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Galgotias University robot controversy at India AI Impact Summit: Explained

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What Happened at the India AI Summit

At the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, representatives from Galgotias University displayed a robotic dog at their exhibition stall.

They introduced it to the audience as a technology linked to the university's work.

What Caused the Controversy

Social media users and observers quickly identified the robot as the Unitree Go2, a commercially available Chinese robot, not a product developed by the university's own research team.

The robot had been named "Orion" by a university professor during a presentation, which made many think it was the university's own innovation.

Backlash and Reactions

The post went viral online, with many people criticising the university for appearing to take credit for an imported product.

Critics said showing a Chinese robot as a domestic innovation at a national AI event was embarrassing and misleading.

University's Clarification

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Galgotias University later said the robot was procured for student learning and research, and that it did not claim to have built it.

The university apologised for the confusion and said one of its representatives was “ill-informed” about the robot’s actual origin.

Action at the Summit

Following the row, the university was asked to vacate its stall at the AI Impact Summit.

Government officials emphasised that exhibitors should not display items that are not their own work at such events.

Broader Impact

The incident sparked debates about transparency and authenticity at technology showcases.

It also led to political criticism, with some opposition leaders mocking the situation as damaging to India’s AI reputation.