

## **ATHARVA ROBOTICS CENTER**

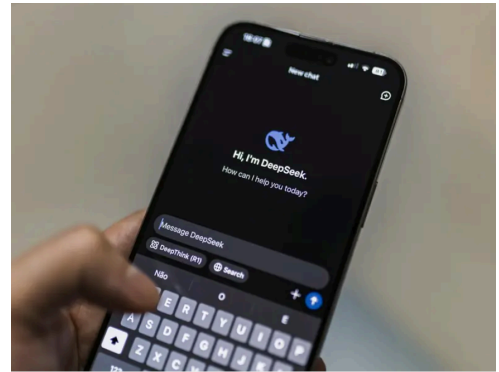
### **Daily News on Innovation & Technology**

1<sup>st</sup> December, 2025

#### **China's DeepSeek sets new benchmark with AI model scoring top marks in maths**

By Bojan Stojkovski, November 30, 2025

The International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), held annually since 1959, is widely regarded as the world's most prestigious maths competition, testing participants with problems that demand deep insight, creativity, and rigorous reasoning, according to Harvard AI researcher Huang Yichen and UCLA computer science professor Yang Lin.



#### **Google Pulls Antitrust Complaint Against Microsoft as EU Intensifies Cloud Scrutiny**

By Harikrishnan A, November 30, 2025

Google has stepped back from its formal antitrust complaint against Microsoft in the European Union, choosing instead to rely on a broader investigation now underway into the behaviour of the biggest cloud service providers.



#### **Chinese team creates 'unshakable' quantum block that resists errors from the start**

By Rupendra Brahabhatt, November 29, 2025

Quantum computers promise to tackle problems that are unsolvable for today's machines, but their basic units (qubits) are incredibly fragile. Even a tiny disturbance can wipe out the entire delicate quantum information they hold.



### [Retrofitting legacy machines: India's strategic advantage in race to smart manufacturing](#)

By Ankit Srivastava, November 29, 2025

The real challenge for Indian manufacturing is not about building new futuristic plants. It is about bringing intelligence to the factories that already exist. That shift is happening, and it is happening fast.



### [Researchers create programmable plastic that can self-destruct when triggered](#)

By Christopher McFadden, November 29, 2025

Researchers from Rutgers University have figured out a way to make plastics that can be programmed to self-destruct. What's more, this innovation has been achieved without the use of new chemicals but through the use of polymer molecules folded in space.



### [World's largest compressed air energy storage plant in China gets turbine unit](#)

By Prabhat Ranjan Mishra , November 28, 2025

A compressed air energy storage plant in China has completed the hoisting of its turbine unit. With this, the operations of Huaneng Jintan Salt Cavern Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES) Phase II project are expected to get a boost.



### [Teenagers who saw Portugal's forests burn built a spider robot to restore them](#)

By Kaif Shaikh, November 28, 2025

A pair of 19-year-old innovators from Portugal has developed a new all-terrain reforestation robot designed to plant trees in wildfire-damaged areas that are too steep or dangerous for people or heavy machinery.



### [Chinese model with high success rate helps humanoid robots adapt to tasks without training](#)

By Christopher McFadden, November 29, 2025

Researchers from Wuhan University have developed a new framework that could help robots manipulate objects more easily. Introduced in a new paper on arXiv, this approach should enable humanoid robots to grasp and handle a greater variety of objects than is currently possible.



## News Articles

From discovering next AI breakthroughs to street vendors using robotic dosa makers, here's what's happening on the AI front... By Sugandha Mukherjee

### Hunt for next AI breakouts

Google has partnered with venture capital firm Accel to identify and support India's next generation of AI-first startups. The collaboration aims to provide early-stage founders with access to Google's technical mentorship, cloud credits, and go-to-market guidance, while Accel brings investment expertise and a strong track record in nurturing unicorns. By jointly backing promising teams at seed and pre-seed levels, Google and Accel hope to accelerate breakthroughs in areas such as generative AI, developer tools, and AI-driven productivity solutions.

### AI misuse with

#### Nano Banana

A Bengaluru techie sparked a debate on AI misuse after demonstrating how image-editing tool Nano Banana could generate realistic fake Aadhaar and PAN cards within minutes and extraordinary accuracy. "Traditional image-based verification systems don't stand a chance," Harveen Singh Chadha wrote on X. Intended as a cautionary experiment, his post has amplified concerns over the misuse of generative AI tools to forge documents, raising questions about the preparedness of digital identity

verification systems and regulations.

### Oakley AI smart glasses with Hindi

Meta is launching its Oakley AI smart glasses in India, expanding the wearable's global footprint with the addition of Hindi language support. The glasses integrate Meta's multimodal AI, enabling users to ask questions, recognise objects, translate text, and capture media hands-free. The Hindi integration is designed for India's massive multilingual user base and positions the device as more accessible for non-English speakers. With a design built for everyday use and creators, Meta hopes Oakley will drive adoption of AI-assisted wearables in India. The release also reflects the company's broader ambition to shape the future of personal AI computing.

### Fooling e-comm

A viral social media post highlighted a case where a customer allegedly used an AI-generated image of cracked eggs to claim a refund from Instamart. The image, created using generative AI tools, reportedly mimicked real product damage convincingly enough to fool the platform's support team. The incident amplified concerns over



fraud risks posed by accessible AI image generators, especially in online retail and delivery ecosystems. While the story sparked humour online, it also raised questions about the need for enhanced fraud detection systems.

### Music recap with AI chat

YouTube Music has rolled out its 2025 Recap, featuring an AI-powered chat interface that breaks down users' listening habits in a conversational, personalised way. Instead of static charts alone, listeners can now ask AI about their top genres, hid-

den listening patterns, mood preferences, and year-long trends. The feature turns music analytics into an interactive experience, appealing to younger audiences accustomed to chat-based interfaces. The 2025 Recap also introduces new shareable visuals and artist interactions. YouTube says the upgrade reflects its push to integrate generative AI across consumer features while offering deeper engagement and storytelling around user data.



### Robotic dosas

A street food vendor in Bihar has gone viral for using an 'AI-powered' robotic dosa-making machine that automates the process from batter spreading to flipping. The set-up, showcased in videos online, demonstrates how small businesses are experimenting with technology to attract customers. Though not all viewers are convinced about the level of AI involved, the innovation has sparked curiosity about the future of automated street food. The vendor says the machine helps serve more customers during rush hours while ensuring uniform quality.

### Creator-first marketplace

Xley, an emerging AI platform, is developing a creator-focused marketplace that allows fans to interact with AI versions of their favourite personalities, from AP Dhillon to Diljit Dosanjh. The startup works with creators to train personalised AI models that can answer questions, send customised messages, or generate content at scale. By giving artists control over their digital likeness, Xley aims to monetise fan engagement while preventing unauthorised deepfakes. The model taps into India's booming creator economy, where audiences increasingly seek personalised experiences. Xley hopes its marketplace will become a new revenue stream and a shield against AI misuse.

### Hangout for billionaires

AI-generated images portraying the world's tech billionaires, such as Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates, casually hanging out as the 'Trillion Dollar Club' have gone viral online. The stylised pictures show the moguls laughing, barbecuing, or posing like old friends, triggering a wave of memes and commentary. While humorous, the images also demonstrate how generative AI is reshaping internet culture by enabling hyper-realistic fiction. Many users noted how convincingly the scenes blur reality and imagination, reigniting debates about deepfake ethics.

Source: Financial Express Newspaper, 30-11-2025

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Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N5Ex8CadXUCsD-A77noxKNKf8Bn1vLuq/view>

# What is agentic AI, and would you book a flight?

Companies are racing to develop AI tools to make reservations for flights, hotels on your behalf

GABE CASTRO-ROOT

**ABOT MAY SOON** be booking your vacation. Millions of travellers already use artificial intelligence to compare options for flights, hotels, rental cars and more. About 30% of US travellers say they're comfortable using AI to plan a trip. But these tools are about to take a big step. Agentic AI, a rapidly emerging type of artificial intelligence, will be able to find and pay for reservations with limited human involvement, developers say. Companies like Expedia, Google, Kayak

FOR HOTEL  
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and Priceline are experimenting with or rolling out agentic AI tools. Travellers using agentic AI would set parameters like dates and a price range for their travel plans, then hand over their credit card information to the bot, which would monitor prices and book on their behalf.

These tools, still in their early stages of deployment, are set to grow rapidly: 80% of travel executives plan to begin offering agentic AI tools 'at scale' within the next five years, according to a September report by the consulting firm McKinsey & Company and Skift, a travel industry publication.

**How can travellers use agentic AI?**

For now, agentic tools aren't able to book independently. Instead, they offer users a finer level of detail than searches using generative tools. Think of agentic AI as a personal assistant, said Shilpa Ranganathan, the chief product officer at Expedia Group,



which is developing both generative and agentic AI trip-planning tools. While the more familiar generative AI can summarise information and answer questions, agentic tools can carry out tasks.

When comparing hotel options, for example, an agentic tool should be able to pinpoint multiple properties' rates for your requested dates, identify whether they have availability and compile that

information in one place so you can easily compare. A generative tool might simply recommend hotels that broadly fit your budget, and offer links to each website, where you can check the details.

The technology to automate purchases already exists, said Cobus Kok, the vice president for product and AI at the online travel agency Priceline, but consumers may not be ready for it.

Steve Hafner, chief executive of the online booking site Kayak, said his company was "building software that can book, modify and manage travel in real time." He described the process as "a multi-year journey," noting it may take time for consumer habits to adjust accordingly.

Google has also begun a phased rollout of agentic AI tools to find restaurant reservations, event tickets and more.

**How are travellers reacting?**

Cautiously. Just 2% of travellers were ready to give AI autonomy to book or modify plans after receiving human guidance, Skift's State of Travel 2025 report found.

A Booking.com report published in July

found that 12% of respondents were comfortable with AI making independent decisions. At the same time, more than 90% of travellers said they highly trusted travel information generated by AI, Skift found.

Privacy also remains a top concern. The Booking.com survey found that more than half of consumers were worried about how companies use their data, a hurdle that developers will need to overcome if they want to persuade travellers to hand over their credit card numbers.

**Doesn't AI make things up?**

Hallucinations, in which AI chatbots give false information in their answers, are a well-documented problem. "In travel, accuracy is everything," Ranganathan said. "If AI suggests the wrong hotel, flight or visa requirement, it can erode trust instantly."

To mitigate the risk, she said, Expedia's AI draws information from the same data set its classic booking interface uses, and not from the wider internet, as a general-interest chatbot does.

—NYT

Source: Financial Express Newspaper, 30-11-2025  
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