

'Powered by AI & IT, UP emerging as digital first state'

Team TOI

Highlighting the importance of artificial intelligence, deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak on Friday said that AI is not something to be feared but a tool to be harnessed for maximum productivity.

Speaking as the guest of honour in the second edition of the ET Digital UP Conclave on the theme, 'Towards a Digital Future: Empowering Governance through Technology', Pathak outlined how UP is transforming into a digital-first state, powered by artificial intelligence, IT and governance technologies.

Recalling India's journey from manual typewriters to AI-driven systems, Pathak remarked, "Earlier, we used typewriters to create documents, today, a single keystroke delivers the benefits of govt schemes to crores of citizens." "It is not just a technological upgrade, but a revolution in governance," he said.

Highlighting the impact of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) scheme, he said: "What used to be lost to middlemen now reaches the last person instantly and transparently." Addressing concerns over AI,



Deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak addresses the event

Pathak asserted, "AI isn't here to steal jobs but to enhance our capabilities. It processes and delivers information across sectors — from ancient Vedic texts to modern medical research."

He urged students, researchers, and administrators to embrace AI as a tool for productivity and discovery.

Pathak emphasized that UP, once seen as an underdeveloped state, was emerging as an IT and innovation hub. He said that software worth over Rs 75,000 crore was exported annually from the state, employing over 3.55 lakh people in the IT sector. "UP is not just competing with Bengaluru and Hyderabad, we're setting global benchmarks," he said. He credited improved law and order for enabling technological growth and investments.