MoRTH plans 75,000-cr double-decker flyover in Tamil Nadu

The Centre has planned to build a double-decker flyover connecting Chennai Port with other vital locations in Tamil Nadu at a cost of ₹5,000 crore. The Union Transport Minister informed that the project would reduce traffic congestion in the city to a great extent. The flyover will be designed as a double-decker one, by bringing in international consultants in place of four lanes as planned earlier. He also suggested to the state govt. that the GIST for steel and cement would be exempted for this project enabling the state government to save ₹500 crore, and another ₹1,000 crore will be contributed by the Central government and NHAI.

NHAI floats tender for ₹798-cr NH in Maharashtra

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has floated tender for four-laning of Mohol-Alandi section of national highway involving an investment of ₹798.43 crore. The project includes the construction of existing two-lane stretch into a four-lane national highway, starting from Dharmapur to 117.000 km to Lonand at 166.400 km (Package-IV) on Mohol-Alandi section (design length - 49.400 km) of NH-980. It will be built on engineering, procurement and construction model and is expected to be completed in 24 months.

NHRC floats tender for Delhi-Amritsar bullet train

The National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited has invited bids for carrying out a survey for the 465-km long Delhi-Amritsar via Chandigarh bullet train project to identify both overhead and underground utilities and power source options, including substations, along the corridor. The work on the country’s first bullet train connecting Mumbai-Ahmedabad is in full swing and the government is focusing on other routes too, including the one between Delhi and Amritsar via Chandigarh with a travel time of 2 hours. While Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi covers the 465-km distance in 6 hours, with the bullet train, travel duration will be cut by four hours. The Delhi-Chandigarh- Amritsar route is identified for the high-speed rail network in the country for which detailed project report would be needed. The other projects include Varanasi-Patna-Howrah, Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru and Mumbai-Pune-Hyderabad.

Tripura gets ₹2,752-cr road projects in Northeast

The Union transport minister has laid the foundation stones of nine NH projects in Tripura covering a distance of 262 km with an investment of ₹2,752 crore. The construction of these highways will provide faster and hassle-free inter-state as well as international road connectivity to the neighbouring countries including Bangladesh. The projects will offer better connectivity, fast and safe traffic movement to various tourist, religious and historical places in the entire state. Once commissioned, they will reduce travel time, save fuel as well as reduce the maintenance cost of vehicles, apart from improving the transport of agricultural goods and access to greater markets, thereby minimizing the cost of goods and services. The highway projects include the 21.4 km long Jolabari – Belonia section of NH-108A worth ₹201.95 crore, 18.60 km long Kalashahar – Kumarghat section of NH-208 worth ₹277.50 crore, 13.90 km long Khayarpur – Antamli section (Agartala bypass) of NH-08 worth ₹147 crore, 38.80 km long Agartala – Khowai section of NH-108B (three packages) worth ₹460.19 crore, 39.46 km long Kailashahar – Kuri bridge of NH-208A (three packages) worth ₹473.49 crore, 36.54 km long Manu – Simlung section of NH-44A (two packages) worth ₹595.12 crore, two RCC Bridges over river Moturi and over river Gomati worth ₹83.06 crore, 74.85 km long Churabari – Agartala section strengthening with paved shoulder of NH-08 worth ₹257.96 crore and geometric improvement on 21.79 km long Churabari – Agartala section of NH-44 at a cost of ₹236.18 crore.

NHAI invites bids for ₹931-cr national highway

NHAI has floated tender for phase III of the Chennai-Bangalore national highway project, under the Bharatmala Scheme, involving an investment of ₹931 crore. For the 24 km long four-lane highway stretch, which will connect Vandalur with Gudivada in Andhra Pradesh, bids are to be submitted online. The project proposal stresses on the need for setting up traffic-aid and medical-aid posts across toll plazas on the route by coordinating with state governments. NHAI has set a 720-day deadline for the bidder to finish the project, failing which action will be initiated against them. In February, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) had announced the completion of land acquisition for constructing the 262-km expressway project in Tamil Nadu, which is to be commissioned in the next three years.

Toshiba Infra wins water treatment contract in Bengaluru

Toshiba Infrastructure Systems and Solutions Corporation informed that its arm TWS has won a water treatment plant contract from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) jointly with Suez S.A. France subsidiary. The project is a part of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The scope of work entails procurement of design, construction and commissioning of a 775 MLD (million litres per day) water treatment plant at TK Halli, Karnataka, with seven years of operation and maintenance services. Shyam J Bhan, CEO of Suez (APAC-India region) informed that Suez is firmly positioned in India for over three decades and for the new contract in Bengaluru, it thanks BWSSB for their trust and confidence in the company. Chairman and MD, TWS, Koichi Matsui said that the company is happy to collaborate with Suez to provide water treatment solutions that will help in the development of clean water infrastructure in Bengaluru. Suez and TWS will design and construct the TK Halli Water Treatment Plant, which will be sourced from the Kaveri river for supplying water to the Bengaluru metropolitan area, Karnataka, and the project is likely to be completed in 30 months.

FORGING PATHS OF PROGRESS THROUGH CHALLENGING TERRAINS AND WEATHER.
MoRTH approves ₹3,800-cr Kalvakurthi-Karivena NH project

The Union transport ministry has approved the construction of a 122 km national highway from Kalvakurthi in Telangana to Karivena in Andhra Pradesh under the Bharatmala scheme. The new national highway, which will reduce the distance from Hyderabad to Tirupati by 80 km, will connect Kalvakurthi, Nagar Kurnool, Kollapur, Atmakuru and Nandyal. Construction of Somalisha Siddeshwaram Bridge is also a part of the project. The central government will spend ₹800 crore on the road crisscrossing both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Union transport minister, Nitin Gadkari informed that a green signal has been given to the Kadapa-Reignunta four-lane highway between Hyderabad and Tirupati and Chennai, which will be constructed between Kadapa and Reignunta. MoRTH has identified the project as a Greenfield Expressway with 3 bridges and 2 rail-over bridges to be constructed on this route. Under the second package, a green signal has been given to the Kadapa-Reignunta four-lane highway between Hyderabad and Tirupati and Chennai.

Telangana approves ₹760-cr for urban housing

Telangana government has sanctioned ₹600 crore for building double bedroom housing units in urban areas across cities in the state including the Greater Hyderabad areas. In the state budget for 2020-21, the state government had allotted ₹3,750 crore for the housing scheme and has released ₹150 crore. The fresh budget release order (BRO) of ₹600 crore takes the total amount of funds for the state housing sector to ₹750 crore. The directives issued by the housing department had mentioned that the Telangana State Housing Corporation Limited had previously requested the state government to release funds worth ₹2,850 crore for the purpose.

Paras Railtech wins DMRC’s tunnelling contract

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has awarded ₹43.92 crore contract to Paras Railtech for the construction of a 289.65-meter cut and cover tunnel (Package CC-126A) on the 1.218 km Najafgarh – Dhanisa Bus Stand extension of Delhi Metro’s Grey Line. The underground tunnel of the Phase 3 project’s Package CC-126 was earlier awarded to Shanghai Tunnel Engineering Co. Ltd. – SUGC Infrastructure India Pvt Ltd under the Bharatmala Pariyojna on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) scheme.

Haryana invites builders for 3,000-acre low-cost housing

The department of town and country planning (DTCP) in Haryana has invited applications from builders to develop affordable housing projects on the 3,000-acre area. According to the policy, the affordable housing project has to be completed within four years from the date permissions are given to the builder. Most of the projects are coming up in the residential sectors of New Gurgaon and along Golf Course Extension Road and other districts. The affordable housing model has also undergone a sea change, as earlier, only 15 acres in any residential sector would be available for building economical houses but after the amendment in 2019, the maximum area that could be utilized in any sector is increased to 30 acres. Director, DTCP, KM Pandurang informed that the builders whose applications got rejected earlier could now apply afresh after sorting out the deficiencies that had led to their rejection and the developers could apply before November 25 for getting the licence to build affordable houses in Gurgaon and other towns.

J Kumar Infraprojects secures LoA for ₹1,051-cr project

J Kumar Infraprojects, a Mumbai-based infra building player of national repute, has received the Letter of Acceptance (LoA) from Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for the design and construction of Seven-Worli elevated connector involving an investment of ₹1,051.86 crore.

Gujarat clears ₹2.725-cr deep-sea effluent disposal project

To solve the pollution problem of Sabarmati, Mahi, Vishwamitri and Bhadra rivers in Gujarat, the Gujarat Pollution Control Board has taken up the ₹2.725 crore deep-sea effluent disposal pipeline project in the state. Member Secretary, GPCB, A V Shah informed that the project will resolve river and groundwater pollution to a larger extent and will also help in reviving local river ecology. The board is strictly adhering to the NGT, GOI and the state government guidelines. The Gujarat Water Infrastructure Limited (GWIL) has initiated the tendering process for the project and a high-level multi-department committee chaired by Chief Secretary Aarl Mukim has begun monitoring it. The work will start in January 2021 and is expected to be completed in 36 months. Under the project, treated effluent from 11 common effluent treatment plants (CETP) of Ahmedabad, Kheda, Vadodara and Jetpur will be collected and discharged into the deep sea. The project will be implemented under the public-private partnership (PPP) model with the state government funding 70% to 80% of the capital cost. The government will contribute ₹1,659 crore and various local industries associations will contribute ₹165 crore. The state has already started receiving contributions from industries associations.
Sany India sets a new precedent in CE Industry

Sany India, a leading manufacturer of construction equipment & heavy machinery, has set an example of leading from the front by initiating measures to help its partners sail through the pandemic with ease. It has helped all its 35 dealers steer through the challenging phase by implementing multiple initiatives to sustain and improve the cash flow for the dealer partners. This included an extension of credit period on all outstanding dues by up to 50%. Current Central Railway (CR) operates Hussainsagar Express, which is the fastest train between Mumbai and Hyderabad taking 13 hours to complete the 711-km journey. The DPR will involve identification of power sourcing for the railway corridor project and will also include complete information about the project. Once the DPR is prepared, the process to acquire land will begin. Apart from the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed railway corridor, several high-speed corridors will be constructed by NHShotel. The corridors include Mumbai-Pune-Hyderabad (767km), Delhi-Varanasi (886km), Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysore (1245km), Delhi-Amritsar (956km) and Varanasi-Patna-Howrah (760km).

Cabinet clears ₹10,211-cr under DRIP project

The Cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) has approved a ₹10,211-crore project to improve the safety and performance of select dams in India. The dam rehabilitation and improvement project (DRIP) phase II and phase III is financially supported by the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. India is the third-ranked country in terms of the total number of dams, after the US and China, and it has 5,334 big dams and around 412 dams are under construction. Almost 80% are over 25 years old and need rehabilitation and improvement. DRIP will be implemented over a time of 10 years in two phases - each of six years with two years overlapping from April 2021 to March 2031. The first phase of this project started in 2012 and up till now, 207 dams have been repaired in six years, but their ownership lies with the states to decide about the dams to be included in DRIP. This project is on a challenge mode, and the states which will make more progress will get more funds.

Sany India & South Asia MD, Deepak Garg, said, “We have channelized the financial robustness of our company in the right direction by helping our dealers in their time of need. Our support has helped all our dealer combat this crisis without the fear of an imminent shutdown of their business. COVID has taught us that if we support each other during difficult times, we emerge as a stronger and a more committed workforce.” He further added that “When most of the companies across the world are forced to lay off their employees, Sany India announced promotions and increments. The company’s strong financial standing can be attributed to its long-term focus on localization and R&D efforts coupled with the resolve to provide top-quality equipment. The company’s manufactures. The time during the lockdown was utilized for strengthening its ties with customers & financiers, multiple training and development to upskill its workforce, and fast-tracking the development of new products and localization initiatives.”

UK inks JV to co-develop GIFT city in Gujarat

The United Kingdom has entered into a strategic partnership with India’s fledgling international financial services centre GIFT City in a joint venture. In the partnership, both the parties agreed to set up a new Fund of Funds to be managed by the State Bank of India group to route U.K.’s future capital investments into India. India and U.K. also signed a new infrastructure finance and policy partnership to help India execute its National Infrastructure Pipeline Plan that envisages investments worth $1.4 trillion, at the tenth Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) between the two countries.

Shapoorji Pallonji wins ₹600-cro construction contract

Shapoorji Pallonji, India’s largest real estate developer, has won a contract for the construction of a new secretariat complex in Telangana entailing ₹600 crore. The complex, which will stretch across an area of seven lakh square feet, has to be completed within a year. Following the perusal of technical and financial bids, Shapoorji Pallonji was chosen by the commissioner of tenders over L&T as the former quoted 4.0% excess of the tender cost of ₹494 crore, while L&T quoted 4.8% excess. Though several companies had shown interest in the bidding process being handled by the R&B department, bids were received only from L&T and Shapoorji Pallonji.

DMRC starts tunneling work on Phase-IV metro corridor

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has started tunneling work under the Phase 4 project at Vikaspuri on the Delhi Metro’s Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg corridor. Between Vikaspuri and Krishna Park Extension, two tunnels of 1.4 km will be bored as part of this tunneling exercise. The tunneling work is being started with the lowering and assembling of the giant 73-metre long machine at the job site. These tunnels will be located between Janakpuri West and Krishna Park Extension metro stations. The tunneling work is being started from Vikaspuri in continuation of the Magenta line tunnel that has already been built for the Botanical Garden-Janakpuri West corridor. According to DMRC, the tunnel’s alignment will be along the Outer Ring Road and nearly 27 km of underground tracks will be constructed. The tunnel will be built at a depth of around 14 to 16 metres and involves the installation of about 2,040 concrete rings. The inner diameter of each tunnel will be 5.8 metres. The entire tunneling task is expected to be completed in approximately 15 months.

NHA starts 51-km Sinnar-Shirdi road widening project

People travelling on the Sinnar-Shirdi highway to visit the holy Shirdi temple can expect a smoother ride as the NHAI has started widening the Sinnar-Shirdi section of the highway on HAM mode. Director, NHA Nashik, Dilip Patil informed that work on the 51-km-long highway has been taken up on a fast-track basis and will take two years for completion. The narrow road has claimed many lives in road accidents, including devotees who travel by foot to Shirdi. The road-building agency would also be constructing two Bhakti Niwas roads along the highway, since a large number of devotees travel with palikhs or on foot to Shirdi shrine around the year. The Bhakti Niwas, which would be completed with all the amenities, would help devotees take a break during the walk to Shirdi.
MoRTH issues safety notification for CE Industry

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification GSR 873 (E) dated 27 October 2020 for the Construction Equipment Vehicles (CEVs) to address the issue of safety requirements, safety of the operator and to ensure safety while such machines are running on public roads along with other vehicles in a phased manner. Certain safety requirements are already mandated for CEVs in CMVR, 1989. This standard aims to introduce AIS (Automotive Industry Standard) 160, to introduce several safety requirements like Visual Display Requirements, requirements for Operator Station and Maintenance Areas, Non-metallic Fuel Tanks, Minimum Access Dimensions, Access Systems for steps, primary access, alternate exit path and opening, maintenance opening, handrail and handholds, Guards, Visual Display Requirements, Machine mounted audible travel arm, Articulated Frame Lock, Lift Arm Support Device, Dimensions and requirements for Operator’s Seat, Electro Magnetic Compatibility (EMC), Seat Bell and Seat belt anchorages, Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS), Tip-over protection structure (TOPS), Falling Object Protective Structure (FOPS), Operator Field on View and Operator Seat Vibrations for suspended seats, among others. Additionally, requirements concerning the pass-by noise and noise measured at operator ear level will include the construction and up-gradation of NH 131A from Km 34.600 near Narenpur to Km 79.970 near Purnea to four lanes standard and from Kh 79.070 to Kh 82.000 to two lanes with paved shoulders standards in Bihar on a Hybrid Annuity model. The entire length of the project is 49 km and the completion period is 24 months.

World Bank approves $120-mn loan for road upgrade in NE

The World Bank has approved a loan worth $120 million to improve road connectivity in Meghalaya. From the approved funding, the Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP) project will upgrade 300-km of state highways, including major district and urban roads. The MITP project includes the construction of three major bridges and missing links in strategic corridors connecting the under-served communities to the mainstream. The road upgrade, among others, will cater to major agriculture areas, tourism, small-scale industries, major towns and large urban populations by linking them to markets, health and education centres. Currently, about half of the 5,362 habitations in Meghalaya lack transport connectivity and the mega project is expected to help Meghalaya in emerging as a major connecting hub for trade with neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. The project is also envisioned to support innovative solutions such as precast bridges to reduce both time and construction cost.

Railway approves Rs 93-cr RoB at M’nagar in Telangana

The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned a four-lane Road over Bridge (RoB) at MadHAVanagar railway level crossing gate between Nizamabad and Diddipally railway stations under the jurisdiction of Secunderabad-Mudkiiv division. Out of the total cost of Rs 93.12 crore, Railway Board’s share is Rs 30.05 crore and the State government will chip in Rs 63.07 crore. Citizens of Nizamabad and Bodhan had been demanding the construction of an RoB at MadHAVanagar as due to the railway gate at there, traffic jams have become a routine matter and even ambulances have to wait at the railway gate risking lives. The project will be a relief to travellers from Nizamabad, Bodhan, and several adjoining areas travelling to Hyderabad through MadHAVanagar.

Wipro to co-innovate cloud solutions to real estate

Wipro has announced that it will co-innovate with SAP SE on cloud-based solutions for the real estate industry. Building on the Intelligent Enterprise strategy, SAP is expanding its vertical solutions to fill the whitespace in its portfolio with an ecosystem of industry cloud applications that leverage SAP Cloud Platform with advanced technologies, and are interoperable with SAP Business Network and the intelligent suite. Both the partners are an integral part of SAP’s intelligent Enterprise strategy and Wipro is contributing their industry expertise and knowledge in the development of purpose-built solutions for the real estate industry. Wipro has launched the Tenant Acquisition Management (TAM) solution for the real estate industry. Anchored with intelligent technologies like robotic process automation, artiﬁcial intelligence, deep learning and blockchain, the TAM solution enables faster deal conversion for tenant leasing by providing a seamless, real-time and consistent experience for leasing agents to perform ‘Lead to Lease’ activities. It can be integrated as a cloud extension to SAP Customer Experience and SAP S/4HANA software as well. The solution also leverages Wipro’s preconfigured industry solution for real estate to accelerate SAP S/4HANA deployments and manage end-to-end real estate business processes.

Varmora Granito plans Rs 300-cr new plants in Gujarat

Varmora Granito, a tile and bathtub manufacturer of national repute has decided to invest around Rs 300 crore to set up two plants at Morti in Gujarat and both of them will be commissioned by April 2021. According to the Chairman, Bhavesh Varmora, the proposed expansion will help the company to meet the growing demand from export market as well as serve the domestic market besides generating Rs 1,600 crore revenues in the next 2-3 years. For the FY20, the company reported sales of Rs 1,100 crore and is expecting double-digit growth of sales in the current financial year with robust demand from the export market especially in North and South America, Europe, Africa and Middle East Countries.

UPMRC to start work on Agra Metro project

The construction work on the Agra Metro project is all set to start with the Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) and the state government finalizing an alignment plan for the twin corridors crisscrossing the city. The first phase — a 29.4-km-long corridor with three metro stations — will be completed in 26 months at an estimated cost of Rs 272 crore. A large part of the corridor — 78% — would be elevated while only 28% tracks would be underground. UPMRC MD Kumar Keshav informed that there will be in all 27 stations on the corridor and all the mandatory arrangements have been put in place to kick-start the construction work on the corridor.
**DTC to engage NBCC for developing land parcels**

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) board has decided to go for NBCC India Limited as a project management consultant (PMC) for the development of land parcels under a plan that includes the construction of multi-level bus parking depots, construction of residential accommodations for employees, commercial and allied facilities at these depots. The construction activities are being carried out under the development plan of the corporation.

**JK Cement launches new grinding unit in Gujarat**

JK Cement, India’s premier cement company, has launched its new Grey Cement grinding unit at Balasinor in Gujarat to cater to the requirements of its dealers in the western region. Commercial dispatches have commenced from the unit having a capacity of 0.77metrya (million tons per annum). The brand has reinforced its growing footprint in India by committing to ‘Cementing the Nation’ and contributing to the country’s economy and industrial prowess. The company has completed its grey cement capacity expansion of 4.2mtpa comprising of 2mtpa in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (1.5mtpa) and Gujarat (0.7mtpa).

JK Cement has partnered with India’s multi-sector infrastructure needs on the strength of its product excellence, customer orientation and technology leadership. This new plant will not just generate employment opportunities for locals, but also ensure on-time delivery of quality cement for consumers. While every other company is grappling with the adverse impact of the COVID-19 and reworking their organizational strategies, JK Cement is the only brand to have made such an announcement at this critical juncture, eyeing a strong volume growth in Q2 FY21 along with business and financial synergies.

**AAI targets 100 airports & Heliports by 2024**

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned to develop around 100 airports, waterdromes and heliports by 2024 under the regional air connectivity scheme - UDAN. The UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme aims to provide affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel on regional routes. 50 unserved and underserved airports (including five heliports) with 285 new routes have been added under the UDAN Scheme across the country. Civil Aviation Secretary, Pradeep Singh Kharola, insisted that stakeholders should work towards making the scheme sustainable on its own and improve its efficiency. He urged the airlines to undertake marketing initiatives so that more people can be benefitted from the scheme.

**NHSRCL invites bids for Sabarmati rail depot**

The National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has invited bids for the starting the groundwork and subsequent construction of the Sabarmati Maintenance Depot for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor. The Sabarmati maintenance depot will be the largest among the three depots planned for MAHSR corridor. Other depots will be at Surat (Gujarat) and Nuh. The project has been awarded to a Gujarat-based construction company, which will execute it in a phased manner. NHSRCL will build the 59-km-long highway in three packages - Package 1 includes an 8-km long, six-lane flyover from DND to Jaitpur along the Yamuna, while the second package of 25-km from Jaitpur to Ballabhgarh will be a six-lane, signal-free stretch. Both stretches will have six-lane service roads for local traffic. The third package from Ballabhgarh to Sohna, which will be 24km long, will have six lanes with an interchange linking the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway with KMP Expressway. The project is destined to be completed within the next three years.

**NHAI begins soil testing for Delhi-Mumbai expressway in Faridabad**

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has started the soil testing on the Faridabad-Sohna bypass road, which is an extension of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway to DND Flyway in Delhi. In Faridabad, work started near Chandwadi Bridge and Sector 37, which are near the proposed interchange without disturbing the traffic. A third spot has been identified at Kali Mod in Balabagh. NHAI has planned the construction of a new ring road from DND Flyway to Sohna and an interchange to connect the Kundhi, Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway with the Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway at a cross-section of Sohna, Palwal, Manesar and Nuh. The project has been awarded to a Gujarat-based construction company, which will execute it in a phased manner. NHAI will build the 59-km-long highway in three packages - Package 1 includes an 8-km long, six-lane flyover from DND to Jaitpur along the Yamuna, while the second package of 25-km from Jaitpur to Ballabhgarh will be a six-lane, signal-free stretch. Both stretches will have six-lane service roads for local traffic. The third package from Ballabhgarh to Sohna, which will be 24km long, will have six lanes with an interchange linking the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway with KMP Expressway. The project is destined to be completed within the next three years.

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**A.K. Saroagi, Dy. MD & CFO of JK Cement, informed that the new plant will strengthen their presence in India’s high growth markets, generate employment opportunities for the locals and help serve the customers better. While the company is already supplying to the active cement demand in Gujarat, the Balasinor grinding unit will cater to the high potential markets across Surat, Baroda, Rajkot and others. The company has over four decades of experience in the Cement manufacturing industry with an installed grey cement capacity of 14 MTPA. With the commissioning of this plant, the total capacity has touched 14.7 MTPA. The Balasinor plant stretches across an area of over 8 hectares and entails an investment of 2200 crore. It is a part of the Company’s total funding outlay of 22,000 crore to achieve the capacity addition of 4.2 mm tpa.**

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The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has recently floated tenders for road upgrade with scope of work involving upgrading the existing stretch to four-lane with paved shoulder from 108.60 km to 144.00 km and 158.42 km to 173.30 km of NH-58 (old NH-8) (Beawar-Gomti section) in Rajasthan (Package-2) on EPC model. The work on this stretch involved a cost of Rs 281.73 crore.

The project also involves balance works of rehabilitation and upgradation of Narekhal to Nagpurnasagar section of NH-565 to 2L+PS/4L from 1000 km to 56.007 km in the state of Telangana on EPC model. This part of the work will entail an investment of Rs 329.33 crore, as such both the projects, which will be completed in 24 months, involved a combined investment worth Rs 611.06 crore.

KfW approves Rs. 4,767-cr for infra projects in Mumbai

The Frankfurt-based German state-owned development bank KfW has recently approved two loans worth over 545 million Euros amounting to Rs 4,767 crore to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for infra development projects in Mumbai. The funds to be disbursed through an agreement with India’s Ministry of Finance and will be invested to support two key mass transit projects in Mumbai. These projects are Metro line 4 from Wadala in central Mumbai to Kasarvadavali in Thane, and Metro line 4A that extends to the connectivity from Kasarvadavali to Galmuth also in Thane. The fully elevated lines will have a total length of 34.82 km with 32 stations easing the distress of millions of commuters each day and help provide a cleaner, less congested city. Though it is good to take decisions to start mega transportation projects, which are very much required in Mumbai, it is more important to achieve financial closures and provide all support to project authorities like making available the required land etc. without which projects can’t be completed. The credit package consists of a development loan of 345 million Euros and a promotional loan of 200 million Euros and that loans will have tenure of ranging from 15 years to 20 years with a grace option of five years. According to R. A. Rajeev, Commissioner MMRDA, which of ranging from 15 years to 20 years with a grace option of five years. It is said an official spokesperson.

L&T turns lowest bidder for Rs. 4,997-cr Bridge in NE

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has emerged as the lowest (L1) bidder for building India’s longest river bridge connecting Dhuri in Assam to Phubhari in Meghalaya involving an estimated cost of 4,997.04 crore. The 19.3 km long bridge will be built over the Brahmaputra and will reduce road travel distance by 200 km. The company quoted a cost of Rs 3,166 crore, which is over Rs 1,000 crore lower than the amount quoted by other bidders. Expected to be completed by 2025-27, the four-lane bridge will be built along NH-127-B, and is considered very strategic as it connects Assam and Meghalaya with the rest of the nation, reducing the detouring road distance by about 203 km from Dhurhi to Phubhari, which lie on the either side of the Brahmaputra before it flows into Bangladesh. Currently, those travelling across these states either have to take Naranarayan bridge, which is a huge inconvenience as it is 60 km upstream, or alternatively, row across the river in small boats, which can take about two-and-a-half hours. The bridge was proposed five years ago by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL). The total cost of the project is expected to be Rs 4,997.04 crore, which includes land acquisition and resettlement cost worth Rs 55.68 crore.

MoRTH floats tenders for Rs. 611-cr highway projects

The construction work on the first phase of the Chennai Peripheral Road (CPR) aimed at improving connectivity of container movement from southern industrial districts to Ennore and Kattupalli, is all set to start shortly. The project, which involved an investment of Rs 2,470 crore, the Central government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have already signed an agreement to fund the project. The five-phase 133 km Peripheral Road for which the land acquisition process is in the final stages and once the project starts, it is likely to be completed by 2024 and its commissioning will ensure the smooth movement of the vehicular traffic in the Chennai Metropolitan Area. The project is expected to improve the connectivity and in and around Chennai by formulating the radial-ring road network in collaboration with other ring roads such as Inner Ring Road, the Chennai Bypass and Outer Ring Road to provide alternative routes for traffic as well as improve the road network. It will also provide direct access to Ennore Port and Kattupalli Port from industrial clusters located in suburban areas of Chennai Metropolitan Area to accelerate industrial and economic growth.

CRR project worth Rs. 2,470-cr gains momentum

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YEIDA plans twin cities worth 6,500 ha along e-way

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has planned to develop two new cities — one in Vindavan and the other in Agra — along the e-way stretching across 6,500 hectares, said, CEO, YEIDA, Arvind Singh, elaborating that the state’s industry minister, Satish Mahana has recently given green signal to the proposals. The city in Vindavan will be developed across 4,000 hectares area, while the one to come up in Agra will spread across 2,500 hectares. In addition, the nodal agency has also planned a heritage corridor from Jweli, the site for an international airport project, to Agra to promote cultural tourism along the 166-km-Yamuna Expressway. After the review meeting, to evaluate the progress of Noida International Greenfield Airport at Jweli, the work on developing new cities the work would commence shortly. The YEIDA will start work on a detailed project report (DPR) of the two cities and send it to the state government for its approval. The projects will cater to housing needs in Vindavan and Agra and would give boost to cultural tourism under the heritage corridor. The cultural and historic cities like Mathura, Vindavan and Agra are famous internationally and that the agency is committed to provide all the support so that the tourists who visit Taj Mahal also extend their visit to Mathura and Vindivan.

CMRL invites bids for building underground stations

Chennai Metro Rail Ltd. (CMRL) has recently invited bids to build 29 underground stations of Chennai’s new 45.81 km Line-3 which will connect Madhavaram and SIPCOT in the 118.9 km Chennai Metro Phase 2 project. These stations of the line’s 26.7 km underground section between Madhavaram Milk Colony and Taramani Road Junction will be built through 5 civil packages, UG-01 to UG-05, and financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The brief scope of each package indicates that the contractor(s) will be responsible for the entire civil works at 21 stations and partial civil works at 8 stations. Those 8 stations with partial works and approximately 21 km long twin tunnels (total 42 km) connecting all 29 stations and they will be built as part of Packages TU-01 and TU-02, and for that CMRL received 8 bids (2 each) from Gulemlik, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), STEC-Wh JV and Tata Projects (TPL). In the Package UG-01, the Scope of the work includes construction of five underground stations at Thapalpeti, Moolakadai, Sembiyam, Perambur Market and Perambur Metro and Crossover at Sembiyam and works other than diaphragm wall of two underground stations at Madhavaram Milk Colony and Murani. In the Package UG-02, the scope of the work covers construction of four (04) underground stations at Oteri, Pattalam, Perambur Barracks Road and Kelly and works other than diaphragm wall of two underground stations at Ayavavaram & Purasalwakkam High Road cum Crossover Box and will consist of civil work at 4 stations and partial works at 2 stations, said an official spokesperson.
Noida speeds up work on twin elevated corridors

The Noida authority has recently fast-tracked the construction work on two major infrastructural projects which are aimed to ease traffic congestion at major intersections in the city, said, an official spokesperson, adding that work on both the projects will be completed on schedule. These projects include a 5.96 km-long Chilla road from Sector 14 A to Mahamaya flyover and the 3.75 km-long Aghapur road near Banghel. The authority has deployed additional labour to make up for the time lost due to lockdown and that their numbers would be doubled in upcoming days to ensure work is carried out round-the-clock in shifts. Once completed, the Chilla flyover is likely to ease congestion on Noida Expressway and Noida road from Sector 14 A to Mahamaya flyover respectively.

Gera realty launches new housing project

Buated by the overwhelming response to the child centric housing project, Gera Developments has created yet another innovative category in residential housing with the launch of Staycation Homes at Gera’s World of Joy, Upper Kharadi of the Pune city. The company’s philosophy is to createchange the living styles and make it a facebreakthrough in innovation with the launch of Staycation Homes. That’s where Gera’s Staycation Homes as a concept resonates as it allows the family to not just enjoy end-use restrictions but also create in the host of amenities the project offers, said Rohit Gera, MD, Gera Developments, said, adding that after recognizing the lifestyle shift brought about by the pandemic, this company has conceptualized Staycation Homes which will appeal to customers and also suit their buying appetite. Staycation Homes housed at Gera’s World of Joy are right-sized studio apartments designed to suit the new normal lifestyle and enjoy the world-class amenities offered by Gera’s World of Joy, the Second Child Centric homes project in Pune. It is offering these unique homes starting at an all-inclusive price of Rs 32.9 lakhs. That is why Gera’s Staycation Homes project will cater to the needs of Marripadu, Atmakur mandals in Atmakur areas of the state.

Greater Noida authority plans to auction prime commercial plots

The Greater Noida Authority has planned to auction 14 prime commercial plots and targeted revenues worth Rs 550 crores. The plots are located near the India Expo Mart, which hosts the automobile expo. The expo mart is at the Delhi end of the Yamuna Expressway, a modern six-lane thoroughfare connecting Agra to Delhi. The plots ranging from 2,000 to 11,500 square meters in sizes have reserve prices between Rs 10 crore and Rs 175 crore. Narendra Bhoshan, CEO of Greater Noida Authority, informed that they are focusing on commercial, industrial and residential development in the region and with proximity to Jawar airport and connectivity with Delhi where the land is in high demand. The second airport serving India’s capital is coming up near Greater Noida, which is also home to India’s only F-1 circuit. The authority expects another 660 crores from residential development as it expects to tap homebuyers looking for flats under the government scheme. Also, under the open-ended scheme, where buyers have to apply online, the authority has put 2 BHK flats in high-rise buildings and flats with different options in low-rise buildings wherein customers will get the possession within a year. The two BHK units at high-rises have been priced at Rs 54.72 lakhs while two BHK plus has a price tag of Rs 52.29 lakhs.

Private players win coal blocks in miners’ auctioning

Real estate, infrastructure and pharmaaceutical companies are among the winners of India’s first coal mine auctions open to the private sector without restrictions on end-use. Coal Minister Prakash Javadekar, said, adding that coal production in India has largely been restricted to state-run Coal India Ltd and another smaller government-controlled company, but the PM opened up the industry to the private sector this year. Almost 65% (of) bidders were from the ‘non-end-user’ category and that removing end-use restrictions was the right move helping diversifying interest in coal mining. India, the world’s second largest consumer, importer and producer of coal, had offered a range of financial incentives to attract investment, but foreign firms have shunned the auctions and only 19 of the 38 mines received valid bids. However, the coal ministry said valid bids as a percentage of all mines on offer were higher than what was seen in the 10 auctions preceding the latest, and attributed it to “reforms” including removal of end-use restrictions. The auctions are conducted in two stages, the first of which is the submission of a technical bid, evaluated by the coal ministry. The bidders who qualify then submit financial bids in which they detail about percentage of revenue would be paid to the government. Final offers for 19 mines with an annual production capacity of 51 million tons ranged from 9.5% to 60.75%, the coal minister, added.

CM launches Rs. 459-cr high-level canal in AP

In a move to fulfil the longstanding demand of the farmers, state CM in Andhra Pradesh, has laid the foundations to build the second phase of Somasiala High-level canal involving an investment of Rs. 459 crore. The government has set a three-year deadline to complete the second phase which is expected to provide irrigation water to about 50,000 acres and drinking water for 2.5 lakh people in Almukar and Ududary areas. With works on the first phase of the Somasiala project fast nearing completion, industries minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy exhorted the state administration to initiate second phase works on priority basis as the drought-hit region has been waiting for water for several decades. While the first phase is ready to provide irrigation water for 45,000 acres and drinking water for 2.5 lakh people, the second phase would turn the entire upland into a canal-fed irrigation whereas the first phase of Somasiala project would cater to the needs of Marripadu, Almukar mandals in Almukar areas of the state.

Chandigarh-Baddi rail line back on the track

The construction work of laying Chandigarh-Baddi rail line, which was got entangled in land acquisition hurdle, is all set to start soon with the state government in Haryana agreeing to transfer 77.73 hectares land to the railways, said, Chief Secretary, Haryana, Vijay Vardhan, adding that the land will be transferred as soon as the acquisition process is completed. He said this during the ‘Pragati’ review meeting recently held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, Rajiv Gaba through video conferencing. The progress of the projects of various ministries was reviewed in detail during the meeting and it was informed that the Railway Ministry has completed all the formalities for the Chandigarh-Baddi Railway Line in consultation with the officers of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and the remaining procedures will also be completed by both the states as quickly as possible.

Chandigarh-Baddi rail line, which was put on hold over the issue of land acquisition, is set to pick up pace. The Haryana government has given in-principle approval to acquire 77 hectares of land for transferring it to the Chandigarh-Baddi rail line project at the earliest. This would clear the way for laying the track on priority basis as the drought-hit region has been waiting for water for several decades. While the first phase is ready to provide irrigation water for 45,000 acres and drinking water for 2.5 lakh people, the second phase would turn the entire upland into a canal-fed irrigation whereas the first phase of Somasiala project would cater to the needs of Marripadu, Almukar mandals in Almukar areas of the state.

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Godrej forays into Housing Finance biz

The Godrej Group has announced its entry into the financial services industry and has launched Godrej Housing Finance (GHF), which aims at building a long-term, sustainable retail financial services business in India and targeted a balance sheet of `10,000 crore in the next three years. Godrej Housing Finance will offer fair, fast and flexible home loans across India, starting with customers in Mumbai, NCR, Pune and Bangalore. GHF will partner with developers including Godrej Properties to build a superior financing experience for their existing and new customers. Its product offerings are guided by three pillars - flexibility (enabling customers to customize the payment of their own contribution and EMI schedule), affordability (offering competitive pricing with lowest interest rates starting at 6.69%) and personalized (using data-driven decision making to micro-segment customers and tailor-made loan offerings).

Pirojsha Godrej, Chairman, Godrej Housing Finance, said: “This is the first step in what we hope will be another important pillar of growth for the Godrej Group. The increasing formalization of the real estate sector combined with the dislocation in the residential real estate and housing finance markets makes this an interesting opportunity.” MD and CEO, Godrej Housing Finance, Manish Shah, adds: “The Housing Finance market is underpenetrated and undererved. The industry is also plagued with being complex and convoluted with hidden conditions and painfully long customer journeys. We aim to correct this and usher a refreshingly simple and transparent way of doing business. We want to give customers a home loan that is customised to what’s important to them, basis their housing needs, financial capability and convenience.” Godrej Housing Finance intends to focus on the mortgage business starting with home loans, followed by loans against property. In the near future, the company will expand its product portfolio to offer Business and Personal loans, leveraging the Group’s consumer and agribusiness ecosystems to build these verticals.

Hidco floats tender for construction of tunnel in Kolkata

The Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (Hidco) in Kolkata has floated tenders to engage a consultant to conduct feasibility and cost study for the construction of an underground utility tunnel in the New Town in Kolkata. The authorities are planning to lay all underground utilities together with proper infrastructure. They have identified a 4.5-km stretch in the central business district of New Town to set up the utility tunnel. They are planning to set up an underground corridor of around six feet height, which will carry water supply and sewerage pipes, fire hydrants, telephone lines, electricity cables, television cables and other utility networks. These lines can be repaired with easier access and the road surface will not have to be dug for the work. New Town will be the only city in India to have such a facility.

AP invites bids for ₹1,769-cr water infra project

The Irrigation & CAD Department in Andhra Pradesh has floated tender for water infra project including the construction of Joeladarasi water reservoir with 0.8 TMC across Kundu River at Joeladarasi (V), Kolkuntal (M) in Kurnool district involving an investment of ₹1,769.16 crore. The scope of work includes the improvement of Escape Channel, Nippulavagu, Galeru River and Kundu River from 0.000 km to 189.200 km and re-gradation of Vagu, flood Protection works and providing high-level bridges to en-route villages for carrying capacity to 35000 cuces. It also involves the formation of Rajoli Reservoir across Kundu River on the upstream side of existing Rajoli Anicut for a storage capacity of 2.95 TMC of water. The project has to be completed in 36 months.

NHAI floats tender for ₹805-cr road project

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has floated tender for construction of the four-lane Nagpur-Katol section of the national highway, involving an investment of ₹805.29 crore. The project is a part of NH-353 starting from 13.000 km to 62.900 km (design chainage) in the Nagpur area of Maharashtra. It is to be constructed under the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) model, and the completion period is 24 months.