India@100: Solving for access

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India has made phenomenal strides in its 75 years since independence – from becoming an economic powerhouse to creating a democratising internet ecosystem that has brought services to a billion people. What stands out for me is how technology has transformed people's lives and the potential it has to change the fate of the sea of humanity that lives in this country. From agriculture to space, services to manufacturing, education to healthcare – there is nothing untouched by the advent of technology.

For India to meet its potential, we need to continue to solve for access to better opportunities. We have to keep striving to level the playing field for the disadvantaged. What makes me hopeful is the role technology can play in helping us do that – be it improving literacy, affordable healthcare, financial assistance, accessible mobility. Ground-breaking innovations like UPI that is making a paradigm shift in financial inclusion and networks like ONDC show that the Indian government has been swift on its feet to create a supportive ecosystem. We would like to see an enabling policy framework that will unshackle the growth potential of startups built on technology.

The next few years will witness an explosion of technology like never before, and the initial steps we've taken in unlocking the potential of artificial intelligence and machine learning will be unleashed to a whole new level. We can expect nearly half of our life activities being automated over the next few years, with devices for nearly all purposes being connected to the internet of things. Cloud computing is also poised to see disruption like never before, with companies investing more to create a distributed IT infrastructure for themselves by using multi-cloud platforms.