

5. Google's Data Centre

Google has announced a historic investment of USD 15 billion (₹87,520 crore) to build its largest-ever AI hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This gigawatt-scale project, planned over five years (2026–2030), aligns with India's Viksit Bharat Vision and supports the goals of the India AI Mission

Google AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

Key Features

A. Purpose-Built Data Centre Campus – The hub will integrate advanced AI infrastructure, large-scale data centre capacity, renewable energy sources, and a high-speed fibre-optic network, all consolidated on a single campus. The campus will be designed to support AI workloads, cloud computing, and next-generation digital services.

B. International Subsea Gateway – Construction of new subsea cables landing at Visakhapatnam on India's eastern coast. This will enhance global digital connectivity, reduce latency, and improve internet speed, positioning India as a critical node in global AI and cloud networks.

AI-Powered Data Centres in India

A. Overview

Function – Specialized facilities housing servers, storage systems, and networking equipment to store, process, and manage digital data.

Importance – Backbone of cloud computing, AI, e-Governance, fintech, and other digital services.

B. Requirements for AI Workloads

High-Performance Computing (HPC) – Essential for AI model training and large-scale computations.

GPU Clusters – Required for massive parallel processing of deep learning and generative AI models.

Low-Latency Data Access – Critical for real-time decision-making and AI inference.

C. Market Potential – India's data centre market projected to attract \$100 billion in investments by 2027, with a CAGR of 24.68%, driven by AI adoption and digital transformation.

Strategic and Economic Impact

Global AI Hub – Positions Visakhapatnam as a global technology and AI powerhouse.

Enhanced AI Capabilities – Supports next-generation AI applications, cloud computing, and data-intensive services.

Integration into Global Network – Forms a critical node in Google's worldwide AI infrastructure, spanning 12 countries.

Digital Infrastructure Leadership – Contributes to India's technology sovereignty and AI readiness.

Government Push and Policy Support

A. IndiaAI Mission (2024)

Objective – Establish public AI compute infrastructure, develop indigenous AI foundational models, and fund AI startups from idea to commercialization.

Planned Initiatives – Setting up 500 data labs across India to support AI research and model development.

Seven Pillars of IndiaAI Mission –

1. Foundational model development
2. Public AI compute infrastructure
3. Startup incubation and funding
4. Skilling and research support
5. Data infrastructure and labs
6. Policy and governance framework
7. AI ethics and responsible deployment

B. National Informatics Centre (NIC) – Established National Data Centres in Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad, and Bhubaneswar; 37 smaller centres across state capitals.

Functions –

1. Support e-Governance platforms
2. Provide digital services for ministries and departments
3. Ensure secure hosting for government applications

C. National Program on Artificial Intelligence (MeitY) - Promotes AI ethics and governance, skill development, and research. Supports creation of a National Centre for AI to coordinate AI strategy and policy.

Significance for India

1. Enhances AI research and innovation capabilities.
2. Supports indigenous model development, reducing reliance on foreign AI infrastructure.
3. Aligns with Digital India and Make in India initiatives.
4. Encourages public-private partnerships in AI infrastructure and data-driven services.

Source - <https://www.livemint.com/companies/ai-ambitions-google-15-billion-data-centre-microsoft-investment-meta-adani-reliance-l-t-big-tech-renewable-energy-11760451512639.html>

