Creating Artificial Intelligence Ecosystem

Why in news?

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- NITI Aayog has published an ambitious discussion paper on kickstarting the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem in India.
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What is Artificial intelligence?

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- Artificial intelligence (AI) is an area of computer science that emphasizes the creation of intelligent machines that work and react like humans.
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- It uses computers to mimic human cognitive processes for decision-making.
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- Some of the activities computers with artificial intelligence are designed for include- speech recognition, learning, planning, problem solving.
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What is Union government's decision on AI?

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- The paper published by the Niti Aayog discusses the powers of five sectors agriculture, education, health care, smart cities/infrastructure and transport with AI.
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- It highlights the potential for India to become an AI 'garage', or solutions provider, for 40% of the world.
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- The paper recommends AI tools for a range of applications such as reading cancer pathology reports, rerouting traffic in smart cities, [telling farmers where to store their produce](#), and picking students at high risk of dropping out from school, among them.
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- The paper proposes an institutional structure to get things going including a network of basic and applied research institutions, and a CERN-like multinational laboratory that would focus on global AI challenges.
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What are the challenges in achieving India's goals on AI?

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- These are lofty goals when the present scenario of AI expertise in India is considered.
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- While the paper estimates 50 top notch AI researchers, only 4% of the Indian AI professionals are trained in emerging technologies such as deep learning.
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- According to the H Index which measures how often papers are published, even though India does publish a lot, these publications aren't very impactful and India is behind 18 countries in the H Index.
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- Therefore it cannot be relied on astechnology has tripped up as often as it has delivered.
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Source: The Hindu

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