

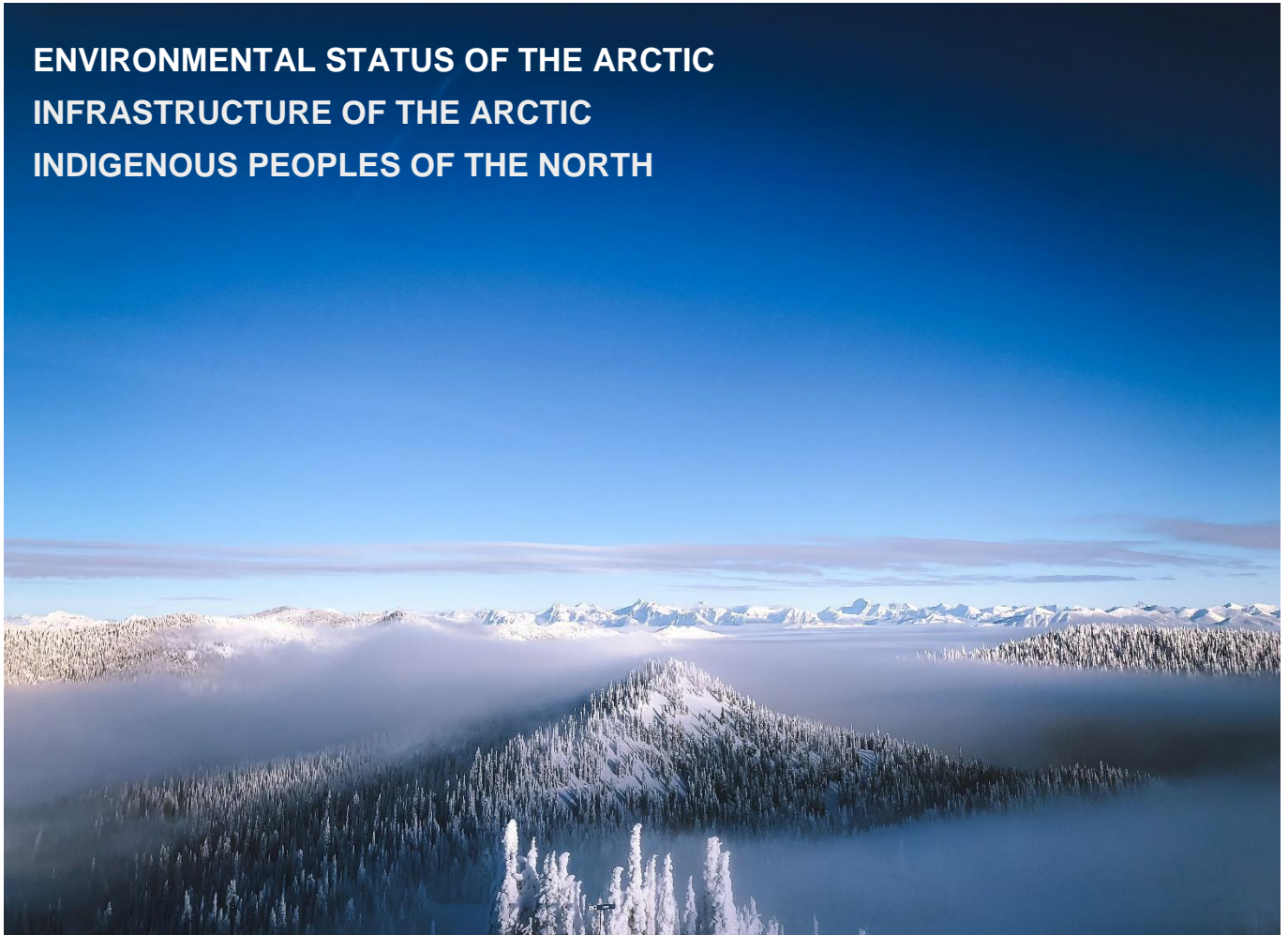


# INFORMATION DIGEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARCTIC

September 2020

## KEY TOPICS:

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS OF THE ARCTIC  
INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE ARCTIC  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE NORTH



## STATE POLICY IN THE ARCTIC

23 September 2020, TASS

**Ministry for the Development of the Far East prepared new state programme for Arctic development until 2024**

Ministry for the Development of the Far East and Arctic published its new draft state programme for the Arctic social and economic development in 2021–2024. According to this programme, the government will allocate over RUB 22.6 billion to finance these territories.

With that in mind, implementation of this programme will get over RUB 4.4 billion in 2021, over RUB 6.6 billion in 2022, about RUB 6.5 billion in 2023, and around RUB 5 billion in 2024.

[tass.ru/ekonomika/9534339](https://tass.ru/ekonomika/9534339)

18 September 2020, TASS, Lenta.Ru, Gazeta.Ru, and others.

### **State Commission for Arctic Development to get its own Academic Council**

The Academic Council of the State Commission for Arctic Development will coordinate federal authorities and research organizations and help shape Arctic research agenda.

“A whole number of areas in the Arctic research attracts scientists from all over the world. They include geology and aquatic bioresources, permafrost thaw and global warming, economy and social aspects. Russian researchers are international scientific community’s leaders in many areas of R&D,” said Yury Trutnev, Presidential Plenipotentiary in the Far Eastern Federal District; Chairman of the State Commission for Arctic Development.

He emphasized that the State Commission for Arctic Development aims to determine the ways research can be made more efficient and competitive.

[tass.ru/obschestvo/9493911](https://tass.ru/obschestvo/9493911)

6 September 2020, Parlamentskaya Gazeta, The Arctic, and others

### **Cabinet of Ministers to partially reimburse insurance premiums for Arctic Zone entrepreneurs**

Entrepreneurs working in the Arctic Zone will get reimbursed for up to 75% of their insurance premiums. The official website of the Russian Government published appropriate decree on Wednesday.

“This reimbursement covers mandatory annuity, health, maternity and short-term disability insurance. Among other recipients, this support measure is available to entrepreneurs. The funds will be allocated by the Far East Development Corporation,” announced press service of the Russian Government.

[pnp.ru/politics/kabmin-chastichno-kompensiruet-strakhovye-vznosy-dlya-predprinimateley-v-arkticheskoy-zone.html](https://pnp.ru/politics/kabmin-chastichno-kompensiruet-strakhovye-vznosy-dlya-predprinimateley-v-arkticheskoy-zone.html)

2 September 2020, The Arctic

### **Powers vested in Ministry for the Development of the Far East and Arctic enlarged**

The Russian Government published its Decree No. 1297 dated 28 August 2020 ‘On amending the Provisions on the Ministry for the Development of the Far East and Arctic’.

In particular, the Ministry will now have the authority to issue construction permits, commissioning permits for infrastructural facilities under construction or reconstruction. The Ministry will also have the power to allocate land under federal ownership, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, for purposes of investment projects being implemented in the Russian Arctic Zone.

[ru.arctic.ru/news/20200902/975156.html](https://ru.arctic.ru/news/20200902/975156.html)

## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

17 September 2020, TASS

### **Russia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs declares Arctic Council will not discuss Svalbard status**

Matters related to the archipelago will be discussed through bilateral dialogue between Moscow and Oslo, noted Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry and Russia's Arctic Council Senior Official Nikolai Korchunov.

“The Arctic Council agenda includes only the matters that concern all eight member states of the organization,” emphasized Mr. Korchunov.

[tass.ru/politika/9481391](https://tass.ru/politika/9481391)

# INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE ARCTIC

28 September 2020, The Arctic, RIA Novosti

## **Aysen Nikolaev: reaching new level of Arctic exploration takes improving accessibility by transport**

Head of Yakutia Aysen Nikolaev took part in the plenary session of the Second International Northern Sustainable Development Forum entitled Transport Infrastructure in the North and the Arctic.

“Arctic, northern territories have an enormous economic potential, which now turns them in a foothold for development of many countries. In March, Vladimir Putin approved the Fundamental principles of Russian state policy in the Arctic. Their priorities include preserving the Arctic as the territory of peace and mutually beneficial partnership, as well as strategic resource pool for speeding up the economic growth and improving the people’s well-being. These priorities comply with the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals. One of them covers building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation,” shared the Head of Yakutia.

Aysen Nikolaev also noted that Yakutia’s Arctic Zone is similar to other northern territories in terms of extremely low population density: “Only 68 thousand people inhabit a gigantic territory of 1.6 million sq. km. Communities within one district in the North can be hundreds or even thousands of kilometres apart. They are not connected by a sustainable transport system.”

[ru.arctic.ru/infrastructure/20200928/980885.html](http://ru.arctic.ru/infrastructure/20200928/980885.html)

17 September 2020, Interfax, RIA Novosti, Kommersant, Regnum News Agency, and others.

## **Arktika nuclear icebreaker off to ice trials**

Baltic Shipyard has sent the main icebreaker of the 22220 Arktika project off to ice trials in the direction of Murmansk seaport.

The icebreaker is scheduled to arrive in Murmansk in early October. During the voyage, the vessel will go through ice trials.

Atomflot and Baltic Shipyard signed the contract for building the main Arktika icebreaker in August 2012. Its cost is RUB 37 billion.

Icebreakers of the 22220 project are meant to pilot vessels in the Arctic and in certain parts of the Yenisei and the Gulf of Ob. Their purposes include ice- and water-bound towing of vessels and other floating structures. The icebreaker is 173.3 m long and 34 m wide. It boasts the power of 60 MW and the ice trafficability of 2.8 m.

[interfax.ru/russia/728064](http://interfax.ru/russia/728064)

# ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

26 September 2020, TASS

## **Scientists detected new walrus rookeries in the Central Arctic**

The walrus population in the Central Arctic is on the rise. Two new rookeries with dozens of these mammals have been detected. Pavel Kochkarev, Director of the Central Siberia Nature Reserve, shared this news with TASS.

This assessment was done during the research in the Central Arctic, which includes the northern shores of Krasnoyarsk Territory, the eastern part of the Kara Sea, and the western part of the Laptev Sea.

[nauka.tass.ru/nauka/9556587](http://nauka.tass.ru/nauka/9556587)

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE NORTH

25 September 2020, TASS, Interfax

## **Norilsk Nickel to allocate RUB 2 billion to support indigenous people in Taymyr before 2025**

Within the next five years, Norilsk Nickel plans to allocate RUB 2 billion to support traditional lifestyles and improve living conditions of the indigenous peoples of the North in Taymyr. On 25 September, the company signed an appropriate agreement with association of the indigenous peoples of the North in Moscow.

Earlier, Norilsk Nickel announced that the company was ready to compensate for the damage to the environment caused by the fuel spill at Heat Power Plant 3 in Norilsk. The company also agreed to adopt a programme to support communities of the indigenous peoples of the North. In particular, Norilsk Nickel came up with an action plan to support the indigenous peoples in Taymyr.

[tass.ru/ekonomika/9552761](https://tass.ru/ekonomika/9552761)

### **For reference**

**The Roscongress Foundation** – a socially oriented non-financial development institution and a major organizer of international conventions, congress, exhibitions, business, social and sporting, public, and cultural events.

The Foundation was established in 2007 with the aim of facilitating the development of Russia's economic potential, promoting its national interests, and strengthening the country's image. One of the roles of the Foundation is to comprehensively evaluate, analyse, and cover issues on the Russian and global economic agendas. It also offers administrative services, provides promotional support for business projects and attracting investment, and helps foster social entrepreneurship and charitable initiatives.

Each year, the Foundation's events draw participants from 208 countries and territories, with more than 15,000 media representatives working on-site at Roscongress' various venues. The Foundation benefits from analytical and professional expertise provided by 5000 people working in Russia and abroad. In addition, it works in close cooperation with 129 economic partners; industrialists' and entrepreneurs' unions; and financial, trade, and business associations from 69 countries worldwide. [roscongress.org](https://roscongress.org)

ORGANIZER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM: