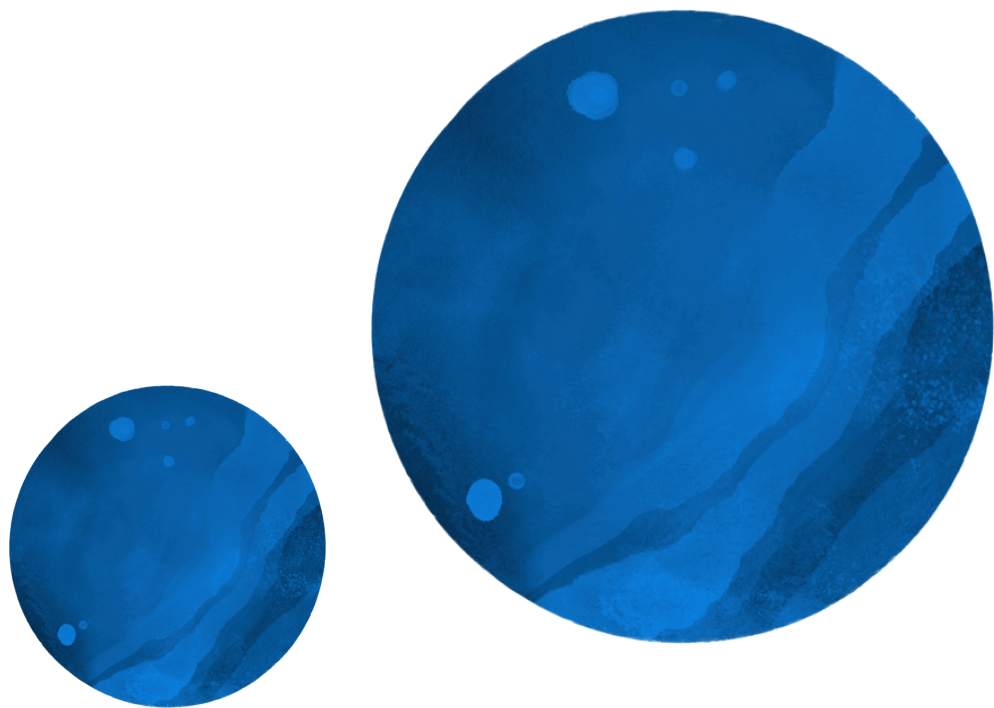


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EMERGING TECH TRENDS IN 2026

Internal Insight Compendium





ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Trend-book is an internal document that brings together multiple foresight submissions from our research team for the year 2026. The purpose is to give the Centre a shared understanding of which emerging technologies will shape geopolitics, society, industry, and human behaviour in the near future.

CONTRIBUTORS

Each researcher offers distinct perspectives on domains such as Agentic AI, Frontier Models, Geopatiation, Zero-Trust Security, Climate Intelligence, Vedic Science, Cognitive Warfare, and the evolution of Human-Centric Professions.

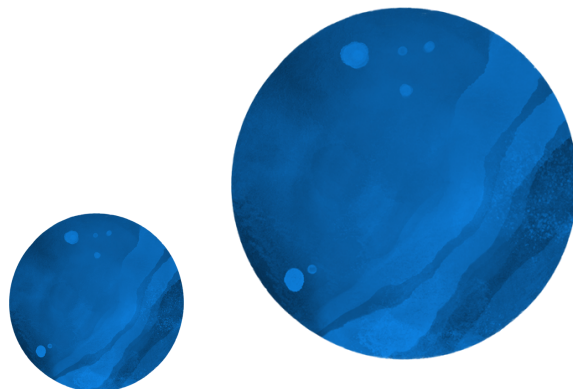
WHAT IS A TREND?

A trend is understood as a sustained and observable pattern that indicates where technology or society is heading. For the Centre for Future Studies at Future Shift Labs, a trend must be visible across multiple signals and be strong enough to suggest continued impact over the next one to three years. Trends are not predictions, nor are they single events. They are directional movements caused by behaviour, technological capability, adoption patterns, policy shifts, market momentum, cultural uptake, or infrastructural evolution.

Emerging Tech Landscape 2026

The emerging tech landscape of 2026 is defined by the transition from "generative" to "agentic" and "sovereign" systems.

- **Agentic Evolution:** AI is no longer just a chatbot; it is a "wise, gentle friend" managing university applications and a collaborative partner in the workplace.
- **Sovereignty & Security:** Concepts like "Geopatiation" and "Zero-Trust" are becoming critical as nations and enterprises seek to lock down data within regional borders.
- **Human-AI Friction:** While AI accelerates healthcare and education, it raises acute issues regarding gender bias and the preservation of human-centric professions.
- **New Frontiers:** We see a rise in "Vedic Science" technologies, the mainstreaming of Brain-Computer Interfaces, and the operational reality of Cognitive Warfare.



HUMAN-CENTRIC AND AGENTIC AI

Researcher: Askim E. Barol



By 2026, Agentic AI will serve as your ***global university co-pilot***, organizing deadlines, shaping research flow, and coaching complex essays with human-like clarity. Learning will feel continuous, personalised, and effortlessly supported.

Homes will develop “quiet intelligence,” autonomously handling climate balancing, micro-solar energy optimisation, and routine decision-making. Devices will read behavioural rhythms, prompting micro-recoveries, pausing non-urgent notifications, and sensing when you need cognitive space.

Human credit will shift to AI-interpreted trust models, expanding fair global loan access. Work will be shaped by shared cognition, powered by multi-agent brainstorming and persistent memory canvases that enable fluid, real-time collaboration.

CLIMATE INTELLIGENCE AND SUSTAINABLE AI

Researcher: Alisha Butala



Agentic AI is increasingly deployed for climate risk, powering early warning systems, flood resilience, and smart city applications in the Global South.

AI-Driven Climate Literacy platforms personalize education on hydrogen and renewables using adaptive simulations, VR labs, and multilingual modules to address skill gaps.

"Green AI" is transitioning from principles to mandatory, measurable requirements, demanding lifecycle assessments of models and transparent reporting on compute, energy, and water usage across data centers.

CULTURE, LAW AND HUMAN PROFESSIONS

Researcher: Aastha Naresh Kohli



The Rise of Vedic Science & Spiritual Technologies sees Gen Z embracing tech to decode ancient knowledge like astrology, although human intuition remains irreplaceable for consciousness.

The legal fraternity faces transformation as **AI penetrates client guidance** and contract drafting, necessitating regulatory frameworks by 2026 to ensure accuracy and accountability.

Automation replaces operational roles, but the value of Human-Centric Professions (lawyers, doctors, educators) will grow, requiring deep empathy and moral judgment.

HARDWARE, QUANTUM, AND DSLMS

Researcher: Sagar Vishnoi



The Lessening Divide Between AI & Hardware will bring more drones, robots, and humanoids at scale, shifting them from programmable tools to autonomous collaborators in logistics and defense.

Quantum Applications are moving from labs to practical use, processing complex systems like vast supply chains in real-time with energy-efficient performance.

Domain Specific Language Models (DSLMS) will emerge, trained on specialized datasets for unique industries, offering higher precision with lower costs than general models.

THE EMERGING ARCHITECTURE OF COGNITIVE WARFARE & CALL TO ACTION

Researcher: Bhairabi Kashyap Deka



The Emerging Architecture of Cognitive Warfare is defined by three key tech trends. **AGI Inspired by the Human Brain** can predict decision-making and generate tailored psychological operations at scale.

Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCI) raise new cognitive security risks regarding the extraction of private neural data and external manipulation.

Autonomous Humanoid Robots integrate emotion recognition and socio-behavioral modeling to engage in social engineering and swarm influence campaigns in hybrid warfare scenarios.

CALL TO ACTION

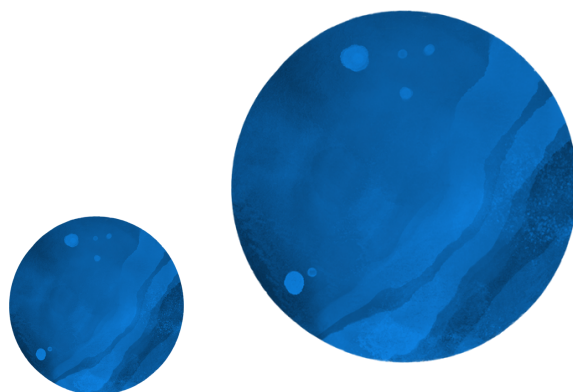
This Trendbook brings together the collective intelligence of our research team for 2026. To turn these insights into a sustained foresight practice, the Centre for Future Studies should focus on three internal priorities:

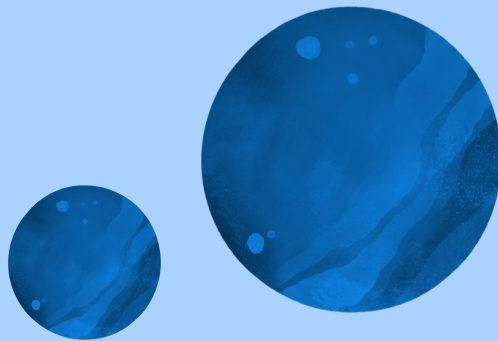
1. Establish Trend-Tracking Routines: We must move beyond annual reports to continuous tracking, where researchers update signals on Geopatriation, Agentic AI, and Cognitive Warfare in real-time.

2. Cross-Domain Synthesis: The intersection of Vedic Science (Aastha) and Cognitive Security (Bhairabi), or Agentic AI (Askim) and Sustainable Infrastructure (Alisha), offers unique strategic opportunities. We must facilitate discussions that connect these dots.

3. Actionable Briefs: The Centre should produce short internal briefs; specifically on the "AI Skills Settlement" for HR and "Geopatriation" for IT strategy; to convert these insights into guidance for leadership.

This document is the starting point. By keeping the process active, the Centre for Future Studies can stay ahead of emerging technologies and their impact in the years ahead.





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