

## Kollam event plays host to top minds in robotics

**Neetu Chandra Sharma**  
correspondent@dnaindia.net

**S**ome of the brightest minds in the field of robotics and automation from India and all over the world assembled at Amrita University, Kollam for a three-day conference titled RAHA 2016, the first-ever event in the country focusing on the use of robotics and automation for humanitarian applications.

With more than 385 participants and 18 speakers from 12 countries, comprising a unique mix of field workers, humanitarian teams, and robotics experts, the conference paved the way for a blueprint in the applications of robotics and automation to bring about true societal change.

"Robotics, automatic and intelligent computing is the next wave of technology that is going to hit us soon and transform our lives, much like mobile phones.

This industry is going to have a serious impact on the entire society in a beneficial way.

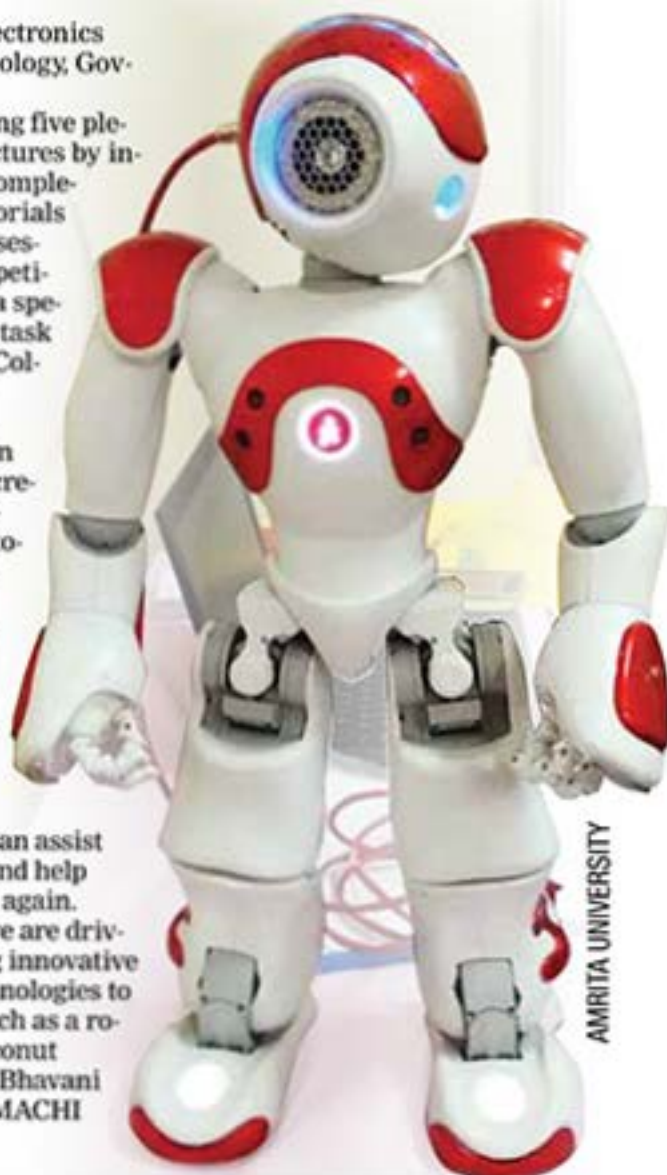
Kerala is largely a knowledge-driven economy. We now need to give a serious thought on how to blend robotics and automation with it to empower the society further," said M Sivasankar, Secre-

tary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of Kerala.

Along with conducting five plenary and 13 keynote lectures by international speakers, complemented by multiple tutorials and workshops, poster sessions, and student competitions, RAHA 2016 took a special initiative to start a task force called the RAHA Collaborative Workgroup consisting of top researchers and experts in the field of robotics to create a code of ethics specific to robotics and automation and its applications in society.

There are vast areas in which robotics and automation are making progress today and the immense potential of robotics for humanitarian applications.

"Robotic devices today can assist the elderly in walking and help those paralyzed to move again. At Amrita University, we are driven by the spirit of using innovative methods of robotic technologies to empower rural India such as a robot which can climb coconut trees to pick coconuts," Bhavani R Rao, Director of AMMACHI Labs said.



AMRITA UNIVERSITY