ATHARVA ROBOTICS CENTER

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Gaganyaan's 1st Uncrewed Mission To Launch With Half-Humanoid In December

By NDTV , August 21, 2025

The first uncrewed mission of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission, G1, is ready to launch with the half-humanoid robot -- Vyommitra -- and the launch is expected in December, said V. Narayanan, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Thursday.Speaking at a press briefing in the national capital, he also lauded IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla for his successful mission to the International Space Station -- the first ever by an Indian. Shukla is one of the astronauts selected for the crewed Gaganyaan mission.

Meet Moflin– An AI Robot Pet So Cute That It's Selling Out In Japan!

By Poorva Karki, August 21, 2025

Expect nothing less when it comes to Japan coming up with some of the most adorable things. And since it's Japan, most of these creations are not just cute, but are mostly technologically advanced as well. Recently, combining the two into a 'fluff', the country came up with yet another 'cutie' to offer its people; Moflin! Electronics giant Casio recently introduced an adorable AI robot pet- Moflin- that is so cute that it's selling out fast in Japan, as per Tokyo Weekender. The AI pet looks like a loaf of bread- some might say, due to the absence of limbs- with coloured fur all over, and two tiny eyes. Apart from its looks and being AI, what makes it a perfect companion is its 'over 4 million distinctive personality traits'! Yes, you read that correctly.

Bell Cybersecurity Summit to Convene Canada's Top Cybersecurity Leaders in Toronto

By Bell Canada (MTL) , August 21, 2025

MONTRÉAL, Aug. 21, 2025 /PRNewswire/ - As cyber threats escalate and global instability grows, Bell today announced it will host the inaugural Bell Cybersecurity Summit on September 9, 2025 in Toronto. The half-day event will bring together more than 200 leaders and experts from government, business and technology under the theme Securing the future: sovereign, smart and seamless.The Summit will focus on topics that matter to experts in the field, including sovereign cloud strategies, AI-driven defense, integrated security architectures, and the innovations that will redefine security in the digital age.

Healthcare Cybersecurity: The New Frontier of Investment Resilience

By Eli Grant, August 21, 2025

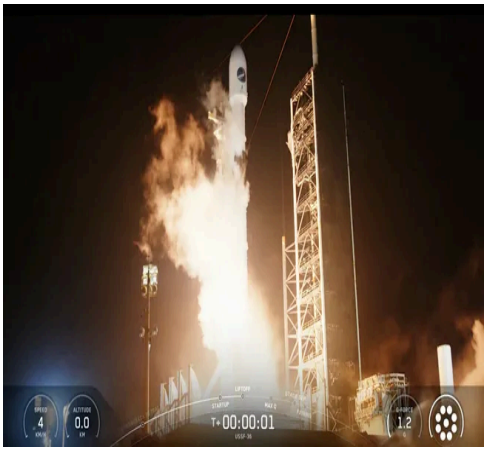
In the spring of 2025, DaVita Inc.DVA, one of the largest dialysis providers in the United States, found itself at the center of a digital crisis. A ransomware attack, attributed to the Interlock group, encrypted critical systems, disrupted internal operations, and exposed over 20 terabytes of sensitive patient data. The financial toll was staggering: $13.5 million in remediation costs, $1.0 million in elevated patient care expenses, and a looming shadow of potential fines for HIPAA violations. By August, two class-action lawsuits had already been filed, and the company faced the unenviable task of rebuilding trust with 1.3 million affected individuals. This is not an isolated incident but a harbinger of a broader crisis in healthcare cybersecurity—one that demands urgent attention from investors.

Gujarat's semi-conductor push gains pace as CG Semi prepares to start production next week

By Parag Dave, August 22, 2025

Ahmedabad: Gujarat's semiconductor ambitionsare moving from plans to production, with multiple projects hitting key milestones. CG Semi Pvt Ltd is set to begin pilot operations at its outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing (OSAT) facility in Sanand GIDC next week, said sources. The company has invested about Rs 7,600 crore in the project and will reportedly launch its qualification line next week, ahead of full-scale production targeted for 2026. Spread over 32 acres, the Sanand facility marks a major step in Gujarat's fast-expanding semiconductor ecosystem.

SpaceX launches Space Force's X-37B space plane on 8th mystery mission



By Mike Wall , August 22, 2025

The robotic X-37B lifted off atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida tonight (Aug. 21) at 11:50 p.m. EDT (0350 GMT on Aug. 22).The Falcon 9's first stage returned to Earth as planned 8.5 minutes later, touching down at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, which is next door to KSC. The rocket's upper stage, meanwhile, continued carrying the X-37B toward low Earth orbit, where the space plane will do a variety of work, some of it quite hush-hush. It's unclear when and exactly where the X-37B will be deployed; SpaceX ended its launch webcast just after rocket landing, at the Space Force's request.

Robolink Launches Drone Coding in Classrooms Directly from a Texas Instruments Graphing Calculator

By Business Wire , August 22, 2025

Robolink, one of Inc. 5000's fastest-growing private companies in 2025, today announced an exciting new collaboration with Texas Instruments (TI) Education Technology to bring future-ready learning to more classrooms across the country. This school year, students will be able to program Robolink's award-winning CoDrone EDU using Python-capable TI-Nspire™ CX II graphing calculators. This work bridges physical computing, flight, and core math and science instruction—with tools students and teachers love.

News Articles

1st non-crew Gaganyaan mission to launch in Dec with robot Vyommitra

AKSHEEV THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan today said the Gaganyaan programme's first uncrewed mission G1 would be launched with humanoid robot Vyommitra in December.

Narayanan said Vyommitra would monitor module parameters, issue alerts and execute life support operations. The Gaganyaan mission is the country's ambitious human spaceflight programme, aimed at sending Indian astronauts to space.

Addressing a press conference here alongside Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who recently returned from the International Space Station after a historic voyage, Narayanan said over 7,700 ground tests related to the Gaganyaan mission had been completed and over 2,300 more were to be done before March 2026.

"The motors for crew escape systems, which are integral for astronaut safety, have also been developed and tested. Orbital module preparation facility, Gaganyaan control centre, environmental control and life system, crew training facility, second launch pad modification and parachute-based deceleration system have been established," he said.

7,700 ground tests on Gaganyaan completed

2,300 more to be done before March 2026

CRITICAL GAINS FROM ISS TRIP

> Axiom-4 ISS mission has given us insights that will be critical as India prepares for Gaganyaan and beyond.
> **Shubhanshu Shukla,** GROUP CAPTAIN

The ISRO chief said the upcoming missions included an integrated air drop test that entailed dropping a crew capsule from an altitude of 3.5 to 4 km using a helicopter. "Trial sorties are underway. In the fourth quarter, the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan (G1) will be launched," he said.

Group Captain Shukla, in his first-ever media interaction, said the insights he gained from his visit to the ISS would help the country in the Gaganyaan mission. Sharing an update about the seven experiments he conducted on the space station, Shukla said

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Source: The Tribune Newspaper, 22-08-2025
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Link:https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_TY6MuglV6UOk6yfsUn3rMJIRDW_4iQw/view

DeepSeek unveils update to AI model

Beijing, Aug. 21: DeepSeek unveiled an update to an older model that it says surpasses the seminal R1 on key benchmarks, keeping the Chinese start-up in the game while the industry awaits its next flagship offering.

The V3.1 returns answers to queries much faster and marks the start-up's first step toward creating an AI agent, DeepSeek said in a WeChat post Thursday.

The company first outlined the V3.1 earlier this week, but the platform only just made it to the hugging face portal. The version has been customised to work with next-generation Chinese-made artificial intelligence chips, the start-up said in a post.

Meanwhile, OpenAI is considering eventually helping other businesses tap into the data centers and physical infrastructure needed for artificial intelligence, potentially creating a new revenue line that could offset some of ChatGPT maker's immense costs.

The service would be loosely inspired by the success Amazon.com found renting out its spare cloud computing capacity to companies, OpenAI chief financial officer Sarah Friar said. — *Bloomberg*

Source: The Asian Age Delhi Newspaper, 22-08-2025
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Link:https://drive.google.com/file/d/1su27oHz1J_zYCRMRH8wKsqOwADj0tEyV/view

Chinese AI startup DeepSeek releases upgraded model

REUTERS
August 21

CHINESE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE startup DeepSeek released on Thursday an upgrade to its flagship V3 model that the company says has a feature that can optimise it for Chinese-made chips, along with faster processing speeds.

The focus on domestic chip compatibility may signal that DeepSeek's AI models are being positioned to work with China's emerging semiconductor ecosystem as Beijing pushes to replace US technology in the face of Washington's export restrictions.

DeepSeek shook the technology world this year when it released AI models that compete with Western ones like OpenAI's ChatGPT while offering lower operational costs.

The upgrade to DeepSeek's V3 model follows two other recent updates to its core models - an R1 model update in May and an earlier V3 enhancement in March.

For domestic chip support, DeepSeek said in a WeChat post its DeepSeek-V3.1 model's UE8M0 FP8 precision format is optimised for "soon-to-be-released next-generation domestic chips".

The company did not identify which specific chip models or manufacturers would be supported.

FP8, or 8-bit floating point, is a data processing format that allows AI models to operate more efficiently, using less memory while running faster than traditional methods.

The DeepSeek-V3.1 features a hybrid inference structure that enables the model to operate in both reasoning and non-reasoning modes, the company said in a WeChat post on Thursday.

MODEL UPGRADE

- Upgraded V3 model optimises performance for Chinese-made chips and is faster
- Move aligns with Beijing's push to build a domestic semiconductor ecosystem

Source: The Financial Express Newspaper, 22-08-2025
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Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cSOeBUsWUtRWWhSO89A9pIQq2C4MBbVk/view

OpenAI's stress test

SIDDHARTH PAI
Technology consultant and venture capitalist
By invitation

WHEN OPENAI ANNOUNCED on Tuesday that ChatGPT would be formally available in India at ₹399 a month, the number felt both modest and momentous. Modest because the figure sits well with the monthly discretionary budget of our urban middle class, somewhere between the price of a streaming subscription and a mobile data pack. Momentous because it signals the formal arrival of a technology that, until recently, was more a curiosity or an occasional free experiment for most Indian users than a sustained part of their digital lives. By pegging the entry cost at a psychologically accessible level, OpenAI has opened the floodgates to a market whose scale, diversity, and linguistic complexity could shape the future of artificial intelligence (AI) itself.

India's importance to OpenAI cannot be overstated. We have nearly 800 million internet users, second only to China, and one of the fastest-growing bases of English-speaking digital natives. However, unlike China, we are not walled off behind regulatory firewalls or domestic substitutes; global apps compete directly for the attention of Indian consumers. For OpenAI, this means the opportunity to expose its system to one of the largest pools of active users, in a country where the hunger for shortcuts, hacks, and new learning tools is insatiable. Indians have historically been early adopters of global digital platforms—think of how quickly WhatsApp became ubiquitous, or how aggressively ride-hailing and food delivery apps embedded themselves in urban life. It is no accident that most major tech companies now test their cost-sensitive innovations in India before exporting them elsewhere.

But India is not just a large market; it is also a uniquely challenging one. Our linguistic diversity alone makes it a natural stress test for any language model. Hindi may dominate in the North, but it coexists with 18 other national and dozens of regional languages that each command tens of millions of speakers. Add to this the hybrid vernaculars—Hinglish, Kanglish, Benglish—that characterise online communication, and you have a crucible in which ChatGPT's adaptability will be tested daily. Mistakes will not only be pointed out but dissected, and often corrected, by a community of users that is vocal and technically savvy. In effect, India offers OpenAI not just a customer base but a vast, decentralised quality-control department.

This is where the economics of reinforcement learning become interesting. Training a large language model is prohibitively expensive, involving supercomputing clusters and staggering energy costs. But fine-tuning it through human feedback is equally critical, and needs constant streams of corrections, clarifications, and nudges from real users. In most markets, companies have to spend considerable sums hiring annotators and reviewers who evaluate outputs and flag errors. In India, the sheer volume of engaged users at a low subscription cost could mean feedback comes organically, and often unsolicited. And therefore, free. If ChatGPT hallucinates a fact about Indian history, botches an idiom in Tamil, or misinterprets a cricket statistic, there will be no shortage of users eager to correct it, sometimes with the competitive zeal of proving an algorithm wrong. In doing so, users provide the kind of reinforcement signals that OpenAI can incorporate back into its model at a fraction of what curated feedback might cost elsewhere. In truth, this is the most novel way to outsource services to India that I have heard of!

> It is no accident that most major tech firms now test cost-sensitive innovations in India before exporting them elsewhere

This can become a new form of digital crowdsourcing, except that it is happening not on a project-by-project basis but continuously, as part of everyday interactions. Every correction typed by a college student in Pune, every suggestion offered by a journalist in Delhi, every clarification demanded by a software engineer in Bengaluru contributes to a model that becomes sharper, more locally attuned, and more resilient. That OpenAI is able to gather this data while also collecting subscription revenue turns what was once a cost centre into a potential profit engine. The implications for the company's long-term competitiveness are considerable.

For Indians, the benefits of such affordable access are as profound. At ₹399, ChatGPT undercuts many conventional educational and productivity tools. A student preparing for competitive exams can now summon tailored explanations of complex topics for the price of a few cups of coffee. A small business owner can draft marketing copy, respond to customer inquiries, and even translate content into multiple languages without hiring extra staff. Freelancers—who form a growing part of our digital economy—can use the tool to brainstorm ideas, refine pitches, or automate repetitive tasks, freeing up time for higher-value work. In a country where access to high-quality tutoring, coaching, or professional services is often limited by geography and cost, ChatGPT offers a levelling mechanism.

The cultural effect may also be significant. In India, there has always been a premium on education and intellectual agility. The ability to quickly acquire, process, and deploy information is often the decisive factor in career advancement. ChatGPT can act as a personalised accelerator of this process, giving millions the sense that they are not just consuming content but conversing with knowledge itself. Unlike static resources such as textbooks or websites, the chatbot adapts to questions in real time, encouraging curiosity rather than rote memorisation. If widely adopted, this could subtly shift the way we approach learning, away from the passive accumulation of facts and toward more active, dialogic engagement.

Sceptics will, of course, point out the risks. Cheap access may lead to overreliance, or worse, the uncritical acceptance of flawed answers. Hallucinations will remain a problem, and not every user will bother to correct them. But the Indian user base is, by global standards, unusually inclined to argue, debate, and nitpick—traits that paradoxically make it ideal for refining an imperfect AI. Moreover, the price point ensures that users have enough skin in the game to demand quality. Free users may tolerate inaccuracies as the cost of entertainment; paying customers tend to expect more, and they tend to voice their dissatisfaction loudly. That collective insistence on accuracy may itself become a driver of model improvement.

What makes this moment historic is the confluence of scale, price, and timing. India has reached a stage where affordable smartphones, reliable data connectivity, and a culture of digital adoption have converged. By stepping into this environment now, OpenAI positions ChatGPT not just as a luxury tool for a global elite but as an everyday utility for a mass market. The ₹399 subscription is more than a revenue strategy; it is a bet that India will not only consume AI but actively shape it. And given the country's track record with previous technological waves, it is a bet that may pay off handsomely.

Source: The Financial Express Newspaper, 22-08-2025
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Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cSOeBUsWUtRWWhSO89A9pIQq2C4MBbVk/view

'Indian astronaut will soon travel to space in indigenous capsule'

MUSKAN BHATIA
New Delhi, 21 August

Astronauts Shubhanshu Shukla and Prashant Balakrishnan Nair, during the press conference at NMC, in the capital on Thursday

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who returned from the International Space Station (ISS) last month aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon, hoped India would soon send astronauts to space "from our own capsule, from our rocket, from our soil."

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday, Shukla said his "intangible experiences" over the past year would benefit future Indian space missions, including the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS).

He recalled the rigorous training he and fellow astronaut Prashant B Nair underwent for the Axiom-4 mission, travelling extensively to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the European Space Agency (ESA), Russia, and Japan, as well as learning from experts at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The two also trained with SpaceX on the Crew Dragon vehicle, the craft that carried Shukla into space.

"The benefit of executing a human spaceflight mission goes beyond the formal training," Shukla said, adding, "The supplementary knowledge you gain from conversations, the experience of being there, and interactions with people who have a history of human spaceflight – it is invaluable."

Sharing insights about his space travel, he said despite all the training, he was caught off guard.

"No matter how much training you have done, even after that, when you sit in the rocket and the engines ignite, when they catch fire, it took me time to catch up," he said as he recounted the moments after the lift off.

Dumbstruck by the whole experience, he added, "From that moment until the time we splashed down, the experience was unbelievable.

It was so exciting and so amazing that I have really been struggling to find words to convey it to you, so that you can live that experience through my words."

He added that, even today, India looks "saare jahaan se achcha (better than the entire world)," echoing the words of astronaut Rakesh Sharma after his 1984 space mission.

Speaking at the press conference, Union Minister Jitendra Singh attributed the landmark success of India's space sector particularly in the last five to six years, has been due to India following space strategies similar to the rest of the world in line with the global benchmarks and the question why this coils could not happen in the past five to six decades since the establishment Department of Space nearly 70 years ago.

The Union minister credited the landmark progress of India's space sector in the last five to six years to the adoption of strategies aligned with global standards.

He questioned why similar advances could not have been achieved in the five to six decades since the Department of Space was set up nearly 70 years ago. "Why did all this have to happen only in the last few years? Why couldn't it have happened in the last five, six decades?" Singh said.

"We have started following the strategies adopted by the rest of the world. Now our benchmarks are global, our strategies are global, and the parameters we seek to live up to are global," he added.

ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan echoed the minister's views, highlighting the rapid progress of India's space programme. He noted that the number of successful missions had nearly doubled between 2015 and 2025, with more than 55 missions, and said the momentum has only grown in the past decade.

Source: The States Man Delhi Newspaper, 22-08-2025
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Link:https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L1Be1N1QzsU4I6E6uBlExg3jEg6q9GKC/view

India will seek to shape the global AI order

CHAITANYA K. PRASAD

When India hosts the AI Impact Summit in February 2026, it will not just be another global meeting on artificial intelligence. It is, in fact, the moment where India signals its readiness to move beyond declarations and frameworks and into the territory of delivery. After Bletchley Park, Seoul, and Paris, the global conversation has largely revolved around ethics, risk, and governance. Now, India wants to take the baton forward, bridging aspiration with implementation, especially for the Global South.

For India, this summit is as much about positioning as it is about purpose. It strengthens India's claim of being not just a consumer of AI innovation but a creator, regulator, and exporter of frameworks. Hosting the summit in New Delhi reflects a conscious attempt to consolidate leadership. India is no longer satisfied with merely participating in the global AI order; it seeks to shape it.

It also ties back to India's larger digital story: Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, and now IndiaAI Mission, which democratizes access to compute power and indigenous language models. The summit demonstrates that India's innovation narrative is not restricted to fin-tech or digital governance, it's extending to the heart of future geopolitics: artificial intelligence.

The expected outcomes of the summit are significant and wide-ranging. India is likely to push for global standards for AI protocols, focusing on creating a standardized framework for AI deployment in communication and governance. Such a framework would include interoperability, risk assessment, and ethical safeguards, ensuring that the systems shaping public life are transparent, accountable, and aligned with democratic values.

Equally important will be the effort to bridge the global divide. One of the key outcomes may be a concrete roadmap enabling developing nations to access affordable AI infrastructure and datasets, addressing the Global South's long-standing complaint of being left behind in the AI revolution.

At the heart of India's contribution lies the nurturing of AI models with local roots. Open-source foundational models developed by Sarvam AI, Soket AI, Gnani AI, and Gan AI, trained on Indian languages and cultural contexts, are poised to emerge as global case studies in inclusivity. This is not just about technological sovereignty but about ensuring that AI reflects the lived realities of diverse populations.

Alongside this, India's proposal to establish the IndiaAI Safety Institute through a hub-and-spoke model could set new benchmarks in risk monitoring, algorithm audits, and damage detection, making safety as central to AI innovation as efficiency.

The urgency of these outcomes becomes clearer when we consider communication. Communication is the nervous system of democracy, and if AI systems are to mediate that space, they need rules of engagement. A standard protocol for AI in communication would ensure disclosure, so that users know when they are interacting with AI-generated content. It would also demand verification, ensuring that AI-driven information is traceable and anchored to credible sources.

Such a protocol would enforce inclusion, reflecting linguistic diversity, cultural nuance, and accessibility for differently-abled users. And it would demand restraint, preventing AI from amplifying hate speech, propaganda, or weaponized misinformation.

To bring this vision alive, we need a phased approach. In the short term, disclosure norms must be established, AI tools should be piloted in public service communication, and training datasets must be built across all major Indian languages. In the medium term, India must develop indigenous communication models tailored for governance, media, and education, reducing dependence on Western platforms. And in the long term, the goal should be to reimagine communication ecosystems where AI acts as a trust enabler, fact-checking in real time, preventing misinformation outbreaks, and even facilitating meaningful citizen-to-government dialogue.

The India summit is not being built in isolation; it is a direct continuation of India's stand at the Paris AI Summit in 2024, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi argued that AI must be ethical, inclusive, and human-centric. The PM stressed that while advanced nations debate future existential risks, developing countries face immediate and tangible challenges: access, affordability, and trust. He underlined that AI cannot become the monopoly of a few, and must instead serve as a tool of empowerment for all, especially in education, healthcare, agriculture, and governance.

This vision now finds expression in the AI Impact Summit 2026. Where Paris was about setting out principles, Delhi is about translating those principles into practice. By focusing on compute infrastructure, local models, and safety frameworks, India is demonstrating how ideals can turn into workable systems. It also highlights India's distinct perspective. While Western nations remain preoccupied with hypothetical "existential risks," India sees the immediate challenge as ensuring equitable AI access for farmers, students, doctors, and small businesses.

The key takeaways from the AI Impact Summit 2026 will be clear. It marks India's coming of age as a standard-setter in AI governance, moving beyond the role of participant to that of global shaper. It will also cement India's role as a leader of the Global South, articulating how AI can close, not widen, the developmental gap.

India's model will showcase how ethics and infrastructure go hand in hand, with GPUs, datasets, and language models standing alongside values and safeguards. Perhaps the most urgent takeaway will be the establishment of communication protocols, because in a world mediated by AI, information in the wrong hands is as potent a weapon as any. Finally, unlike earlier summits, Delhi 2026 will not just be about policy, but about impact, a chance to prove that rhetoric can indeed translate into results.

In essence, the India AI Summit 2026 is not about showcasing technology. It is about anchoring AI to humanity's oldest and most vital function - communication. If India can strike the right balance between innovation and restraint, it won't just lead the conversation on AI. It will redefine how the world talks, listens, and connects in the age of algorithms.

(The writer, a former civil servant, writes on cinema and strategic communication. Inputs were provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan. Views expressed are personal.)

Source: The States Man Delhi Newspaper, 22-08-2025
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