

ATHARVA ROBOTICS CENTER

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AI is helping hackers automate and customize cyberattacks

By Eric Geller, August 4, 2025

Government-backed hackers are increasingly using artificial intelligence to make their attacks faster and more effective, CrowdStrike said in a report published on Monday. AI is helping cyber threat actors conduct reconnaissance, understand the exploitation value of vulnerabilities and produce phishing messages, the security firm said in its annual threat hunting report.



Hawkeye Platoon Leads Army Innovation With Tactical Drones, 3D-Printed Lethality

By Class Brittany Conley, August 4, 2025

When the Army officially ended the RQ-7B Shadow platform in March 2024, it left a void for soldiers trained in unmanned aerial operations. But for Hawkeye Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, it was also an opportunity to redefine how small units integrate drone technology in the modern fight.



Enabling Space-Grade AI/ML with RISC-V: A Fully European Stack for Autonomous Missions

By Pablo Ghiglino, Jan Reinhard and Jean-Didier N August 05, 2025

The convergence of open RISC-V architectures, real-time hypervisors, and efficient embedded AI frameworks marks a transformative moment in critical space system design.



[Human muscle-inspired paper-thin robot can bend, crawl, and clean tight spaces with ease](#)

By Chris Young, August 05, 2025

A team of researchers from South Korea has developed a thin, robotic actuator based on the movements of real human muscles. Actuators are, effectively, the 'muscles' of robotic machines. They are devices that convert stored energy into physical motion.



[Google's Genie 3 brings AI-generated worlds to life with real-time game-like movement](#)

By Aamir Kholam, August 5, 2025

Google DeepMind has introduced Genie 3, its most advanced world simulation model to date. The AI system can generate interactive, dynamic environments in real time from text prompts. Users can explore these generated worlds at 720p resolution and 24 frames per second, with consistency sustained over a few minutes.



[Simple imaging tool could help double EV lithium battery range, make them last longer](#)

By Mrigakshi Dixit August 5, 2025

A new, simple method has been designed to measure lithium metal batteries' performance accurately. It depends on a common imaging tool, scanning electron microscopy, and an algorithm. Researchers at the University of California, San Diego state that this work could help create safer, longer-lasting batteries for electric vehicles and large-scale energy storage.



News Articles

Why internships & agentic skills now TRUMP MARKSHEETS

AI has shrunk the graduate doorway; here's how to be job-ready on day one

Ashu George@timesofindia.com

The founder and chief visionary officer of Pure Storage, John 'Cox' Colgrove, was in Bengaluru recently visiting the flash-storage company's local centre. When asked about the impact AI was having on employee strength and whether it was affecting job numbers, he replied unambiguously: "Not a single job has been lost to AI."

Yet, a glance at labour-market data tells another story. In the US, workforce-analytics firm Aura calculates that entry-level postings have fallen 11.2% between the first quarter of 2021 and the second quarter of 2024, while openings that require no prior experience are down by as much as 10%. India's own infotech bellwethers mirror the trend: the top five IT services firms hired just 4,717 people in this June quarter, a collapse from more than 50,000 two years ago. The result is a paradox in which overall head-count remains steady, even rises in some cases, but the door for fresh graduates is narrowing fast.

Recruiters say automation explains much of the divergence. Aura's data shows a simultaneous 30% surge in entry-level roles that explicitly demand AI skills. Employers are no longer willing to train from scratch; they want recruits who can contribute from day one and, crucially, can guide the very machines that have squeezed traditional starter jobs out of existence.

That shift is clearest in the rise of so-called agentic AI. "Agentic AI has emerged as the next frontier, and our research shows one in three companies are already experimenting with it," says Mukesh Chaudhary, who leads data and AI for Accenture's global delivery network. Young engineers, he adds, must now be ready to build frameworks for autonomous agents, govern their behaviour and monitor their performance. In other words, the graduate who once debugged a line of code now supervises a swarm of software co-workers.

Focused internships

Internships are another area that multiple tech execs have argued needs more attention. Vijay Swaminathan, co-founder of Zinnov and chief executive of talent intelligence platform Drup, says internships have moved from "nice to have" to mission-critical.

"People keep saying AI will take everyone's job, yet so far it hasn't replaced much of anything. We use it to assist our teams, but we haven't replaced a single person. Ask an AI to write a full file system and you'll see how far off we still are. Unless you spoon-feed every constraint, it won't match what a skilled engineer can do. Every line of code is a potential bug. I tell our interns they'll spend more time fixing their own mistakes than writing new features, so the real craft is learning to find and squash those bugs quickly."

John Colgrove | FOUNDER & CHIEF VISIONARY OFFICER, PURE STORAGE

"Companies want graduates to be productive from day one. You have to be ready from day one, which is tough. If students have been strategic with their internships and focused on specific areas of specialisation, they have a better chance. It becomes important to wisely choose your internships—don't do random ones. From day one, companies will ask you to solve problems in computer vision, AI, ML ops, or prompt engineering. They don't have patience for you to learn on the job."

Vijay Swaminathan | CO-FOUNDER, ZINNOV AND CEO, DRUP

"In today's AI-powered landscape, fresh graduates have a real opportunity to make their mark at GCCs like ours by combining strong technical acumen—such as proficiency in Python, AI/ML, and data science, with essential soft skills like adaptability and critical thinking. We particularly value candidates who show initiative by pursuing certifications and building hands-on projects, as these experiences demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge in practical and real-world contexts."

Alexey Vijay | DIRECTOR, TALENT ACQUISITION, SAPHE AINC



"Every technological revolution creates opportunity and anxiety. The printing press created publishers but didn't eliminate storytellers. Just like that, AI won't replace human ingenuity but spawn entirely new career paths. The future belongs to 'AI-native' roles that didn't exist five years ago. Roles such as AI ethics specialists, human-AI interaction designers, and AI trainers will transform sectors like finance, healthcare, and sustainability where AI needs human oversight."

Devaish Sharma | FOUNDER MEMBER & CEO, TAGG

"We're hiring freshers for future-facing roles like AI Success Associates—individuals who help enterprises drive better outcomes with humanoid AI agents by combining customer insight, performance analytics, and creative experimentation. These roles didn't exist before, but they now sit at the intersection of CX, AI training, and business impact."

Apurv Agrawal | CO-FOUNDER & CEO, SQUARESOFT



"To stand out in today's AI-centric world, fresh graduates out of college need to align their skills with current industry requirements through targeted upskilling. Corporates and employers today look for a combination of technical proficiency and cognitive skills including critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability. Softer skills like positive and go-getter attitude are also crucial that help young talent stand out."

Puneet Gupta | VP AND HR, NETAPP INDIA/ SAARC

tal footprint as carefully as they once polished a CV. "Hands-on projects, internships, open-source contributions and a lively GitHub repo speak louder than marksheets," he notes, adding that communication, resilience and a knack for collaboration remain as prized as ever. Cognizant itself plans to onboard 20,000 freshers this year—but the bar, Sahgal implies, is higher.

Domain expertise is the other currency Narasimhan S.L., CHRO at Acuity Knowledge Partners, argues that the most valuable graduate is the one who can "translate a business problem into technological terms" and then deploy an agentic toolkit to solve it. In finance, for instance, a junior analyst who understands loan-book risk and can prompt a large-language model to interrogate that data will trump a pure coder every time.

Newer startups echo that view. SquadStack co-founder Apurv Agrawal, whose firm trains AI-powered sales agents, is hiring "AI Success Associates" to orchestrate human-machine teams. "The shift will be from doors to designers of doing," he says, urging graduates to hone prompt engineering, workflow automation and the judgement that tells an agent when to escalate to a human.

So how, in practical terms, can a fresher stand out?

- **First, treat university as a launchpad, not a finish line.** Intern: early intern often and pick projects that leave a public trace—whether a Kaggle leaderboard entry, a research pre-print or a well-starred repository.
- **Second, master the tools of the new trade:** modern data pipelines, multimodal models, agent frameworks and the ethics that surround them.
- **Third, build breadth as well as depth:** few roles are strictly technical or purely business any longer.
- **Finally, cultivate the human skills no algorithm can replicate:** storytelling with data, negotiating ambiguity and marshalling a team around a problem.

Those who do will find opportunity even in a leaner market. Accenture, for instance, is expanding a 75,000-strong global AI workforce towards an 80,000 target by 2025, armed with 14 critical skill pathways that every recruit must pass. And Pure Storage's Colgrove, for all his optimism about AI, still needs bright minds to imagine what the next generation of flash arrays will look like.

Source: The Times of India Newspaper, 06-08-2025

Page No 24

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TAKING ON GLOBAL RIVALS

Indian Cloud Cos to Storm Local Skies with Low-cost Advantage

Service providers are currently attracting small- and mid-sized businesses

Himanshi Lohchab

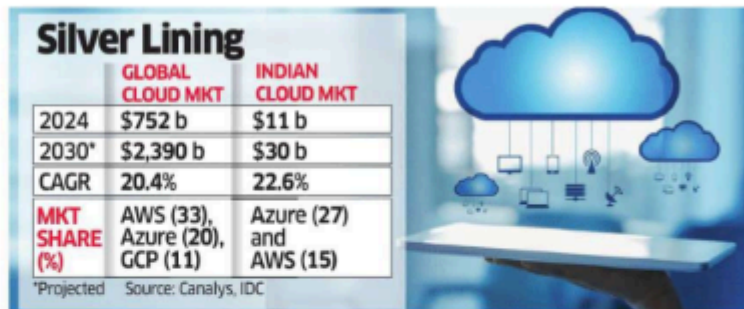
Mumbai: Indian corporates are building muscle to challenge bigger global rivals in the fast-growing cloud market, with offerings that store data applications and related infrastructure within the country, referred to as sovereign cloud. These home-grown firms are underlining lower costs as their biggest advantage against the foreign competitors.

Bharti Airtel's Xtelify, Reliance's JioCloud for SMEs, Tata Communications' Vayu, and Yotta's Shakti are tailored for local enterprises, especially in public sector and other regulated industries. And they are aiming to take on hyperscalers Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google Cloud Platform, positioning themselves as affordable and secure alternatives with cost savings of 30%-50% over the global giants. Hyperscalers are large cloud providers offering massive computing resources and infrastructure.

However, factors such as limited technology depth, lack of ecosystem maturity, and high migration costs from the global cloud providers are limiting the ambitious growth plans of the Indian companies, say experts. They added that interoperability between cloud providers is almost non-existent, making migration costly and technically complex.

"The emergence of indigenous cloud platforms represents a market response to India's sovereign cloud policy framework, creating domestic alternatives for regulated sectors," said Jitesh Karlekar, director-research at real estate research and advisory firm JLL. "However, these nascent providers will need to rapidly build technical sophistication, security credentials, and operational scale to effectively compete with established global platforms."

According to an IDC study, 15-20% of Indian companies are adopters of some sovereign cloud solution for ensuring compliance and security of their core applications and data. "Sovereign cloud is still in the early stages with little adoption in India," said



Rajiv Ranjan, associate director, cloud and AI at research firm IDC India. "A key reason for not migrating to sovereign cloud could be higher costs and the risks associated with migrating applications which might be time consuming and cause business disruptions."

He added that enterprises in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) space need to be also fully confident with adequate security and compliance norms being met with the domestic offerings.

Meanwhile, hyperscalers have rapidly grown their footprint in India through pacts with mobile phone operators. In 2019, Microsoft signed a 10-year deal with telecom market leader Reliance Jio for co-development of affordable cloud-based solutions, particularly targeted towards SMEs and startups. For its free consumer cloud storage, Jio has netted over 35 million active users.

A year later, second-ranked telco Bharti Airtel signed a deal with AWS to develop differentiated Airtel Cloud products. It also tied up with Google Cloud the same year to offer G-Suite services such as Gmail, and Google Docs to SMEs.

According to a study by policy body Centre for Internet and Digital Economy, India's \$8.3 billion cloud market revenue is dominated by international vendors, with Microsoft (27%) and AWS (15%) together having a 42% share, with all other competitors, including Salesforce and SAP, having

shares of less than 5% each. In the pure infrastructure space, Microsoft Azure, AWS and Google Cloud have a combined 87% market share.

Bharti Airtel on Monday launched its sovereign cloud, with its vice chairman, Gopal Vittal, stressing that the telco's offering will lead to cost savings of 30-40% over rivals due to its mix of network and cloud services.

However, the Centre for Internet and Digital Economy study on the competitive landscape in the Indian cloud market showed new entrants are struggling to match the free cloud credits and startup support offered by global hyperscalers.

The global companies provide large sums in cloud credits and access to accelerator programs, giving them a strong edge in customer acquisition, said industry experts. In contrast, local firms often restrict credits to a small circle of existing clients and face difficulty competing for cloud-native startups.

However, Indian providers are attracting small and mid-sized businesses by offering 30-70% cost savings and greater billing transparency, areas where hyperscalers fall short due to complex pricing and poor cost visibility, the study showed. The global rivals with technical strength though are better equipped to forecast and manage cloud costs, offering better expense visibility to their clients, compared with their smaller rivals.

Source: THE ECONOMIC TIMES Newspaper, 06-08-2025

Page No 05

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Indian Cities Climb AI Ladder ET GRAPHICS

Singapore has ranked first among the world's 100 largest metropolitan areas in terms of AI adoption. Although no Indian city made it into the top 15, several have climbed higher in the rankings, according to a report by Counterpoint Research

TOP AI CITIES

- Singapore
- Hong Kong
- Seoul
- Tokyo
- Beijing
- Abu Dhabi
- Dubai
- New York City
- San Francisco
- Shanghai

WHERE DOES INDIA STAND?

- 26 Bengaluru
- 27 Mumbai
- 28 Delhi
- 29 Kolkata

WHAT ARE THE TOP CITIES DOING?

Singapore
Vibrant startup ecosystem on the back of govt initiatives
Strong collaborative alliance between public and private sectors

Seoul
Implementing AI in verticals such as healthcare and education
Companies such as SK Telecom and Naver are offering AI services

Beijing
Formal AI education training for all primary and secondary school students
China Unicom and Huawei have implemented several 5G + AI initiatives

Dubai
Appointed an AI strategist in every govt department
All teachers are being given AI training

ROLE OF TECH COS & TELCOS

Microsoft
Emerged as the most active vendor
Expanding its AI data centre footprint significantly
Engaging in several AI training initiatives
Setting up new AI innovation hubs in cities like London and Sydney

Nvidia
Particularly active in supercomputing space
Launching a new facility in Copenhagen
Partnering with telcos such as du in Dubai and FastWeb in Milan

Beijing Telecom
Deploying 10G fibre throughout the city to enable AI-driven applications.

Airtel
Blocking 1 million spammers daily in Delhi

Singtel
Starting to offer new products like GPU-as-a-Service

SoftBank, KDDI investing heavily in AI data centres

INDIA'S STATUS CHECK

Bengaluru, especially, is emerging as a major AI R&D and innovation hub with many startups attracting foreign investment. Mumbai and Delhi are also using AI creatively in terms of traffic management and public security, and should rise in the rankings. More investment in physical infrastructure is needed across the country

TARUN PATHAK, research director, Counterpoint Research

Text: Subhrajit Muklick
Source: Counterpoint Research's 2025 AI City Index

Source: THE ECONOMIC TIMES Newspaper, 06-08-2025
 Page No 06

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