

INFRA INSIGHTS

EDGE OF COGNIZANCE

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- IndianOil chairman flags off an export consignment of Aviation gasoline to Papua New Guinea
- Maruti Suzuki crosses 2.5 cr cumulative sales mark: Suzuki Motor Corp
- NIIF commits Rs 400 crore to Lighthouse India Fund IV AIF
- Long-haul carrier Emirates successfully flew a Boeing 777 on a test flight with one engine entirely powered by sustainable aviation fuel.



PORT

Centre prepares for Rs 41,000 crore international transshipment port at Great Nicobar Island

A mega International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) is going to be set up at the Galathea Bay of Great Nicobar Island of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. An official statement issued on 28th January'23 said that bids for developing this of Rs 41,000 crore are being called. The first phase is targeted for completion in 2028 at a handling capacity of 4 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs). A TEU is an approximate unit of measure used for cargo containers. The capacity of the port will increase to 16 Million TEUs in the ultimate stage of development. The transshipment terminal will offer top-notch facilities to the stakeholders in the maritime trade sector. It is also planned that Public Private Partnership (PPP) will be encouraged for this project via Landlord mode.



The estimated cost for Phase 1 of the proposed transshipment port is around Rs 18,000 crore which includes the construction of breakwaters, dredging, reclamation, berths, storage areas, building and utilities, procurement and installation of equipment and development of the port colony with core infrastructure. The Concessionaire would be awarded a long-term PPP concession of 30 to 50 years (based on requirement), shall be responsible for the port services.

OIL AND GAS

Russian gas supply hit pushes India's GAIL to scout for long-term LNG

GAIL (India) Ltd is scouting for long-term gas import deals and hopes to sign one contract shortly to make up for disrupted supplies from a former unit of Russian energy giant Gazprom. India's largest gas distributor reported a 93% decline in its December quarter net profit as it transmitted less gas locally due to a reduction in liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply from a deal with Gazprom Marketing and Singapore (GMTS).

GAIL is in talks with Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) and many other parties to the source of gas. GAIL agreed to a 20-year deal with GMTS in 2012 to buy an annual average of 2.5 million tonnes of LNG. At the time, GMTS was a unit of Gazprom Germania, now called Sefer, but the Russian parent gave up ownership of Sefer after Western sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Sefer has halted supply to GAIL since May. GAIL was seeking more gas import deals primarily to meet local demand. A resumption of supplies under the Gazprom contract would give his company the flexibility "to able to play more in the international markets". The state-run company has been trading some of the LNG bought on a free-on-board basis under its long-term deals from the United States in global markets. GAIL would bring in eight extra LNG cargoes from its U.S. portfolio, which were previously sold to a global customer. GAIL gets 90 cargoes from the USA and intends to bring all of them to India. Natural gas has a flammability range of approximately 5% to 15%.



What's Trending

Vadhavan port in Maharashtra is the newest major port in India. The Union Cabinet gave in-principle approval for the establishment of Vadhavan port as the 13th major port in India.

What's Trending

GAIL owns and operates a network of around 13,722 km of natural gas pipeline and currently executing around 6,000 km of pipeline projects of its own and about 2,000 km through two JVs, as part of the National Gas Grid.

EXPORTS

Netherlands emerging as key export destination for India amid jump in shipments of petro products

The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest export destination after the US and UAE during April-December this fiscal on account of a surge in the shipment of goods such as petroleum products, electronic items, chemicals, and aluminum goods. India's trade surplus with the Netherlands has also increased from USD 1.5 billion in 2017 to USD 12.3 billion in 2022.

According to the economic think tank GTRI (Global Trade Research Initiative), ATF (aviation turbine fuel) and diesel were the key petroleum products exported from India to that country. The Netherlands is among its top trading partners of India in Europe, after Germany, Switzerland, the UK and Belgium. It is also a major investor in India.



BUDGET 2023

Focus On Middle Class, Big Tax Relief, Infra Push In Budget Before 2024

The government has outlined seven priority areas in the last complete budget before next year's general elections. The areas are inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power and the financial sector. In the next fiscal, capital investment outlay will be raised by 33% to ₹ 10 lakh crore which would be 3.3 percent of the GDP in the 2023-2024 fiscal. In a big push for income tax relief ahead of an election year, the government has reworked the income tax slabs in the new tax regime and said there will be no tax on income of up to ₹ 7 lakh a year -- up from ₹ 5 lakh.



For the railways, the minister has announced an outlay of ₹ 2.4 lakh crore, the highest in almost a decade and four times the last year's budget. With a focus on switching to green fuel, the government is targeting 5 MT of Green Hydrogen production by 2030. the fiscal deficit target of 6.4 percent will be retained in the revised estimate for the current fiscal. For the next fiscal 2023-2024, it will be cut down to 5.9 per cent.

AGRICULTURE

Nirmala Sitharaman announces fund to encourage agri-startups

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget 2023-24, announced the setting up of an agriculture accelerator fund to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas. Talking about the need to develop digital infrastructure to aid the agriculture sector in the country, Ms. Sitharaman said that digital public infrastructure for agriculture will be built as an 'open source, open standard, and interoperable public good.

The move towards digitization of agriculture is expected to enable inclusive farmer-centric services like farm inputs, crop estimation, market intelligence, crop planning, and support for agri-based industries and startups. This year, in the Economic Survey tabled by Ms. Sitharaman, she claimed that the economy has recovered from the Covid shock.



What's Trending

Export Import Policy, or Exim Policy, is a collection of guidelines and instructions governing the import and export of products. Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation Act) of 1992 gives the Indian government the authority to announce its Exim Policy for five years.

What's Trending

The government will also set up a national digital library for children and adolescents, re-frame teachers' training through various programmes and begin fresh initiatives to promote research and innovation in pharma.

What's Trending

GDP from Agriculture in India decreased to 4243.86 INR Billion in the third quarter of 2022 from 4933.25 INR Billion in the second quarter of 2022.