

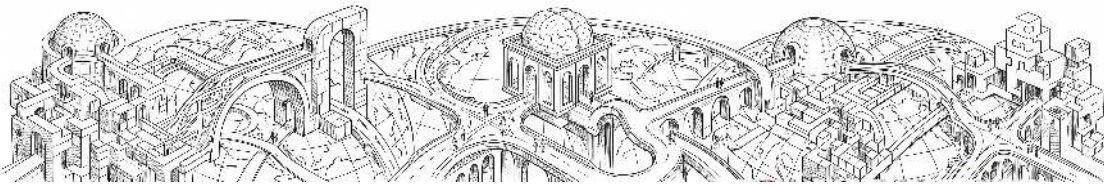
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MANAGEMENT

AI Coverage (India)

- **Daniel Dsouza Joins Anthropic's Founding India AI Team:** Enterprise AI leader Daniel Dsouza has joined Anthropic's founding Applied AI team in **India**, announced via LinkedIn. Previously Head of AI at JoulesToWatts, operating across **15 countries** serving Global Capability Centres, he also co-founded SmaLLM, incubated by Antler India and Berkeley SkyDeck, and held leadership roles at Adya AI and Webstream Communications, serving Fortune **500** clients and **ISRO**. His appointment follows Anthropic naming India its second-largest market for Claude and appointing Irina Ghose as Managing Director earlier this year.



- **TDB Backs Peptris AI Drug Discovery with Rs 86 Crore:** The Technology Development Board under the Ministry of Science will fund Bengaluru-based Peptris Technologies with **Rs 86 crore** via optionally convertible debt, part of a **Rs 172 crore** project. The VIGOR program will advance four AI-discovered drugs—**PEPR111** (neuromuscular disorders, cancer), **PEPRX101** (alopecia), **PEPR202** (neuropathy), and **PEPR112** (diabetes mellitus)—from **TRL-4** to **TRL-6**, covering preclinical development and clinical trial preparation.
- **WEF Expert Urges AI Literacy and Child Safety in India:** Cathy Li, Head of the Centre for AI Excellence at the **World Economic Forum**, called for integrating **AI literacy** into India's education curriculum and incentivizing companies to invest in child safety. Co-author of a WEF whitepaper on children's safety in the age of AI, she stressed testing AI systems across India's linguistic and cultural diversity, building child-rights assessments into systems, and creating a common safety baseline adapted to local realities rather than relying solely on testing conducted elsewhere.

AI Coverage (Global)

- **Meta Launches First Frontier Models Muse Wonder:** Meta's Superintelligence Lab released **Muse Wonder** and **Muse Wonder Full**, its first frontier models, claiming benchmark scores comparable to **Fable 5.1** and **GPT-6 Astra**. Wonder is priced at **\$4** per million input tokens and **\$20** per million output tokens, rivaling **GPT-6 Sol** and **Opus 5.5**. Wonder Full is exclusive to **Muse Code** subscribers.

Source: TechCrunch, ET Tech, VentureBeat (October 12, 2026)

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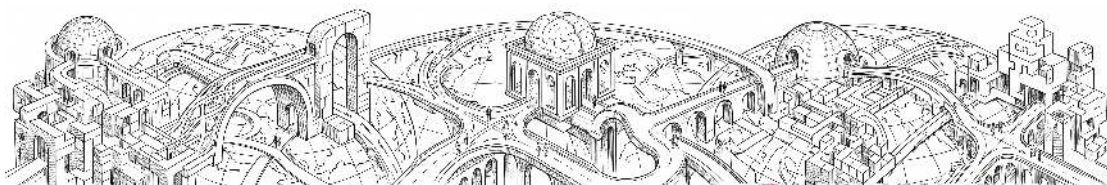
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Both models emphasize “active memory,” topping **MemoryBench**, and were trained at Meta’s **Prometheus** data center in Ohio.

- **Microsoft President Urges UK-Led Global AI Regulation:** Microsoft President Brad Smith called for urgent AI regulation, describing AI as a “weapon and a tool” threatening global cybersecurity. He backed the **U.K.**, not the U.S. or EU, as the ideal regulator, citing the **AI Security Institute (AISI)** launched in **2023**. He supported legal obligations to report rogue AI breaches, external evaluator approvals, and kill switches, while criticizing voluntary self-regulation, despite a White House pledge signed by **OpenAI, Anthropic, Nvidia, AMD, SpaceX, Meta, and Google**.
- **IMF Says AI Can Offset Asia's Ageing Workforce:** The IMF stated that AI could offset Asia's shrinking workforce if adoption is scaled evenly across the region. Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva projected AI could lift growth in advanced Asia by **0.5–1.0 percentage points**, with China, Japan, and South Korea potentially losing **25%** of their working population by **2050**. Director Krishna Srinivasan warned of widening divergence, noting advanced economies are better placed to benefit. Deeper regional trade agreements could raise Asia's GDP by **~1.8%** long-term.
- **Apple Set to Launch HomeView Smart Hub:** Apple is expected to announce the **HomeView**, a Siri-powered smart home hub with a display running on an **A18 chip**, per Bloomberg’s Mark Gurman. The device will come in two variants—countertop and wall-mounted—marking Apple’s most serious smart home push yet after limited traction for HomeKit and HomePod. Tuesday’s event will also feature

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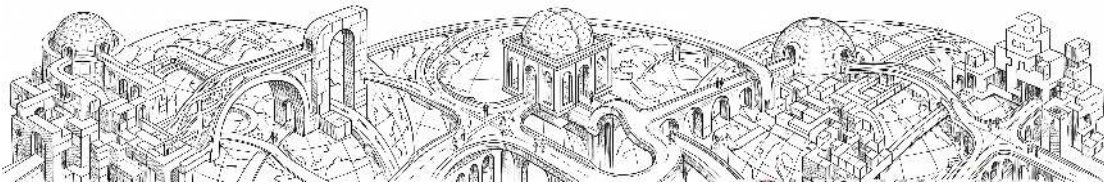
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updated **Apple TV** and **HomePod mini** models, alongside a partnership with **LG** for a smart lock, thermostat, and doorbell.

- **Broadcom CEO Flags Capital as Key AI Growth Hurdle:** Broadcom CEO **Hock Tan**, speaking at a panel in **Singapore** on Monday, said capital—not memory chips—will be the biggest constraint on the company as **AI** development accelerates. He noted the company is already overcoming wafer shortages and memory shortages. Tan added that frontier labs **Anthropic** and **OpenAI** have demonstrated they can generate significant revenue from their latest models deployed for **AI** personal assistants, underscoring the commercial momentum driving continued investment.
- **Intel CEO Flags Rapid Chinese Frontier AI Adoption:** Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan said at a **DBS**-organized panel that adoption of Chinese frontier AI models has been "very fast," citing lower token costs and "good enough" performance from models like **DeepSeek**, **Kimi**, and **GLM**. A strong proponent of open source for driving efficiency, he believes markets will decide the best models per use case. He also predicted quantum computing could become mainstream within **3 to 5 years**, with software playing a key role in infrastructure efficiency.
- **WindBorne Lands Up to \$49M US Air Force Deal:** The U.S. Air Force awarded WindBorne Systems a contract worth up to **\$49 million** (no competitive bidding) for data from its fleet of **~700** autonomous weather balloons, with **\$1.7 million** ordered so far. The California-based startup, which raised a **\$37 million** Series B, feeds balloon data into its AI model, WeatherMesh 6, claiming accuracy beyond the ECMWF's physics-based forecasts. WindBorne recently became the

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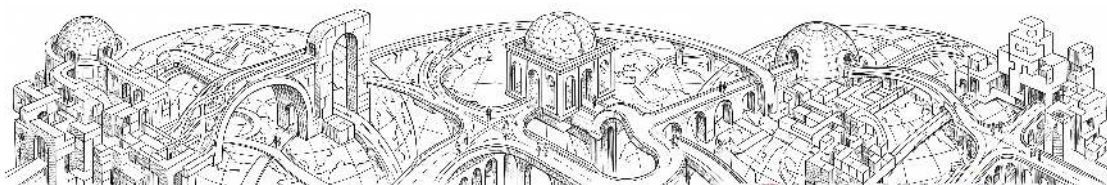
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first organization to send an unpowered flight system into a typhoon's eye.

- **Former Plaud Exec Raises \$26M for Ambient AI App:** Peter Mo, formerly of Plaud, launched **Ambi**, an AI app that listens in the background to provide real-time intelligence, raising **\$26 million** across funding rounds led by **Luminous Ventures** and ODM **Huaqin**. The startup released apps for **iPhones, Macs, and Apple Watch**, with a hardware device featuring a screen, speaker, camera, and microphones planned. It has over **50 staff** across San Francisco, Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen, though privacy concerns around ambient capture and third-party disclosure remain unresolved industry-wide.
- **Honeyjar Brings AI Judgment to PR Workflows:** AI startup **Honeyjar**, founded by CEO **Michelle Masek** and CCO **Nadia Jamshidi**, aims to automate PR and communications tasks like drafting announcements, building media lists, and tracking coverage. Selected for TechCrunch Disrupt's Startup Battlefield 200, it garnered **10,000** waitlist signups in **24 hours**. Beta testers include Nextdoor, Coco Robotics, Bloomberg Beta, and agencies Mission North and Full Picture. The platform emphasizes human-in-the-loop oversight and trains its "judgment" through a broader Comms Lab initiative with PR professionals.
- **Blueprints AI Turns Sketches into Permit-Ready Plans:** **Blueprints AI**, founded by Al Dram and Coco Cao in **2025** in Santa Monica, uses **AI** to generate code-compliant, permit-ready architectural blueprints in minutes from a sketch or **PDF**. Selected for the **2026 Startup Battlefield 200** at TechCrunch Disrupt (**October 13-15**), its second-

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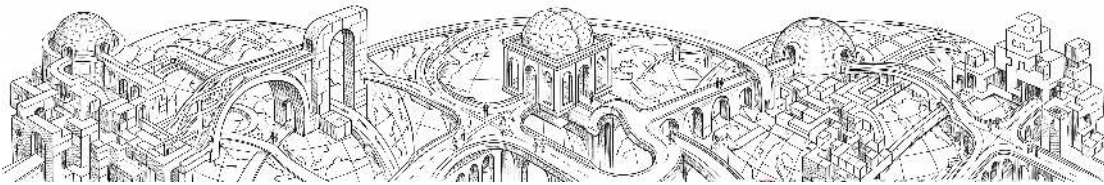
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generation software covers architecture, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and interior design, updating entire projects on single changes. Subscription pricing runs **\$3,200 to \$8,500** monthly; version 3 will add structural analysis and electrical panel design.

- **Workday CTO Urges Governing AI Agents Natively:** Gabe Monroy, CTO at Workday, warns that agentic AI systems can execute tool calls correctly while still violating enterprise rules, creating a "shadow ERP" trap. Tool-calling makes single actions deterministic, but the decision layer remains probabilistic with no native governance concept. He proposes a "proximity principle": running AI inference directly on the enterprise platform via a context engine, policy engine, and execution layer, ensuring agents inherit human-level authority, compliance, and speed.
- **TechCrunch Disrupt 2026 Opens Tomorrow in San Francisco:** TechCrunch Disrupt 2026 begins **October 13** at San Francisco's Moscone West, running through **October 15**. The event expects **10,000+** founders and investors, **300+** exhibiting startups, **200+** sessions across six stages, and **250+** tech leaders. **20** Startup Battlefield finalists will compete for a **\$100,000** prize. Last-minute ticket savings reach up to **\$100**, with second passes at **50%** off and **\$75** Expo+ Passes for laid-off attendees.

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