

Auro University, Surat. Announces launch of

‘AuroBot’

**An Artificial Intelligence (AI) based talkbot developed by students
of Auro University**

First such Talkbot developed by a University

- The Talkbot is a virtual avatar of the University’s help desk team, who will answer queries regarding the University 24X7.
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- The project has trained our students in developing content for AI enabled services – first of its kind for a University!

Surat, August 3, 2019:

An artificial intelligence based bot, which listens to queries of visitors and responds with videos, spoken answers, pictures, virtual tour of the campus in 360 degrees, has gone live on Auro University’s website in a beta version on Friday. The AI programme keeps learning and evolving constantly.

AuroBot is an evolving tool and a complex programme to develop. Most tech giants in India are yet to create one and integrate it into their system. However, looking at the importance of content for AI in future, Auro University executed this project jointly with Melzo Technologies of Surat.

The University developed the bot in less than 6 months. The students and faculty members of the University’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) conceptualized the content as well as the text, audio, video and VR content for the bot.

“Following the path of Integral Education shown by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, we want Auro University to emerge as a global center for integral learning. And this is one of the many firsts that this University will be known for,” said the Founder President of the University Shri H P Rama, while unveiling the bot.

Vice-chancellor Dr Avadhesh Kumar Singh said, “Auro University envisions to be a premier institute of integral and transformational learning. We wish our students to be conscious agents of transformation in them and the transformation that they would bring in day to day lives and society. The AuroBot is one of the manifestations of transformation through technology.”

Giving an idea about how the programme was executed, dean (academics) Prof Rohit Singh said, “Our students from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication worked on making this possible. We thank Melzo Technologies for creating the AI programme and in their constant support for executing this project. The other Schools would also join it with their inputs.”

The content requirement of the media industry of tomorrow is going to be very different from what it used to be. Therefore, the School has considered that and developed a syllabus that prepares communicators for tomorrow. We emphasize on skill-based learning. And this project is easily the first of its kind to be done by a University and executed by any media school. Preparing content for AI is truly the new-age scope of employment for students of journalism and mass communication

The queries that the bot can handle include, admissions, courses, curriculum, faculty, history, potential, facilities, fee structure and more. It will learn and evolve constantly.

User Experience:

1. Users will click on the blinking microphone button and speak a question.
2. The bot will listen to it and transcribe it into text so that the person asking it can be assured that it has been heard right.
3. The bot will then fetch an avatar – one of the students, to answer the questions in video format.
4. The students' backdrop will change from answer to answer and even provide 360° visual tour of the campus.

Compatibility:

AuroBot will have two uses to begin with. One, it will be embedded in the existing Auro University website, to handle all such queries asked online or on mobile. AuroBot, can be summoned on any device (smartphone, tablet, SmartTV, Laptop etc) that has the capability to run an Internet browser and is able to take audio inputs. However, it will take sometime, before it can handle queries on ios systems.