



The Strategic Policy Response to Explosive AI Growth

USA, China, Europe, India

January 30, 2026



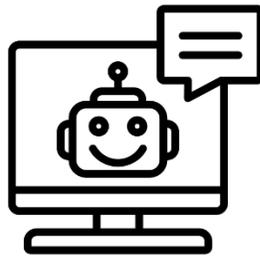
Dr. Romesh Wadhvani

Founder and Chairman – SymphonyAI
Founder and Chairman – Wadhvani Foundation
Member – CSIS Board of Trustees

So, you use ChatGPT? How quaint!

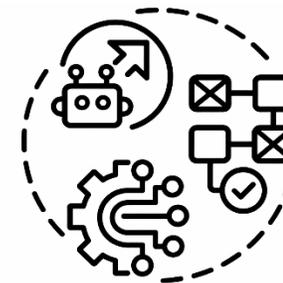
2022 – 2025: Era of GPT Chatbots

- Only ~3 years ago, “GPT” became a part of our collective everyday vocabulary
- Billions of people worldwide now use ChatGPT or similar chatbots
- Relatively few talking about AI agents – the future of AI

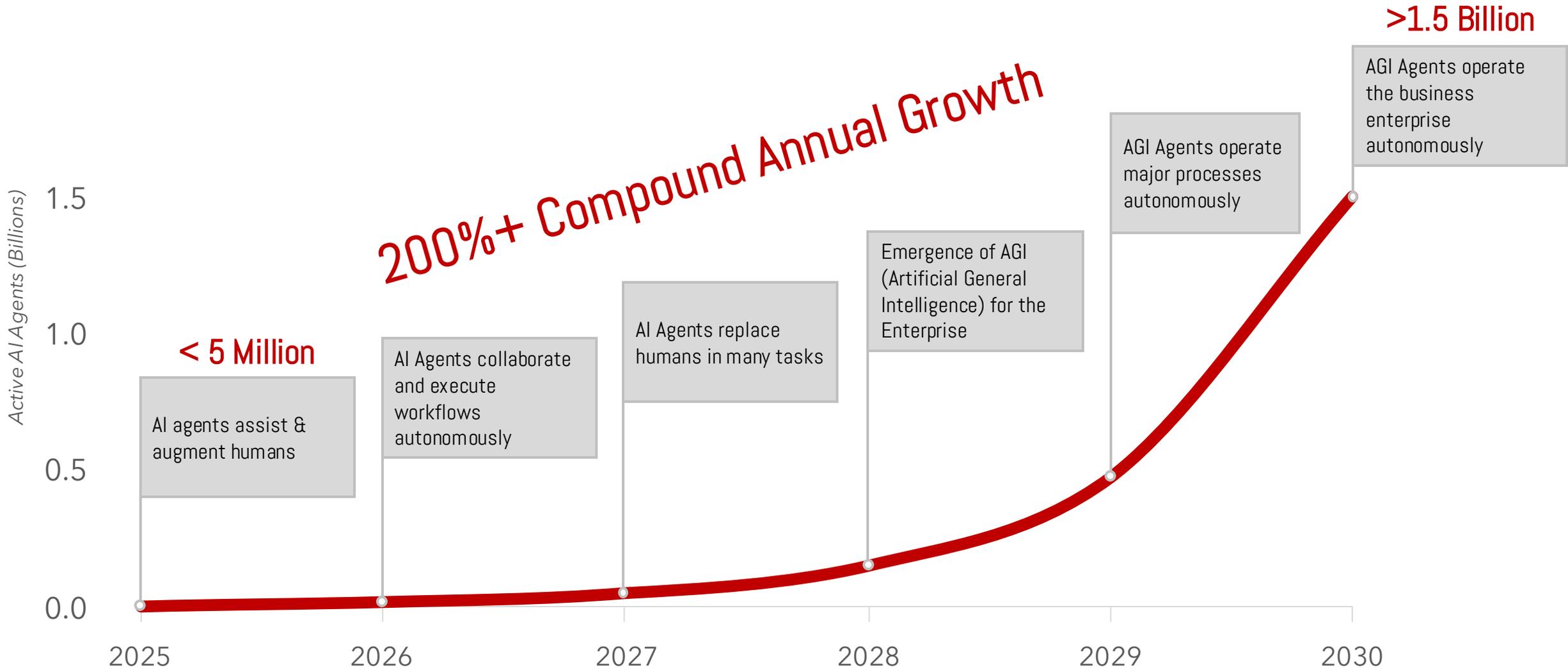


2026 – 2030: Era of AI Agents

- A full-function AI Agent is a software entity that knows its context, reasons, plans, executes, learns and improves
- Full-function AI Agent can augment, replace or surpass human workers



The era of AI Agents has arrived (RW projections)



AI policy will determine winners and losers



AI technology superiority determines winners in **geopolitics and national security**



National adoption determines winners in **economic and GDP growth**



Massive deployment by enterprises determines winners in **business and exports**

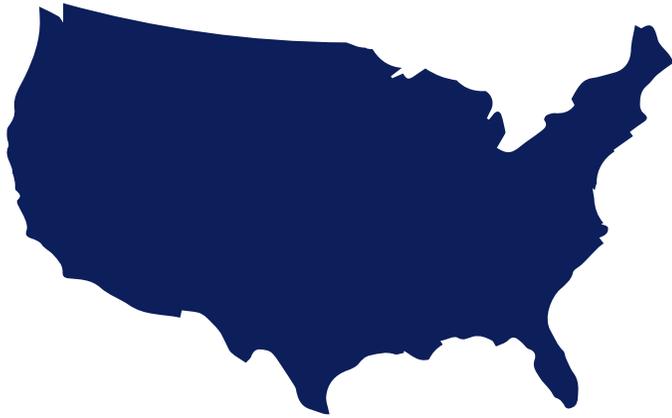


Regulation determines winners in scale and **velocity of AI innovation**



Re-skilling and support for AI-displaced workers determines winners in **social stability**

Four Major Powers: Four Different AI Policies



U.S. Focus: Global dominance in AI technology

AI at the center of national security and geopolitics (defense and economic)

Export controls and potentially registration and reporting of frontier models



“Light touch” regulation; federal dominance of AI law/pre-emption of state laws

THE LAND OF THE FREE FOR AI AGENTS, NOT JUST HUMANS

European Focus: Safety and risk prevention

Frontier model oversight includes audits, incident reporting and risk mitigation plans

AI Act enforcement kicks in Aug 2026 with a high regulatory burden



Consumer protection over industrial innovation

THE LAND OF REGULATION BEFORE INNOVATION

Chinese Focus: Tech competitiveness and political control

Largest global deployment of AI agents
in every sector of business and
government

Competitiveness w/ US in AI
technology for co-leadership



Leapfrog all others in
productivity and
competitiveness; extensive
regulatory framework

THE LAND OF POLITICAL CONTROL AND MANDATORY ADOPTION

Indian Focus: Economic growth

Very high focus on innovation
and re-skilling

Massive national scale
deployment in government
and enterprise



Light regulation, no laws or
limited laws; data protection

THE LAND OF PRACTICAL INNOVATION

India's AI Strategy - My interpretation

1. Become one of the Top 3 in AI, after US and China
2. Become a leading innovator in AI applications, not in capital-intensive LLM's
3. Massive deployment of AI in enterprise and government
4. Build a sovereign LLM (multiple languages) and infrastructure
5. Become a leader in domain-specific Small Reasoning Models
6. Transform the workforce for AI-readiness through massive re-skilling
7. Light regulatory touch

**Become the "go-to"
AI geopolitical and
applications leader
for other emerging
countries**

India's Key AI Initiatives

India AI Mission



- Democratize access to AI compute
- Build sovereign AI infrastructure
- Enable large scale deployment

1

Compute Infrastructure



- Public-private partnership to build and provide AI infrastructure
- Startups, enterprises, academia, government

2

Workforce AI Readiness



- Nationwide AI literacy programs
- AI curriculum for high schools, colleges, vocational institutes
- AI education for government officials
- Re-skilling programs for AI-disrupted professionals

3

National AI Initiatives



- Healthcare eg Clinical Decision Support for physicians and field Asha workers
- Agriculture eg Enabling Farmer-Producer Organizations in marketing, crop planning
- Education eg Tutors for curriculum, career counseling
- Citizen Services eg Assuring food ration programs deliver satisfactory citizen outcomes

4

State-led AI Initiatives



- UP e.g., AI-enabled university, Smart policing
- Telangana eg Aikam innovation program
- Maharashtra eg predictive policing, better criminal justice
- Karnataka, Haryana, Kerala, several experiments under way

5

Wadhvani Foundation: Creating Jobs. Changing Lives.

MISSION

Accelerate job growth in emerging economies and enable millions to earn a family-sustaining wage and lead a dignified life.

GOAL

Create 2.5M new jobs and skill 10M students for placement in jobs, in the next 5 years

Wadhvani Foundation AI Initiatives in India and 10 Other Emerging Economies

Entrepreneurship

- **Wadhvani Entrepreneur Accelerate Program** for accelerating job growth at startups and SMBs
- **Wadhvani Entrepreneur Ignite Program:** AI-powered self-service platform for democratizing entrepreneurship education

Skilling

- **Wadhvani Skills Job Connect Program** for placing students with employability and vocational skills in jobs
- **Wadhvani Skills Job Ready Program:** AI-powered self-service program for democratizing employability skills training

Innovation & Research

- **Wadhvani Innovation Network** for driving translation of research into new startups in AI, biosciences, health and medicine
- **Wadhvani AI Innovation Superhubs** at IIT Kanpur and IIT Bombay
- **Wadhvani National AI Platforms Program:** Jobs Platform, Citizen Services Platform

Government Digital Transformation

- **Wadhvani Government Transformation Program** for educating 1 million government officers in AI
- **Wadhvani Genie Platform :** AI Platform + Mentor/Consultant Network + Knowledge/Content for all WF programs

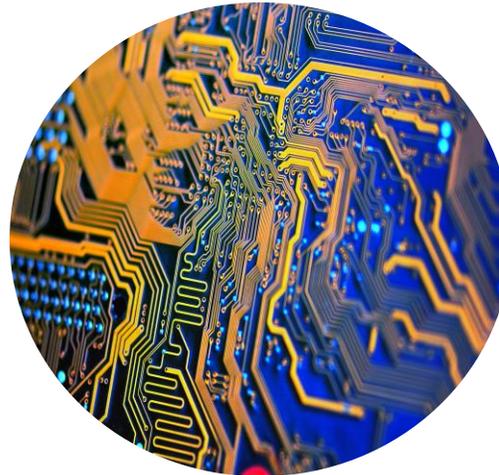
Wadhvani AI Center at CSIS

- Providing actionable, grounded policy recommendations and analysis to shape the global AI conversation and ensure that AI benefits everyone



Economic Impacts

Understanding and mitigating job losses caused by deployment of new AI technologies



Geopolitics

Assessing geopolitical impact of AI competition between U.S. and China, particularly differing approaches to adoption, use case development, and procurement



Governance and Safety

Advancing global approaches to AI regulation and governance, especially through "soft" policy levers

The India AI Impact Summit



- Fourth in a series of global conversations about AI technology and policy that began in the United Kingdom in 2023, moved to Korea in 2024, and hosted in Paris last year and first taking place in the Global South, its core sutras are **people**, **planet**, and **progress**
- Hosted by Prime Minister Modi, summit will bring together tens of thousands of participants, world leaders, and CEOs of major AI companies, highlighting India's vital role in the development and adoption of new AI technologies

7 Chakras: Focal Areas for Multilateral Action and Global Collaboration



Human Capital



Inclusion for Social Empowerment



Safe and Trusted AI



Science



Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency



Democratizing AI Resources



AI for Economic Development & Social Good

THANK YOU

Next Session: From Paris to Delhi



H.E. Amb. Vinay Kwatra

- It is my honor to introduce His Excellency Vinay Kwatra, the Ambassador of India to the United States.
- For this event, which serves as an official pre-event for the India AI Action Summit, there could be no more fitting voice to help frame this conversation at the intersection of technology, diplomacy, and global cooperation.
- Since assuming his post in Washington in 2024, Ambassador Kwatra has brought with him three decades of diplomatic and policy experience. Most recently, he served as India's Foreign Secretary, the country's top career diplomat, from 2022 to 2024.
- His distinguished career includes serving as Permanent Representative to UNESCO, Ambassador to Nepal, and senior leadership roles across the Indian Foreign Service — from Beijing and Kathmandu to Geneva, Durban, Karachi, Tashkent, and right here in Washington earlier in his career.
- Most fittingly for our conversation, however, he previously served as India's Ambassador to France.



H.E. Amb. Laurent Bili

- I also have the honor of introducing **His Excellency Laurent Bili**, the Ambassador of France to the United States.
- We are delighted to welcome Ambassador Bili back to CSIS. He joined us roughly one year ago to offer the official preview of the French AI Action Summit, so there is truly no one better suited to participate in today's session, *From Paris to Delhi*.
- Ambassador Bili has had a long and distinguished career in the French Foreign Ministry, including serving as France's **G7/G20 Sous-Sherpa** and as Ambassador to **China, Brazil, Turkey, and Thailand**, among many other senior leadership roles.
- After all of this — and after completing his service here in Washington — he will certainly have earned some well-deserved rest.
- However, I suspect that after today's session, many in this room may be hoping his government selects him as the next French Ambassador to India.