

## Welcome Tomorrow Episode 41

### India, Skill India and Digital India Initiatives of PM and AI

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**Abstract :** As the fastest growing economy with the world's second-largest population, India has a big stake in the AI revolution. The leading technology institutions in the country, such as IITs, NITs, and IIITs, have the ability to be the cradle of AI researchers and start-ups. India, with its “AI for All” strategy, a vast pool of AI-trained workforce and an emerging startup ecosystem, has a unique opportunity to be a major contributor to AI-driven solutions that can revolutionise healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, education and skilling. Government’s initiatives like skill india and digital india initiatives are very forward looking. They are training people for the future. And Artificial intelligence is the mirror of our future. When we talk about tomorrow, we have to link it to artificial intelligence. Skill India or Digital India initiatives can go hand in hand with artificial intelligence. How this can be done is discussed in this episode with examples.

**Plot :** This episode is all about a beginning of a dream that has got its foundation stone in the form of this certificate. Bang on noise as there is a certificate distribution ceremony where names of all graduating students are being announced. Shashank’s name is announced followed by sounds of him accepting the certificate. He receives the certificate and is applauded by his friends. He is now thanking God for fulfilling the first step towards his dreams. He rushes to home, calling out his mother.

#### Characters :

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Parul Didi</b>   | Female government representative (age 30+ years) |
| <b>Dr. Dogra</b>    | AI expert (50+ years)                            |
| <b>Prof. Shukla</b> | Father, Office goer (age 50+ years)              |
| <b>Mrs. Shukla</b>  | House maker (age 40+ years)                      |
| <b>Shashank</b>     | Son (age 25+ years)                              |
| <b>Sunita</b>       | Daughter (age 20+ years)                         |

#### (Footsteps approaching With excitement)

**Shashank:** Maa... I got my certificate... I have completed my training in handlooms and handicrafts... Now I am a professional who has learnt his skills from the Government’s initiative of Skill India...

**Sunita:** Wow... Bhai... Congratulations... Great that you got the certificate bu do you know anything about this field ?

**Shashank:** I am not like you... I want to make my career in this field... I want to be an entrepreneur...

**Mrs. Shukla:** Many Many Congratulations... May god bless you and help you reach new heights...

**Shashank:** It's all your blessings Maa...

**Prof. Shukla:** So, it is all Maa's blessings... What about Papa...

**Shashank:** Ohhh Papa... Your blessings too...

**Prof. Shukla:** So, What next ?

**Mrs. Shukla:** I have called Parul home today... I knew my son would get the certificate and the next thing you would ask him is 'What next ?'

**Shashank:** Great... So Parul Didi will be here... She will guide me...

**Sunita:** Me too... I will also ask her about the jewellery designing prospects...

**Mrs. Shukla:** Yes, She works for the government and inform, educate and motivate people to join the digital india and skill india missions in one or the other way... So she will be the right person to help you take the next step... But before that let's have lunch...

*(Music transition... Door bell rings - Sound of opening of door)*

**Parul Didi:** Hi everyone... How are you all ?

**Mrs. Shukla:** Hi Parul... Plz Come in...

**Prof. Shukla:** How are you Parul ?

**Parul Didi:** I am fine uncle ? Where are Shashank and Sunita ?

**Mrs. Shukla:** We just finished our lunch... They are washing hands... You know Shashank got the certificate today...

**Parul Didi:** Wow... So now he is a professional trained under Skill India programme...

**Shashank:** Yes and now as planned I am going to bring in the artisans and craftsmen under one roof and give them a genuine platform to prove their worth...

**Mrs. Shukla:** See Parul, he is adamant that he will work with Rekha's family and she has promised him to bring in more ladies from her locality...

**Parul Didi:** Rekha ??? Your maid ?

**Sunita:** Yes Didi...

**Parul Didi:** Hey Sunita... How are you ?

**Sunita:** I am fine didi... I have so many questions on my mind that I want to ask you...

**Parul Didi:** Sure... First get me a glass of water...

**Sunita:** Ok

**Prof Shukla:** I like this idea of self-sustained business that Shashank is planning... It will make him aatmanirbhar... but how it will be done ?

**Sunita:** Here is water and I have already started the procedure to prepare tea for all of us...

*(Sound of Parul drinking water and then starts talking with a pause)*

**Parul Didi:** Great idea Sunita... That will add labour to our talks... and uncle I am running the Skill India workshops for long time all over india and done a few workshops in your locality... I have trained many people around... They will be an asset to Shashank's future firm...

**Prof Shukla:** But going door-to-door and asking for work to be done is not a good idea... and how they will manage to sell it... Marketing strategies... quality control... orders from various locations... their management... etc. etc... There are so many aspects to be dealt with...

**Parul Didi:** Don't worry about Shashank's idea... Things can be handled... There are modern ways...

**Dr. Dogra:** Well said young lady... It's not a big deal Professor... Shashank can use various online platforms... Artificial Intelligence can help him in many ways...

**Prof Shukla:** Hello Doctor Saheb... the renowned Artificial Intelligence expert... What are you doing here ?

**Dr. Dogra:** I was just going down to fetch some milk... Heard you people talking so just dropped in...

**Mrs. Shukla:** That's good Doctor Saheb... Plz sit... have some tea...

**Sunita:** Yes I am here with tea and snacks...

**Dr. Dogra:** Very good beta... I was going to get milk as I wanted to have tea and there was no-one at home... not even milk...

**Mrs. Shukla:** Where is Mrs. Dogra and kids ?

**Dr. Dogra:** They have gone for some work... leaving me alone at home...

**Mrs. Shukla:** Ok but Work from home never lets you feel lonely...

*(Everyone laughs)*

**Dr. Dogra:** What exactly you people are discussing ?

**Shashank:** I want to start my artisan's firm... Parul Didi is here to help me...

**Prof. Shukla:** Ohh... I forgot to introduce the two of you... Dr. Dogra, she is parul... she works with government to promote Skill India and Digital India initiatives... And Parul he is Dr. Dogra... He is an AI Expert...

**Parul Didi:** Hello Sir... AI is our future... So good to meet you...

**Dr. Dogra:** Hi Parul... Government initiatives and AI can be deadly combo...

**Parul Didi:** Yes... Definitely... Apart from Skill India initiatives like the one Shashank has been a part of... to increase digital connectivity and make governance more transparent, Digital India initiative has launched amazing projects... e-hospital, digilocker, e-sign framework, etc...

**Dr. Dogra:** Skill India and Digital India on the back of Artificial Intelligence is the current approach...

**Shashank:** Even I am fond of high end technology and AI... I have even got my digital signature so that I can sign documents online using Aadhaar authentication... Now, How AI can help me in my firm uncle ?

**Prof. Shukla:** Yes, Dr. Dogra... Even I want him to plan things digitally...

**Mrs. Shukla:** Shashank wants to incorporate the rural artisans and craftsmen to work in a synchronised manner... This will help them earn money, name and fame... So, he has been approaching the daily wagers, house maids, etc in our locality who are good at one or the other skill... And Parul is also sharing details of some trained artisans who can join Shashank's firm...

**Parul Didi:** Off course... People want to be self-reliant and help develop the Government's dream of Aatmanirbhar Bharat...

**Dr. Dogra:** True... But we plan a business with 2 things in mind... one off course what Shashank is aiming at, motivating rural craftsmen and give them a platform... Second definitely is business profits...

**Sunita:** Even I want to make profits... I am done with my studies and want to opt for jewellery designing skill training... See, these designs I have made now only while listening to you people...

**Parul Didi:** That's good Sunita... You can be an asset for your brother's firm... We can incorporate young talents like you along with the learned artisans...

**Dr. Dogra:** And as I was saying... Artificial Intelligence will have a huge role to play in business profitability... Several recent studies on the impact of AI by 2035 state that a country's economic growth will no longer be measured by its capital but by its maturity in AI... All evidence shows that AI could increase profitability by over 35% in average companies by a fifteen-year time period...

**Shashank:** That's great... Sounds like I have already become a business tycoon... I can definitely plan things with AI as Government trains us in different languages and with new age skills like artificial intelligence and internet of things to help get and provide job opportunities...

**Sunita:** How can I learn AI ?

**Dr. Dogra:** You don't need to learn AI... It's technical... There are AI experts who develop things for you... You just need to learn the use of AI...

**Prof. Shukla:** My only concern is if Shashank will be able to manage all this ?

**Dr. Dogra:** Off course he can and he should... But we should not forget one thing... The current state of digitisation or AI technology is not sufficient and still requires human supervision and inputs to generate true creative works...

**Parul Didi:** That's right uncle... and that is the USP of any idea and its implementation... We get support of AI but are not governed by them... Rather they assist us in managing our work...

**Sunita:** Wow ! My friend wants to be an AI expert... so he can assist me in managing my jewellery designing business...

**Dr. Dogra:** Yes, with the help of hi-tech ideation and programming he can develop certain ways that can make your work easy to handle and help you flourish...

**Sunita:** AI is the best...

**Mrs. Shukla:** But as much as I know, for all AI activities we need internet... Although these days digital connectivity is very good... wi-fi hotspots are made available everywhere... I can manage checking my house CCTV cameras even when I am away... But how these rural people will get access to internet...

**Parul Didi:** Not necessarily... New AI systems can work without internet also... Right Dr. Dogra ?

**Dr. Dogra:** Yup...

**Sunita:** (*interrupting*) - I can do jewellery designing with the help of AI ? Specially in the traditional jewellery designs...

**Dr. Dogra:** To redefine traditional jewellery-designing practices, machine learning is being used to develop a unique system... AI's role in designing steel and brass jewellery has already been explored, now even traditional stone jewellery designing can be done...

**Sunita:** Stone jewellery as well... I love them and want to use stones in my designs...

**Dr. Dogra:** Machines make this easy and less time consuming... Also AI helps in the challenging aspects of handling variety of stones in a single neck piece...

**Sunita:** Yes... Stones vary in shape and size... colour and texture... And there can be many permutations of how these shapes can be arranged and that too without overlapping... This is challenging but I enjoy it...

**Mrs. Shukla:** So my son will make clothes of traditional modern fusion and daughter will get me fusion jewellery... I am going to rock for sure...

**Shashank:** Hey... This is not fair... We gathered to discuss my future project... Sunita is diving her nose into it...

**Sunita:** Maa, ask bhai not to talk like that about me... and that too in front of everyone...

**Mrs. Shukla:** Shashank stop teasing her... Everyone here is concerned about both of you...

**Parul Didi:** Yes and AI will also help both of you...

**Shashank:** This is what I am trying to understand that how AI can help me... I mean us ?

**Dr. Dogra:** It completely depends on what kind of help you seek from AI...

**Parul Didi:** Sir, I think designing is a major concern for the handloom and handicraft artisans also just like jewellery designing...

**Shashank:** Yes... Even I was thinking of hiring a designer and now you are telling me that AI can solve the problem...

**Dr. Dogra:** Yes... AI helps artisans by creating customizable design instead of just selecting designs... This gives the artisans more options for aesthetic contemporary designs...

**Mrs. Shukla:** These AI created designs can actually be converted into physical products ? I mean, soon I will be wearing an AI designed Saree or a bangle ?

**Parul Didi:** Off course... I have read somewhere that AI has the potential to increase design opportunities for the craft artisans and thereby increasing their revenue, by producing improved marketable product as per the needs of contemporary market and thereby, save the ancient Indian art forms from fading out...

**Sunita:** Ohh Wow... The next generation hi-end technology is saving the heritage...

**Dr. Dogra:** These techniques were successfully employed by communities across India to manufacture and sell products with greater appeal and revenue...

**Prof Shukla:** So, this will be beneficial for the upcoming entrepreneurs...

**Parul Didi:** Not only this... it will also help them get ideas for marketing and promotion... Reaching their prospective customers... and delivering their best...

**Mrs. Shukla:** You people have nailed it... But there is another angle to the story... How to make the rural mostly uneducated class like my maid and her friends and neighbours etc. understand AI based designing and make them work accordingly...

**Parul Didi:** Don't worry... Labourers are guided to work as per the designs... They work it their way... keeping the essence of traditional touch...

**Prof. Shukla:** That will help keep the hand made aesthetics too...

**Dr. Dogra:** That's why we AI experts say that still the research in this field have to go long way in order to model human creativity...

**Shashank:** Aesthetically appealing designs... and then practically possible products... All this will be made possible soon... First of all I will Rekha didi to come up with her friends so that we can discuss the next step with them...

**Parul Didi:** Even let me know when you people plan things... I will also join in...

**Mrs. Shukla:** Yes Parul... Plz be there as even I will also like to be a part of this and extend help as much as I can... After all I have to be their model displaying their products...

*(Everyone laughs)*

**Sunita:** I will also come...

**Shashank:** We are not going for picnic... It is serious work...

**Prof. Shukla:** Let her also learn with you...

**Dr. Dogra:** It has been a brainstorming session for all of us... All the best Shashank and Sunita...

**Shashank:** Thank you uncle... I will seek your guidance too... And if possible suggest me some AI expert teams as well...

**Dr. Dogra:** For sure... But now I will take your leave... See you soon...

**Parul Didi:** Even I will leave now...

*(Everyone bid bye)*

**(End music)**