# News at your desk – 09 th Sep

Bytes & Insights

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"I SEE A RISE IN EMBRACING NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGES AS AN ENTRY POINT INTO THE WORLD OF CODING... YOU'RE JUST GOING TO ASK AI IN THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR COMFOR

THOMAS DOHMKE, CEO, GITHUB



"Countries are subsidising their regional data centres to build AI infrastructure. They recognise that their knowledge and data is also a natural and national resource"

← JENSEN HUANG, CEO, NVIDIA

# Govts Say 'Aye' to Sovereign Al

ndia has launched a ₹10.000-crore Al Mission, an initiative aimed at developing domestic AI infrastructure and fuelling industry growth. The mission, which could soon take shape, kicked off with a tender for graphics processing units (GPUs), released last month. A pre-bid meeting hosted by the IT ministry saw participation from heavyweights like Nvidia, Intel, AMD, Qualcomm, Microsoft Azure, AWS, Google Cloud, and Palo Alto Networks. Generative AI (GenAI) is reshaping global economies, with nations scrambling to leverage this transformative technology for economic and productivity gains. This has spurred the rise of 'sovereign AI', a concept that underscores a nation's ability to develop artificial intelligence (AI) using its own infrastructure, training and research. ET's Kumari Rajlakshmi Singh & Dia Rekhi take a look at how countries around the world are investing in AI to build sovereign capabilities.

## **United States**

The US has a plan in place to form the US National AI R&D Strategic Plan. Updated in 2023, it outlines the federal government's roadmap for AI R&D

S3.3 billion Govt's spending on Al and ML in FY23

- Up from \$1.38 billion spent in 2018: Stanford University report
- This reflects a 140% increase over this period

\$75 billion - US Federal IT Budget proposed for 2025



## OpenAl Eyeing \$100b Valuation



ChatGPT-maker OpenAI is looking to raise funds reportedly at a valuation of \$100 billion. According to the Wall Street Journal, Apple and Nyidia are in talks to participate in the funding round. OpenAI is currently valued at \$86 billion. According to the report, Thrive Capital is leading the round and is likely to put in \$1 billion. Existing investor Microsoft is likely to participate as well. This comes at a time when concerns are raised about the lack of returns on investments, and that OpenAI is set to burn \$5 billion on Al training and staffing in 2024.

## Nvidia's Record \$30b Revenues Fail to Wow Traders

Nvidia reported record revenues of \$30 billion for the quarter ending July 28, more than the analysts' estimate of \$28.7 billion in revenue for the time period. However, the firm's stock price declined by 6% after the results announcement. The BBC, quoting equity analyst Matt Britzman, reported that markets expect the estimates to be shattered and the results though beat estimates have left markets disappointed. Nvidia is one of the largest beneficiaries of the Al boom, and is likely to enjoy the momentum a little longer.

## Google Lets its AI Depict People Again



Google will allow Gemini users to generate pictures again. The featurewas rolled back earlier this year after it inaccurately generated historical images such as those of racially diverse Nazis. Imagen 3, the image generation feature, will be first made available for Gemini

Advanced, Business and Enterprise users in the coming days, starting with English for prompts. This competes with OpenAl's Sora, Stable Diffusion and X's Grok. Many recently raised concerns about the lack of content moderation in the latter.

## Nuetrends

Himanshi Lohchab writes how home-grown behemoth Reliance Jio's latest AI strategy could disrupt the dominance of global tech giants like Google, AWS and Apple

After expat Indians inundated Silicon Valley boardrooms, Indian tech entrepre-neurs are bringing the fight home with businesses disrupting market dynamics of the global giants. Market experts are predict-ing a big disruption - this time in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) space. India's largest telecom company led by tycoon Mukesh Ambani, Reliance Jio announced a host of AI offerings which could give established players a tough competition.

Reliance is transforming itself into a deep tech company, chairman Mukesh Ambani said last week as he termed AI as a transform-ative event in the evolution of the human race. Ambani said the ongoing tech-driven transformation of Reliance will propel the company into a new orbit of hyper-growth and multiply its value for years to come.

Reliance is known to have shaken India's tel-

ecommunications sector, the over-the-top (OTT) space, and almost every segment it targeted with its compelling and attractively priced offerings. But, with AI, cutting prices is not the only strategy that could determine success, experts said. The 'when' and 'how' of implementing Jio's AI vision needs to be watched, they added.

### FREE CLOUD

Reliance Jio's 100GB free cloud storage offer could challenge Google One and Apple's iCloud's dominance among Android and Apple phone users in India, something which Dropbox and Microsoft's OneDrive haven't been able to do as yet, experts said

The competition could also nudge existing players to cut their pricing-Google One (100GB at ₹130), iCloud (50GB at ₹75).

'Jio has brought a very lucrative proposi-



## Call records of 480 million users would be the most authentic source of speech data in almost all Indian languages

tion for an average phone user in India who struggles to upgrade memory because of paid storage," said Neil Shah, founding part-ner of technology consulting firm Counterpoint Research. "But, bundling of products and services with the OS ecosystem is a key challenge here." For instance, WhatsApp and a majority of apps' data is cur-rently backed up in iCloud and Google One because most smartphones in India run on either Google's Android or Apple iOS. Jio will need partnerships with app providers to un-bundle them from Android and iOS.

Jio's strategy however goes beyond data storage. Adoption of Jio Cloud will enable the company to get access to humongous user

data – a key need for training Jio's AI models. The company was not immediately available

## TRAINING AI MODELS

Back in 2022, Google started pouring big dol-lars into project Vaani, aimed at collecting speech data of underrepresented Indian lan-guages to train Indic AI models. It has so far collected a database of over 14,000 hours of speech across 58 languages from 80,000 speak ers in 80 districts. Similarly, startup Karya has generated work opportunities for thousands of workers from India's hinterland to collect speech data. Jio is set to achieve that for free with the new call recording and transcription feature. "Call records of 480 million users would be the most authentic source of speech data in almost all Indian languages and dialects," said Sameer Dhanrajani, CEO of AI ad-visory firms AIQRATE and 3AI. "Ibelieve Jio will do that in a privacy-preserving manner with subscriber consent. But the fact that vast Indic datasets can be created without the need to discover them from various districts is a pretty impressive approach.'

## AI-READY DATA CENTRE

The company has also announced plans to build a Gigawatt (GW) scale AI-ready data centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, which will be run on 100% renewable energy, To contextualise the scale, this project could single-handedly subsume 195 data centres present in India which

today have a combined capacity of 1GW. But the project could entail investments up to ₹25,000 crore and may need another three years to go live, unless the company has already

to go live, unless the company has already started work, experts said. Besides, running AI data centres on renewa-ble energy wouldn't be easy as AI servers con-sume 45 times more power and cooling. Out of India's entire DC power consumption, only 20% is green energy. Companies like Nxtra, CtrlS, STTelemedia have set a target to achieve net zero by 2031. Reliance will also need to make strategic partnerships with global AI leaders such as OpenAI, Meta and Google to host their models and compete with hyperscalers like AWS, Azure and Google Cloud. Whether Jio will place itself as an infrastructure provider or a managed cloud service is not evident at the moment.

'Reliance's announcement of such an iniretaince's amouncement of such an in-tiative will hopefully make the inferencing and training of AI models affordable" said Rajiv Ranjan, associate director, cloud & AI at research firm IDC India. Besides competitive price. Jio will also need to match tools, security systems and integration capabilities of-fered with the hyperscalers. Reliance's entry as a cloud player augurs well for enterprises looking to diversify in multi-cloud environments at a time when global hyperscale prices have stagnated.

"The Indian public cloud market will reach \$26.1 billion in 2027, growing at a five-year CAGR of 28.5%. Like their global peers, Indian IT leaders are evaluating decision criteria to distribute workloads across multiple cloud providers," said Anushree Verma, director analyst, emerging technologies and trends Gartner: And having a desi alternative to glob-

al giants will surely help!

# The Cybersecurity **Threat Facing SMBS**



## Aashish Aryan & Kumari Rajlakshmi Singh

Cyberattacks against small and medium businesses (SMBs), especially in India, continued to grow in 2024. Globally, SMBs faced more than 559 million attacks between April and June 2024.

A survey of more than 1,400

IT professionals across these SMBs revealed that 88% of respondents experienced cybersecurity incidents in the past 12 months, while about 79% are concerned about ransomware attacks impacting them. Moreover, 96% respondents said they would pay the attackers if an attack takes place.

Here are some additional numbers, as revealed by the survey:

## Sector-wise

energy

attacks per site (average) bot attacks in to the global average

Healthcare 100% of websites and businesses faced cyberattacks

Retail and e-commerce

SOURCE: STATE OF APPLICATION SECURITY REPORT FOR APRIL-JUNE 2024 BY INDUSFACE

# breakdown

India compared

00% more bot attacks than the global average

## What lies ahead for SMBs?

50% Respondents who perceive nation-state attacks as a major cybersecurity risk

63% Respondents who anticipate a frise in cybersecurity spending

SOURCE: ESET STUDY ON SMB IN INDIA AND ASIA PACIFIC

Total attacks on SMBs: 559 million

Total DDOS attacks on SMBs: 56.9 million

Total bot attacks on SMBs: 276 million

Total cybersecurity incidents recorded in India: 2.03 billion

## Factors contributing to cyberattacks

53% Critical high-level vulnerabilities

49% Inadequate security measures

48% Extensive use of cloud applications



## New Gen AI Use Cases Will Change the Future of Business



SANDIP PATEL

Across India and the globe, the democratisation of Gen AI is well underway. The idea that there is a foundation model for everyone represents a profound opportunity for productivity and workforce revolution. The ability to intelligently automate tasks and gain instant insights has the potential to reshape the nature of work and how businesses operate, creating a new division of work between humans and machines.

between humans and machines. Based on IBM's global 2024 CEO

Based on IBM's global 2024 CEO study, 72% of top-performing CEOs agree that competitive advantage depends on having the most advanced Gen AI.

As we reach a tipping point, where the economics of AI for business becomes compelling, applying the technology is not so much about seeking moonshots or adding some short-term incremental benefit. Rather, as the following examples

show, customised foundation models offer the opportunity to retune all fundamental business priorities and processes with AI at

priorities and processes with AI at their core.

Ensuring a positive customer experience is vital for every organisation. As such, one of the primary business value opportunities involves leveraging AI assistants for customer support. Today, about half of all call centre agents' time is spent on rote tasks such as researching and gathering information. But AI assistants can significantly accelerate the ability of businesses to retrieve immediate and accurate answers.

This year has also seen the rapid evolution of digital personalised employee assistants. For example, we have deployed a conversational AI-powered platform called AskHR. This assists employees to navigate routine processes within the organisation, while also

navigate routine processes within the organisation while also

### **ENSURING AVAILABILITY**

Scaling responsible AI practices and policies are critical for AI systems to be universally accessible and applicable



pushing out travel and weather alert notifications. As much as 94% of our employee interactions now happen through an AI chat interface without human intervention. This has enabled our HR team to refocus on more value

creating tasks. A third use case with far-reaching A third use case with far-reaching implications involves enterprise developers augmenting their work with AI coding assistants. Highquality code can be created using AI-generated recommendations, based on natural language requests or existing source code. One example involves transforming business services relying on COBOL into high-quality Java code. This can help developers and IT operators simplify their ability to assess, update, validate and test the right code, accelerating application modernisation efforts. Similarly, we are also witnessing the emergence of Gen AI platforms that provide insights to thoroughly understand the application land.

that provide insights to thoroughly understand the application land-scape. This enables IT teams to discover the connections, depend-encies, gaps and opportunities within an organisation's application architecture.

As we explore new use cases, nowhere is the potential to create Gen Al-powered solutions greater than in India, fuelled by youthful demographics and a rapidly growing tech talent pool. But as we race ahead, for the technology to thrive, it has to be built on a foundation of trust — always remembering that the purpose of AI is to augment human intelligence and not replace it. That's why scaling responsible AI practices and policies that promote explainability, fairness, transparency, robustness and privacy are critical for AI systems to be universally accessible and applicable.

The author is manualing directors.

to be universely applicable. The author is managing director, IBM India & South Asia. All views expressed are personal.

## TOP INNOVATOR

## **Voxelgrids Innovations** led in: 2017 Founded In: 201 Founder: Arjun

Arunachalam Based In: Bengaluru **Key Investors: Social** Alpha, Zoho

signs, manufactures and sells MRI machines that are made in India, and offers cost savings to users over alternatives. The

company's ability to design and assemble the machine completely in India helps keep it af

## **Ethereal Machines**

What it does: Manufactures 5-axis computer tronics and others.

SatSure Analytics d In: 2017 ider: Prateep Basu (top) and Rashmit Sin gh Sukhmani Based in: Bengaluru Key Investors: Baring PE, xto10x, Omidyar Net-

work India What it does: SatSure pro

vides actionable intelli-gence using satellite imag ry for sectors such as agriculture, banking insurance, utilities and aviation. It con-verts raw satellite images to analytics ready data, using a proprietary software that is built for scale using cloud services.

Founded In: 2016 Founders: (L-R) Navin Jain, Kaushik Mudda Based In: Bengaluru Key Investors: Peak XV Partners, Blume



numerical control (CNC) machines, which are used for contract man-ufacturing in sectors like aerospace, defence, consumer elec-

## Founded In: 2019 Founders: (L-R) Laina Emmanuel Rimihim Agrawa

Key Investors: Red-Start Labs, InfoEdge Ventures, We Founder Circle

What it does: BrainSight Al builds an advanced software system which can create a map of the human brain, tracking signals ex

changed between different parts of the brain. This helps doctors analyse their pa-tients better and treat them more efficient

### **Agnit Semiconductors**

Founded In: 2019 Founders: Hareesh Chandrasekar (left), Muralidharan Rangarajan (middle), Srinivasan Raghavan (right), Digbijoy Nath, Madhusu Atre, Shankar Kumar Selvaraja, Mayank Shrivastava

Based In: Bengaluru
Key Investors: Foundation for Science Innovation & Development, IISc What it does: Agnit designs and manu-factures Gallium Nitride (GaN) sem-







iconductors and electronic components GaN – seen as a replacement for silicon in semiconductors – is being used for manufacturing of chargers, radio frequency equipment and other elec-

# Harman's Predictive **Analytics Platform** ForecastGPT is Live

Platform to help cos forecast sales, plan finances

## Suraksha P

NICK PARROTTA president, digital transforma-tion solutions, Harman

In financial planning scenarios, Bengaluru: Samsung Electronics' wholly owned subsidiary, Haranalysts can forecast revenue man's Digital Transformation Sofrom multiple streams with lutions (DTS) business unit, has launched ForecastGPT, a precision, identify anomalies

predictive analytics plat narios, analysts can forecast form that allows organirevenue from multiple streams sations to forecast sales with precision, identify anom supply chain and finanalies and generate detailed commentary to explain the trends in the data," Nick Parcial planning across industries such as retail. manufacturing, healthrotta, president, digital transcare, hospitality, and formation solutions and chief digital and infor-mation officer at Har-In financial man told ET.

ChatGPT-maker is struggling to transform itself into a profit-driven company

## Cade Metz and Mike Isaac

OpenAL the often troubled standard-bearer of the tech industry's push into artificial in-telligence, is making substantial changes to its management team, and even how it is organised, as it courts investments from some of the wealthiest companies in

the world. the world.

Over the past several months,
OpenAI, the maker of the online
chatbot ChatGPT, has hired a who's
who of tech executives, disinformation experts and AI safety researchers. It has also added seven board mem-

bers—including a four-star Army general who ran the Na-tional Security Agency —while revamping efforts to ensure that its AI technologies do not cause serious harm. OpenAI is also in

for a deal that would value it at \$100 billion.
And the company is considering changes to
its corporate structure that would make it
easier to attract investors. The startup, after
years of public conflict between management and some of its top researchers, is try-

ing to look more like a no-nonsense company ready to lead the tech indus-try's march into AI. OpenAI is also try-ing to push last year's high-profile fight over the management of Sam Alt-

## **MOVING ON**

It is also trying to push the fight over the management of Sam Altman into the background

man, its CEO, into the background.

But interviews with more than 20 current and former OpenAI employees and board members show that the transition has been difficult. Early employees continue to leave, even as new workers and new executives pour in. And rapid growth hasn't resolved a fundamental question of what OpenAI is supproped to be Is it a cutting. OpenAI is supposed to be: Is it a cutting edge AI lab created for the benefit of hu

edge AI lab created for the benefit of nu-manity, or an aspiring industry giant dedi-cated to profits?

Today, OpenAI has more than 1,700 employ-ees, and 80% of them started after the release of ChatGPT in November 2022. Altman and other leaders have led the recruitment of exother leaders have led the recruitment of ex-cutive hires, while the new chairman, Bret Taylor, a former Facebook executive, has overseen the expansion of the board. "While startups must naturally evolve and adapt as their impact grows, we rec-ognise OpenAI is navigating this trans-formation at an unprecedented pace," Taylor said.—NYTNS

Still Haunted by its Chaotic Past, OpenAI is Now Trying to Grow Up talks with investors such as Microsoft, Apman, its CEO, into the background. ple, Nvidia and the investment firm Thrive for a deal that would value it at \$100 billion.

# Supercharge Developer Biggies Stop Playing Ball **Productivity: Monroy**

ON THE JOB Google Cloud VP says the firm is seeing 30-50% jump in productivity gains

Bengaluru: Gemini Code Assist, which was launched in December 2023, is Google's answer to coding assistants, one the one the search giant is excited about. Gabe Monroy, vice president Developer Experience at Google Cloud, told ET that it is adopted by large enterprises like Capgemini, Accenture and companies across sectors that are seeing improvement in productivity

Coding assistants in recent times have seen significant rise in adoption. According to Monroy, the tech giant uses genera-tive artificial intelligence tive artificial intelligence throughout the software devel-opment lifecycle and has seen

customers doing so lately. Monroy, who was in Bengaluru recently for Goo-gle's Gen AI Exch-ange: Developer Day, did not disclose the did not disclose the scale of adoption for Gemini Code Assist, but said they are see ing 30-50% in productiv-ity gains. The areas that could be the most impacted include generation

and test automation, he added.

"Around 20-30% of what a soft-ware developer will do is centred on those two pieces and are resulting in meaningful time savings across entire projects,

But this does not mean that the developers can be replaced by

'Areas that

could be most impacted

include code

generation and test

n be . coding a. "You assistants. "You can think of it as that 20-30% gets su-percharged with GenAI," he point-ed out. For in-stance, if test au-tomation can be

done with say, 90% effectiveness by an LLM (large language model), a devel-oper can use this time to focus on other projects.

According to him, there are more applications that need to be created than there is a supply of developers to create them and use of tools will help in rapid innovation. That is what we are trying to address with Gemini Code Assist," he added. Given that In-dia has one of the largest developer bases, it is a key focus area for the com-

# Gemini Code Assist to Hackers Pivot to SMEs as

Only 10% large companies paid ransom, while 44% SMEs ended up paying between \$25,000 and \$100,000 in 2003: Cybersecurity firms

Mumbai: Cybercriminals are turn-Mumbai: Cybercriminals are turning their focus to small and medium
enterprises (SMEs) as large organisations bolster their cybersecurity infrastructure, maintain data redundancy invest in cyber insurance, and
refuse to pay ransom.

Hacker groups like Lockbit, BlackCat and Akira are increasingly targeting SMEs in healthcare, retail and
manufacturing, who sometimes remain unable to regain their IT systems even after paying ransom.

Attacks on SMEs (with 100-5,000
employees) have significantly risen

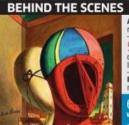
employees) have significantly rise in India and accounted for nearl half of all such incidents in 202

half of all such incidents in 2023. Among large organisations, only 10% of those attacked paid ransom, whereas with SMEs, 44% ended up paying amounts ranging between \$25,000 and \$100,000, according to data from cybersecurity firms. "The impact of such attacks on SMEscan be devastating," said Sanjay Katkar, joint managing director at cybersecurity software firm Quick Heal Technologies, "A cyberatack incurs heavy costs in terms of both finances and reputation, which is too much for most SMEs to recover from."

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Cybercriminals' exploitation of SMEs is a global trend, according to a study by digital security firm ESET. In 2023, cybercriminals deployed a record 50,000 unique malware daily on average. Incidents of cyber breach were the highest in India at 88%.

As per the annual surveys by security firm Sophos, nearly 64% SME organisations were attacked in 2023, lower than 73% in 2022. However, of those which were targeted, 65% ended up paying ransom in 2023 as against 44% the previous year. The amount paid as ransom has also increased substan-



Attacks on SMEs now comprise nearly 50% of all attacks in 2023

500,000 Unique malware deployed by cybercriminals dai-ly on average in 2023

Incidents of cyber breach were maximum in India at 88%

\$2,674,239 in 2023, while the median payment increased from \$36,000 to \$2,000,000, data showed. "We are incleed witnessing a worry-ing trend where small and medium or-ganisations are increasingly becom-ing prime targets for hackers," said

SUNIL SHARMA
VP - sales, Sophos India & Saarc



We are indeed witnessinga worrying trend where SMEs are

increasingly becoming prime targets for hackers

Sunil Sharma, vice president — sales at software security firm Sophos In-dia and Saarc, adding that there have been instances where SMEs paid ran-soms far beyond their capacity. The rise of cybercrime as a service,

where sophisticated tools like Cobalt Strike are sold to attackers through nd marketplaces, has dem ocratised cyberattacks, making it eas-ier for even less-experienced hackers

to target SMEs, according to experts. "In the Apac region, SMEs face distinct cyberattack patterns, with system intrusion, social engineering, and basic web application attacks making up 92% of incidents," said Anshuman Sharma, director at the Verizon Business Group, "With SMBs accounting for over 56% of all cyberattacks, there is a critical need for improved cybersecurity measures to protect against these prevalent threats." Supply chain attacks are increasingly targeting SMEs that serve as suppliers to larger enterprises, said Quick Heal's Katkar.

"These attackers exploit the weaker security postures of SMEs to gain access to the larger organisations they supply This method has proven quite successful, as compromising one SME can provide a gateway into multiple large enterprises," he said.

The shift to remote work has also expanded the attack surface for many SMEs, he added. Experts said in the absence of large security budgets.

absence of large security budgets SMEs should focus on basic measures like multi-factor authentication, reg-ular patching, employee training and enforcing strong password policies.

# T'gana Lays Out its AI Focus at Global AI Summit, Inks 26 MoUs

## Al City to help state emerge as an epicentre of Al innovation, says IT minister

Hyderabad: Telangana is looking at its Al City as being the 'cradle of ground breaking advancements', the state's IT minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said at the two-day Global AI Summit being held in Hyderabad. The gov-ernment entered into 26 memorandums of understanding randums of understanding (MoUs) with private players, in-cluding academic institutions, big-tech companies, startups and not-for-profit organisations.

The government said these MoUs were signed across various dimensions required to make Telangana an Al Superpower in the country. The MoUs

were signed majorly in seven areas compute infrastructure, centres of excel-lence, skilling, impact assessment, startup innovation, generative AI, research and collaboration, and data annotation.

At the heart of Telangana's AI strategy is the establishment of the Al City, a 200-acre hub near Hyderabad, dedicated to AI research, development and ap-plication. He said the project would place Telangana at the epicentre of

> Our commitment to AI is strong, with initiatives like Telangana Al Mission (T-AIM) in partnership with Nasscom, laying a robust framework for our future'

> > REVANTH REDDY

Chief Minister, Telangana

global AI innovation, offering cutting-edge compute facilities, expansive data lakes and robust connectivity. "Telangana is not merely participating in this revolution but leading it," Babu said in his keynote. Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy was al-

so present at the inauguration, and in his address, he said, Hyderabad is uniquely positioned to lead in the AI era. "As India missed previous industrial revolutions, Telangana is poised to embrace and shape the future of AI," he said.

"Our commitment to AI is strong, with initiatives like Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) in partnership with Nasscom, laying a robust framework for our future. With to day's summit, Hyderabad declares its readiness to drive AI innovation and set new standards. The future of AI starts here."

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## **European Union**

The EU announced a national plan for AI investment called the 'AI Innovation Strategy'. It includes a public and private investment package of around €4 billion through 2027

The EU has enacted the AI Act to establish a comprehensive legal framework for AI

## United Kingdom

Cambridge University, Intel and Dell collaborated to build Dawn, the UK's fastest Al-capable super-

The UK unveiled plans to spend over **\$125 million** on research and training related to Al

The govt said it will launch nine new Al research hubs across the UK

Chinese government VC funds invested in 9,623 unique firms in the AI space via 20.000 transactions over 2000-2023, totalling **\$184 billion:** National Bureau of Economic Research

At least, 262 startups are GenAl products in China

The country's Budget 2024 announced **\$2.4 billion** over five years to launch a new Al Compute Access Fund and a Canadian Al Sovereign Compute Strategy

The Budget also proposed \$50 million to create an AI Safety Institute

## South Korea

allocated approximately **\$740 million** to subsidise the AI computing industry

It is collaborating with Nvidia to upskill its workforce, support Japanese language model devel-opment and expand AI adoption for natural disaster response

## Middle East

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund is in talks with top Silicon Valley VCs to create a **\$40 billion** fund for Al startups

UAE's G42 has secured a \$1.5 billion investment from Microsoft

Dubai approved the appointment of 22 is nt of 22 chief Al officers to key govern-ment departments to drive a high-tech vision for the future

## **United States**

The US has a plan in place to form the US National At R&D Strategic Plan. Updated in 2023, it outlines the federal government's roadmap for AI R&D

\$3.3 billion

- Up from \$1.38 billion spent in 2018: Stanford University report
- This reflects a 140% increase over this period

\$75 billion - US Federal IT Budget proposed for 2025

