



Public Affairs Forum of India

**PRESS RELEASE**

**“AI is being used in several sectors like health, start-ups, agriculture, which can reap several benefits”: Abhishek Singh MD & CEO, DIC & NeGD MeitY**

**New Delhi (Delhi) 27, October 2023:** At the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Shri Abhishek Singh, MD & CEO, DIC & NeGD MeitY said, “We have always used AI; it’s just that we have been talking about it now. It is being used in several sectors like health, startups, and agriculture, where the benefits of AI can reap several benefits.”

Commenting on the definition of AI, Shri Abhishek Singh said, “AI is nothing but software, a tool that changed the way we have been working things. It is just a phase of evolution in technology development. AI transforms things in such a way that enables people to do things that were not possible earlier.”

Shri Abhishek Singh stated, “In the health sector, AI is used; like in the case of breast cancer, anyone can have images to detect it in early stages; to detect tuberculosis, X-Ray Images, cataract scan etc.” He further said that AI is being used in Maharashtra, Telangana and Hyderabad to diagnose Cardiac disease. Take the example of Bihar, where the information on the flood is collected in advance with the help of AI, thereby reducing the devastation and its after-effects. He said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, AI was used for communication and to answer queries.”

Shri Abhishek Singh then gave a reference to one of the AI-based Applications called “Umang”, over which 2000 public services are available on a single mobile interface. It is beneficial for those who have been facing problems downloading and searching the application. However, the Umang application has a voice-based interface. Giving another example of ‘Hashmi Interface’, he said that AI is used to answer the queries of people on the WhatsApp interface, and the Hashmi API will revert back to voice.

Shri Abhishek Singh said multiple applications for the public and private sectors are in the process of development under the AI interface.

Shri Abhishek Singh commented, “AI will be able to develop the cognitive skills as humans in some years. At that time, humans will use AI to create something new that AI can’t create. So, the debate that AI will take over as humans does not have any merit.”

Shri Abhishek Singh further mentioned that we need to have a delicate balance between “Innovations and Regulations”. “We are able to drive most innovations in AI, and we make the most responsible and ethical developments in AI.”



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Shri Abhishek Singh said that a global AI summit will be conducted in Delhi in December 2023, in which many countries are participating. At the G20, PM Modi called to use AI responsibly; even the Finance Minister said, “Make AI for India, Make AI for the world.” India has been a signatory to UNESCO’s AI ethical guidelines to use AI responsibly.

The session commenced with a welcome note by Shri Harish Krishnan, Past President & Co-Founder, of PAFI, Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements, Cisco India & SAARC, and it was moderated by Sukumar Ranganathan, Editor-In-Chief, of Hindustan Times. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Himar Arjun Singh, Managing Committee Member, PAFI, Chief of Public Policy & Corporate Communications Bharti Enterprises.

### **PAFI (Public Affairs Forum of India)**

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