

Adani Group Makes \$100 Billion AI Vow

Investment will go toward developing large-scale data centers by 2035

By **TRIPTI LAHIRI**
AND **KOSAKU NARIOKA**

India's **Adani Group**, an energy-and-logistics giant, said it would invest \$100 billion to develop large-scale data centers by 2035, the largest such commitment in India so far, as the South Asian nation looks to become a global leader in artificial intelligence.

The announcement on Tuesday comes as tech executives and government leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, visit India for a global AI summit that New Delhi hopes will give emerging economies a greater say in a rapidly evolving technology landscape.

For many countries, one of the biggest concerns about the looming AI era is that it will deepen existing technology divides, in which tech services are developed by companies in a few rich countries. Some countries also have expressed concerns about how large tech firms will consume data generated by their citizens to build their AI products.

India is focused on making sure that startups and researchers use AI to solve pressing development chal-



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lenges, and paving the way for its businesses to become providers of global artificial-intelligence services.

India will "shape solutions not just for India but for the world!" said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a social-media post Monday.

The Adani Group said the dedicated computing capacity it is building will support Indian large language models

and ensure data generated in India is stored locally.

Adani said that the new initiative will build on partnerships with Google and Microsoft and aim to expand its data-center portfolio to five gigawatts from its current plans to build two gigawatts, through a joint venture with Virginia-based EdgeConnex.

The group also said it would strengthen its partner-

ship with Flipkart and develop a second AI data center to support the Walmart-owned online retailer's digital commerce.

The Adani announcement comes as India has become one of the hottest markets globally for U.S. tech titans looking to cater to the country's large population. In October, Google announced a \$15 billion investment in data cen-

ters in southeastern India, as well as undersea-cable links. In December, Microsoft unveiled its largest-ever investment in Asia with a \$17.5 billion pledge to develop the country's cloud and AI infrastructure.

Plans for data-center investment globally have sparked concerns about their large-scale water and power needs. While regular data cen-

ters that have powered the internet aren't especially power hungry, the computing power harnessed by AI-focused data centers has enormous power and water needs.

These requirements are a particular concern for India, where many people already face erratic water supplies, an issue that is expected to worsen with more intense heat stress because of climate change.

At the same time, India's per capita power consumption is low, and household demand is projected to soar as people gradually become more affluent.

While India has invested heavily in renewables, data centers worldwide often rely on coal power because they need steady round-the-clock electricity, which can be a challenge for renewables to provide in the short term.

Adani said it is uniquely positioned to provide competitively priced, carbon-neutral power for AI functions. In addition to Adani Green Energy's 30-gigawatt solar and wind project in the western coastal state of Gujarat, the group plans to further expand its renewable-energy portfolio.

"Nations that master the symmetry between energy and compute will shape the next decade. India is uniquely positioned to lead," said Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani.

Judge Backs Chain on Using the Term 'Boneless Wings'

By **ALYSSA LUKPAT**

At Buffalo Wild Wings, a boneless chicken wing doesn't need to come from a wing, a judge ruled.

Judge John Tharp Jr. in Illinois's northern district denied a customer victory Tuesday in his quest to hold the chain accountable for describing chicken-breast pieces as wings. Aimen Halim had sued Buffalo Wild Wings in 2023 for misleading him about its boneless wings and demanded about \$10 million in damages.

The judge said Halim's claim had "no meat on its

bones."

"A reasonable consumer would not think that BWW's boneless wings were truly deboned chicken wings, reconstituted into some sort of Franken-wing," Tharp said.

He said the chain can sell boneless wings, even though they are essentially chicken nuggets.

Halim wanted the judge to order Buffalo Wild Wings to rename its boneless wings to something like "chicken poppers."

He said he wouldn't have bought the product if he knew they weren't wings, causing

him financial harm. He claimed the company violated Illinois's consumer-fraud act and was unjustly enriching itself.

"Words can have multiple meanings," Tharp said in a 10-page opinion.

Halim sued Buffalo Wild Wings months after dining on wings that weren't actually deboned. He previously sued the makers of Hefty recycling bags and Kind granola over deceptive wording and lost in court.

Lawyers for Halim and Buffalo Wild Wings didn't return requests for comment Tues-

day.

Tharp denied Halim's effort to gain class-action status.

Chicken wings are generally more expensive than chicken-breast meat, which has become more available as chickens have gotten bigger.

Georgia-based Buffalo Wild Wings argued that Halim didn't prove he sustained a

concrete injury by consuming boneless wings.

The company's menu currently has a handful of different wings, including bone-in and boneless and one made of cauliflower.

The chain describes its boneless wings as "juicy all-white chicken, lightly breaded, handspun in choice of sauce

or dry rub."

The judge said Halim had until next month to amend his lawsuit. Still, Tharp said, "it is difficult to imagine that Halim can provide additional facts about his experience that would demonstrate that BWW is committing a deceptive act by calling its nuggets 'boneless wings.'"

AI Movie App Is Developed

Continued from page B1 which have also wowed users with their ability to create cinematic videos from text.

Seedance 2.0 has a limitation for now: It can only generate videos of up to 15 seconds. Sora's clips are limited to 25 seconds for Pro subscribers.

Some said ByteDance's tool wasn't ready for prime time. They cited video-generation glitches and said people would need expertise in video editing and prompt writing to generate Hollywood-level videos.

Other critics have raised privacy and copyright concerns, with echoes of controversies over deepfake images generated by Elon Musk's Grok.

Tim Pan, a filmmaker and founder of a popular Chinese tech channel called MediaStorm, said the ByteDance model produced audio nearly identical to his own voice based only on a photo of his face, even though he hadn't given the tool a voice sample. Pan questioned whether ByteDance had fed videos of him into its model for training and raised concerns that someone could use ByteDance's tool to forge the identity of public figures.

Shortly after Pan posted a video about the issues, ByteDance said it was making urgent changes after receiving user feedback. It suspended a feature that allowed the creation of digital avatars based on real people.

The Motion Picture Association, which represents major Hollywood studios, said the model used U.S. copyrighted works without authorization "on a massive scale."

"ByteDance is disregarding well-established copyright law that protects the rights of creators and underpins millions

Global monthly active users of the CapCut app



Note: Quarterly data except for January 2026

Source: Sensor Tower

of American jobs," the association said last Thursday.

The next day, Disney sent a cease-and-desist letter to ByteDance, saying the Chinese company "is hijacking Disney's characters," including ones from "The Avengers" and "Star Wars." Disney called the behavior "willful, pervasive, and totally unacceptable."

ByteDance said it respected intellectual-property rights. "We are taking steps to strengthen current safeguards as we work to prevent the unauthorized use of intellectual property and likeness by users," the company said.

ByteDance is among many Chinese AI developers introducing new models and features for the Lunar New Year started Tuesday. AI heavyweights DeepSeek and Alibaba are preparing to release their next-generation models soon.

While principally known outside China for TikTok, ByteDance is a wide-ranging AI powerhouse in its home country, with a chatbot and tools for image and video generation.

Daily usage of ByteDance's flagship AI models is approaching that of Google and OpenAI based on the number of tokens used, a measure of AI workload, according to data released by the companies.

ByteDance's chatbot in China, called Doubao, has nearly 250 million monthly active users, according to data tracker

QuestMobile.

Getting enough computing power to handle all that work—especially data-heavy video generation—is a challenge.

ByteDance is nearing a deal to use AI servers containing more than 7,000 Nvidia B200 chips at a data center in Indonesia, people familiar with the matter said.

ByteDance plans to use the chips for AI research and development, some of the people said. The company is also seeking to expand data-center capacity in Southeast Asia, they said.

The chips—from Nvidia's flagship Blackwell series—can't be sent to China because of U.S. export controls.

The Seedance model was developed by a lab called Seed that ByteDance set up in 2023 with the goal of pursuing artificial general intelligence. The unit is now led by Wu Yonghui, who was a senior researcher at Google before joining ByteDance early last year and is now based in San Jose, Calif.

While Chinese-origin chatbots are unlikely to challenge U.S. rivals such as ChatGPT because they are expensive to train and run, "Chinese apps stand a solid chance to lead in select segments, such as photo and video editing, text-to-video generation, etc.," said Laila Khawaja, director of Gavekal Technologies.

CapCut has 642 million monthly active users, according to market-intelligence firm Sensor Tower.

"Chinese companies have more proprietary data and solid experience" in these types of apps, Khawaja said in an email. "We could see a replay of [the] TikTok story in AI—Chinese-origin AI app making a global impact."

Long, the Helsinki videogame developer, cautioned that Chinese developers were held back by U.S. controls on AI chips, which could make further advances more difficult. And, he said, U.S. consumers may hesitate to use a Chinese model over national-security and cybersecurity risks.

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