Topic of the week for discussion: 10th to 16th May 2018

NITI Aayog and Google sign up

Topic Introduction

NITI Aayog and Google sign SoI to help grow AI ecosystem in India:

i. The Statement of Intent (SoI) was signed by Ms. Anna Roy, Advisor, NITI Aayog and Rajan Anandan, Vice President, India and South East Asia, Google.

ii. NITI Aayog will setup a national programme to perform research and development in advanced technologies like AI.

iii. NITI Aayog has been developing India's national strategy on AI along with the National Data and Analytics Portal for wide deployment and use of AI.

iv. Under this program, Google will train and incubate Indian AI startups in an accelerator program. These startups will be mentored and coached by Google and its affiliates so that AI can be utilized in a better way in their respective business models.

v. As a part of this program, Indian researchers, scholars and university faculty will be funded for AI-based research.

vi. Also, Google will launch online training courses on AI for students, graduates and engineers.

vii. NITI Aayog and Google will conduct a AI/ML hackathon for solving major challenges in agriculture, education, healthcare, financial inclusion, transportation, mobility etc.

Google and NITI Aayog will work on the following initiatives:

- Organise trainings for relevant government functionaries to familiarize them with open source AI tools for bringing effective governance.
- Offering grants and scholarships to researchers, scholars and university faculty conducting advanced research in AI/ML in India.
- Conducting AI/ML study jams for students and developers based on Google's Machine Learning Crash Course (MLCC) on basics of machine learning
- Incubating Indian AI/ML startups in a program where they will be mentored by Google to better utilise AI in their respective business models.
- Organise a Hackathon on using AI/ML and open data sets to solve challenges in agriculture, education, healthcare, etc. in India.

History:

AI was coined by John McCarthy, an American computer scientist, in 1956 at The Dartmouth Conference where the discipline was born. Today, it is an umbrella term that encompasses everything from robotic process automation to actual robotics. It has gained prominence recently due, in part, to big data, or the increase in speed, size and variety of data businesses are now collecting. AI can perform tasks such as identifying patterns in the data more efficiently than humans, enabling businesses to gain more insight out of their data.

AI applications:

AI in healthcare. The biggest bets are on improving patient outcomes and reducing costs. Companies are applying machine learning to make better and faster diagnoses than humans. One of the best known healthcare technologies is IBM Watson.

AI in business. Robotic process automation is being applied to highly repetitive tasks normally performed by humans. Machine learning algorithms are being integrated into analytics and CRM platforms to uncover information on how to better serve customers.

AI in education. AI can automate grading, giving educators more time. AI can assess students and adapt to their needs, helping them work at their own pace. AI tutors can provide additional support to students, ensuring they stay on track.

AI in finance. AI applied to personal finance applications, such as Mint or Turbo Tax, is upending financial institutions. Applications such as these could collect personal data and provide financial advice.

AI in law. The discovery process, sifting through of documents, in law is often overwhelming for humans. Automating this process is a better use of time and a more efficient process. Startups are also building question-and-answer computer assistants.

AI in manufacturing. This is an area that has been at the forefront of incorporating robots into the workflow.

Conclusion: In the recent times and in near future, the need of having beneficial effects of artificial intelligence on the society has motivated research in many areas like security or control to nontechnical topics like economics and law. While laptop crash might be a little trouble, but this is a highly undesirable event if it is an airplane autopilot software malfunction or a lapse on your trading terminal or even your power grid monitoring. Lethal autonomous weapons are also a product of artificial intelligence and the near future challenge is to control the same.

Creating artificial intelligence is perhaps the biggest event for mankind. If used and developed constructively, we can use artificial intelligence to eradicate poverty and hunger from human race. The argument that will we ever achieve that supreme level of artificial ever is on.

The power of artificial intelligence that unintentionally causes destruction and damage cannot be ignored. What will help us control it better is research and in-depth study of the importance of artificial intelligence. Research can control the potentially harmful consequences of AI and help us enjoy the fruit of this innovation.

Read further:

https://searchenterpriseai.techtarget.com/definition/AI-Artificial-Intelligence

https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/niti-aayog-and-google-sign-soi-to-help-grow-ai-ecosystem-in-india-1525696910-1

https://content.wisestep.com/advantages-disadvantages-artificial-intelligence/

https://data-flair.training/blogs/artificial-intelligence-advantages-disadvantages/

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