

Umakant Soni

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Umakant Soni is the co-founder & CEO of **ARTPARK** (AI & Robotics Technology Park) & Chairman, **AI foundry**, focused on “AI & Robotics for next 6bn users”. He is a pioneer thought leader building a global think tank [using AI for bringing cheaper and more efficient access to resources in the developing world](#). Before this, Umakant co-founded [piVentures](#) (India’s only Artificial Intelligence focused \$32 m early-stage venture fund) along with Manish Singhal. He was general partner and part of the investment committee at pi that has backed some of the leading AI companies (Sigtuple, Applying AI to pathology (www.sigtuple.com), Niramai, Applying AI to early breast cancer detection(www.niramai.com), Locus.sh, Ten3T Health (Intelligent heart patch), frontdesk.ai (chatbots for enterprise), Wysa (Chatbots for mental wellness), Switchon(AI for industrial systems) and others. He is now **Advisor & Founding partner** at [piVentures](#).

With an exposure of AI area of almost a decade as an entrepreneur and investor, he is much sought after technology advisor in the area of AI for Government of India initiatives for NITI Aayog, DST (Department of Science & Technology) & MEITY, helping create ["idea to impact" AI innovation engine for India](#). He also [advises Fortune 500 companies](#) in the area of AI strategy, investing and disruption as well. He is a noted keynote speaker on developing

impact via AI & [deep tech innovations](#) in emerging markets. Previously he has served as Director, Science-inc India, one of the leading Global Startup Studio. He also served as Digital Strategy Advisor to Lunar Designs, helping them with the Internet of Things strategy and M&A advice.

Prior to this, he started one of the earliest Artificial Intelligence companies out of India, *Vimagino*, focused on providing [emotionally intelligent chatbots](#) to help solve sales and support issues on web and mobile for companies in 2009-10. He also has been an advisor and investor in startups in food, education, and logistics.

He spent the early part of his career growing 3 Intra company ventures as part of Wipro's Innovation arm (India's leading IT services company) and creating strategies for investment and growth in advanced technologies(focusing on web services and SOA). He has 2 patents published in the area of autonomic process systems. He is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur and enjoys painting abstracts in his spare time.
