Automated weaponisation

Why in news?

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United Nations (UN) group of expert hosts first formal inter-governmental discussion on AI armed conflicts.

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What are AI weapons?

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- Artificial intelligence (AI, also machine intelligence, MI) is Intelligence displayed by machines, in contrast with the natural intelligence (NI) displayed by humans and other animals.
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- The term "artificial intelligence" is applied when a machine mimics "cognitive" functions that humans associate with other human minds, such as "learning" and "problem solving".
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- Autonomous weapons select and engage targets without human intervention.
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- They might include, for example, armed quadcopters that can search for and eliminate people meeting certain pre-defined criteria.
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What are the concerns with future weapons?

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- Throughout history, the capacity to wield new technologies has changed how wars are fought, and the strategic balance between attack and defence maintained.
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- The norms around what is considered acceptable in warfare have also

evolved in response to new technologies.
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- Since the 19th century, those norms have been codified in international humanitarian law, which is more or less universally accepted as regulating armed conflict among civilised nations.
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- Recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are throwing up a new challenge to these norms.
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- Many technology leaders are worried about autonomous systems taking life-and-death decisions without “meaningful human supervision or control”.
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How this concerns are to be addressed?

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- Tech billionaires around the world recently signed a letter warning that the weaponisation of AI-based technologies risks opening lethal problems.
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- The letter called on the UN to find a way to protect human society from all the dangers of automated weaponisation.
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- In many areas of technological complexity, alternative governance models have emerged, such as the ‘multi-stakeholder’ approach to Internet governance.
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Source: The Hindu

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