



# STUDY GUIDE

## United Nations Human Rights Council

AI and Human Rights Violations

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## LETTER FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Delegates,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the first session of HAS-MUN 2025! As your Secretary-General, it is a true honor to lead this incredible event, which stands as a testament to our school's dedication to promoting global awareness and developing diplomatic skills among our students.

This year's conference gathers young leaders from various backgrounds, all united by our common goal of tackling the urgent challenges our world faces today. The issues we will address demand innovative thinking, collaboration, and a commitment to finding solutions that reflect our shared humanity.

Hosting HAS-MUN is not just a privilege; it comes with great responsibility. We strive to foster an environment that promotes respectful debate, critical analysis, and the spirit of cooperation that the United Nations represents. I encourage each of you to seize this opportunity to learn, grow, and engage with your fellow delegates in a passionate and thoughtful manner.

As you prepare for the conference, I urge you to approach your research with curiosity and an open mind. Familiarize yourself with your assigned country's position and be ready to advocate for its interests while also considering the viewpoints of others. Remember, effective diplomacy relies on negotiation and compromise.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our organizing committee, faculty advisors, and volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to making this event a reality. Their commitment ensures that HAS-MUN 2025 will be a memorable and impactful experience for everyone involved.

Let us unite to make history at HAS-MUN 2025. I eagerly anticipate witnessing your passion and dedication as we embark on this journey toward understanding and cooperation.

Warm regards,

Rozita CAN  
Secretary-General,  
HAS-MUN 2025

## LETTER FROM CHAIR

Hello Delegates,

I am Syed Shafay Bin Adil, your Chair for the United Nations Human Rights Council. I am a Computer Science graduate student from Antalya Bilim University with extensive experience in Model United Nations (MUN). Over the years, I have participated in 24 MUNs, earning the title of Best Delegate 16 times. Additionally, I have chaired 5 MUNs both internationally and locally and currently serve as an educational curator and instructor for HAS Model United Nations.

My journey with MUN began when I was in the 6th grade, and it has been an incredible passion of mine ever since. Through years of debating, research, and collaboration, I have come to deeply appreciate the impact that MUN can have on fostering understanding, diplomacy, and leadership skills.

As we prepare to address the topic of **Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights Violations**, I encourage each of you to use this study guide as a supplementary resource. It is essential to conduct thorough and comprehensive research into the historical and current implications of AI on human rights. This topic is not only timely but also complex, with significant real-world applications and consequences.

I highly recommend exploring recent case studies and related events to build well-rounded arguments. Given the dynamic nature of this issue, creating numerous moderated caucuses will allow for more focused and productive discussions. It's also important to analyze the perspectives of the country you represent while understanding the stances of other delegations, as this will help you identify allies and adversaries.

MUN is not just about debating; it is about diplomacy, collaboration, and problem-solving. Let us strive to create an environment of mutual respect, intellectual rigor, and innovation as we work together to tackle this pressing global issue.

I look forward to meeting all of you and witnessing the incredible ideas you bring to the table.

Best regards,

**Syed Shafay Bin Adil**  
Chair, United Nations Human Rights Council

## **Introduction to the committee:**

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations responsible for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. Established in 2006, the HRC replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to enhance the UN's ability to address human rights issues effectively.

## **Membership and Structure**

The HRC consists of 47 Member States, elected by a majority of the UN General Assembly's 193 members. Membership is distributed among five regional groups:

- 12 African States
- 13 Asia-Pacific States
- 8 Latin American and Caribbean States
- 7 Western European and other States
- 6 Eastern European States

Each member serves a three-year term, with one-third of the seats up for election annually. States are expected to uphold human rights standards, and membership can be suspended by the

General Assembly in cases of systematic violations.

## **Mandate and Responsibilities**

The UNHRC's mission, as outlined by the UN General Assembly, includes:

- Promoting and protecting human rights globally.
- Issuing recommendations to UN bodies for improved human rights practices.
- Providing technical assistance and educational programs on human rights.
- Advocating for the right to development and addressing obstacles to human rights realization.
- Engaging in dialogue with governments to ensure compliance with international human rights norms.
- Coordinating human rights promotion and protection activities within the UN system.

## **Mechanisms and Functions**

To fulfill its mandate, the UNHRC employs several mechanisms and entities:

1. **Universal Periodic Review (UPR):** A state-led process assessing the human rights situation in all UN Member States.
2. **Special Procedures:** Independent experts or groups focusing on thematic issues (e.g., human trafficking, education) or specific countries.
3. **Advisory Committee:** The Council's think tank, providing expertise and research on human rights topics.
4. **Complaint Procedure:** A mechanism allowing individuals and organizations to report human rights violations.
5. **Commissions of Inquiry and Fact-Finding Missions:** Specially established bodies that investigate and report on human rights crises.

### **Achievements and Impact (2006–2023)**

- **54** regular sessions and **36** special sessions held.
- **1,481** resolutions adopted.
- **60** Special Procedures mandates established.
- **38** commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions conducted.
- **123** Member States have served on the Council.

### **Key Activities**

- Addressing human rights violations and emergencies.
- Issuing non-binding resolutions and statements to prompt international action.
- Conducting investigations and gathering evidence on crimes such as war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Engaging in multilateral dialogues with governments, civil society, and other stakeholders.

### **AI and Human Rights Violations**

As part of this debate, delegations must collaboratively propose resolutions addressing the potential human rights violations arising from Artificial Intelligence (AI). Delegates should consider the Council's limitations, such as resource constraints and political polarization among member states. Emphasis should be placed on comprehensive research and moderated caucuses to explore innovative solutions to this timely issue.

The UNHRC provides an essential forum for addressing global human rights challenges and fostering international cooperation to uphold the dignity and rights of all individuals.

## Introduction to the Topic:

The topic of this debate, “**AI and Human Rights Violations**,” centers on analyzing the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on human rights and working towards consensus on regulatory frameworks to address its challenges.

## Understanding Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence refers to the ability of computers or computer-controlled systems to perform tasks traditionally requiring human intelligence. These tasks include decision-making, problem-solving, natural language processing, and sensory perception. AI development has revolutionized sectors like medicine, education, and transportation, offering unprecedented benefits. However, it also poses significant threats, particularly in areas of conflict, security, and governance, where it may infringe on fundamental human rights.

## Potential Threats of AI to Human Rights

While AI has introduced groundbreaking innovations, its misuse has sparked global concerns about its ethical and societal implications. Some prominent challenges include:

- **Deepfakes:** Manipulated videos or audio that can mislead the public, damage reputations, or influence elections.
- **Automated Warfare:** The development of AI-driven weapons and drones capable of independent decision-making raises serious ethical and legal questions.
- **Discrimination and Bias:** AI algorithms trained on biased datasets can perpetuate systemic racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of inequality.
- **Surveillance:** AI-powered surveillance systems can violate privacy rights, enabling mass monitoring and suppression of dissent.
- **Cybersecurity Risks:** Tools like automated hacking systems and identity theft mechanisms amplify threats to personal data security.

This duality in AI's potential highlights the urgent need for a global regulatory framework to harness its benefits while safeguarding against abuses.

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## A Historical Overview of AI Development

The history of AI is marked by distinct milestones that reflect its growth, stagnation, and resurgence:

### 1. The Foundation (1G50–1G56):

- In 1950, **Alan Turing** published "Computing Machinery and Intelligence," introducing the Turing Test, which evaluates a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behavior indistinguishable from that of a human.
- The term "Artificial Intelligence" was first coined in 1955 by **John McCarthy** during a workshop at Dartmouth University, marking the formal birth of AI as a scientific field.

### 2. The Maturation Period (1G57–1G7G):

This era witnessed the development of foundational technologies:

- 1961: Introduction of the first industrial robot, Unimate, revolutionizing factory automation.
- 1966: Creation of ELIZA, the first chatbot capable of simulating human conversation.
- 1979: Establishment of the **Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)**, emphasizing the growing importance of the field.

### 3. The AI Boom (1G80–1G87):

The 1980s brought increased investment in AI research, fueled partly by the Cold War's technological race:

- The first **AAAI Conference** was held at Stanford in 1980.
- Development of XCON, an expert system designed for customer needs in the tech industry.
- 1986: Creation of the first autonomous vehicle in Munich, showcasing AI's potential in transportation.

### 4. The AI Winter (1G87–1GG3):

This period saw reduced funding and diminished public interest due to the high costs and slow progress in AI research. Despite this, foundational research continued, paving the way for future breakthroughs.

### 5. The Age of AI Agents (1GG3–2011):

AI experienced a resurgence, leading to significant achievements:

- **NASA's Spirit and Opportunity Rovers** landed on Mars, demonstrating AI's role in space exploration.
- Introduction of consumer-focused AI tools like Siri, Roomba, and Xbox Kinect, showcasing

practical applications in daily life.

## 6. The Era of Artificial General Intelligence (2012–Present):

This ongoing phase is marked by rapid advancements in deep learning, big data, and neural networks:

- Deep learning algorithms revolutionized fields like image and speech recognition.
- 2015: Over 3,000 prominent figures, including **Elon Musk** and **Stephen Hawking**, signed an open letter urging governments to ban autonomous weapons.
- AI technologies like ChatGPT and autonomous vehicles have become integral to global industries.

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### AI and Human Rights: Areas of Concern

1. **Privacy Invasion:** The use of AI in mass surveillance, especially in authoritarian regimes, threatens freedoms of expression, association, and assembly.
2. **Economic Displacement:** Automation driven by AI has the potential to disrupt labor markets, widening socio-economic disparities.
3. **Weaponization of AI:** Autonomous weapons systems could challenge international humanitarian law, complicating accountability for violations.
4. **Misinformation:** AI-generated content can undermine democratic institutions and erode trust in media.

### Opportunities and the Path Forward

Despite the risks, AI offers opportunities to promote human rights when used responsibly:

- **Healthcare:** AI-powered diagnostics and treatments can improve access to medical care.
- **Education:** Personalized learning platforms can bridge gaps in global education systems.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** AI systems can predict natural disasters and optimize relief distribution.

### The Role of UNHRC

The Human Rights Council must work collaboratively to address these challenges by:

- Developing ethical guidelines for AI use.
- Establishing international treaties banning harmful AI applications, such as autonomous

weapons.

- Promoting transparency in AI algorithms to reduce bias and ensure accountability.
- Supporting capacity-building initiatives in developing nations to prevent technological inequality.

## **Current Situation:**

Artificial intelligence (AI) represents one of humanity's most transformative technological advancements. While it offers unparalleled opportunities to advance society, it also poses grave risks to human rights (HR). These risks transcend traditional contexts, such as war or natural disasters, and introduce novel challenges requiring a broader perspective. AI's duality as a tool for good or harm makes it critical to analyze its impact on human rights comprehensively.

### **Human Rights at Risk from AI**

AI's potential to violate human rights is broad and multifaceted. Among the most vulnerable rights are:

1. **Right to Equality**
2. **Freedom from Discrimination**
3. **Right to Life, Liberty, and Personal Security**
4. **Freedom from Slavery**
5. **Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment**

AI has been weaponized in ways that infringe upon these rights, particularly in the domains of **privacy, discrimination, and labor exploitation.**

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## **Key Areas of Concern**

### **1. Privacy Violations**

AI-powered data collection and surveillance systems threaten individual privacy daily. While companies and governments use AI for targeted advertising, crime prevention, or governance, the lack of adequate safeguards has led to severe breaches:

- **High-profile Data Breaches:**
  - **LinkedIn (2021):** Private information of 700 million users, including full names,

email addresses, and phone numbers, was posted for sale on the dark web.

- **Facebook (201G):** Data of 533 million users was leaked, exposing their personal information to cybercriminals.
- **Twitter (2022):** A vulnerability allowed hackers to access the personal data of over 5.4 million users, underscoring the fragility of AI-driven systems.

- **Mass Surveillance:**

In countries like **China**, AI has been used for mass surveillance, including facial recognition technologies that monitor citizens' daily activities. For example, the Chinese government

uses these systems to control the **Uyghur Muslim population**, detaining and subjecting them to reeducation camps, violating their fundamental rights to privacy, equality, and freedom.

## 2. Algorithmic Discrimination

AI systems trained on biased datasets often perpetuate and amplify discrimination:

- **Mortgage Lending:** In the U.S., AI-driven systems have shown bias against minority communities, denying them fair access to loans.
- **Employment Screening:** Companies like Amazon have faced controversies where AI recruiting algorithms favored male applicants over female ones due to biased training data.
- **Facial Recognition and Law Enforcement:** AI systems have higher error rates in identifying individuals from minority groups. For example, a **Detroit man, Robert Williams**, was wrongfully arrested in 2020 due to inaccuracies in facial recognition technology.

## 3. Labor Exploitation and Economic Displacement

AI has disrupted labor markets, leading to both direct exploitation and widespread unemployment:

- **Exploitation of Content Moderators and Data Labelers:**
  - Workers in countries like **Kenya, Uganda, and India** are hired by tech giants to moderate content and label data under deplorable conditions, earning less than \$2/hour. Content moderators are often exposed to traumatic material, leading to severe mental health issues.
  - Data labelers, essential to training AI systems, face similar exploitation with

inadequate protections.

- **Job Automation:**

Entire industries, such as manufacturing and retail, are being automated, leading to job losses. AI-driven systems replace human workers with machines, exacerbating unemployment and inequality.

#### 4. Weaponization of AI

AI-powered autonomous weapons and drones threaten global security and violate international humanitarian laws.

- **Case Study: Autonomous Weapons in Conflict Zones:**

In **Libya (2020)**, a Turkish-made Kargu-2 drone reportedly hunted down and attacked retreating soldiers autonomously, marking a chilling milestone in AI's militarization.

- **Deepfake Propaganda:**

Deepfakes have been used to spread misinformation, influencing elections and political

discourse. For example, in 2024, deepfakes of political candidates were shared widely during Brazil's elections, undermining trust in democratic systems.

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#### Recent Failures Highlighting AI's Risks

1. **Clearview AI Scandal (2020):**

Clearview AI, a facial recognition company, was found to have scraped billions of images from social media without users' consent. This data was sold to law enforcement agencies, infringing on privacy rights globally.

2. **ChatGPT's Ethical Dilemmas (2023):**

OpenAI faced criticism when researchers discovered that the language model could generate harmful and biased content, raising concerns about its deployment without adequate safeguards.

3. **AI-Driven Surveillance in Iran (2022):**

The Iranian government used AI to identify and arrest women violating mandatory hijab laws, infringing on personal freedoms and equality.

4. **Tesla Autopilot Failures:**

Fatal accidents involving Tesla's AI-driven Autopilot system raised concerns about the premature deployment of untested AI technologies, endangering lives.

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## **AI's Positive Potential for Human Rights**

While AI poses threats, it can also be a powerful tool to promote and protect human rights:

- **Activism and Advocacy:**

AI-driven platforms amplify marginalized voices. Movements like **#MeToo** and **Black Lives Matter** have leveraged AI to spread awareness and mobilize support.

- **Education:**

AI helps create inclusive learning environments by adapting to students' needs, bridging educational gaps, and facilitating access to underserved communities.

- **Democracy and Governance:**

AI-enabled mass surveys have been used in **Kenya, Iceland, and Egypt** to include citizens in policymaking, enhancing democratic participation.

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## **Proposed Solutions to AI's Human Rights Challenges**

1. **Establish Global Regulatory Frameworks:**

International treaties should govern the ethical use of AI, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and equity.

2. **Ban Autonomous Weapons:**

Global consensus should be reached to prohibit the development and use of AI-driven lethal weapons.

3. **Strengthen Data Privacy Laws:**

Comprehensive legislation must mandate robust data security measures and penalize companies for breaches.

4. **Promote Ethical AI Development:**

Companies must ensure their algorithms are tested for biases and trained on diverse datasets.

## 5. **Support Worker Protections:**

Enforce fair wages, safe working conditions, and mental health support for workers in AI-related fields.

## **Bloc Formation and Major Involvements:**

Artificial intelligence (AI) governance is becoming a crucial international issue, with countries taking varied approaches based on their economic, political, and social priorities. Here is an overview of the stances and actions taken by 10-12 key nations:

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### **1. European Union (EU)**

The EU leads globally in AI regulation.

- **Key Action:** Adopted the **Artificial Intelligence Act (April 2021)**, which is the first comprehensive attempt to regulate AI globally.
- **Focus Areas:** Risk-based classification of AI systems, ensuring AI respects fundamental rights, privacy, and non-discrimination.
- **Future Plans:** The EU plans to continue shaping global standards by emphasizing ethical AI and ensuring human oversight.

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### **2. United Kingdom (UK)**

After leaving the EU, the UK has pursued independent AI policies.

- **Key Action:** Released the **AI Regulation White Paper (March 2023)** emphasizing innovation-friendly regulation.
- **Focus Areas:** Accountability, transparency, and safety of AI systems without stifling innovation.
- **Future Plans:** Establish partnerships with global leaders like the U.S. and EU on ethical AI development.

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### **3. United States (USA)**

The USA dominates AI research and development through private sector giants in **Silicon Valley**.

- **Key Challenges:** Absence of federal AI regulations; reliance on private sector initiatives.
  - **Recent Developments:** President Biden announced in 2024 that AI regulation would be a priority. Initial guidelines focus on **AI safety and transparency**.
  - **Focus Areas:** Balancing innovation with ethical considerations, addressing bias in AI, and mitigating job displacement.
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#### 4. China

China is a global AI powerhouse but faces criticism for using AI for mass surveillance.

- **Key Actions:**
    - Implemented **AI regulation (August 15, 2023)**, emphasizing ethical use and oversight.
    - Uses AI for **mass surveillance**, particularly targeting minorities like the Uyghurs, raising concerns about human rights abuses.
  - **Focus Areas:** Innovation-driven growth and maintaining state control over AI technologies.
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#### 5. Canada

Canada has positioned itself as a leader in ethical AI development.

- **Key Action:** Introduced the **Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA)** as part of Bill C-27 in 2022.
  - **Focus Areas:** Responsible AI governance, transparency, and protecting citizens' rights.
  - **Future Plans:** Collaborate with global AI leaders on ethical AI principles.
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#### 6. Japan

Japan emphasizes AI for economic growth while addressing ethical concerns.

- **Key Actions:** The government released AI guidelines emphasizing **transparency and accountability** in AI systems.
- **Focus Areas:** Promote AI in healthcare, robotics, and disaster management while addressing bias and privacy issues.

- **Global Role:** Active participant in international AI ethics discussions, such as through the G7 and OECD.
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## 7. India

India is emerging as a key AI player, particularly in the **Global South**.

- **Key Actions:** Launched the **National Strategy for AI (2018)**, focusing on inclusive development.
  - **Focus Areas:** Leverage AI for social good in agriculture, healthcare, and education while addressing challenges like algorithmic bias and job displacement.
  - **Global Role:** Advocates for equitable access to AI technologies for developing nations.
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## 8. South Korea

South Korea combines rapid AI development with ethical considerations.

- **Key Actions:** Developed the **National AI Strategy (2016)** with a focus on building trust in AI systems.
  - **Focus Areas:** Ethical AI for public services, including education, healthcare, and smart cities.
  - **Global Role:** Collaborates with global AI leaders like the EU and USA.
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## 9. Brazil

As a leading country in Latin America, Brazil emphasizes AI for sustainable development.

- **Key Actions:** Published its **AI Strategy (2021)** to guide ethical and responsible AI adoption.
  - **Focus Areas:** Promote AI in public services and address bias in AI systems, particularly for marginalized communities.
  - **Challenges:** Balancing innovation with regulation amidst limited resources.
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## 10. Russia

Russia sees AI as a strategic tool for economic and military advantage.

- **Key Actions:** Launched the **National Strategy for AI Development (201G)**, focusing on AI for defense and industry.
  - **Concerns:** Lack of transparency and use of AI in surveillance and warfare, raising global concerns.
  - **Global Role:** Limited participation in ethical AI dialogues.
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## 11. Australia

Australia promotes AI innovation while addressing ethical concerns.

- **Key Actions:** Published the **AI Ethics Framework (201G)** focusing on fairness, transparency, and accountability.
  - **Focus Areas:** Use AI to enhance public services and address societal challenges like healthcare and climate change.
  - **Future Plans:** Strengthen partnerships with the U.S. and EU on ethical AI governance.
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## 12. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in AI as part of its **Vision 2030** plan.

- **Key Actions:** Established the **National Strategy for Data and AI (NSDAI)** in 2020.
  - **Focus Areas:** Leverage AI for economic diversification while ensuring ethical considerations.
  - **Challenges:** Balancing rapid AI adoption with international concerns about human rights.
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## 13. Turkey

Turkey is positioning itself as a significant AI player in the Middle East and Europe.

- **Key Actions:** Released its **National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2021-2025)** in partnership with the Presidency of Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Industry and Technology.

- **Focus Areas:**
    - Encourage local AI innovation and economic growth.
    - Address ethical concerns, particularly around privacy and data security.
  - **Challenges:**
    - Balancing rapid AI adoption with limited regulatory frameworks.
    - Managing concerns about the potential misuse of AI for surveillance or restricting freedoms.
  - **Global Role:** Turkey is actively participating in AI discussions with NATO and OECD and seeks to establish itself as a regional leader in ethical AI governance.
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### Updated Bloc Position Summary

The AI governance sphere is divided by priorities:

- **Ethics-Driven Regulation (EU, UK, Canada, Japan):** Emphasize AI governance to protect human rights, ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability.
- **Innovation First (USA, South Korea, Saudi Arabia):** Focus on promoting AI for economic growth, with ethical considerations following behind.
- **State-Controlled AI (China, Russia):** Use AI for economic and military dominance, often at the cost of privacy and other human rights.
- **Development-Oriented AI (India, Brazil, Turkey):** Leverage AI for societal improvements while building regulatory frameworks to manage challenges like inequality and algorithmic bias.

While alliances are still forming, the bloc dynamics will likely shape global AI governance over the next decade.

## **Key Terms:**

- 1) **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**  
Field in computer science that refers to machines being able to perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence.
- 2) **Privacy**  
A fundamental human right that is often violated through AI, where personal information may be accessed without consent.
- 3) **Surveillance**  
Tracking and monitoring of individuals that can affect their right to privacy and freedom of expression.
- 4) **Data Protection**  
Measures to ensure that personal data is not misused or accessed without permission by third parties.
- 5) **Automation**  
Performing tasks and processes without human intervention.
- 6) **Bias and Fairness**  
Some AI algorithms may unintentionally discriminate against certain individuals, leading to fairness concerns.
- 7) **Ethical AI**  
AI that is designed and implemented according to ethical principles, ensuring it benefits society without harm.
- 8) **Digital Rights**  
Human rights that apply in the digital sphere, ensuring freedom, privacy, and protection from exploitation in online environments.
- 9) **Hazard**  
A potential source of harm or adverse health effect on someone or something.
- 10) **Risk**  
The likelihood or probability of a hazard causing harm or damage.
- 11) **Occupational Safety**  
The discipline that focuses on preventing workplace accidents and protecting the health and safety of employees.
- 12) **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**  
Equipment worn by workers to protect themselves from workplace hazards, such as gloves, helmets, and safety glasses.
- 13) **Blockchain**  
A decentralized digital ledger technology used for secure and transparent transactions, often linked to digital systems like e-challans.
- 14) **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)**  
A technology used for reading vehicle number plates automatically, commonly used in traffic enforcement systems.
- 15) **Distributed Databases**  
A database that is distributed across multiple physical locations, often connected over a network, to improve performance and reliability.

16) **Cloud Computing**

The delivery of computing services like storage, processing power, and databases over the internet, rather than from a local server.

17) **Greenhouse Automation**

Systems designed to regulate environmental factors like temperature, humidity, and light inside a greenhouse for optimal plant growth.

18) **Microcontroller**

A small computer used in embedded systems to process data from sensors and control outputs like motors or lights.

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