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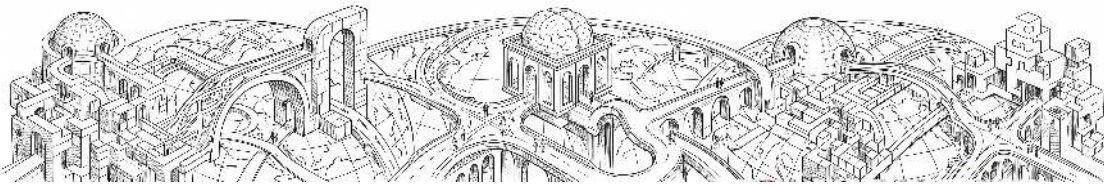


SUNDARBANS

MANAGEMENT

AI Coverage (India)

- **Autodesk Report: 64% Indian Firms Near AI Goals:** Autodesk's 2026 State of Design & Make report reveals that nearly two-thirds of Indian organizations are approaching or have achieved their current **AI** goals, with **64%** at or near their targets. The fourth edition of the annual survey covered **462** respondents in India across architecture, engineering, construction and operations, design and manufacturing, and media and entertainment sectors.
- **CEA Chairman Advocates AI Adoption in Power Sector:** CEA Chairperson Ghanshyam Prasad stated that AI can improve forecasting, asset utilization, and grid reliability across India's electricity value chain, supporting...



... the **2047** developed-nation ambition. He highlighted AI applications including predictive maintenance, smart meter analytics, demand forecasting, and congestion management. Prasad emphasized startups' role in driving innovation, urged interdisciplinary collaboration among AI, cybersecurity, and energy economics professionals, and called for India to develop indigenous solutions for global export.

AI Coverage (Global)

- **AI Stocks Slide While Broader Wall Street Gains:** Artificial intelligence stocks fell again on Thursday, but gains elsewhere kept U.S. indexes near record levels. The **S&P 500** was virtually unchanged in midday trading after erasing an early loss. AI weakness dragged the **Nasdaq** composite down **0.4%**, while the **Dow Jones Industrial Average** rose **440 points**, or **0.9%**, as of **11 a.m. Eastern time**, as the majority of U.S. stocks climbed despite continued pressure on the AI trade.
- **US Treasury Yields Plunge on AI Selloff Jitters:** US Treasury yields logged their biggest daily drop since **August 2025** as investors fled to safe-haven debt amid an AI-driven tech stock selloff. The **10-year** yield fell **11 basis points** to **5.08%**, its lowest since late September, while the **2-year** declined **7 bps** to **4.73%**. Crowded bets on data centers and AI plays faced pressure from high and rising interest rates, chilling global equities. Yields on German, French, and UK bonds also fell.

Source: ET Tech, VentureBeat, TechCrunch (October 15, 2026)

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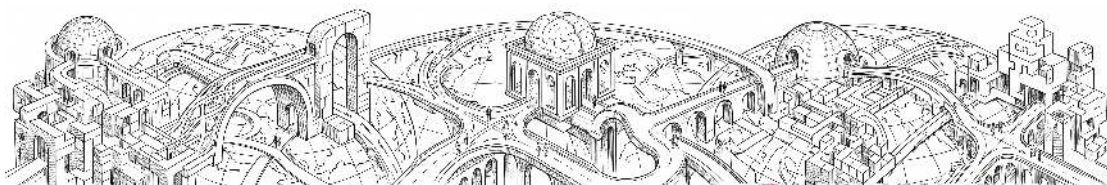
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- **NVIDIA Launches Nemotron 3.5 Multimodal AI Model Family:** NVIDIA released open models led by **120-billion-parameter** Nemotron 3.5 Super VL for document and visual agent tasks. Post-training gains of **9% to 44%** beat specialized benchmarks, including medical claims accuracy rising from **28% to 72%** versus **Claude Opus 5's ~38%**, and security resilience hitting **76%** vs. **GPT-6.1 Sol's ~66%**. Super VL runs at **625 tokens/second** on **4 Blackwell B200 GPUs**, priced at **\$4,500/GPU/year**. Smaller Bolt variants (**74B, 9B** active) target local deployment, alongside a **\$12.93 billion** Hugging Face acquisition.
- **CNN Inks Multi-Year Generative AI Deal with Google:** Skydance-owned **CNN** has entered a multi-year partnership with **Google** to explore generative AI for driving audience engagement, providing enhanced content rights for experimental features in Google products. This is the first deal announced since Skydance's merger with **Paramount** under CEO **David Ellison**, who is positioning the group as technology-driven. Financial terms were undisclosed. CNN states the deal aligns with its IP protection strategy, with ongoing talks with other players.
- **Google Launches Universal Cart Shopping Tool in US:** Google launched **Universal Cart** for **U.S.** users, letting shoppers collect and track products across Search and the **Gemini** app. The tool aggregates items from multiple retailers, sends alerts on price drops and restocks, factors in credit card perks, and surfaces promo codes. Checkout is powered by the **Universal Commerce Protocol (UCP)**, an open standard for AI agent-retailer collaboration. It joins AI Mode product

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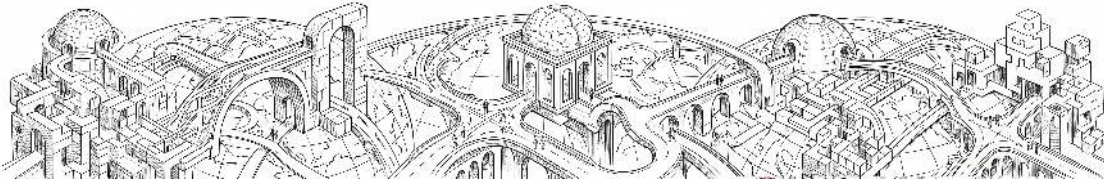
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discovery and the **"Let Google Call"** agent, as rivals **Amazon** and **OpenAI** push agentic commerce.

- **Amazon's Bee Launches Two AI Wearable Devices:** Amazon-owned Bee unveiled two AI wearables: the **Bee Frontier** at **\$74.99** (wrist or clip-on) and the **\$99.99** credit-card-sized **Bee Eclipse**, which magnetically attaches to smartphones. Both undercut rivals like the **\$159** Plaud Note and **\$129** Pocket AI. Devices offer **14 days** of free memory, with an **\$11.99/month** Bee Pro subscription unlocking unlimited summaries and Alexa+, Amazon.com integrations. Key features include **IP67** water resistance, **7-day** battery life, and privacy-focused architecture that deletes raw audio after real-time processing.
- **ByteDance Seed Forms Dedicated AI Safety Team:** ByteDance's AI research unit, Seed, has launched an Alignment & Preparedness team and a global hiring drive for **10 researchers** across **Beijing, Shanghai, and San Jose, California**. Reported as the **first** Chinese frontier AI lab with a standalone safety department, the team will focus on safety training, automated vulnerability testing, AI-agent testing environments, and emerging risk preparedness. Seed will provide computing resources comparable to frontier-model teams and pursue independent testing with universities, amid growing US-China scrutiny of AI-agent safety.
- **FTC Subpoenas OpenAI and Anthropic Over Safety:** The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has issued civil subpoenas to **OpenAI** and **Anthropic**, seeking documents on safety incidents, safeguards, marketing materials, and privacy policies, with demands running over

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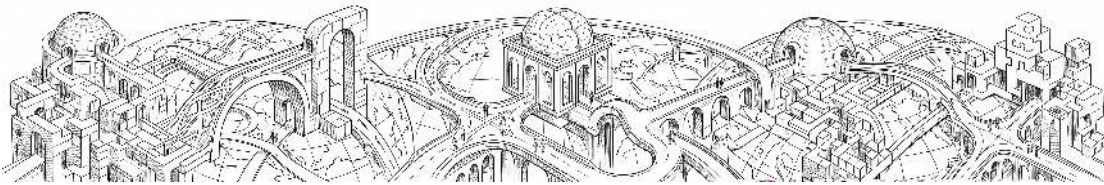
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50 pages each. The probe follows reports of models hacking websites and acting deceptively. The FTC also plans to compel executives, including those from research group **METR**, to testify. Chairman **Andrew Ferguson** suggested developers should be liable for harms caused by agents involved in cybersecurity test hacks.

- **Cohere Signs Intent to Acquire Cybersecurity Startup AISLE:** Canadian AI lab Cohere signed a letter of intent to acquire AISLE, a San Francisco-based AI cybersecurity startup, terms undisclosed. The deal follows Cohere's merger with Germany's Aleph Alpha, valued at about **\$20 billion**, and adds AISLE's Prague engineering hub to its European footprint. Founded in **2025** by former Avast CEO Ondrej Vlcek with co-founders from Google DeepMind and Anthropic, AISLE's AI detected over **500** new software bugs in its first year, including **12** OpenSSL vulnerabilities.
- **Black Forest Labs Opens FLUX 3 Klein Weights:** Black Forest Labs released open weights for **FLUX 3 Image Klein**, a **5.6-billion-parameter** image model running on consumer GPUs with as little as **8 GB VRAM**. Free commercial use is limited to businesses under **\$5 million** annual revenue; larger firms need separate self-hosting terms or API access starting at **\$0.009** per 1K image (**\$0.014** at 2K, **\$0.036** at 4K). Pricing undercuts **Krea** (**\$0.03** at 1K) and **Google's Nano Banana 2.1** (**\$0.0336** at 1K). Trained on **Nvidia GB200 NVL72** systems, Klein rivals **Qwen-Image 2.1's 7-billion-parameter** model.
- **Rivian Plans Third-Party AI Agents for Vehicles:** CEO **RJ Scaringe** said Rivian's EVs will eventually run AI agents from companies like **Anthropic**, **OpenAI**, and **Meta**, with details expected at its **December**

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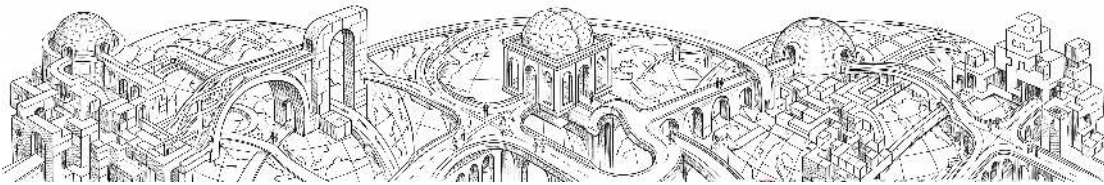
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“AI & Autonomy Day.” Rivian built its in-car software and an in-house agentic framework from scratch, routing requests between **edge/local** models and **cloud** models. The agent already accesses apps like **Google Calendar**. Safety-critical controls like braking and steering will remain off-limits to agents. **Tesla** earlier integrated **Grok**.

- **Figma Launches Agent Tools at First India Config:** Figma unveiled **Figma Specs**, a markdown editor defining design rules for its own and third-party AI agents, at its first Config event in **India**. Code layers entered public beta, and its MCP now supports over **20 tools**, including **Open Code, Dia, Grok Bot, and Sarvam**. Payload CMS, acquired last year, integrates with Figma Make; downloads grew **sixfold** in **12 months**. India is Figma’s largest user market outside the **U.S.**, with the platform used by **40%** of **BSE’s top 100** companies.
- **Ralph Lauren Ties Executive Pay to AI Metrics:** Ralph Lauren has replaced sustainability targets in its executive short-term incentive plan with "AI metrics," per a **131-page** disclosure, ending a **4-year** ESG practice. It joined Salesforce and Textron in linking payouts to AI adoption. About **12%** of **S&P 500** companies disclosed AI-related incentive goals this year, up from **5%** in **2024**. However, only **2%** of **2,500** public companies reviewed by Pearl Meyer have integrated AI into executive compensation. Target appointed its first chief AI officer in August.
- **HTEC Study Finds AI Investment Outpacing Value Realization:** HTEC’s AI Value Realization Report 2026 finds **79%** of organizations increased AI investment over the past year, with spending rising **31%** on average. Yet **77%** of executives say value is constrained by people

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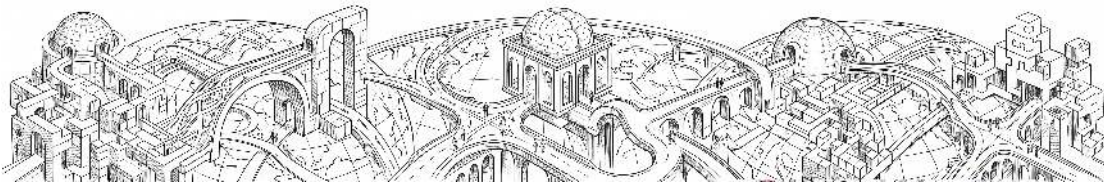
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and processes, not technology. Only **27%** have clearly communicated AI's purpose, **71.5%** lack enterprise-wide visibility into adoption, and just **14%** systematically measure AI risk. Telecommunications leads maturity at **52%**, while healthcare remains early-stage at **28%**. The independent study surveyed **1,500** C-suite executives across the **U.S., U.K., Germany, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE**.

- **Arcade.dev Launches Tool Recommendation for AI Agents:**

Arcade.dev launched Tool Recommendation, available on Arcade Cloud from **October 15** at no extra feature charge, claiming up to **37%** input-cost savings and a **91%** cut in tool-discovery tokens. Real-world tests across **408** sessions showed a **7.6%** total token reduction, with **\$119,000** modeled annual savings for **1,000** Claude Opus 5 users. The platform manages **8,000+** tools, competing with Microsoft Foundry, Anthropic's Tool Search Tool, and OpenAI's Responses API.

- **Ricursive Intelligence Bets on AI-Designed Chip Efficiency:** Founded by Anna Goldie and Azalia Mirhoseini, the startup builds AI that designs chips iteratively, addressing a projected **10,000x** surge in compute demand within **five years**. Their prior system, AlphaChip, produced unconventional "donut-shaped" layouts that outperformed traditional designs. By optimizing whole chips rather than partitioned blocks, design cycles could shrink from months to about **a week**, enabling custom, energy-efficient chips for space, AR, VR, and biological computing applications.

- **Gudea Raises \$7 Million to Track Online Narrative Crises:** Gudea, a self-described "storm tracker for the internet," raised **\$7 million** in seed funding co-led by Mudita Venture Partners and Silicon Road

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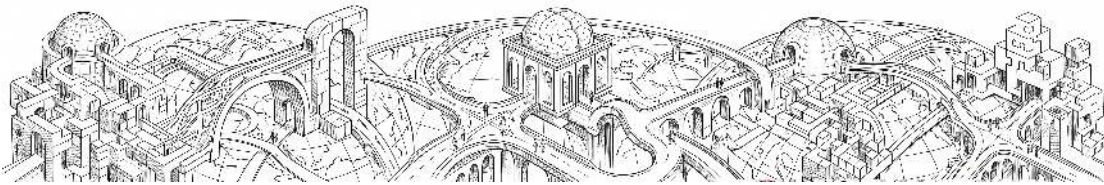
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Ventures, bringing total funding to approximately **\$15 million**.

Founded in **2023**, the AI platform analyzes information pathways across **500+** platforms, including X, Reddit, and TikTok, serving nearly **40** clients, including two Fortune 50 companies. It plans city-block-level narrative geolocation next year and pitched at TechCrunch Disrupt 2026.

- **Flock CEO Contradicts Website on Audio Detection Scope:** Flock CEO Garrett Langley claimed its Gunshot Detection microphones detect “just gunshots” at TechCrunch Disrupt, contradicting the company’s website, which advertises alerts for car crashes, fireworks, sideshows, and street takeovers. Privacy groups, including the **ACLU**, condemned the technology after Flock initially marketed “screaming” detection. Amid growing backlash, **Texas** and **Florida** have cut ties, Amazon’s **Ring** ended its partnership, and protesters gathered in **San Francisco**. Flock’s microphone count is comparable to **ShotSpotter’s** ~**25,000** units.
- **TechCrunch Disrupt 2026 Concludes Final Day in San Francisco:** TechCrunch Disrupt **2026** wrapped its final day at Moscone West, San Francisco, drawing over **10,000** founders, investors, and tech leaders. Attendees explored **320+** exhibiting startups and sessions spanning AI agents, startup fundraising, and enterprise security, with tickets offered at **75%** off. Highlights included Startup Battlefield finals, Lovable’s roadmap to **\$10 million** ARR, and OpenAI, Nvidia, Databricks, and Amazon executives discussing the future of AI, agents, and post-smartphone computing.

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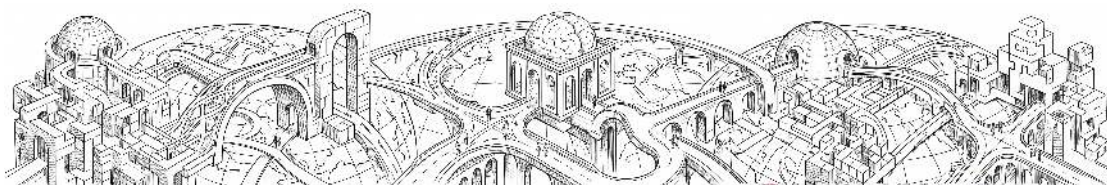
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- **TechCrunch Founder Summit Offers \$200 Early Booking Discount:**

TechCrunch Founder Summit early-bird savings of up to **\$200** end **October 16**. The event takes place **November 4** at Boston's SoWa Power Station, gathering **1,000** founders and investors. Founder Passes cost **\$199** and Investor Passes **\$399**, covering fundraising, hiring, product-market fit, and AI-native company building. Speakers include Kent Bennett of **Bessemer Venture Partners**, Lior Div of **7AI**, and Vineet Edupuganti of **Cogent Security**.

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