

INFRA INSIGHTS

EDGE OF COGNIZANCE

JANUARY | 2023 | VOLUME 2



TABLE OF CONTENT



• Infrastructure Loans

India, ADB sign \$1.2 billion loan agreements for infrastructure projects

• Bridges

India's Longest Sea Bridge 'Mumbai Trans Harbour Link' To Open For Traffic In November 2023

• Highways

Safety audit of 19,300 km of national highways completed till Dec'22

• DigiLocker

NFRA seeks e-locker for auditors to keep digital docs safe

• Indian Air Force

IAF conducts trial run on emergency landing facility on Andhra Pradesh Highway

News Bytes

- RailTel Bags Over Rs 186 Crore Work Order To Digitise Coal Sector
- Citroen India signs pact with Jio-bp to build EV charging infrastructure
- Union Govt Approves Rs 2,539 Crore To Develop Doordarshan And Distribute 8 Lakh DTH Set Top Boxes
- Larsen & Toubro signed an agreement to divest its 51 percent stake in L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited (L&T IDPL) to Epic Concesiones Private Limited.



INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS

India, ADB sign \$1.2 billion loan agreements for infrastructure projects

The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday, 3rd January signed loan agreements totaling \$1.22 billion for developing infrastructure in various Indian states, a statement from the finance ministry said. The agreements would cover projects for improving the power sector and highways in the northeastern states of Tripura and Assam, metro rail connectivity in the southern city of Chennai, and improvement of key economic areas in the western state of Maharashtra, the statement added. At least 319 kilometers (km) of state highways and 149 km of district roads will be upgraded incorporating climate and disaster-resilient features to strengthen the state's core road network in the 10 districts.

In addition, the project will construct 5 km of major district roads connecting Nanded and neighboring Telangana.



The project will promote gender equality and social inclusion in highway programs, schools, health, and social services and set up integrated service centers to provide basic sanitation, education, and other services. In addition to that, a \$300 million loan to improve connectivity in Assam, a \$350 million loan to expand the metro rail network in Chennai, \$220 million loan to strengthen the power sector in Tripura will be invested.

BRIDGES

India's Longest Sea Bridge 'Mumbai Trans Harbour Link' To Open For Traffic In November 2023

The under-construction Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) will be open for traffic in November this year. Connecting Mumbai to Navi Mumbai, the sea link will reduce the travel time between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai to just 15 to 20 minutes from the present two hours. It will provide direct access to Nhava Sheva Port, Mumbai-Goa Highway, Mumbai-Pune Expressway, and the new international airport under construction in Navi Mumbai.



The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), a Maharashtra government agency, which is the implementing authority for the six-lane MTHL project. The MMRDA successfully launched the first longest Orthotropic Steel Deck (OSD) in package-2 of MTHL in the presence of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, the authority said in a press release. The first longest OSD of package-2 of package-2 of about 22 km long Trans-Harbour link between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai is 180 meters long and weighs 2,300 metric tonnes. The MTHL's package-2 has 32 OSD spans and of these 15 spans have already been launched. This 'longest sea bridge in the country' will be the first to have an Open Road Tolling (ORT) system, an official release quoted the CM. He also said that 90 percent civil work of MTHL has been completed and the bridge will be open for traffic in November. With ORT, Vehicles would not have to stop on the bridge to pay the toll.

What's Trending

The agreements would cover projects for improving the power sector and highways in the northeastern states of Tripura and Assam, metro rail connectivity in the southern city of Chennai, and improvement of key economic areas in the western state of Maharashtra, the statement added.

What's Trending

Mumbai Trans Harbour Link will reduce the travel time between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai to just 15 to 20 minutes from the present two hours. This 'longest sea bridge in the country' will be the first to have an Open Road Tolling (ORT) system.

HIGHWAYS

Safety audit of 19,300 km of national highways completed till Dec'22

The government said a safety audit of 19,300-kilometre of national highways has been completed till December in the current fiscal. During FY22, a safety audit of 16,500 km of national highways was undertaken. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been conducting safety audits on national highways at the planning, construction, operations, and maintenance stages, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement.

For all new projects, the DPR will be safety audited by a team of independent safety consultants, and the recommendations of the safety auditors will be taken into account during further stages of design. Further, the safety review of the DPRs is undertaken by dedicated road safety officers at NHAI to ensure that all the necessary safety measures have been incorporated.



DIGILOCKER

NFRA seeks e-locker for auditors to keep digital docs safe

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has been working to implement a mechanism for auditors that could help them to keep their files safe in a tamper-proof way. The authority has been looking for a similar mechanism like DigiLocker which caters to individuals. Wiser from the experience, NFRA has been contemplating the use of technology to curb possible manipulation of records by auditors. The law requires auditors to complete their audit files and bars them from tampering with them in any form later. Regulatory agencies such as NFRA exercise oversight only of the audit files and in case it is compromised, the oversight is not effective.



The move comes after the regulator for auditors of listed and large Indian companies noticed instances of manipulation of the files and recent regulatory action by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), NFRA's American counterpart, which imposed a fine on KPMG India and sanctioned the audit firm along with its engagement partner Sagar Pravin Lakhani.

INDIAN AIR FORCE

IAF conducts trial run on emergency landing facility on Andhra Pradesh Highway

The IAF on Thursday successfully conducted a trial run of the 4.1 km emergency landing facility (ELF) constructed on a national highway here, with two Sukhoi fighter aircraft among others participating in the drill. The flights flew close to the ground without landing on the highway. The landing facility has been constructed at Picchikalagudipadu village on National Highway 16. The airstrips can be used for strategic purposes as well as during natural calamities for rescue and relief operations.

A Defence press release said that to check the feasibility of operations from the ELF, IAF fighter and transport aircraft from the Southern Air Command successfully carried out overshoots on the strip as part of the trials.



What's Trending

National Highways constitute only about 2 per cent of the road network, it carries 40 per cent of the total road traffic. Rapid expansion of passenger and freight traffic makes it imperative to improve the road network in the country.

What's Trending

National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) is an independent regulator set up to oversee the auditing profession and the Indian Accounting Standards under the Companies Act 2013.

What's Trending

The Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent was given a grand welcome as it landed at the Hyakuri Air Base, about 80 km northeast of Tokyo on Tuesday for the inaugural joint Air Exercise.