

InfraInsights

Blueprints for Tomorrow

CIDCO plans ₹14,321 crores infra projects in NAINA in 2024

CIDCO has unveiled a ₹14,321 crore infrastructure plan for the long-delayed NAINA region. Criticizing opposition for personal agendas, CIDCO assured immediate implementation through tenders starting January 2024, focusing on roads, stormwater, water supply, sewerage, and electrical works. The NAINA chief planner outlined a comprehensive road network plan, ensuring every allotted land gets adjacent roads. Of the land CIDCO acquires, 45% will be for infra. Projects costing ₹4,297 cr will kickstart first, followed by ₹10,024 cr in subsequent phases. BJP MLAs vowed protection of villagers' properties, advocating fair compensation for any affected houses. They also promised local involvement in project contracts and pledged to bridge communication between CIDCO and villagers. Criticizing opposition's fear-mongering, they emphasized ensuring no houses are demolished and advocated for fair development charges resolution.

InfraShorts

Myanmar's Ambassador to India highlighted the crucial role of development and technical collaboration in bolstering bilateral ties. Emphasizing key areas like infrastructure, education, and skill development, he spotlighted the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project as a significant endeavor during the diamond jubilee commemoration of India-Myanmar diplomatic relations.

Indian states invests huge for infrastructure development

Over the past five fiscal years (FY19 to FY23), India has witnessed a remarkable surge in capital expenditure by both central and state governments, evident in extensive infrastructure growth like new highways, railway lines, and various development projects. Data from the RBI indicates a collective CAPEX spending of Rs 43.63 lakh crore by all Indian states and Union Territories, a substantial increase from the Rs 24.81 lakh crore spent in the previous five-year period (FY14 to FY18). This spike is attributed to significant emphasis placed by multiple state governments on infrastructure development. Uttar Pradesh leads the CAPEX spending, allocating Rs 5.31 lakh crore for infrastructure, followed by Maharashtra at Rs 4.39 lakh crore. Tamil Nadu holds the third position with Rs 2.84 lakh crore, followed by Karnataka at Rs 2.76 lakh crore. The trend continues with Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Telangana, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh making up the top ten. In FY23, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu remained the top spenders, investing Rs 1.49 lakh crore, Rs 1.21 lakh crore, and Rs 76 thousand crore, respectively, in CAPEX.



Global infra faces losses worth \$300 bn due to climate change

The global annual average loss (AAL) in key infrastructure sectors due to disasters and climate change is currently estimated to be between \$301 billion and \$330 billion, according to a report by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). If health and education infrastructure, along with building stock, are included.



EU prepares Global Gateway Forum to boost global infrastructure plan

The European Union (EU) will host leaders of some 20 countries next week to boost its global infrastructure plan aimed at competing with China in strategic regions, Bloomberg News reported on Thursday, citing people familiar with the matter. Heads of state who will attend the EU's Global Gateway Forum on Dec.



PM of india announces completion of global digital public infrastructure

The Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository and a Social Impact Fund aimed at promoting the development of Social Impact Fund to advance Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in the Global South during the Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit. This landmark consensus was also affirmed as a part of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

Neoen begins construction of its second biggest solar farm

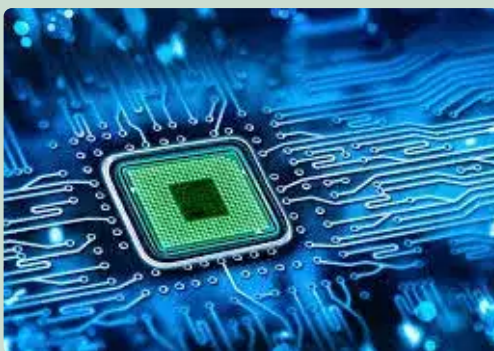
French renewable energy and battery storage developer Neoen says it has begun the construction phase of its 350 MW Culcairn solar project in New South Wales (NSW) after appointing a contractor to build the project. Culcairn, located around 40kms north of Albury in Wiradjuri country, this week was one of two large scale generation projects that were successful in the state government's latest tender seeking to accelerate the transition from coal to renewables. The solar project is backed by a Long-Term Energy Services Agreement, which effecting removes the downside risk if wholesale prices fall to far. Neoen says it expects to get



most, if not all, its revenue from the project from long term power purchase agreements. Neoen has contracted Bouygues Construction Australia and Bouygues Energies and Services Australia under an EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) turnkey

contract. The project includes an option to incorporate a 100 MW battery although the storage duration has not yet been decided. The solar project itself is sized at 440 MWp / 350 MW (ac), making it one of the largest solar farms in NSW and the second biggest in Neoen's portfolio, behind the recently completed 400 MW (ac) Western Downs solar farm at the Western Downs Green Power Hub in south-west Queensland. Neoen says the project will generate energy to power 160,000 homes, more than double the number of dwellings in the Riverina region and will deliver more than 400 construction jobs and 7 permanent positions once it starts.

£60 million investment to boost supply chain of semiconductors



The UK Infrastructure Bank has announced a £60 million direct equity investment into Pragmatic Semiconductor, a world leader in manufacturing flexible integrated circuits, to scale up the domestic supply chain of semiconductors in North East England. The Bank's financing is part of a £162 million funding round, alongside co-investor M&G's Catalyst, to accelerate the production of Pragmatic's new flexible integrated circuits, creating new manufacturing lines at its Pragmatic Park facility in Durham. Additional new investors include Northern Gritstone and LocalGlobe and Evolution Partners, with existing investors British Patient Capital, Cambridge Innovation Capital and Prosperity7 Ventures also part of the round.

India builds its largest renewable energy project in Rann of Kutch

In three years, India aims to build the world's largest renewable energy project at Khavda in Gujarat. Encompassing solar panels, wind turbines, and spanning 726 sq km, it's a pivotal initiative estimated to cost \$2.26 billion, aligning with goals discussed at COP28 to triple global renewable energy while reducing fossil fuel usage. The solar and wind energy project will be so big that it will be visible from space, is called the Khavda renewable energy park, named after the village nearest to the project site. At the site, thousands of laborers install pillars on which solar panels will be mounted. The pillars rise like perfectly aligned

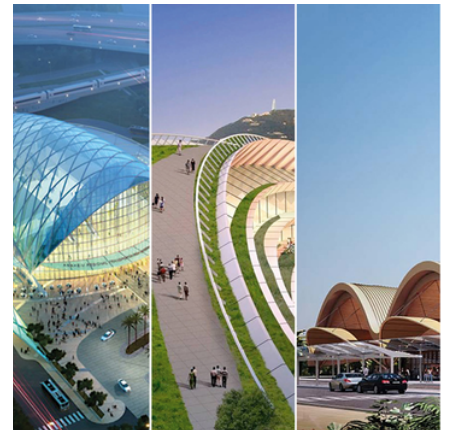


concrete cactuses that stretch as far as the eye can see. Other workers are building foundations for enormous wind turbines to be installed; they also are transporting construction material, building

substations and laying wires for miles. When completed, the project will be about as large as Singapore, spreading out over 726 square kilometers (280 square miles). The Indian government estimates it will cost at least \$2.26 billion. Once completed, it will supply 30 gigawatts of renewable energy annually, enough to power nearly 18 million Indian homes. As India aims to install 500 gigawatts of clean energy by the end of the decade and to reach net zero emissions by 2070, this project site will likely contribute significantly to the world's most populous country's transition to producing energy from non-carbon spewing sources.

Delhi Airport to Become Multi-Modal Transport Hub

Delhi Airport is poised for a paradigm shift with the introduction of a multi-modal interstate transport hub. This strategic initiative signifies a major leap forward in augmenting connectivity and operational efficiency within urban transportation. The envisioned hub positions Delhi Airport as a central nexus for diverse modes of interstate travel, fostering seamless connectivity for travelers. The introduction of a multi-modal transport hub is expected to redefine the travel experience for passengers, offering integrated and convenient access to various modes of transportation. This transformative development aligns with the evolving needs of modern urban transportation, catering to the diverse travel preferences and requirements of the public. The project is anticipated to set new benchmarks in interconnectivity, providing passengers with a streamlined and comprehensive transportation experience, and ultimately contributing to the growth and modernization of Delhi's transportation infrastructure.



GPS Toll Collection to replace current system at Toll Plazas

In a move aimed at reducing traffic congestion and charging for the exact distance travelled on the highways, GPS-based toll systems to replace toll collection plazas in the country. FASTag has already been made mandatory for 4-wheelers that leads to the automatic deduction of toll tax through (RFID) technology. GPS based toll collection will differ from FASTag because it will track you throughout. It will be vigilant of vehicle movement and collect the toll tax through GPS imaging. Automatic deduction in FASTags happens only when you approach the toll plaza. The government will introduce new technologies including GPS-based toll collection systems in the next 6 months to replace existing highway toll plazas.

National Infra Pipeline outlay stands at Rs 109 trillion

National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) was launched with 6,835 projects and has expanded to capture over 9,288 projects with a total outlay of Rs 108.88 lakh crore between 2020-25. "NIP comprises brownfield and greenfield infrastructure projects of above Rs 100 crore across both economic and social infrastructure. NIP is a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens. It will improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic and foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for attaining the target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by FY25.

Cabinet Nod for Ganga Bridge in Bihar

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave approval for construction of new 4556 m long, 6-lane high level and extra dosed cable stayed bridge across river Ganga (parallel to western side of existing Digha-Sonepur rail-cum road bridge) & its approaches on both sides in the districts of Patna and Saran in Bihar on EPC mode. The total cost for the project is Rs 3,064.45 crore which includes civil construction cost of Rs 2,233.81 cr. The project involves investment of Rs 2,486.78 crore which includes a loan component of Rs 1,511.70 crore. The loan assistance will be from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the official development assistance (ODA) scheme.



➤ **MOHIT KOKEL**
MBA IDM, Batch 2023-25,
SCMHRD

Opening doors of growth by InfraBlaze - 9th Edition

I had the privilege of attending the flagship event at SCMHRD, Pune - the "Infrablaze - 9th Edition," and as a passionate enthusiast of the Infrastructure sector, it was an experience like no other. The 9th edition of Infrablaze centered around the theme "India's Vision 2030 - From Blueprints to Reality."

The keynote address by Shri Anil Swarup, Former Secretary- Ministry of Coal & Ministry of School Education, set the tone for the event. He emphasized the crucial role of Ethics in policy formulation for India's Vision 2030 and highlighted the necessity for ideas to be politically acceptable, socially desirable, technologically feasible, financially viable, administratively doable, judicially tenable, and emotionally relatable. With his witty, quirky, and relatable address, the students could relate more with his words.

The first session on Day 1 explored "Transforming Supply-chain using Digitalization," led by Mr. Aman Sinha. He discussed the enablers of digitalization and the impact of digital transformation on supply chains. The day continued with a panel discussion on "Logistics Cost Reduction: A Comprehensive Analysis of the National Logistics Policy." This insightful discussion involved industry experts such as Mr. Rajendra Nimmagadda, Mr. Abhijit Basu, and Mr. Nitin Chandra, who shed light on the impact of the National Logistics Policy and addressing challenges posed by India's diverse geography on logistics.

The second day featured a panel discussion on the complex role of Infrastructure Consulting where panelists, including Mr. Hanish Babbar, Mr. Siddharth Kalra, Ms. Isha Gupta, and Mr. Sabyasachi Haldar, emphasized the broad role of infrastructure advisory firms and their challenges.

On the third day, Ms. Diya Sengupta discussed "ESG Trends and Practices." She highlighted the integration of various disciplines for ESG, addressing issues like modern slavery and emphasizing the importance of ethical business practices and standardized reporting.

The final session featured Mr. Abhay Yagnik who discussed "Renewable Energy Target & Energy Transition." He talked about challenges and opportunities in renewable energy, including issues with reactive power production, the need for significant investment in energy storage, and challenges in green hydrogen technology.

Overall, the 3-day event tried to cover every area which are the ENABLERS to achieving India's 2030 vision along with practicing sustainable practices. To conclude, along with being impressed by the discussions of speakers and panelists, I carry along with me more passion for the sector I am dedicated to after attending "InfraBlaze - 9th Edition".

Hindustan Zinc faces Rs 28.83 cr. tax penalty

Hindustan Zinc, a major player in the mining and metal industry, has received a tax penalty notice amounting to Rs 28.83 cr. The notice, issued by the tax authorities, pertains to alleged discrepancies in tax filings, raising concerns for the company. The tax penalty notice is the result of a scrutiny conducted by the tax department, which identified irregularities in Hindustan Zinc's tax submissions. The company now faces the task of addressing the concerns raised by the authorities and providing clarifications to resolve the matter. Hindustan Zinc, a subsidiary of Vedanta, operates in the production of zinc, lead, and silver.

Union Minister Mr. Nitin Gadkari sanctions Rs 11.70 billion for Ladakh Road Development

In a significant boost to the infrastructure landscape in Ladakh, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved an outlay of Rs 11.70 billion for the development of roads in the region. This substantial allocation reflects the government's commitment to enhancing connectivity and bolstering the strategic road network in Ladakh. The approved funds will be instrumental in the construction and improvement of key roadways, contributing to the overall socio-economic development of Ladakh. The region's unique geographical challenges and strategic importance necessitate robust road infrastructure, and the sanctioned funds are poised to address these requirements effectively.

Real Estate PE Inflows Drop to \$3 Billion, Signals Market Shift

In a significant market development, private equity inflows into the real estate sector have experienced a decline, settling at \$3 billion according to recent data. This downturn may signify a shift in the investment landscape, prompting stakeholders to reassess strategies and adapt to evolving market conditions. The reduced influx of private equity funds is a crucial indicator for real estate players, highlighting potential changes in investor sentiment and risk appetite. This shift could be attributed to various factors such as economic uncertainties, changing regulatory environments, or a reevaluation of the risk-return profile in the real estate sector. Despite the decline, certain segments within the real estate market may still be attracting substantial investments.



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