

Ethics of Machine vs. Human

- Increasingly, machines and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are assisting humans in decision-making, particularly in governance.
- Government agencies and policymakers are leveraging AI-powered tools to analyze complex patterns, forecast future scenarios, and provide more informed recommendations
- The biases inherent in AI, often a reflection of the biases in the data they are trained on or the perspectives of their developers, can lead to skewed or unjust outcomes and represent a significant challenge in the integration of AI into governance

Ethical challenges

- If decisions that were once the purview of humans are delegated to algorithms, it could threaten the capacity for moral reasoning.
- The person or institution using AI could be considered to be abdicating their moral responsibility.
- The attempts to codify ethics into rules, whether for robots or complex AI-driven governmental decision-making, reveal the inherent challenges in translating human moral complexity into algorithmic form.
- In some countries, decision-making algorithms are even being used to determine the beneficiaries of social sector schemes.
- Ethics are complex. Programming ethics into a machine and AI is even more complex.
- "In Moore's 2006 classification, four categories of machine agents relating to ethics are defined.
- The first is ethical impact agents: machines with ethical consequences, like robot jockeys, which don't make ethical decisions but pose ethical considerations, such as altering the sport's dynamics.
- The second is implicit ethical agents: machines with embedded safety or ethical guidelines, such as a safe autopilot system in planes, which follow set rules without actively deciding what is ethical.
- The third is explicit ethical agents which go beyond set rules, using formal methods to estimate the ethical value of options, like systems that balance financial investments with social responsibility.
- The fourth is full ethical agents which are capable of making and justifying ethical judgments, including reasonable explanations

- But what if the decision taken on the basis of machine predictions or by a machine itself is immoral or unethical?

Who will be held responsible?

- Will the liability fall on the AI system, the developer of the AI, or the official who relied on the AI's data?
- The notion of punishing the AI system becomes problematic, as it lacks the ability to experience suffering or bear guilt.

THE HINDU

NCAP Bharat

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has rolled out an indigenous star-rating system for crash testing cars under which vehicles will be assigned between one to five stars indicating their safety in a collision.
- Called the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP), the rating system will be voluntary and will come into effect from October 1, 2023.

What is Bharat NCAP?

- Under the Bharat NCAP, cars voluntarily nominated by automobile manufacturers will be crash-tested as per protocols laid

down in the soon-to-be-published Automotive Industry Standard 197.

- The program is applicable to passenger vehicles with not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat with gross vehicle weight not exceeding 3,500 kgs.
- Only the base model of a particular variant will be tested.
- Cars will be assigned a rating between one star to five stars after being evaluated on three parameters adult occupant protection, child occupant protection, and safety assist technologies present in the car.
- The first two parameters will be calculated with the help of three different kinds of tests,
- Though Bharat NCAP is voluntary, in certain cases, cars may be subjected to a crash test such as for a base model of a popular variant (minimum clocked sale of 30,000 units), or when the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways recommends a model for testing based on market feedback or in the interest of public safety.

THE HINDU

Pakistan army act

- On July 27, the Pakistan Senate passed a Bill to amend the Pakistan Army Act, of 1952.
- What are the new amendments? The Bill has expanded the ambit of the Army Act by inserting clause 1A in Section 8 of the Act.
- With this change, the Act will include civilians working in entities affiliated with or controlled by the Pakistan Army like the Fauji Foundation, Army Welfare Trust, Fauji Urea, Fauji Cement, etc.
- The Bill has added two new sections to Section 26 of the Act. Section 26A on 'unauthorized disclosure', states that "if any person who is or has been subject to this act, discloses or causes to be disclosed any information, acquired in an official capacity, which is or may be prejudicial to the security and interest of Pakistan or the Armed Forces of Pakistan, shall be guilty of an offense, and on conviction by the court constituted under this Act, be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years."
- Section 26B prohibits a person who has been subjected to this Act from participating in any kind of political activity for two years "from the date of his retirement, release,

resignation, discharge, removal, or dismissal from the service."

- Another notable amendment is in Section 55. Section 55A bars the subject of this Act from getting into any form of engagement, consultation, or employment, directly or indirectly, with any entity that might have a conflict of interest with the Armed Forces of Pakistan and its affiliate entities.

THE HINDU

BRICS

- India welcomes the expansion of the BRICS grouping through a consensus-based approach, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared in Johannesburg on Wednesday.
- Addressing the plenary session of the 15th BRICS Summit in the historic South African city, he urged member states to take advantage of India's digital solutions and to work for the welfare of the Global South.
- The current BRICS members are Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, whose names make up the group's acronym
- One of the main issues that is forming the backdrop of the expansion-related dialogue at BRICS is Russia's quest to create an alternative to the G-7- driven global political- economic model.

- This has acquired urgency since the Western nations unleashed economic sanctions against Moscow
- This process has also drawn from India's demand for changes in global multilateral systems to make them more responsive to the needs of the Global South.
- However, unlike their counterparts in Russia and China, Indian officials have not spoken aggressively for de-dollarization, though New Delhi has entered into local currency agreements with a few trading partners like the UAE.

About BRICS

- The leaders of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) countries met for the first time in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the margins of the G8 Outreach Summit in July 2006. Shortly afterward, in September 2006, the group was formalized as BRIC during the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which met on the sidelines of the General Debate of the UN Assembly in New York City.
- After a series of high-level meetings, the 1st BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia on 16 June 2009.
- The BRIC group was renamed as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) after South Africa was

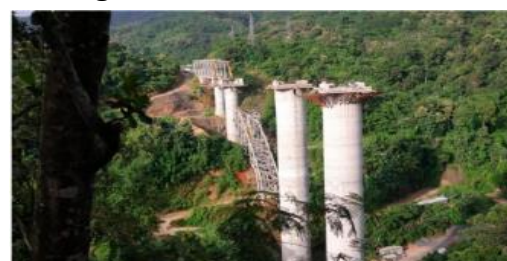
accepted as a full member at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in September 2010.

- Accordingly, South Africa attended the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanya, China on 14 April 2011.
- BRICS is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising 41% of the world population*, having 24% of the world GDP* and over 16% share in the world trade*.
- BRICS countries have been the main engines of global economic growth over the years.

THE HINDU

KURUNG RIVER

- A railway bridge under construction over the Kurung River in Mizoram collapsed on Wednesday, killing at least 18 workers
- Kurung Kumey district is one of the 26 districts of the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh,
- The name of this district is derived from the Kurung and the Kumey, the two principal rivers that flow through it.



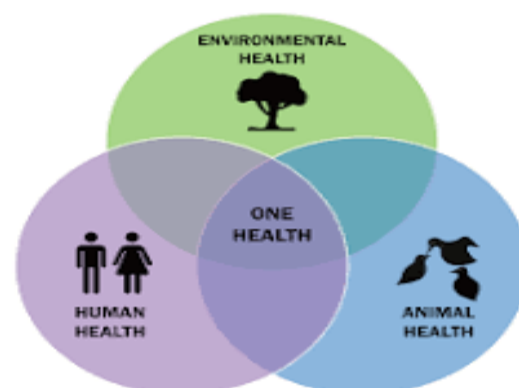
ISRO MISSION

- A mission to study the sun, launching a climate observation satellite, a test vehicle as part of the human space flight program, and an India-U.S. Synthetic aperture radar the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has a packed schedule after Chandrayaan-3.
 - In addition, XpoSat, the country's first dedicated polarimetry mission to study the dynamics of astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions, is also ready for launch,
 - Aditya L1, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the sun, will most likely be launched in the first week of September. According to Chairman S. Somanath S, ISRO has also lined up the launch of INSAT-3DS, an earth observation satellite.
 - The launch of a test vehicle mission, for the validation of the crew escape system for Gaganyaan, the country's maiden human space flight mission, is also expected soon.
 - "(Then) we have to launch NISAR, the India-U.S. Built Synthetic Aperture Radar.
 - NISAR is a low earth orbit observatory being developed by NASA and ISRO.
- It will map the entire globe in 12 days and provide spatially and temporally consistent data to understand changes in the earth's ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation biomass, sea-level rise, groundwater, and natural disasters.
 - The objective of the Gaganyaan program is to demonstrate ISRO's ability to transport humans to a low earth orbit onboard an Indian launch vehicle, which in this case will be the human-rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3.

THE HINDU

ONE HEALTH

- One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach working at the local, regional, national, and global levels with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes by recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.



Why is One Health special?

- Human population growth, urbanization, and industrialization have compounded the damage to biodiversity and ecosystems.
- These harmful environmental changes are linked to zoonoses diseases shared between animals and humans.
- Researchers have estimated that 60% of emerging diseases that can infect humans are zoonotic in nature.
- They include bird flu, Ebola, rabies, and Japanese encephalitis.
- In addition, humankind has also become beset by major issues of antimicrobial resistance, food safety, and security, and the control of vector-borne diseases.
- One Health minimizes resource requirements across sectors.
- An important way it does this is by encouraging coordination across governmental units, including the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Environment, and Science and Technology.
- Taking a One Health approach allows researchers to, for example, share their laboratories and findings, and ultimately make decisions that lead to resilient, sustainable, and predictable policies.
- The Government of India established its 'Standing Committee on Zoonoses in 2006 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- The purpose of this committee was to provide the Union and the State governments guidance and recommendations on challenges related to zoonoses
- The Department of Biotechnology launched India's first consortium on One Health in October 2021.
- It brings together 27 organizations from several ministries and plans to assess the burden of five transboundary animal diseases and 10 select zoonotic diseases
- In June 2022, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy (DAHD) – in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Confederation of Indian Industry – launched a One Health pilot project in Karnataka and Uttarakhand.
- India is also currently preparing for a wider 'National One Health Mission' to be spearheaded by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor.
- The idea behind this mission is to coordinate, support, and integrate all existing One Health initiatives in the country.

