Science & Technology · GS - III

Examine how the increasing adoption of Artificial Intelligence and robotics could transform employment patterns and social security systems. Discuss the potential and challenges of Universal Basic Income in this context.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - III	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Automation; productivity growth; labour displacement; skill transition; Universal Basic Income; social protection; technological inequality

Model Answer

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence and robotics are transforming production, services and employment. While they can improve productivity and reduce costs, they may also disrupt traditional sources of livelihood.

Potential Transformations

- **Productivity:** Automation can increase efficiency and reduce the cost of goods and services.
- **Employment:** Repetitive tasks may be automated, while demand for technology-related and specialised skills may rise.
- **Income distribution:** Concentration of technological ownership may widen economic inequality.
- **Social security:** Changing employment patterns may require more flexible welfare and income-support mechanisms.

Universal Basic Income: Opportunities and Challenges

UBI could provide a basic income floor, reduce extreme financial insecurity and support workers during technological transitions.

However, its implementation raises concerns regarding fiscal sustainability, inflationary pressures, targeting of welfare expenditure and the adequacy of payments.

Way Forward

India should prioritise skill development, digital inclusion, portable social security, employment-intensive growth and evidence-based pilot programmes.

Conclusion

AI-driven abundance remains uncertain. Technological progress must be accompanied by inclusive institutions and robust social protection rather than assumptions that traditional financial planning will become unnecessary.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP