

InfraInsights

Blueprints for Tomorrow



JSW Infra looks to bid for ports under govt's privatization plan

JSW Infrastructure, India's second-largest port operator, expresses interest in government-opened port privatization opportunities and considers the mega transshipment port project at Galathea Bay in the Great Nicobar Island. Arun Maheshwari, Joint Managing Director and CEO of JSW Infra, highlights the vast opportunities in India's ports sector, citing the company's strong position for growth. JSW is among companies submitting expressions of interest for the Galathea Bay project, estimated at Rs 65,000-85,000 crore. The company aims to expand its container and liquid portfolios, targeting non-bulk cargo to contribute a third of revenues. JSW Infrastructure eyes a shift towards a 50:50 split between captive and third-party sources in the next 5-7 years, emphasizing its commitment to evolving in the dynamic Indian port industry.

InfraShorts

Adani Cement on Tuesday unveiled its waste management arm **Geoclean** with a renewed focus on building a circular economy and conserving natural resources. Geoclean, which was earlier known as Geocycle, will provide eco-friendly solutions for agriculture, industry, and public sectors, ensuring the recovery of energy and the recycling of materials from waste, leaving zero residues.

GAIL Achieves First STS LNG Transfer, Reducing Emissions

India's leading gas company, GAIL, achieved a groundbreaking milestone with the world's first ship-to-ship liquefied natural gas (LNG) transfer, aiming to reduce shipping costs and emissions.

With a contracted 5.8 million tonnes per annum of LNG from the US, typically transported via a 19,554 nautical miles route through the Suez Canal and Gibraltar, GAIL's innovative approach optimizes vessel paths, significantly cutting CO2 emissions.

This pioneering Ship-to-Ship (STS) transfer between a conventional LNG vessel and a Q-Flex LNG Vessel resulted in savings of 8,736 nautical miles, equivalent to 7,000 tonnes of CO2. The optimized voyage duration was reduced from 54 days to approximately 27 days, yielding over USD 1 million in savings for GAIL.

This strategic move not only benefits GAIL but also offers fuel cost savings and additional revenue for QatarGas, exemplifying a mutually beneficial optimization plan and showcasing GAIL's commitment to innovative business practices. The Asian Oil and Gas Awards recognizes exceptional initiatives in the oil and gas industry in Asia.



The GI Hub partners with Infrastructure Asia

the GI Hub has exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Infrastructure Asia. This MOU will enable them to work together more closely to advance quality infrastructure investment in Southeast Asia and South Asia. Their partnership will focus on thought leadership, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.



UK infrastructure: investors wanted to fund projects

Britain is out of favour with infrastructure investors as its attractiveness as a destination for private capital is at an all-time low. Generous subsidies in the US and the EU do not help comparisons. Yet some wounds are self-inflicted, such as a recent bungled offshore wind auction.



Australia's big build spills over into inflation

The IMF has made striking assessment that Australia's infrastructure spending boom has helped push the nation's economy beyond full capacity, requiring the Reserve Bank to lift interest rates further to tame inflation. Australian mortgage holders will have to take the pain of inflation because government spending has over-expanded.

India and ADB Ink \$400 Million Deal For Urban Development

India has taken a significant step towards the development of high-quality urban infrastructure with the signing of a \$400 million policy-based loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The agreement, aimed at improving service delivery and promoting efficient governance systems, underscores the nation's commitment to fostering planned and sustainable urbanization. The latest sub-program, supported by the \$400 million loan agreement, focuses on investment planning and reform actions at the state and urban local body (ULB) levels. The agreement for this sub-programme was recently



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

signed between Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission. The programme aligns with the government's urban sector strategy,

emphasizing reforms that aim to make cities livable and centers of economic growth. The focus is on inclusive, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure development that transforms urban areas into vibrant economic hubs. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) will play a crucial role in promoting modernization of building bylaws, land pooling, urban agglomeration, and comprehensive urban mobility planning. The aim is to transform cities into well-planned centers of economic growth, integrating climate and disaster resilience, nature-based solutions, and improvements to the urban environment.

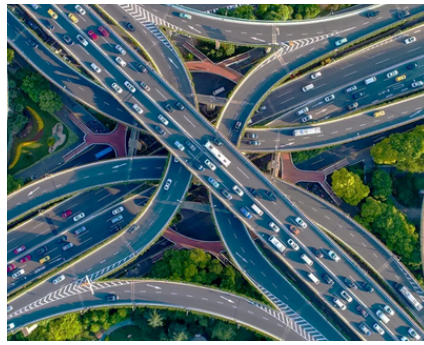
Ship finance in focus as Sanmar Shipping opens Singapore unit



Sanmar Shipping Ltd, a part of Chennai-based Sanmar Group, has opened a 100 percent unit in Singapore and acquired two second hand product tankers under the Singapore flag with plans to add more ships in a development which demonstrates that Indian shipowners are looking at overseas financing options to buy ships given the constraints in India. Sanmar Shipping's move to incorporate 'Sanmar Shipping SG Pte Ltd' in the island nation - considered a business-friendly regime for owning and operating ships - comes at a time when India is trying to woo fleet owners to set up units in the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), GIFT City, Gujarat by taking advantage of tax incentives and exemptions and boost Indian tonnage.

Rs 4.77 Trillion Overruns in 417 Indian Infra Projects

A recent report reveals that 417 infrastructure projects in India have experienced cost overruns amounting to a staggering Rs 4.77 trillion in September. This significant deviation from the initial project estimates underscores challenges within the country's urban infrastructure development sector. An element of sophistication. The cost overruns are indicative of various factors, including delays, unforeseen circumstances, and changes in project scope. These challenges contribute to the increased financial burden on infrastructure projects, potentially impacting their overall viability and timely completion.

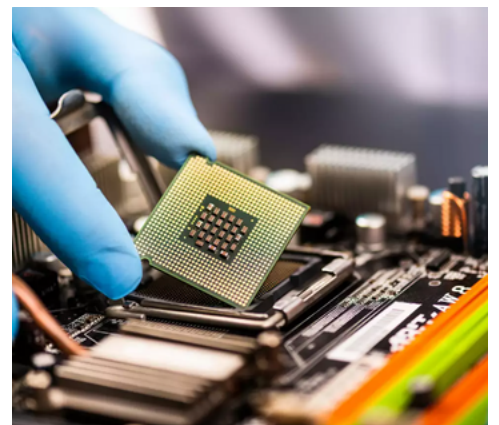


The report highlights the need for robust project management and risk assessment strategies within the infrastructure sector to mitigate cost overruns. Effective planning and execution are essential to

minimise delays and unexpected expenses, ensuring that projects are delivered within the stipulated budget and timeframe. The Rs 4.77 trillion cost overrun across 417 projects raises concerns about the financial efficiency and oversight of infrastructure initiatives. Addressing these issues is crucial not only for the successful completion of individual projects but also for sustaining the overall momentum of infrastructure development in the country. As India focuses on urban infrastructure for economic growth, there's a need for rigorous monitoring to control costs and prevent overruns.

Odisha govt signs three MoUs for semiconductor manufacturing

The Odisha government has signed MoUs with three entities to build an ecosystem for the manufacturing of semiconductors, officials said on Thursday. The government inked the three memoranda of understanding with India Electronic and Semiconductor Association (IESA), global semiconductor giant Synopsys and Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC). According to the agreement with IESA, the association will facilitate the Odisha government in developing capacity-building programmes and promoting the semiconductor ecosystem through events and conceptualisation of knowledge materials, the officials said. The MoU with Synopsys will involve collaboration in areas such as the O-Chip programme, talent transformation, workforce development, readiness assessment of the state in semiconductors and the very large-scale integration (VLSI) domains, and internship and placement.



Ahmedabad Olympic Village: Primary master plan

India is likely to submit a proposal to host the 2036 Olympics before the International Olympic Council (IOC) next year. In the run-up to that bid, planning for the construction of an Olympic village here in the district is underway. In relation to this, the master planning and vision document for the Olympic village in Ahmedabad is expected to be ready by November 30. The village, to be developed in the Sughad-Bhat area, will comprise approximately 3,000 houses for athletes and supporting staff, equipped with modern amenities. The masterplan will outline the budget required for this infrastructure development. The tender for the Olympic village is anticipated to be issued in September 2024.

Shipping Industry Faces Job Cuts post \$364 Billion Boom

The shipping industry, after a recent \$364 billion boom, is now experiencing a significant downturn, leading to widespread job cuts. Despite being vital to global trade, economic uncertainties, trade tensions, and the pandemic have impacted shipping companies worldwide. Layoffs are being announced as a necessary measure to recover from the sudden decline. The trade war between the United States and China, along with pandemic-related disruptions, has reduced shipping requirements. This downturn is affecting not only shipping companies but also ports and related industries. Governments and stakeholders work together to aid impacted firms, promoting industry recovery.

BluSmart: First Mobility Firm Granted Carbon Credits

BluSmart received carbon credit accreditation from Verra, a global non-profit corporation, making it the first mobility company in India to obtain carbon credits for the CO2 emission reductions achieved by its EV fleet from February 2020 to December 2021. The carbon consultant, Fair Climate Fund India, played a crucial role in estimating the carbon emission for this project, enabling BluSmart to achieve this recognition in an exceptionally short timeframe. BluSmart's primary objective is to promote large-scale decarbonization in the mobility sector, and it has already completed more than 300 million kilometers using all-electric vehicles, serving over 9.5 million fully electric trips.



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Transforming India's Logistics Landscape: The Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)

India, the world's fifth-largest economy, is on the verge of a logistics revolution that promises to supercharge its economic growth and competitiveness. The Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), an awe-inspiring railway project spanning over 3,360 kms, is set to redefine the way goods move across the country. The DFC, comprising six major corridors and an investment of over 80,000 crores, promises to change this narrative. India's aspiration to compete economically with China is hindered by its disastrously slow and inefficient logistics system. India's current freight trains run at a sluggish 25 kmph, which hampers the country's growth potential. The DFC will significantly accelerate the movement of goods, boosting capital rotation for manufacturers and improving their global competitiveness. It's not just about speed; the DFC will also make rail transport more cost-effective and eco-friendlier, with rail being 83 percent cheaper and emitting fewer emissions compared to road transport.

The project faces challenges, including delays and cost overruns, but its potential impact is already evident. It enabled India to respond swiftly to an energy crisis by rapidly transporting coal to power plants. However, China is moving ahead with advanced rail technologies, underscoring the urgency of efficient project execution.

As citizens, staying informed and advocating for the DFC's timely completion is essential. In summary, the Dedicated Freight Corridor is poised to transform India's logistics landscape, reduce costs, enhance sustainability, and strengthen its economic competitiveness on the global stage. It reflects India's commitment to efficient infrastructure development for a brighter economic future.

Huge infrastructure projects prove to be 'GDP-Multiplier' for Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government is strategically focusing on infrastructure development, particularly expressways and roadways. The Nagpur-Mumbai expressway, 'Samruddhi Mahamarg,' is transforming into an economic corridor, boosting industrial activities. The War Room, led by experienced bureaucrat Radheshyam Mopalwar, plays a crucial role in acquiring land for key projects, including Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Bengaluru-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. State aims to achieve a \$1 trillion economy by 2028, leveraging robust infrastructure, increased tourism, and growth in agriculture and energy sectors.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure: A Model for Global Development

India's pioneering Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), exemplified by India Stack, showcases a transformative model with global implications. This privately provisioned public infra prioritizes public interest and embraces open source technology. Key features include the revolutionary UPI, empowering marginalized individuals and emphasizing data protection. India's DPI principles of public interest, openness, data privacy, and innovation offer valuable lessons. The Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) demonstrates India's commitment to inclusive digital identity solutions. As the G20 prioritizes DPI, India's leadership underscores its role in shaping a global digital landscape through technology for economic and social progress.

India-Bhutan railway infrastructure projects provide fresh impetus to development in the north-east

The Modi government prioritizes neglected North-Eastern Indian states, enhancing border infrastructure spendings. Amid Bhutan's King Wangchuck's visit, India reaffirms commitment to Bhutan's socio-economic development. The joint statement highlights plans for a Kokrajhar-Gelephu rail link, complementing Bhutan's special economic zone, Banarhat-Samste rail link and potential trade routes. Both nations collaborate on education and environmental conservation, aligning with India's support for Bhutan's development plans. These initiatives address the historical development gap in the northeast, crucial to Modi's broader agenda for regional integration, connectivity, and economic growth. The Bhutan visit signifies diplomatic ties and infrastructure projects pivotal for the region's progress.



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