

INDIA FUTURE FOUNDATION

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MARK ZUCKERBERG'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF AI

Mark Zuckerberg, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Meta, recently shared his thoughts on the future of artificial intelligence (AI) at an AI summit, in Washington DC, USA. At the summit, Zuckerberg highlighted the differences in approach adopted by Meta and that by other tech giants like Google and OpenAI. He stressed on the fact that while some aim to create a single, dominant AI, Meta focuses on developing various AI tools to meet different user needs.

Speaking at the summit, Zuckerberg underscored the importance of AI in enhancing everyday applications, such as improving features on platforms like WhatsApp and Instagram. He revealed that Meta's AI, is built on their latest large language model, Llama 3, and is designed to be accessible and applicable across multiple Meta platforms. This approach aims

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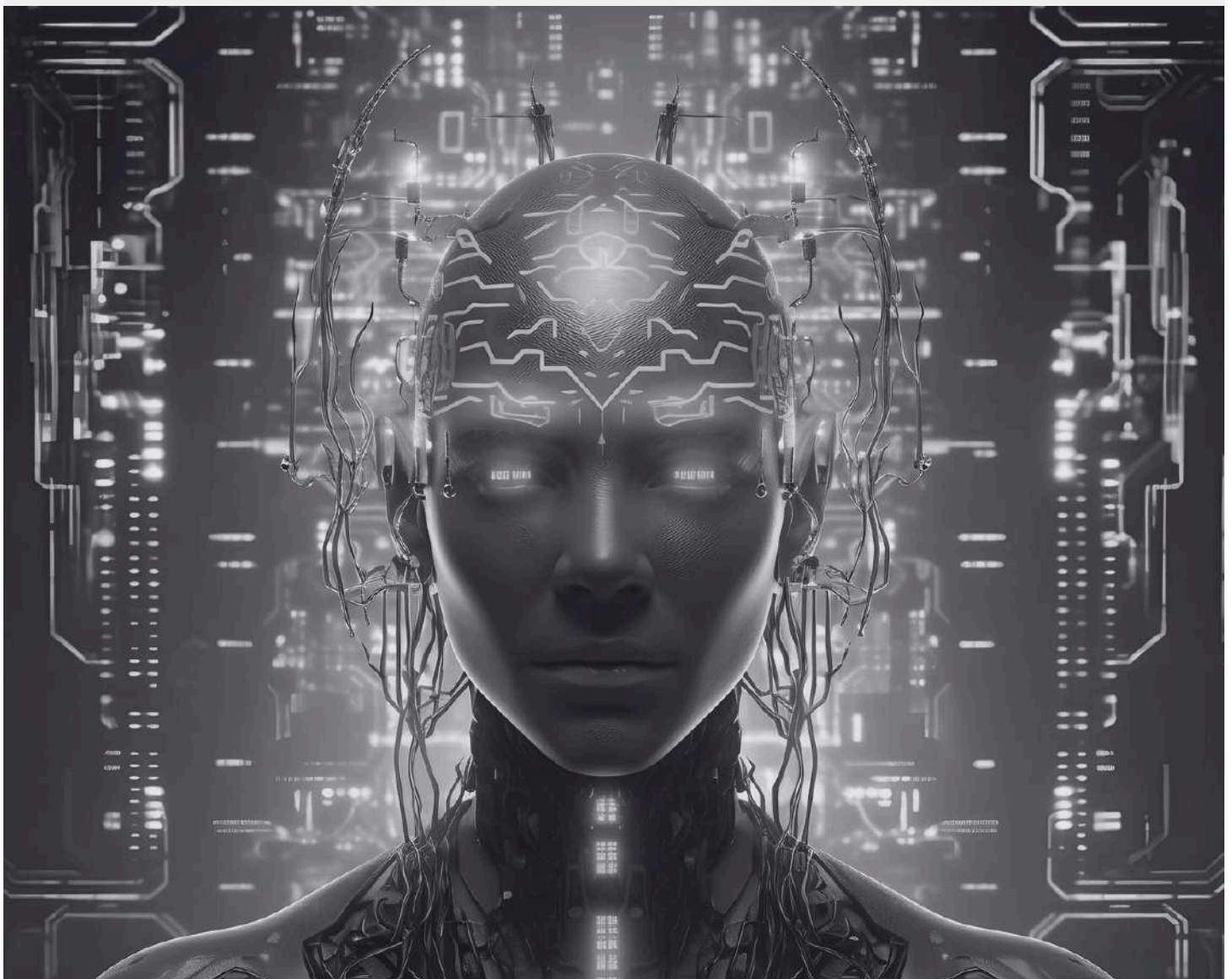
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

seamlessly integrate AI into the users' daily interactions, making technology more intuitive and helpful.

Other prominent leaders, at the summit, included names like Elon Musk, CEO, Tesla Motors and Sundar Pichai, CEO, Google. The tech leaders at the summit discussed on the potential risks and regulations that are needed in the AI industry. Musk, in particular, highlighted the need for proactive measures to manage AI's development to prevent potential negative consequences. He stressed that while the probability of AI causing harm might be low, it is crucial to consider the fragility of human civilisation in the face of advanced AI technologies.

Zuckerberg and other tech leaders agreed that government regulation of AI is necessary to ensure its responsible use. This consensus among tech giants marks a significant step toward collaborative efforts to create safe and beneficial advancements in AI.

Zuckerberg's participation in the AI summit and his insights on AI development reflect Meta's commitment to creating diverse and practical AI tools. This approach, coupled with industry-wide discussions on regulation and safety, aims to foster a responsible and innovative future for the future of AI technology.



OPENAI'S NEW PROJECT "STRAWBERRY"

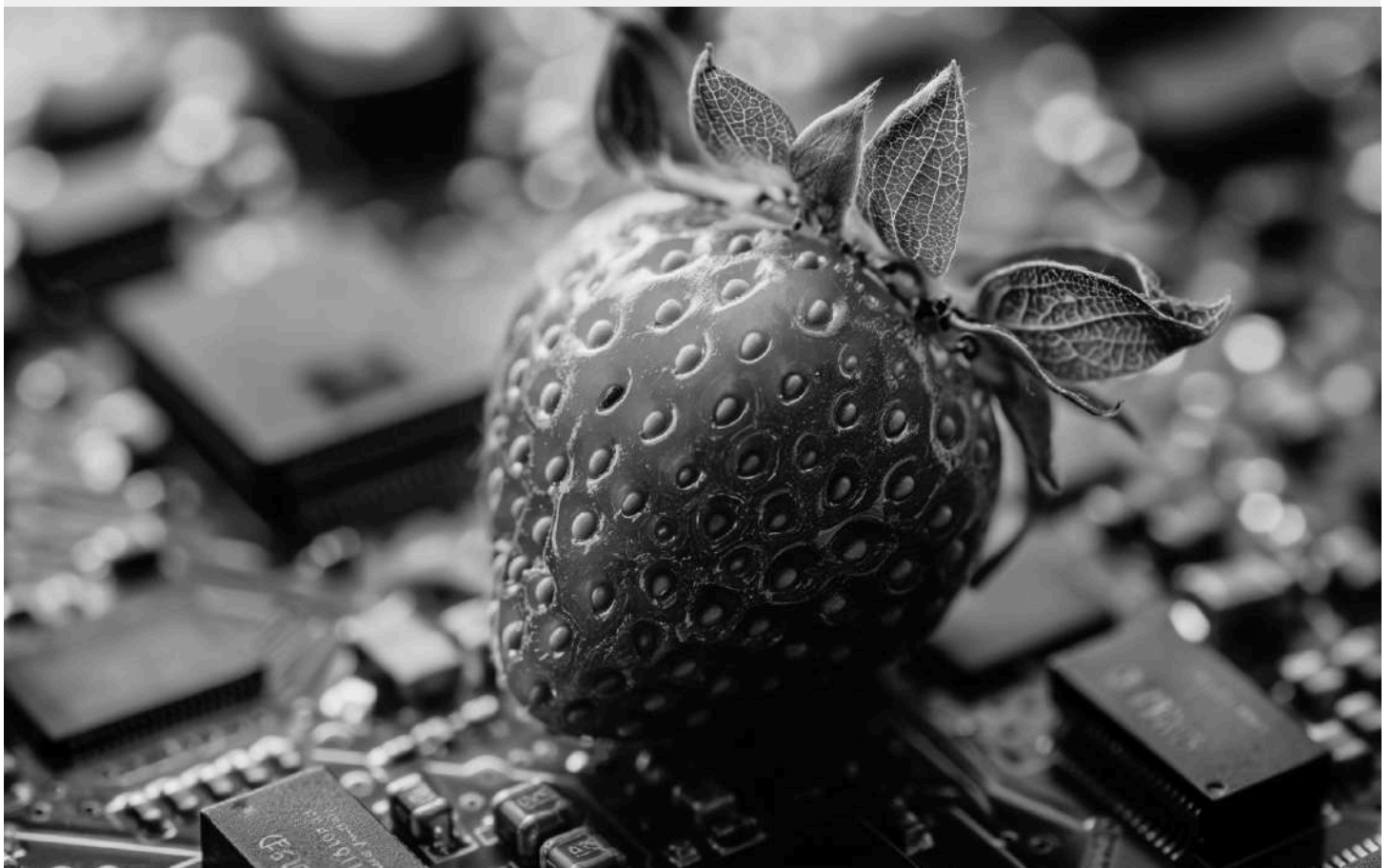
OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, developed a new AI reasoning technology under the project named "Strawberry." This project aims to enhance how AI models understand and interact with the world, making them better at reasoning and problem-solving.

"Strawberry" involved advanced techniques to improve AI's ability to plan and perform complex tasks. OpenAI used a unique "post-training" method to fine-tune its models, making them more capable of conducting deep research and handling long-term tasks. The project, previously known as "Q*," included developing AI models that could autonomously browse the web and perform tasks reliably. According to AI researchers, this capability is crucial for AI to achieve human-like or even superhuman intelligence.

Sam Altman, CEO, OpenAI emphasised on improving AI's reasoning abilities for future technological advancements. He believed that better reasoning skills would enable AI to make significant scientific discoveries and build new software applications.

Other tech giants, such as Google, Meta, and Microsoft, are also working on similar projects to enhance AI reasoning. However, researchers had different opinions on whether current AI models could fully achieve reasoning like humans.

The "Strawberry" project is crucial to OpenAI's strategy to overcome the limitations of existing AI models. By improving AI's reasoning skills, OpenAI aims to push the boundaries of what AI could achieve and bring us closer to more intelligent and reliable AI systems.



SOFTBANK ACQUIRES BRITISH AI CHIPMAKER GRAPHCORE

In July 2024, SoftBank, a major Japanese company, purchased Graphcore, a British AI chipmaker. This acquisition highlighted SoftBank's focus on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

Graphcore is known for creating special Intelligence Processing Units (IPUs) chips. These chips make computers learn and process information much faster, thereby making them attractive to SoftBank. The deal was worth around \$1.5 billion. By acquiring Graphcore, SoftBank aims to strengthen its AI capabilities and support more advanced AI research and development.

The founders of Graphcore, Nigel Toon and Simon Knowles believe that with SoftBank's vast resources, Graphcore could increase and reach more people with their groundbreaking technology.

Industry experts believe that this acquisition by SoftBank would significantly impact the AI chip market. It could lead to more investments and innovations.

In summary, SoftBank's acquisition of Graphcore is significant in the AI industry. It promises to speed up advancements in AI technology and bring innovations. The acquisition could push the boundaries of what AI can achieve.

SAMSUNG INTRODUCES NEW AI AND HEALTH MONITORING DEVICES

Samsung, the electronics and intelligent appliances technology company, recently unveiled several new products and advancements that are powered by artificial intelligence (AI). This included products like foldable phones and products that help in monitoring health—a new smartwatch and a ring. These products aim to enhance user experience and maintain Samsung's competitive edge in the technology market.

Samsung strengthened its AI capabilities by integrating advanced AI features across its product lineup. The company focused on improving user interactions with devices, making them more intuitive and responsive. AI was employed to enhance voice assistants, enabling them to understand and respond to user commands more accurately. This upgrade aimed to provide a seamless experience for users, allowing them to interact with their devices more naturally.

One of the highlights of the company's recent announcements was the introduction of new foldable phones. These devices featured improved durability and functionality compared to its previous models. Samsung's latest foldable phones aim to combine a smartphone's convenience with a tablet's expansive display. The newly launched models have enhanced hinges and more robust screens, addressing previous concerns about the longevity and usability of the foldable phones.

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Samsung also expanded its health-monitoring technology by introducing a new smartwatch and a health-monitoring ring. The smartwatch has advanced features like heart rate monitoring, sleep tracking and exercise tracking. It aims to provide users with comprehensive health insights, helping them maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The health-monitoring ring is a new addition to the company's lineup, of products. It offered similar features like the smartwatch but in a more compact and discreet form. The ring can track various health metrics like heart rate and sleep patterns, providing users with valuable health data without the need of wearing the traditional smartwatch.

Samsung emphasised its commitment to user wellness by incorporating these health monitoring features into its products. The company aims to help users take proactive steps towards better health by providing accurate and actionable health data. Samsung's advancements in health monitoring technology reflected the growing trend of integrating health and wellness features into our everyday devices.

The market responded positively to Samsung's newly launched products. Analysts praised the company's efforts to innovate and improve its product offerings. The introduction of advanced AI features, new foldable phones, and health monitoring devices positioned Samsung as a leader in the tech industry.

Looking ahead, Samsung plans to continue its focus on innovation and user experience. The company aims to leverage AI and health monitoring technology to create products that meet the evolving needs of consumers. Samsung's commitment to enhancing user wellness and providing cutting-edge technology is expected to propel its growth in the competitive tech market.



RISING DEMAND FOR DATA AND AI SOLUTIONS PUSHES IBM'S REVENUE

In its recent financial report, IBM did better than expected. Software sales were strong, and there was high demand for its AI solutions. The company's total revenue reached \$15.48 billion, higher than the anticipated \$15.58 billion.

Critical Factors Behind IBM's Success

IBM's software segment played a significant role in this achievement. The segment generated \$6.41 billion in revenue, marking a 7 per cent increase from the previous year. This growth was attributed to the rising demand for data and AI solutions and the company's strategic focus on hybrid cloud and AI technologies. Additionally, the consulting segment saw a revenue increase of 3 per cent to \$4.85 billion. This growth was driven by higher demand for services that helped the company's transition to cloud-based operations and integrate AI into its business processes.

AI Demand Boosted IBM's Performance: The increasing demand for AI technologies gave a significant boost to IBM's performance. More companies are adopting AI to enhance operations, streamline processes, and gain insights from vast data. IBM's investments in AI research and development paid off, positioning the company as a leader in the AI market.

Cloud and Infrastructure Performance: The infrastructure segment reported a slight revenue decline, dropping by 2 per cent to \$3.75 billion. However, IBM's hybrid cloud business continued to grow, reflecting the ongoing trend of companies adopting multi-cloud strategies.

Market Reaction and Future Outlook: Investors responded positively to the report, as evidenced by the increase in IBM's stock price following the announcement. Market analysts predict that IBM's strong performance in software and the AI domain and that its strategic focus will continue to drive the company's growth in the coming quarters. IBM's latest quarterly results showcased the company's resilience and ability to adapt to the evolving technological landscape. With a clear focus on hybrid cloud and AI, IBM is well-positioned to capitalise on emerging opportunities and maintain its competitive edge in the tech industry.

In the latest quarter, IBM's impressive revenue performance highlighted the importance of strategic investments in software and AI. As the demand for these technologies continues to rise, IBM's focus on innovation and client-centric solutions will likely sustain its growth trajectory. The company's success serves as a testament to its ability to meet the market's changing needs and deliver value to its stakeholders.

BIG TECH COMPANIES FACE INCREASED SCRUTINY OVER AI RESEARCH

Major technology companies like Google, Microsoft and Facebook faced heightened scrutiny regarding their artificial intelligence (AI) research practices. Governments and regulatory bodies expressed concerns over the ethical implications, transparency, and potential misuse of AI technologies developed by these companies.

Concerns Over AI Research and Ethical Implications: Regulators are worried about the ethical challenges of advanced AI systems. One of the main concerns, of the regulators, was the lack of transparency in how AI models were trained and used. Critics argued that AI could be biased without proper oversight, leading to unfair treatment in hiring, lending and in the law enforcement domain.

Another significant issue was the potential for AI to spread misinformation. With the increasing capability of AI to generate realistic looking content that was fake, there were fears about its use in creating deepfakes and spreading false information, which could undermine public trust and have severe societal consequences.

Government Actions and Regulatory Measures: In response to these concerns, governments across the globe began taking action. In the United States of America, lawmakers proposed new regulations to ensure greater transparency and accountability in AI development. They emphasised on the need for companies to disclose more information about their AI systems, including how they were trained and the data that was used.

The European Union also moved forward with its AI Act, which aims to set strict rules on the use of AI, especially in high-risk areas like critical infrastructure and law enforcement. The Act outlines fines for non-compliance, encouraging companies to adopt responsible AI practices.



Big Tech's Response to Scrutiny: In light of the increased scrutiny, big tech companies addressed regulatory concerns. Google announced initiatives to make its AI research more transparent, including publishing detailed reports on its AI models and their impact. Microsoft is committed to integrating ethical considerations into its AI development process and enhancing its AI ethics review board role. Facebook, now rebranded as Meta, focused on improving its content moderation efforts and investing in technologies to detect and prevent the spread of harmful content. The company also pledged to collaborate with external experts to review and guide its AI research.

Future of AI Research: The ongoing scrutiny of big tech's AI research signalled a shift towards more responsible and ethical AI development. Industry experts believe that increased transparency and accountability would ultimately benefit companies and society. By addressing ethical concerns and ensuring fair use, tech companies could build public trust and create AI technologies that impact the world in a positive way.

NATO'S ENHANCED CYBER DEFENCE AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE

NATO, an alliance consisting of 30 member nations from North America and Europe, took significant steps to strengthen its cyber defence capabilities and improve the resilience of its critical infrastructure. At a high-level meeting, NATO leaders and experts discussed the growing threats in cyberspace and the measures needed to protect member nations from cyberattacks.

The meeting highlighted the increasing number of cyber threats facing NATO countries. These threats included attacks on critical infrastructure, such as power grids, communication networks and financial systems. Cybercriminals and state-sponsored hackers posed significant risks, potentially causing widespread disruption and damage. In response to these threats, NATO enhanced its cyber defence strategy. The alliance emphasised on the importance of a coordinated and collective approach to cyber security. By sharing information, resources, and expertise, NATO aimed to create a robust defence system that will be capable of responding to cyber threats effectively.



TECH COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS FORM COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI IN INDIA

In a significant development, major tech companies and institutions formed a new coalition to promote responsible AI in India. The alliance included companies like Google, Microsoft, Infosys, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B) and numerous Indian AI startups. This collaboration sought to ensure the ethical development and deployment of AI nationwide.

The coalition, known as the Coalition for Responsible Evolution of AI (CoRE-AI), focused on creating frameworks and guidelines to govern the responsible use of AI technology. The initiative emphasised on the importance of ethical considerations in AI, aiming to address potential biases, ensure transparency, and promote fairness in AI applications.

The members of CoRE-AI believe that collaboration among tech giants, academic institutions and startups was crucial for the responsible advancement of AI. By pooling in resources and expertise, the coalition aimed to tackle the challenges associated with AI, such as data privacy, algorithmic bias and the ethical implications of AI deployment.

IIM-B was vital in providing the coalition with academic support and research capabilities. Their involvement was essential for developing educational programmes and research initiatives that are focused on development of responsible AI technologies. Indian AI startups brought innovative solutions and fresh perspectives, contributing to the coalition's diverse expertise.

The coalition's launch marked a proactive step towards fostering a responsible AI ecosystem in India. By setting high standards for AI development and usage, CoRE-AI aims to build trust in AI technologies and ensure that they benefit the society, at large.

In summary, the formation of CoRE-AI by Google, Microsoft, Infosys, IIM-B and Indian AI startups represent a significant effort to promote responsible AI in India. This coalition's work is expected to lead to essential advancements in AI ethics and governance, ensuring the technology's positive impact on society.



KERALA AND IBM HOST GLOBAL AI CONCLAVE IN KOCHI

Kerala partnered with IBM to host an international conclave focused on Generative AI in Kochi on July 11-12, 2024. This event, the first of its kind in India, occurred at the Grand Hyatt, Kochi and attracted industry leaders, policymakers and innovators.

Mr Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister, Kerala inaugurated the event. While speaking at the event he emphasised on the state's commitment towards integrating AI into various sectors, highlighting how AI can help address global challenges such as climate change, agriculture and healthcare.

Notable figures participated in the event, including Mr Dinesh Nirmal, Senior Vice President, IBM who highlighted Kerala's attractiveness to tech professionals, especially those returning from abroad and emphasized on the state's expanding opportunities within the technology industry, which, in turn, has had a positive impact on the local economy.

The conclave also featured discussions on AI's transformative potential in various sectors. The Government of Kerala demonstrated its dedication towards fostering innovation by integrating AI education into the school curriculum, starting from class 7. This initiative aims to prepare the next generation for an AI-driven future.

In addition to the conclave, Kerala announced plans to host an international robotics roundtable in August, further cementing its position as a leader in high-tech industries. The state's proactive approach to AI and technology showcases its commitment to becoming a hub for innovation and technological advancement.



GOOGLE PIXEL 9 SERIES INTRODUCED WITH NEW FEATURES

Google recently announced the much-anticipated Pixel 9 series, which includes the Pixel 9, Pixel 9 Pro, Pixel 9 Pro XL and the new Pixel 9 Pro Fold. These new devices will be officially launched at the "Made by Google" event on 13 August 2024, at Google's headquarters in Mountain View, California.

The Pixel 9 series boasts of a fresh design, featuring a flat frame and a unique floating island-style camera module. This design innovation aims to enhance aesthetics and functionality, making the devices stand out in the fiercely competitive smartphone market. Additionally, the series will come in vibrant new colours, including a standout pink variant named "Peony," which is expected to appeal to a broad range of users.

Integrating advanced AI features is one of the Pixel 9 series USP. Google has introduced the Gemini AI assistant, a powerful tool designed to make the user experience more intuitive and efficient. This AI assistant is expected to significantly enhance daily tasks, from setting reminders to providing real-time information based on user preferences.

The Pixel 9 series also includes Circle to Search, which leverages AI to provide quick and accurate search results based on contextual understanding. Additionally, a new "Studio" application will allow users to create AI-generated images, pushing the boundaries of creative expression and making professional-grade image editing accessible to everyone.

Google remains committed to privacy, and the Pixel 9 series reflects this commitment. The new privacy-focused screenshot feature ensures that sensitive information is protected when sharing screenshots. This feature and enhanced security measures give users greater control over their data. The Pixel 9 series has improved OLED displays manufactured by Samsung, promising vibrant colours and superior display quality. This upgrade aims to enhance users' visual experience when watching videos, playing games, or browsing the web.

The Google Pixel 9 series introduces various innovative features to enhance user experience through advanced AI integration, improved design, and robust privacy measures. These new devices are set to significantly impact the smartphone market, offering users a blend of cutting-edge technology and practical functionality.





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