



# The Future of Metaverse and AI

**For Prelims:** Chatbot and Types, Artificial Intelligence, Metaverse, Social Media.

**For Mains:** Outlook of Meta and artificial Intelligence 2023.

## Why in News?

The year 2022 was not the best for tech firms, yet we may innovative technologies emerge in future related to [Metaverse](#) and [AI \(Artificial Intelligence\)](#), which may raise concerns and present Opportunities.

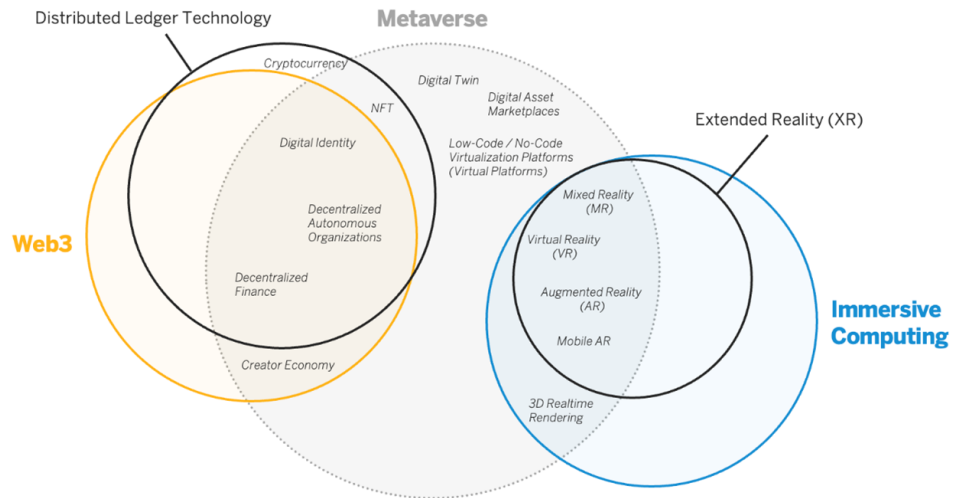
- The year 2022 saw **a lot of the shift in demand during and post the Covid-induced lockdowns.**
- The year 2022 ended with near **mayhem across most Silicon Valley companies**, especially those in the Internet business.

## What will be the Future Challenges and Opportunities of Meta-AI?

- **More Pervasive AI:**
  - [ChatGPT](#) has shown the world that **conversational artificial intelligence is an idea whose time has come.**
  - The ChatGPT can answer “follow-up questions”, and can also “admit its mistakes, challenge incorrect premises, and reject inappropriate requests.” but most such AI elements are now in standalone products, which is more play than work.
  - In 2023, this intelligence will be seen coming into **more products that we use every day** —for instance Gmail that will not just auto-suggest but also write next mail to the boss.
- **Beyond Social Media:**
  - Twitter and **Facebook are struggling to remain relevant amid** an increasingly younger and digital native audience. Their concepts of social engagement are very **different, often sans text and notice-board behaviors.**
  - Meta, for instance, knows that it will have to **think beyond its present social media platforms** and wants to be the social link when users move to the Metaverse, if at all.
  - But that might not be something that will shift soon. Till then, there seems to be a vacuum emerging in the social media space, **for now plugged by users sticking to short videos.** But that fad too shall pass and not all platforms are good in that segment.
- **More Regional, Darker Social Bubbles:**
  - As the Internet spreads to new users, especially in countries like India, it is also becoming more localized and multilingual.
  - Across the world, the English language internet seems to have plateaued, making platforms like **Google focus more on opportunities to serve smaller, regional languages.**
  - This is a tech challenge in more ways than one, but also **presents an opportunity to test out new technologies that can convert the content of the internet for these**

new users without much human intervention.

▪ **Future of Metaverse:** //



- As hybrid workforces become the norm and with travel still not as easy as earlier, **extended reality (XR)** could become the answer to collaborate and communicate virtually.
  - XR is an emerging umbrella term **for all the immersive technologies, including augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and mixed reality (MR)** plus those that are still to be created.
  - All immersive technologies extend the reality we experience by either blending the virtual and “real” worlds or by creating a fully immersive experience.
- Since the headsets and other paraphernalia to facilitate these virtual interactions are still very expensive, it **might be up to companies to make these available to their employees for regular XR meetings**. The first experience of this could end up looking like an upgraded version of video conferencing, but with the ability to interact with objects in the virtual space.
- A few more commercial versions of the Metaverse is expected to be accessible to regular users during the year. However, the **challenge will be with the hardware that lets people access these virtual worlds without making people bankrupt in the real world**. The big disruptor could be an affordable device that logs users into the Metaverse easily — maybe it will just be a smartphone.

## What are the Ethical Concerns related to AI?

- The legal and ethical issues **that confront society due to AI include privacy and surveillance**, bias or discrimination, and potentially the philosophical challenge is the role of human judgment. Concerns about newer digital technologies becoming a new source of inaccuracy and data breaches have arisen as a result of its use.
- The other side of this technological revolution is a growing apprehension on the **socio-political and economic implications of AI**, specifically, the concerns about co-existence of these emerging technologies and core principles of modern democracies.
- Consequently, **AI ethics and the safe and responsible application of AI** are becoming front and centre of the technology revolution.
- **Constitutional morality was envisioned as the cornerstone for AI ethics’ principles** in India, thus, propelling our constitutional rights and ethos to the paramount consideration for deploying AI in a responsible manner.

## What are the Principles of a Responsible AI?

- **Safety and Reliability:** AI systems must ensure **reliability regarding their intended functions** and must have **built-in safeguards** to ensure the **safety of stakeholders**.
- **Equality:** AI systems must be built keeping in mind that **similar people in similar circumstances are treated equally**.

- **Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination:** AI systems must be developed to be inclusive of all stakeholders, and must not discriminate through bias between stakeholders on **religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth or residence in matters of education, employment, access to public spaces etc.**
- **Privacy and Security:** AI systems must ensure that the **personal data of data subjects must be safe** and secure, such that **only authorised persons must access personal data** for specified and necessary purposes, within a framework of sufficient safeguards to ensure this process.
- **Principle of Transparency:** The design and training of AI systems is key for its functioning. The **system must be audited and be capable of external scrutiny** to ensure that the **deployment of the AI system is impartial**, accountable and free from bias or inaccuracies.
- **Principle of Accountability:** Since there are various actors in the process of developing, deploying and operationalizing an AI system, the **accountability structures for any effects, harms or damages** by the AI system **must be clearly set out in a publicly accessible and understandable manner.**
- **Protection and Reinforcement of Positive Human Values:** This principle focuses on the **possible deleterious effects of AI systems** through collection of personal data for profiling, the **use of AI systems in manners contrary to fundamental rights** guaranteed by the Constitution of India.



## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. With the present state of development, Artificial Intelligence can effectively do which of the following? (2020)**

1. Bring down electricity consumption in industrial units
2. Create meaningful short stories and songs
3. Disease diagnosis
4. Text-to-Speech Conversion
5. Wireless transmission of electrical energy

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only  
 (b) 1, 3 and 4 only  
 (c) 2, 4 and 5 only  
 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans: (b)**

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