Perplexity wins OS-level Samsung S26 integration; Google rolls out Nano Banana 2; agentic task products expand

AI News Digest

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Perplexity wins OS-level Samsung S26 integration; Google rolls out Nano Banana 2; agentic task products expand

By AI News Digest • February 27, 2026

Perplexity announced a system-level Samsung Galaxy S26 integration (including Bixby backend search/reasoning), while Google rolled out Nano Banana 2 / Gemini 3.1 Flash Image with web-search grounding and top Image Arena scores. The day also brought new agentic task products (Copilot Tasks, FactoryAI Missions), major compute buildout signals (LillyPod, Stargate construction), and heightened attention on Anthropic's "Department of War" discussions.

What mattered today

Perplexity lands OS-level distribution on Samsung Galaxy S26

Perplexity CEO Aravind Srinivas said **Perplexity will be integrated into all Samsung Galaxy S26 phones**, preloaded with the wake word **"Hey Plex"**, alongside Bixby and Gemini [1]. He also said **Bixby will use Perplexity's search-grounded LLMs/APIs on the backend** for search and reasoning, aiming for "grounded, up-to-date answers" via real-time web search + LLM reasoning [2].

Srinivas described this as **system-level integration** (wake word, access to physical controls) with the ability to **read from and write to native apps** like Notes, Calendar, Gallery, Clock, and Reminders [3,4]. He also claimed Per-

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[1] post by @AravSrinivas
[2] post by @AravSrinivas
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[4] post by @AravSrinivas

plexity is the **first non-Google company to have OS-level access in a Samsung phone**, and that Samsung is expected to ship **hundreds of millions of devices** this year with Perplexity powering assistants, browser agents, and search [5][6].

More details were linked here: https://www.perplexity.ai/hub/blog/perplexity-apis-deliver-powerful-ai-to-the-world%E2%80%99s-largest-android-device-maker [7].

Google ships "Nano Banana 2" (Gemini 3.1 Flash Image Preview) with web-search grounding

Multiple Google/DeepMind leaders highlighted the release of **Nano Banana 2**, officially **Gemini 3.1 Flash Image Preview**, which is described as being **powered by real-time information and images from web search** [8]. On Image Arena, it debuted at **#1 in Text-to-Image (1279)** and **tied #1 in Single-Image Edit (1407)**, with **top-3 Multi-Image Edit** and a listed cost of **$0.067 per image** (~2× cheaper than Nano Banana Pro) [9].

Google also positioned it as rolling out broadly: **default in the Gemini app, Search (141 countries), and Flow**, plus preview access via **AI Studio** and **Vertex AI** [10]. Sundar Pichai pointed to a "**Window Seat**" demo that generates window views worldwide using **live local weather** in **2K/4K specs** [11].

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[5] post by @AravSrinivas

[6] post by @AravSrinivas

[7] post by @AravSrinivas

[8] post by @arena

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[10] post by @sundarpichai

[11] post by @sundarpichai

Breaking: Google Upgraded Nano Banana Again! (4:49)

Agents: more "set a goal, come back later" products

Microsoft: "Copilot Tasks" enters research preview

Microsoft launched **Copilot Tasks**, positioning it as "AI that talks less and does more," with **no complicated setup or coding**—users ask for what they need and Copilot handles the rest [12]. Examples included turning a syllabus into a study plan (with practice tests and blocked focus time), tracking apartment listings and booking showings, and triaging email with drafted replies and auto-unsubscribe actions [13][14][15].

It's in a **Research Preview** for a small group, with a waitlist here: https://copilot.microsoft.com/tasks/preview?form=M301EQ&OCID=CGE_osocial_Copilot_Free_868hmzrv [16].

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[12] post by @mustafasuleyman
[13] post by @mustafasuleyman
[14] post by @mustafasuleyman
[15] post by @mustafasuleyman
[16] post by @mustafasuleyman

FactoryAI: "Missions" for multi-day autonomous work

FactoryAI announced **"Missions"** for its "Droids," describing goal-oriented work that can run over **multi-day horizons**: you describe the goal, approve the plan, and return to finished work [17][18]. Example targets included large enterprise changes like migrating **>1k microservices** across regions or refactoring a monolith handling **20M daily API calls** without downtime [19].

Perplexity: Nano Banana 2 available inside Perplexity Computer

Separately, Srinivas said **Nano Banana 2 is now available for image generation on Perplexity Computer** [20].

AI infrastructure: drug discovery compute scales up, and "Stargate" breaks ground (literally)

Eli Lilly brings a large "AI factory" online

NVIDIA's blog reported Eli Lilly launched **LillyPod**, described as the most powerful AI factory wholly owned and operated by a pharmaceutical company: a DGX SuperPOD with **1,016 NVIDIA Blackwell Ultra GPUs**, delivering **>9,000 petaflops** of AI performance (assembled in **four months**) [21]. It's positioned to support large-scale training for **protein diffusion**, **small-molecule graph neural network models**, and **genomics foundation models** [22], including work like evaluating **billions of molecular hypotheses** in a computational "dry lab" before committing to wet-lab experiments [23].

The post also described **Lilly TuneLab**, which plans to offer both Lilly models and **NVIDIA BioNeMo** models using **federated learning** infrastructure built on **NVIDIA FLARE**, intended to let biotech companies access proprietary models while keeping their data private/separate [24].

OpenAI's Stargate site begins structural construction

Greg Brockman posted that the **first steel beams** went up at OpenAI's **Stargate** site in Milam County, Texas, with partners **SoftBank** and **SBEnergy**

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[17] post by @FactoryAI

[18] post by @matanSF

[19] post by @matanSF

[20] post by @AravSrinivas

[21] Now Live: The World's Most Powerful AI Factory for Pharmaceutical Discovery and Development

[22] Now Live: The World's Most Powerful AI Factory for Pharmaceutical Discovery and Development

[23] Now Live: The World's Most Powerful AI Factory for Pharmaceutical Discovery and Development

[24] Now Live: The World's Most Powerful AI Factory for Pharmaceutical Discovery and Development

tagged in the post [25][26][27].

Research & developer tooling worth a quick look

Sakana AI: "Doc-to-LoRA" and "Text-to-LoRA" for sub-second customization

Sakana AI Labs introduced **Doc-to-LoRA** and **Text-to-LoRA**, using a hypernetwork to generate **LoRA adapters on the fly** so an LLM can quickly adapt to a task description or internalize a document [28][29]. They reported **sub-second latency** [30] and claimed Doc-to-LoRA reached near-perfect accuracy on a needle-in-a-haystack task with inputs **5× longer than the base context window** [31].

Links shared: Doc-to-LoRA paper/code https://arxiv.org/abs/2602.15902 and https://github.com/SakanaAI/Doc-to-LoRA [32]; Text-to-LoRA paper/code https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.06105 and https://github.com/SakanaAI/Text-to-LoRA [33].

Harbor framework: momentum around shared agent-eval infrastructure

Posts highlighted **Harbor** as shared infrastructure for agent evaluation, aiming to standardize benchmarks through one interface with **repeatable runs** and **standardized traces** [34]. Swyx described Harbor as rapidly dominating RL infra/evals and said their team is prioritizing migrating evals to Harbor [35].

Safety & governance: "Department of War" discussion becomes a flashpoint

Anthropic posted a link to a CEO statement by Dario Amodei on the company's **discussions with the Department of War**: https://www.anthropic.com/news/statement-department-of-war [36][37]. Gary Marcus called the statement "**Historic**" and

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[33] post by @SakanaAILabs
[34] post by @LaudeInstitute
[35] post by @swyx
[36] post by @AnthropicAI
[37] post by @AnthropicAI

"**incredibly brave**" [38].

In parallel, Marcus reiterated his view that **GenAI is dangerous because it's unreliable**, especially if deployed in high-stakes military contexts without oversight [39][40].

IA : Yoshua Bengio alerte sur "le pouvoir incontrôlé qui est en train de se développer" (0:51)

Sources

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8. post by @arena
9. post by @sundarpichai

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[38] post by @GaryMarcus
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