

HUMAN VS AI SCIENTIST

Vishwas B Chavan

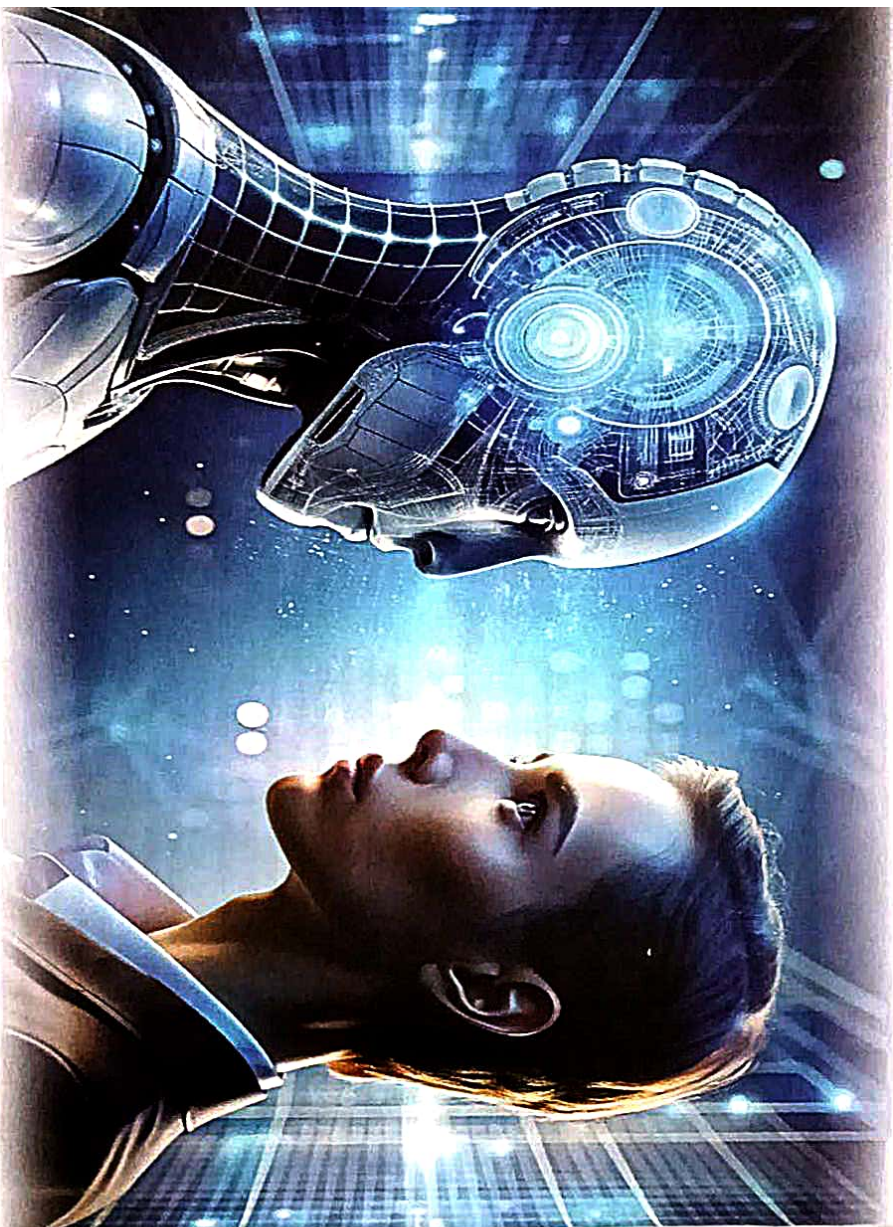


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HUMAN intelligence is a supreme gift given to mankind by nature. Thanks to this gift! Humans have been able to outsmart every other animal on the Earth and become the planet's most dominant species despite being weaker than many animals. Humans don't have huge bodies like elephants, sharp claws like tigers, pointed fangs like snakes, etc. Instead, they have the power of intelligence, which can overcome their shortcomings. Lacking a big body like an elephant? No problem. Humans can build trucks or ships many times larger than the elephant. Don't have sharp claws like a tiger? But humans can make knives and swords sharper than a tiger's claws. This intelligence has made humans the most powerful species, placing them at the apex of the food chain.

However, human intelligence has recently gained a formidable competitor. No, not from a more advanced alien civilisation, but his own creation — "Artificial Intelligence", often called AI.

The fear that machines may take over Earth is not new. But till now, it has not happened despite advances in automation and technology. Instead, humans have made their lives comfortable with the help of these technologies. Until now, no machine has won Padmashri, Bharat Ratna, Film Fare Award, Booker Prize or the most prestigious "Nobel Prize"¹

However, the day doesn't seem far when we will hear that artificial intelligence won the Nobel Prize! In a recent article in the prestigious journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, titled "The automated lab of tomorrow", author David Adam mentioned that in the next 30 years, autonomous laboratories could yield discoveries worthy of winning a Nobel Prize — with little or no help from people.

We might think that this is impossible. But the beginning of this has already started. A survey by the well-known journal *Nature* found that scientists are concerned but also excited by the increasing use of artificial intelligence tools in research. However, there is a difference between using AI as a tool and having AI as a scientist.

Scientists painstakingly perform experiments, create hypotheses, test them, and make conclusions to advance our knowledge about every aspect of the world. Most scientists spend years and years making discoveries and innovations. Sometimes, it takes 20-30 years just to add a line of new knowledge to science books. Some scientists spend their entire lives sitting in front of and observing a beehive or a mound of ants. Even if scientists make an important discovery, it takes many decades to get an appreciation for that breakthrough. A famous example is Francis Peyton Rous, who discovered the Rous Sarcoma Virus in 1911, but he received the Nobel Prize in 1966, a whopping 55 years later! There are numerous examples available in history that scientists have made important discoveries but never received Nobel Prizes.

Most scientists research to satisfy their curiosities. However, when the research becomes a corporate activity, the aim is monetary profit. Due to this aim, AI scientist is slowly