

## AI for India

**Artificial Intelligence (AI)** has captured the imagination of Indians like never before in the past five years. **Finance Minister** talked of AI in the Parliament in 2017. Multiple **Task Forces** on AI have been set up in the year 2018 in different Ministries – DEITY, DST, Commerce, Defence and MHRD. In September 2019, NITI Aayog was allotted Rs 7,000 Crores for the **AI fund** promised by the Finance Minister. There is even a **National AI Strategy Report** with a Hashtag **#AIforAll**

**Businesses** have started using AI to improve their effectiveness. **BFSI** (Banking & Financial Services) are using “bots” to improve customer interaction; **Travel** portals use AI to take customer orders. **Retail** industry use AI to predict sales and robots to manage large warehouses, particularly during shopping festivals like “Big Billion Days”. **Universities** have started using AI to predict student performance. **Courts** use AI to summarize judgements and tech-savvy lawyers use AI predict success percentage. **Doctors** have started using AI to analyse disease patterns.

**Governments** have started AI to detect tax evasion, document falsification and fund diversion; **Police** and **Armed forces** are starting to use AI to monitor movement of criminals and detect criminal activity.

**MNC's** tweak their solutions for Indian consumers - **Amazon** announced several consumer products including **Echo** last week, both globally and in India. **Echo** speaks and understands **Hindi & Hinglish** (not possible without AI)!

AI is impacting the **Indian start-up ecosystem** hugely.

- Health-care start-up **Niramai** (founded by Dr Geetha Manjunath, earlier of HP Labs, Bangalore), helps in replacing the painful breast cancer detection by painless imaging, thanks to AI.
- Ram Menon founded Fin-tech start-up **Avaamo**, a leader in conversational AI, operates in 40 countries!
- Edu-Tech start-up **VideoKen** (incubated at IIIT-B) uses AI and Machine Learning to automatically index videos and makes India proud by way of indexing Webinars of many prestigious International CS conferences
- **4PI** (Bangalore-based CSIR Lab) along with University of Agricultural Sciences, IIT-Dharwad and IIIT-Bangalore is partnering with General Aeronautics, an Indian Institute of Science incubated Drone start-up, to create a precision Agri-Tech platform that can be used even by marginal farmers (with less than 2 acres of land holding)

While some jobs will go because of AI, many more new jobs will be created by creatively using AI. Looking at the availability of large pool of talented professionals well-versed in AI, many MNC's are investing specifically in India. Many large venture funds are specifically focusing on India focused next generation AI start-ups.

- **Google** announced the launch of its **AI Research Lab in Bangalore**, India on September 19, 2019 (Incidentally Dr Manish Gupta of IIIT-Bangalore is to head this new Lab!)
- Amit Jain and Ankur Garg funded **IQAI VC** is focused on funding AI start-ups!
- On September 30, 2019 Prime Minister Modi gave away the awards to winning teams of **Singapore-India Hackathon** at IIT-Madras.

Needless to say all such activities will provide a much-needed fillip to the Indian economy in the next decade