

India emerges as top APAC data centre market outside China

Telangana, AP, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and UP seeing driving next phase of growth

NEW DELHI

INDIA has emerged as top data centre market in the Asia-Pacific region (APAC), outside China, after its live IT capacity quadrupled over the past six years to 1.7 GW, a report showed on Friday.

The country has a strong pipeline with 1.3GW under construction and another 3.2GW of projects that have secured the land, power and permits needed for construction, according to the report by Bloomberg New Energy Finance (NEF).

"Strong scores on energy availability and fibre connectivity make India a preferred destination for building data centres in Asia-Pacific," the report noted.

Maharashtra remains India's dominant data centre market. It has the largest live IT base, accounting for 55 per cent of the total capacity in the country.

According to the report,



it also has the largest pipeline of projects which have received necessary approvals to start construction.

The report further stated that Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh will play critical roles in next phase of growth as companies announce large investment and projects in these states.

Domestic conglomerates

have committed \$210 billion to data centre development in India, accounting for 45 per cent of total announced investment.

"Global hyperscalers Google, Amazon and Microsoft are the next-largest investor group, with \$84 billion announced. About 95 per cent of all announced investment is targeting large hyperscale AI campuses," said the report.

Bloomberg NEF expects

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh will play critical roles in next phase of growth as companies announce large investment and projects in these states

India's data centre electricity demand to grow more than eightfold to 91 terawatt-hours in 2035 from 11 terawatt-hours in 2025.

"Power usage will pick up as under-construction hyperscale capacities come online in the next 3-10 years. Many hyperscalers have net-zero targets for 2030, so their use of renewable electricity is also expected to rise," the findings showed.

India's installed electricity generation capacity has grown at a 7.1 per cent compound annual rate since 2021 to keep up with rising demand.

Indian researchers develop GenAI tool to trace likely cancer root

Tool could help identify exposures behind malignancy, but cannot yet prove causation

NEW DELHI

WHAT causes cancer? Researchers at Delhi's Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology may have moved a step towards answering that all important question through an AI platform that helps decode DNA damage and what may have led to the malignancy.

'MutAlverse' is the first of its kind generative AI platform anywhere in the world, the researchers said. It was tested on 27 people suffering from head and neck cancer in Guwahati, Assam, and went to the root to trace the exposure that possibly contributed to the disease -- chewing smokeless tobacco.

Though AI adds a layer of information in understanding cancer development, it does not in its current form conclusively prove that DNA damage due to the exposure caused the cancer, cautioned experts. The researchers include those from Guwahati's National Institute of Pharma-



ceutical Education and Research (NIPER) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB).

Their research focuses attention on the causative factors rather than just the diagnosis and can be a useful screening tool, the study authors said.

"Nobody talks about what caused the cancer. What were you exposed to? Were you exposed to pollution? Were you exposed to contaminated water? Or were you exposed to cigarettes? Nobody tells you," lead author Gaurav Ahuja, associate professor at the department of computational biology, IIIT, told media.

The environment we live in continuously exposes us to multiple chemicals, which can induce mutations in the DNA, he explained.

"In my point of view, the study is a step forward when people are talking not about the fact that one got cancer, but in a way that they can identify what they were exposed to, so that family members can be protected, if the exposure is prevalent in the locality they live in," Ahuja said. The genAI platform also helped expand existing reference libraries of DNA adducts -- toxic chemicals that can attach to and cause changes to one's DNA, potentially causing cancer -- from fewer than 400 to over three lakh.

iQoo launches Z11 smartphone

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

IQOO, smartphone brand, launched the iQOO Z11 5G, designed to make students' day-to-day lives more productive, efficient, and seamless. The new device brings together AI-powered productivity features with segment-leading performance, a large immersive display, and dependable full-day battery life, all wrapped in a slim, durable design.

The new model is priced at Rs34,999 for the 6 GB + 128 GB variant, Rs39,999 for the 8GB+128 GB variant, Rs44,999 for the 8 GB + 256 GB variant, and Rs49,999 for the 12 GB + 256 GB variant. The model will be available in two colour options: Celestial Blue and Aurora Green. The sale will start from August 25 on iQOO e-store, Amazon.in, vivo exclusive stores, Reliance Digital, and select retail stores. Moreover, the iQOO Buds will be available at Rs1,899 and will be available for sale starting August 24th on Amazon.in.

Nipun Marya, CEO, iQOO, said, "With the iQOO Z11, we have combined the performance, display, and battery life they expect from iQOO with practical AI experiences designed to make everyday tasks smarter and more effortless."

Nadda reviews flu situation, ask States to stay vigilant

NEW DELHI

UNION Health Minister J P Nadda on Friday reviewed the prevailing H1N1 influenza situation and preparedness measures in the country with a particular focus on the national capital, and stressed the need for continued vigilance and robust surveillance.

Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh also attended the meeting.

Nadda reviewed the national surveillance and epidemiological situation, trends in influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI), testing and laboratory surveillance, and preparedness of healthcare facilities to manage seasonal influenza cases, the ministry said.

He emphasised the need for close monitoring of influenza trends and proactive preparedness to ensure early detection and timely clinical management of cases.

The preparedness of healthcare facilities in Delhi was also reviewed, including the availability of hospital beds, critical care facilities and other essential supplies required to manage patients with seasonal influenza and



severe respiratory illness.

The minister stressed the importance of public awareness and adherence to preventive health practices, including respiratory and hand hygiene.

People experiencing persistent or severe respiratory symptoms, breathing difficulty or other warning signs should seek medical advice promptly, he said.

The health ministry said the situation is being closely and continuously monitored and that it is coordinating with states and Union territories, hospitals, laboratories and other stakeholders to strengthen surveillance and preparedness. The coordi-

nation is aimed at ensuring effective surveillance, early detection, timely clinical management and proactive preparedness for seasonal influenza, including H1N1.

Commonly referred to as swine flu, H1N1 is among the influenza viruses that can cause seasonal respiratory illness, with symptoms ranging from fever, cough and sore throat to more severe respiratory complications in vulnerable individuals.

The ministry has advised continued adherence to respiratory hygiene and hand hygiene measures as part of efforts to limit the spread of respiratory infections.

PM-AASHA via digital reforms raises farmer incomes

NEW DELHI

PRADHAN Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) emerged as a structured mechanism assuring agricultural procurement, price stabilisation and market interventions to ensure better price realisation for farmers, reduce distress sales, and promote a stable and resilient agricultural economy in the country, an official factsheet said on Friday.

The programme has enabled timely purchase of pulses, oilseeds and copra through agencies such as NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India) and NCCF (National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India).

It has established additional procurement centres to strengthen market access and led to collective empowerment of farmers, the statement said.

Medtech firms need more local value addition: Pharma Secy

NEW DELHI

MEDICAL devices sector needs to focus on more local value addition and components manufacturing, Department of Pharmaceuticals Secretary Manoj Joshi said on Friday.

The government is also open to suggestions from the industry to address issues faced by companies that had made investments under PLI (production linked incentives) scheme for medical



devices but could not claim incentives for any reason, in order to encourage local manufacturing in India, Joshi said while addressing CII Global MedTech Summit here.

"In the last five-seven

years, a lot of imports have shifted to assembly in the country," he said.

Although some of the components are produced in India, Joshi said, "Some of the factories which you see are plain assembly line operations."

While data shows that imports of medical devices are not growing up, he said a reason for that could be that "how we classify components as medical devices or otherwise."

Brain's white matter key to gray matter's cognitive function: Study

NEW DELHI

GRAY and white matter might both work together to support cognitive health among older adults in India and health of the brain's white matter wiring may help soften the cognitive effects of gray matter loss, a study has revealed.

"Gray matter and superficial white matter are physically close and may play different roles: gray matter processes information, while superficial white matter helps nearby brain regions communicate," first author Yingxu Liu, a postdoctoral

scholar at the University of Southern California's school of medicine, said.

"Our findings suggest that cognitive health depends not only on how much gray matter is preserved, but also on the condition of the wiring that connects it," Liu said.

The study, published in Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association, analysed brain scans and cognitive assessments from 459 community-dwelling adults aged 60 and older across India. Data for the analysis came from the Harmonised Diagnostic Assessment of Dementia



for the Longitudinal Aging Study in India, or 'LASI-DAD'.

The study is among the first to examine the brain's superficial white matter in a community-based population from a low- and middle-income country, they added.

An advanced form of diffusion MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) was used to assess neurite density -- the

small projections that allow nerve cells to send and receive signals -- and the amount of freely moving water around them.

Participants also completed tests of language, memory, executive function and visuospatial ability.

A lower neurite density or more free water can indicate a tissue disruption associated with processes such as loss of myelin, inflammation, or swelling, the researchers said.

A healthier superficial white matter was most consistently associated with stronger language skills, with clearest links appearing

in frontotemporal areas involved in recognising words, speaking fluently, and holding language information in mind.

Further, decrease in gray matter remained the strongest overall predictors of cognition.

However, the relationship between gray matter and cognitive performance was found to depend in part on superficial white matter -- when this local wiring showed poorer integrity, gray matter loss was seen more strongly tied to worse language performance and cognitive impairment.



THE POLITICA

Nothing political about it

ANTONIO SEMPERE &
SUMAN NAISHADHAM

FOR weeks, migrants in the Spanish territory of Ceuta had gathered on a beach away from the city centre, sleeping on cardboard sheets, under reed huts and guarding their few possessions in tattered plastic bags.

They were gone by Thursday morning after Spanish police escorted them to makeshift shelters. But an hour later, other migrants were combing through the trash they had left behind for anything useful: an abandoned mattress, plastic chairs, sheets, a scrap of tarp.

The scene exemplified the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ceuta, where up to 10,000 migrants remain in the city weeks after more than 72,000 people poured into the small Spanish territory neighbouring Morocco. Three weeks later, Spanish authorities were struggling to shelter and attend to those who refused to leave -- or even determine how many migrants were still in the city of 84,000.

Within days of the initial border rush, in which at least 90 people died, most migrants went

Migrants in Ceuta wait in limbo while Spain figures out what to do with them

Spanish authorities are struggling to shelter and attend to those who refused to leave -- or even determine how many migrants were still in the city

back to Morocco, realising the difficulties of staying in Ceuta and their slim chances of reaching mainland Europe. But thousands remained, hiding in the woods, on beaches and outside a migrant reception centre.

City officials estimate that 9,000 to 10,000 migrants -- including about 2,000 minors -- could still be in the city, based on the number of daily food rations handed out by aid groups. Spain's interior ministry puts the figure at roughly 5,000 people.

Shelter for some migrants while others roam the streets

The UN refugee agency highlighted large humanitarian and operational challenges in Ceuta in an interview with The Associated Press, specifically around access to shelter, basic services and food. While most of those who crossed in late July are from Morocco, people from war-torn Sudan, Mali and Yemen also reached the Spanish enclave.

The UN refugee agency urged Spanish authorities to start processing their asylum claims as soon as possible, estimating that about 1,200 migrants in Ceuta

could be eligible for international protection, according to Paula Barrachina, a spokesperson for the agency in Spain.

The Spanish government says it is working to house the remaining migrants in the city, and return a sense of normalcy to Ceuta. On Thursday, Spain's Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration Elma Saiz said the government had secured space to accommodate 1,800 migrants in a parking lot and a military facility sometimes used for religious events. It is looking for more space.

Even so, an Associated Press photographer on Thursday saw migrants still roaming the streets. Elsewhere, hundreds of women and minors were sheltering in makeshift centers run by locals.

Khadija Rifai, a 20-year-old woman from Morocco, acknowledged that some people were receiving help, but didn't know what Spain planned to do with adults like her.

"They help the minors and the youngsters, but they haven't found any solutions for us," she said Wednesday.

Rifai said her life in Morocco was "normal" but in late July, she



Within days of the initial border rush, in which at least 90 people died, most migrants went back to Morocco, realising the difficulties of staying in Ceuta and their slim chances of reaching mainland Europe. But thousands remained, hiding in the woods, on beaches and outside a migrant reception centre

and her husband swam to the Spanish territory in search of better opportunities and healthcare.

Rifai's husband was sent back to Morocco, but she hid from authorities and stayed on. She now hopes to reunite with him and eventually move to mainland

Spain, where she wants to have children.

"Even though we suffered here in Ceuta, we hope that once we reach the mainland, life will be good and we will have a house, a car, and everything we dreamed of," Rifai said.

Discontent grows in Ceuta

Ceuta Mayor Juan Jesús Vivas accused the national government, led by Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, of not doing enough to control the situation.

On Thursday, Spanish police escorted several hundred people, mostly men, through the city's streets to a shelter. Hours later, Vivas, a member of the center-right Popular Party, said the government's decision to move migrants from the beach to other locations in the city did not demonstrate "a will to fix the problem."

Spain's migration ministry said the government has allocated 6.5 million euros (\$7.6 million) in emergency funds to help the city cope with the new arrivals. Speaking in Ceuta this week, Migration Minister Saiz praised the work of local organizations in Ceuta and said 4,000 meals had been distributed every day since Aug. 3.

A ministry spokesperson said the Spanish government has to process every case on an individual basis. Before that can happen, police must identify those who entered the city illegally,

verify every migrant's nationality and background, determine who qualifies for international protection and establish who must leave, either voluntarily or by force, he said.

Those who crossed await a path forward

Migrants in Ceuta say they are willing to wait out the uncertainty. Hundreds had gathered earlier in the week in protest on a beach in Ceuta, carrying signs reading "Asylum" alongside Spanish flags.

Mohamed Yaqoub, 18, a migrant from Chad hid for days in the woods after Spanish soldiers chased him in late July, he said. He managed to stay and wishes to someday study in France.

Getting there will not be easy. Travellers leaving Ceuta and Melilla, Spain's other territory in North Africa, are subject to exit checks at ports and airports, an obstacle for those who enter the territories illegally and hope to reach the European continent.

"We ask them to allow us entry and give us the necessary papers and documents," Yaqoub told an AP photographer in a cellphone note. "The most important thing for us is to get the papers."