# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 04th SEPTEMBER, 2024

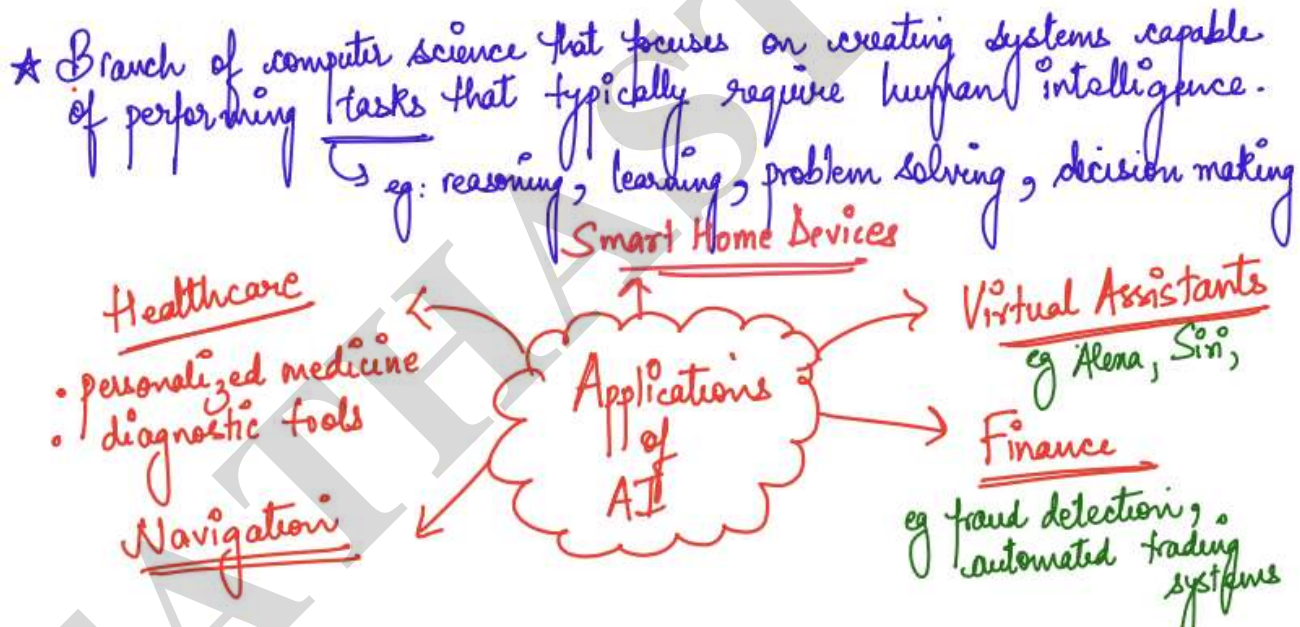| S.NO. | TOPIC |
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## A DISCOURSE ON AI GOVERNANCE THAT INDIA MUST SHAPE

### A discourse on AI governance that India must shape:

❖ **Context:** The Summit of the Future, scheduled for September 22-23, 2024, will serve as a critical juncture for global diplomacy, particularly in the realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

❖ This summit, under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), aims to advance the **Global Digital Compact (GDC)**

### Artificial Intelligence:

★ Branch of computer science that focuses on creating systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.
  → eg: reasoning, learning, problem solving, decision making

**Applications of AI**

- Healthcare
  - personalized medicine
  - diagnostic tools
- Navigation
- Smart Home Devices
- Virtual Assistants
  - eg Alexa, Siri
- Finance
  - eg fraud detection, automated trading systems

### Global Digital Compact (GDC)

❖ The GDC represents an effort by the UN to create a collaborative and multistakeholder framework to bridge the global digital divide and promote a more inclusive digital future.

❖ Aim to address the digital divide and advance Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

❖ Focus on creating a secure and inclusive digital environment.

❖ Strengthens international governance of emerging technologies, including AI.

### Causes

❖ The growing importance of AI in global markets and societies has led to increased interest in its governance.

- ❖ The differing resolutions by the U.S. and China are rooted in their strategic interests.
- ❖ The U.S. seeks to maintain its **technological dominance** and influence over global AI standards, while China aims to ensure that AI development is **inclusive and equitable, aligning with its broader geopolitical ambitions.**

*2 Key resolutions* → US: "Safe Secure and Trustworthy AI for sustainable development"

→ China: "Enhancing Cooperation on Capacity Building of AI".

## GPAI (Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence):

- ❖ International initiative launched in June 2020 to promote the responsible and human-centric development and use of artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ Aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice by supporting cutting edge research and applied projects on AI, ensuring that AI is used in a manner that aligns with fundamental human rights, ethical principles, and societal values.
- ❖ **Founding Members (2020):** Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Union.

**✶ Other Initiatives**

→ INDIAai
→ US India AI Interface
→ RAISE 2020 (AI for Social Empow.)

→ National Strategy for AI (Niti Ayog.) ⇸ NEP (2020)

# A discourse on AI governance that India must shape

**Sukanya Thapliyal**

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The Summit of the Future (September 22-23 2024) will be a decisive moment for global diplomacy and the international norm-building process in the sphere of Artificial Intelligence (AI). At the summit, world leaders and stakeholders are to come together under the aegis of the United Nations to advance the Global Digital Compact (GDC). The GDC aims to build a collaborative multi-stakeholder framework that strives to address the digital divide, advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and create a secure and inclusive digital environment. Crucially, it seeks to strengthen the international governance of emerging technologies, including AI, to ensure that they align with fundamental rights and values. As digital technologies continue to shape our societal and geopolitical landscape, it is imperative for India to not only to engage with but also actively shape the international discourse on the international governance of AI.

**Geopolitical contestation**

Parallel to the GDC, the UN General Assembly recently adopted two key resolutions on AI led by the United States and China. The U.S.-led resolution, on 'Safe, Secure and Trustworthy AI for Sustainable Development', advocates a harmonised approach to AI governance and encourages member countries to develop shared ethical principles, data protection measures and transparency standards. By promoting a harmonised approach to AI governance, the U.S. aims to assert dominance in AI technology and dictate the terms of its development worldwide. On the other hand, the China-led resolution, on 'Enhancing Cooperation on Capacity Building of AI', focuses on equitable benefits from AI development, bridging the digital divide, and promoting an open and non-discriminatory business environment. The resolution not only prioritises inclusivity and equitable development but also strategically positions China as an important player in global trade and technology standards. These resolutions are deeply intertwined with each country's interests and highlight growing geopolitical contestation in the domain of digital governance.

The UN is quickly emerging as the apex forum for shaping and harmonising global standards on AI – something not entirely unexpected given the impact of AI on markets and societies. The UN offers an inclusive platform to articulate challenges, reconcile diverse national interests and promote international cooperation mechanisms. India has an active and long-standing engagement at the UN and strategic engagements at the G-20 and Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). India can, therefore, seize the opportunity to ensure that the GDC aligns with its developmental priorities and ethical standards, bridges the global digital divide, and meaningfully commits to the interests of the Global South.

*The U.S. and China are driving the AI governance discourse to advance their strategic interests, which could isolate the Global South*

India has a deep historical legacy and influence at the UN, even as it has championed the issues of the Global South. This is most evident from its engagement in international climate negotiations where it has consistently advocated the principle of equity and climate justice as the basis of global climate action. India positioned itself as a key player in climate negotiations following the UNGA Resolution 44/207 in 1989 and contributed to integrating the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), which acknowledged that developed countries bore the primary responsibility for climate change. India led significant efforts to shape the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, ensuring that developing countries like itself are not subjected to obligations not aligned with their developmental plans and priorities; it emphasised the need for technology transfer and financial support from developed countries.

**India's diplomatic weight**

India also played a pivotal role in forming coalitions of developing countries to ensure that their perspectives are adequately represented throughout negotiations. India created the Green Group alliance comprising 72 like-minded developing countries at the first Conference of Parties under the UNFCCC to counter demands from the developed countries to have stringent commitments on developing countries. India also worked closely with Brazil, South Africa and China to form the BASIC Group to safeguard its developmental and poverty reduction objectives in the 2000s. India continues this trend of active participation – evident in the Paris Agreement and reaffirmed at the Dubai Summit – where it advocated fair terms and obligations that consider the varied capabilities and needs of developing countries.

India's history of leading Global South negotiations, along with the unique challenges it faces, positions it as an important contender in debates around AI. As a Global South country, India grapples with structural inequalities in the AI innovation landscape. This includes a lack of advanced computing infrastructure, high-quality data sets, and capital. Just as India advocated differential needs and responsibilities in climate agreements, it must now ensure that discussions around AI governance include considerations of equity, accessibility and fairness.

India has succeeded in registering these considerations at other international fora as seen in the G-20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration and the GPAI Ministerial Declaration. Under India's leadership, the G-20 and the GPAI have underscored the importance of fair access to critical AI resources, emphasised equitable sharing of AI benefits, and mitigated risks while fostering international cooperation. It is crucial to voice these concerns to the UN. The UN has unique legitimacy as an organisation with universal membership and a well-established framework grounded in the rule of law, a Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), and SDGs that offer clear pathways to accountability. India is adept at building coalitions and advancing first principles that prioritise the interests of the Global South. By leveraging the UN platform, India can amplify its existing efforts on a wider scale, ensuring that the voices of developing countries are heard.

India should push for more equitable access to AI technology, building technical capacity, and creating institutional mechanisms for knowledge sharing to ensure that all countries can harness the benefits of AI. India can use this opportunity to redefine the multi-stakeholder model to be more inclusive – one that actively includes voices from the Global South, particularly those from marginalised and under-represented groups. This includes creating a platform accessible to smaller non-governmental organisations, small and medium enterprises, and groups that otherwise lack the resources to participate in global discussions.

In addition, India should also advocate a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to AI governance that respects human rights, aligns with existing international laws and standards, and ensures that AI systems are designed to be inclusive, fair and representative of diverse global perspectives.

**Address the challenges**

India's advocacy for a fair and inclusive AI governance framework is also crucial in the context of bipolar dynamics between the U.S. and China, where both countries are driving the AI governance discourse to advance their strategic interests. This risks sidelining the unique needs and perspectives of the Global South. The wide gaps between developed and developing countries are starkly evident in the realm of AI advancements. While developed countries have readily available resources, developing countries lack even the basic infrastructure, Internet access, and electricity – absolute essentials for AI advancements. Addressing these challenges requires a localised understanding and approach, which might be overlooked or simplified by those unfamiliar with these specific contexts. This can result in policies and frameworks that fail to address the root issues faced by developing countries, limit the effectiveness of global AI governance initiatives, and exacerbate existing inequalities.

India's historical legacy of advocating the interests of the Global South, robust engagement at international fora, and lived experiences as a Global South country make it well-positioned to lead these conversations. Its active engagement will not only advance its interests but will also contribute towards a balanced and sustainable digital future.

*The views expressed are personal*

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**Way forward:**

❖ **India's Strategic Role:**
- ☛ Leverage historical legacy and diplomatic experience.
- ☛ Advocate for a fair and inclusive AI governance framework.
- ☛ Amplify the voices of developing countries and shape a balanced digital future.

❖ **Call to Action:**
- ☛ Engage actively in the GDC to secure India's and the Global South's interests in global AI governance.

## TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF RISING INCOME INEQUALITY

### Context:

❖ Income inequality is a persistent global challenge that demands urgent attention. As societies worldwide grapple with the widening gap between the rich and the poor, finding effective strategies to foster a more equitable society has become a priority.

Inequality: "the state of not being equal, esp. in status, rights & opportunities." [ UN ].

→ 1.) Economic Inequality: unequal income distribution & opp.

2.) Social Inequality: resources ÷ unevenly on norms of society that creates specific patterns along lines

★ of socially defined categories eg: religion, race,

### Causes

❖ **Globalisation and Market Liberalisation:** These have led to increased wealth concentration among the top echelons of society, while many others remain marginalized.

❖ **Technological Advancements:** Automation and AI have displaced jobs, particularly in low-skill sectors, leading to unemployment and underemployment.

❖ **Education and Skill Gaps:** Inequitable access to quality education and skill development has perpetuated income disparities.

❖ **Labour Market Inefficiencies:** Weak enforcement of labor rights, minimum wages, and social protections has widened the income gap.

❖ **Infrastructure Disparities:** Regional inequalities in infrastructure development have further exacerbated income disparities, particularly in rural areas.

★ Social Exclusion: → Caste discrimination, Gender discrimination

### Impacts

❖ **Social Unrest**: Growing income inequality can lead to social unrest, as marginalized groups feel excluded from the benefits of economic growth

eg: caste group movements [ Jaats, Marathas etc). + Ethnic mov. → Nagas

❖ **Economic Instability**: Extreme inequality can undermine economic stability by reducing consumer spending and increasing debt levels among lower-income groups.

- ❖ **Erosion of Trust**: High levels of inequality can erode trust in institutions and the belief in meritocracy, leading to disengagement from the democratic process.
- ❖ **Health and Education Disparities**: Inequality often translates into unequal access to healthcare and education, perpetuating cycles of poverty.

★ *World Inequality Report (2022)* →

# Take on the challenge of rising income inequality

★ SDG → 10
Reduced Inequalities.

★ Constitutional Provisions

Art 38(1) } DPSP
Art 39(c) }

1) State shall strive to promote welfare of people
↳ direct its Policy that economic system ↓ X conc. of wealth

**Sam Pitroda**
telecom technocrat with 60 years of experience, an inventor, policymaker and global thinker

Addressing income inequality is a serious global challenge. It is a complex and multifaceted endeavour which demands examining, trying and implementing several different strategies to find a suitable way to foster a more equitable society. Here are some key areas to act on.

1) First, progressive taxation. Progressive tax policies are required to redistribute wealth from the affluent to the marginalised. It is not about stealing from the rich to pay the poor. It is about using tax money to improve health, education, skill development, the environment, and facilitate job creation.

2) Second, education and skill development. Access to quality education, skill development and lifelong learning is critical to enhance employability and increase earning.

3) Third, fair labour laws. Enforcing labour rights, minimum wages, safety, security, eliminating child labour, protection against exploitation, and collective bargaining are essential to ensure that all workers benefit from economic growth.

4) Fourth, investment in infrastructure. This will reduce regional disparities, assure inclusion and sustainability. It is critical to invest in infrastructure that is related to the environment, water, sanitation, forests, energy, climate change, housing, and transportation.

5) Fifth, the contribution of the super rich. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet began a global campaign called the 'Giving Pledge' for the super rich to donate more than half their wealth in order to benefit the public.

As of 2023, more than 235 super rich people in 28 countries have committed $600 billion for public good. In many advanced countries there is a special inheritance tax (Japan 55%, South Korea 50%, France 45%, and the United States 40%) before transferring wealth to the next generation. However, it applies only to the super rich and

There must be a realisation that the new economics is all about moving from 'economies of scope and scale' to 'economy of purpose'

large asset transfers. This tax has been proposed by several people in the past in India. The World Inequality Lab says that in India, the share of the top 1% in the national income is among the highest in the world, and that India is today more unequal as a society than it was under British rule. Is this acceptable?

**About inclusion and equity**
This is not a debate about increasing or introducing new tax for the middle class, the rich or the super rich. It is about locating the resources needed to lift millions more out of poverty and joblessness, and to do this in ways that encourage value addition through production and efficiency, quality and consumption as well as inclusion, sustainability, dignity and justice. The need is for analysis and debate, not for inventing falsehoods to cause a scare. India has already lifted millions out of poverty. However, what it has done is simply not enough. More needs to be done with brave and bold initiatives that copycat solutions will not achieve. The new economics is all about moving from "economies of scope and scale" to "economy of purpose". And the purpose is inclusion, equity and sustainability to lift millions out of poverty. Discussions on fiscal and other measures should be understood within this context.

What are the strategies that India can pursue that can create resilience in these uncertain times? There is no silver bullet, and none is suggested. The need is for reflection and a policy framework that can ensure growth with justice and hope, by looking at and debating every possible option available through learning from global experience and drawing on India's creative and innovative abilities.

Some continue to see globalisation and market liberalisation as silver bullets rather than as

strategies which demand capacities for vigilance and constant mid-course correction. Past turmoil in global markets, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the wars in Europe and West Asia remind us that globalisation extracts its own price.

To me, the Gandhian model of development with a focus on decentralisation, local needs, local talent, local resources, local production and "small is beautiful" makes huge sense in a hyper-connected world in order to ensure local employment and prosperity in India. Investment in small and medium-sized enterprises and local innovations is equally critical to network to scale for global markets. Unfortunately, banks prefer large loans to big companies as opposed to small loans to SMEs. This must change with digital technology for financial services. India has 800 districts with unique climate, natural resources, capabilities and talent to build 800 production centres for a variety of goods and services. It also means 800 digital platforms to network to build supply chain, logistics, markets and distribution centres.

**Where the future lies**
Future jobs even in the AI-dominated world will come from food, education, health services, tourism and manufacturing. In fact, young Indian talent is the workforce for the world. This issue is thus about assessing progress in terms of human and technology development and a new economic model based on decentralisation and digital platforms to network needs and change consumption patterns and behaviours. The future definitely lies in a new tech economic model to deliver on inclusion, basic human needs, decentralisation, conservation and non-violence. The future also lies in a change in lifestyle that values happiness from "sharing and caring" as opposed to a "vulgarity of conspicuous consumption".
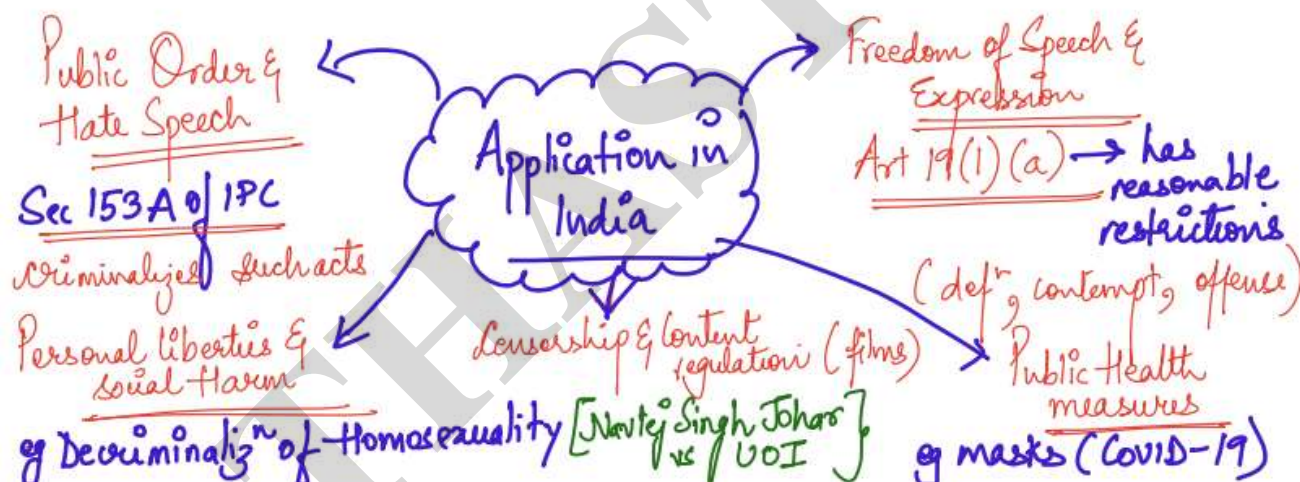
# 'THE HARM PRINCIPLE'- JOHN STUART MILL

## The Harm Principle:

- ❖ The harm principle holds that the actions of individuals should only be limited to prevent harm to other individuals. **John Stuart Mill** articulated this principle.
- ❖ The harm principle states that the only actions that can be prevented are ones that create harm. In other words, a person can do whatever he wants as long as his actions do not harm others.
- ❖ If a person's actions only affect him, then society, which includes the government, should not be able to stop a person from doing what he wants. This even includes actions that a person may do that would harm the person himself.
- ❖ There are many actions that affects only the agent 'directly and in the first instance'. They may still affect other people, but if they do so, they will affect other people 'through' the agent as all people are interconnected and no human being lives in isolation.

## Question:

**Q.1** **Discuss Mill's concept of the harm principle. Also, discuss its applicability in contemporary times. (250 words)**



Public Order & Hate Speech

Sec 153A of IPC criminalizes such acts

Personal liberties & social Harm

eg Decriminalization of Homosexuality [Navtej Singh Johar vs UOI]

Application in India

Censorship & Content regulation (films)

Freedom of Speech & Expression

Art 19(1)(a) → has reasonable restrictions (defn, contempt, offense)

Public Health measures

eg masks (COVID-19)

## DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL ( DAC)

- ❖ It is the **highest decision-making body of** the **defence ministry on procurement.**
- ❖ The main objective of the DAC is to **ensure expeditious procurement of** the **approved requirements of the armed forces** in terms of capabilities sought and time frame prescribed by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.
- ❖ **Formation**: It was formed after the **Group of Minister's recommendations** on 'Reforming the National Security System', **in 2001, post-Kargil War (1999).**

### Composition:

- ❖ The **defence minister** is the **chairman** of DAC.
- ❖ Its **members** include the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** and **chiefs of the Army, Navy,** and **Air Force.**

### Functions of DAC

- ❖ Give in-principle **approval of a 15 yearsLong Term Integrated Perspective Plan** (LTIPP) **for defence forces**.
- ❖ **Accord of acceptance of necessity** to acquisition proposals.
- ❖ **Categorisation of the acquisition proposals** relating to '**Buy', 'Buy & Make',** and '**Make'.**
- ❖ **Look into issues** relating to **single vendor clearance.**
- ❖ **Take decisions regarding 'offset' provisions in** respect of acquisition **proposals above Rs 300 crore.**
- ❖ Take **decisions regarding the Transfer of Technology** under the 'Buy & Make' category of acquisition proposals.
- ❖ **Field trial evaluation.**