

AI not replacing human intelligence... yet

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Calcutta: Most people use AI only "cosmetically", but if applied more effectively, it can deliver greater benefits across education, business and agriculture, said Satyajit Chakrabarti, vice-chancellor of the University of Engineering & Management, Kolkata, and director of the Institute of Engineering & Management.

AI will not replace human intelligence, he said at the Anandabazar Patrika and The Telegraph Education Symposium on Wednesday. "It might replace certain jobs but cannot replace human ingenuity, warmth or emotional quotient."

However, he added: "AI depends on data to give an output. But if the data is biased, the output will be biased too."

Rather than replacing people, AI should provide the building blocks for students and professionals to produce better work using their own intelligence and experience. "It will enable businesses to meet client requirements. If students are able to master it, they will get better jobs," he said.

The panel discussed "Benchmarking Bengal: What will it take to build the next generation of learning?"

Suborno Bose, founder and chief mentor of the International Institute of Hotel Management, said: "Knowing, embracing and applying AI in daily life, education, business, healthcare and legal science is not an option... AI will replace those human beings who cannot embrace it." But, he cautioned, AI is more than knowing how to use ChatGPT.

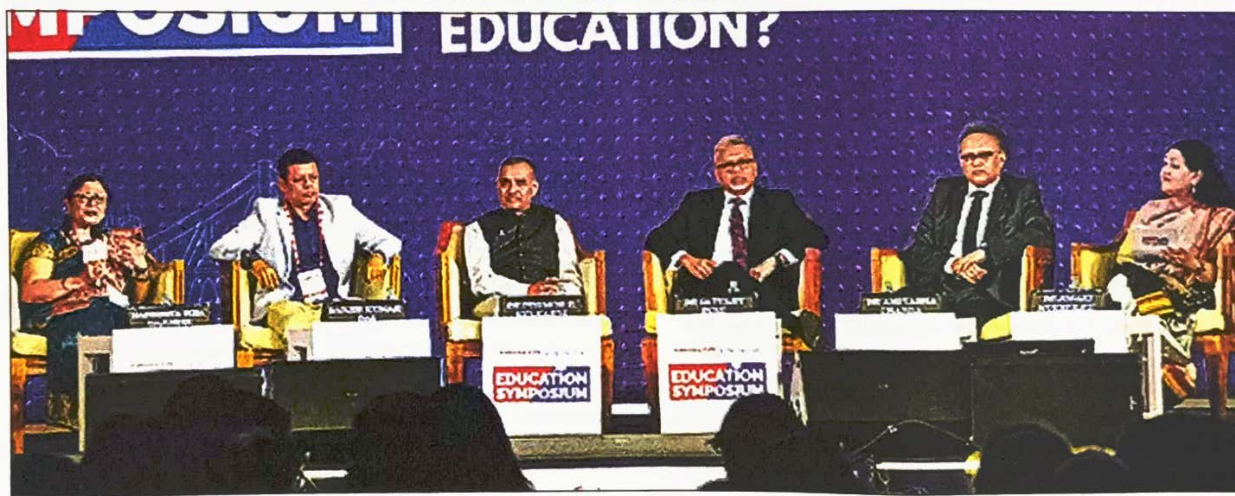
Bose also highlighted Bengal's strengths in the services sector. "Historically, in Bengal, we cannot do strenuous work, but intellectually we are better. Our humility is better, and hence we would do better in hospitality, tourism and the service sector. That is the roadmap for Bengal."

EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

WILL IT TAKE TO BUILD THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEARNING?



(From left) Tapas Chakraborty, Bidyut Majumdar, Suborno Bose, Satyajit Chakrabarti, Ankita Chakravarty Bhattacharya and moderator Jonaki Mukherjee at a panel discussion



(From left) Panellists Madhumita Guha Majumder, Sanjib Kumar Das, Commodore Pramod R. Kulkarni, Satyajit Bose, Amitabha Chanda and moderator Jonaki Mukherjee at a session. Pictures by Sanat Kr Sinha

Amrita Saha, registrar of Amity University Kolkata, stressed that AI should enhance, not replace, human thinking. "Critical reasoning, creativity, empathy, ethics and problem-solving come from human intelligence, while AI should support, guide and improve informed decision-making."

The panel also included Bidyut Majumdar, deputy director of business development at JIS Group; Tapas Chakraborty, vice-chancellor

of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (Makaut); and Ankita Chakravarty Bhattacharya, senior vice-president of Adamas University.

The session was moderated by educator and counsellor Jonaki Mukherjee.

On another panel, "The future of learning: Can AI complement holistic education?", Amitabha Chanda, director and head of neurosurgery at CK Birla Hospitals, CMRI, drew a distinction

between intelligence and wisdom.

"Information can be generated by AI within seconds. Wisdom cannot," he said, adding that no algorithm could feel a patient's fear or a family's anguish. "Medicine is not merely science. It is science illuminated by empathy, compassion and moral judgment."

"AI should become a powerful educational companion, not a replacement for human thought," he said. "Let it retrieve information and simplify

tasks, but let students analyse, question, debate, imagine and create."

The panel also included Satyajit Bose, president of Dr B.C. Roy Engineering College Society and chairman of The Mission Hospital, Durgapur; Commodore Pramod R. Kulkarni, pro-vice chancellor of REVA University, Bengaluru; Sanjib Kumar Das, CEO of Bandhan School of Business; Madhumita Guha Majumder, pro-vice chancellor of Sister Nivedita University.