Scope of Data Analytics in India 2026-2031 PDF

Data analytics has good scope in India for 2026-2031, but the entry level is competitive. The WEF Future of Jobs Report 2025 lists Big Data Specialists as the fastest-growing job worldwide and names data roles among India's fastest-growing roles. Students who can show SQL, Excel, Power BI, Python and real business projects have the best chance.

Key takeaways

- WEF Future of Jobs Report 2025: Big Data Specialists are the fastest-growing job in percentage terms for 2025-2030, and Data Analysts and Scientists are in the top 15.
- WEF says AI and big data is the fastest-growing skill group, and analytical thinking is the top core skill (7 in 10 employers call it essential).
- AmbitionBox self-reported pay for Data Analysts: about Rs 5.2-5.7 lakh a year at 1-3 years and Rs 7.2-7.9 lakh at 3-6 years (updated Nov 2026).
- AI tools now write basic SQL and charts, so freshers must add business sense, data cleaning and clear storytelling, not only tool skills.
- A strong portfolio of 3-4 real projects matters more than certificates alone. WEF found 30% of employers in India plan skills-based hiring that removes degree requirements.

Where data analytics stands in India in 2026

Data analytics means collecting, cleaning and studying data so that a business can make better decisions. Banks use it to spot risky loans, e-commerce firms use it to plan stock, and hospitals use it to manage beds and staff.

Here is what trusted sources say about the field right now:

- **Global demand is strong.** The World Economic Forum (WEF) Future of Jobs Report 2025 lists **Big Data Specialists as the fastest-growing job** in percentage terms for 2025-2030. Data Warehousing Specialists and Data Analysts and Scientists are also in its top 15, and Data Engineers appear high in its wider job growth chart.
- **India follows the same trend.** The same report says India's projected fastest-growing roles include Big Data Specialists, AI and Machine Learning Specialists and Security Management Specialists.
- **The Indian tech industry is growing, but hiring is slower.** As reported by PTI in February 2026, NASSCOM estimates industry revenue of USD 315 billion in FY26 (up 6.1%), while headcount grew only 2.3% to about 59.5 lakh. Companies are doing more work with fewer new hires.

- **Fresher hiring is flat to slightly positive.** Naukri JobSpeak for September 2026 shows overall fresher hiring at +1% year on year, while IT/Software Services hiring fell 4%.

The message for students is simple: demand for data skills is real, but employers are choosy. They want people who can solve a business problem with data, not just people who know the names of tools.

Main job roles and what each one does

Role	What you do every day
Data Analyst	Clean data, write SQL queries, build reports and answer business questions such as "why did sales fall in March?"
Business Analyst	Talk to business teams, write requirements, study processes and use data to suggest changes
BI / Power BI Developer	Build dashboards in Power BI or Tableau, create data models and refresh reports automatically
Product Analyst	Study app or website usage, run A/B tests and track metrics such as retention and conversion
Data Engineer	Build pipelines that move and store data so analysts get clean, reliable tables
Analytics Consultant	Work with clients across industries, scope problems and present findings to managers

Most freshers start as Data Analyst, MIS Analyst, Business Analyst trainee or Reporting Analyst. After 2-4 years, many move into product analytics, data engineering or data science.

Skills you need

Core technical skills

- **Excel**: formulas, pivot tables, lookups, charts.
- **SQL**: joins, group by, window functions, subqueries. This is the most tested skill in analyst interviews.
- **Power BI or Tableau**: data modelling, DAX basics, clean dashboard design.
- **Python**: pandas for cleaning, matplotlib or seaborn for charts.
- **Statistics**: averages, spread, correlation, sampling, hypothesis testing basics.

Business and people skills

- Asking the right question before touching data.
- Explaining results in simple words to non-technical managers.
- Domain knowledge in one area such as banking, retail, healthcare or marketing.

WEF's 2025 report says analytical thinking is the most sought-after core skill, with seven out of 10 companies calling it essential. Its fastest-growing skills list is led by AI and big data, followed by networks and cybersecurity and technological literacy. So a data analyst who also understands AI tools fits this direction well.

Salary path: fresher to 5 years

The figures below are **self-reported salaries on AmbitionBox** (pages updated November 2026). They show the range AmbitionBox gives for the average salary in each experience band. Real offers vary a lot by city, company and skill level.

Role	0-1 year	1-3 years	3-6 years
Data Analyst	Rs 3.5-5.1 lakh (small sample: 30 salaries)	Rs 5.2-5.7 lakh	Rs 7.2-7.9 lakh
Business Analyst	not shown	Rs 7.0-7.7 lakh	Rs 8.7-9.7 lakh
Power BI Developer	not shown	Rs 4.7-5.1 lakh	Rs 6.7-7.4 lakh
Data Engineer	not shown	Rs 7.5-8.3 lakh	Rs 11.3-12.5 lakh

Source: AmbitionBox, self-reported, November 2026.

A useful campus benchmark: the TCS All India NQT Hiring 2026 notice lists entry-level packages of Rs 3.40 lakh (Ninja, UG), Rs 7.09-7.30 lakh (Digital, UG fresher) and Rs 9.09-9.30 lakh (Prime, UG fresher). Many IT services freshers who later move into analytics start near these levels.

AmbitionBox also shows 15% growth in the average Data Analyst salary over the last two years. The biggest jumps usually come when you switch to data engineering, product analytics or data science after 2-3 years.

Year-by-year guide: 2026 to 2031

2026

Learn Excel, SQL and one BI tool well. Build two projects on public Indian data (for example, state-wise sales or district health data). AI/ML roles are growing fast (Naukri JobSpeak: +20% year on year in September 2026), so learn to use AI assistants for writing and checking SQL.

2027

Add Python (pandas) and basic statistics. Do an internship or a freelance project with a local business. Learn one cloud data warehouse at a basic level, such as BigQuery, Snowflake or Azure Synapse.

2028

By now you should hold your first job or be close to it. Pick a domain (banking, retail, healthcare, SaaS). Learn A/B testing and product metrics if you want product analytics.

2029

Grow toward senior analyst, analytics engineer or data engineer. Learn dbt-style data modelling, data quality checks and how to build AI-assisted reports that business users can query in plain language.

2030

WEF's 2025 survey covers the period up to 2030 and expects 39% of workers' core skills to change by then (37% for India). Keep updating: data governance, privacy rules and AI tools will be part of

daily work.

2031

No trusted source publishes job or salary forecasts for India beyond 2030, so the 2029, 2030 and 2031 notes below are skills guidance, not predictions. Expect to lead small projects, mentor juniors and own business metrics. The people who grow most will mix data skills with domain knowledge and clear communication.

How AI is changing data analytics

AI is changing the analyst's job, not removing the need for analysts.

- **Routine work is getting faster.** AI assistants can write first drafts of SQL, Python and chart code. WEF reports that 86% of employers expect AI and information processing technologies to transform their business by 2030.
- **Some data jobs are shrinking.** WEF lists Data Entry Clerks among the fastest-declining jobs. If your work is only copying numbers into reports, it is at risk.
- **Employers want AI skills.** WEF says two-thirds of employers plan to hire talent with specific AI skills, and 40% expect to reduce staff where AI can automate tasks.
- **Judgement matters more.** AI can produce a wrong answer that looks right. Analysts who check data quality, question results and explain the business impact become more valuable.

In short: use AI tools daily, but build the thinking skills that AI cannot do for you.

Who should choose data analytics

Data analytics is a good fit if you:

- enjoy numbers, puzzles and finding patterns;
- like explaining things to people in simple words;
- come from B.Com, BBA, B.Sc, BCA, B.Tech or MBA backgrounds (no single degree is required);
- want a role that exists in almost every industry, not only IT.

It may not suit you if you dislike detailed, careful work or do not want to keep learning new tools every year. Also note that a short course alone does not get a job. You must practise and build projects.

A 5-step plan for students

1. **Master Excel and SQL first (8–10 weeks).** Solve at least 100 SQL practice questions.
2. **Learn one BI tool (4–6 weeks).** Build 2 dashboards with a clear story, such as "which product category lost money and why".
3. **Add Python and statistics (8 weeks).** Use pandas to clean a messy dataset and write up what you found.
4. **Build a portfolio of 3–4 projects.** Put them on GitHub with a short write-up for each. WEF found that 30% of employers in India plan to remove degree requirements and hire on skills (19% globally), so proof of skill counts.

5. **Apply widely and practise interviews.** Target analyst, MIS, reporting and BA trainee roles. Prepare SQL tests, case questions and a 2-minute walkthrough of each project.

Frequently asked questions

Is data analytics a good career in India in 2026?

Yes, for students who build real skills. WEF's Future of Jobs Report 2025 lists Big Data Specialists as the fastest-growing job and names data roles among India's fast-growing roles. The entry level is competitive, so projects and SQL skills matter.

What is the salary of a data analyst in India?

AmbitionBox self-reported data (Nov 2026) shows an average range of about Rs 5.2-5.7 lakh a year at 1-3 years of experience and Rs 7.2-7.9 lakh at 3-6 years. Offers vary by city, company and skill.

Can a non-IT or commerce student become a data analyst?

Yes. Many analysts come from B.Com, BBA and B.Sc backgrounds. Employers mainly test Excel, SQL, a BI tool and problem solving.

Will AI replace data analysts?

AI is automating routine reporting and code drafts, and WEF lists data entry clerks among declining jobs. Analysts who check data, understand the business and explain results clearly are still needed.

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Sources and further reading

- World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Report 2025 (full PDF)
- PTI via The Week: India FY26 tech revenues seen 6.1 pc up at USD 315 bn, jobs also grow: Nasscom (24 Feb 2026)
- Naukri JobSpeak, September 2026 (published 6 Oct 2026): AI/ML roles continue growth streak
- AmbitionBox: Data Analyst salaries in India (self-reported, updated Nov 2026)
- AmbitionBox: Business Analyst salaries in India (self-reported, updated Nov 2026)
- AmbitionBox: Power BI Developer salaries in India (self-reported, updated Nov 2026)
- AmbitionBox: Data Engineer salaries in India (self-reported, updated Nov 2026)
- TCS All India NQT Hiring 2026 notice (reproduced by RGUKT placement cell, 19 Feb 2026)

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