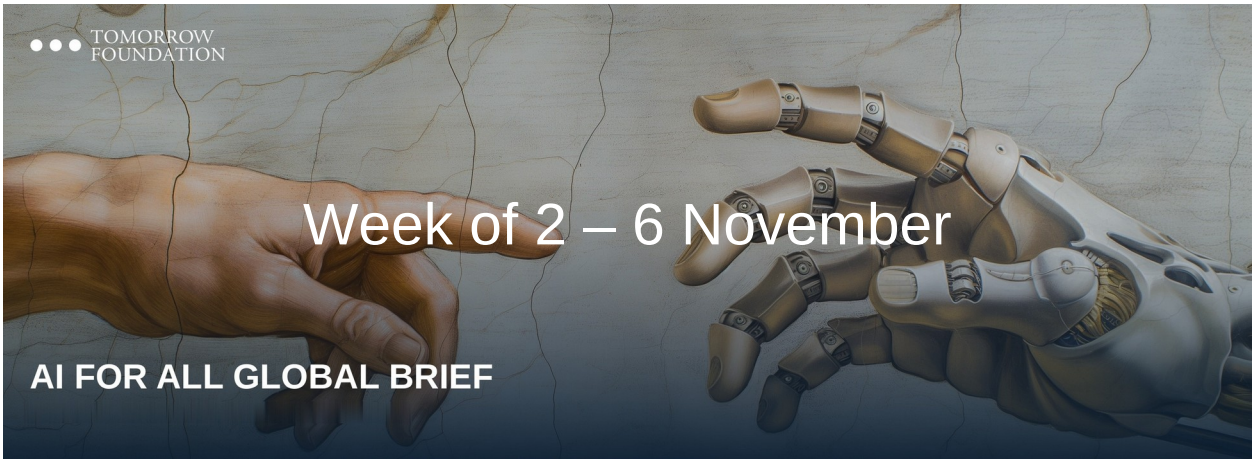


1. GLOBAL SIGNALS — LABOR, GOVERNANCE & SOCIETY

In a Science Study, Microsoft's Diagnostic AI Solved 83% of Complex Medical Cases, Against 36% for Generalist Doctors

On October 22, the journal Science published “Sequential diagnosis with language models,” a study of the Microsoft AI Diagnostic Orchestrator. The system works like a virtual panel of doctors: it asks questions, orders tests and revises its hypothesis step by step, as a clinician would. On 304 complex case records from the New England Journal of Medicine, it reached the correct diagnosis 83.2% of the time. Generalist physicians given the same cases reached 36.1% with reference materials and 22.3% without. On 325 emergency-department cases, the system reached 80.3%, against 46.8% for physicians, while spending a similar amount or less on tests.

The authors are clear about the limits. All 15 work for Microsoft. The comparison is with individual generalists, not specialists or care teams; the cases were simulated, without imaging or real patients; and the study measures the diagnosis, not treatment or safety. The next step is a prospective study at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where patients will use the system directly and its results will be compared with doctors' own assessments.

> **Why it matters:** In much of the world, a patient with a complex illness may never see a specialist. A tool that helps a general practitioner or a nurse reach the right diagnosis sooner could save lives where doctors are scarce. That promise becomes real only once it is proven with real patients, tested in local health systems, and kept under the judgement of the clinicians who remain responsible for care.

Sources: Unite.AI | QNA

ALSO THIS WEEK

- An Oslo court granted 180 Norwegian media companies a temporary injunction against new Meta business terms that would have let it crawl and analyse their websites; after the UK competition authority also opened an investigation, Meta postponed the terms, and publishers now ask for consent and paid, voluntary agreements for any AI use. [source]
- Philippine Senator Erwin Tulfo filed Senate Bill 2563, which would require employers to reskill workers before AI-related layoffs, give the labour department six months' notice and pay at least two months' salary per year of service; a separate SHL survey found nearly one in five US workers replaced by AI were later asked to return. [source]

2. INFRASTRUCTURE & COMPUTE

US Voters Back Limits on Data Centers in 40 of 41 Local Ballot Measures

On November 3, voters in ten US states decided 41 local ballot measures on data centers and backed limits in 40 of them, according to Ballotpedia. Several towns banned data centers outright, including Granville, Ohio, where the ban passed with 82% of the vote. Others capped facilities at 25 megawatts, Maine communities approved eight temporary moratoriums, and Janesville, Wisconsin, will now hold a public vote on a planned $8 billion, 800-megawatt campus. Ohio alone held 21 of the measures. In a CNBC poll, 56% of voters said data centers were a crucial or major factor in their vote for Congress.

Markets reacted. On November 5, US technology shares fell sharply on fears of a slower AI buildout: the Nasdaq Composite was down about 4.5% at midday, and the Nasdaq-100 was on track to lose more than $2 trillion in market value. Most measures target power, water, noise and tax incentives rather than AI itself, and the industry argues that data centers bring jobs and investment. State legislatures are expected to take up many of these questions in 2027.

> **Why it matters:** For the first time, residents voted directly on the AI buildout in their own communities, and almost everywhere they asked for limits. The lesson reaches beyond the United States: projects that share their costs and benefits fairly with local people, on power, water and jobs, will earn the consent they need to be built.

Sources: Venable | Baxtel | BusinessDay / Reuters

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Anthropic's amended IPO filing shows $895 billion in purchase commitments, almost all for computing power and infrastructure, with about $70 billion due within twelve months; the company plans to list on Nasdaq before the end of November. [source]

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3. EDUCATION & HUMAN CAPACITY

Google Opens a Free, Offline-Friendly AI Skills Hub Aiming to Train 3 Million Africans by 2030

On November 2, Google launched Skilling Africa with Google, a free hub that brings together more than 15 of its training programmes, from Hustle Academy for small businesses to Google Career Certificates and Google Cloud Skills. The goal is to equip 3 million Africans with digital and AI skills by 2030. The hub is designed for low-bandwidth use: learners can download short lessons over Wi-Fi and finish them offline, sign in without installing an app, and get help from an AI study companion.

Google says its earlier programmes have trained more than 7 million young Africans, and that more than 90% of companies on the continent report a shortage of AI-ready talent. These figures are company-reported, and there is no data yet on how many learners complete courses or find work as a result.

> **Why it matters:** Free, offline-friendly training removes two of the biggest barriers to AI skills in Africa: cost and connectivity. What will matter is whether courses lead to jobs and businesses, and whether African institutions, not only global companies, help shape what is taught.

Sources: TechTrends Kenya | Nairametrics

ALSO THIS WEEK

- African governments are training their own civil servants in AI: Zambia opened a free five-day course on November 2, Kenya reports 1,239 officials trained with about 9,000 more expected, and South Africa's staff chatbot works in nine official languages. [source]

4. CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

AI Could Make Films Cost More Than in the 35mm Era, Korean AI Pioneers Warn

Speaking at the Taiwan Creative Content Fest in Taipei, Kim Kwang-jib, founder of the Korean AI studio Studio Meta-K, said AI is already slashing the cost of commercials: his studio remade a Pizza Hut television ad in about two weeks for roughly 30 million won, against eight months and 2 billion won for the original. Feature films are different. Using the most expensive commercial tools, he estimated, the token bill for a 100-minute film could exceed 500 million won (about $366,000), and every new version requested adds another paid rendering pass.

Lee Sang-wook, head of MBC C&I's AI Content Lab, added that the tools age quickly, pushing teams to redo scenes; that generated footage often needs human work to meet broadcast standards; and that his lab avoids open-source tools whose training data it cannot verify. On the Korean AI feature “Raphael,” a single shot sometimes took about ten artists a full day.

> **Why it matters:** The promise that AI will make filmmaking cheap and open to everyone is only partly true. For independent and Global South filmmakers, costs can shift from cameras and crews to software and token bills paid to a few providers abroad. Who sets those prices, and who owns the training data behind them, will shape who gets to tell stories.

Sources: Variety | Enstarz

ALSO THIS WEEK

- At the 23rd Abuja International Film Festival, themed “Frames without Borders: AI, Ethics, and the Future of Filmmaking,” Nollywood was urged to adopt AI, while industry voices called for rules on digital likeness, copyright and disclosure of synthetic content. [source]
- Philippe Jaenada, winner of France's Prix Goncourt, said he used ChatGPT three times in his novel, including one AI-written sentence “to play with the reader”; another novel had been removed from the shortlist over suspected AI use. [source]

5. REGIONAL LENS — AFRICA & THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Africa Risks Lasting Dependence Without Home-Grown AI, Experts Warn

At the 6th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (ICAIR 2026), themed “Artificial Intelligence for Africa's Sustainable Economic Growth,” researchers warned that Africa risks lasting economic dependence on technologically advanced nations if it keeps importing AI. They called for home-grown models, local digital infrastructure and skills training for young people, so that African countries move from importing AI solutions to building technologies for their own challenges. “Technological revolutions do not wait for societies to become ready,” said Dr Oladipupo Sennaike, head of the local organising committee. “They happen, and societies must decide how to respond.”

Money is the constraint. African AI start-ups raised about $1.36 billion in the first half of 2026, but only 190 closed rounds of $100,000 or more, and most investment went to companies applying AI in established sectors rather than building models or infrastructure, according to Tech In Africa. First institutional rounds typically range from $100,000 to $500,000.

> **Why it matters:** Whoever builds AI decides whose languages, problems and values it serves. Building in Africa takes patient capital, shared computing infrastructure and skilled young people. The conference's central question, who shapes the technology and who captures its benefits, applies well beyond the continent.

Sources: ThisDay, via AllAfrica | Tech In Africa, via AF.net

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Swedish investor EQT is seeking joint AI and data-center deals with Saudi and UAE sovereign investors, a sign that Gulf capital keeps flowing into AI infrastructure. [source]
- China is moving from guidelines toward a comprehensive AI law covering the full life cycle of AI systems, a policy direction rather than binding law for now. [source]

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6. OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Young Africa Innovates Opens Cohort 2: Incubation and Mentorship for Young Nigerian Innovators

UNDP and the Mastercard Foundation have opened applications for the second cohort of Young Africa Innovates, a programme that helps young Nigerians aged 18 to 35 turn ideas into sustainable ventures. Selected innovators receive incubation, entrepreneurship training, technical and business mentorship, support to refine prototypes and reach the market, and access to networks, investors and financing. The programme prioritises young women, persons with disabilities and young people from underserved communities, across sectors from agriculture, health and education to climate, digital technology and the creative economy.

Cohort 2 extends the programme to seven states: Cross River, Abia, Taraba, Niger, Katsina, Akwa Ibom and Plateau. The first cohort drew more than 9,000 applications, incubated 205 innovators and created 815 jobs. Applicants need an idea, prototype or working sample; guidelines are on youngafricainnovates.ng. Listings give November 18 as the closing date.

> **Why it matters:** Training, mentorship and market access together give young innovators outside the big tech hubs a real path from idea to business. A programme that puts young women and people with disabilities first is the kind of inclusion AI for All stands for.

Sources: UNDP Nigeria | Opportunities for Africans

ALSO THIS WEEK

- The AI Summit at Africa Tech Festival takes place in Cape Town on November 17–19, bringing together policymakers, start-ups and investors from across the continent. [source]

ONE SIGNAL WE ARE WATCHING

Promise, and on whose terms. This week a diagnostic AI solved complex medical cases far more often than generalist doctors, a free hub put AI training within reach of learners without broadband, and young Nigerian innovators were invited to build ventures. At the same time, US voters set limits on data centers in their communities, Korean filmmakers warned that AI's token bills can outgrow the savings they promise, and African researchers warned against relying on AI built elsewhere. At Tomorrow Foundation, we believe AI's value is measured by who it reaches and on whose terms. A breakthrough matters when it reaches the clinic in Kisumu as well as in Boston; training matters when it leads to work; and infrastructure earns its place when the communities that host it share in its benefits.

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