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Building a Resilient, Multimodal Freight Ecosystem

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This Facilitation Corner, powered by India's premier tech-piloting agency Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), as dedicated support for freight and logistics stakeholders. It aims to accelerate India's journey toward reducing the national GDP expenditure on logistics by enabling strategic policy interventions, innovative pilot programs and technology-led transformation across the sector.

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India's logistics ecosystem is currently navigating a phase where external pressures and internal capacity-building efforts are unfolding together. Recent financial support for exporters impacted by West Asia disruptions reflects ongoing stress on trade flows, including rising costs, delays, and uncertainty across key maritime routes. At the same time, the adoption of inland waterways and development of multi-modal infrastructure along freight corridors signal efforts to diversify transport modes and strengthen domestic capacity.

These developments indicate an evolving system, though not without challenges. While policy measures and infrastructure integration aim to improve resilience and reduce dependency on single-mode logistics, their impact will depend on effective coordination and execution. Sustained alignment across these efforts will be critical to enhancing efficiency and reliability in India's logistics network.

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News and Trends

₹497 Cr Relief for Exporters

Indian Government has launched the RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) scheme with ₹497 Crore to support exporters affected by Middle East disruptions. It aims to address high freight costs, insurance premiums, and shipping delays.

Exporters will get automatic extensions, enhanced credit guarantee coverage via ECGC, and targeted support for MSMEs. A daily monitoring mechanism will ensure smooth export flows and protect India's market share - a direct step towards strengthening ease of doing business.

Logistics and Warehousing Projects

The Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) has approved eight new logistics and warehousing projects worth around ₹800 Crore under the Warehousing and Logistics Policy-2022. The projects-including five silos, two warehouses, and one logistics centre-will be set up across districts and states like Unnao, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Hapur and Lucknow to boost storage, strengthen supply chains, support farmers and businesses, and generate jobs. So far, 61 projects have been sanctioned under the policy, with total investments of over ₹12,900 Crore across 810 acres, enhancing the state's logistics infrastructure — aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat and the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan 2047.

Multimodal Logistics Expansion

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) is expanding multimodal logistics in Surat, strengthening its role as a key freight hub. During a review of terminals along the Western DFC, officials inaugurated facilities and outlined plans for faster, cost-efficient freight movement. The proposed East-West DFC linking West Bengal (Dankuni) to Surat will reduce transit times and improve connectivity, boosting Surat's industrial and port logistics.

Tata Steel Waterway Delivery

One of the **Tata Steel consignment** comprising granulated blast furnace slag and TMT bars was delivered to **Pandu Port in Guwahati** via the **Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route**, highlighting a strategic shift toward using **inland waterways** for cargo transport. This movement highlights the growing operational viability of riverine logistics as a cost-effective and efficient alternative to traditional road and rail transport, particularly for bulk shipments to the North - East. By utilising inland routes, logistics service providers can reduce freight costs, enhance connectivity, and adopt environmentally friendly transport solutions. This development reflects broader efforts to integrate India's North Eastern region more deeply into national logistics networks and demonstrates increasing preference among major corporations for waterway freight options.

Cabinet Approves ₹33,660Cr BHAVYA Scheme

The Union Cabinet has approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA), a ₹33,660 Crore initiative to develop 100 Plug-and-Play industrial parks across India to strengthen manufacturing infrastructure and improve ease of doing business. The scheme will provide ready-to-use land, utilities, single-window clearances and pre-approved infrastructure, enabling faster project execution and attracting investment, with parks ranging from 100 to 1,000 acres. Implemented with state and private sector participation, the policy aims to boost industrial growth, generate employment and enhance regional development - where factories come up faster, jobs reach closer to home, and doing business feels less like a hurdle and more like an opportunity.

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