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# Will AI Replace Software Engineers 2026-2031 PDF

The data so far does not show AI replacing software engineers. WEF's Future of Jobs Report 2025 still lists software developers among the fastest-growing jobs, and LinkedIn ranks Software Engineer third on its India Jobs on the Rise 2026 list. What is changing is the job itself: engineers who can build with and around AI tools are pulling ahead of those who only write routine code.

## Key takeaways

- WEF's Future of Jobs Report 2025 expects 170 million jobs created and 92 million displaced by 2030, and lists software developers among the fastest-growing roles.
- 84% of developers in the Stack Overflow 2025 survey use or plan to use AI tools, but only about 33% trust AI output to be accurate.
- LinkedIn's India Jobs on the Rise 2026 puts Prompt Engineer, AI Engineer and Software Engineer in the top three.
- Naukri found AI skills in 15.4% of tech job descriptions in 2026, up from 0.9% in 2020.
- Routine coding is the part most exposed. Problem solving, system design, testing and building AI features are where demand is moving.

## The short answer

AI is changing how software is written, very fast. But "changing the job" and "removing the job" are different things. The best data we have up to late 2026 shows strong use of AI tools by developers, while demand for software and AI engineering roles is still growing. No reliable source has published a forecast saying software engineering jobs in India will disappear by 2031.

This report looks at what the data actually says, which tasks are most at risk, and what a student should learn each year from 2026 to 2031.

## What the data says

| Finding | Number | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Developers using or planning to use AI tools | 84% (up from 76% a year earlier) | Stack Overflow Developer Survey 2025 |
| Professional developers using AI daily | About 51% | Stack Overflow Developer Survey 2025 |

| Finding | Number | Source |
|---|---|---|
| Developers who trust AI accuracy | About 33% (46% distrust it) | Stack Overflow Developer Survey 2025 |
| Top frustration: AI answers "almost right, but not quite" | 66% | Stack Overflow Developer Survey 2025 |
| Developers in India on GitHub | 21.9 million, up from 4.5 million in 2020 | GitHub Octoverse 2025 |
| New GitHub developers using Copilot in week one | Nearly 80% | GitHub Octoverse 2025 |
| Tech job descriptions asking for AI skills | 15.4% in 2026 vs 0.9% in 2020 | Naukri World AI Day Report 2026 |
| Jobs created vs displaced worldwide by 2030 | 170 million vs 92 million | WEF Future of Jobs Report 2025 |

Two things stand out. First, almost everyone is using AI to code. Second, most developers do not fully trust the output. Someone still has to check, test, fix and take responsibility for the code. That someone is the software engineer.

## Which tasks are most exposed

AI tools are good at work that follows clear patterns:

- Writing boilerplate code, simple functions and CRUD screens
- Converting code from one language to another
- Writing first drafts of unit tests and documentation
- Explaining an error message or a piece of old code

AI tools are weaker at:

- Understanding what the business really needs
- Designing systems that stay fast, safe and cheap at scale
- Debugging problems that span many services
- Making trade-offs and owning decisions

WEF's report (as summarised by People Matters) says 40% of employers expect to cut staff where automation can replace tasks, while two-thirds plan to hire people with specialised AI skills. Both things are happening at the same time. In India, Naukri JobSpeak for October 2026 (via CareerIndia) showed general software and QA hiring up only about 1%, while AI/ML hiring rose 32%. So the pressure is real on routine roles, and the growth is in AI-related work.

## Where new demand is coming from

LinkedIn's Jobs on the Rise 2026 list for India, as reported by HR Katha, ranks:

1. **Prompt Engineer**: key skills include prompt engineering, large language models and prompt design. Median experience is about 1 year.

2. **AI Engineer**: large language models, PyTorch and deep learning. Median experience is about 2 years.
3. **Software Engineer**: software development life cycle, microservices and Kubernetes.
4. **AI Manager**: large language models, retrieval augmented generation (RAG) and MLOps.

LinkedIn's Grad's Guide 2026 (via People Matters) names AI Specialist and Generative AI Engineer among the fastest-growing roles for fresh graduates in India. NASSCOM estimates Indian tech industry AI revenues at $10-12 billion in FY26 (via Angel One). GitHub says more than 1.1 million public repositories now import an LLM SDK, up 178% in a year.

In simple words: companies need people who can build products that use AI, not only people who use AI to write code.

## What this means for Indian IT

India is one of the biggest software talent markets in the world, so changes in AI show up here quickly.

- NASSCOM estimates the Indian tech industry at about **$315 billion** in FY26, growing **6.1%**, with direct employees at about **59.5 lakh**, up from about 58.2 lakh a year earlier (as reported by Angel One).
- GitHub's Octoverse 2025 counts **21.9 million** developers in India and projects **57.5 million** by 2030. India now has the largest public and open source contributor base on GitHub.
- LinkedIn data reported by Telangana Today says **72%** of Indian professionals were looking for a new role in 2026, and over one-third felt unprepared for how fast technology is changing job skills.

Put together, this shows an industry that is still growing and still adding people, but slowly, while AI work becomes a bigger share of what companies sell. The number of developers on GitHub is rising much faster than the tech workforce, so competition for entry-level roles will stay high. The students who stand out will be the ones who can show real projects, especially projects that use AI in a sensible, tested way.

A common myth is that AI tools mean companies will hire no freshers at all. The data does not support that. LinkedIn's Grad's Guide 2026 (via People Matters) found entry-level hiring in India rose 168% between 2023 and 2025, with AI Specialist and Generative AI Engineer among the fastest-growing roles for new graduates.

## Year by year: what to learn and expect

### 2026

Learn one language well (Python or JavaScript) along with data structures, Git and SQL. Use an AI coding assistant every day, but read and test what it gives you. Build one small app without AI first, so you know what the tool is doing.

### 2027

Learn how to call LLM APIs, write good prompts and handle wrong answers. Build a chatbot over your own documents using retrieval augmented generation (RAG). Learn testing properly, because

checking AI code is now a core skill.

**2028**

Move to agentic AI: systems where an AI model plans steps and calls tools or APIs. Learn how to add guardrails, logging and evaluation. Learn cloud basics and Docker so you can deploy what you build.

**2029**

Focus on system design, security and cost. As more code is written by tools, people who understand architecture and failure points become more valuable. Pick a domain, such as banking, healthcare or retail, and learn how software is used there.

**2030**

WEF's 2030 outlook says 39% of workers' existing skills will be transformed or outdated. Expect your toolset to change again. Keep a habit of learning one new tool every few months.

**2031**

No major source has published software job forecasts for 2031, so treat any exact number you see online with care. The safe guidance: engineers who can solve real problems, explain trade-offs, and build reliable AI-powered systems are likely to stay in demand.

## How AI changes the daily job

A software engineer's day in 2026 already looks different from a few years ago. Less time goes into typing code. More time goes into:

- Breaking a problem into clear steps the AI tool can help with
- Reviewing generated code for bugs, security holes and licence issues
- Writing tests and checking edge cases
- Talking with product and business teams about what to build

Stack Overflow found that about 31% of developers already use AI agents at work in some form. As agents get better, the engineer's job moves closer to that of a reviewer, designer and owner of the system.

## A 5-step plan for a student

1. **Master the basics.** One language, data structures, Git and SQL. AI cannot help you if you cannot judge its output.
2. **Use AI daily, but verify.** Use a coding assistant for every project, and write tests that prove the code works.
3. **Build 2 AI projects.** For example, a RAG chatbot and a simple agent that books a meeting or files a ticket through an API.
4. **Learn to deploy.** Put at least one project live on the cloud with logging and basic monitoring.
5. **Show your work.** Keep a clean GitHub, write short posts about what you built, and apply for software, AI engineer and GenAI trainee roles.

Uncodemy's Generative AI and Agentic AI course covers LLM basics, prompting, RAG and agent building, which map to steps 2 to 4.

## Frequently asked questions

### Will AI replace software engineers by 2030?

No published data says so. WEF's Future of Jobs Report 2025 lists software developers among the fastest-growing jobs, and LinkedIn ranks Software Engineer third in India for 2026. The job is changing, not disappearing.

### Which software jobs are most at risk from AI?

Roles built mostly on routine, repeatable coding and manual testing are most exposed. Naukri's October 2026 data shows general software and QA hiring up only about 1% while AI/ML hiring grew 32%.

### Should I still study computer science?

Yes, if you enjoy problem solving. The India Skills Report 2026 (via Careers360) gives computer science graduates about 80% employability, the highest among engineering branches it listed.

### What should I learn to stay safe from AI?

Strong basics, testing, system design, cloud, and building with LLMs: prompting, RAG and agents. These are the skills LinkedIn lists for AI Engineer and AI Manager roles in India.

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## Sources and further reading


- People Matters: 170 million jobs to emerge by 2030 but 92 million at risk, WEF warns (Future of Jobs Report 2025)
- Stack Overflow Developer Survey 2025: AI
- GitHub Octoverse 2025: A new developer joins GitHub every second
- HR Katha: Top 10 fast-growing jobs in India (LinkedIn Jobs on the Rise 2026)
- People Matters: Entry-level hiring climbs 168% as AI roles and internships gain ground (LinkedIn Grad's Guide 2026)
- Telangana Today: AI skills feature in 15.4% of tech job descriptions (Naukri World AI Day Report 2026)
- CareerIndia: Naukri JobSpeak October 2026, AI and ML roles jump 32%
- Angel One News: India tech industry projected to reach $315 billion in FY26 with AI revenues of $10-12 billion (NASSCOM)
- Careers360: India Skills Report 2026, CS and IT engineers most employable
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## About this PDF

Prepared by the Uncodemy career team from the public sources listed. We update it every January. Corrections: info@uncodemy.com.

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