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India's flagship AI summit opens to massive crowds

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After months of promotion as India's flagship artificial intelligence event, the five-day AI Impact Summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, drawing overwhelming crowds and packing Bharat Mandapam to capacity as thousands thronged the venue.

Officials had widely publicised the summit, hosting pre-event programmes across several Indian cities and abroad. Those efforts appeared to pay off on Monday, with nearly every accessible part of the sprawling 100-acre complex filled with attendees.

"We have more than 2.5 lakh registrations," Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary S. Krishnan said on the sidelines. Entry to the event is free upon registration, and visitor passes have been over-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inaugural event of AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

subscribed, Mr. Krishnan said.

In a post on X in the morning, Prime Minister Modi said, "The AI Impact Summit will enrich global discourse on diverse aspects of AI, such as innovation, collaboration, responsible use and more. I am confident that the outcomes of the summit will help shape a future that is progressive, innovative and opportunity-driven."

Later in the afternoon, Mr. Modi visited the exhibition area, posting on X af-

terward that it was "a matter of immense pride for us that people from all over the world are coming to India for the India AI Impact Summit," and that the "occasion is further proof that our country is progressing rapidly in the field of science and technology and is making an important contribution to global development."

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