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InfraInsights

Blueprints for Tomorrow



PM Modi inaugurates infrastructure projects worth ₹13,500 crore in Telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for various development projects in Mahabubnagar district, Telangana, valued at over ₹13,500 crore via video conferencing. These initiatives included the establishment of the Samakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Mulugu district at a cost of ₹900 crore and the creation of a National Turmeric Board to assist turmeric farmers. PM Modi also initiated key road projects within the Nagpur-Vijayawada Economic Corridor, including a 108 km four-lane access-controlled greenfield highway from Warangal to Khammam and a 90 km highway from Khammam to Vijayawada, together costing around ₹6,400 crore. Additionally, he inaugurated several infrastructure projects, railway lines, and pipelines in the region.

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Procter & Gamble India (P&G India), the parent company of brands such as Gillette, Whisper, and Vicks, on 28 Sept unveiled a ₹300 crore 'P&G Supply Chain Catalyst Fund'. The investment focuses on multiple aspects, from supply chain optimization and digitization to capacity expansion and sustainability, as the company seeks to rejuvenate its supply chain. Investments of ₹1,800 crore have been committed via the program.

Japan to partner with India to build infra abroad

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has expressed a strong interest in collaborating with India on infrastructure development initiatives across regions like Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Pacific. JICA India's Chief, Saito Mitsunori highlighted JICA's involvement in the newly unveiled Bay of Bengal Northeast Corridor project. This ambitious endeavor aims to foster infrastructure growth in both India and Bangladesh while simultaneously establishing a novel industrial value chain within the region. He emphasized JICA's unwavering commitment to continuing financial support for Indian private sector enterprises striving to deliver innovative development solutions. JICA also expressed a keen interest in exploring avenues to address the long-term financing requirements of India's expansive and critical infrastructure sector. These proposals could encompass joint projects and programs in India's neighboring nations or extend to other regions such as Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Pacific. This willingness to collaborate underscores the agency's commitment to fostering international cooperation and development on a broader scale.



Oil Prices rebound amid OPEC+ Unity and Middle East Tensions

West Texas Intermediate inched closer to \$84 per barrel, recovering from losses incurred after Hamas' attack on Israel. In a joint interview on Russian state TV, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman affirmed their proactive approach, while Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak emphasized the market's delicate balance.



Aereo: India's Premier Drone Innovator takes spotlight in Egypt

The AIB culled an elite roster of three global enterprises to feature at its Eighth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in Egypt. Among them, Aereo stood out as the singular drone solutions provider and the only representative from India. Aereo's prominence in Egypt symbolizes a paradigm shift in how drone technology will be perceived in future.



No benefit to cargo businesses from decade long EU regulation

Cargo transport businesses will no longer benefit from a decades-long exemption from EU antitrust regulations beginning next year, because the exemption no longer benefits competition as the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation (CBER) was no longer enabling smaller carriers to cooperate among each other and offer alternative services.

ADB approves reforms to unlock \$100 billion new funding capacity

The Asian Development Bank said that it has approved capital management reforms that will unlock about \$100 billion in new funding capacity over the next decade to address major Asian crises including climate change. The expansion of available funds will be further leveraged through mobilising private and domestic capital to tackle various crises, ADB said in a statement. "The reforms were introduced through an update of ADB's Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF). They expand the bank's annual new commitments capacity to more than \$36 billion—an increase of approximately \$10 billion, or about 40%," it said.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

"The expansion is achieved by optimizing ADB's prudential level of capitalization while maintaining its overall risk appetite. The reforms also create a Countercyclical Lending Buffer to support ADB developing member countries" it added.

Multilateral development banks like ADB, World Bank, and others, will need to increase their annual spending by \$3 trillion by 2030, including \$1.8 trillion for additional climate action and \$1.2 trillion for achieving other sustainable development goals (SDGs), according to the recommendations of a committee headed by N.K. Singh and Lawrence Summers, who were co-conveners of the G20 expert group on strengthening MDBs. The first volume of the NK Singh and Lawrence Summers report, published in July, proposes effective solutions for addressing evolving issues like poverty alleviation and shared prosperity within MDBs.

Morocco aims to become key player in green hydrogen



Morocco has voiced ambitious plans to become North Africa's top player in the emerging "green hydrogen" sector, with plans to export the clean-burning fuel to Europe. Morocco, which already runs large solar power plants, also hopes to harness green hydrogen – the kind made without burning fossil fuels – for its sizeable fertilizer sector. Around 1.5 million acres of public land – nearly the size of Kuwait – have been set aside for green hydrogen and ammonia plants, the economy ministry says. King Mohammed VI has hailed a national green hydrogen plan dubbed l'Offre Maroc (the Moroccan Offer) and called for its "rapid and qualitative implementation."

Bengaluru plans for 190 km tunnels to ease traffic; tender in 45 days

The proposed locations for the tunnels include nightmarish traffic locations such as Silk Board, Old Madras Road, Tumakuru Road among others. Going bullish on his plans, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said the government will float a global tender in the next 45 days to build tunnels spanning 190 km at different locations in Bengaluru. Describing Bengaluru as an unplanned city, Shivakumar said he wants international expertise for the tunnel project. "In some countries, such experiments have been on since 300-400 years, one-lane, two-lane, three-lane We will decide later on whether to go for four



-lane or six-lane tunnels. Four lanes are mandatory. We need to identify entry and exit points. He added that nine companies came forward to prepare a comprehensive decongestion & traffic management

plan for Bengaluru. Of them, eight are eligible. One of them will be shortlisted by the end of the month to submit the plan. While there is no formal cost estimation, the project would require Rs 50,000 crore. At present, the state does not have the required Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM). The kind of TBMs required for the project are currently unavailable in the state. Such machines are deployed at Mumbai and other places of North India. Hence, we are looking to construct a minimum of 4-lanes. He also mentioned that the government will have to take up the tunnel project in phases. "We can't start everything in one go," he said.

Railway Ministry gets DPR on Nagpur Mumbai Bullet-Train project

In a step towards reducing travelling time between cities, the detailed project report (DPR) of the Mumbai-Nagpur high speed rail corridor project has been submitted by NHRCL to the Union Railway Ministry. According to the DPR, the proposed 741-km-long Nagpur-Mumbai high-speed rail corridor is estimated to cost Rs 1.7 lakh crore and will run parallel to the Samruddhi Mahamarg Highway. Currently, it takes about 12 to 14 hours to travel between the two cities in the regular train service. The proposed bullet train in the route is expected to reduce the travel time to three-and-half hours. This project only requires the acquisition of 1250 hectare of land parallel to existing highway. The proposed bullet train corridor will have total 15 stations along the route which are Nagpur via Wardha, Khapri Depot, Pulgaon, Malegaon Jahangir, Jalna, Karanja Lad, Mehkar, Shirdi, Nashik, Sambhajinagar, Igatpuri and Shahapur. The fare is expected to be 1.5 times more than the current first-class air-conditioned fare on regular train service.



Gujarat unveils fully automated rail slab factory

A new track-slab manufacturing facility, for the production of track-slabs required for the construction of ballast-less track works for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor, was opened near Anand, in Gujarat. The fully-automated facility will produce track slabs for 116 km of the double line high-speed rail track for the MAHSR corridor. The facility spans over an area of 1 lakh square meter and houses state-of-the-art technology for production of 45,000 precast track slabs for the project. 60 high-precision moulds have been procured and installed in the facility, which can produce upto 60 track slabs per day.

Hyderabad debuts India's first Solar roof cycling track

The solar-powered Healthway Cycling Track along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Hyderabad was unveiled by Telangana minister KT Rama Rao on Sunday. The 23-km track features a global design. The initial portion extends from TSPA to Nanakramguda, spanning a distance of 8.5km whereas the subsequent section runs from Narsingi to Kollur, covering a distance of 14.5km. This innovative approach not only bolsters the city's efforts to reduce carbon emissions but also solidifies its position as the most environmentally friendly cycling track globally. The solar roof panels have potential to generate 16 megawatts of electricity.

New 857 berth Vande Bharat express unveiled

The first version of the Vande Bharat sleeper train with 857 berths, for which the design is being finalized, is slated to be out of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai by March 2024. The sleeper Vande Bharat will have a total 823 berths for passengers and 34 for staff. Every coach will have three toilets, instead of four, and a mini pantry. Currently, BEML is manufacturing 10 sleeper Vande Bharat trains for ICF and the design has been finalized by BEML in consultation with ICF. The Railways has awarded a contract for manufacturing 200 sleeper Vande Bharat trains to the consortiums of TMH-RVNL and BHEL-Titagarh Wagons.



► Shreyash Satpute
MBA IDM, Batch 2023-25,
SCMHRD

Project Management Institute: Empowering MBA-IDM Students at SCMHRD

On September 30th, an eagerly anticipated event unfolded at the auditorium of the MBA program specializing in Infrastructure Development & Management (MBA-IDM). The students were graced by esteemed executives from the Project Management Institute-Pune Deccan India Chapter (PMIPDC), offering a wealth of knowledge and inspiration to the MBA-IDM cohort.

The event kicked off with a lecture by Dr. Netra Neelam, the Director of SCMHRD, who underscored the crucial role of on-site experience in practical understanding of Project Management principles. The IDM Program, initially established as Infrastructure Management in 2011 under Dr. Wagnis sir's guidance, has evolved into a formidable platform for budding infrastructure professionals.

Mr. Jay Dholakia, the President of PMIPDC, engaged the students in a thought-provoking dialogue. He stressed the importance of cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset, exemplifying it through a practical experiment that left students with a key takeaway i.e. "The importance of asking questions." Moreover, he emphasized the significance of the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) in project management, highlighting how a profound grasp of project details is rooted in practical on-site experience.

Mrs. Vidya Chavan, the Vice-President of PMIPDC, interacted extensively with the students, shedding light on the Project Management Institute's offerings. Students were thrilled to learn about the opportunities for guest lectures and networking activities with industry specialists. PMIPDC will provide mentorship to students, guiding them across various aspects of their professional journey. They offer diverse certifications, spanning from entry-level to advanced courses, piqued the interest of the audience, ranging from young aspirants to seasoned professionals.

Mr. Abhimanyu Sharma, the coach and mentor for SCMHRD students, elucidated the potential benefits of the PMI club in nurturing student development. This discussion encompassed the student club's activities and the invaluable guidance offered through mentorship. It's worth noting that the PMIPDC program has been a cornerstone of SCMHRD since 2015, leaving an enduring impact on numerous IDM students who credit PMI for their personal and professional growth.

Mumbai Trans-Harbour Sea Link Gears Up For Opening, Global Tenders Invited For Operation And Maintenance

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has taken a significant step towards the opening of the Mumbai Trans Harbour Sealink (MTHL) by inviting global tenders for the operation and maintenance of the project. The 21.8 km long and 6-lane wide carriageway viaduct project connects Sewri in Mumbai to Chirle in Navi Mumbai. The contract encompasses maintenance of the project facility, including civil structures and the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), for a period of 24 months. The sealink aims to provide a smooth 20-minute commute, free from traffic signals, between the mentioned key locations.

Renewable energy policy unveiled, govt expects investments worth Rs 5 lakh cr

Gujarat's Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel introduced the Gujarat Renewable Energy Policy, 2023, focusing on wind, solar, and hybrid energy projects. The policy targets a staggering investment of Rs 5 lakh crore and removes capacity restrictions on renewable energy project setups, enabling businesses to meet their entire energy demands through renewables. Industrial consumers can now carry forward surplus renewable energy for 30 additional days, presenting a significant stride towards sustainable energy consumption and investment opportunities in the renewable sector. The policy was unveiled with key dignitaries present, emphasizing the state's commitment to promoting renewable energy development.

India's Largest Multi-Modal Logistics Park to Take Shape in Bengaluru

The National Highways Logistics Management Ltd (NHLML), a branch of the National Highways Authority of India, has entered into a partnership to establish a significant multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) in Bengaluru. Expected to cost ₹1,770 crore, the MMLP will span 400 acres in Muddelinganahalli, Bengaluru rural, making it the largest MMLP in India under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan. The strategic location adjacent to key infrastructure, including highways, railways, and industrial areas, emphasizes seamless logistics operations. Situated 58 km from Bengaluru Airport and 48 km from Bengaluru city railway station, this development aims to enhance logistics efficiency and contribute to the national transportation network.



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