

‘Manav’ webinar on ‘how to use algorithms to make sense of data’

New Delhi, Dec 23: Big data and machine learning (ML) are buzz words nowadays, especially in research fields that heavily depend on vast amounts of data. These data are of value only when they are analysed and processed into meaningful interpretations. Given the humongous amounts of data that modern technology can churn out at high speeds, ML algorithms are rapidly gaining popularity for big data analysis in diverse fields.



To create awareness about how machine learning algorithms can be used to make sense of data, a webinar on the topic, ‘Designing algorithms to learn from data’ was recently organized by the ‘Manav: Human Atlas Initiative’. This session was presented by Dr. Leelavati Narlikar, Scientist at the CSIR-NCL in Pune.

She began with an introduction to ML algorithms and then moved on to discuss how simple probabilities and high-school mathematics can be used to create powerful ML algorithms, which could be applied to address different real-life problems.

This webinar concluded the data science webinar series organized under the auspices of the “Manav: Human Atlas Initiative”, for this year. This webinar series was initiated soon after the lockdown began, turning this challenging situation into an opportunity to create awareness about data science and its applications. This webinar series was open to all, and has been hugely successful, having attracted thousands of registrations, mainly from students. Given its popularity, the webinars have been made available on the project’s YouTube channel, ‘Manav - The Human Atlas Initiative’, to anyone interested in listening to these talks.

The “Manav: Human Atlas Initiative” is a collaborative project between the National Centre for Cell Science (DBT-NCCS), the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER-Pune) and Persistent Systems. Funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT),

Government of India, and co-funded by Persistent Systems, this initiative is an example of public-private partnership.

This initiative aims to annotate the extensive information related to the human body that is available in the scientific literature and databases, and initiate steps towards creating a human atlas eventually. The project aims to help students across India to learn how to comprehend and analyze scientific literature, and extract relevant information from it using a digital annotation tool. Online workshops on how to read scientific literature are also routinely conducted. Colleges interested in having a session organized for their students can write to manav.iiserpune@gmail.com. Students, faculty members and researchers interested in participating in the project can learn more from the project's website (<https://manav.gov.in/>) and social media: Twitter (Manav Human Atlas; @ManavAtlas) & Facebook (MANAV Human Atlas). The Rajya Sabha TV has also featured this initiative on Gyan Vigyan & Science Monitor.

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