

Google to invest \$15 bn on AI infra in AP

To partner Adani for data centre



Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani with Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian and others during a meeting. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (PTI)

IN ITS biggest ever investment in India, tech giant Google on Tuesday said it will invest USD 15 billion in building an AI infrastructure hub in Andhra Pradesh, which would include a gigawatt-scale data centre in partnership with Adani Group. The project is expected to create 5,000–6,000 direct jobs and 20,000–30,000 total jobs in Andhra Pradesh.

The AI hub at Visakhapatnam will be Google's largest outside the US and include a data centre fuelled by clean energy and a fibre-optic network. Business tycoon Gautam Adani said his company AdaniConneX would partner with Google on the proj-

ect, along with Bharti Airtel, India's second-largest mobile operator. The USD 15 billion will be invested over the next five years (2026–2030).

"It's the largest AI hub that we are going to be investing in anywhere in the world outside of the US," Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian said at an event here to sign the formal agreement.

Google joins a growing list of US tech giants ramping up investments in India amid the country's accelerating AI boom. Amazon.Com Inc has announced plans to invest USD 12.7 billion in cloud infrastructure by 2030, while OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, is preparing to establish a 1-gigawatt data centre in the region.

WPI inflation eases to 0.13% in Sept

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (PTI)

WHOLESALE price inflation (WPI) softened to 0.13 per cent in September on easing in prices of food articles and manufactured items, Government data showed on Tuesday. WPI-based inflation was 0.52 per cent in August and 1.91 per cent in September last year.

"Positive rate of inflation in September 2025 is primarily due to an increase in prices of the manufacture of food products, other manufacturing, non-food articles, other transport equipment and



textiles etc," the Industry Ministry said in a statement. According to WPI data, deflation in food articles was 5.22 per cent in September, compared to 3.06 per cent in August, with vegetables experiencing a decline in prices. Deflation in vegetables was 24.41 per cent in September, as against 14.18 per cent in August.

In the case of manufactured products, inflation eased to 2.33 per cent, as against 2.55 per cent in August. Fuel and power witnessed a negative inflation or deflation of 2.58 per cent in September, as against 3.17 per

cent in the previous month.

Barclays India Chief Economist Aastha Gudwani said that amid generally lower global commodity prices, WPI inflation is expected to stay subdued for longer. India Ratings and Research, Associate Director, Paras Jasrai, said core inflation rose to a 31-month high of 1.9 per cent in September 2025, driven by a record pace of jewellery price growth at 34.1 per cent year-over-year.

"Wholesale inflation was flat at 0.02 per cent in the second quarter of FY'26, reaching an eight-quarter low," Jasrai said.

UN facing crisis of confidence: Rajnath

'India's participation in peacekeeping reflects its civilisational ethos'

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (IANS)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday reflected on the crying need for reforms in the UN, adding that the international body in its current form faces a crisis of confidence.

Speaking at the United Nations Troop Contributing Countries' (UNTCC) Chiefs' Conclave hosted by Indian Army, Rajnath Singh said, "We cannot fight today's challenges with outdated multilateral structures. Without comprehensive reforms, the UN faces a crisis of confidence."

"For today's inter-connected world, we need a reformed multilateralism: That reflects today's realities; gives voice to all stakeholders; addresses contemporary challenges; and focuses on human welfare," he said.

The Defence Minister said, "India, historically as the largest UN peacekeeping contributing country, has the necessary credentials to impart training and develop interoperability between peacekeepers from friendly foreign countries to build the mutual understanding that is essential for mission success."

He said under Aatmanirbhar



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh receives a war memorial painting from Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi during the United Nations Troop Contributing Countries' (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on Tuesday. (ANI)

Bharat, India has developed cost-effective indigenous technologies that strengthen peacekeeping missions in the form of land mobility platforms, secure communications, surveillance systems, UAVs and medical support solutions.

He highlighted the Indian contribution to involving women

peacekeepers. "India has been a pioneer in this domain. Our all-women Formed Police Unit deployed to Liberia in 2007 became a global symbol of empowerment. Their professionalism and compassion inspired a generation of Liberian women to join national police."

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (IANS)

ARMY chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday underlined India's steadfast contributions to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations, describing them as a reaffirmation of the country's determination to strengthen cooperation and

uphold the noble mission of global peace.

Speaking at the United Nations Troop Contributing Countries (UNTCC) Chiefs' Conclave 2025 in New Delhi, General Dwivedi said India's participation in peacekeeping reflects its civilisational ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' -- the world is one family -- and 'Vishwa Bandhu' -- India as a friend to all.

"Today, this conference builds on that same spirit, as we welcome the leadership of 32 troop-contributing nations, who together provide nearly two-thirds of all peacekeepers deployed worldwide. Truly, it is an assembly that reflects both pride and purpose," General Dwivedi said.

Highlighting India's extensive involvement, he noted, "India, as one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping, has sent approximately 300,000 men and women across 51 missions out of the total 71 peacekeeping missions of the United Nations. While our troops have served with unflinching resolve, we have also gained invaluable experience which we are always willing to share with everyone."

IMF raises India's GDP growth forecast to 6.6% for FY26

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (PTI)

INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday revised upwards India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.6 per cent compared to its earlier estimate of 6.4 per cent on the back of strong growth, offsetting the impact of US tariffs on Indian shipments. In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO), the multilateral lending agency also lowered the growth forecast by 20 basis points to 6.2 per cent for 2026-27.

“Compared with the July WEO Update, this is an upward revision for 2025, with carryover from a strong first quarter more than offsetting the increase in the US effective tariff rate on imports from India since July, and a downward revision for 2026,” the report said. The Indian economy grew by 7.8 per cent in April-June -- the highest in five quarters before the disruptive US tariffs were imposed.

Earlier this month, the World Bank also raised India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.5 per cent from 6.3 per cent estimated earlier, saying the country is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy.

China sanctions five US units of S Korean shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean

HONG KONG, Oct 14 (AP)

CHINA'S Commerce Ministry said on Tuesday that it was banning dealings by Chinese companies with five subsidiaries of South Korean shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean.

The ministry announced on Tuesday that it was also investigating a probe by Washington into China's growing dominance in world shipbuilding.

The US Trade Representative launched the Section 301 trade investigation in April 2024. It determined that China's strength in the industry was a burden to US businesses.

The sanctioned entities are Hanwha Shipping LLC, Hanwha Philly Shipyard Inc., Hanwha Ocean USA International LLC, Hanwha Shipping Holdings LLC and HS USA Holdings Corp.

International shipping and shipbuilding have become a recent focus of trade friction between Washington and Beijing. Each side has imposed new port fees on each others' vessels.

WHO issues alert in India against substandard oral cough syrups

NEW DELHI, Oct 14 (PTI)

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued an alert against three "substandard" oral cough syrups identified in India -- Coldrif, Respifresh TR and ReLife -- and urged national regulatory authorities worldwide to immediately notify it if these are detected in their country.

It has also advised healthcare professionals to report the detection of these substandard products and any incident of adverse effects, or lack of expected effects to their national regulatory authorities or National Pharmacovigilance Centre.

The alert comes after at least 22 children, mostly under the age of five, have died due to suspected kidney failure after being administered Coldrif in Madhya Pradesh. Besides, at least three children have allegedly died in Rajasthan after consuming cough syrup in different districts of the State.

The WHO has further called for increased surveillance and diligence within the supply chains of countries and regions likely to be affected by these substandard products. "Increased surveillance of the informal/unregulated market is also advised," the alert issued on Monday said.

The affected products are oral liquid medicines containing active ingredients commonly used to relieve symptoms of common cold, flu, or cough.

According to the alert, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) of India reported to WHO the presence of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) in at least three oral liquid medicines in October 8.



India to train border security force of Mongolia, says Modi

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

India will start a new programme to help in capacity building for the border security force of Mongolia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Welcoming visiting Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, Mr. Modi highlighted common Buddhist bonds between Mongolia and India. He announced that holy relics of two of Lord Buddha's leading disciples would travel to Mongolia next year. He also said that India would start issuing free e-visas for Mongolian citizens.

"Our defence and security cooperation is also steadily strengthening. We have launched several new initiatives, from training programmes to the appointment of a Defence Attaché at the Embassy. India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolia President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa at a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

will also launch a new capacity-building programme for Mongolia's border security forces," Mr. Modi said.

Explaining the announcement, senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs said India and Mongolia already had joint defence exercises, saying, "They are interested and they see a lot of benefits of training with us."

Mr. Modi highlighted

common Buddhist links between India and Mongolia and said, "I am happy to announce that next year, the holy relics of two great disciples of Lord Buddha – Sariputra and Maudgalyayana – will be sent from India to Mongolia."

The two sides signed 10 MoUs covering areas such as immigration, cooperation, humanitarian aid, geology and mineral resources, and yoga.