



SECTION 1 – TECH BUZZ

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



India Leads Global AI

Stanford University's AI Index Report for 2023 has shed light on India's pivotal role in the global Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution. According to data sourced from LinkedIn, India stands out as a leader in AI skills, boasting the highest AI skill penetration rates worldwide. In addition, the report highlights that Indian software developers made substantial contributions to AI projects on GitHub in 2022, accounting for approximately 24.2% of the total.

- Former NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant, expressed his optimism about India's progress in the AI field based on the findings of the report. He emphasized that India's brightest minds are actively shaping the development of AI technology and applying it to address global challenges in areas such as health, education, and nutrition.
- In a tweet, he lauded India's achievements, stating, "India's brightest minds are shaping Artificial Intelligence (AI) development and steering its application towards addressing global challenges of health, education, and nutrition. In the sixth edition of the AI Index Report by Stanford, India emerged as the leader in AI skill penetration rates."
- The report measures AI skill penetration rates using LinkedIn data, which assesses the prevalence of various AI-related skills across different jobs. As of 2022, India led the pack with an AI skill penetration rate of 3.2, followed by the United States at 2.2 and

Germany at 1.7. Kant stressed the importance of ensuring that this talented workforce has access to reliable data and computing power, which will play a crucial role in establishing India as a hub for AI research.

- GitHub, a platform where developers store their software projects, has witnessed a significant increase in AI-related projects since 2011. The number of such projects grew from 1,536 in 2011 to an impressive 347,934 in 2022. Indian software developers made a remarkable contribution to this growth, accounting for 24.2% of AI projects on GitHub in 2022. Comparatively, the European Union and the United Kingdom contributed 17.3%, and the United States contributed 14.0%. Kant reiterated the need to support this talent pool by providing access to reliable data and computing power, emphasizing that this support would solidify India's position as a prominent AI research hub.

ChatGPT now lets users upload and analyse PDF files

OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, has recently unveiled a new feature for its chatbot, allowing users to upload PDF files for analysis. This functionality, currently in beta, is exclusively available to ChatGPT Plus members.

- This new feature is versatile, accommodating different types of documents such as PDFs and data files. It proves particularly useful for individuals seeking quick information without delving into lengthy documents. Users can obtain summaries, comprehend various data points, and generate graphs and charts based on the content of the uploaded file.
- To access this feature, ChatGPT Plus members can enable 'Advanced data analysis' in the ChatGPT settings by navigating to the 'beta features' section.
- A user named 'luokai' on Threads shared their experience with ChatGPT, utilizing the feature to upload an image of a capybara and requesting the chatbot to create a Pixar-styled version from the provided image. Subsequently, they uploaded a picture of a skateboard and asked the chatbot to generate an image featuring the capybara holding the skateboard. However, the AI-powered chatbot appeared to add a hat to the skateboard-carrying capybara, indicating a surprising creative twist.
- In addition to file analysis, OpenAI also introduced multimodal support, a feature that automatically selects various modes like Browse with Bing or Code Interpreter, eliminating the need for users to manually switch between them. It's worth noting that OpenAI is gradually rolling out these features, so it might take some time before they become available to all ChatGPT Plus members.

AI Summit: Leaders Discuss Safety

The world's first major summit on artificial intelligence (AI) safety opened in the UK on Wednesday, with political and tech leaders gathering to discuss possible responses to the society-changing technology.

- UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, US Vice President Kamala Harris, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres all attended the two-day conference, which focused on growing fears about the implications of so-called frontier AI. The release of the latest models offered a glimpse into the potential of AI but also

prompted concerns around issues ranging from job losses to cyber attacks and the control that humans actually have over the systems.

- Sunak, whose government initiated the gathering, had said in a speech the previous week that his "ultimate goal" was "to work towards a more international approach to safety where we collaborate with partners to ensure AI systems are safe before they are released."
- He added, drawing comparisons to the approach taken to climate change, "We will push hard to agree on the first-ever international statement about the nature of these risks." However, London reportedly had to scale back its ambitions around ideas such as launching a new regulatory body amid a perceived lack of enthusiasm.
- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was one of the only world leaders, and the only one from the G7, attending the conference. Elon Musk was due to appear, but it was not clear whether he would be physically present at the summit in Bletchley Park, north of London, where top British codebreakers cracked Nazi Germany's "Enigma" code.
- While the potential of AI raised many hopes, particularly for medicine, its development was seen as largely unchecked. In his speech, Sunak stressed the need for countries to develop "a shared understanding of the risks that we face."
- However, lawyer and investigator Cori Crider, a campaigner for "fair" technology, warned that the summit could be "a bit of a talking shop." She told a press conference in San Francisco, "If he were serious about safety, Rishi Sunak needed to roll deep and bring all of the UK majors and regulators in tow, and he hasn't." She questioned, "Where is the labour regulator looking at whether jobs are being made unsafe or redundant? Where's the data protection regulator?"
- Having faced criticism for only looking at the risks of AI, the UK pledged £38 million (\$46 million) to fund AI projects around the world, starting in Africa. Ahead of the meeting, the G7 powers had agreed on Monday on a non-binding "code of conduct" for companies developing the most advanced AI systems.
- The White House had announced its own plan to set safety standards for the deployment of AI that would require companies to submit certain systems to government review. And in Rome, ministers from Italy, Germany, and France had called for an "innovation-friendly approach" to regulating AI in Europe, urging more investments to challenge the US and China.
- China was present at the summit. Beijing's invitation had raised eyebrows amid heightened tensions with Western nations and accusations of technological espionage.

TECHNOLOGY

Tech to recycle clothes is only just being invented

The fashion industry's massive waste and pollution problems have spurred a growing need for recycling solutions. In response, a French company called CETIA, based in the southwest of France, has developed innovative machines to address these challenges.

- One of their inventions is a machine that utilizes artificial intelligence to scan garments, identify components like zippers and buttons, and use lasers to cut them out.

Additionally, they have created a machine with a mechanical arm that can remove shoe soles efficiently.

- While these solutions might seem basic in today's advanced technological landscape, they represent a significant advancement in clothing recycling. CETIA's director, Chloe Salmon Legagneur, explained that the inability to separate soles from shoes hindered recycling efforts.
- Traditionally, recyclers had to spend hours baking shoes to melt the glue and then manually remove the soles. CETIA's AI-laser machine can now perform this task at a much faster rate, making the recycling process more efficient.
- Currently, only around one percent of textiles in Europe are transformed into new clothes. Most discarded clothing ends up as housing insulation, padding, or asphalt for roads due to the complexity of separating different materials carefully. CETIA's AI-laser machine can handle this intricate task at a rapid pace, offering a promising solution to the industry's recycling challenges.
- The emergence of these inventions is timely, driven by upcoming stringent European regulations that will compel clothing companies to incorporate a specific amount of recycled fibers into their products. CETIA's efforts are supported by major retailers like Decathlon and Zalando, who are urgently seeking industrial-scale recycling solutions.
- Moreover, the French government recognizes the potential for new manufacturing jobs if recycling technology can address the 200,000 tonnes of textile waste exported annually.
- CETIA's primary focus is on preparing textiles for reuse, paving the way for other companies to melt down separated soles and create new ones. While these developments may seem straightforward, they represent a crucial initial step in establishing a robust recycling sector in France.
- Veronique Allaire-Spitzer of Refashion, an organization coordinating waste management, emphasized the importance of having systems to prepare materials for recycling.
- CETIA received significant financial support, including 900,000 euros from Refashion and a similar contribution from the regional government.
- According to Legagneur, these innovations are not magic ideas but rather the result of common sense combined with collaboration between engineers, financing entities, and companies in need of sustainable solutions.
- This alignment of factors has finally enabled the realization of these advancements, marking a significant shift from a decade ago when such initiatives were met with little interest.

ROBOTICS

Window Cleaning Robots

Skyline Robotics has teamed up with Principle Cleaning Services (Principle) to introduce the innovative Ozmo window cleaning robot to the London skyline. This groundbreaking partnership is set to transform the window cleaning industry in London by offering a comprehensive range of services aimed at assessing the health of building facades.

- The Ozmo robot, Skyline Robotics' flagship product, integrates artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer vision, advanced robotics, and sensors. This cutting-edge technology enables Ozmo to clean windows up to three times faster than human workers, significantly enhancing efficiency and safety. Importantly, Ozmo does not replace human workers but operates alongside them, paving the way for a future where humans and robots collaborate synergistically.
- Principle Cleaning Services, a leading provider of corporate and commercial cleaning in London, will exclusively offer Ozmo's services in the capital. The partnership between Skyline Robotics and Principle aims to revolutionize not only window cleaning but also Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) monitoring for building envelopes in London. By providing valuable data, insights, and analytics on a building's facade health, this initiative will contribute to the overall sustainability and maintenance of structures.
- Commenting on the collaboration, Michael Brown, CEO of Skyline Robotics, expressed excitement about expanding their operations to London. He emphasized the significance of automation in driving business growth, especially in a city like London with a high density of Building Maintenance Units (BMUs). Tom Lloyd, CEO of Principle Cleaning Services, reiterated their commitment to fostering collaborative work environments between humans and robots, aligning with the company's core values of People, Sustainability, and Innovation.
- Skyline Robotics has received prestigious accolades for its innovative approach, including the 2023 RBR50 Robotics Innovation Award for the Ozmo robot. The company was also honored with the 2023 PropTech Breakthrough Award for "Construction Robotics Solution of the Year" and secured a spot on the 2023 BuiltWorlds Robotics 50 List.
- This partnership not only marks a significant milestone for the window cleaning industry but also showcases the potential of human-robot collaboration in shaping the future of work.

GADGETS

Xiaomi MiTu U1 Pro

Xiaomi has introduced the MiTu Children's Phone Watch U1 Pro in China, a smartwatch packed with an array of features tailored for children's safety and education. This innovative device supports 4G connectivity, enabling users to message friends and family, as well as make video or voice calls through popular platforms like WeChat and QQ.

- Xiaomi emphasizes the watch's utility for parents, allowing them to ensure their children's safety through GPS tracking. Parents can receive alerts on their smartphones when their child arrives home, at school, or enters predefined dangerous areas.
- The U1 Pro smartwatch goes beyond just safety features; it incorporates educational tools such as the Xiao AI classmate voice assistant and a learning app covering subjects like Chinese, mathematics, and English. Additionally, the device enables contactless payments via WeChat or Alipay, with parents having the ability to set daily spending limits for their children.

- In terms of physical features, the U1 Pro offers activity monitoring through various sports modes, along with a calendar, flashlight, and SOS emergency tool. The device boasts 4GB of storage and is powered by a 950 mAh battery, although Xiaomi has not disclosed the average usage time on a single charge. Designed with children in mind, the smartwatch sports a vibrant yellow bezel and strap and is waterproof up to 20 meters (approximately 65.6 feet).
 - The Xiaomi MiTu Children's Phone Watch U1 Pro is priced at 999 yuan in China, equivalent to around US\$137. As of now, it remains uncertain whether or when this gadget will be available in other markets.
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SECTION 2 – GLOBAL INFO

EUROPE

RUSSIA

Russia's aviation sector is currently facing significant challenges, with growing worries about passenger safety arising from issues related to poor maintenance, a shortage of spare parts, and frequent breakdowns. These concerns have been exacerbated by the industry's heavy reliance on international suppliers, a situation further complicated by Western sanctions imposed due to Moscow's actions in Ukraine.

- The sanctions have severed ties with major aircraft manufacturers like Europe's Airbus and US-based Boeing, leaving Russian airlines struggling to acquire and maintain essential physical components and advanced software required to keep their planes operational. Experts point out that the inability to access these crucial resources has created serious difficulties for Russian carriers, making it harder to ensure the safety and efficiency of their flights.
- Oleg Panteleyev, the director of AviaPort.ru, an agency specializing in the Russian aviation industry, emphasized the challenging conditions faced by Russian airlines. He noted that the industry's operating environment has become significantly more difficult, leading to increased risks for both airlines and passengers.

MONTENEGRO

Montenegro's political landscape underwent a significant change as lawmakers voted in a new government, marking the end of nearly five months of post-election negotiations. The newly formed government, led by Prime Minister Milojko Spajic, secured the support of 46 out of 66 members present in the 81-member parliament after an extensive overnight debate.

- In his address to the lawmakers before the vote, Prime Minister Spajic, 36, outlined his vision for Montenegro, describing it as the "Switzerland of the Balkans and the Singapore of Europe." His party, Europe Now, managed to clinch a narrow victory in the June

parliamentary elections amidst a competitive field, triggering prolonged coalition discussions.

- The newly established coalition comprises pro-Russian and pro-Serbian parties, most notably the For the Future of Montenegro alliance. Andrija Mandic, the leader of this alliance, was elected as the parliamentary speaker late Monday. Mandic's coalition staunchly opposes the recognition of Kosovo as Serbia's former breakaway province and does not support international sanctions against Russia concerning the Ukraine invasion. These political developments have reshaped Montenegro's government and raised expectations for its future direction.
- Recent incidents have underscored these concerns. In one such incident, passengers aboard a Red Wings flight found themselves stranded in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg for an entire day due to simultaneous "technical malfunctions" affecting the only two available aircraft. These incidents serve as stark reminders of the industry's vulnerabilities, highlighting the urgent need for solutions to address the current challenges faced by Russia's aviation sector.

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu firmly rejected the possibility of a ceasefire in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas on Monday. He dismissed calls for a truce, characterizing them as demands for Israel to surrender to terrorism.

- Addressing foreign media, Netanyahu stated unequivocally that Israel would not back down, emphasizing that the country was determined to continue the fight until victory was achieved.
- The conflict escalated when Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a series of unprecedented attacks inside Israel on October 7, resulting in a tragic toll of more than 1,400 casualties, predominantly civilians, and the abduction of over 230 individuals. In response, Israel declared war on Hamas.
- The Israeli military launched a significant aerial bombing campaign targeting Hamas-controlled Gaza. Additionally, ground forces moved into Gaza, with images released showing Israeli mechanized infantry advancing through the coastal sands in the northern part of the territory. Witnesses also reported tanks positioned on the outskirts of Gaza City as the conflict unfolded.

ASIA

BANGLADESH

In Dhaka, thousands of garment workers from Bangladesh staged protests, blocking roads and demanding fair wages for the clothing they produce for well-known Western brands. The demonstrations, which have lasted for several days, have sadly resulted in at least two casualties.

- Among the protesters is Sabina Begum, a 22-year-old seamstress, who highlighted her participation due to the financial struggles her family faces. She emphasized that the

current monthly minimum wage of 8,300 taka (\$75) is insufficient to cover basic necessities. Begum pointed out the challenge of managing expenses, especially when a significant portion of their income, around 5,000-6,000 taka, is allocated just for renting a one-bedroom house.

- These protests have taken place amidst a backdrop of other anti-government demonstrations in Bangladesh. Opposition party supporters are calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ahead of the upcoming elections scheduled by the end of January.
- It's important to note that Bangladesh's garment industry is a crucial part of the country's economy, accounting for approximately 85 percent of its \$55 billion exports. However, the conditions faced by the four million apparel workers in the country are dire.
- Many major Western companies, including Adidas, Gap, H&M, and Levi Strauss, source their products from Bangladeshi manufacturers, making the concerns of the protesting workers a matter of international concern.

SECTION 3 – MIXED BAG

HEALTH

Air Pollution & Parkinson's

A groundbreaking study published in the medical journal *Neurology* by researchers at the Barrow Neurological Institute has revealed a significant link between air pollution and the risk of developing Parkinson's disease. The research found that individuals living in areas with medium levels of air pollution face a staggering 56 percent higher risk of acquiring Parkinson's compared to those residing in areas with the lowest pollution levels.

- Led by Brittany Krzyzanowski, PhD, the study utilized advanced geospatial analytical techniques to establish a strong nationwide connection between incident Parkinson's disease and fine particulate matter in the United States. Previous research has demonstrated that fine particulate matter can cause inflammation in the brain, a known mechanism that could lead to the development of Parkinson's disease.
- Remarkably, the study also uncovered regional disparities in the relationship between air pollution and Parkinson's disease. Specific areas, such as the Mississippi-Ohio River Valley, central North Dakota, parts of Texas, Kansas, eastern Michigan, and the tip of Florida, were identified as hotspots for Parkinson's disease. On the contrary, individuals residing in the western half of the U.S. were found to be at a reduced risk of developing the disease compared to the rest of the nation.
- Krzyzanowski emphasized that these regional differences might be attributed to variations in the composition of particulate matter. Some regions may have particulate matter containing more toxic components, possibly originating from sources like traffic

emissions and manufacturing activities, which have been linked to cell death in the brain regions associated with Parkinson's disease.

- The study, conducted on a population-based scale, analyzed nearly 90,000 Parkinson's disease cases from a Medicare dataset encompassing nearly 22 million individuals. By geocoding the residences of those diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, researchers were able to calculate disease rates in different regions and determine average annual concentrations of fine particulate matter in these areas.
- Even after accounting for various risk factors such as age, sex, race, smoking history, and medical care utilization, the researchers confirmed a significant association between prior exposure to fine particulate matter and the later development of Parkinson's disease.
- Krzyzanowski stressed the potential of population-based geographic studies in shedding light on the role of environmental toxins in neurological disorders like Parkinson's. She believes that these methods can be extended to explore other neurological health outcomes as well.
- The implications of this study are profound, suggesting a need for stricter policies to reduce air pollution levels. By addressing this environmental risk factor, there is hope that the incidence of Parkinson's disease and related illnesses can be significantly decreased. Krzyzanowski emphasized that while previous research mainly focused on pesticide exposure, this study underscores the importance of considering air pollution as a significant contributor to the development of Parkinson's disease.

AUTOMOBILE

Jordan's EV Surge

The electric vehicle market in Jordan is experiencing a significant surge, largely driven by high petrol prices rather than concerns about environmental issues. Low import taxes, particularly on affordable Chinese-made models, have made electric cars a common sight on the streets of Amman and the kingdom's highways.

- Owners like Shadi Zatari, who drives a Tesla, have found substantial savings by switching to electric vehicles. Zatari, for instance, can drive 400 kilometers on a single charge and has reduced his monthly fuel expenses from 120 dinars (\$170) to 40 dinars, equivalent to the average increase in his monthly electricity bill.
- Currently, there are 60,000 electric vehicles registered in Jordan, making up the fastest-growing segment, although it still represents a fraction of the total registered vehicles in the country. The number of electric vehicles on Jordan's roads increased by 103 percent by the end of July compared to the same period last year.
- The growth rate for electric vehicles in 2022 was 167 percent, while imports of petrol and diesel-powered cars dropped by 27 percent, and hybrid vehicle imports fell by almost 25 percent.
- Chinese-made electric vehicles, such as Changan Eado EV and E-Star, as well as models from BYD, Dongfeng, and MG, have become popular choices among Jordanian consumers. The demand for electric cars is primarily driven by the high cost of gasoline

in Jordan, which is burdensome for the population due to the overall high cost of living in the country.

- The economic challenges faced by Jordan, including high unemployment rates and a significant public debt, have further incentivized budget-conscious consumers to opt for electric vehicles.
- To encourage this trend, the Jordanian government has reduced import duties on electric vehicles to 10-15 percent, significantly lower than those imposed on petrol cars, which can go up to 80 percent.
- The government has also licensed numerous charging points at petrol stations and private businesses. Despite the environmental benefits of electric vehicles, most Jordanians are motivated by the potential cost savings rather than environmental concerns. As a result, the demand for electric cars continues to rise, with Chinese-made models being particularly popular among consumers in Jordan.

DESERTIFICATION

Desertification Challenge In Brazil

Standing amidst a rugged landscape of red craters that closely resembles the surface of Mars, Brazilian farmer Ubiratan Lemos Abade gestures toward two divergent futures for the land rapidly transforming into a desert. Abade, a 65-year-old cattle rancher, resides in Brazil's most severe desertification hotspot: Gilbues, in the northeastern state of Piauí. In this arid region, farms and homes are being swallowed by a parched, canyon-riddled terrain, claiming an area larger than New York City.

- Experts attribute this phenomenon to the rampant erosion of the region's inherently delicate soil, worsened by deforestation, uncontrolled development, and likely climate change. Nevertheless, amidst this bleak environment, several hundred determined farming families persist, employing resourcefulness and determination to cope with the growing crisis.
- "Things have spiraled out of control. Rainfall patterns have changed drastically. That's why we rely on irrigation. Without it, we wouldn't survive," remarks Abade. To his right, he indicates a barren field of withered grass, unfit for his cattle. To his left, he showcases a thriving patch of tall bluestem grass nourished by a makeshift irrigation system he established a year ago. This system, comprising a well and a network of hoses, is his lifeline, keeping his 15 cows—and himself—alive.
- From an aerial perspective, the "Gilbues desert" appears like a vast expanse of crumpled, brick-red sandpaper. The erosion issue is not new; the name "Gilbues" likely originates from an Indigenous term signifying "fragile land," notes environmental historian Dalton Macambira of the Federal University of Piauí. However, human activities have exacerbated the problem by clearing vegetation, whose roots previously helped stabilize the silty soil, and by overexploiting the environment as Gilbues transformed into a town of 11,000 residents.
- Gilbues experienced a diamond-mining rush in the mid-20th century, a sugarcane boom in the 1980s, and now stands as one of the major soybean-producing counties in the state.

As Macambira asserts, human presence accelerates the problem by demanding more from the environment than it can naturally support. His research, published in January, revealed that the area affected by desertification more than doubled from 387 square kilometers in 1976 to 805 square kilometers (310 square miles) in 2019, impacting 15 counties and approximately 500 farming families.

- Climate scientists emphasize the need for further studies to pinpoint whether global warming is intensifying this phenomenon. Farmers observe a dryer dry season, punctuated by a shorter but more intense rainy season, exacerbating the issue as heavy rains wash away more soil, deepening the gaping canyons referred to as "vocolocas." Macambira argues that a hotter planet will only worsen the situation. "Wherever environmental degradation occurs, climate change tends to have a more detrimental impact," he states.
- Desertification, termed a "silent crisis" by the United Nations, affects 500 million people worldwide, leading to increased poverty and conflicts. Fabriciano Corado, president of the conservation group SOS Gilbues, sees an opportunity amid the crisis. He acknowledges the challenges but believes that Gilbues's soil, despite its susceptibility to erosion, is a farmer's dream: rich in phosphorous and clay, it requires no additional fertilizers or treatments.
- Similar to Abade, Corado advocates for the integration of technology to combat encroaching desertification, emphasizing the importance of locally suited, low-tech solutions. He points to successful methods such as protecting native vegetation, adopting drip irrigation, engaging in fish farming, and reviving ancient anti-erosion techniques like terrace farming, once utilized by civilizations like the Aztecs, Incas, and Mayas.
- Corado criticizes the closure of a government-run anti-desertification research center in Gilbues six years ago, which previously assisted local farmers in implementing effective techniques. While the state plans to reopen the center, a specific date has not been set. Furthermore, Corado sees vast potential in the region as a solar energy producer, highlighting the recent establishment of a large-scale solar park with millions of panels and plans for another.
- By striking the right balance between conservation efforts and appropriate technology, Corado believes that the community can overcome the challenges posed by desertification. "There's no stopping us," he asserts, underscoring the potential for resilience and progress in the face of adversity.

ECONOMY

FII Summit: Global Collaboration

At the Future Investment Initiative (FII), a prominent global summit held in Riyadh, influential leaders from Europe, the Middle East, and Africa came together to explore innovative principles aimed at bolstering the international economy amid the increasing volatility and disruption witnessed in recent years.

- During the second day of the FII, themed "A New Vision Manifest," the spotlight was on the challenges and opportunities faced by emerging economies. The event provided a

platform for emerging "middle powers" like Brazil, Turkey, and South Africa to discuss strategies for enhancing domestic economies and international trade amidst a backdrop of challenging economic conditions and the urgent need for climate solutions.

- In a significant morning discussion, finance ministers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Türkiye, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the United Kingdom deliberated on ways to improve global trade, which had declined from 2.7% in the previous year to 1.7% in 2023. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, emphasized the importance of financial resilience in the face of recurring external shocks like the Covid pandemic, wars, and rising living costs, highlighting the need for proactive decision-making to strengthen global economic stability.
- During a special lunchtime session, President Paul Kagame shared Rwanda's success story as a continental economic powerhouse, emphasizing the importance of cooperation among African nations and collaboration with the global community to drive mutual progress. He urged African countries to invest in each other and work collectively with the rest of the world for mutual benefit.
- The FII's second day also featured a summit on artificial intelligence (AI) and pivotal discussions on regulating, applying, developing, and implementing AI technologies. Participants explored the diverse applications of AI in areas such as healthcare, finance, and environmental management, focusing on harnessing its potential for the betterment of humanity.
- Cross-cultural collaboration took center stage in an afternoon session featuring renowned French footballer Karim Benzema and former FIA President and UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Jean Todt. They discussed how governments and institutions could leverage the influential power of sports to exhibit visionary leadership, inspire citizens, and promote global unity.
- Richard Attias, CEO of the Future Investment Initiative Institute, highlighted the concerning global trend of decreasing life satisfaction, citing data from the Priority Compass report based on surveys conducted in 23 countries. He emphasized the need for swift and decisive action, considering the influential leaders and major investors present at the FII, stressing the collective responsibility to act promptly for the betterment of humanity.
- About FII Institute: The Future Investment Initiative (FII) Institute, a global nonprofit foundation, operates with a singular mission: Impact on Humanity. Through its investment arm, the institute collaborates with brilliant minds worldwide, transforming innovative ideas into tangible solutions in critical areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Robotics, Education, Healthcare, and Sustainability.

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