

# INFRAINSIGHTS

Insights Igniting Curiosity



## InfraShorts

- North India's first LNG pump will be launched by Indian Oil at Kathuwas MMLP.
- Reliance Infrastructure will invest ₹10,000 crore to create India's largest private defence manufacturing project in Ratnagiri.
- Kanpur Metro's extension to Kanpur Central is near completion, with a test run scheduled this month.
- India's EV charging market is expected to hit \$3.7 billion by 2030.

## Transforming Coastal Andhra: ₹6,300 Cr highway and Logistics Hub to revolutionize connectivity

The Andhra Pradesh government has proposed a new six-lane coastal highway to connect the Vizag Port Container Terminal and NH-16 near Bhogapuram, passing through Rushikonda and Bheemili. Estimated at ₹6,300 crore, the project seeks to enhance access between Vizag Port and the greenfield international airport, reducing travel times and supporting the state's growing logistics network. Although yet to receive federal inclusion, the state has pledged to fund land acquisition costs of ₹1,200 crore and to allocate 157 acres in Tarluwada for a multi-modal logistics park (MMLP).

The MMLP will facilitate seamless goods movement across key points: Bhogapuram airport, Vizag Port, and surrounding industrial zones. State incentives include GST exemptions for steel and cement, as well as waived royalty fees on materials like gravel and sand. With a detailed project report underway, the coastal highway is expected to be a cornerstone of Andhra Pradesh's economic infrastructure, advancing connectivity and supporting future investments in logistics and transportation.

## Tata Power teams up with Noida Airport for Green Energy solutions

Tata Power has entered a 25-year agreement with Noida International Airport (NIA), investing ₹550 crore to supply renewable energy solutions. This partnership will meet NIA's energy needs with 10.8 MW of wind power from Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd. (TPREL) and smart energy infrastructure. The collaboration supports India's green energy goals and the aviation sector's rapid growth, with plans for 200 new airports in the next two decades. It aligns with India's push towards Net Zero Airports, reducing the aviation industry's carbon footprint and setting a sustainable energy benchmark for infrastructure development.



## Saudi Arabia reduces Oil exports to China in December

Saudi Arabia's crude oil supply to China is projected to drop to 36.5 million barrels in December due to reduced demand, marking the second consecutive monthly decline and the lowest volume since July. This follows 37.5 million barrels in November and 46 million barrels in October, according to Reuters. China's state-owned oil companies, including Sinopec, PetroChina, and Sinochem, will cut back on Saudi crude imports. However, supply to their Fujian joint venture refinery is set to rebound post-maintenance. Sluggish profit margins and reduced fuel demand are leading to a refining slowdown across China, Saudi Arabia's second-largest oil importer after Russia.



## Amazon launches Drone delivery service in Arizona

Amazon's drone delivery service has expanded to Tolleson, Arizona, enabling deliveries in under an hour using MK30 drones. The hybrid facility combines fulfillment and delivery functions, offering over 50,000 eligible items, including household goods, beauty products, and office supplies, weighing five pounds or less. A service fee applies. Since launching in 2022, Amazon has delivered thousands of items by drone and recently began offering prescription deliveries through Amazon Pharmacy. The expansion is seen as a significant boost for local communities, with Tolleson's mayor highlighting the economic growth and innovation it brings.



## South Korean shipyard bags \$370 million contract to build 4 LNG bunker vessels

On November 7, 2024, HD Hyundai Mipo announced a contract to build four 18,000 cubic meter LNG bunkering vessels, set for delivery by October 2028 to an undisclosed Asian shipping company. This deal reflects the growing adoption of LNG-fueled vessels, with over 2% of the global fleet expected to be LNG-powered soon. LNG bunkers are available in 185 ports, and the bunkering vessel fleet has expanded from one in 2010 to 60, with more on order.



## Japan plans automated cargo transport to ease driver shortage

Japan is planning an automated cargo transport corridor between Tokyo and Osaka, termed the "conveyor belt road," to address its growing truck driver shortage. This "auto flow road," depicted in government visuals as a three-lane passage, will operate with unmanned, automated cargo transport functioning around the clock. Test runs are scheduled for 2027 or early 2028, aiming for full implementation by the mid-2030s. In addition to easing driver workloads, the system aims to cut carbon emissions and increase logistics efficiency. Japan's trucking industry, which handles 90% of the country's freight, risks a 34% reduction in capacity by 2030 due to workforce shortages and stricter overtime laws. Expansion is planned if successful.

## Australia's Q3 renewables surge with \$3.3 billion in wind and storage

Australia recorded over 1,400 MW in new commitments for large-scale renewable energy in Q3 2024, with investments totaling \$3.3 billion. The Clean Energy Council (CEC) highlighted this as the sector's strongest quarter since late 2022, reflecting positive shifts in market conditions. A significant portion of this growth came from onshore wind projects, with a cumulative 1,758 MW in new capacity committed this year alone. Energy storage also saw a remarkable boost, reaching 1,235 MW in new capacity—marking a 95% year-on-year increase. Renewables, including hydro, solar, and wind, now contribute over 40% of Australia's electricity supply, expected to approach 50% by late 2025 with ongoing and upcoming projects. CEC Chief Executive Kane Thornton credited these advances to easing economic pressures and focused efforts by government and industry to address long-standing grid, planning, and infrastructure challenges that support the transition.



## Vande Bharat coaches doubled

Responding to increased passenger demand, Indian Railways has decided to double the number of coaches on the Vande Bharat Express train connecting Chennai and Tirunelveli via Madurai, expanding from eight to 16 coaches. Southern Railway has begun necessary expansion and safety checks to support this change, which will raise passenger capacity per trip from 530 to 1,228. Notably, while the 16-coach configuration is standard for Vande Bharat trains, some other routes in North India have already extended to 20-coach trains to meet higher demand.

## Coastal road's final span connects to Bandra-Worli Link

On Monday evening, one of the last two bridge spans connecting the northbound Mumbai Coastal Road to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link (BWSL) arrived at Worli from Karanja Port in Navi Mumbai. The 44-metre span is scheduled for installation on Tuesday, with Wednesday as a contingency plan. Following this, the final 60-metre span will be erected by next weekend, completing both connectors to the sea link. A civic official stated that once the barge finishes installing the 44-metre span, it will return for the 60-metre span. Each connector, similar to the operational one, consists of four spans.

The 120-metre arch bridge and 46-metre spans adjoining BWSL were erected in April. Currently, motorists can directly access the sea link from the coastal road, but those traveling from the sea link towards Marine Drive must exit near the sea link and rejoin the coastal road, as the two-way connector isn't operational yet. The Mumbai Coastal Road, opened in phases since March 2024, still awaits full commissioning.

## InfraIndia



## Kanpur Metro trial run from Moti Jheel to Kanpur Central soon

Kanpur Metro's preparations for commercial operation from IIT to Kanpur Central are nearing completion, with a test run scheduled this month. The extension includes five underground stations—Chunniganj, Naveen Market, Bada Chauraha, Nayaganj, and Kanpur Central—connecting key business hubs. The Metro will reduce travel time between IIT and Kanpur Central from 60 minutes to 30 minutes, improving public transportation and easing congestion. Test runs in Automatic Train Protection mode were conducted.

## India's EV Charging market projected to reach \$3.7 billion by 2030

India's EV charging market is projected to reach \$3.7 billion by 2030, driven by increasing EV adoption, per 1Lattice. Globally, the EV charging infrastructure market is expected to grow from \$25.9 billion in 2023 to \$164 billion by 2030 (CAGR of 12%). India's growth at a CAGR of 16% is driven by environmental concerns and fluctuating fuel prices. Fast-charging and battery-swapping technologies address range anxiety, according to 1Lattice Director Abhishek Maiti. Battery swapping for two- and three-wheelers is gaining popularity as automakers invest in this technology. India's EV charging infrastructure investments grew at a CAGR of 35% from 2018 to 2023. The government aims for 30% EV penetration by 2030 and has launched the PM E-DRIVE scheme, allocating Rs 10,900 crore over two years to accelerate EV adoption and build charging infrastructure nationwide.

## InfraHub



## Karnataka Maritime Board plans Mangaluru Water Metro Project

The Karnataka Maritime Board has announced the ambitious Mangaluru Water Metro Project, aiming to transform public transportation by utilizing National Waterways along the Nethravathi and Gurupura rivers. Set to become India's second-largest water transport system after Kochi, the project will connect communities from Bajal to Maravoor, covering an initial 30 km stretch with about 17 modern Metro stations, including key locations like Someshwara Temple, Ullal, and New Mangalore Port. Electric and diesel catamaran boats equipped with essential amenities will be used. A Feasibility Report will assess the project's viability, including environmental impact studies. The MWMP promises significant economic and environmental benefits, easing traffic congestion and reducing pollution. The Board aims to set a precedent for sustainable urban mobility, positioning Mangaluru as a progressive city leveraging its waterways.



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## India's Shipping sector poised for Infrastructure status: A Game-Changer for Logistics and Supply Chain

The Indian government's plan to grant infrastructure status to the shipping sector could be a transformative move for the country's logistics and supply chain landscape, especially when aligned with the National Logistics Policy (NLP) and the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). Currently, India's shipping industry is constrained by high-interest loans, limiting fleet expansion and technological upgrades. Infrastructure status would unlock access to long-term, low-cost financing, as well as tax benefits, addressing these financial hurdles. This, combined with NLP's focus on reducing logistics costs and enhancing efficiency, can catalyze modernization.

India's shipping capacity, at just 1.2% of the global total, is dwarfed by China's 18%. For instance, China's ports, such as Shanghai, handled over 43 million TEUs in 2022, while India's largest port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), managed only about 5 million TEUs. China's heavy investments in port automation have optimized its supply chains, enabling logistics costs to drop to 8% of GDP, compared to India's 13-14%. The NIP aims to address this disparity by investing in port infrastructure and multimodal logistics.

With infrastructure status, India could lower logistics costs and boost competitiveness, supporting the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" vision. This would reduce reliance on foreign shipping lines, shorten lead times, and bolster export capacity. For students in MBA programs focused on Infrastructure Development and Management, these changes offer a strategic opportunity to shape a resilient, globally competitive logistics sector, crucial for India's economic growth and self-reliance.

## Indian railways plans to export refurbished diesel locomotives amid electrification push

As Indian Railways accelerates its electrification drive across its expansive network, the organisation is finding innovative ways to repurpose its soon-to-be-redundant diesel locomotives, transforming them into valuable export assets.

State-owned Railway PSU RITES, in collaboration with the Railway Ministry's design team, is overhauling diesel locomotives that have 15-20 years of operational life remaining to meet export requirements for African nations. Comparing the locomotive sales to buying secondhand cars, RITES Chairman Rahul Mithal noted that costs vary based on each locomotive's horsepower and remaining operational lifespan.

## Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada airport expansion: New terminal set to open by June 2025

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has set a June 2025 deadline for the completion of the Rs 611-crore integrated terminal building at Gannavaram Airport (Vijayawada Airport). The announcement came during a review meeting on airport expansion efforts, held at his residence in Undavalli, and attended by Union Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu.

## India's first railway test track worth Rs 820 crore nears completion in Rajasthan, to be operational by 2025

Construction is underway on India's first dedicated railway test track in Rajasthan, an advanced facility designed to enhance testing capabilities for high-speed and modern rail rolling stock. Expected to be fully operational by December 2025, this state-of-the-art 60 km track will provide Indian Railways a controlled environment to conduct rigorous tests on various types of rail vehicles, from bullet and high-speed trains to metro and semi-high-speed trains. Situated in the Jodhpur Division, between Gudha and Thathana Mithdi in Deedwana district, the track passes through the iconic Sambhar Lake, about 80 km from Jaipur.



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