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What's on the agenda of the Paris AI summit, where PM Modi is co-chair

Amid concerns over how to regulate artificial intelligence without stifling the AI ecosystem, global leaders are set to gather in Paris on February 10 for a two-day AI Action Summit. Here's what is on the table

Written by [Anil Sasi](#) [Follow](#)

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5 min read



PM Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron. (File photo)

How to leverage the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) while mitigating its risks: that seems to be the biggest challenge confronting policymakers across countries on the issue of AI regulation.



Shoib Ibrahim pens appreciation note for Dipika Kakar as she makes small screen comeback

Entertainment 45 min ago

Dipika Kakar, after a four-year break from acting, is returning to the screen with Celebrity MasterChef. Her husband, Shoib Ibrahim, shared a heartwarming post on Instagram expressing his love and pride for her. The show will be judged by Farah Khan, Vikas Khanna, a...

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Amid growing concerns over how to develop regulatory oversight of artificial intelligence, without stifling the AI ecosystem, global leaders are set to **gather in Paris on February 10 for a two-day AI Action Summit**. This builds on a AI Safety Summit held in Britain in Bletchley Park in 2023 and a smaller meeting in Seoul in 2024.

While the Bletchley summit was focused on the debate surrounding the 'doomsday' concerns posed by AI, and eventually resulted in all 25 states, including the US and China, signing the Bletchley Declaration on AI Safety, the Seoul summit last May saw 16 top AI companies making voluntary commitments to develop AI in a transparent manner.

Paris AI Summit

The Paris summit is an initiative of French President Emmanuel Macron. It focuses on the broader agenda of global AI governance, innovation, and on ways of serving the larger public interest. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to co-chair the Paris Summit and has accepted the invitation to travel to France.

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The Paris summit aims to address the increasing concentration of power in the AI market, especially with respect to the foundational models being owned by a few companies — **Microsoft**, Alphabet, Amazon and Meta.

The Summit will kick off in the Grand Palais on February 10, starting with a forum bringing together multiple stakeholders from around the world – representatives of governments, businesses and civil society, researchers, artists and journalists. This will involve conferences, round tables and presentations, focused largely on solutions offered by artificial intelligence.

The Summit of Heads of State and Government will then take place on February 11, at the Grand Palais. The idea is to discuss the key common actions to take on AI.

AI and the global governance challenge

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Analysts say the Paris summit, where Macron has taken a personal initiative, is important for Europe because the development of powerful AI is now increasingly perceived as a race between the tech majors of America and the state power of China.

In his widely cited report on the challenges to Europe's economy, Mario Draghi, the former president of the European Central Bank, highlighted red tape and laws that prevent the European technology sector from competing with America and China in this new field. Brussels is seen to be trailing in this race, with little chance of catch-up. The Paris summit comes with this in the background.

The summit also comes close on the heels of Washington announcing a mega AI project, with the likes of OpenAI, Softbank, Oracle, Microsoft and Nvidia coming together to build AI infrastructure in that country. An investment of \$500 billion is expected to be made in a new company, Stargate Project, to catalyze this expansion of AI capabilities over the next four years.

But the elephant in the room is likely to be China, and the astounding advances made by the country in AI despite efforts by Washington to thwart this progress. A Chinese company has recently showcased a new large language model (LLM) — a foundational AI model trained on large amounts of data — that is being touted to be almost on par with OpenAI's new o1 'reasoning model' in math, coding, and reasoning benchmarks.

The model released by China's DeepSeek has shown that training an AI model may not be as expensive an endeavour as previously thought, with foundational models possible at a fraction of the cost of what it took companies like OpenAI and Google.

Chinese tech major Alibaba too released a new AI model in November, which is said to rival OpenAI's GPT-o1 series models in reasoning capability.

Approaches on regulation

All these developments come as policymakers across jurisdictions have stepped up regulatory scrutiny of generative AI tools, but have taken varying approaches. The concerns being flagged fall into three broad heads: privacy, system bias and violation of intellectual property rights.

The policy response has been different across jurisdictions, with the European Union having taken a predictably tougher stance by proposing a regulation that segregates AI as per use case scenarios, based broadly on the degree of invasiveness and risk. The UK is seen to be on the other end of the spectrum, with a decidedly 'light-touch' approach that aims to foster, and not stifle, innovation in this nascent field.

The US approach so far has slotted somewhere in between, which could see further deregulation now. China too has released its own set of measures to regulate AI.

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Arvind Panagariya in the Nehru Centre on heavy industry



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India has maintained that the weaponisation represented by social media must be overcome and steps should be taken to ensure AI represents safety and trust, even as the technology represents a big opportunity.

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Anil Sasi

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Anil Sasi is National Business Editor with the Indian Express and writes on business and finance issues. He has worked with The Hindu Business Line and Business Standard. [... Read More](#)

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