MoRTH unveils 60,000-km additional highways building plan

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has proposed to develop additional 60,000 km of National Highways in the next five years, of which 2500 km are expressways and access-controlled highways, 9000 km economic corridors, 2000 km for coastal and port connectivity highways and 2000 km border road and strategic highways. The ministry also intends to improve connectivity for 100 tourist destinations and construct bypasses for 45 towns and cities during the period. The expenditure of ministry has increased from ₹33,745 crore in 2013-14 to ₹4,58,431 crore in 2019-20. Private investment amounting to ₹1,01,926 crore has been achieved during 2019-20. During the current year, an expenditure of ₹78,415 crore has already been incurred till November 2020, including IEBR of NHAI. Private investment of ₹8,186 crore has been achieved up to November 2020. During 2019-20, projects worth about 8948 km length were awarded and completion was achieved in about 10,237 km length of roads. Due to consistent efforts, the length of the NHs has increased from 1,27,447 km as on 20 December 2020.

Cabinet clears ₹3,883-cr multi-modal hub in Noida

The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of multi-modal logistics and transport hub at Greater Noida, entailing an investment of ₹3,883.80 crore. The logistics hub project will be developed as a world-class facility providing efficient storage and transitioning of goods to and from the transport hub with provisioning of rail, road, MRTS accessibility for the passengers in a seamless manner. It will have space for the inter-state bus terminal, local bus terminal, metro, commercial, retail and hotel space and green open spaces. It will provide world-class passenger movement facilities for the growing population of the catchment zone. It will also function as a small patch of forest near the Kaselvi creek and that the agency is awaiting approval. MMRA had also got clearances from the Maharashtra Coastal Management Authority (MCCMA) for the project, as the alignment crosses the Ulhas river near Kalyan. The 24.9-km Metro-5 corridor will connect Thane and Kalyan via the power loom town of Bhiwandi and will have 17 stations. Currently, areas are connected only via the overcrowded suburban railway.

Govt expands infrastructure pipeline to 7,300 projects

The Union government has expanded the infrastructure pipeline from 6,835 projects to 7,300 projects. Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman informed that this decision was taken in a recent review meeting of infra expenditure. It has been decided to infrastructure expenditure by the department of water resources, river development & Ganga rejuvenation and the ministry of health and family welfare. It was disclosed that many ministries and departments have shown substantial progress in project implementation and expenditure, especially in the second quarter of 2020-21. Also, the majority of ministries and departments have targeted substantially high infra expenditure in FY21 than the actual expenditure of FY20. The FM asked the concerned ministries and departments to push infrastructure expenditure by effectively implementing all pipeline projects in time and to ensure quicker resolution of unresolved issues in coordination with state governments and other ministries and also exhorted them to promote investible projects by holding discussions with prospective investors.

MMRDA pushes ₹8,417-cr Metro 5 rail corridor

To build the Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan Metro 5 corridor on a fast-track basis, Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has applied for the diversion of 2,349.97 square metres (sqm) of forest area for the corridor. The state authority has sought the diversion of 1,971.71 sqm of forest land in Bhiwandi, Thane, as well as of 377.66 sqm of the area in Kashiw in Bhiwandi from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for constructing around 24 pairs for the Metro 5 corridor project. Currently, the project is in the planning stage, the various options for the alignment were explored by MMRDA given the complete avoidance or minimum loss of forest land. The proposed alignment requires at least minimum forest land, which is unavoidable as the portion is just a small patch of forest near the Kaselvi creek and that the agency

Mumbai-Hyderabad bullet train to link Navi Mumbai airport

The terminal for the (Metro 5) Mumbai-Hyderabad bullet train corridor, which is to come up in Navi Mumbai, will integrate with the under-construction international airport, Mumbai Trans Harbour Link project and Navi Mumbai Metro. The average speed of the proposed bullet train is estimated to be 320 km per hour. The 711-km distance between Hyderabad and Mumbai can be traversed in less than three-and-a-half hours as the distance takes over 15 hours by existing trains that run at speeds between 80 km per hour and 120 km per hour, with many stops in between the two cities. A fast train between Mumbai and Hyderabad is Hussain Sagar Express that takes under 14 hours. This will be the third high-speed rail project involving Mumbai. Currently, National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRC) is tasked with the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Link project. The other Mumbai project is the proposed 753-km Mumbai-Nashik-Nagpur corridor. NHSRC has proposed six corridors spanning 4,109 km, the remaining being Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru (435 km), Delhi-Varanasi (865), Delhi- Ahmedabad (886 km) and Delhi-Amritsar (459 km).
World Bank inks $500-mn green highways corridor pact

The World Bank and the Union Government has inked a pact for a $500-million project to build safe and green national highway corridors. MoRTH informed that the highway corridors will be developed in Rajasthan, HP, UP and Andhra Pradesh. The project will enhance the capacity of the transport ministry in mainstreaming safety and green technologies. It will support MoRTH in constructing 783 km of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial byproducts, and other bioengineering solutions. The Government of India is committed to environmentally sustainable development in its infrastructure projects and the project will set new standards in the construction of safe motorable roads and the targeted states will also help improve connectivity and promote economic development. The project will also support analytics to map the freight volume and movement pattern on the national highway network, identify constraints, and provide innovative logistics solutions. The project will support the ministry with an in-depth analysis of gender-related issues in the transport sector and will help in creating jobs for women by training women-led micro-enterprises and women collectives to implement green technologies in the highway corridors.

Decks cleared for ₹2,400-cr Delhi-Doon e-way project

The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has given its clearance to the Gauneshpur-Dehradun Road (NH72A), which is a part of the ₹24,000 crore Delhi-Dehradun expressway. The highway required wildlife clearance as the 19-km stretch of the road passes through eco-sensitive zones of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve and the Shivalki Elephant Reserve. Delhi-Dehran Expressway will directly connect the two cities after crossing areas like Loni, Baghpat, Shamli, Saharanpur, and Gauneshpur. The Chief Wildlife Warden in Uttarakhand, J S Suhag, said that the road widening will have to be carried out with strict mitigation measures as per the guidelines and suggestions of the Wildlife Institution of India’s experts. Measures include the erection of barriers on both sides of the road to block and absorb the light and noise pollution, bamboo plantation, and strict monitoring of man-wildlife conflict including harm to wildlife for about 3 years in and around the adjoining areas of the expressway.

Tata Power gets LoA for 110MW solar project from KSEB

Tata Power has received a Letter of Award from Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL) to develop a 110 MW solar project. The energy will be supplied to KSEBL under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), effective for a period of 25 years from scheduled commercial operation date. The project has to be commissioned within 18 months from the date of implementation of the PPA. The plant is expected to generate about 274 MU’s of energy per year and will annually offset approximately 274 million kg of CO2. Tata Power’s renewable capacity will increase to 4,032 MW, out of which 2,667 MW is operational and 1365 MW is under implementation including 110 MW won under this LOA. The project will contribute towards India’s commitment of clean and green energy through solar power generation.

BMC plans two excavations at Malabar Hill in Mumbai

The Malabar Hill in Mumbai will soon witness two massive excavation works. One is for a 3.5-km tunnel through the rocky outcrop to carry a six-lane coastal road, and the other for a vast underground chamber that will hold nearly 30 million litres of water. The coastal road’s twin tunnels will even pass below the reservoir. The water chamber, planned at a depth of 7 meters (23 feet), is an extension to an existing reservoir beneath a leafy, eight-acre patch. To address concerns about the stability of the hill, an ITT-Bombay expert was tasked to study the impact of construction on its basalt ridges. The report mentioned that the tunnel is 70 meters below the reservoir and enough margin exists to absorb stresses, considering the strength of the rock between the underpass and the reservoir’s foundation. To ensure precaution, vibration monitors and tiltmeters are being installed on the 45-old buildings along the tunnel’s alignment between Girgaum Chowpatty and Priyadarshini Park.

PMRC identifies 76-acre for metro depot in Patna

The process of land acquisition for the Patna Metro depot near Patliputra ISBT at Mausa Pandhat on Patna-Gaya Road is all set to start as the Patna Metro Rail Corporation (PMRC) has identified a 76-acre plot and its social impact assessment is about to begin. District land acquisition officer, Pankaj Patel, informed that the depot will consist of two workshop bays with provision for two more in the future and two inspection bays with provision for two in the future, 8 stabilizing lines which can accommodate 33 three-coach trains, and an auto-coach washing plant. The administrative area will consist of an auditorium, training school, canteen and operational control centre. The construction work of ISBT rail depot would be completed before the priority corridor between New Patliputra ISBT and Mahab. Patki under Corridor I. As all activities would start from the depot, it would be developed on a priority basis and the construction work would complete within 18 months after the commencement of work. Earlier, two depots were proposed; however, due to some changes in metro alignment, the Altarpur depot was dropped. Now, both the corridors have one depot near ISBT. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) would invite bids for the construction of Patna Metro’s depot where in the first phase, the 6.1-km stretch will come up, which includes five elevated stations — New Patliputra ISBT, Zero Mile, Bhunitnath, Khemichak and Mahab. Patki. The Corridor II will be 14.5 km from Patna station to ISBT of which, 7.5 km will be underground and 6.5 km elevated.
Ambuja Neotia Group in JV unveils 72-acre townships

Real estate developer Ambuja Neotia Group has agreed with Satyaa Homes to jointly develop a 72-acre land parcel in Rajarhat locality of Kolkata in the first-ever mega land transaction in 2021. Ambuja Neotia Group is the development management partner, while Satyaa Group will bring in its land parcel into the alliance. Harshavardhan Neotia, Chairman of Ambuja Neotia Group, informed that HDFC Capital Advisors will be the finance partner of the project. The joint project will entail an integrated township with villas, apartments and large plotted development to be completed in five years. Total development potential of the project, at a floor space index (FSI) of 2.5 times, would be in the range of 8 million sq ft. The transaction was facilitated by Anarock Property Consultants’ Land Services division. Rajarhat’s residential sector offers options across all budget segments but the affordable segment is predominant, accounting for nearly 54% of the housing supply there. Director & City Head of ANAROCK Property Consultants, Soumendu Chatterjee, said that mid-end segment housing accounts for over 20% of the region’s residential supply and the newest is one of the largest project alliances formed in eastern India in recent times.

CMRL plans 26-km metro rail Corridor-4 extension

The Chennai Metro Rail has decided to extend Corridor-4 from Poonamallee Bypass to Thirumazhisai Satellite Township. It is preparing a DPR for the 26-km long corridor from the existing stretch to the satellite township coming up in Thirumazhisai. Out of the total length, a four-km stretch will pass through the Chennai-Bengaluru Highway. Before this, Corridor-4 was planned from CBMT to Light House but now, it has been extended to Poonamallee, considering the increasing traffic congestion on Arcot Road along Vriginagambakkam and Valasaravakkam. The new stretch will have 12 underground stations, funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), from Light House to Meenakshi College, and 18 elevated stations from Meenakshi College to Poonamallee. The elevated stations will also be financed by the ADB. Chennai Metro Rail has invited bids for the construction of a 7.945 km elevated section from Porur Junction to Poonamallee Bypass and Larsen and Toubro is likely to get the tender from Meenakshi College to Porur.

UP unfolds 20,000 hectares New Noida plan

The UP government has directed Noida Authority to work out a plan to develop a new Noida area on 20,000 hectares of land with expanded boundaries up to the adjoining district Bulandshahr. Noida authority informed that the move is aimed at creating more opportunities for industries in Noida, where no land is left for setting up industrial clusters. The earmarked area is located between Greater Noida and Bulandshahr and has been notified for development by the UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA). CEO of Noida Authority, Ritu Maheshwari, said that since the industrial development is almost saturated in Noida, the authority will carry out development on this land once the UP government completes the mandatory formalities. The UP government is likely to finalize the model of development for the new area in the next couple of months and hand over the land to the Noida authority. The government had started the process for developing a new Noida area two months ago but the state government is yet to earmark the exact locations for industrial, residential, mixed land use and commercial spaces.

DoTCP notifies newer norms for affordable housing in Haryana

The Department of Town and Country Planning (DoTCP) has notified the amendments to the Affordable Housing Policy of 2013 allowing changes to the size of housing projects, car parks and an increase in the commercial component of the project areas. The new amendment will help in expanding the footprint of affordable housing in the state, particularly in Gurugram, as there has been a high demand for such projects in the city. Last year, the department had increased the area available for the development of affordable housing projects in residential sectors, given the high interest of the buyers. Now the department expects a majority of developers to apply for changes under the amended policy so that the projects become attractive for buyers and more profitable for them. At present, 80 housing projects are being developed, with around 45,000 housing units in all. As per the detailed notification, the minimum and maximum areas allowed for such projects will be four acres and 30 acres, respectively. However, the department will also consider licence applications for two acres if the net planned area of 25 acres has already been licensed and in case of applications for more than 25 acres of net planned area in a sector are received, then successful applications shall be decided by draw of lots. Earlier, the minimum and maximum areas for such projects were five acres and 10 acres, respectively. Developers seeking the benefit of the present amendment shall be required to submit a fresh application, as per the notification. The norms of community sites shall remain as per the original policy, but for projects larger than 10 acres, the developer will have to provide additional community site for every 10 acres, said DoTCP officials. The amendment also provides for an increase in the commercial component, from 4% to 8%. The notification states that developers of ongoing projects can also benefit from the Changes, provided occupation certificates of all residential towers in a project have not been obtained. The developer also needs to obtain approvals from two-thirds of homebuyers for increasing the commercial component.

Gift City allot 10 lakh sq ft spaces for 5 realty projects

The Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, popularly known as Gift City has allotted 10 lakh square feet of built-up area to Savvy Infrastructures Pvt Ltd, a firm headed by Jayaj Shah, national chairman of CREDAI (Confederation of Real Estate Developers’ Association of India). Savvy will invest Rs700 crore in developing five projects including commercial, residential and social structures. This is a significant real estate allotment during the challenging times of Covid-19 and it will give a boost to the real estate dynamics of this region. MD and Group CEO of Gift City, Tapas Ray, informed that they are delighted to have Savvy’s commitment of such a big investment at this crucial juncture. Savvy will develop office buildings, logistic space, business centre, residential complexes, university building and international club facility in the SEZ.

KMDA readies DPR for Rs600-cr flyover

The Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) has submitted a DPR for the proposed EM Bypass to New Town flyover plan to the state PWD. The authority is working on finalizing the technical modalities of the proposed flyover and will carry out technical scrutiny to place the proposal for government approval and funding. It plans to float tender to engage an agency to conduct the flyover involving an investment of Rs600 crore. According to DPR, the flyover will be about 6-km long and will take off from near Metropolitan crossing on EM Bypass and move over Chingirihata. It will then take a right turn to enter Salt Lake Bypass and move in parallel to the Metro alignment before entering Sector V by taking a right turn from Nicco Park junction and then bypass the wetlands of Nabhan before finally ending at New Town. As per the alignment, the flyover will have provisions of an entry and exit ramp in Sector V, keeping in mind the crowd dispersal at the East-West Metro stations at Sector V and Karanaroonay. The EM Bypass- New Town flyover is the need of the hour as the existing Chingirihata flyover, which is out of bounds for long-term repair, needs to be demolished.

Central Vista Project

The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has notified the planning of a flyover plan for the proposed EM Bypass to New Town. The authority to work out a plan to develop a new Noida area on 20,000 hectares of land with expanded boundaries up to the adjoining district Bulandshahr. Noida authority informed that the move is aimed at creating more opportunities for industries in Noida, where no land is left for setting up industrial clusters. The earmarked area is located between Greater Noida and Bulandshahr and has been notified for development by the UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA). CEO of Noida Authority, Ritu Maheshwari, said that since the industrial development is almost saturated in Noida, the authority will carry out development on this land once the UP government completes the mandatory formalities. The UP government is likely to finalize the model of development for the new area in the next couple of months and hand over the land to the Noida authority. The government had started the process for developing a new Noida area two months ago but the state government is yet to earmark the exact locations for industrial, residential, mixed land use and commercial spaces.

DoTCP notifies newer norms for affordable housing in Haryana

The Department of Town and Country Planning (DoTCP) has notified the amendments to the Affordable Housing Policy of 2013 allowing changes to the size of housing projects, car parks and an increase in the commercial component of the project areas. The new amendment will help in expanding the footprint of affordable housing in the state, particularly in Gurugram, as there has been a high demand for such projects in the city. Last year, the department had increased the area available for the development of affordable housing projects in residential sectors, given the high interest of the buyers. Now the department expects a majority of developers to apply for changes under the amended policy so that the projects become attractive for buyers and more profitable for them. At present, 80 housing projects are being developed, with around 45,000 housing units in all. As per the detailed notification, the minimum and maximum areas allowed for such projects will be four acres and 30 acres, respectively. However, the department will also consider licence applications for two acres if the net planned area of 25 acres has already been licensed and in case of applications for more than 25 acres of net planned area in a sector are received, then successful applications shall be decided by draw of lots. Earlier, the minimum and maximum areas for such projects were five acres and 10 acres, respectively. Developers seeking the benefit of the present amendment shall be required to submit a fresh application, as per the notification. The norms of community sites shall remain as per the original policy, but for projects larger than 10 acres, the developer will have to provide additional community site for every 10 acres, said DoTCP officials. The amendment also provides for an increase in the commercial component, from 4% to 8%. The notification states that developers of ongoing projects can also benefit from the Changes, provided occupation certificates of all residential towers in a project have not been obtained. The developer also needs to obtain approvals from two-thirds of homebuyers for increasing the commercial component.

Gift City allot 10 lakh sq ft spaces for 5 realty projects

The Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, popularly known as Gift City has allotted 10 lakh square feet of built-up area to Savvy Infrastructures Pvt Ltd, a firm headed by Jayaj Shah, national chairman of CREDAI (Confederation of Real Estate Developers’ Association of India). Savvy will invest Rs700 crore in developing five projects including commercial, residential and social structures. This is a significant real estate allotment during the challenging times of Covid-19 and it will give a boost to the real estate dynamics of this region. MD and Group CEO of Gift City, Tapas Ray, informed that they are delighted to have Savvy’s commitment of such a big investment at this crucial juncture. Savvy will develop office buildings, logistic space, business centre, residential complexes, university building and international club facility in the SEZ.

KMDA readies DPR for Rs600-cr flyover

The Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) has submitted a DPR for the proposed EM Bypass to New Town flyover plan to the state PWD. The authority is working on finalizing the technical modalities of the proposed flyover and will carry out technical scrutiny to place the proposal for government approval and funding. It plans to float tender to engage an agency to conduct the flyover involving an investment of Rs600 crore. According to DPR, the flyover will be about 6-km long and will take off from near Metropolitan crossing on EM Bypass and move over Chingirihata. It will then take a right turn to enter Salt Lake Bypass and move in parallel to the Metro alignment before entering Sector V by taking a right turn from Nicco Park junction and then bypass the wetlands of Nabhan before finally ending at New Town. As per the alignment, the flyover will have provisions of an entry and exit ramp in Sector V, keeping in mind the crowd dispersal at the East-West Metro stations at Sector V and Karanaroonay. The EM Bypass- New Town flyover is the need of the hour as the existing Chingirihata flyover, which is out of bounds for long-term repair, needs to be demolished.
Bihar approves ₹4,154-cr for new road network

The Cabinet clears ₹12,000-cr infrastructure spending

Govt plans ₹320-cr digital ecosystem in ports

China-based STECL bags RRTS tunnel contract

Railway invites bids for Mysuru-Chennai HSRC corridor's DPR

NHAI submits DPR for ₹2,197-cr project in Telangana

Jharkhand plans 1,008 units under Central Light House Scheme

Dilip Buildcon sets up SPV for ₹882-cr HAM project

India Infrastructure & Tenders Week
Engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro has won construction contracts of about ₹2.50 crore both in the domestic and international arena. Its power transmission and distribution business has won two transmission line packages in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These lines are expected to strengthen the grid in the Eastern Region of Saudi Arabia and facilitate power evacuation. Its water and efficient treatment business has secured an engineering, procurement, and construction order in Gujarat to execute a package in the SAUNI Yojna Link 3. Saurarashtra Namda Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) is a project launched by the government to fill various reservoirs by diverting floodwaters overflowing from the Sardar Sarovar Dam across the Narmada River to drought and water deficit areas in the state. It has already completed four packages in the Sauni Yojna for the same client.

Maha-Metro launches Vanaz-Ramwadi metro work in Pune

After completing the underground tunneling work between the College of Agriculture and civil court at Shivajinagar, Maha-Metro has commenced work on circular piers on the riverbed near Bund Garden. It is the part where Vanaz-Ramwadi metro line crosses Mula-Mutha river at Sangamwadi stretch through an elevated way. Maha-Metro has already put piers on the riverbed along the Yerawada bridge as the 8.3 km civil court-Ramwadi stretch is part of the second line of the Pune metro plan connecting Vanaz with Ramwadi. Hemant Sonawane, general manager of Pune Maha-Metro, informed that the Pune Metro crosses the river at two places - Sangamwadi and Bund Garden areas and both are a part of Vanaz-Ramwadi stretch. The launch of segments on circular piers was halted due to monsoon as the water level increased.

The metro route will have stations at RTQ, Pune railway station, Dole Patil Road, Bund Garden, Yerawada, Kalyan Nagar and Ramwadi. On this stretch, maximum pillars are located on the riverbed. The metro stations Vanaz to Ramwadi stretch is 14.67 km in length and consists of 16 stations Vanaz (depot), Anand nagar, Ideal Colony, Nal stop, Garware College, Descan Gymkhana, Sambhaji Garden, PMC headquarters, civil court, Mangalwar Peth, Pune railway station, Ruby Hall clinic, Bund Garden, Yerawada, Kalyan Nagar and Ramwadi.

Experience the Progress.

Cabinet clears ₹3,000-cr for Paradip Port Project

The Union government has approved ₹3,000 crore to upgrade Paradip Port into a world-class port facility by setting up a dock. The port, which is located in Odisha, is one of the 12 major ports under the control of the Centre and handles the cargo of about 115 MT which is likely to increase substantially to about 400 MT by 2030. The decision to set up the western dock was taken to attract large vessels for which the underpass was taken to attract large vessels with a capacity of handling 1.5-ton MT which is likely to increase substantially to 1.50 MT. The underpass will be of a 4-metre height to provide movement of two-wheelers, cars and autos while bigger vehicles will move at grade.

NDAI to deploy software to check project delays

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has planned to deploy a software to curb red-tape and enhance transparency. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari informed that the software will specifically track files and pinpoint the officials behind delays in disposing of matters. This will enhance efficiency and transparency in the road-building nodal agency. The authority last year identified a 4400-km stretch to be the first construction sector organization to go ‘fully digital’ with cloud-based Data Lake Software to effectively check delays in decision-making resulting in losses.

Through the software, the ministry will detect how much time has been taken by one particular official in disposing of any file. Those officials who do not take decisions in a time-bound manner will be tracked and stern action will be taken against them. Besides, the project management consultancy system will also be introduced soon, where alignment, forest environment clearance, land acquisition, construction, road safety, utility shifting, designing, and roadside amenities - everything about the project will be provided. Newest technologies are being promoted while focusing on reducing the project construction costs without compromising quality.

MRMDA targets ₹167-cr for road upgrades

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has planned an underground two-level road and widening of the existing flyer to ease traffic movement on the Western Express Highway (WEH) for ₹167 crore. Traffic congestions are a routine matter on the highway connecting the international and domestic airports affecting travellers going to airport and vice versa. MMRDA Commissioner RA Rajeev informed that it is a vital project to decongest the existing traffic as currently, commuters have to face traffic congestion which consumes their precious time. At the international (Terminal 2) and domestic (Terminal 1) junctions during peak hours, the traffic is more than 10,000 passengers car unit (PCU). Therefore, it was suggested by the consultants that a grade-separated underpass should be developed so that traffic from T2 to Bandra side moves at grade and some vehicles take the slip road, and long-distance traffic takes the flyer. Due to the short weaving distance between the left turn point and the flyer, it becomes congested. Hence, direct underpass ramp is being provided at level 1, slip road traffic will take a left turn at grade and direct movement through an underpass ramp at 2 levels. Traffic from Bandra to the domestic airport experiences delays due to traffic signal and high volume and to do away with this, an underpass has been proposed for the same. The underpass will be of a 4-metre height to provide movement of two-wheelers, cars and autos while bigger vehicles will move at grade.
TNHB kick-starts construction of ₹103-cr housing towers

The Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB) has started the construction work on a high-rise residential project at Old Circuit House colony near Mannarapuram in the city involving ₹103.5 crore investments. Four skyscrapers with 14-15 floors each will come up at the site housing 446 residential units. The old housing units at the site were demolished paving the way for the new construction for which all the mandatory clearances have been put in place. Block 1 and 2 shall have 14 floors each, while block 3 and 4 will house 15 floors each. The facility is estimated to generate 1,242 kg of waste per day of which non-biodegradable waste will be recycled through scrap vendors. The TNHB complex will get green space with a play area for children, community hall and likely a library. The project is being taken up under the Tamil Nadu government servants’ rental housing scheme and will be completed in two years.

JSPL receives regular rail supplier status from Indian Railways

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) has secured the regular rail supplier status from the Indian Railways thereby becoming the first private company in India to be awarded such a status from the national transporter. This status will enable JSPL to supply 60 kg 880 grade (90 UTS) rails manufactured by JSPL, at its Raigarh plant. This would be a push towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat and is also an achievement for the company’s rail business. Apart from this, JSPL has also started supplying 1080 grade heat hardened rails and 880-grade prime (Class-A) rails manufactured by the company and utilize them for their ongoing and upcoming projects. The Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO), which works under the ambit of the Railway Board, has awarded JSPL the status.

Kerala Govt announces ₹10,000-cr infra projects in 100 days

The Kerala government has announced the second 100-day programme entailing ₹10,000 crore worth development projects that are likely to be completed or launched in the next 100 days across the state. The first 100-day programme was implemented from September to December 10 and was a huge success. A total of 5,526 projects, of around ₹5700 crore, will be completed and 646 projects worth ₹4,300 crore will be launched.

Railway approves ₹348-cr Tallah ROB in Kolkata

The Eastern Railway (ER) has approved the final master plan for the Tallah Bridge, a road overbridge. It is a 58-year-old crucial link between the city and the northern fringes and was razed in April-2020 because it was damaged beyond repair. The state public works department (PWD), which is the implementing agency, has planned to construct the project at an investment of ₹348 crore by January 2022. A 240-metre section of the 750-m Tallah Bridge will stand over railway tracks and will link BT Road and Shyambazar over the Tallah railway tracks. The new Tallah Bridge will be a four-lane bowstring arch steel structure, unlike the old three-lane structure that was split into four. The state PWD has decided to route the Tallah ROB design through the Kanpur-based Research Designs and Standard Organization (RDSO). The contractor, L&T, started work in May 2020 but for a section of the bridge, railways’ approval was mandatory. The first approval relates to the overall layout of the construction and the PWD has also submitted the detailed structural designs and drawings of the structure and foundation of the six piers of the ROB falling within the railway portion for scrutiny and approval.

Haryana clears Delhi-Panipat RRTS corridor

The Haryana cabinet has approved the implementation of the Delhi-Panipat Regional Rapid Transport System (RRTS) corridor with a length of 103.02 km with 17 stations on the corridor. The construction and commissioning of the RRTS will be undertaken in two stages Sarai Kale Khan to Murthal, including Murthal depot (58.28 km), and Murthal to Panipat, including Panipat depot (44.74 km). The project will enable efficient and effective movement of a large number of train users into densely populated clusters and provide important links to residents of urban/ sub-urban nodes in Haryana while bringing an accelerated economic development of these urban nodes. The cabinet has also approved to permit ‘public bus’ to use the corridor.

Centre bats for quicker infra disputes disposal

In a letter to the registrars general of all high courts, the secretary (Justice) in the Law Ministry said that the Karnataka, Allahabad and Madhya Pradesh high courts have set up Designated Special Courts instead of Dedicated Special Courts under the Specific Relief Act. The high courts have dedicated special days every week to enable exclusive handling of Specific Relief matters about infrastructure project contracts. This arrangement could be considered for adoption in the high court as an alternative measure until Dedicated Special Courts are put in place. It could help to enforce contracts from both the perspective of time and cost, thereby stimulating investors’ confidence and creating a conducive business environment.

Cabinet clears ₹3,000-cr for Paridip Port Project

The Union government has approved ₹3,000 crore to upgrade Paradip Port into a world-class port facility by setting up a dock. The project, which is located in Odisha, is one of the 12 major ports under the control of the Centre and handles the cargo of about 115 MT which is likely to increase substantially to about 400 MT by 2030. The decision to set up the western dock was taken to attract large vessels with a capacity of handling 1.5-ton cargo. The project, after the proposed upgrade, can easily handle very large vessels for which an 18-metre draft is required and these ships can dock there resulting in a reduction in logistics cost. The need of the hour is to boost EXIM trade in the current global competitive environment and will generate huge job avenues to people. Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry informed that the project pertains to deepening and optimization of inner harbour facilities including development of western dock on the build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode to handle cape size vessels at port.

Haryana clears Delhi-Panipat RRTS corridor

The Haryana cabinet has approved the implementation of the Delhi-Panipat RRTS corridor with a length of 103.02 km with 17 stations on the corridor. The construction and commissioning of the RRTS will be undertaken in two stages Sarai Kale Khan to Murthal, including Murthal depot (58.28 km), and Murthal to Panipat, including Panipat depot (44.74 km). The project will enable efficient and effective movement of a large number of train users into densely populated clusters and provide important links to residents of urban/ sub-urban nodes in Haryana while bringing an accelerated economic development of these urban nodes. The cabinet has also approved to permit ‘public bus’ to use the corridor.

Centre bats for quicker infra disputes disposal

In a letter to the registrars general of all high courts, the secretary (Justice) in the Law Ministry said that the Karnataka, Allahabad and Madhya Pradesh high courts have set up Designated Special Courts instead of Dedicated Special Courts under the Specific Relief Act. The high courts have dedicated special days every week to enable exclusive handling of Specific Relief matters about infrastructure project contracts. This arrangement could be considered for adoption in the high court as an alternative measure until Dedicated Special Courts are put in place. It could help to enforce contracts from both the perspective of time and cost, thereby stimulating investors’ confidence and creating a conducive business environment.

Cabinet clears ₹3,000-cr for Paridip Port Project

The Union government has approved ₹3,000 crore to upgrade Paradip Port into a world-class port facility by setting up a dock. The project, which is located in Odisha, is one of the 12 major ports under the control of the Centre and handles the cargo of about 115 MT which is likely to increase substantially to about 400 MT by 2030. The decision to set up the western dock was taken to attract large vessels with a capacity of handling 1.5-ton cargo. The project, after the proposed upgrade, can easily handle very large vessels for which an 18-metre draft is required and these ships can dock there resulting in a reduction in logistics cost. The need of the hour is to boost EXIM trade in the current global competitive environment and will generate huge job avenues to people. Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry informed that the project pertains to deepening and optimization of inner harbour facilities including development of western dock on the build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode to handle cape size vessels at port.
Eco-habitat developer Organo has planned to build twin township projects across Hyderabad and Bengaluru and has set aside funds worth ₹900 crore for acquiring 1,800 acres of land in these cities. The Hyderabad-based company is betting big on demand growth in self-sustainable cities and people keen to live away from cities after the Covid-19 pandemic. Founder, Nagesh Battula, informed that the company is looking to develop townships as product types with an order book of ₹3,000 crore and turnover of ₹800 crore, targeting 3% of the total TAM for alternate real estate in India. In Rurban, a mix of rural and urban communities, there is very little speculation on land price and the majority of the cost goes into constructing building infrastructure and installing technologies for sustaining the community. The land price amounts to only 11% of the overall cost. Building Rurban communities is unlike typical real estate investments where the project value is majorly derived from the speculative nature of land price and developments that take place around the project.

IFC forms ₹565 mn JV for four residential projects

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group and IFC Emerging Asia Fund (EAF) have partnered with the Puravankara Group to build four residential projects involving an investment of $76 million under the Provident brand focusing on affordable housing. Ashish Puravankara, MD of Puravankara Group, informed that two of these four projects are planned in Kochi and Bengaluru with a saleable area of 4.5 million sq ft. About 4,000 housing units will be built soon and other projects to be identified by 2021. IFC’s investment supplements Provident’s own investments in both existing and new developments as the Provident use of pre cast technology will see an acceleration in both time and superior quality homes. IFC, together with EAF will invest up to ₹565 crore amounting to $76 million in special purpose vehicles set up by Puravankara Group. This will comprise investment of $240 crore (approximately $33 million) by IFC and an equal amount by EAF, along with a loan of ₹76 crore (approximately $10 million) from IFC. The Kochi project will be designed as per IFC’s green building certification system. Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE).

Odisha inks MoU for ₹4,000-cr riverine port in Mahanadi

The Odisha government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for setting up of ₹4,000 crore riverine port projects in Mahanadi. The proposed port will come up at Alchadesai village under Mahakalipada block in Kendrapara district, 13 km from the river mouth at Paradip. This all-weather and multi-user port on the river will be set up in a public-private partnership (PPP) model with a capacity of 54 MTPA. In the first phase, the port will have the capacity to handle 22 MTPA cargoes at an investment of ₹2,562 crore. While the Paradip Port Trust will develop supporting infrastructures like rail and road connectivity and dredging requirements of the facility, the state government has already identified 300 hectares of land for the project and will also provide the necessary support to PPT in respect to any additional land required for the project. On commissioning of the project, the port will provide direct and indirect employment opportunities to more than 4,000 persons in the first phase and about another 1,700 people in the 2nd phase. The riverine port, along with the state-aided Hardiaspur Paradip Railway line, will go a long way in boosting the economy of the Kendrapara district.

AIAI finalizes plan for airport expansion in Pune

The Airports Authority of India (AIAI) has planned to expand the facilities at the Pune airport and is working out an arrangement with the Indian Air Force to get 2.5 acres of land adjacent to the airport. The expanded facilities, among others, are meant to transport vaccines from vaccine manufacturer - Serum Institute of India, located adjacent to the airport. The airport management is in discussions with Serum Institute to understand the requirements because a significant amount of freight is expected to go out of the institute. Pune based Serum, the world’s largest maker of vaccines by several doses, has been licensed by Oxford-AstraZeneca to test, manufacture, and distribute its vaccine against the coronavirus in India. As the country is moving closer to rolling out its Covid-19 vaccination program, airports and logistics players are working to ensure it happens seamlessly - by expanding cold chain facilities and setting up computerized tracking slots for efficient redistribution from airports. While Pune will be one of the hubs for the distribution of domestically-manufactured vaccines, the bulk of the vaccine consignment will be imported through major international airports including Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad. Delhi, the country’s largest airport has launched — Project Sanjivani to equip cargo terminals with special cooling chambers. The airport has the capacity to handle 54 lakh vials of the vaccine a day with two complete rotations.
MoRTH launches ₹13,157-cr highways in Telangana

The Union Transport Minister has laid the foundation stones for 7686-km long national highway projects entailing an investment of ₹13,157 crore in Telangana. The minister launched the 396 km long road projects worth ₹9,440 crore and also kick-started 370 km road projects at a cost of ₹3,717 crore in a virtual ceremony. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken up seven out of 14 projects estimated to cost around ₹13,157 crore. Projects with a length of 1,730 km have been identified for development under the Bharathmala Pariyojana. The development activity reflects the vision of the PM’s foresight and commitment to ensure the development and basic road infrastructure in the country.

Dalmia Cement (Bharat) plans ₹360-cr capacity addition

Dalmia Cement (Bharat), leading Indian cement manufacturing major and a subsidiary of Dalmia Bharat Limited, has announced a capacity addition of 2.3 million tons at its Bengal Cement Works (BCW) unit in West Midnapore involving an investment of ₹360 crore. This addition is in line with its business pillar ‘Growth’ and will increase the overall capacity of the BCW unit to 4 million tons per annum. COO, Dalmia Cement (Bharat), Ujjwal Batra, informed that with this capacity addition, BCW unit will become the largest cement plant in West Bengal. The addition also aligns with its business pillars ‘Sustainability’ and ‘Reputation’ and thus makes it one of the most sustainable plants in the state to create job opportunities and give a boost to the region’s economy. Post the COVID induced slowdown, the cement demand is expected to improve with affordable housing, mega real estate and infrastructure projects picking up pace. This coupled with India’s Amrithabhar will undoubtedly provide an impetus to cement consumption in the country. The indicated, DCBL will continue to contribute towards nation-building, while staying committed to the growing demand from the eastern and north-eastern states of the country. He also expressed his gratitude to the Government of West Bengal and people of Saltioni for their continuous support and enabling to be a part of the Bengal growth story. Under this project, the company has an installed capacity of 4.0 million tons per annum (MTPA) at Bengal Cement Works, Midnapore where it has deployed latest machinery and technology for this addition and will be producing only 100% blended cement to ensure reduced carbon footprint as part of its commitment to become carbon negative by 2040. This addition will play a pivotal role in addressing the demand for cement, ensure sufficient and timely supplies and further help in the growth of infrastructure in the region.

Ujjwal added, “Given Dalmia Cement’s Pan-India presence, we are well-prepared to support the increasing rural and urban demand by providing cutting-edge logistics solutions to service the market. DCBL will continue to build Green Cement plants and help the state achieve global standards in sustainability.”

CDCL being the most trusted brand is also open to new ideas and solutions to support increased production. Several new quality-control processes and technologies have been deployed at the plant to ensure automated quality control without human intervention. That, combined with superior raw materials, will improve the overall quality of the cement output. Further, online particle size analyzer will ensure uniform distribution of particle size, making concrete dense, impervious, and highly reactive, leading to higher strength and durability of construction.

Dalmia Cement (Bharat) plans ₹360-cr capacity addition

Dalmia Cement (Bharat), leading Indian cement manufacturing major and a subsidiary of Dalmia Bharat Limited, has announced a capacity addition of 2.3 million tons at its Bengal Cement Works (BCW) unit in West Midnapore involving an investment of ₹360 crore. This addition is in line with its business pillar ‘Growth’ and will increase the overall capacity of the BCW unit to 4 million tons per annum. COO, Dalmia Cement (Bharat), Ujjwal Batra, informed that with this capacity addition, BCW unit will become the largest cement plant in West Bengal. The addition also aligns with its business pillars ‘Sustainability’ and ‘Reputation’ and thus makes it one of the most sustainable plants in the state to create job opportunities and give a boost to the region’s economy. Post the COVID induced slowdown, the cement demand is expected to improve with affordable housing, mega real estate and infrastructure projects picking up pace. This coupled with India’s Amrithabhar will undoubtedly provide an impetus to cement consumption in the country. The indicated, DCBL will continue to contribute towards nation-building, while staying committed to the growing demand from the eastern and north-eastern states of the country. He also expressed his gratitude to the Government of West Bengal and people of Saltioni for their continuous support and enabling to be a part of the Bengal growth story. Under this project, the company has an installed capacity of 4.0 million tons per annum (MTPA) at Bengal Cement Works, Midnapore where it has deployed latest machinery and technology for this addition and will be producing only 100% blended cement to ensure reduced carbon footprint as part of its commitment to become carbon negative by 2040. This addition will play a pivotal role in addressing the demand for cement, ensure sufficient and timely supplies and further help in the growth of infrastructure in the region.

Ujjwal added, “Given Dalmia Cement’s Pan-India presence, we are well-prepared to support the increasing rural and urban demand by providing cutting-edge logistics solutions to service the market. DCBL will continue to build Green Cement plants and help the state achieve global standards in sustainability.”

CDCL being the most trusted brand is also open to new ideas and solutions to support increased production. Several new quality-control processes and technologies have been deployed at the plant to ensure automated quality control without human intervention. That, combined with superior raw materials, will improve the overall quality of the cement output. Further, online particle size analyzer will ensure uniform distribution of particle size, making concrete dense, impervious, and highly reactive, leading to higher strength and durability of construction.

Cement & Steel firms operating as a cartel: Gadkari

Min Gadkari, while addressing the meeting of the Western Region segment of the Builders’ Association of India, said that cement and steel industries are exploiting people by levying higher rates. This will affect the implementation of infrastructure projects in the court. He added, “There is a cartel in the cement and steel industry. Every steel company has its own iron ore mines & there has been no increase in labour and power costs but they are increasing rates.” The Builders’ Association of India, Western Region, suggested creating a regulatory authority for the steel and cement industries, to which Gadkari said that, he will forward this suggestion to the Finance Ministry and PM.

World Bank inks $105-mn water transport infra pact

The Centre, West Bengal government and World Bank have signed a $105-million pact for a project to improve the inland water transport infrastructure on the outskirts of Kolkata. The West Bengal inland water transport, logistics and spatial development project will facilitate passenger and freight movement across the Hooghly river, undertake spatial planning to improve accessibility in the Kolkata Metropolitan Area (KMA), enhance the quality of life, and contribute to the growth of the state’s logistics sector. Inland waterways is emerging as a cost-effective and environment-friendly option for passenger and freight movement. Additional secretary, ministry of finance, C

Maha Metro to complete work on Navi Mumbai Metro Line 1 project

To fast track the Navi Mumbai Metro Line 1 project, the remaining work of the 11.1-km-long project will now be completed by the Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (Maha Metro). This decision was taken by the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO), Managing Director and Vice-Chairman of CIDCO, Sanjay Mukherjee, informed that due to Covid-19 pandemic situation and some technical issues, the development work of six stations out of 11 has not been implemented at an expected speed. Hence, CIDCO decided to take over the project and now Maha Metro will take over. Maha Metro is currently working on the Pune Metro and Nagpur Metro projects also.