

INFRAINSIGHTS

Insights Igniting Curiosity



InfraShorts

- Maharashtra signed MoUs worth ₹16 lakh crore at WEF Davos, targeting a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.
- Delhi Airport to upgrade Terminal 3, boosting international traffic capacity and passenger experience.
- India and Japan to launch the advanced Shinkansen Alfa-X (E10) train by 2029-30.
- India's first affordable airport food outlet attracts 27,000 visitors within its inaugural month, becoming a hit.

At Maha Kumbh, UP approves 320 Km Vindhya Expressway to boost connectivity

At the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, approved a series of transformative infrastructure projects aimed at boosting the state's development. A key decision was the approval of the 320-kilometre Vindhya Expressway, designed to connect Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Chandauli, and Sonbhadra. Starting from the Ganga Expressway in Prayagraj and ending at NH 39 in Sonbhadra, the expressway will improve connectivity with neighboring states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. In addition, the Cabinet approved the 100-kilometre Vindhya-Purvanchal Link Expressway to further enhance regional connectivity.

Despite the Cabinet's progress, the meeting faced criticism from Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, who accused the government of exploiting the religious gathering for political gain. The Cabinet also unveiled new aerospace and defense policies aimed at attracting substantial investments and strengthening Uttar Pradesh's industrial sector, further positioning the state as a key player in India's economic growth.

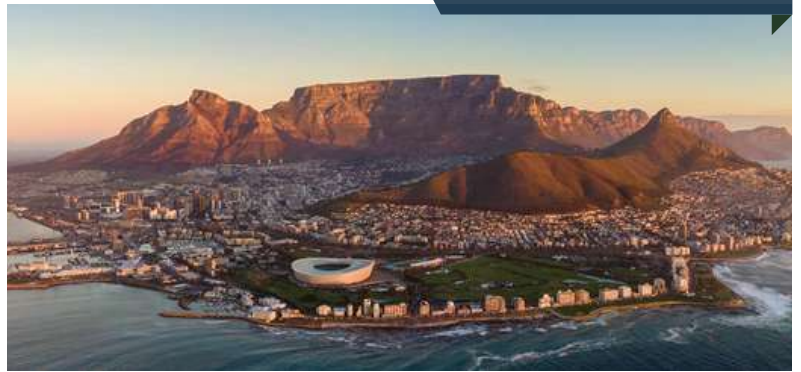
₹2,000 crore projects unveiled to boost JNPA's capacity and global reach

The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has launched ₹2,000 crore projects to enhance the capacity of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), India's largest and globally recognized port. JNPA recently achieved a significant milestone by surpassing a 10 million TEUs capacity in January 2025, with projections to handle 10 million TEUs throughput by 2027. In 2024, the port recorded its highest-ever container volume of 7.05 million TEUs, operating at over 90% capacity with an 11% year-on-year growth. The development of the Nhava Sheva Freeport Terminal (NSFT) in 2025 is expected to further boost its capacity.



Suez Canal expansion set for 2025 amid revenue challenges

The Suez Canal's expansion, extending its two-way section by 10km near Little Bitter Lake, is set to be operational in early 2025, according to Chairman Osama Rabie. The new stretch, successfully tested, will open once updated navigational maps are issued. This expansion, prompted by the 2021 Ever Given blockage, will increase the canal's two-way section to 82km, boosting capacity by six to eight ships daily and improving emergency handling. However, ongoing Houthi attacks in the Red Sea have diverted vessels, causing a 60% revenue drop in 2024, costing Egypt \$7 billion. The canal generates approximately 10% of Egypt's current account income.



Cape Town to host 2025 FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference

Cape Town, South Africa, will host the 2025 FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference on 22-23 September at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. Themed Smart Infrastructure: Equality, Resilience, and Innovation for a Sustainable World, the event aligns with South Africa's G20 presidency focus on solidarity, equality, and sustainable development. This global gathering will bring together key industry stakeholders, including governments, contractors, financiers, and architects, to discuss infrastructure's pivotal role in building a sustainable future. Attendees will benefit from networking, capacity building, and knowledge-sharing opportunities. With infrastructure central to global economic growth, the conference promises to drive meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

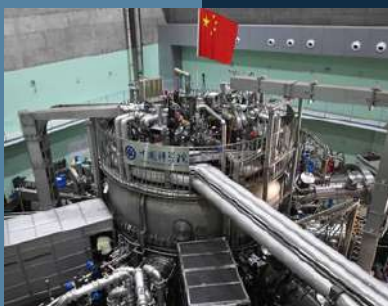
Kodal Minerals set for Lithium production at Ngoualana Mine

Kodal Minerals is nearing lithium production at its Ngoualana openpit mine in Mali, with the DMS processing plant construction almost complete and within the \$65-million budget. Key progress includes power system installation, crusher modules, and an operational water supply, ensuring efficient processing operations. Over 240,000 tons of high-grade ore have been stockpiled, with commissioning set for this quarter. The new on-site lab enhances efficiency by handling grade control and plant testing. CEO Bernard Aylward expects first commercial production in the coming weeks.



Geothermal Energy gains momentum under Trump administration

President Donald Trump's administration has prioritized geothermal energy as a renewable resource, aligning it with traditional oil and gas interests due to shared technology and expertise. Geothermal generates electricity continuously by harnessing Earth's heat to produce steam, offering a clean, reliable alternative to fossil fuels. Experts see bipartisan support for geothermal, with the Department of Energy projecting it could provide 90 gigawatts—enough to power 65 million homes—by 2050. Trump's energy secretary pick, Chris Wright, a fossil fuel executive, has endorsed geothermal as a vast and abundant resource. Geothermal companies like Fervo Energy and Sage Geosystems are adapting oil and gas practices to expand geothermal's potential nationwide. Industry leaders hope federal support, including streamlined permitting, tax credits, and research funding, will drive innovation and reduce costs, positioning geothermal as a key player in the clean energy transition.



China's 'Artificial Sun' breaks world record, advancing clean energy revolution

China's "artificial sun," the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), set a new world record by sustaining high-confinement plasma for 1,066 seconds, surpassing its 2023 record of 403 seconds. Developed by the Hefei Institutes of Physical Science, this breakthrough advances the goal of limitless fusion energy. As a key contributor to the ITER program, EAST's upgrades and research provide crucial insights for achieving practical, clean energy through future fusion reactors.



AESL wins ₹28,455 Cr deals

Adani Energy Solutions Ltd. (AESL) has secured two transmission projects in Rajasthan worth Rs 28,455 crore, bringing its total order book to Rs 54,700 crore, over three times its initial FY24 value. The Bhadla-Fatehpur HVDC project, valued at Rs 25,000 crore, is AESL's largest order. AESL's market share in TBCB orders has risen to 24%. The company has expanded its network by 1,000 circuit kilometers and supplies reliable power to over 3 million customers in Mumbai, enhancing energy infrastructure and grid stability significantly across the region.

Indian Railways upgrades 23,000 km tracks

Indian Railways has upgraded 23,000 kilometers of its network to support train speeds of up to 130 km/h. This extensive modernization effort includes strengthening tracks, reinforcing bridges, and enhancing critical infrastructure to ensure greater safety and efficiency. The initiative aims to improve passenger travel experiences by reducing journey times while also boosting freight transportation capabilities. By upgrading key routes, Indian Railways seeks to enhance regional connectivity and promote faster, more reliable train services across the country. This large-scale infrastructure overhaul is expected to have a significant impact on economic growth by improving logistics and trade efficiency. Faster and more efficient rail services will enable smoother transit of goods, benefiting businesses and industries reliant on railway transportation. The initiative aligns with Indian Railways' long-term vision of creating a world-class transportation network, ensuring sustainable growth and modernization. Further upgrades and innovations are expected as part of ongoing development efforts.

InfraIndia



Mr. Gadkari proposes 10,000 Water Taxis for Airport

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has proposed introducing 10,000 water taxis to connect Mumbai's suburbs like Virar and Kalyan-Dombivli to the new Navi Mumbai International Airport, which will open in April 2024. The water taxis would cut travel time to the airport to just 70 minutes. Gadkari discussed the plan with Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and suggested using fiber-reinforced plastic (FRP) for efficient, durable water taxis. Additionally, plans are underway to link the airport to Mumbai's metro for enhanced connectivity.

RBI Unveils Rs 1.5 Lakh Crore liquidity support measures to strengthen financial stability

RBI Announces Rs 1.5 Lakh Crore Liquidity Infusion to Ease Banking Stress. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled measures to inject over Rs 1.5 lakh crore into the banking system, marking the largest liquidity easing since the pandemic. The measures include a Rs 60,000 crore government bond buy-back in three tranches, scheduled for January 30, February 13, and February 20, 2025. Additionally, RBI plans a Rs 50,000 crore 56-day variable rate repo auction on February 7, along with a \$5 billion US dollar-rupee swap auction. This decision comes ahead of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on February 7. Experts suggest that while the liquidity infusion may ease the banking crunch, a rate cut may be more likely in April, after assessing inflation, growth, and external conditions.

InfraHub



Sitharaman to present 2025-26 Budget with New Economic team amid growth slowdown and Inflation

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her eighth consecutive budget on February 1, 2025, marking the first full-year budget of the Modi government's third consecutive term. The budget is expected to address concerns such as the 6.4% growth slowdown and persistent inflation. Sitharaman will be assisted by a new team, including Tuhin Kanta Pandey (Finance and Revenue Secretary), V Anantha Nageswaran (Chief Economic Adviser), Ajay Seth (Economic Affairs Secretary), Manoj Govil (Expenditure Secretary), M Nagaraju (Financial Services Secretary), and Arunish Chawla (DIPAM Secretary). Pandey's key challenge will be raising revenue while simplifying taxes, while the team will focus on fiscal stability, credit flow, and asset monetization.



Adithya Nandan M S
MBA-IDM
SCMHRD'26

Mahakumbh Mela: Transforming Prayagraj's Urban Landscape

The Mahakumbh Mela, one of the world's largest spiritual gatherings, serves as a transformative force for Prayagraj's infrastructure and economy. Each edition of the festival brings extensive upgrades to transportation networks, including widened roads, new flyovers, and modernized railway stations and airports to accommodate the massive influx of visitors. Temporary, meticulously planned pop-up cities are set up with efficient water supply systems, sewage management, and sanitation solutions, leaving a lasting impact by enhancing the city's permanent infrastructure for residents and future events.

The festival also acts as a major economic driver for Prayagraj. Hotels, lodges, and homestays proliferate to accommodate millions of pilgrims, significantly boosting tourism and local businesses. Artisans and small vendors benefit from increased demand, while the city's hospitality sector witnesses exponential growth. Additionally, the event promotes technological advancements through the integration of smart city solutions, such as surveillance systems, crowd control technologies, and digital services. These innovations ensure improved public safety and governance, with benefits extending long after the festival concludes.

A standout feature of the Mahakumbh Mela is its focus on sustainability. Green initiatives like solar lighting, eco-friendly waste disposal systems, and water conservation practices are prioritized to minimize environmental impact. These efforts showcase how cultural heritage can harmonize with modernization, positioning the Mahakumbh as a blueprint for urban development. The festival not only reinforces Prayagraj's cultural identity but also transforms it into a vibrant & future-ready city.

India's ₹11.17 Lakh Crore logistics transformation underway

The Ministry of Finance has unveiled 434 projects under the PM Gati Shakti initiative, aiming to bolster India's logistics infrastructure with an investment of ₹11.17 lakh crore. These projects span three major economic corridors: Energy, Mineral, and Cement; Port Connectivity; and High Traffic Density. The initiative seeks to enhance multi-modal connectivity, reduce costs, and improve logistics efficiency nationwide. Progress includes commissioning over 91 Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals and granting 234 in-principle approvals, underscoring the government's commitment to infrastructure development, economic growth, and seamless trade across industries.

Adani's Navi Mumbai Airport plans ₹20,000 Crore fundraising

Adani Group's Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) is set to inaugurate on April 17, 2025, with domestic flights commencing in May and international operations in July. The first phase will accommodate 20 million passengers annually, with a target of 90 million upon full completion by 2036. To finance the second phase, NMIA plans to raise ₹20,000 crore in the latter half of FY26, aiming for operational readiness by 2029. This strategic expansion underscores Adani's commitment to enhancing India's aviation infrastructure and fostering economic growth in the region.

Mr. Gadkari to inaugurate Goa's Curved Cable-Stayed Bridge

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari is set to inaugurate India's first curved cable-stayed bridge in Goa, connecting Sada to Varunapuri and the Goa International Airport. This engineering marvel features a unique 180-degree curvature, improving traffic flow and accessibility. Additionally, Gadkari will lay foundation stones for four highway expansion projects totaling ₹2,500 crore. These projects include the Ponda to Bhoma section (NH-748), Zuari to Margao Bypass (NH-66), Navelim to Cuncolim section (NH-66), and Bendordem to Karnataka border (NH-66). A state government spokesperson highlighted that these initiatives aim to enhance connectivity between Goa's airports and ports, boosting logistical efficiency, regional development, and driving economic growth.



For More Information :

infrastructure_management@scmhrd.edu

infrasummit.scmhrd.edu