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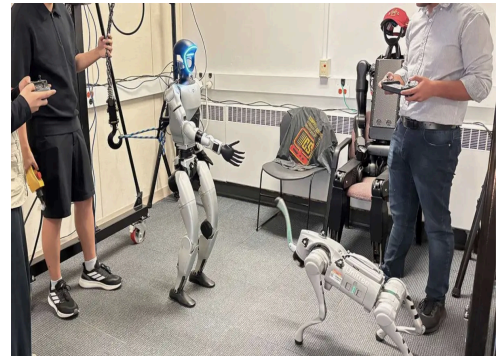
Daily News on Innovation & Technology

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From lab to life: How US engineers teach humanoid robots balance and precision

By Prabhat Ranjan Mishra, November 05, 2025

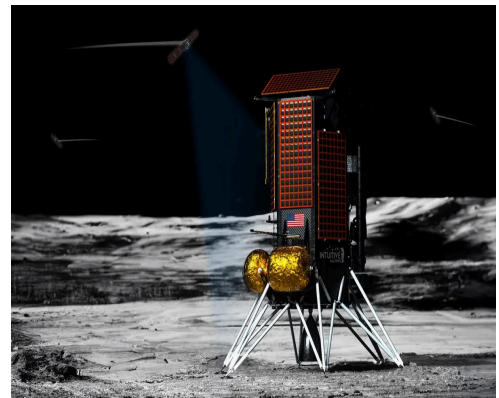
Engineers in the United States are making serious efforts to ensure that humanoid robots master self-balancing and offer precision in conducting multiple types of tasks. Researchers from Iowa State University are testing new methods to advance the physical intelligence and capabilities of humanoid robots.



US firm's nuclear power push to overcome solar limits for deep space missions, nears test

By Chris Young, November 05, 2025

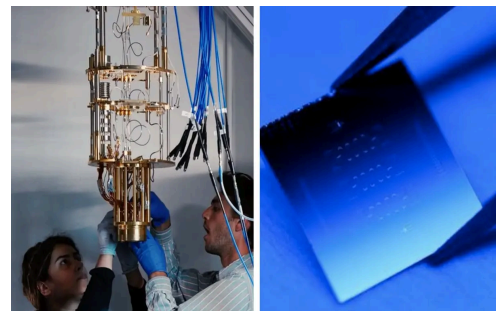
US-based private space company Intuitive Machines has announced an \$8.2 million contract extension from the US Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate (AFRL/RV) to develop next-generation nuclear power stations for space. The new funding will be used to accelerate the development of compact nuclear power conversion technology. These will eventually be used for lunar infrastructure and for spacecraft.



US scientists build superconducting qubit that lasts 15x longer than industry-standard

By Prabhat Ranjan Mishra, November 05, 2025

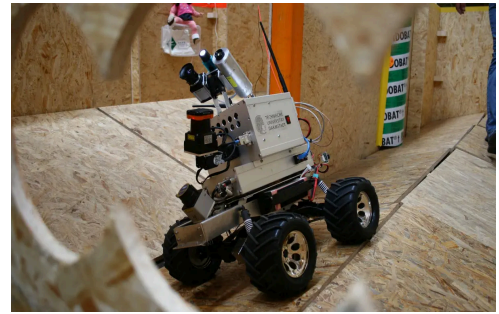
Researchers from the United States have confirmed that their new qubit lasts for over 1 millisecond — three times longer than the best ever reported in a lab setting. It's also nearly fifteen times longer than industry-standard processors.



[New AI mapping system builds 3D maps in seconds for robot rescue missions](#)

By Aamir Kholam, November 05, 2025

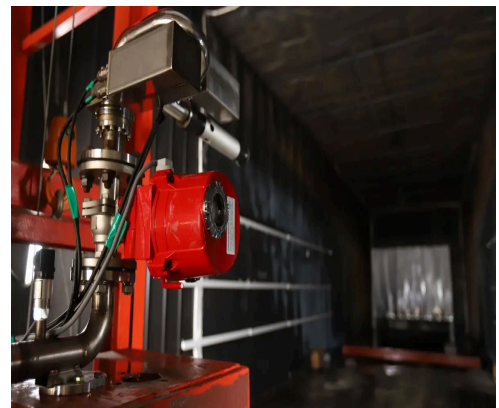
MIT researchers have built a new AI system that allows robots to create detailed 3D maps of complex environments within seconds. The technology could transform how search-and-rescue robots navigate collapsed mines or disaster sites, where speed and accuracy can make the difference between life and death.



[World's first AI firefighting system extinguishes oil fires on moving naval ships](#)

By Aamir Kholam , November 06, 2025

The Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials (KIMM) has developed a next-generation autonomous fire suppression system that can detect and extinguish oil fires aboard naval vessels even under rough sea conditions. The AI-driven system independently verifies the authenticity of a fire, activates only when one is confirmed, and directs its suppression precisely at the source, much like a human firefighter.



[Building India's semiconductor equipment ecosystem](#)

By Vipin Sondhi&Thulasi Raman KH , November 05, 2025

A three-stage roadmap to achieve self sufficiency in this critical sector within 15 years. India's semiconductor ambition has gained momentum; from foundry announcements to packaging facilities and design-linked incentives. Yet, the strategic backbone of any chip ecosystem remains underdeveloped; which is equipment manufacturing.



[HKPC's Cyber Security Summit Hong Kong 2025 Ushers in "AI-Human Collaboration" Shaping the Future of Digital Security - Building Resilience with AI](#)

By PR Wires , November 06, 2025

HONG KONG, Nov. 6, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- Jointly organised by the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and 13 leading regional information security organisations, the "Cyber Security Summit Hong Kong 2025" (the Summit) is held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre between 6 and 7 November. As the annual flagship event for Hong Kong's cybersecurity industry, this year marks its 22nd anniversary, themed "Future-Proofing Digital Infrastructure: Harnessing AI for Enhanced Security and Resilience".



[Unitree, Tesla take diverging routes in next phase of humanoid robotics](#)

By Chloe Liao, Taipei; Levi Li, November 07, 2025

China's Unitree Robotics has launched the H2 humanoid robot, a 50% heavier successor to its H1 model. The design move stands in contrast to Tesla's lightweight Optimus and highlights the diverging engineering.



News Articles

In a recent order, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) did more than settle a dispute between WhatsApp and the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The court drew a line between law and data privacy in the fast-growing digital economy, and revealed how to deal with platform power in the age of surveillance capitalism. While the tribunal upheld the over ₹200 crore penalty on Meta Platforms, the parent of WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram, it lifted the CCI's five-year ban on data sharing between WhatsApp and other Meta entities.

The decision gives Meta a reprieve, and breathing space, even as it does not lower the warning flag. For Meta, the order restores flexibility in its most valuable market. WhatsApp accounts for 535.8 million monthly active users in India, its largest global base. Across Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, it reaches more than 850 million Indians. Meta's India unit recorded ₹22,730 crore in advertising revenues in 2023-24, a 24 per cent year-on-year growth. Net profit rose 43 per cent to ₹505 crore. At the global level, Meta reported \$164.5 billion in revenue in 2024, up 22 per cent.

By allowing data sharing, NCLAT reopened the pipes that connect WhatsApp's chat universe with Meta's wider advertising and business platforms. This restores the monetisation model via business messaging, integrated storefronts, and targeted ad delivery. "We welcome the NCLAT's decision. While we await the written order, we continue to reiterate that WhatsApp's 2021 privacy-policy update did not change the privacy of people's personal messages, which remain end-to-end encrypted," a Meta spokesperson said. The tribunal accepted that while CCI can scrutinise data-sharing practices due to a dominant position, a blanket ban is excessive.

Experts read the order as a legal signal that India wants to regulate Big Tech with firmness, and not fear. The upcoming Digital Competition Bill 2025 is expected to introduce ex-ante obligations for large digital platforms, which are akin to the clauses in European Union's Digital Markets Act (DMA). But the former has more flexibility. NCLAT's order aligns with the idea that India can curb exploitative conduct without stifling innovation or investments. The fact remains that global regulators are redefining what constitutes dominance in the digital era, and most roads lead to data.

The DMA came into effect in May 2023 and designated six companies that include Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, ByteDance, Meta, and Microsoft as "gatekeepers." The law limits how these firms use personal data

Regulating power over data



across services, prohibits self-preferencing, and mandates user consent for targeted advertising. It requires interoperability between the messaging platforms to prevent user lock-in. The objective is to give users and smaller businesses more control over how data is used, and to make markets more contestable. In the US, regulators are more aggressive.

The US Department of Justice has filed antitrust cases against Google for its dominance in search and advertising technologies, and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) continues to monitor Meta's acquisitions and data practices. The approach is focused on structural remedies such as divestitures or business separations, rather than a single rulebook (EU). For consumers, this may eventually mean more transparency, and reduced switching costs, though the progress remains slow and politically contested.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission completed a five-year inquiry into digital platforms, and proposed a regime of mandatory codes of conduct, and interoperability mandates. This framework borrows from the EU model, but is tailored to

and purpose limitation. Over time, users are expected to gain clarity and control, including the right to access, correct, and erase data. For now, however, much depends on Meta's transparency, and the government's enforcement consistency. India's competition and data protection frameworks are still works-in-progress. CCI's interventions against WhatsApp signals a willingness to treat data concentration as an antitrust issue. NCLAT has refined that stance, confirming that competition authorities can act when data policies limit user choice or coerce consent.

The recent order possibly reflects the country's broader legal philosophy, which is to regulate through accountability, rather than restriction. While the EU sets upfront rules, India prefers a case-by-case approach that allows room for correction without shutting down innovation. This has attracted attention from regulators in other nations such as Indonesia, Brazil, and Nigeria, who are watching India's experiment on how to balance growth and governance.

Yet, this legal back-and-forth is not complete, and is an evolving issue. The CCI may review NCLAT's order, and approach the Supreme Court to challenge it. A verdict by the apex court will set a binding precedent on whether data can be treated as a determinant of market dominance under the Competition Act. Such a decision, along with future ones, will shape digital regulation. For Meta, the immediate task is twofold: leverage its freedom while rebuilding user confidence. The company's attempts to position WhatsApp as a one-stop solution for payments, commerce, and services depend on the trust. If users perceive otherwise, it can become a vulnerability.

Hence, the NCLAT order is less of a triumph, and more of a checkpoint in the evolution of data governance. India's regulators are maturing, learning from global precedents, and adapting to local realities. For consumers, it implies a future of more interconnected yet closely watched digital ecosystems. The underlying tensions will persist. Integration offers convenience but concentrates power. Regulation promises fairness but risks friction. A balance between the two will decide how India governs its data economy. India looks at Europe for intent, and America for ambition. But it acts with local instincts, and a desire to adapt to local needs.

The Pioneer
SINCE 1969

as WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook talk to each other. This may lead to better shopping, faster business responses, and more contextual recommendations. Small businesses may benefit from the synergies. Yet, the users have little visibility into how their metadata is used to refine algorithms. The removal of the data-sharing ban means greater operational freedom for Meta, as well as higher dependence on users' trust.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 provides a legal foundation for consent

Source: Pioneer English Delhi Newspaper, 07-11-2025
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Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1869cZMWu15o3ITeIWrxXuKjODUaXFV2R/view>



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