Railway expedites 498-km Bilaspur-Manali-Leh rail line

In view of the heightened tension along the border with China, the Central Government has accelerated the process of building Bhanupali-Bilaspur-Kulu-Manali-Leh railway line and the process of land acquisition and alignment survey is currently in full swing. The Railways authorities asked the Mandi district administration to engage workforce to complete the entire work quickly. The 498-km Bilaspur-Leh rail project had been expedited at an initial investment of Rs 345 crore and the line is a proposed high-elevation all-weather broad gauge track that would connect Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh to Leh in Ladakh. It would either link to the Indian railway network via an extension of the Kangra valley and would finally be converted to broad gauge connecting Mandi and Bilaspur from Kolkata. Mandi Deputy Commissioner Rugved Thakur said, adding that land acquisition process for the ambitious project had started in Bilaspur and Mandi districts and are currently in final stages. The Bilaspur-Leh line would be the highest railway track in the world, overtaking the current record of the Qinghai-Tibet railway line. Once this railway line is completed, Leh will directly be connected to Himachal Pradesh and the rest of India. This would apart from increasing tourism potential in Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh also facilitate quicker movement of troops and equipment in time of crisis.

TN floats tenders for Rs. 12,000-cr road infra contracts

The road highway department in Tamil Nadu has floated 1,000 tenders for road widening, building of bridges, flyovers and other projects involving a staggering investment of Rs 12,000 crore. These tenders, which include widening and strengthening of roads as well as flyovers, were floated after getting administrative sanction from the finance department and technical approval from the chief engineer of the highways department. Normally highways and PWD call for such tenders based on administrative sanction but as it is capital expenditure, it is incurred over an extended period usually 18-24 months. According to sources, the state government’s e-procurement system, the highways department has a massive 992 tenders that are active. It is learnt that of them, 500 pertain to improvement in road infrastructure and works include Rs 2,000 crore to improve village roads, Rs 6,000 crore for widening and strengthening roads and the rest for building bridges and flyovers, including the 10.1 km Aminash Road flyover which was sanctioned recently during the budget. Most of the projects are being awarded next month and the chief engineer’s office is working round the clock collecting the data, design and preparing tender documents.

Bombardier bags Kanpur & Agra metro trains’ contracts

The Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation has awarded the contract for supply, testing and commissioning of 201 coaches/cars for 67 trains as well as train control and signalling system for Kanpur and Agra Metro projects to Bombardier Transport India. Each Metro train (with three cars each) will have the capacity to accommodate around 880 passengers (315-350 passengers per coach/car) at a time. Managing Director (UPMRC) Kumar Keshav, said, adding that the state-of-the-art modern stainless steel trains will be manufactured by Bombardier Transport India at its plant in Savi, Gujarat. The Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) proposed in Kanpur and Agra is characterized by a short inter-station distance of about one km between stations, having a maximum design speed of 90 kmph and schedule speed of 80 kmph. The selection of technology for UP Metro trains is governed primarily by design considerations for energy efficiency, reliability, comfort to passengers in terms of riding quality, lower-noise level, and environment friendliness, he claimed.

Puravankara plans 11 residential realty projects

The Bengaluru-based realty player Puravankara Group plans to launch 11 residential projects with a total saleable area of around 10.23 million sqft this fiscal. The company, which has already launched two projects in the first quarter of the fiscal, plans to launch a total of six projects under the Puravankara luxury brand and five under the Provident affordable housing brand. Despite Covid-19 pandemic, there is demand for projects that offer the right size, right price and right location, and the player is seeing a good response for that, managing director Ashish Puravankara, said adding that the company is expecting revenue of over Rs 6,000 crore from these 11 projects with an average realization of Rs 7,500 per sqft from Puravankara projects (2.67 million sqft) and Rs 5,500 per sqft from Provident projects (7.56 million sqft). The company has launched two projects, one each in Pune and Bengaluru, in the first quarter of the fiscal year through digital platform, and plans to continue to keep up the momentum at least for the next few months.

Maharashtra speeds up 500-km long Konkan expressway

The state government in Maharashtra has decided to build 500-km green field Konkan expressway and in this connection, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) has issued a RFQ to appoint consultancy services to prepare a feasibility report and detailed project report on the upcoming project. Prior to this, state urban development department had announced that a green field expressway will be constructed along the Maharashtra coastline, connecting the three districts of Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg. The state is looking at starting the expressway from Chirle in Raigad where the under-construction 22-km sea-bridge – the Mumbai Tans Harbour Link (MTHL) – ends. The expressway will extend up to Pathardi at the Maharashtra-Goa border in Sindhudurg district. The project would help boost coastal tourism and reduce stress on the Mumbai-Goa National Highway, vice-chairman and managing director, MSRDC, Radheshyam Mopawal, said, adding that the consultant will look at the feasibility of the project along with the social and environmental impact and will also suggest a financial model to be adopted for the mega project.

Centre fast tracks Rs. 2,100-cr Nashik Metro project

The Nashik Metro project proposal, which entailed an investment of Rs. 2,100 crore, has reached in the advanced stage of its approval as the detailed project report (DPR) has been forwarded to the Union ministry of finance and ministry of railways for mandatory approvals, claimed official sources, elaborating that the Union ministry of housing & urban affairs (MoHUA) has already forwarded the DPR to the ministries concerned. Once the two ministries examine the details of the project and approve it, the proposal will be...
UKIBC-MIDC inks MoU to explore newer biz avenues

The UK India Business Council recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), to help Maharashtra to proactively better its business environment and strengthen its collaboration with British business. The agreement was signed at a virtual roundtable by Dr. P Anbalagan, CEO of MIDC and Mr. Kevin McCole, Managing Director, UKIBC in the presence of Mr. B Venugopal Reddy, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Maharashtra, Alan Gemmell, Her Majesty’s Trade Commissioner, South Asia, Department of International Trade and a range of major UK investors in Maharashtra.

Addressing the audience on the occasion, Kevin McCole, Managing Director, UKIBC, said: “I am really pleased to be enhancing our already strong relationship with the Government of one of the most business-friendly States in India. We have already achieved a great deal together, and the signing of the MoU will take our partnership to the next level. This, I think, is vitally important because, as our economies and societies recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, the need for expanded trade, investment, and collaboration between the UK and India only increases.”

Principal Secretary (Industries), B. Venugopal Reddy, in his address said that Maharashtra state looks forward to further strengthen its business relations with the UK, by diversifying and expanding the activities and with a thrust on manufacture of engineering components, capital goods and industry 4.0.

This was followed by roundtable discussions on the economic and social contribution UK businesses make to Maharashtra, their future investment plans, the State Government’s plans to re-grow the economy, and on the importance of international trade achieving his self-reliant India objective.

Dr. Anbalagan, CEO MIDC, said “MIDC reiterates its determination towards the sustenance of our enhanced relations between Maharashtra and the UK. The MoU with UKIBC reflects our enduring support to UK businesses showcasing their commitment toward intensifying strategic investment plans in Maharashtra”.

PWD in Kerala invites bids for elevated highway

The Public Works Department, Kerala, has recently invited bids for upgradation of Alappuzha Changanassery Road into semi-elevated highway in the state, said an official spokesperson, claiming that the project will be undertaken on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode and is state to be completed in 30 months period. It is worth mentioning here that the state government through the government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the First Resilient Kerala Program, and it intends to utilize a part of the proceeds towards the payment for the upgradation of Alappuzha-Changanassery Road under Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI), he added.

Govt clears Rs. 1,691-crore border road network

In its unfailing quest to build world class road network across the border areas, the government has recently approved an additional Rs. 1,691 crore for roads to be built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand during the current fiscal. Of this, Rs. 1,351.10 crore has been sanctioned to BRO for building roads in Jammu & Kashmir, the road transport and highways ministry said in a communication to Border Roads Development Board (BRDB) Director General Lt Gen Harpal Singh, elaborating that a total of Rs 340 crore ceiling has been approved for Uttarakhand for national highways and has also given nod for additional sanction of Rs 71 crore for highway works by the state’s Public Works Department in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Sikkim. Besides, it has also enhanced the total ceiling to Rs 1,955 crore for highways work for Nagaland under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) from the existing Rs 1,081 crore as the competent ministry had approved the additional sanction ceiling for NH(O) works for the year 2020-21 to states/UTs of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Nagaland, Sikkim for statePWDs and for state/UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand for BRO.

GHMRC floats tender for Rs. 805-cr metro rail contract

In order to offset the delay caused by the Covid-19, the Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GHMRC) has recently invited bids for carrying out works on the Surat Metro Rail Project Phase-1 involving an investment of Rs. 805.15 crore. The metro project in question entailed scope of work, among others including construction of 11.6 km elevated viaduct from Kadarsha Ni Nal to Dream City Dead End, including ramp for depot entry near Dream City and 10 stations (excluding E&M (architectural finishing and roofing) for Surat Metro Rail Project Phase-1, Package-CS1. The project commands a completion period of 30 months, said an official spokesperson.
Noida unveils Rs. 467-cr elevated road corridor

T he Uttar Pradesh government has approved the metro project from Haridwar to Dehradun. Along with this, the metro system will also be used to decongest traffic in the city. In addition, the state government has awarded the contract to the DMRC for the ropeway system from Haridwar to Rishikesh and Nepali Farm to decongest traffic in the city. The project was initially started in 2002 with a few other partners who are not part of the project anymore. It was stuck for almost a decade due to regulatory logjam over Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms. A spokesperson for Dynamic Group confirmed the alliance and said the estimated free sale component is approximately 1.17 million sq ft, subject to statutory approvals, including CRZ clearance.

U'khand steers clears three roads on border with China

The state government in Himachal Pradesh is contemplating to build tunnel ensuring a smooth flow of vehicular traffic on the Rohtang Pass. After completion of Rohtang tunnel this year, there are chances that the road till the base of the Kunzum pass can be opened in the winter season as well. If Kunzum pass is bypassed by a tunnel, maintenance of the highway will be very easy. This is an important highway as besides being a lifeline for locals, it is an important route for tourists and in view of this, efforts are being made to make the highway double-lane, said a minister.

WB injects $250- mn in TN's affordable housing sector

The World Bank has signed agreements worth $250 million to promote private sector role in developing affordable housing in Tamil Nadu. In this connection an agreement was signed between the World Bank, the Indian Central government and the Tamil Nadu state government. Of the funds to be provided through the World Bank’s International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, $200 million will go to the first Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program as the first of two operations. The first operation is to support the government’s efforts “to increase the availability of affordable housing by gradually shifting the state role of the state from being the main provider to an enabler. According to the Bank, the second operation will try to make the affordable housing sector more efficient and inclusive in the state which is the most urbanized in India, Bank’s Senior Urban Economist Yoonhee Kim said, adding that the global experience shows that the public sector alone cannot address a growing housing demand, especially as countries undergo rapid urbanization. Almost half the state’s population is urban and the percentage is expected to rise to 63 per cent by 2030 and it is estimated that 16.6 per cent of the state’s urban population lives in slums.

HP pushes tunnel project on Gramphu-Sumdho highway

The state government in Himachal Pradesh is contemplating to build tunnel ensuring all weather traffic flow below the 15,000 ft high Kunzum pass on Gramphu-Sumdro highway, forest and tribal development minister Rami Lal Markanda said, adding that Rs 200 crore has already been sanctioned for maintenance of the highway. The highway near Kunzum Pass is in poor condition and is sinking regularly. In the winter, the pass is covered with 50 ft thick blanket of snow, which makes it virtually impossible to open the road stretch for traffic. After completion of Rohtang tunnel this year, there are chances that the road till the base of the Kunzum can be kept open in the winter season as well. If Kunzum pass is bypassed by a tunnel, maintenance of the highway will be very easy. This is an important highway as besides being a lifeline for locals, it is an important route for tourists and in view of this, efforts are being made to make the highway double-lane, he added.

Gadkari opens VVDN Technologies newGlobal Innovation Park in Manesar

The Union transport minister, Nitin Gadkari recently inaugurated VVDN Technologies newGlobal Innovation Park (GIP) spreading across 10 acres in Manesar, Haryana, via video conferencing. The Park, which houses Research & Development and Electronics Manufacturing Facility, is one of its kind in India and will be the 1st city to adopt this system with twin routes, one from Forest Research Institute – Rishiana Bridge by Clock Tower and the 2nd one from ISBT Madhuban Hotel by Clock Tower.

Railway starts construction of Rs. 250-cr bridge in TN

Indian Railways has started the construction of a new railway bridge at the Pamban Sea, Rameswaram in Rameswaram district of Tamil Nadu entailing an investment of Rs. 250 crore. For the project, the logistical materials required for the construction and allied activities are kept near the Mandapam railway station. The construction of pillars testing completed at Mandapam Thirunithur, in the north coast of Pamban. As of now, the construction of pillars at the north coast and has started piling for one pillar near Sector 49 and the project will be commissioned as quickly as possible, said Mukesh Vaih, project engineer of Noida authority. For the piling work, a few laborers are at the site as bulk of the work is being carried out with construction equipment. The authority had roped in state-owned agency – Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporation -- for constructing the elevated stretch to provide seamless connectivity to countless road users travelling from Delhi side to the special economic zone (SEZ) in Phase 2 area and Sector 82.

U'khand approves Rs. 2,200-cr extensive mobility network

The extensive Mobility Plan of the Uttarakhand Metro project entailing an investment worth Rs. 2,200 crore got approval from the state government. The project included the construction of Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) project in Haridwar city and also the construction work of Metro Light in Haridwar to Rishikesh and Neelam Farm to Udhan Sabha Corridor. In addition, the state government is also building the roeway, system in Dehradun, Rishikesh along with Haridwar to decongest traffic in the city. According to sources, a DPR for the roeway system is being executed with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation in the Dehradun city. Along with this, the state government also approved the metro project from Haridwar- Rishikesh, Dehradun-Neelam Farm. The state and has awarded the contract to the DMRC for the ropeway projects and also delivered the first installment of Rs 43.30 lakh to DMRC. The state is building Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) project in Haridwar city and also constructing a Light Metro project from Haridwar to Rishikesh and crisscrossing Neelam Farm upto Udhan Sabha Corridor, State urban development minister, Madan Kaushik, said adding that he had signed the contract with the DMRC. He said that till date the ropeway system is not being utilized as a mode of mass transport at any other place in India and Dehradun will be the 1st city to adopt this system with twin routes, one from Forest Research Institute – Rishiana Bridge by Clock Tower and the 2nd one from ISBT Madhuban Hotel by Clock Tower.
Kerala approves Rs. 2,000-crore infrastructure projects

The governing body and executive body of state government (KIFIB) recently approved 55 new projects involving an investment worth Rs. 2,002.72 crore. Most of the new projects are pertained to building railway over bridges, roads and other bridges. The body decided to generate Rs 1,100 crore funds from International Finance Corporation (IFC), a subsidiary of World Bank, which has already approved the assistance. The board concluded that loan from IFC will also help availing loan from other major international agencies like JICA and ADB. IFC will also render technical assistance for public private partnership projects financed by KIFIB. The governing body sanctioned Rs 1,030.80 crore for land acquisition for Kochi-Bengaluru industrial corridor. Prior to this, KIIFB had approved Rs 12,710 crore for land acquisition, industrial corridor. Prior to this, KIIFB had approved Rs 12,710 crore for land acquisition, mostly in Palakkad district, for the project. Taluk hospital, Pernavur in Kannur, will get Rs 22.16 crore for infrastructure improvement while taluka hospital, Malayinkeezhu, will get Rs 15.25 crore for construction of new wards. The board also approved Rs 15.25 crore for construction of new buildings. Till date, KIIFB has approved 730 projects under various departments involving a combined investment of Rs 56,394 crore.

Karnataka cracks Rs. 310-crore highway widening

The state government in Karnataka has chalked out a plan to widen Bengaluru-Tumkur highway up to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) connecting score of districts via a 52 km long four lanes signal-free corridor costing Rs 310 crore. The road which branches off the Bengaluru-Tumkur highway from Nelamangla is connected to KIA via Madhure and Rajanukunte, an official spokesperson, KC Ashwath Kumar said, elaborating that the road work is already on and is expected to be completed in 30 months. Once ready, commuters from Hassan and Tumkur Road, Tumkur Road, Magadi and Nelamangala can take this road to reach airport, instead of passing via Bengaluru city and taking the congested Outer Ring Road. The works have been divided into three packages: Nelamangla to Madhure (15 km), Madhure to Rajanukunte (15 km) and Rajanukunte to KIA Road (nine km) and a new railway over bridge at Narayanapura and the extension of the current railway over bridge, extending to the Tank Bund Road. Besides airport connectivity, this road will also act as a bypass for the traffic from Hassan, Tumkur roads to Hyderabad Road as crossing the OMR to reach the airport costs commuters two hours due to the heavy congestion there.

Tata Steel seals Chromite mining deal in Odisha

Tata Steel Mining Limited (TSML), has recently sealed the execution of mining lease deal for Kamarda Chromite Mine and Saraburi Chromite Mine in Jagpur district of Odisha. The agreements were formally signed by Ranjan Kumar Das, IAS, Collector and District Magistrate, Jagpur and M C Thomas, Managing Director, Tata Steel Mining Limited. These mines were auctioned by the government of Odisha and the leases are granted for a period of 50 years. Among the commercial leases which expired on March 31, 2020, and auctioned, these are the first leases to be converted into mining leases, across India. After becoming the highest bidder, the company was given a Vesting Order by Government of Odisha in May this year. TSML has completed all steps such as upfront payments, execution of Mine Development and Production Agreement (MDPA) as well as maintained all other eligibility criteria. The Odisha government, in its part, granted vesting order with all the clearances for two years as well as declared the company successful bidder before formally communicating the grant order enabling the lease for execution. Commenting on the development, M C Thomas, managing director, TSML, said that the company is thankful of the state government for the exceptional support in processing these approvals in less than 30 days from the date of LoI and this is a significant milestone for Tata Steel Mining Limited.

Mumbai expands metropolitan region's ambit

The Urban Development Department in Maharashtra has extended the area of Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) to add parts of Palghar, Vasai, Bhivandi, Khambhat, Kharand, Kajal, Khalapur, Pen and Alibaug. The move has brought a population of 12 lakh under the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority. The Maharashtra legislature had passed the proposal to extend the limits of MMR to include nearly 2,000 sq km area in June 2019 when the previous government was in power, UDD's joint secretary, SD Landge said, elaborating that the decision was taken by former chief minister for unified development of multiple projects in a larger area, and will help use natural resources optimally. The MMR comprises eight municipalities – Greater Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan-Dombivil, Navi Mumbai, Ulhasnagar, Bhivandi-Nizampur, Vasai-Virar and Mira-Bhayander – and nine municipal councils, with more than 1,000 villages in Thane and Raigad districts. According to the latest notification, the area up to the eastern limits of Palghar taluk, Western limits of Vasai-Ravet, Khalapur, Bhivandi, Khambhat and Ambarnath taluks will now be part of MMR. The villages along the foothills of Sahyadri in Karjal taluk – from Shelu to Kolamboli, Tarf Wadi, Talake, Banjarwadi, Sawale, Heidawali, Mandwane, Bhivpuri (camp), Humgaon, Saimdorgar, Dhak, Salpe, Khwadani up to village Chochi – will also be included, he added.

Gujarat floats affordable rental housing schemes

In a major boost to housing sector in the state, the Gujarat government has decided to introduce a new affordable rental housing policy under which the government will incentivize affordable rental housing projects through the public private partnership (PPP) mode. More importantly, the government is considering a proposal to use plots reserved for economically weaker sections (EWS) housing projects to create large scale rental housing facilities under the PPP mode. The government will offer plots reserved for EWS housing in all areas of all cities to private developers ensuring that the floating population of cities can get housing facilities on rent at affordable rates. The state government’s policy is similar to the Union government’s proposed rental housing policy envisaging injecting boost to the real estate sector, the move will also bring into use the piled-up housing inventory. As a matter of fact, there are over 8,000 constructed apartments of the Gujarat Housing Board (GHB) that are lying vacant because of various reasons. The government aims to offer all these properties under the affordable rental housing policy. A very large chunk of migrant workers do not get housing facilities and now such persons will benefit from the proposed affordable rental housing policy, said an official spokesperson.
NHAI kick-start construction of Rs. 4,215-cr six-lane highway

The NHAI has initiated work on the 132-km long six-lane Dankuni-Panagarh super highway stretch at an investment of Rs. 4,215 crore. The new highway will lead to the complete elimination of black spots and will also reduce the travel time from 2 hours to 1.2 hours. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had floated the tender for the project on March 29, but kept extending the time due to the lockdown to ensure the participation of maximum bidders, said the NHAI chief general manager R P Singh. The tremendous spurt in vehicular load on national highways prompted the ministry of road transport and highways to decide on expanding the NH network and widening the existing highways to enhance their capacity under Bharatmala Pariyojna. The project includes access controlled six lanes ensuring safe and faster movement with the service lanes on either side of the highway to ease the movement of people and traffic. All junctions will have elevated flyovers for main carriageway to pave the way for seamless movement of traffic and reduce the travel time. There will be flyovers, Road over Bridge (ROB), vehicular underpass and pedestrian underpass. The project will be executed on BOT basis and its viability largely depends on the volume of tol-able traffic.

MoRTH announces Rs. 12,000-cr Surat-Ahmednagar NH project

Adding to the existing road network in the state, the Union Transport Minister has recently announced the construction of the first green field 421-km national highway project between Surat in Gujarat and Ahmednagar in Maharashtra at an investment Rs 12,000 crore. In this connection, plans are ready and plans are ready and between Surat in Gujarat and Ahmednagar green field 421-km national highway project recently announced the construction of the first road transport and highways to decide on national highways prompted the ministry of participation of maximum bidders, said the

NHAI floats tenders for Rs. 1,053-cr intermodal station

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has floated tenders for the phase-I of intermodal station (IMS) at Ajni entailing an investment of Rs 1,053.38 crore. The project has to be completed in 2.5 years and the contractor will have to maintain the facility for ten years. NHAI is required to get its design approved by Central Railway (CR) on whose land the project is coming up. The IMS will have space for parking 590 cars in the main IMS building, a new railway station and the contractor will have to maintain the facility for ten years. NHAI is required to get its design approved by Central Railway (CR) on whose land the project is coming up. The IMS will have space for parking 590 cars in the main IMS building, a new railway station

DMRC launches casting work on Janakpuri-Ashram metro line

A significant milestone has been achieved by Delhi Metro in its Phase 4 project work by commencing the casting work of u-girders which are being installed on Janakpuri-West-RK Ashram metro corridor’s elevated section, said an official spokesperson, claiming that on this corridor, u-girders that are of 28 metres in length are being installed shortly. Prior to this, such 28 metre long u-girders were installed on the Dilsad Garden-Shaheed Sthal Delhi Metro corridor. While 27 metre long u-girders were also installed on the Noida-Greater Noida section and in this case, the casting work of u-girders is being carried out at the designated casting yard for this section situated in Mundka. For DMRC, this is a major milestone, as despite the unavailability of the adequate labour force due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as other lockdown related constraints, the casting yard was readied by Delhi Metro within a record period of 94 working days. In total, as many as 56 such u-girders shall be produced every month at this casting yard.

ANDRITZ wins equipment contracts for hydro plant in J&K

The Austria-based technology company ANDRITZ announced the bagging of over Euro 50 million contracts from Chenab Valley Power Projects for supplying the complete electro-mechanical equipment for the run-of-the-river 824 megawatt Kru hydropower plant on the Chenab river in Kashmir district of Jammu & Kashmir. Chenab Valley Power Projects is a joint venture company between NHPC Ltd, JKSPDC, a government of J&K undertaking, and power trader PTC India Ltd. The company secured the contract through tough competition in an international competitive bidding process. The project will generate 2,272.02 million units in a 90 per cent dependable year, the company said in a statement, adding that the contract includes supply, design, manufacture, erection, testing and commissioning of four turbines and generators, associated accessories and auxiliaries like electrical equipment, mechanical equipment, 400 K V GIS and 400 K V outdoor pothead yard equipment. It will be executed by ANDRITZ’s Indian subsidiary with its manufacturing facilities in Mandideep, near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, and Prithla, near Faridabad, in Haryana.

AP approves Rs. 3,736-cr for Ramayapatnam Port

The Andhra Pradesh government has recently approved a detailed project report (DPR) of the Ramayapatnam Port in Prakasam district of the state to take up the first phase of the project at an investment of Rs 3,736 crore and the project will be commissioned in 36 months. Industries Minister M Goutham Reddy said, explaining that the state government would provide Rs 100 crore for land acquisition. The port is expected to handle granite and tobacco exports from Prakasam and neighboring Guntur districts respectively. Currently, these industries are largely dependent on Krishnapatnam and Chennai ports. It may be recalled that the then TDP government had given nod for the port proposal and issued orders allotting 2,000 acres of land for the project and the then CM had also laid the foundation stone for the mega project.

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WB approves $500-mn for cross country road projects

The World Bank has approved $500 million to build road connectivity along the Jashore-Jhenaidah corridor directly connecting Dhaka in Bangladesh with India and Bhutan. While there is a regional potential to link the two countries, the new road will unlock the region’s potential by stimulating the economy of districts, linking farms to markets, connecting Dhaka with the western region as well as with neighboring countries. The additional work will also benefit over 20 million masses.

BRO speeds up works on the Manali-Leh highway

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has fast tracked the road construction and bridge building works by deploying the best machinery at all crucial points on the Manali-Leh highway, the main link for military supplies to border areas. In addition, it has also expedited work to complete major bridges including in places like Rohtang, Koksar, Stripri, Zingzingbar, Kellar Saari, Sanuch, Pang or Runumte, among others. It is also remaining in action mode to respond to any situation including road blockades due to landslides. All road maintenance works are being executed at war footing. In fact, BRO is replacing old Bailey bridges with newer ones and many new bridges have also come up in the last few years, remaining bridges are expected to be ready in a year or two. Over 300 km long Darcha bridge, the longest bridge on Manali-Leh highway, and second longest after Coi Chewang Rinchen Setu on Shyok river on Daulat Beg Oldi road in Ladakh, is also being readied for traffic this year.

The 75% of the Manali-Leh highway has been two-laned except for some stretches and the widening of road is also continuing. Widening and blacktopping of entire length of the highway is likely to be completed by next year. Along with final works in the tunnel, BRO is building Patchan-Rohtang-Koksar stretch a double-lane road. Meanwhile, Lehai-Split administration has also asked BRO to station its machinery at landslide prone areas to facilitate uninterrupted traffic movement in monsoon. Kulu and Manali administration have directed PWD and NHA to make sure that traffic is not interrupted due to landslides as Mandi-Kullu-Manali and Manali-Leh highway is currently busy with military convoys, said an official spokesperson.

ALIB financing $800-mn Phase-II of Chennai metro

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has decided to finance $800 million for the 4th corridor of phase-II of Chennai Metro. Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is ready to implement a loan of $430.75 million to Chennai Metro project for the civil construction work of Chennai Metro’s 47.5 km Line-5’s 26 segment connecting CMObt with Sholinganallur and $356.65 million to support the 29.1 km Line 4 connecting Lighthouse to Poonnamallee Bypass. According to the officials, since AIIB is a multilateral development bank, the clause would help Indian companies along with adhering to PM call of Going Vocal to make Local as Make in India as the move will develop and promote Indian partners as well as Indian investors and help countries to attain self-sufficiency. The clause should be entered while taking loans from all the multilateral development banks and in the tender report the FM has also declared that global bids will not be called for projects up to Rs. 200 crore investments. In a related development, the New Ashok Nagar and Sahibabad sections of Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor involving the construction of 5.6 km underground tunneling section is also being awarded shortly.

NHAI unveils J&K-Pangi valley connectivity in HP

Ensuring round the year movement of all types of vehicles on the most important road connecting Kithaawar district of Jammu and Kashmir with Himachal Pradesh as, among others, the project will also ensure that various villages in the remote Padder region in HP remains connected with other parts of the country through the year. In this connection, Beacon has completed the re-alignment work of Galhar-Sansari road from 55,100 km to 58.775 km. This bypass road will help in evading the earlier world’s dangerous rock-cut stretch on which only light vehicles can negotiate. The local administration in Kithaawar said that the work on the re-alignment apart from generating jobs will also increase the tourism potential of the Padder subdivision and Pangi valley of Himachal Pradesh thus boosting the socioeconomic development of the entire region. The road passes through rugged mountain terrain with overhanging half tunneling stretches, mostly in hard rock strata. The sector also experiences heavy snowfall, flash floods, and sub-zero temperatures during winters making tough working conditions for the GREF employees and the administration as well.

DMRC starts work on Rs. 510-cr elevated stations in Bihar

The Delhi Metro Rail Co (DMRC), which is all set to award Rs. 510 crore for the construction for an elevated viaducts & 5 stations including Malai Parki, Khermi Chak, Bhooshth, zero mile & New ISBT for metro project at Patna in Bihar, has recently opened technical bids. The technical bids for the tender called for a 6.107 km long section as this is a section of 1 km long corridor two of the Patna Metro project that will connect Patna Railway Station – New ISBT by 14 metro stations involving Package PC-01 & PC-02 of Patna Metro Rail project. DMRC was in the pipeline to award Rs. 510 crore to many private Indian firms, which are vying to be the project involving a cost of about Rs 172.18 crore, included URC Construction Private Limited - Sam (India) Bulbuli Private Limited - Dinesh Chandra R. Agrawal Infracon Private Limited - Lisha Engineers Private Limited, Pinax Steel Industries Private Limited - Quality Buildcon Private Limited - YFC Projects Private Limited. This New ISBT Depot will cover a distance of 31 km long Phase 1 network of the project including two corridors.

MoRTH focuses on EPC model for highway building

According to the Union transport minister, Nitin Gadkari, road projects in the country are mostly dependent on the government funded model called as engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode to ensure faster execution of roads. This is so because currently private players are facing difficulties in raising finance. The government must opt for building projects on EPC mode, and monetizing them, instead of depending on the private sector to bring funds, which delays these projects. In the infrastructure sector, the government tried to encourage PPP, but those who have gone for BOT projects have faced difficulties on multiple fronts and the reason is that banks are not friendly towards them, and a lot of their time is wasted in raising finance. In such a situation, the government should build projects on EPC mode and monetize road assets with banks. The government will have to award more infrastructure projects to resolve the liquidity crisis in the country now and highways ministry has set itself a target of awarding 20,000 km of road projects in the current fiscal, while keeping the construction target to 15,000 km for the financial year.