

G7 leaders to discuss AI future during meeting with top CEOs

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

LEADERS at the Group of Seven summit wrap up three days of talks in the French Alps on Wednesday with discussions on the contentious future of artificial intelligence and US dominance of the industry.

US President Donald Trump and other national leaders are closing the formal talks of the leading industrial nations in the lakeside resort of Evian-les-Bains with a session on the future of artificial intelligence and another on fostering economic growth.

The heads of several leading AI companies will attend the discussions, including OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Google DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis and Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei. Trump plans to stop outside Paris for a glitzy dinner at the Palace of Versailles before he jets back to Washington on Wednesday. The G7 leaders spent the bulk of their meeting on Tuesday discussing the war between Russia and Ukraine and a tentative deal to end the Iran war. Trump did not reveal details of the agreement expected to be signed by the United States and Iran on Friday at a resort on Switzerland's Lake Lucerne. The G7 includes France, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, the US and the United Kingdom. Guest nations at this summit include Brazil, Egypt, India, Kenya, South Korea, Qatar, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates.

Here is the latest:

Leaders of France, the UK, Italy, Germany and Canada have gathered for informal talks ahead of a G7 session on global economic imbalances, French President Emmanuel Macron's office said. They then joined the meeting involving partners including India, South Korea, Kenya and India.

Starmer says he discussed Russia oil sanctions with Trump
Keir Starmer says he



isn't sure whether Trump has made a decision about whether to reimpose sanctions on Russian oil. The British leader says he talked to Trump about the temporary US sanctions waiver. Starmer told British broadcaster ITV he and Trump had "a very constructive discussion about Ukraine," but "I don't know that a decision has been made yet." He said G7 leaders shared "a real determination to stand with Ukraine," including through more sanctions on Russia.

No bilateral meeting for Carney and Trump

Carney did not get a bilateral meeting with Trump at the summit, despite the free trade agreement between the countries being up for renewal on July 1.

Carney says he had seven or eight discussions with Trump, and he expects to have more on Wednesday. He says they discussed a wide range of subjects, from the economy, relations, his birthday, artificial intelligence, Ukraine and Iran. Canadian prime ministers usually get a bilateral meeting with an American president at G7 summits. And it is a crucial time for talks to potentially renew the free-trade agreement between the two countries and Mexico. Trump said last week that he may not renew the deal.

Macron is the only G7 leader to get a bilateral meeting thus far. Trump met with the leaders of non-G7 countries of Qatar, UAE, Egypt and India.

Trump to close final day in France at Palace of Versailles

Trade deal & regional security to top agenda as Modi meets Trump

Deeper economic cooperation will benefit both the countries amid growing Chinese influence in Asia, says Congressman

WASHINGTON

AS US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepared for talks on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, Indian American lawmakers and experts called for a reset in relations, arguing that stronger economic and strategic cooperation would benefit both nations.

Leading that view was Congressman Suhas Subramanyam, who said he hoped Trump would use the meeting to repair ties with one of America's most important partners.

"The expectation would be for President Trump to normalise relationships with India," Subramanyam said on the eve of the meeting. He has strained the relationship with some of his actions, for instance, the tariffs and other you know, words that he said about Modi himself and India."

The Virginia Democrat said he hoped Trump would emerge from the meeting focused on rebuilding ties with New Delhi.

"And so hopefully he comes at a meeting normalising a relationship with an ally one of many allies whom he is alienated," he said.

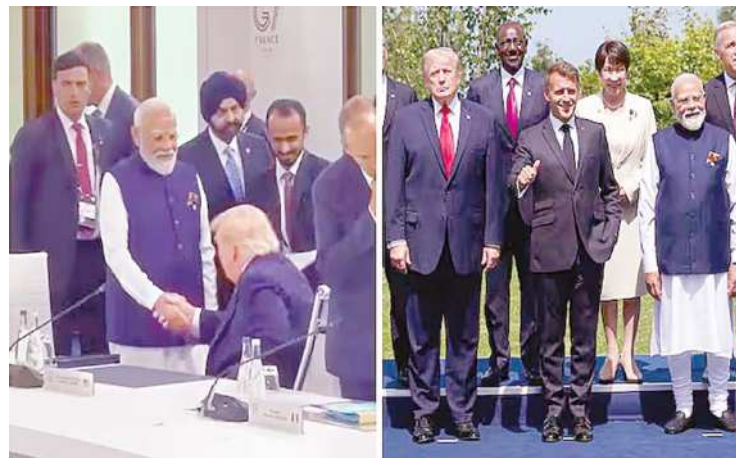
Trade should be at the centre of efforts to improve relations, according to the Congressman. "Let's start with trade for instance," he said. "They increased the tariffs significantly."

While some of those tariffs have since been rolled back, Subramanyam said businesses in Virginia have already felt the consequences. "I think there's a, a lot of business people in Virginia who rely on the trade between India and the United States and have seen their businesses suffer and seen prices go up because of that," he said.

Subramanyam argued that deeper economic cooperation would strengthen both countries and help address wider strategic challenges in Asia. "I think it's good for everyone if the US and India and all countries that are allies and our partners in democracy can figure out that economic bond and can continue to figure out ways to counter what's happening as China continues to exude its influence over Asia," he said.

Asked about his expectations from the Trump-Modi meeting, Subramanyam stressed the importance of expanding business and economic engagement.

"India is a huge economic engine. United States is a massive global eco-



conomic power, and the two countries working together to improve relations and improve ties and improve business dealings is better for both countries," he said.

He added: "We should be working collaboratively with all partners to increase economic activity in the United States."

Delegate Jas Jeet Singh of the Virginia House of Representatives echoed those concerns, particularly on trade. "We have to make sure that we do not harm our trading allies by

imposing unilateral tariffs that don't necessarily make our country better off," Singh. "In fact, they make things more expensive here and they upset our trading partners."

He argued that Washington should pursue "a rational economic policy that doesn't impose unilateral tariffs".

Like Subramanyam, Singh said the Trump-PM Modi meeting presents an opportunity to strengthen one of the world's most consequential bilateral relationships. "I think we need to do everything we can to improve

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- Suhas Subramanyam, member, US Congress

our relations," he said. Singh said cooperation, rather than confrontation, should guide policy. "I think having antipathy for other countries for no reason other than just general antipathy doesn't help anybody," he said.

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Asked what message he would send to Trump ahead of the meeting, Singh replied: "I hope that he fosters strong ties with our partners to build and create more good jobs in the United States."

First in 16 months: Modi, Trump exchange pleasantries amid strained India-US ties

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump exchanged pleasantries and held a brief conversation at a gathering of G7 leaders, marking their first in-person encounter in 16 months amid continuing strain in bilateral ties.

In Evian-les-Bains, the site of this year's summit of the powerful grouping, Modi and Trump shared a warm handshake followed by a short conversation. A full bilateral sit-down is slated for Wednesday on the sidelines of the gathering.

While details of their brief exchange were not known, the encounter sets the stage for their high-stakes talks. The two leaders last met in-person at the White House in February 2025, weeks after Trump's second inauguration.

Following US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India last



month, the two sides were now looking at rebuilding the bilateral ties.

The relations witnessed a major downturn after Washington imposed punitive tariffs on India and President Trump made controversial assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes last May.

Over the next few months, the US president repeatedly and publicly claimed that he had resolved the military conflict between the two neighbours and saved millions of lives as it was heading toward a full-scale war.

New Delhi stoutly maintained

that the cessation of the hostilities was a result of talks between India and Pakistan, and the US involvement had nothing to do with it. Washington's new immigration policy and its decision to increase the H1B visa fee also contributed to the slide in India-US ties.

However, both sides made efforts in the last few months to repair the ties and even moved forward to firm up a mutually beneficial trade deal soon.

Last week, the relations came under fresh strain after three Indian sailors were killed following the US military's attacks on three merchant vessels off the coast of Oman.

Three Indians from one of the vessels were killed in the strikes following which New Delhi summoned the US charge d'affaires Jason Meeks and told him that the American military's "lethal and deadly" strikes on commercial vessels with Indian crew members is "unacceptable".

Back to learning: 30% of US employees spend 8 hours a week on upskilling

SAN FRANCISCO

NEW research from Chegg, a global learning and workforce skilling company, reveals a significant skills gap that is placing pressure on employers and employees in frontline-heavy industries across the US. The consequences are already being felt: three in ten employers (30%) say they spend more than eight hours every week compensating for workforce skills gaps.

Chegg's Frontline Workers Skills Index, based on a survey of 1,000 US employers and 1,005 US employees across ten frontline-heavy industries, including retail, manufacturing, and finance, uncovers a widening perception gap between employers and employees on skills gaps, AI adoption, and training effectiveness, suggesting that traditional approaches are no longer enough. By employers, the survey refers to respondents who are fully or partly involved in hiring decisions at their organization; employees refer to those with no responsibility for hiring.

"The most important finding in this research is that employers and employees are often looking at the same workforce challenges but diagnosing completely different problems," said Dan Rosensweig, Chief Executive Officer of Chegg. "Employers are focused on AI readiness, adaptability, and operational performance, while employees are focused on career mobility, leadership, and advancement. Neither side is wrong - but most training programs were never designed to bridge that gap."

"What workers are telling us very clearly is that generic training without practical application or measurable career impact no longer works. At a time when AI is rapidly reshaping the workplace, organizations need training that helps employees perform better in the roles they have today, while



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building the capabilities needed for tomorrow. That is exactly the problem Chegg Skills was built to solve."

Business costs of skills gaps
The research shows that workforce skills shortages are already creating significant operational and human costs across industries. Nearly one-third of employers (30%) say they spend more than eight hours per week, the equivalent of a full working day, compensating for workforce skills gaps. In manufacturing, that figure rises to 46%.

The consequences are being felt across day-to-day operations. Employers identified increased mistakes and rework (34%), increased stress and burnout (33%), heavier workloads or covering for others (31%), and overtime or longer

shifts (29%) as some of the most common impacts of skills shortages at their organization.

The strain is also affecting morale and retention. Nearly half of employers (45%) and more than one-third of employees (35%) say they have considered quitting due to stress caused by understaffing or workforce capability gaps. In food service and hospitality, 57% of employers and 43% of employees reported they had considered leaving their role, the highest among all sectors surveyed.

Training programs failing workers. The workforce skills shortages begin before employees even enter the workplace. More than half of employers (56%) say entry-level workers are not adequately prepared for work, while more than one-quarter (26%) describe the skills gap in their sector as either "serious" or at "crisis level."

Once employees enter the workforce, the picture does not improve. While employers overwhelmingly believe workforce training programs are working, employees are less convinced, pointing to a deeper problem in how training is designed and delivered.

More than three-quarters of employers (77%) say training programs are effective overall, compared to 58% of employees. However, most employees (71%) say that training has led to no

change in their pay or role. The findings suggest the issue is not a lack of investment or motivation, but a lack of relevance and practical impact. From those who say it was not effective, 51% of employees say their training is too general or not connected closely enough to their day-to-day responsibilities. Employees also cite not enough hands-on practical learning (39%), insufficient coaching (34%), and weak managerial support (27%) as barriers to successful training outcomes.

The research reveals a growing perception gap between employers and employees about which skills are most urgently needed in today's workplace.

While both groups agree that workforce capability gaps exist, they differ significantly on where the problem lies. Employers identified AI and automation skills (36%) and digital or IT capabilities (24%) as the most lacking in their workforce, reflecting the growing pressure to adapt to rapidly changing technologies.

Employees, however, pointed to leadership and people management (25%) as the biggest deficiency in their workplace, followed by communication and teamwork skills (24%). The findings suggest many workers see the challenge not only as a technical skills issue but also as a management and workplace culture issue.

At the same time, employers ranked problem-solving and critical thinking (36%) and communication and teamwork (34%) as the two most important skills for long-term success - highlighting demand for both durable human skills and technical fluency.

AI is accelerating faster than workers are adapting

The report also reveals a disconnect between how quickly employers are embracing AI and how slowly employees are adapting to it in their day-to-day work.

India, Canada agree to conclude trade pact talks by year-end

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

INDIA and Canada agreed to conclude negotiations for a free trade agreement by the year-end as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on boosting ties in areas of defence, trade and energy.

Modi and Carney met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian-les-Bains in eastern France.

"It was a delight to meet Prime Minister Carney on the sidelines of the Evian G7 Summit," Modi said in a post on X. "In less than a year, it is our fourth meeting, indicating our commitment to strong India-Canada ties. We reviewed the full range of relations between our nations, notably the ground covered since we last met," he said.

During the meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed concluding the negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) this year, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

"Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress in negotiations towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and reaffirmed their shared objective of concluding the negotiations in 2026," the MEA said. The two prime ministers welcomed the positive momentum in bilateral relations and noted the progress achieved since Carney's visit to India in March this year, it said.

The two sides also agreed to launch negotiations on a General Security of Information Agreement to deepen defence and security cooperation.

"Both leaders reviewed the excellent progress made in bilateral engagement and discussed ways to build a stronger partnership driven by trade, energy, innova-



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tion, education and people-to-people exchanges," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

Reaffirming their commitment to a "forward-looking strategic partnership", Modi and Carney highlighted the complementarities between the Indian and Canadian economies and underscored the importance of resilient and reliable supply chains for global energy and food security, according to the MEA statement.

The leaders reviewed progress in economic cooperation, including commercial arrangements relating to LNG, LPG and metallurgical coal.

The Canadian prime minister was in India from February 27 to March 2, during which India and Canada sealed key pacts on supplies of Uranium and critical minerals and agreed to conclude a comprehensive economic partnership agreement soon.

At the time, the two prime ministers had also pledged to ramp up cooperation in defence, critical technologies, small and modular nuclear reactors, edu-