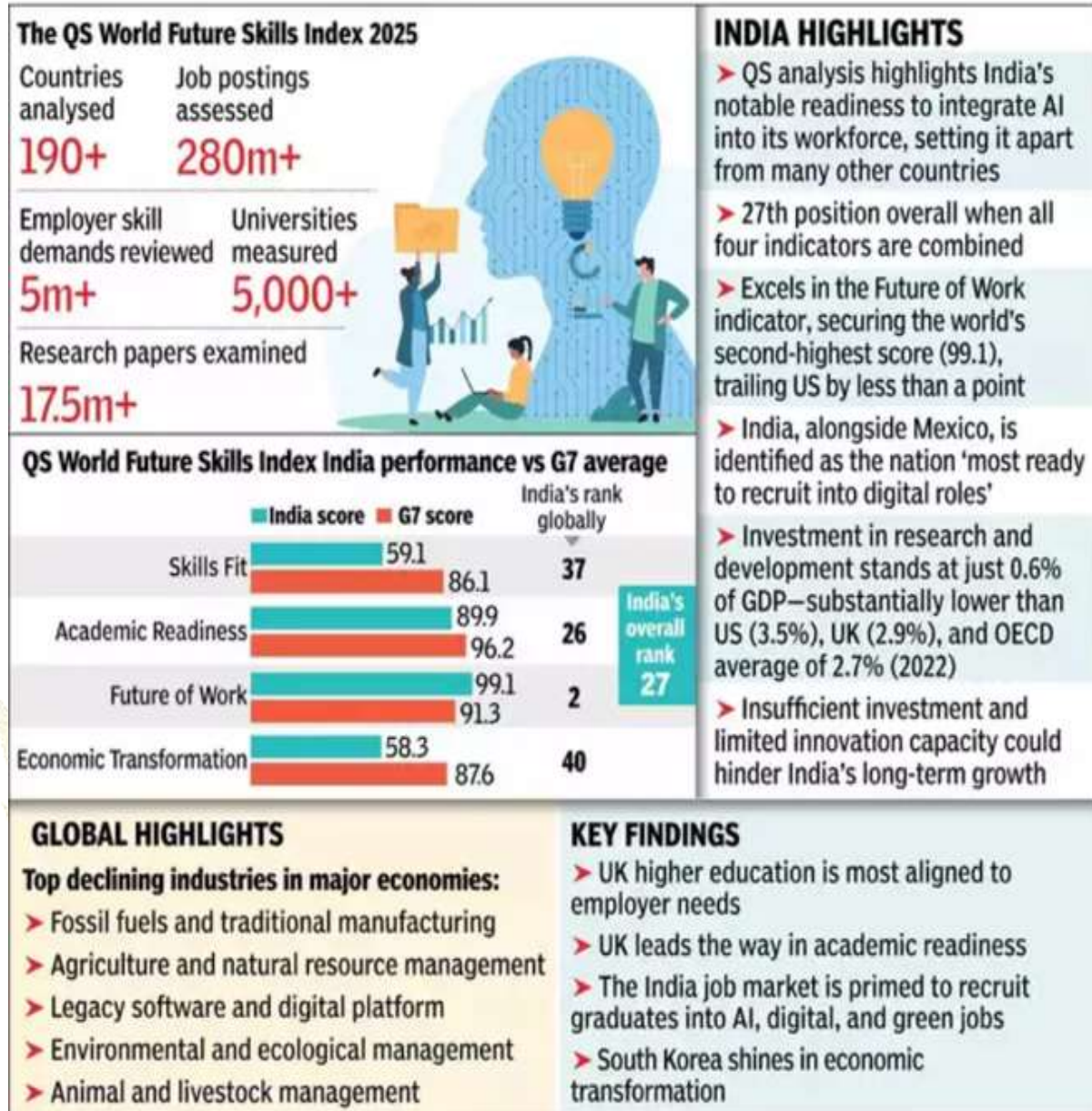
2. India's Position in the QS World Future Skills Index 2025

- **Rank:** India has secured the second position in the QS World Future Skills Index 2025, following the United States. This ranking reflects India's strong positioning in preparing its workforce for the future, particularly in the rapidly evolving areas of technology, artificial intelligence, and sustainable industries.
- **Key Areas of Competency:**
 - **Digital Skills:** India excels in digital competencies, an essential area for future employment, including technology-driven sectors like software development, cybersecurity, and data analytics.
 - **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** India is showing significant strides in AI, an area crucial for the future of work, encompassing fields like machine learning, automation, and robotics.
 - **Green Competencies:** With an increasing global focus on sustainability, India has positioned itself as a contender in green skills, including renewable energy, climate change mitigation, and sustainable practices in industries like agriculture and manufacturing.
- **Political and Economic Commitment:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized the importance of aligning government efforts with the needs of the youth to equip them with



skills that will ensure economic prosperity. This includes major investments in technological education, digital infrastructure, and skill-building programs for youth.

OVERALL 27TH POSITION



3. India's Strengths: Future of Work Readiness

- **Future of Work Index:** India ranks second globally in the 'future of work' category, reflecting its preparedness for the job market of tomorrow. This category assesses a country's ability to meet the growing demand for digital skills, AI capabilities, and green industry expertise, which are vital to the future economy.
- **Global Assessment:** The index is based on data from over 280 million job postings worldwide, providing a comprehensive view of the global job market's demands. India's strong performance is largely attributed to its rising digital infrastructure, AI development, and the increasing importance of green sectors.



Key Focus Areas:

- Digital transformation in industries like banking, e-commerce, and telecommunications.
- AI's potential to revolutionize sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare, and services.
- India's growing capacity in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and sustainable agriculture.
- **Strategic Advantages:** India's large and youthful workforce, coupled with government initiatives in skill development (e.g., Skill India Mission), has contributed to its favorable ranking in this area. This readiness positions India as a competitive force in future global economies.

4. Weaknesses: Skills Fit and Innovation in Sustainability

Despite India's strong performance in future skills readiness, the country faces some critical challenges in two key areas:

- **Skills Fit:**
 - India's **skills fit** score is the lowest among the top 30 countries, highlighting a significant gap in aligning its education system with rapidly evolving industry needs.
 - **Challenges in Education:** There is a disconnect between the skills taught in higher education institutions and the competencies demanded by industries. This gap results in a mismatch where many young professionals are not equipped with the required skills for emerging job roles.
 - **Industry-Education Collaboration:** While the government has made strides with initiatives like the National Education Policy (NEP) and partnerships with industry leaders, greater collaboration is needed to ensure that education reforms are in sync with future job market demands.
- **Innovation in Sustainability:**
 - India scored just **15.6 out of 100** in fostering innovation for sustainability, indicating that there is considerable room for improvement in developing sustainable technologies and practices.
 - **Global Competitiveness:** Countries like the United States, Germany, and Scandinavian nations are leading in innovation for sustainability, focusing on green technologies such as electric vehicles, energy storage, and smart grids. India's lag in this area could limit its ability to fully tap into the global green economy.

5. Economic Transformation and the Need for Education Reform



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India's economic transformation, which has been fueled by growth in sectors like technology and manufacturing, faces challenges in innovation and workforce efficiency. To remain competitive on the global stage, India needs to focus on the following:

- **Higher Education Reform:**

- The country needs to **invest in aligning its higher education system** with the needs of the global job market. This includes updating curricula to focus on **creativity, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial skills**, which are essential for the workforce of tomorrow.
- Universities should integrate **industry feedback** to ensure that students are equipped with the skills required by the job market, particularly in the fields of AI, technology, and sustainability.

- **Focus on Innovation and Sustainability:**

- **Fostering Innovation:** India needs to foster more research and development in sustainability and green technologies. This will enable the country to be competitive in the growing market for clean energy, carbon reduction technologies, and eco-friendly industries.
- **Investment in Startups:** Encouraging innovation through **startup ecosystems**, particularly in green tech and AI, can help India bridge the gap in sustainability innovation.

- **Government and Industry Collaboration:**

- The collaboration between **governments, industries, and educational institutions** should be strengthened. This can include providing incentives for **corporate partnerships** with universities, offering industry-specific skill training programs, and expanding internship and apprenticeship opportunities.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/qs-world-future-skills-index-2025-india-ranks-25th-scores-99-1-in-future-of-work-indicator-9779911/>

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