

# Robots may take over 10 mn jobs in 5 years : ASSOCHAM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

UP to 10 million jobs might be taken over by artificial intelligence or robots during the course of next five years owing to extreme technological developments taking place globally, the apex industry body, ASSOCHAM, said on Wednesday.

"The Union Government should integrate robotics as a key component of its flagship 'Make in India' programme for attracting global manufacturers to set up their highly-efficient and automated supply chain facilities in the country", suggested a recent ASSOCHAM study titled 'Digital India to Robotic India'.

The current industrial revolution globally is unfolding disruptive technologies in the form of automation, robotics, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, genomics etc and has started eating jobs in large numbers and in India alone million of jobs are at stake in the next five years.

The Chamber thus in its study has underlined an 'urgent need' for fostering a partnership among government, industry and academia to equip people with the right skill sets.

"The proposed partnership will be able to identify emerging skill requirements and academia, especially from developed countries which would assist in structuring courses and setting curricula," said DS Rawat, Secretary General of ASSOCHAM, while releasing the study at a press conference held here on Wednesday.

"The Centre should create a national policy perspective for automation consisting of top-level experts, representative of business,



Secretary General of ASSOCHAM DS Rawat releasing a study on Wednesday

government and labour, as it will set down the roadmap and guidelines to make this transition as painless as possible while assuring the stakeholders that the benefits will be widely and equitably shared," said Rawat.

"This will at least sensitise the nation on the inevitability of a robotics-led automation in industry, manufacture, transport and distribution," he added.

It is also pertinent to point out that robotics technology is a settled necessity for not only making the Indian industry globally competitive and the country attractive for entrepreneurs but also to promote the manufacturing sector in states like Uttar Pradesh (UP) to ensure faster economic development.

ASSOCHAM has thus suggested to the government of Uttar Pradesh to make its skill development policy conducive in order to create an enabling environment for the private sector, provide a better infrastructure, impart skill training to industrial workforce and promote the ease of doing business across the state.

With several global automobile firms setting up their bases in India and many hoping to export vehicles from the country both vehicle assembly and obtaining components by several Indian and joint venture (JV) component firms would require extensive automation to be at par with international standards.

In the beginning automation and robotics would be inevitable at least

where high quality and low costs on the one hand and safety of human workers on the other are the prime concern.

"We must expect automation becoming the imperative where raw materials like rare earths or dangerous ones like radioactive metals and corrosive chemicals are in use. Thus it is clear that in the hazardous industries robotics help workers in their safety instead of replacing them," said Rawat.

As the shelf life of a product shrinks automated production processes would become inevitable to catch up with the competition domestically and globally," he added.

"Besides, in transportation of goods rapid use of containerisation,

automation at ports and in-time manufacture would make transportation more and more automated requiring fewer and fewer human intervention," Rawat said further.

The coming of driverless cars and trains is one indication. The reduction in use of fuels through greater efficiency of fuel use (cars at 25-30 km/hr are already a reality as well as cars requiring least periodical attention) would need fewer petrol pumps and repair shops for instance.

Allaying concerns about job displacement, the study said, "The sector for automation and use of robotics need not be at the expense of labour, coexistence is possible; industry leaders must view the introduction of robots as a competitive advantage."

What is needed is a joint effort by all to make automation and subsequent changes in job pattern and demand on intelligence, innovation and creative work as a great opportunity to open the floodgates for enabling every individual to build his or her future in an environment of global prosperity.

"India need not fear the socio-economic churn of the coming Robotics Age but should remain prepared for welcoming it," the study said. Economic policies should assume that there will be accelerating movement from a low wage-low skill workforce to a high skill-high wage one which will entail a larger spending potential to most people and that in turn will demand more leisure, more travel, more creative lifestyles with their attendant changes in most products and services.

# 'Transition to cashless economy will take 5 yrs'

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**LUCKNOW:** Demonetisation would be successful in curbing black money and corruption, only when the government implemented interest rate reductions, government funding of elections, tax reforms and rules that would prevent harassment of honest tax payers, said Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) secretary general DS Rawat while releasing a study by the chamber in Lucknow on Wednesday.

A significant chunk of black money in the market could be attributed to real estate and GDP would drop by 1.5-2% due to demonetisation, said Rawat. Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) also claimed that it would take at least five years for India to convert to a cashless economy.

"I believe that it will take at least five years to become cashless especially when literacy in India is still below 100% and the country does not have enough banks and other financial institutions. You cannot jump suddenly from cash to cashless. It is just suicide," said Rawat.

Though terming demonetisation a 'bold' move to curb black money, corruption, counterfeit currency, terror-

## ASSOCHAM STUDY

- As per the general secretary of Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) the strategy in curbing black money and corruption would be effective if the government implements interest rate reductions, government funding of elections, tax reforms and rules that would prevent harassment of honest tax payers.
- A significant chunk of black money in the market could be attributed to real estate and GDP would drop by 1.5-2%.
- While releasing the study titled 'Digital India to Robotic India', he mentioned that up to 10 million jobs might be taken over by artificial intelligence or robots during the next five years owing to the exponential pace of technological developments around the world.
- The study concluded that global manufacturers would be attracted to set up automated supply chain facilities in the country if the government integrated robotics as key components in its 'Make in India' programme.

ism and naxalism, Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) demanded that limits on money withdrawal be immediately discontinued in order to normalise the economy which had reportedly slowed due to the move.

"Demonetisation is appreciable but it was implemented without any preparation causing problems to common people," said Rawat.

While releasing the study titled 'Digital India to Robotic India', Rawat said, "Up to 10 million jobs might be taken over by artificial intelligence or robots during the next five years owing to the exponential

pace of technological developments around the world."

The study concluded that global manufacturers would be attracted to set up automated supply chain facilities in the country if the government integrated robotics as key components in its 'Make in India' programme.

The current industrial revolution has engendered disruptive technologies such as automation, robotics, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, genomics, etc., which are making a large number of jobs redundant and India alone stands to lose millions of jobs in the next five years.

The Chamber thus, in its study has underlined an 'urgent need' for fostering a partnership among government, industry and academia to equip people with the right skill sets.

Through this partnership, academia, especially from developed countries could structure courses to identify and meet emerging skill requirements.

"The Centre should create a national policy perspective for automation consisting of top experts, representatives of businesses, government and labour.

This will enable a smooth and painless transition to automation while assuring the stakeholders that the benefits will be widely and equitably shared. This will at least sensitise the nation about the inevitability of automation in industry, manufacturing, transport and distribution," said Rawat.

Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) has suggested that UP government create an enabling environment for the private sector, provide better infrastructure, impart skill training to industrial workforce and promote ease of doing business across the state in order to meet the challenges posed by automation.

## 'Robotics essential for development of UP'

**LUCKNOW:** Apex trade body Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India said on Wednesday that robotics technology was necessary for states like Uttar Pradesh to ensure faster economic development of the country.

"Robotics technology is a settled necessity for not only making Indian industry globally competitive and the country attractive for entrepreneurs but also to promote manufacturing sector in states UP to ensure faster economic development," ASSOCHAM general secretary D S Rawat said here.

ASSOCHAM has thus suggested to the UP government to "dovetail its skill development policy conducive to create an enabling environment for private sector, provide better infrastructure, impart skill training to industrial workforce and promote ease of doing

business across the state" Rawat told reporters here.

Quoting a recent study by ASSOCHAM, he said that up to 10 million jobs might be taken over by artificial intelligence or robots during the course of next five years owing to extreme technological developments taking place globally.

"The Union government should integrate robotics as key components of its flagship Make in India programme for attracting global manufacturers to set up their highly efficient and automated supply chain facilities in the country," according to the study titled 'Digital India to Robotic India.'

The Chamber underlined an 'urgent need' for fostering a partnership among government, industry and academia to equip people with the right skill sets.

"The proposed partnership

will be able to identify emerging skill requirements and academia, especially from developed countries would need to assist in structuring courses and setting curricula," said Rawat.

### Painless transition

"The Centre should create a national policy perspective for automation consisting of top level experts, representative of business, government and labour as it will set down the roadmap and guidelines to make this transition as painless as possible while assuring the stakeholders that the benefits will be widely and equitably shared," he said.

"This will at least sensitise the nation on the inevitability of robotics led automation in industry, manufacture, transport and distribution," he added.

"We must expect automation becoming the imperative where raw materials like rare earths or dangerous ones like radioactive metals and corrosive chemicals are in use, thus it is clear that in the hazardous industries, robotics help workers in their safety, rather than replace them," said Rawat.

"As the product shelf-life shrinks, automated production processes would become inevitable to catch up with the competition domestically and globally," he added.

"Besides, in transportation of goods rapid use of containerization, automation at ports and in-time manufacture would make transportation more and more automated requiring fewer and fewer human intervention," Rawat added.

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