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GLOBAL INVESTMENTS, COLLABS POUR IN AT AI IMPACT SUMMIT

Microsoft, Google, Qualcomm line up to plug into India's AI space

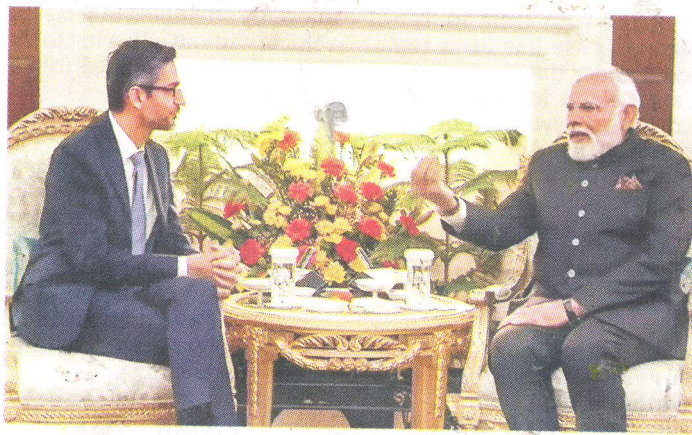
RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE India AI Impact Summit 2026 has seen major stakeholders lining up to announce their plans to invest in and build on India's AI ecosystem. While global majors Qualcomm and Microsoft announced significant investment plans, OpenAI and NVIDIA outlined new partnerships to strengthen the ecosystem and build AI infrastructure. Google also announced the America-India Connect initiative, a subsea cable project aimed at enhancing data connectivity between the US, India and the Southern Hemisphere.

Qualcomm said it would invest \$150 million to support India's rapidly expanding technology and AI startup ecosystem. The announcement coincided with Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon's participation in the AI summit, which has now been extended by a day till February 21.

Microsoft plans to invest \$50 billion by the end of the decade to expand AI access across the Global South. Vice-chair and President Brad Smith and Vice-president and Chief Responsible AI Officer Natasha Crampton said urgent action is needed to prevent a widening AI divide from exacerbating global economic disparities.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced the America-India Connect initiative, a subsea ca-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Google CEO Sundar Pichai in New Delhi | PTI

ble project to improve data connectivity between the US, India, and the broader Southern Hemisphere. The announcement followed his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "We believe India is going to have an extraordinary trajectory with AI, and we want to be a partner. To help, we have launched new America-India Connect subsea cable routes, building on our \$15 billion investment in India's infrastructure, including a full-stack AI Hub in Vizag," Pichai said.

In addition, Google committed \$30 million each for the Government Innovation Impact Challenge, aimed at supporting AI-powered government-to-cit-

izen solutions, and the Science Impact Challenge, a global fund for researchers advancing scientific discovery using AI.

OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, announced a major initiative in India to integrate AI across higher education. The



programme seeks to help students, faculty, and staff use AI tools responsibly to enhance learning, research, and creativity across disciplines including management, engineering, healthcare and creative arts.

AI chip maker NVIDIA announced partnerships with Larsen & Toubro, Yotta Infrastructure, and E2E Networks to establish advanced 'AI factories' in India.

Galgotias Univ chucked after robot dog byte

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE government has asked Galgotias University, which showcased a Chinese-made robotic dog as its own creation at the India AI Impact Summit, to vacate its booth from the ongoing exhibition.

MeitY secretary S Krishnan said the government expects companies to follow a defined code of conduct and will not encourage plagiarism or misinformation. "We don't want any controversy around the exhibits being presented," he said.

When asked whether the products being showcased were verified or certified, he said these were not meant for sale. "Certification happens when something is meant for public distribution... If we start certifying everything that is exhibited, it could end up stifling innovation and creative work."

The controversy began after a professor from the university claimed in an interview that the AI-powered Chinese robot dog was developed by the university's Centre of Excellence.

Following backlash over the false claim, the university issued an apology saying its representative manning the pavilion was "ill-informed".