

INFRAINSIGHTS

Insights Igniting Curiosity



InfraShorts

- NBCC appointed consultant for Supertech's 16 projects.
- PM Modi inaugurated ₹5,500 crore projects in Prayagraj to boost connectivity, spiritual tourism, and prepare for Mahakumbh 2025.
- NHAI introduces a new system to rate concessionaires, focusing on pavement quality and digital defect tracking.
- MIC Electronics launches emergency light for Indian Railways, testing on Vande Bharat trains underway.

India Sets Sail: Tapping South Korea's expertise for a Shipbuilding Revolution

India is engaging leading South Korean shipbuilders, including HD Hyundai Heavy Industries, Hanwa Ocean, and Samsung Heavy Industries, for technical collaborations and joint ventures under a forthcoming shipbuilding policy expected to gain Cabinet approval soon.

A high-level delegation led by T K Ramachandran, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, recently visited South Korea to study advanced ship construction techniques and explore partnership opportunities. The team included R Lakshmanan, Joint Secretary (Shipbuilding), Madhu Nair, CMD of Cochin Shipyard Ltd, and Capt B K Tyagi, CMD of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.

During the visit, meetings with top officials from South Korea's shipyards were highly encouraging, with South Korean companies showing strong interest in collaborating with Indian yards.

Formal agreements are expected during Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's visit to South Korea in March 2025, signaling a significant step towards transforming India's shipbuilding sector through global partnerships.

Maersk anchors interest in India's emerging Shipbuilding Hub

Global shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk is exploring opportunities to build and repair ships in India, marking a significant vote of confidence in the country's shipbuilding potential. The move aligns with India's ambitions to become a global shipbuilding hub as the government prepares to finalize a comprehensive shipbuilding policy soon.

"India has a huge ambition for shipbuilding, and Maersk is also considering opportunities in this space," said Capt Prashant Widge, Head of ESG & Public Affairs, South Asia, Maersk, during a BIMCO discussion in Mumbai on December 2. This highlights global interest in India's maritime sector.



ADNOC wins CCI approval for \$16.4B Covestro Deal

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire Covestro for \$16.4 billion. ADNOC, a state-owned energy and petrochemicals company, will purchase up to 100% of Covestro's share capital through an all-cash public takeover offer. As part of the deal, ADNOC Germany, a subsidiary, will also subscribe to 10% of Covestro's shares through a capital increase, excluding subscription rights for minority shareholders. Covestro, known for its high-performance polymer materials, operates in India via Covestro (India) Pvt Ltd. The acquisition follows a previously signed investment agreement between ADNOC and Covestro.



BYD set to surpass Ford and Honda in 2024 sales

China's BYD, the top electric vehicle producer, is on track to surpass its 2024 goal of 4 million vehicle sales, overtaking Ford and Honda globally. The company delivered 3.76 million vehicles in the first 11 months, including 506,804 in November. With a growing market share, BYD's share of China's auto market reached 16.2% in October, up from 12.5% in 2023. The company has expanded production capacity and hired 200,000 workers, positioning itself to sell 5-6 million units in 2025. This growth has helped BYD navigate a price war in China, while foreign rivals, like GM, face losses.



India, UAE strengthen Strategic Partnership in Trade, Energy, and Education

India and the UAE discussed boosting ties in trade, energy, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) at the 15th Joint Commission Meeting. They also reviewed cooperation in renewable energy, defence, and critical minerals, and highlighted progress on educational collaborations, including IIT-Delhi's Abu Dhabi campus and upcoming institutions in Dubai, further solidifying their strategic partnership under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).



OPEC cuts 2024 Oil Demand Forecast amid price drop

OPEC has reduced its 2024 global oil demand growth forecast by 210,000 barrels per day, bringing it to 1.6 million barrels—a fifth consecutive cut since July and the largest so far. The downgrade reflects weaker-than-expected economic conditions, with bearish data from OECD Americas, Asia Pacific, and China's faltering economy. Oil prices have dropped 17% since July, trading near \$73 per barrel, pressured by booming supply from U.S. rivals. OPEC+ has postponed the resumption of 2.2 million barrels of halted output to April 2024, with gradual increases planned until late 2026. Despite these revisions, OPEC's projections remain more optimistic than those of Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, and the International Energy Agency, intensifying skepticism about the cartel's long-term consumption estimates.

UAE announces first Lithium Battery Recycling Plant

KEZAD Group and Witthal Gulf Industries LLC signed an MoU at Automechanika Dubai 2024 to establish the UAE's first lithium battery recycling plant, set to begin operations by Q2 2027. The facility will recycle 5,000 tons of battery waste annually, saving 20,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, reducing mining reliance, and supporting the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 goals and Circular Economy Policy 2021-2031. This project will advance the EV ecosystem with renewable energy storage, sustainable practices, and material recovery technologies. Sugumaran Devaraja, Advisor at Witthal, highlighted their vision for sustainable mobility and alignment with KEZAD's automotive ambitions. Automechanika Dubai 2024, featuring 2,228 exhibitors, showcased this transformative initiative, underscoring its significance in driving innovation, fostering connections, and shaping the future of mobility and green industrial growth.



MADC to build Airport in Gadchiroli

The Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) will acquire 229 hectares across four villages—Murkhada, Pulkhal, Kanori, and Mudjha—to develop a greenfield airport in Maoist-affected Gadchiroli. Initially intended to support anti-Maoist operations and night preparedness, the project's scope has grown to include commercial air connectivity due to increasing industrial and mining activities. The airport will connect Gadchiroli to cities like Mumbai and Delhi, boosting regional development. A government resolution confirmed MADC as the acquisition agency.

Gadkari announces ₹30k Cr for Rajasthan roads

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday announced nine new road and highway projects spanning 800 km in Rajasthan. Unveiled during the "Infrastructure: An Important Link in Supply Chain" session at the Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit, they include the Northern Jaipur Ring Road and the Jaipur-Kishangarh-Jodhpur-Amritsar Highway, with a total investment of Rs 30,000 crore. Gadkari highlighted their strategic importance, saying the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor passing through tribal districts would foster development and unlock industrial potential. He underscored the role of transport infrastructure in attracting investment and generating employment. Addressing land value appreciation, requested the Rajasthan government to develop a new Jaipur and share developed land with farmers, ensuring they also benefit." Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel praised these measures, stating a robust road network and logistics sector are key to the state's progress. These developments will significantly enhance overall regional connectivity.

InfraIndia



NHA unveils Performance Ratings for concessionaires

National Highway Authority of India (NHA) on Friday introduced a performance assessment rating system for concessionaires to enhance accountability and assess construction and maintenance quality. Using PCI, based on parameters like roughness, potholes, cracking, ravelling, rut depth, and patchwork, and digital compliance from NHA One App, ratings will determine eligibility for new projects. Scores under 70% mark concessionaires as non-performers, barring them from future National Highway projects across the country.

Gati Shakti empowering country: Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia

Union Minister for Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia said Gati Shakti revolutionized infrastructure development, reducing project timelines from 8-10 years to much less. At a Delhi press conference, he cited a whole-of-government approach, enabling a \$1.5 trillion National Infrastructure Pipeline that shares resources, ensures last-mile connectivity, and boosts competitiveness. Infrastructure is a powerful multiplier, he said. India allocated Rs 11.5 lakh crore to capital expenditure, 5.3% of GDP, set to reach 6.5% by 2039. Road budgets rose from Rs 31,130 crore to Rs 70,000 crore; airports increased from 74 to about 147. Railway construction grew from 4 km/day to 15 km/day, illustrating accelerated growth under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. Annual capital expenditure increases of 10-15% further reflect India's ongoing commitment to robust, future-oriented infrastructure expansion.

InfraHub



Asian Development Bank approves USD 500 million for Green Infrastructure in India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 500 million loan to advance India's growth by developing climate-resilient infrastructure. This aligns with India's climate commitments and addresses the nation's exposure to climate-related challenges like floods, droughts, and cyclones. With a USD 1 trillion climate financing gap, public resources alone are insufficient. The loan, backed by a sovereign guarantee, will be channelled through the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) to support long-term capital for projects in connectivity, energy transition, urban development, education, and healthcare. IIFCL will attract private sector financing, strengthen institutional capacity, and implement green practices through sustainability frameworks and scoring.



Manthan Hulavale
MBA-IDM
SCMHRD'26

Amrit Kaal: Forging India's Golden Era

As an MBA student at SCMHRD, Pune, I recently attended the Infrablaze event organized by Infrastructure Management Committee, and I was thrilled to experience a dynamic confluence of ideas, industry insights, and forward-thinking strategies. Themed "Amrit Kaal: Forging India's Golden Era," the event highlighted the critical role of infrastructure and energy in shaping India's future.

The event began with an engaging panel discussion on optimizing India's infrastructure for 2047 and beyond. Listening to experts like Mr. Shubhayu Dutta and Mr. Amal Bhattacharya, I gained a deeper understanding of India's logistics challenges and the immense potential of solutions like inland waterways and metro systems. The emphasis on leveraging emerging technologies such as IoT and blockchain to enhance efficiency was particularly striking.

Day 2 focused on energy transitions and India's ambitious Net-Zero targets. The discussions on the Indian Carbon Exchange (ICX) and Scope 3 emissions opened my eyes to the complexities of achieving large-scale sustainability. The speakers emphasized that balancing profitability with sustainability is not just a challenge but also an opportunity for innovation.

The guest lectures on Day 3 left a lasting impact. Ms. Aditi Sharma's insights into sustainable supply chains and ESG strategies resonated deeply, while Mr. G.V. Hymarao's session on maintenance innovations for oil and gas operations showcased how precision can ensure infrastructure longevity.

For me, Infrablaze was more than just an event—it was an enriching experience that broadened my perspective on India's infrastructure journey. I'm inspired and motivated to contribute to India's golden era through knowledge, innovation, and collaboration.

PM Modi launches ₹5,500 Cr projects for Mahakumbh 2025

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated development projects worth ₹5,500 crore in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, on December 13, to prepare for the grand Mahakumbh 2025. These initiatives aim to bolster infrastructure, improve connectivity, and upgrade public amenities, ensuring a seamless experience for millions of pilgrims expected at the spiritual gathering. Key projects include modern transport facilities, enhanced sanitation systems, and efficient crowd management solutions. Modi emphasized the significance of these developments in promoting spiritual tourism and preserving cultural heritage while addressing the needs of a massive influx of devotees.

Andhra Pradesh approves ₹8,822 Cr Projects for Amaravati growth

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's government has sanctioned ₹8,822 crore for development projects in Amaravati. The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) approved these plans, focusing heavily on road construction in areas secured through the state's land pooling scheme. These projects aim to boost infrastructure and connectivity in the emerging capital city. The government's initiative underscores its commitment to transforming Amaravati into a modern urban center, fostering economic growth and improving living standards for its residents.

₹15,000 Cr Gold Line Metro to link Mumbai, Navi Mumbai Airports

The ₹15,000 crore Gold Line Metro 8 project, designed to connect Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) with the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport, is gaining momentum. As part of the MMRDA Metro Master Plan, the project addresses the absence of a mass rapid transport system linking the two airports. Once completed, the Metro 8 corridor will significantly enhance connectivity within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, reducing travel time and improving convenience for passengers. Authorities are finalizing the executing agency for this key infrastructure initiative, expected to transform regional transit and boost urban mobility.



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