

A Critical Examination of MANAV Vision

Br. Aman

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Introduction

- The MANAV Vision was unveiled at the India AI Summit 2026.
- It emphasizes ethics, national control of data, and global collaboration.
- This critique offers three perspectives for academic reflection.

Point 1: Lack of Originality

- The vision reiterates themes already well-established in AI ethics.
- For example, Kush Varshney (IBM) has authored *Trustworthy Machine Learning*, which systematically addresses ethical ML/AI.
- MANAV Vision's ethical framing thus appears derivative rather than innovative.

Point 2: Democratization vs. National Control

- The vision calls for democratization of data while insisting on national control.
- This dual phrasing risks contradiction: democratization implies openness, while national control suggests restriction.
- Historically, such control mechanisms have led to bureaucratic “red tape” rather than empowerment.
- Without clarity, implementation may remain aspirational rather than practical.

Point 3: Marginalized Communities

- The vision highlights the Global South, but India itself has vast marginalized populations.
- Rural communities, linguistic minorities, and economically disadvantaged groups could benefit directly from inclusive AI.
- Prioritizing domestic inclusion would strengthen India's credibility before extending leadership globally.

Conclusion

- MANAV Vision is a significant step in India's AI discourse.
- However, concerns remain regarding originality, feasibility, and prioritization.
- A refined approach could better balance ethical leadership, practical governance, and inclusive development.
- Constructive critique ensures the vision evolves into actionable policy.

A Nehruvian View

- PM Nehru's philosophy emphasized inclusive modernization and social equity.
- In the AI domain, he would likely prioritize on-boarding of all sections of society, ensuring broad participation.
- He would encourage multi-lateral dialogue, fostering cooperation across nations rather than unilateral dominance.
- True to his non-alignment policy, Nehru would resist binding India to any global AI watchdog that could curb national freedoms.
- Such an approach would balance technological progress with sovereignty and inclusivity.

About the Author

- Holds advanced degrees from Cornell University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- Research interests include the perceptron algorithm and its quantum counterpart.
- Deeply engaged in exploring the intersection of classical machine learning and emerging quantum paradigms.
- Committed to fostering ethical, inclusive, and technically rigorous approaches to AI.