

Salesforce CEO Benioff's AI ambitions collide with market reality

The retreat from large language models represents an ironic twist for CEO Marc Benioff, who has aggressively bet on AI transformation. Benioff had recently told Business Insider that he's drafting the company's annual strategic document with data foundations—not AI models—as the top priority, explicitly citing concerns about “hallucinations” without proper data context.

Benioff even suggested the company might rebrand itself as “Agentforce,” telling Business Insider “that would not shock me,” after learning from focus groups that customers no longer want to hear about cloud computing. However, this rebranding enthusiasm contrasts sharply with the technical challenges executives are now acknowledging.

The company's stock has declined approximately 34% from its December 2024 peak, though Agentforce is projected to generate over \$500 million in annual revenue. Salesforce's partial retreat from large models could impact thousands of enterprises currently relying on this technology, as the software company navigates the gap between AI innovation and practical business implementation.

Update: “While LLMs are amazing, they can't run your business by themselves. Companies need to connect AI to accurate data, business logic, and governance to turn the raw intelligence that LLMs provide into trusted, predictable outcomes. That's why we built Agentforce: trusted AI infrastructure that drives real business value. We ground AI in tight guardrails and deterministic frameworks, optimizing LLMs to deliver enterprise-grade reliability. Trusted. Reliable. Secure. This is what AI is meant to be,” a Salesforce spokesperson said.

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It's fun to watch the failure of over hyped LLM's. Everyone is better off if they fail completely and are abandoned.

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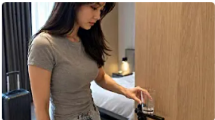
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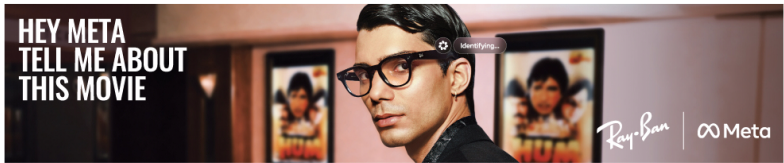
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This story is from March 06, 2026

GenAI and Agentic AI in Leadership: How ISB Online's Leadership with AI Programme prepares future-ready leaders

Prakshali Tiwari / SPOTLIGHT / Mar 06, 2026, 10:47 IST

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Today's leadership challenge is no longer just navigating digital transformation. With Generative AI, Agentic AI, and intelligent systems reshaping industries, leaders must now rethink how decisions are made, how organisations compete, and how value is created. The modern leader can no longer operate from the sidelines of technology. Leadership now demands more than vision; it requires fluency in AI and the courage to reimagine traditional ways of working.

As AI-native models scale rapidly and legacy businesses face constant disruption, senior leaders, CXOs, and transformation heads must move beyond awareness to guide, implement, and lead AI strategy. This shift places strategic responsibility directly on business leaders, not just technical teams. ISB Online recognises this growing imperative and launched the [Leadership with AI Programme](#) integrated with GenAI and Agentic AI, a high-impact, 20-week learning experience tailored for the AI-powered era of leadership.

AI is reshaping how businesses compete, yet a major leadership gap remains. McKinsey reports that while 72% of companies use AI, only 23% of executives trust their leaders to steer AI transformation. The challenge spans governance, talent, and responsible deployment. The ISB Online's Leadership with AI Programme is designed to close this gap, preparing leaders to drive AI with clarity and ethical foresight.

Building strategic fluency for the AI age with ISB Online's Leadership with AI Programme

This programme empowers participants to rethink leadership through the lens of emerging AI technologies. From foundational understanding of AI and ML to advanced [applications of Agentic AI and Generative AI in leadership](#), the curriculum integrates strategic clarity with technical fluency.

Participants gain the tools to align AI initiatives with organisational goals, improve decision-making, orchestrate value, and foster an innovation-first mindset. Developed for leaders across industries, this is a practical and future-focused experience that moves leaders from concept to action.

What sets this programme apart?

- ▶ **Flexible, self-paced learning experience:** Learn through 140+ pre-recorded videos from ISB's globally renowned faculty, allowing for in-depth, self-directed learning that fits executive schedules.
- ▶ **Generative AI modules with business relevance:** Understand [GenAI tools](#) and use cases, explore their business applications, and evaluate their implications for innovation and decision-making.
- ▶ **In-depth exploration of Agentic AI:** Gain exposure to Agentic AI, including tools, value orchestration, decentralised intelligence, and emerging governance frameworks.
- ▶ **20+ Case studies and 40+ assignments:** Analyse real-world business challenges and complete strategic assignments that sharpen problem-solving and leadership judgement.
- ▶ **Live masterclasses by industry experts:** Participate in live sessions covering AI, Generative AI, Agentic AI frameworks and multimodal intelligence, and emerging AI tools shaping innovation and enterprise applications.
- ▶ **Capstone project for practical implementation:** Apply your learnings through a capstone project, focusing on a real AI opportunity or challenge within your organisation or industry.
- ▶ **18 Live office hours with programme leaders:** Interact with experts and solve doubts in dedicated office hour sessions, allowing for mentorship, strategic discussions, and feedback.
- ▶ **ISB Online's Alumni Status:** Gain the ISB Online Alumni status with access to leadership resources, insights, and a 20% discount on future ISB Online programmes.
- ▶ **ISB Certificate of completion:** Upon successfully completing the programme with a minimum 70% score, the participants will be awarded a certificate in Leadership with AI from ISB Online.

The ISB Online advantage: Witness the best of learning and legacy.

- ▶ Excellence in teaching and research

ISB Online combines academic depth with executive relevance. Its faculty includes globally recognised researchers and former industry leaders with deep domain expertise. The learning experience draws from ISB's top-ranked research ecosystem, helping learners develop both strategic frameworks and context-specific insight.

- ▶ Learning beyond the programme

Participants gain access to a powerful leadership network and lifelong learning resources. As ISB Online Alumni, learners are invited to exclusive webinars, receive curated thought leadership content, and benefit from a vibrant community of professionals across sectors.

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Who is this programme for?

This programme is designed for executives and senior professionals looking to lead confidently in the AI era. It is ideal for senior leaders and CXOs driving digital transformation, enterprise strategy, or P&L outcomes; functional heads across technology, operations, HR, finance, marketing, and more seeking to apply AI for faster, smarter decisions; and entrepreneurs or innovation leads navigating disruption or scaling in dynamic markets. It provides the strategic toolkit needed to integrate AI effectively, foster innovation, and drive long-term business impact.

Key programme details

- ▶ Programme start date: March 31, 2026
- ▶ Duration: 20 weeks
- ▶ Fee: INR 2,29,900 + GST

[Click here](#) to know know more about the programme and flexible payment options.

Seize the future with AI driven leadership!

As AI reshapes the rules of competition, leadership must evolve with it. This is not just about digital literacy, it is about strategic AI fluency. The Leadership with AI Programme by ISB Online empowers you to lead transformation with clarity, insight, and confidence.

From GenAI to Agentic AI, and from theory to real-world application, this is your opportunity to future-proof your leadership and position your organisation for success in an AI-powered economy. Tailored for senior leaders, taught by India's top faculty, and delivered in an immersive, high-touch online format, the Leadership with AI programme by ISB Online equips you to lead with clarity, confidence, and strategic intent in the age of intelligent transformation. Explore the programme now!

Reference -

- 1 <https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/quantumblack/our-insights/the-state-of-ai>

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How India Instamarted in 2025: Doodh, Dahi, Chips to iPhones

TOI Tech Desk / TIMESOFINDIA.COM / Dec 22, 2025, 18:15 IST



Swiggy Instamart's has released its fifth annual "How India Instamarted" report, revealing the purchasing habits of Indians in 2025. According to the report by the quick commerce platform, people ordered from a single Rs 10 printout in Bengaluru to a Rs 4.3 lakh iPhone haul in Hyderabad. Other things ordered on Instamart include gold, gadgets and groceries.

Dairy products and snacks consumption skyrocketed in 2025

The scale of consumption of dairy products reached staggering heights. In 2025, India ordered more than four packets of milk per second, which is enough to fill 26,000 Olympic-size swimming pools, the report said. Paneer remained the 'desi' king as it outsold cheese by over 50%.

Notably, masala-flavoured chips claimed the top spot for late-night orders in 9 out of 10 major cities, outperforming even the most sophisticated palate preferences. For every cup of coffee, Indians consumed

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outperforming even the most anticipated gadget releases in volume. For every cup of coffee, Indians consumed 1.3 cups of chai across the top 10 cities.

High-value electronics dominate 2025

According to the report, 2025 was the year 'Quick Commerce' became 'Big Commerce' as high-value electronics and precious metals dominated the year's heaviest carts. For example, users in Pune and Ahmedabad received their iPhone 17s in under three minutes. One Hyderabad user holds the title for the biggest single cart of the year, spending Rs 4.3 lakh on three iPhones in a single tap.

A Noida resident spent Rs 2.69 lakh in one swoop on robotic vacuums, SSDs and Bluetooth speakers. Meanwhile, Dhanteras saw a 400% surge in gold orders over 2024. Bengaluru led the festive charge, adding a 1 KG silver brick (worth Rs 1.97 lakh) to a single cart.

Tier-II cities lead the growth charge

Bengaluru remained the 'Tipping Capital' with one local dropping Rs 68,600 in tips alone, the real growth story moved to Tier-II cities. Rajkot recorded a 10x year-on-year growth, followed by Ludhiana (7x) and Bhubaneswar (4x). Bhopal saw a 16x increase in health-related orders.

One in every 127 orders included a condom, with September marking a 24% peak in the category. When it comes to weekday-wise orders, Mondays emerged as the most popular day for sending gifts to beat the "start-of-the-week blues". During Valentine's Day, orders for roses peaked at 666 per minute nationwide.

Super users of Instamart in 2025

The report highlighted several "super users" who spend the most on specific orders.

- ▶ A Bengaluru account spent Rs 4.36 lakh purely on noodles.
- ▶ A Mumbai user spent Rs 16.3 lakh on sugar-free Red Bull.
- ▶ A Chennai resident pampered their pets with Rs 2.41 lakh in supplies.
- ▶ A Noida user purchased 1,343 protein items totaling Rs 2.8 lakh.

According to Instamart, in the "Quick India Movement" sale, shoppers saved an estimated Rs 500 crore this year.

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Meta's most-famous employee Yann LeCun who calls himself a computer science professor tells students not to study computer science and instead focus on ...

TOI Tech Desk / TIMESOFINDIA.COM / Updated: Dec 27, 2025, 12:34 IST



Yann LeCun, former Meta AI chief and Godfather of AI, teaches computer science at New York University (NYU). During a recent podcast appearance, LeCun joked that he is a computer science professor who argues against studying computer science. Explaining what he meant, he later told Business Insider (BI) that he was not asking students to avoid a computer science major. Instead, he said that students should focus more on core subjects such as maths, physics,

and electrical engineering, rather than spending too much time on taking courses based on short-term technology trends. In an email, LeCun told the publication that if computer science students don't spend their time wisely, they 'may find out their degree doesn't add up'.

What Yann LeCun said about studying Computer Science

During his appearance on "The Information Bottleneck" podcast, Yann LeCun said "What we should do is learn kind of basic things in mathematics, in modeling, mathematics that can be connected with reality".

"You tend to learn this kind of stuff in engineering in some schools that's linked with computer science, but sort of electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, et cetera", he added.

Interestingly, LeCun revealed during the conversation that he himself was not a CS engineer. Instead, he studied electrical engineering at ESIEE in Paris before earning a Ph.D. CS from Sorbonne Université in 1987.

"Engineering disciplines, you know, in the US, you learn Calculus 1, 2, 3 that gives you a good basis, right?" he said.

"In computer science, you can get away with just Calculus 1. That's not enough, right?"

Adding further, LeCun said "Obviously, you need to learn enough computer science to kind of program and use computers". "And even though AI is going to help you be more efficient at programming, you still need to know how to do this," he said.

Yann LeCun's advice to young students

Yann LeCun's advice to young students: "learn things with a long shelf life".

"My recommendation was not to avoid CS as a major but to take the maximum number of courses on foundations (e.g. math, physics, or EE courses) rather than take courses on the trendy technology du jour," LeCun said.

"If you are a CS major and take the minimum required math courses for a typical CS curriculum, you might find yourself unable to adapt to major technological shifts," the former Meta AI scientist told BI.

Yann LeCun's advice echoes with other tech leaders like [OpenAI's](#) Bret Taylor, and Nobel Laureate and Godfather of AI Geoffrey Hinton who have stressed that young engineers must learn critical skills beyond coding.

LeCun is leaving the company to launch a startup that will work "world models". These a competing approach he believes is the only path to machines that can genuinely think. These AI systems learn through visual and spatial data, building internal representations of how the physical world actually works.

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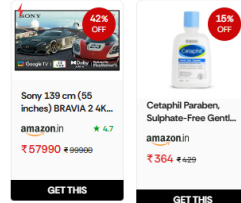


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