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Staffing solutions firms look to bridge skill gap

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UNDERSTANDING the importance of re-skilling and up-skilling in the age of automation, robotics and artificial intelligence (AI), staffing solutions firms are taking up the responsibility of making students industry-ready.

The skill gap in different sectors, including IT, manufacturing, health and transportation, is going to widen in the coming years with the increased use of automation, AI and robotics.

A study by HfS, US-based research firm, has found the IT services sector will lose 640,000 'low-end' jobs to automation in the coming year-

rs. Some of the staffing firms have started bridging the skill-gap among students.

"In a sector like IT, skills continuously get updated. But students who complete their 4-5 years course, study skills that existed at least six years back. When the IT firms want to hire them, they have to up-skill them to industry needs," said Lohit Bhatia, business head (staffing solutions), IKYA Human Capital Solutions, a division of QUESS Corp.

According to him, the need for skilling has become even more important with emergence new skills like robotics, AI and big data analytics. "Most IT firms have training modules to upgrade

their existing staff. But there are not many avenues for students to become ready for these new skills," he added.

Quess Corp has launched a programme aimed at upgrading technology graduates for new-age skills. The first batch of 100 students from Indian universities and institutes will be ready shortly. The company wants to increase the intake of students in the next batches.

Teamlease too has started courses that aim at making people ready for sectors like automotive manufacturing. It has introduced 'mechatronics' – a course on blended learning that includes electronics, computer and mechanical systems.