

Far and Wide

Every week we share selection of six news from six continents that we believe will impact our world in the near or distant future

October 2023 | Issue #25

Dubai's new center dedicated to artificial intelligence holds great potential for India's startups

Welcome to the latest edition of Far and Wide, where we embark on a journey to explore intriguing stories and global developments.

Dubai's recent initiative to **foster innovation and technological advancement** has captured the attention of **both local and global tech enthusiasts**. This ambitious endeavor seeks to support over **20 advanced technology startups**, bridging the gap between the **public, private, and academic sectors** to unlock the **potential of artificial intelligence (AI)**. As this initiative unfolds, it also offers **India's tech sector** a promising avenue for collaboration and growth. The **Dubai Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DCAI)** serves as the **epicenter** of this transformative project. Its primary objective is to **harness the capabilities of generative AI**, a branch of AI that **generates original and lifelike content**, including images, text, music, and videos. Under the visionary leadership of **Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai**, generative AI is poised to **revolutionize the government sector**, making it more efficient and effective. Traditionally, organizations in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and the Gulf region have been **clients of Indian tech firms**. However, collaborative partnerships for **cutting-edge solutions** have been somewhat limited. This new technology-focused agenda in the Gulf region marks a turning point. It signals an era where the UAE is not just a **consumer** but also a **creator of tech innovations**. Indian tech companies, **renowned** for their **AI expertise**, are well-positioned to seize the **partnership opportunities** this shift presents. The DCAI's ambitious plans include **launching numerous pilot projects** in key sectors such as **transportation, healthcare, and energy**. AI's potential is vast, from simulating policy impacts to predicting outcomes and enhancing decision-making processes. The collaboration between these two **tech powerhouses** holds the promise of **pushing the boundaries** of AI innovation, delivering solutions that can transform industries and **improve lives on a global scale**. In the realm of technology, the possibilities are boundless, and Dubai's **forward-thinking initiative** is a testament to its **commitment to exploring and harnessing** those possibilities for **the betterment of society**.



INSIDE

Stories in Focus



Policy

UN Authorizes a Second Malaria Vaccine. Experts Warn It's Not Enough to Stop the Disease Spreading

Thousands of Women March in Latin America Calling for Abortion Rights



Global Trade

China slowdown to hit Australia's resources export earnings



Technology

Dubai's new center dedicated to artificial intelligence holds great potential for India's startups



Strategic Partnerships

EU ministers meet in Kyiv to support Ukraine amid signs of strain in allies

Prioritizing African agenda at the UN general Assembly



Europe

EU ministers meet in Kyiv to support Ukraine amid signs of strain in allies

European Union foreign ministers conveyed their support for Ukraine during a meeting held in Kyiv on 2nd October, marking a significant event as it was their first meeting in a non-member country. This show of support comes in the wake of a pro-Russian candidate's victory in Slovakia's election and the U.S. Congress omitting war aid for Ukraine from its spending bill.

Despite concerns about diminishing support for Ukraine's war efforts on both sides of the Atlantic, particularly in the United States, where Congress excluded aid to Ukraine from an emergency bill to avoid a government shutdown, Kyiv remains steadfast. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba stated that they do not believe U.S. support has waned because the United States recognizes the broader implications of Ukraine's situation.

The absence of Ukraine from the U.S. spending bill has prompted Ukrainian officials to seek alternative avenues to secure additional assistance, in addition to the \$113 billion in security, economic, and humanitarian aid provided by the U.S. since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

Senate leaders, who are narrowly controlled by President Joe Biden's fellow Democrats, have committed to addressing continued support in the coming weeks. However, Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who leads the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, has requested more information from the Biden administration. Regarding the election victory of pro-Russian former Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, Kuleba emphasized that a new leader would still need to form a coalition, and it is premature to assess its impact on Slovak politics. While the meeting in Kyiv was heralded as a historic first for the EU, it coincides with a challenging period for Western nations supporting Kyiv. As summer comes to an end, Ukraine's counteroffensive has not yielded the anticipated victories before adverse weather conditions affect military operations. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed confidence in Ukraine's ability to prevail, emphasizing the importance of cooperation with Western allies.



North America

UN Authorizes a Second Malaria Vaccine. Experts Warn It's Not Enough to Stop the Disease Spreading

The World Health Organization (WHO) has granted authorization for a second malaria vaccine on 2nd October, potentially offering countries a more cost-effective and widely available alternative to the first vaccine developed to combat this parasitic disease.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced the approval of this new malaria vaccine, based on the recommendations of two expert groups. The vaccine is intended for use in children at risk of malaria. Tedros expressed his excitement, stating, "As a malaria researcher, I used to dream of the day we would have a safe and effective vaccine against malaria. Now we have two." The new three-dose vaccine was developed by Oxford University in collaboration with the Serum Institute of India. Research indicates that it is more than 75% effective and provides protection for at least an additional year with a booster shot. The cost of this vaccine is estimated to be in the range of \$2 to \$4 per dose, and it could become available in select countries next year if funding is secured. Earlier in the year, regulatory authorities in Ghana and Burkina Faso had already approved this vaccine. In 2021, WHO endorsed the first malaria vaccine, known as Mosquirix and developed by GSK, as a significant effort to combat the devastating impact of malaria, which primarily affects Africa with an estimated 200 million cases and 400,000 deaths annually.

However, Mosquirix has limitations—it is only about 30% effective, requires four doses, and its protection diminishes within months. The effectiveness comparison between the GSK and Oxford-developed vaccines remains inconclusive based on available data. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a major supporter of the GSK vaccine, withdrew direct financial support for Mosquirix's rollout last year, citing its lower effectiveness and a better use of funding elsewhere. Instead, the foundation continues to support the vaccine distribution through Gavi, a global vaccines alliance purchasing GSK shots for distribution in lower-income countries.



Source: The US News

<https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2023-10-02/un-authorizes-a-second-malaria-vaccine-experts-warn-its-not-enough-to-stop-the-disease-spreading>



South America

Thousands of Women March in Latin America Calling for Abortion Rights



On **International Safe Abortion Day**, streets in cities across **Latin America** were filled with **green** as **tens of thousands of women** marched to **commemorate the occasion**. Latin American feminists have been **advocating for years to loosen** strict abortion **prohibitions**, although some countries, like **El Salvador and the Dominican Republic**, still enforce **total bans**.

In **Mexico**, marchers celebrated a **recent milestone** achieved when **Mexico's Supreme Court decriminalized abortion** at the **federal level**. However, in **Argentina**, marchers expressed concerns about the **strength of a far-right presidential candidate** as they approach elections in October, fearing **potential setbacks after years** of feminist efforts. While **abortion rights** were at the **forefront of these protests**, women also raised **awareness about the region's high rates of gender-based violence** and the **mistreatment of LGBTQ+ communities**.

In **Mexico City**, a large crowd of women waved green handkerchiefs, symbolizing the "**green wave**" **abortion movement** in Latin America. Signs demanding "**It's my decision**" and "**Free and safe abortions for everyone**" dotted the crowd. The march occurred shortly after Mexico's Supreme Court struck down all federal **criminal penalties for abortion**, ruling that national laws prohibiting the procedure were unconstitutional and violated women's rights.

This decision also mandates **federal health institutions** to provide abortions upon request. While abortion bans still exist in **20 Mexican states**, the **Supreme Court's** decision significantly **expanded access to abortion in a country with deep religious** and conservative roots. Despite these concerns, women in Argentina remain **determined to protect their rights** and will continue to **advocate for their goals**, relying on the same **grassroots activism** that has brought them this far. They emphasize that their achievements have been won through **persistent street protests and vow to keep fighting for their rights**.

Source: The Voanews

<https://www.voanews.com/a/thousands-of-women-march-in-latin-america-calling-for-abortion-rights-/7289742.html>



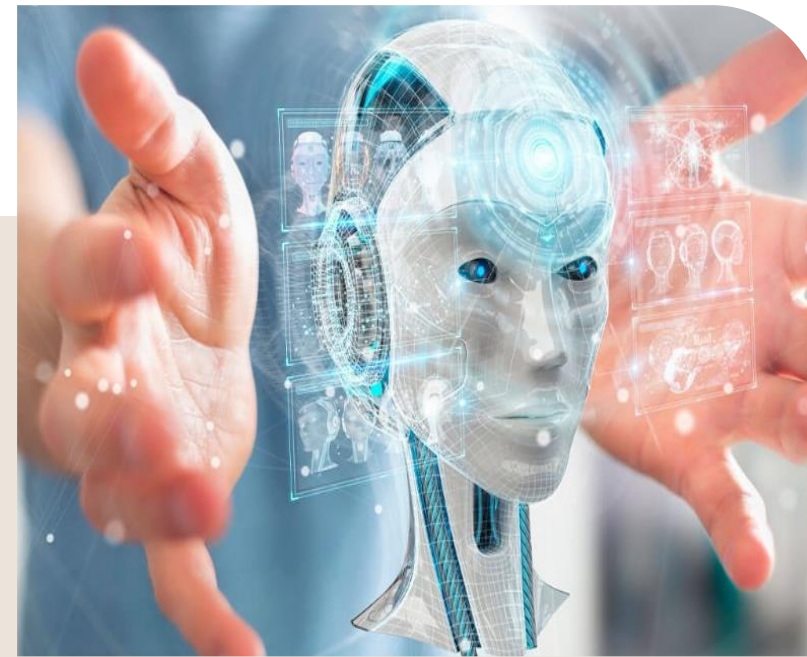
Asia

Dubai's new center dedicated to artificial intelligence holds great potential for India's startups

Dubai has introduced a new initiative to **support over 20 advanced technology startups**, both **local and global**, to collaborate with the **emirate's government** in implementing **future innovations**. This initiative is seen as opening up new partnership opportunities for India's tech sector, according to experts. **The Dubai Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DCAI)** has been established to serve as a **collaborative platform** involving the public, private, and academic sectors to develop **new applications of artificial intelligence (AI)**.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The **Executive Council of Dubai**, expressed the goal of applying generative AI technologies in practical ways within the **government sector**. Generative AI focuses on creating new content such as **original and realistic images, text, music, and videos using AI algorithms**. While organizations in the UAE and the broader Gulf region have traditionally been **clients of Indian tech firms**, **collaborative partnerships for developing innovative solutions** have been somewhat **limited until now**.

The growing technology agenda in the **Gulf region** is seen as a **positive development for Indian companies** specializing in cutting-edge AI technology. There is a renewed emphasis on developing **intellectual property (IP) domestically** and partnering with global ventures that bring **breakthrough concepts**. Several Indian **tech firms** have **established themselves in the UAE, driven by incentives, funding opportunities, and a rapidly expanding tech ecosystem**. The AI-dedicated center in Dubai plans to initiate numerous pilot projects across key sectors like transportation, healthcare, and energy. AI is expected to be used for **simulations that analyze the effects of new policies**, predict outcomes in **different scenarios, assess program effectiveness**, and support complex decision-making. Experts note that the UAE holds significant potential for AI startups, given the government's proactive approach in **seeking innovative AI technologies and solutions**.



Source: The Times of India

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/102505707.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst



Australia

China slowdown to hit Australia's resources export earnings

Australia's resources and energy export earnings are expected to decline over the next two years due to weakening global demand, particularly from its largest trading partner, China, according to official forecasts released. Commodity export earnings are projected to decrease to **A\$400 billion (\$258.3 billion)** in 2023/24 from the previous year's record of **A\$467 billion (\$301.5 billion)**. Further declines are expected, with earnings forecasted to reach **A\$352 billion** by 2024/25, as stated in a quarterly report from the Department of Industry, Science, and Resources.

The report attributes this decline to the global economic slowdown, including China's sluggish recovery from COVID-19 lockdowns. It anticipates that resource and energy export earnings will continue to fall in 2024–25. Some commodities are expected to see prices retreat from their peaks in 2022, as supply conditions improve. Australia's Resources Minister, Madeleine King, noted that the lower export earnings reflect a return to more normal prices. She emphasized that Australia's resources and energy exports remain strong and continue to support the country's economic well-being.

Source: The Times of India
http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/104109957.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Slower growth in China's residential property sector is anticipated to reduce demand for steel, affecting iron ore, Australia's most valuable commodity export. Earnings from iron ore exports are expected to decline to **A\$120 billion** in 2023/24 from **A\$124 billion** the previous year, with further decreases to **A\$99 billion** projected for 2024/25.



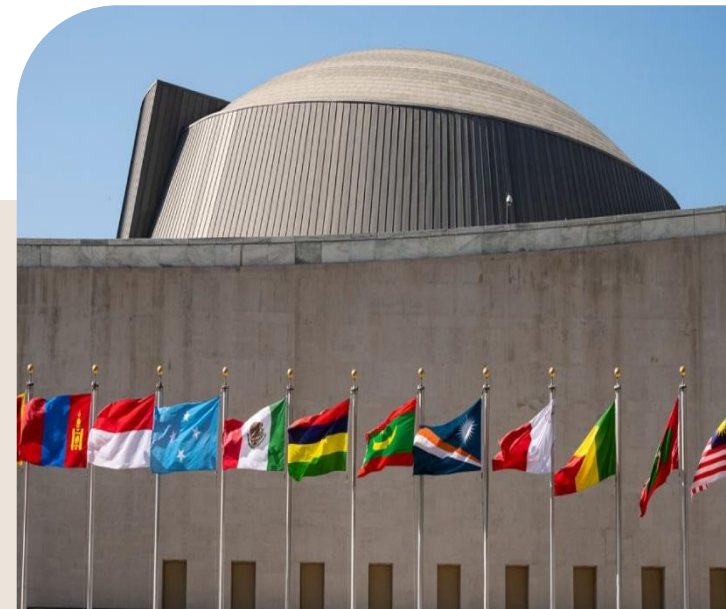
Africa

Prioritizing African agenda at the UN general Assembly

During a significant gathering at the recent United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), African nations took a prominent role. They strongly advocated for fair representation within international financial institutions, such as the IMF and the World Bank, highlighting the urgent need to address not only climate change but also critical issues like hunger, poverty, and debt. David McNair, the Executive Director of the ONE campaign, provided valuable insights into the commitments made by global stakeholders to support African countries in achieving their development goals.

The Presidents of several African nations, including Seychelles, Namibia, Ghana, Angola, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, consistently emphasized the pressing need to rebuild trust and rekindle global solidarity in the face of complex challenges. They expressed unwavering support for the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pointing out that the current progress falls short of ambitions, especially due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Ramkalawan also highlighted the urgency of addressing the climate crisis, emphasizing Seychelles' commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency. President Hage G. Geingob of Namibia discussed his country's efforts to transition to green energy, particularly its green hydrogen projects, which have the potential to decarbonize challenging sectors. He mentioned Namibia's plans to develop green shipping corridors to create carbon-neutral maritime value chains. President George Manneh Weah of Liberia highlighted the various challenges facing the world, including security, economic, social, political, and environmental issues. Overall, the African leaders emphasized the importance of unity, collaboration, and shared purpose in shaping a world that upholds the rights and dignity of every individual.



Source: Africa News
<https://www.africanews.com/2023/09/28/prioritizing-african-agenda-at-the-un-general-assembly-business-africa/>