

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 09 - 11, 2025

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India Secures Microsoft's Biggest Asia Investment With \$17.5 Billion AI And Cloud Infrastructure Push

Business Standard,
December 11, 2025

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (9 December) and committed the company will invest \$17.5 billion in India.

This will be Microsoft's largest investment in Asia and is aimed at supporting the country's expanding Artificial Intelligence ecosystem.

"Thank you PM Narendra Modiji for an inspiring conversation on India's AI opportunity. To support the country's ambitions, Microsoft is committing US\$ 17.5 billion – our largest investment ever in Asia – to help build the infrastructure, skills, and sovereign capabilities needed for India's AI-first future," Nadella said after meeting PM Modi.

In response, PM Modi said, responded, "When it comes to AI, the world is optimistic about India!"

"Had a very productive discussion with Satya Nadella. Happy to see India being the place where Microsoft will make its largest-ever investment in Asia. The youth of India will harness this opportunity to innovate and leverage the power of AI for a better planet," he added.

Microsoft later said in a statement that the new \$17.5 billion investment builds on an earlier \$3 billion commitment for cloud and AI centres in Bengaluru.

Together, these projects will give the company its largest hyperscale footprint in the country.

The latest investment by Microsoft will advance India's cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, skilling and ongoing operations

"India stands at a pivotal moment in its AI journey... one defined by impact at scale, determined to lead. As technology becomes a catalyst for inclusive growth and economic transformation, the country is emerging as a frontier AI nation. Against this backdrop of bold ambition and accelerating innovation, today we are announcing our largest investment in Asia — US\$17.5 billion over four years (CY 2026 to 2029) — to advance the country's cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, skilling and ongoing operations. This investment builds on the US\$3 billion investment announced earlier this year, which we are on track to spend by the end of CY2026," the company statement said.

Microsoft's total investment, approaching \$20 billion, highlights India's importance as a major market for global technology companies working to expand digital infrastructure.

Earlier in October, Google CEO Sundar Pichai informed Prime Minister Modi about the company's plan to set up an AI hub in Visakhapatnam. This is Google's largest investment in India.

Google has joined hands with the Adani Group to develop a major data centre and AI hub in Visakhapatnam. The company said it will invest \$15 billion in the next five years.

Amazon has also committed several billion dollars toward data centre development in India.

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In October, the Prime Minister also met Qualcomm CEO Cristiano R Amon to discuss India's progress in AI, innovation, and skill development.

In a recent address in Delhi, the Prime Minister discussed India's role in creating a global approach to AI.

He emphasised ethical and human-centric development of the technology and said work is underway on a national AI policy.

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India's First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel Launched In Varanasi

Swarajya,
December 11, 2025



Hydrogen Fuel Cell catamaran. (Representative image)

Varanasi has achieved a key milestone in India's shift towards cleaner inland transport, as the country's first home-built hydrogen fuel cell vessel has now begun commercial operations at Namo Ghat.

The launch was carried out by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, in the presence of senior Uttar Pradesh ministers, MLAs and local officials.

The event drew key state leaders, including Transport Minister Dayashankar Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush, Food Security and Drug Administration Dr Daya Shankar Mishra 'Dayalu' as well as Varanasi Mayor Ashok Kumar Tiwari.

In recent years, the Inland Waterways Authority of India, in collaboration with the Centre, has widened navigation channels, upgraded terminals and opened new cargo and passenger routes to reduce logistics costs and offer cleaner, more efficient travel options.

Speaking at the inauguration, Sonowal said the achievement reflected the government's long-term vision for sustainable mobility.

"This is not just technological progress, but a sign that we are advancing confidently towards green energy and indigenous solutions."

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"This proves that our technical capabilities are ready for the future. This has been made possible due to the Prime Minister's visionary leadership. The speed and approach with which every sector has been advancing has ensured that inland waterways now play an important role in India's development journey," he said.

The Minister noted that it was a moment of national pride for India to join countries like China, Norway, the Netherlands and Japan in operating hydrogen-powered vessels.

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DPR Preparation Work Taken Up For 263 Km Konkan Railway Sections Identified For Doubling: Centre

Swarajya,
December 10, 2025

The long-pending capacity expansion of the Konkan Railway line has inched forward with the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) taking up the preparation of a Detailed Project Report for about 263 kilometres of track identified for doubling.

The update was shared by Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday (10 December).

The Konkan Railway, which runs from Roha in Maharashtra to Thokur in Karnataka, passes through the difficult terrain of the Western Ghats and plays a critical role in connecting the western coastal states.

KRCL was established in 1990 and currently has five shareholders.

The Government of India, through the Ministry of Railways, holds a majority stake of 66.35 per cent.

This is followed by the Government of Maharashtra with 15.11 per cent, Karnataka with 10.30 per cent, and both Goa and Kerala with 4.12 per cent each.

Of the total 739 route kilometres under KRCL jurisdiction, doubling work on only two stretches — Roha–Veer and Madgaon–Majorda — covering about 55 kilometres has been completed so far.

The remaining 685 kilometres of the route still requires doubling to enhance line capacity.

Vaishnaw stated that this expansion will need substantial financial investment with contributions from all the state governments that hold shares in the project.

He added that the Ministry of Railways has already approached the concerned state governments for contributing towards capital expenditure in KRCL as per their share.

"In the meanwhile, KRCL has taken up the work of preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for the doubling of identified sections (approx 263 km) to increase the capacity of route," the minister said.

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Haryana Releases Rs 1,700 Crore To Accelerate Urban Infrastructure Push

Swarajya,
December 11, 2025

The Haryana government has approved the release of Rs 1,700 crore to the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) and several metropolitan development authorities.

The announcement was made on Wednesday (10 December) by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana was also present at the briefing.

Saini recalled that during the 2025–26 budget speech, the state had earmarked Rs 3,000 crore from the External Development Charges (EDC) Fund for HSVP and the metropolitan development bodies of Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat, Panchkula and Hisar.

These funds were intended to support external development works and upgrade essential civic systems. According to the Chief Minister, the town and country planning department has made notable progress in deploying this allocation efficiently.

He added that the state had already disbursed Rs 1,500 crore from the EDC Fund earlier in the financial year. The fresh Rs 1,700 crore tranche will be allocated as follows:

- Rs 700 crore to the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran
- Rs 700 crore to the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority
- Rs 170 crore to the Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority
- Rs 30 crore to the Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority
- Rs 80 crore to the Sonipat Metropolitan Development Authority
- Rs 20 crore to the Hisar Metropolitan Development Authority

Reflecting on last year's performance, Saini noted that the government released Rs 2,188 crore to metropolitan authorities during the 2024–25 financial year, helping drive a series of development initiatives across Haryana's fast-growing urban centres.

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Centre Clears Rs 44,771 Crore Road Push For Odisha, Greenfield Bhubaneswar–Paradip Link Back On Track

Swarajya,
December 10, 2025

The Centre has signed off on an extensive package of road development works worth Rs 44,771 crore in Odisha, alongside giving in-principle approval for a new greenfield corridor between Bhubaneswar and Paradip.

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The announcement was made by Odisha works minister Prithiviraj Harichandan after his meeting with Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on Tuesday (9 December).

Harichandan said the sanctioned amount covers upgrades to both national and state highways, as well as projects supported under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), all scheduled for implementation in the 2025–26 fiscal year.

According to him, the approvals span five national highway projects, five state highway improvements, and a suite of CRIF-linked works across the state.

Among the major national highway projects cleared is the widening of the key Bhubaneswar–Puri corridor, along with the 140 km Tangi–Puintola–Ichchapuram route.

The Centre has also committed to expanding the 400 km Rourkela–Barbil–Paradip stretch via Duburi and upgrading the 68 km Pallahada–Pitiri segment under NH-149. Additionally, Harichandan noted that Rs 1,500 crore has been allocated under the CRIF scheme.

For state highways, Odisha has secured Rs 13,141 crore for widening and strengthening works.

Harichandan said these include four-laning of a road between Barpali and Bolangir and Kesinga-Bhawanipatna-Junagarh road, Bolangir-Nayagarh stretch, Hinjilikatu bypass and four-laning of Berhampur-Kalusandhpur road and improvement of Parlakhemundi road from Mohana.

A significant proposal discussed during the meeting was a fresh greenfield road between Bhubaneswar and Paradip. With Paradip poised for major industrial and port-linked expansion, the minister said the corridor would play a critical role in linking the capital to the fast-growing port city.

Gadkari has expressed support for the idea and has asked the Odisha government to submit a revised detailed project report.

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