

Artificial Intelligence Big Threat to Labour: Expert

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Researcher admits risk but feels machines turning evil unrealistic

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San Jose: The debate on artificially intelligent machines turning evil on human beings is an "unnecessary distraction" from the real and more imminent threat this innovation poses to labour, leading artificial intelligence researcher Andrew Ng has said.

"I don't see a realistic path for AI (artificial intelligence) to become sentient and turn evil," Ng, the chief scientist at Baidu Research told ET on the sidelines of the GPU Technology Conference in San Jose. "We are building more intelligent software but there is a big difference between intelligence and sentience," Ng said in an interview.

Scientists including Stephen Hawking and industry leaders like Bill Gates have recently expressed concerns over AI turning more and more powerful. "We need to be super careful with AI. (It is) potentially more dangerous than nukes," Elon Musk, the co-



AFP

founder of Tesla Automotive, which is also trying to build autonomous cars, had tweeted in August last year:

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates said in January: "First the machines will do a lot of jobs for us and not be super intelligent. That should be positive if we manage it well. A few decades after that, though, the intelligence is strong enough to be a concern."

Ng said that the conversation around AI should focus more on

the threat to labour than the threat of machines turning evil.

"The challenge to labour is a serious one that needs serious conversation. The talk about evil super intelligence needs to stop. It is an unnecessary distraction,"

said Ng, who founded the Google Brain project, which taught machines how to think like humans in 2011 using what is known as deep learning. Deep learning is an area of machine learning research that works towards AI by making representations and models from large amounts of real-world data in machine-readable formats. At Baidu, Ng is now focused on applying deep learning to image recognition, speech and behaviour. In December, Ng and his colleagues at Baidu published results of an experiment that beat rivals such as Google, FB and Microsoft at recognising human speech in noisy environments. Advances in deep learning powered by better computing could help people who are blind or provide better care for elders, he said.

AI Can Just Disrupt Labour Mkt



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5