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Business News Update

“Don’t Count the Minutes, Make the Moments Count.”

Iran-Israel conflict: Assessing the impact on international trade and role of logistics sector

The ongoing tension between Iran and Israel has significant implications for international trade, particularly from the standpoint of logistics and maritime operations. As these two nations engage in geopolitical brinkmanship, the stability of trade routes, the cost of shipping, and the flow of goods are all subject to disruption. One of the primary concerns stemming from the Iran-Israel conflict is the potential for disruption in key maritime chokepoints. Almost 80-85 per cent of the global cargo transported by ships, the shipping company most likely to face the heat. The Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway through which a significant portion of the world’s oil passes, is located near Iran. Any escalation in hostilities could lead to disruptions in oil shipments, impacting global energy markets and driving up shipping costs. Similarly, the Red Sea, another vital maritime route, could be affected by tensions between Iran and Israel, potentially impacting trade between Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Source: [Financial Express, April 18, 2024](#)

DroneAcharya signs agreement with CBAI Tech for 200 type certified training drones

DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations Limited on Thursday announced that it has inked a landmark agreement with CBAI Technologies Private Limited. The agreement, it said, entails the procurement of 200 Type Certified training drones over a span of three years. Boasting state-of-the-art training facilities, DroneAcharya has established its main DGCA certified drone pilot training centers in Pune, Maharashtra. Additionally, it has forged strategic partnerships to set up associated centers in Punjab in collaboration with IIT Ropar, Gujarat in partnership with Rashtriya Raksha University, and Rajasthan in partnership with Subhkhyaati Aerospace Pvt. Ltd.

Source: [Financial Express, April 18, 2024](#)

Weak discretionary spends to weigh on Infosys sales in Q4; margin seen up

The country’s second largest IT services provider, Infosys is expected to report another weak set of quarterly numbers in the January-March quarter due to continued sluggishness in discretionary spending in the US. However, analysts expect the company’s operating margin to expand aided by cost optimization under Project Maximus. The company will report its earnings on Thursday. Additionally, the fourth quarter is generally considered weak for IT companies with fewer working days and prolonged furloughs in January. With all these factors in consideration, average estimates from six brokerage firms expect the Bengaluru-headquartered company to report a revenue of Rs 38,470.90 crore during the quarter, marking a sequential decline of 1%.

Source: [The Financial Express, April 18, 2024](#)

Vedanta looks to deleverage group by \$3 billion

The current fiscal would be a transformative year for mining major Vedanta, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources (VRL), as it prioritises a disciplined growth and explores opportunities. While VRL looks to deleverage \$3 billion in the next three years, the group is expecting to achieve an annual group Ebitda of \$7.5 billion within two years, chairman Anil Agarwal said in a communication to shareholders. “As we step into the new fiscal, we have set targets that reflect our pursuit of sustainable growth while maintaining a healthy balance sheet,” Agarwal said. He added: “Vedanta Group remains firmly focused on the exciting road ahead. FY25 will be a transformative year for us on many fronts as we prioritise disciplined growth, operational excellence, and exploring opportunities along the value chain.”

Source: [The Financial Express, April 18, 2024](#)