

# INFRAINSIGHTS

Insights Igniting Curiosity



## InfraShorts

- The BMC appointed IIT Bombay as a third-party quality control agency to ensure quality in Mumbai's cement concrete roads.
- India will impose 12-30% tariffs on Chinese and Vietnamese steel imports to protect and boost local industry for five years.
- Kalpataru Projects International secured Rs 2,774 crore orders for T&D abroad, residential construction, and airport extension in India.

## MMRDA Approves Pod Taxi Project for BKC, Revolutionizing Last-Mile Connectivity

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has greenlit the long-awaited pod taxi project for Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), appointing Sai Green Mobility as the concessionaire. This futuristic transport solution aims to ease congestion and enhance last-mile connectivity for the bustling business district.

The system will cover an 8.80-kilometer route with 38 stations, connecting key transport hubs like Bandra and Kurla stations. Autonomous pods, seating up to six passengers, will travel at speeds of 40 kmph, with a frequency of every 15-30 seconds. Designed to serve 400,000 to 600,000 commuters daily, the project will significantly boost accessibility across BKC.

Partnering with M/s Ultra PRT, the system operator at Heathrow Airport, Sai Green Mobility will manage the design, construction, and maintenance. Priced at Rs 21 per kilometer with a 4% annual fare hike, the project is expected to cost Rs 1,016.34 crore and be completed in three years. Sai Green Mobility will manage the system for 30 years under a revenue-sharing model with MMRDA.

## Hydropower Projects Get ₹12,461 Cr Boost

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a revised budgetary support scheme for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) with an allocation of ₹12,461 crore, effective from FY25 to FY32. The scheme aims to support hydropower projects with a total generation capacity of 31,350 MW. It now includes funding for critical infrastructure such as transmission lines, ropeways, railway sidings, and communication systems. Additionally, roads and bridges leading to these projects will receive central assistance. This expansion is expected to expedite hydropower development across India by addressing infrastructure needs and improving connectivity.



## Nigerian government to invest USD 800 million in Power infrastructure

Nigeria's federal government has announced plans to invest USD 800 million in power infrastructure to improve the country's unreliable national grid. According to a statement from Bolaji Tunji, special adviser to the minister of power, the investment will be split into two USD 400-million lots. One will cover the Benin, Port Harcourt, and Enugu distribution companies (DISCOs), while the other will support DISCOs in Abuja, Kaduna, Kano, and Jos. Part of the Presidential Power Initiative, the project aims to raise Nigeria's power generation capacity to 6 GW by the end of the year.



## Iberdrola and BP to Build 25-MW Green Hydrogen Plant in Spain

Spanish renewable power firm Iberdrola and Britain's BP have announced a partnership to build a 25-megawatt green hydrogen plant in Castellon, Spain. The project will benefit from a €15 million subsidy from the EU, aimed at helping BP cut the carbon footprint of its nearby oil refinery. Both companies will each contribute half of the funding, although the total cost of the plant has not been disclosed. Green hydrogen is produced by using renewable electricity, such as wind and solar power, to perform electrolysis on water. This initiative supports Europe's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and boost energy security.



## Sharaf Group Expands Investment in India's Logistics and Infrastructure

The Dubai-based Sharaf Group is set to increase its investments in India, focusing on logistics, infrastructure, and food security. Salah Sharaf, Executive Director of Sharaf Group, announced this expansion at the UAE-India Economic Forum, citing India's more business-friendly environment and reduced bureaucratic hurdles. The group, which has been involved in India's railway and logistics parks for years, plans to expand its presence to 10 more cities. Additionally, Sharaf highlighted the importance of UAE-India cooperation on food security. Vice-Chairman Sharafuddin Sharaf noted that Indian states are competing to attract foreign investments, fueling the company's optimism for further growth in India.

## Infrastructure Leaders Stress Sustainability and Risk at FIDIC 2024

The FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference kicked off in Geneva on 9 September 2024, with a panel discussing how infrastructure can transform lives and national prospects. Sarah Prichard, UK COO for Buro Happold, highlighted the role of infrastructure in creating inclusive, sustainable environments that drive economic growth and societal wellbeing. Dan Taylor of Saudi Arabia's National Infrastructure Fund focused on the socio-economic benefits of projects like green hydrogen under Vision 2030. Bentley Systems' Chris Bradshaw emphasized the importance of technology in creating social value, while Aon's Mark Peterson discussed managing risks and the talent gap in project delivery. Alaleh Motamedi from the European Investment Bank and Enzo De Laurentiis from The World Bank both stressed the need for sustainable, strategic procurement practices to ensure long-term benefits from infrastructure investments.



## QatarEnergy will develop a 2 GW solar power plant in Dukhan (Qatar)

QatarEnergy has unveiled plans for a significant solar project that will boost the country's PV solar capacity to approximately 4 GW by constructing a 2 GW plant in Dukhan, one of the world's largest solar facilities. This new plant will complement existing projects, including the 800 MW Al-Kharsaah plant and upcoming installations in Ras Laffan and Mesaieed, set to generate 875 MW. A \$630 million contract for these solar projects was awarded to South Korea's Samsung C&T.



## India to Invest Rs 28,000 Crore in 12 New Smart Cities

The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of 12 new industrial smart cities with an investment of Rs 28,602 crore. Andhra Pradesh will host two cities, and Bihar will see one. This initiative supports the broader vision of establishing 'plug and play' industrial parks in or near 100 cities, enhancing manufacturing through state and private sector collaboration. The smart cities, modeled on PM GatiShakti principles, aim to generate 10 lakh direct and up to 30 lakh indirect jobs, with expected investments of Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

## Delhi Declaration on civil aviation passed

The 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation concluded with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two-day event, held in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), saw participation from 29 countries and 8 international organizations.

The Delhi Declaration aims to enhance regional cooperation, tackle emerging challenges, and promote sustainable growth in the civil aviation sector. Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's transformation from being aviation exclusive to aviation inclusive, noting that 15% of Indian pilots are women, surpassing the global average of 5%. He also discussed plans for an International Buddhist Circuit to enhance connectivity.

The conference included discussions on aviation safety, air navigation, and green aviation. ICAO celebrated its 80th anniversary, and the focus remained on high safety and security standards. The event reinforced India's leadership in global aviation and its commitment to sustainable growth and inclusivity in the sector.

## InfraIndia



## Dharavi Redevelopment Project Kicks Off with Ceremony in Mumbai

A low-key ceremony on September 12 marked the start of Dharavi's redevelopment project in Mumbai. Held in Sector 6, Matunga, the event, organized by Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd (a joint venture between the Maharashtra government and Adani Group), signaled the beginning of constructing railway staff quarters and offices. The Maharashtra government is conducting a survey to determine eligible residents for new 350-square-foot homes with modern amenities. Ineligible residents will be offered affordable housing options.

## Vizhinjam Seaport Welcomes India's Largest Container Ship, MSC Kayley

Vizhinjam International Seaport has achieved a historic milestone before its official commissioning by welcoming the largest container ship ever to dock at an Indian port. On September 10, the MSC Kayley, a Liberian-flagged vessel with a draught of 16.5 meters, berthed at the port, demonstrating its deep water capabilities. This draught is the second-highest for an Indian port, surpassed only by a ship at Mundra Port with a 17-meter draught. The MSC Kayley, measuring 366 meters in length and 51 meters in width, highlights Vizhinjam's natural depth advantage of up to 20 meters in some areas, requiring minimal dredging. Located 14 kilometers from Thiruvananthapuram, Vizhinjam's strategic position near major international shipping routes enhances its appeal as a global transshipment hub. MSC is reportedly negotiating to become an anchor customer for the port.

## InfraHub



## MoRTH to invest Rs 1 trillion in 74 new tunnels

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has unveiled plans to build 74 new tunnels, totaling 273 km, with a projected investment of Rs 1 trillion. This ambitious project aims to significantly improve India's highway infrastructure, focusing on rigorous performance audits for all ongoing developments. The initiative will emphasize technological advancements and cost-effective solutions to address the country's diverse terrain.

To date, the central government has successfully completed 35 tunnels, covering 49 km, at a cost of Rs 150 billion. Additionally, 69 tunnels, spanning 134 km, are currently under construction, with an estimated expenditure of Rs 400 billion. This expansion is set to enhance connectivity and efficiency in India's transportation network, reflecting a commitment to advancing infrastructure capabilities across the nation.



**Pragyna Meghana**  
MBA-IDM  
SCMHRD'26

## From Ideas to Impact: The Role of Innovation in Product Development

As an MBA student at Symbiosis SCMHRD, Pune, I recently attended a guest lecture by Dr. Ravindra Utgikar on "Innovation-Led New Product Development." This session provided invaluable insights into the role of innovation in today's dynamic business environment.

Dr. Utgikar emphasized that innovation is no longer an option but a necessity for businesses to survive and grow. He introduced the concepts of "Pragmatic Innovation" and "Transformational Innovation," which highlight different approaches companies can adopt to stay competitive. The lecture also stressed the importance of cross-functional collaboration in the NPD process, referring to it as a "team sport" that requires the involvement of various stakeholders across departments. The stage-gate model, which provides a structured approach to NPD, was presented as a crucial tool for ensuring effective communication and role clarity.

Dr. Utgikar's case studies, such as Microsoft's profit growth through early innovation and Gillette's groundbreaking Fusion razor, demonstrated the real-world benefits of innovation. These examples were inspiring and relevant to my future career in infrastructure development and management.

In conclusion, this lecture reinforced the critical role of innovation in driving business success, and I am now better equipped to apply these principles to my career, contributing to infrastructure development with an innovation-led approach.

## Government to inspect 100% quality tests by contractors under EPC mode of highway construction

Tightening the noose on road contractors, the ministry of road transport and highways have mandated 100% inspection check of quality tests undertaken by contractors in the engineering procurement and construction (EPC) mode of contract by authority for all highway projects as well as for the request for proposal (RFP) document for consultancy services for such projects. This will apply to all road and bridge construction under EPC mode and will kick in for new projects. The EPC mode of contract gives the entire responsibility of design and construction to the contractor and therefore has a longer defect liability period.

## Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority Exits Galathea Bay Project

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) has opted out of joining the special purpose vehicle (SPV) for the ₹44,000 crore Galathea Bay Transshipment Port in the Great Nicobar Island. The project, spearheaded by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, aims to develop a major international container hub. JNPA cited financial and strategic reasons for declining the equity stake, but the ministry remains committed to moving forward with other stakeholders to ensure the timely completion of the project.

## National Highway Projects Worth Rs 2 Lakh Crore To Receive Clearance By December: Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has reaffirmed the government's commitment to maintaining an aggressive pace in highway construction. He announced that the government is poised to approve additional highway projects, potentially bringing the total cost of cleared projects to Rs 2 lakh crore by the end of December, during an appearance at The Indian Express Idea Exchange. This announcement follows a series of approvals for major infrastructure projects under the Narendra Modi 3.0 administration, underscoring strategic focus on infrastructure development as part of the Prime Minister's Vision 2047.



For More Information :  
[infrastructure\\_management@scmhrd.edu](mailto:infrastructure_management@scmhrd.edu)  
[infrasummit.scmhrd.edu](http://infrasummit.scmhrd.edu)