The government is contemplating of building smart cities along the Delhi-Mumbai Express Highway currently being built on a new alignment, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said, adding that a Cabinet note has been floated on this score. The Rs 1 lakh crore flagship Delhi-Mumbai Expressway project is scheduled to be completed within three years and expected to cut down the travel time between the two cities by several hours. In the project, the government has saved about Rs 16,000 crore on land acquisition front alone because of a new alignment and will pass through backward and far-flung tribal areas of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. A large number of roadside amenities and other projects can easily be taken up along the highways ushering in development of the areas. The road construction activities have been planned to be at a higher pace now at least thrice the rate of construction earlier and projects worth Rs 15 lakh crore are being taken up in two years. Most of the 406 stalled road projects worth Rs 3.85 lakh crore have been rolled out barring Rs 40,000 crore worth of projects that had to be terminated. The minister said, adding that there are multiple opportunities in logistics parks, smart cities, smart villages, cold-storage, road construction where developers can and should focus and think of something innovative idea to start an economic activity. In addition, the ministry is also planning to convert about 2,000 commercial places like bus stations into bus ports and stressed the need for pre-cast bridges and constructions.

Telangana fast tracks Rs. 387-cr bridge project

The work on the long-pending Balanagar flyover under the Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP) has been fast tracked and would be completed by August this year, said an official spokesperson, claiming that lockdown has helped the authorities to expedite the work as there has been no traffic flow for the past one month. The work involves laying about seven foundations, which could not be laid earlier, has been completed now and the rest two would be laid very shortly. Apart from this, land acquisition for road widening has been completed except at small stretches. The HMUDA has decided to instruct the work agency to mobilize additional manpower to finish the work before the deadline. The flyover from Balanagar to Manapur Crossroads is crucial to ease the traffic and as well to reduce the road accidents. The total length of the flyover is 1,130 m and the total cost of the project is Rs 387 crore (Rs 122 crore for construction and Rs 265 crore for land acquisition), said an official spokesperson.

ADB approves $ 177 bn for rural road network

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently approved a $177 million to India to upgrade 450 km of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra State. The roads to be upgraded link agricultural and industrial areas and are critical to improving access to markets, employment opportunities, and services. The project will also finance the development of a road maintenance planning system and build the Maharashtra Public Works Department (MPWD). The growth in the agriculture sector has been declining, compared to the industrial and service sectors largely due to poor roads to ferry agricultural produce to the cities and the improved roads will help the rural areas to integrate properly into the local economy. Many state roads connecting urban and rural areas in Maharashtra are congested, unsafe, and of poor quality and now the project will improve major district roads and expand 425 km of state roads to the two-lane standard. Improvements will incorporate road safety elements and environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation features, and measures to enhance social inclusion and safeguards. In the project, the state government of Maharashtra will contribute $78.99 million equivalent toward the $255.99 million, the total cost of the project.

BMRC launches tallest elevated metro network

The tallest point of Bengaluru’s elevated metro network is being built at Jayadeva Interchange Metro Station. Currently, the highest point (23.3 metre above the ground) is near Sri Ramupura Metro Station along Green Line in Rajajinagar. In Phase 2, the Gottigere-Nagawara (Pink Line) stretch will run 29 km above the road level at Jayadeva station and will soar 29.6 m above the ground. The metro system is being built at Jayadeva Hospital junction to construct the new elevated road-cum-rail corridor.

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Railway restarts works on Rs. 503-cr Thane-Diva line

The construction work on the two additional rail lines between Thane and Diva, which was suspended due to lockdown, has been restarted at an investment of Rs. 503 crore. The work of forging a 100 ton steel bridge which will then be assembled at the site has also started with project cost of Rs 1,071 crore as construction work of Kallagam-Meenuritti section of Trichy-Chidambaram NH 227 has also begun at Kota, Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC), which is working on the project, said adding that they have been collaborating with the state government and supply manufacturers and getting 100 ton steel from Kota. The railway already has 250 ton of steel for the bridge at Mumba, MRVC chairman and managing director, R Khurana, said. A team of laborers is being created and permissions are being sought for the deployment of site supervisors and engineers. The bridge was initially scheduled to be assembled by July and now the new deadline for the project has been set for June 2021.

MahaMetro resumes works on Pune Metro rail line

A month after the construction work on the Pune Metro rail came to a halt, Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MahaMetro) resumed construction activities on score of stretches of Paud Road recently, said official sources, adding that the work will move ahead in a phased manner to other sections in the city, including the riverbed portion. The construction work has been taken up as per the state government order issued recently. MahaMetro is developing two lines in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad, both split into four sections. The 16.59km-long Line 1, connecting PCMC to Swargate, will be an elevated underground hybrid line. The first 11.57km, from PCMC to Range Hills, will be elevated, after which the Metro will go underground — near the College of Agriculture — till Swargate. Work on the elevated section is nearly completed till Dapodi, while tunnel-boring machines had started the tunnel excavations for the underground route. The elevated stretch will have nine stations whereby five stations will be underground. The other line, 14.67km long, will connect Vanaz and Ramwadi and will be completely elevated with 16 stations. Work on the Vanaz, Anandnagar and Ideal Colony stations is currently under way, general manager (PR) of MahaMetro, Hemant Sonawane, said.

Coal India secures funds for laying Rs. 4, 870-cr rail line

Coal India subsidiary — South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) — has recently received a credit support of Rs 3,976 crore from a consortium of banks, led by State Bank of India, to facilitate laying rail line for the evacuation of coal. A loan agreement has been signed between Chhattisgarh East West Rail Ltd (CEWRL) — a joint venture SECL and banks — to provide credit to develop a 135km of double line from Gevra Road to Pendra Road in Chhattisgarh to evacuate coal from the mines at Gevra, Dipka and Kusuminda. The project has a debt to equity ratio of 80:20 wherein the promoters are required to contribute about Rs 994 crore and the balance amount of Rs 3,976 crore is arranged from banks as loan. Land acquisition and forest clearance have already been put in place for the main line of the project, which is now expected to be completed by March 2023. When completed, it will help SECL to evacuate about 65mt coal every year from its mines. SECL has a 64 per cent holding in CEWRL, while Ircm, a rail ministry undertaking, holds a 26 per cent stake. The rest 10 per cent of the stake is held by the State Industrial Development Corporation, government of Chhattisgarh. State Bank of India is the lead bank with Rs 1,800-crore exposure to the project. While Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Indian Bank and Bank of Baroda are the other lenders in the consortium.

NHAI launches Rs. 2,800-cr highway projects in Chennai

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has resumed three major road projects in Chennai region involving an estimated investment worth Rs. 2,800 crore, said an official spokesperson, elaborating that NHAI has already obtained permission from Trichy district administration to resume construction work four-laning of Trichy-Kallam section of NH 209 (new number 83) connecting Dindigul and Bengaluru. The project is being implemented at a cost of Rs 1,020 crore with about 200 laborers, including migrant ones. They have been working in groups in different locations along Trichy-Kallam section as construction work of Kallagam-Meenuritti section of Trichy-Chidambaram NH 227 has also started with project cost of Rs 1,071 crore with about 240 workers. In the absence of migrant workers, the concessionaires of the project are trying to get workers from local area. The NHAI has been sourcing raw material to complete the balance work of Trindivanam-Krishnagiri section also, being implemented at a cost of Rs 435 crore and will soon resume work on Trindivanam-side of the project. The four-laning of 26-km stretch of Pollachi-Coimbatore section of NH 209 is nearing completion. Coimbatore district administration gave permission to start the work as the executing agency has to complete the Rs 414 crore projects before lockdown is lifted. The agency has effectively used the lockdown period and completed 97.94% of the road works, particularly at junctions with the curtailed work force, said an official attached to NHAI’s Coimbatore project unit.
**Uttarakhand seeks central nod to start Char Dham roads**

The state government in Uttarakhand recently sought permission from the Union transport ministry to bring skilled laborers and construction material from outside the state to resume the construction of Char Dham all-weather road project in the state. Work on the 880-km Char Dham project, which will connect Badrinath Dham, Kedarnath Dham, Gangotri, Yamunotri and part of the route leading to Kailash Mansarovar yatra, had stopped because of the lockdown. The permission was sought by the state during a video conference meet with Union transport minister. The state already has non-skilled laborers and if it gets the permission to bring back the skilled manpower then the state would be able to restart and speed up the construction work of the mega highway project and other road construction works across the state, an official spokesperson said in a statement.

**UP fast tracks 340-km Purvanchal Expressway project**

The UP Expressway and Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has recently speeded up the construction work on the 340-km long Purvanchal Expressway across all eight packages by engaging 5,000 workers. The strength of workers before the lockdown was 10,000, of which half of them went back to their respective native districts, PRC, UPEIDA, Dibrugarh. Upadhya said, elaborating that majority of workers were back at the site. The strength of workers is rising gradually after the state government issued an advisory to restart construction activity to revive the pandemic-hit economy. Barrin Lucknow, offices of contractors have also been opened in other districts through which Purvanchal Expressway would cut through. The state government fixed Diesel deadline for completing the project but this, however, is expected to be prolonged till next year. UPEIDA officials said, 42% physical work had been completed before the lockdown and the rest would be completed shortly. Likewise, 297-km-long Bundelkhand expressway has a presence of over 2,000 workers and that the authority has also started work on 91-km Gorakhpur link expressway with the help of 250 workers between Gorakhpur and Sant Kabir Nagar, he added.

**Parliament building worth Rs. 922-cr gets eco clearance**

The environment ministry’s Expert Appraisal Committee has given green nod for the construction of the new Parliament at an estimated investment of Rs 922 crore. Meanwhile, the Central Vista committee also approved the new plan, which has been opposed by civil society organisations and opposition parties. The green signal to the mega project in the national capital given with the usual caveats on minimized tree felling, environmental resettlement schemes even as a Special Leave Petition related to land use change for the new complex is pending before the Supreme Court. The SC also refused to stay the Central vista redevelopment project. The expert panel of the environment ministry has said the clearance for the project to build a new Parliament is subject to the apex court’s decision. On an observation on the necessity of constructing a new Parliament building amidst the current Health Emergency in the Country, CPWD has responded saying that the existing Parliament Building was constructed 93 years ago and is in dire need of retrofitting and that development of a new building is of utmost importance. Over the years many planned / unplanned changes have been made, often undocumented. This can only be done once the Building is in vacant position and that will happen once the new Building is ready. The department has further justified the increased in project costs form Rs 776 crore to Rs 922 crore citing changes in project specifications which have been approved after the application submission.

**BRO restarts construction work at Rohtang Tunnel**

The construction of the strategic Rohtang tunnel that was halted due to the coronavirus pandemic has been restarted by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) taking special permission from the Himachal Pradesh government. The work in the Rohtang tunnel, which was threatened as the Atal tunnel after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is being executed with necessary COVID-19 precautions to ensure its planned completion by September this year, BRO said in an official statement, adding that the tunnel is being constructed in the Pir Panjal ranges of Himachal Pradesh since the Manali-Sarchu-Leh road remains closed for six months in a year, due to the Rohtang Pass being completely snow bound between November and May. The tunnel will connect Manali to Lahaul Valley throughout the year and will reduce the road length of the Manali-Rohtang Pass-Sarchu-Leh road by 46 Kms. Besides connecting the people of Lahaul to the rest of India through the year, the tunnel will also provide quicker and better connectivity to the security forces in reaching Ladakh. The tunnel is in the critical stage of construction, wherein road surface works, installation of electro-mechanic fittings including lighting, ventilation and Intelligent Traffic Control Systems are being executed. One steel superstructure bridge of 100 meter length across River Chandra on the north portal of the tunnel is also under construction, BRO added.

CMRL launches construction work of Phase-I extension

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has recently started construction work at the Central Square and the Wimco Nagar Depot after a gap of over one month. The metro rail will constantly expand the work to other sites in the phase I extension project like the construction of stations and allied work with about 25-30% of the workforce in the construction site. To ensure that the workers continue to wear masks through the day and maintain physical distancing and monitor the movement of workers inside the site, a special safety team has been deputed across sites. The CMRL prepares to have portable hand-washing facilities at several locations at the sites. There will be social distancing in the bus too when workers are brought to the site and that they are being permitted into the sites only after temperature tests and if they don’t complain of any disease. Their tents are constantly disinfected too, to ensure there are no issues. Chennai Metro Rail planned to start train services in the phase I extension project that covers 9 km of north Chennai in June, but that will now be delayed and after that it will start construction work on other sites in a phased manner.

UPMRC resumes work on casting yard & metro depot

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) has resumed civil construction work of Kanpur Metro project while strictly adhering to the norms and following standard operating procedures (SOP) approved by ministry of housing and urban affairs. The work has started at Metro casting yard and Metro depot site, said an official spokesperson, elaborating that the construction work started recently and is now going on at Metro casting yard and Metro depot site at government polytechnic. The work at both the sites is being carried out in only one shift — from 9am to 6pm. All workers, supervisors, engineers and officers are being subjected to thermal screening for entry to construction sites. Metro officers are also ensuring that social distancing is duly maintained during work including disinfecting constructions sites, vehicles and other material in use. Before the announcement of lockdown, civil construction work of Kanpur Metro project was proceeding at an extraordinary pace, but had to be halted in unavoidable conditions due to the global pandemic. Contractors have made arrangements of food and shelter for workers at work sites so that project work resumes quickly as soon as lock down is lifted.
**NHAI kicks starts ring road project in UP**

The construction work on the second and third phase of outer ring road resumed on the 12-km stretch, between Faizabad road and Sultanpur road has been started. Prior to this, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and UP Public Works Department (UPPWD) managed to secure permission from the district administration, said official spokesperson in UPPWD, adding that 70% of the work of the second and third phase has been completed and only two rail over bridges (ROB) are to be constructed near Barabanki. Adhering strictly to the norms, only 10-15 workers have been deployed for installing girders for the over bridges using cranes. Project managers have been directed to take all necessary precautions and ensure social distancing. Similarly, NHAI officials have received permission for soil mining for the Sultanpur and Mohanlalganj (phase three) for which the work is expected to complete by June next year. Being constructed in five phases, the work on the outer ring road had started in 2015 is expected to complete in 2021, but got delayed due to various reasons.

**Builders in Hyderabad get ahead to start realty projects**

The Telangana government has permitted real estate developers in Greater Hyderabad to undertake construction activity by securing requisite material and engaging their workers, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, said during a tele-conference with top officials and project developers recently. The development came a day after Ministry of Home Affairs issued orders permitting ‘in situ’ construction in urban areas, including those falling in red zones. Representing of Confederation of Real Estate Developers’ Associations of India (CREDAI) and Telangana Real Estate Developers’ Association of India (TREDAI) along with senior officials attended the tele-conference. The Chief Secretary assured the project developers of all necessary support for construction activity by the state administration. He urged the builders to instill confidence among the workers particularly migrant workers through counseling and extending incentives, facilities and medical care. He said all efforts should be made to ensure that laborers feel comfortable. On request of the builders, Somesh Kumar said the government will take necessary steps to ensure the smooth supply of steel, cement, sand and bricks. State DGP Mahender Reddy promised the smooth movement of construction materials laden vehicles.

**Despite Covid 19, office space really remains unfazed**

Covid 19 may have a significant impact on the economy but most of the office space developers ruled out any major impact on the segment. Participating in a Realty webseries titled ‘Office Spaces – The Changing dynamics post Covid 19’ co-organized by ICICPI and the government owned infrastructure building agencies like PWD, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), the NBCC- India Limited, among others, which are spearheading major infrastructure projects in the city, have started construction works across projects with an inventory of construction material and availability of laborers at project sites. The PWD is working on important projects such as the construction of a 1.2km tunnel between Mathura Road and the Ring Road Barapullah Phase-3 elevated road project, Shastri Park and Seelampur flyovers in north-east Delhi, and the Benito Juarez Road underpass near south campus of the Delhi University, among others. The government has allowed construction only on those projects where the workforce is available on-site, PWD engineer-in-chief P K Vats, said, elaborating that they started taking an inventory of construction material at sites and also the available work force. PWD has asked the persons in charge of different projects to submit a report on the present status of projects and start the work at the earliest. Nearly 450 laborers are available at the tunnel construction site near Bhaluni Marg, around 200 workers are living at Barapullah Phase-3 elevated corridor project site near Saali Kalka Khan and Yamuna basin near Mayur Vihar-1. Approximately 150 laborers are available at Benito Juarez Road underpass project site, while another 100 are available at Shastri Park and Seelampur flyover construction sites.

**Realty & More, most of the participants agreed that the pandemic will have some short term impact, but ruled out any drastic changes in the office space segment. “There are certainly going to be some changes, but not long lasting one. There has been no rental correction or existing of contract except for retail segment. In the office space there has been hardly any renegotiations so far, but we have provided some concession in maintenance charges to our clients,” said Executive Director, WTC, Khar Ui Nissa and other participants also echoed his views. Asked about the impact on the demand in office segment, Sanjay Chaturth, MD (North), Colliers International said, “We don’t real see any downward movement in the commercial rent. Market is very strong and is driven by great demand. The demand is strong for office space. The office space absorption in 2019 was around 50 million sq. ft. and we believe the demand in 2020 will fall down to 40-45 million sq. ft. primarily because there has been little business in the first quarter so far. But as supply will also be impacted due labour issues and other restrictions, the rentals won’t fall much.”

**Schwing Stetter India resumes operations at Chennai Plant**

Schwing Stetter India (SSI), one of the country’s leading concreting equipment manufacturers, has resumed operations in its Chennai facility in the downstream south. The announcement follows the relaxation in rules by the government and the necessary permissions granted by the state authorities. The facility will now run with the required workforce to meet the initial production demand, and will follow all the government’s directives on business operations. This includes guidelines on social distancing, adjusted shift timing to reduce crowd, reduced bus capacity, frequent sanitization in common areas, regular temperature checks, hand sanitizing at entry, more batches with reduced persons per table in dining area, and regular monitoring by doctors and paramedics, said, Managing Director, Schwing Stetter India, V.G.Sakthikumar, reiterating that the company is happy to reopen its facility and commence operations. While resuming general processes, the health and safety of employees will remain to be the highest priority and will do so in alignment with the latest safety protocol from the government. It is hoped that the business will now begin to recover gradually and meet the demands of customers. During the lockdown, the Schwing Stetter India had implemented a number of safety measures aimed at curturing the risk of COVID-19 infections and ensure protection of its employees. The company had also taken complete responsibility for the health and well - being of over 600 migrant by providing its workers basic amenities like food, accommodation and regular medical monitoring.

**NHIDCL plans two lanes road project in Assam**

The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) has planned to build two-laning road from New Nongstoin to Chhaygaon – Kynhrai as per the local demand. The new road project will ease traffic congestion in the town as the existing road stretch is not wide enough to cater the burgeoning vehicular traffic requirements. The road project will crisscross areas like Nongstoin – Rambrai – Kyrshai and Khasi Hills, especially Nongstoin by directly connecting the Nongstoin – Wahkaji also under SARDPNE, which starts from Nongstoin town, is supposed to connect to Nongstoin – Rambrai – Kyrshai and is being built under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North Eastern region (SARDP-NE). On Commissioning it will serve as a lifeline to the people of West Khasi Hills, especially Nongstoin by directly connecting the state with Assam. NHIDCL sources said that another road project, Nongstoin – Wahkaji also under SARDPNE, which starts from Nongstoin town and is supposed to connect to Nongstoin – Rambrai – Kynhrai road at Nongstoin. A change will connect to Nongstoin – Rambrai – Kynhrai road and Nongstoin – Wahkaji road, they added.
The Professional Management Institute (PMI), the world’s leading association for the project management profession, recently announced the launch of its latest online course, Basics of Disciplined Agile™ Toolkit. The eight-module, self-paced online course helps practitioners get started with Disciplined Agile™ practice. Each module immerses agile practitioners in real-life scenarios that illustrate context-driven options to optimize a team’s Way of Working (WoW). The modules allow practitioners to see how teams, in a variety of industries and situations, use the Disciplined Agile™ Toolkit to make better decisions and achieve better results. According to Managing Director, Dr. Srinivasa Ranganathan, “that due to a huge paradigm shift in the style of working, the business environment is becoming more complex than ever. It is imperative for businesses and professionals to address these business complexities with the most suitable approaches to achieve better results. Our Disciplined Agile™ toolkit helps businesses choose the right agile approach for any given situation as it optimizes various practices from the agile world to help organizations create a customized way of working. PMI’s focus is on enabling people to be able to execute on their objectives and deliver more value. As the work ecosystem is evolving at pace and with ever increasing complexity, project professionals are being asked to take into and implement different approaches to deliver this value,” said Sunil Prashar and President and CEO of PMI. “Agile approaches and the Agile Mindset are an important part of the toolkit for project managers and change-makers across the globe. Choosing the right approach is becoming ever more important in turning ideas into a reality.”

After completing this course, practitioners will be able to describe what business agility is and how it is core to the value proposition of Disciplined Agile and discuss what is involved in choosing and evolving your Way of Working (WoW) and why it is critical for you to team. In addition, it will also help discovering how Disciplined Agile is a hybrid tool kit that expands and improves on techniques such as Scrum and Kanban and apply a guided continuous improvement (GCI) strategy to evolve their WoW to become more effective over time. “There is no one size fits all approach to apply agile approaches to projects and product initiatives. That’s why Disciplined Agile provides guidance on what strategy to use in any situation to increase your chance of success,” said Vice President, Mark Lines. He adds, “No matter where you are starting from a certification perspective, the new Basics of Disciplined Agile Toolkit course will help you understand at a high level how Disciplined Agile can help you build a stronger foundation of business agility.”

Panel to fast track infra building in remote areas

The government is all set toappoint a panel to provide speedy clearances in a span of three-months to ensure funds for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The move will not just help the state governments to shift slum settlers to city clusters being set up along the Delhi-Mumbai national highways but also become resource to attract foreign investment. In this connection, a Joint Secretary level officer has already been appointed to look after the foreign investment in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The government is making efforts towards decentralization of the industry as there is a centralization of industry in areas like Mumbai, Noida, Gurugram, Bengaluru and Chennai. It is also formulating a policy on how investment can be made more attractive in backward and tribal areas as the government is willing to build leather cluster along the highway. The ministry will offer plots and residential accommodation to people residing in Dhariwal slums, create a Smart City with airport, port and railway station connectivity. He exhorted leather industry representatives to grab the offer with the help of the Maharashtra government and has also suggested that the leather industry must prepare a plan for the proposed cluster on the Delhi-Mumbai highway. The minister said he will also talk to the Maharashtra government on this score. The cluster will provide a good alternative to generate jobs to slum settlers, which in turn will help the state to decongest Dhariwal slum, he added.

J&K kicks starts Rs. 166-cr road & bridge ventures

Under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP), the state administration in Jammu and Kashmir has speed up Rs 166 crore projects including upgrading vital road projects with a length of 86 km and the construction of three bridges in the Jammu division of the Union Territory, the Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA), said elaborating that Chief Executive Officer, JKERA/JTFRP, Dr. Syed Abdul Rashied presented over the meeting to review the progress of works under the component-2 of World Bank funded JTFRP. The Director, JKERA Jammu, Badaul Jalal Bhagat, said that the road projects to be taken up under JTFRP in Jammu Division include the upgradation of Sidhra-Sunnar, Tataganj to Khatola, Madana, Malaini-Chakbal and Chhrala Link roads among others. The work on four road projects has already been awarded while evaluation process for remaining is underway. The meeting also decided that JTFRP will also be executing the construction of three vital bridges in the remote parts of the Jammu Division which include construction of steel bridge from Katheel Ganjo to Barosa over Ghordi Nallah and another bridge from Barosa to Patri over Barmeen Nallah in Udhampur District. In addition, the construction of steel decked foot bridge over Azad Nallah at Siwalik Ghati in Reasi District and construction of steel truss bridge over Betar nallah in Poornch District and the building work on the two bridge projects have been awarded and the remainder will be awarded shortly.

PMI unveils online Basics of Disciplined Agile™ Toolkit course

This 10-week, self-paced online course, Basics of Disciplined Agile™ Toolkit, helps practitioners get started with Disciplined Agile™ practice. Each module immerses agile practitioners in real-life scenarios that illustrate context-driven options to optimize a team’s Way of Working (WoW). The modules allow practitioners to see how teams, in a variety of industries and situations, use the Disciplined Agile™ Toolkit to make better decisions and achieve better results. According to Managing Director, Dr. Srinivasa Ranganathan, that due to a huge paradigm shift in the style of working, the business environment is becoming more complex than ever. It is imperative for businesses and professionals to address these business complexities with the most suitable approaches to achieve better results. Our Disciplined Agile™ toolkit helps businesses choose the right agile approach for any given situation as it optimizes various practices from the agile world to help organizations create a customized way of working. PMI’s focus is on enabling people to be able to execute on their objectives and deliver more value. As the work ecosystem is evolving at pace and with ever increasing complexity, project professionals are being asked to take into and implement different approaches to deliver this value,” said Sunil Prashar and President and CEO of PMI. “Agile approaches and the Agile Mindset are an important part of the toolkit for project managers and change-makers across the globe. Choosing the right approach is becoming ever more important in turning ideas into a reality.”

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JSL launches operations at Jajpur steel plant in Odisha

Shortly after the decision of the government to not support the economic activities in a phased manner, Jindal Stainless Limited has resumed steel manufacturing operations at its Jajpur facility in Odisha in a phased manner, said an official spokesperson in a media statement. The company is strictly enforcing all the guidelines of the authorities to ensure health and safety of the employees and all other stakeholders involved in the manufacturing process. All employees are mandatorily following social distancing and prescribed safety guidelines. He further said adding that the company will review the market conditions periodically and ramp up its operations accordingly. It is expected that gradual reopening of other economic activities will help the industry and the economy to revive soon.

Noida offers built up space to export oriented units

The Gautam Buddha Nagar district administration has invited online applications from the entrepreneurs of Noida Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) and export oriented units (EOUs) to permit them to start commercial activities. The company is strictly enforcing all the guidelines of the authorities to ensure health and safety of the employees and all other stakeholders involved in the manufacturing process. All employees are mandatorily following social distancing and prescribed safety guidelines. He further said adding that the company will review the market conditions periodically and ramp up its operations accordingly. It is expected that gradual reopening of other economic activities will help the industry and the economy to revive soon.

GMDA steers clears 25 infrastructure projects

The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has recently steered clearing as many as 25 infra projects for resuming quicker construction activities with strict instructions to the builders to maintain social distancing norms during project execution. Developers are free to start construction at 45 project sites with less than 10 workers, CEO VS Kunwar, said, reiterating that the approved projects include real estate ventures of developers including DLF and M3M, along with some infrastructure projects. Small sites can start work without approval while the agency is granting instant approval to those outside the containment zones. About 1,700 applications have been received, of which 300 have been granted approval, which include 45 construction sites and the remaining applications are pertaining to be manufacturing units.

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The Gautam Budh Nagar district administration has invited online applications from the entrepreneurs of Noida Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) and export oriented units (EOUs) to permit them to start commercial activities. The company is strictly enforcing all the guidelines of the authorities to ensure health and safety of the employees and all other stakeholders involved in the manufacturing process. All employees are mandatorily following social distancing and prescribed safety guidelines. He further said adding that the company will review the market conditions periodically and ramp up its operations accordingly. It is expected that gradual reopening of other economic activities will help the industry and the economy to revive soon.

GMDA steers clears 25 infrastructure projects

The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has recently steered clearing as many as 25 infra projects for resuming quicker construction activities with strict instructions to the builders to maintain social distancing norms during project execution. Developers are free to start construction at 45 project sites with less than 10 workers, CEO VS Kunwar, said, reiterating that the approved projects include real estate ventures of developers including DLF and M3M, along with some infrastructure projects. Small sites can start work without approval while the agency is granting instant approval to those outside the containment zones. About 1,700 applications have been received, of which 300 have been granted approval, which include 45 construction sites and the remaining applications are pertaining to be manufacturing units.
associations come forward with some plans governments are planning to purchase housing. He further informed that central and state cost which will help the sector to generate technologies and reduce their construction government. He also said that the real estate sector and in case NAREDCO has the process to provide relief package for the cost, 40 per cent would be executed on hybrid-annuity and around 5-10 per cent on the BOT model. The remaining road projects will be executed by the authority through EPC, where contractors are paid directly by the government and they do not incur any traffic risk. EPC exposes the agency to more liquidity issues in the future but the saving grace is the tolling revenue that comes directly to us. To drive the investor sentiment back in the BOT segment, the NHAI in the recent past came out with a new set of guidelines a draft Model Concessionaire Agreement (MCA). In order to provide relief and get stuck projects moving, the authority has introduced the harmonious exit clause in the new concession pacts for the BOT projects. According to the draft MCA, the NHAI and the concessionaire would agree that in case of any financial default, the lender can invite, negotiate and procure offers, either by private negotiations or public auction or tenders for the take over and transfer of the project in the highway sector.

Gadkari promises a package for realty sector

The Union transport minister, Nitin Gadkari, has said that the government is already in the process to provide relief package for the real estate sector and in case NAREDCO has suggestions, it should send the same to the government. He also said that the real estate sector should form its own NBFCs for running business and the sector should adopt new technologies and reduce their construction cost which will help the sector to generate more demand and sell inventory at a low cost. He further informed that central and state governments are planning to purchase housing quarters for employee at large scale and in associations come forward with some plans that can be proposed to the government, it will certainly help the developer in liquidity and

Task Force submits Rs. 111 lakh-cr national infra pipeline to FM

The task force constituted by the Union transport ministry to prepare a national infrastructure pipeline has listed infra projects worth Rs. 111 lakh crore to be executed in the next six years. It has also pledged 71% of the investment for roads, urban development and railways, energy and envisaged a key role for private investors. The task force under economic affairs secretary Anurag Chakraborty submitted its final report on the “national infrastructure pipeline” (NIP) to Finance Minister. The newest report has called for a set of reforms and suggested ways of financing it by deepening the corporate bond markets (including those of municipal bonds), setting up development financial institutions for the infrastructure sector, encouraging monetization of infrastructure assets and land. According to an official statement, of the total expected capital expenditure of Rs 111 lakh crore, projects worth Rs 44 lakh crore (40% of NIP) are under implementation, projects worth Rs 33 lakh crore (30%) are at the conceptual stage and those worth Rs 22 lakh crore (20%) are under development. The highest investments are proposed for the energy sector (24%), followed by roads (19%), urban development (17%) and railways (12%). The Centre and the state are expected to have almost equal share at 39% and 40% respectively in implementing the infrastructure pipeline, followed by the private sector (21%). The government aims to raise the share of the private sector to 30% in coming years and this requires massive reforms in the way the PPP model is designed, given the poor response of the private sector to such projects over the years. Elevated investments in infrastructure will be the key to ensuring that India recovers from the Covid-19 crisis at the earliest, official spokesperson said.

Real estate records 12% growth in Hyderabad

The residential real estate market in Hyderabad in the downstream south witnessed 12 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth and a 1.4 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) growth in the first quarter (January–March) of 2020 indicating that the market remained buoyant on all parameters, Magicbricks ProIndex Q1 2020 said in its recent study. The report showed consistently performing commercial sector in Hyderabad had a positive demand on the residential real estate. Strong connections through the Outer Ring Road and the Metro Rail Network has also fueled real estate development in prime areas such as Gachibowli and Kukatpally. Commenting on the ProIndex, Sudhir Pai, CEO, Magicbricks, said that the Government is taking stringent measures to contain the Covid-19 outbreak, but the long-term impact on property market is uncertain and, yet to be assessed. But it seems that the consumer interest has not tapered off. There is a pent-up demand for ready-to-move in properties as data suggests that the 80 per cent of searches are happening in this segment and the rest for under-construction. Magicbricks ProIndex suggests that developers increasingly focused on peripheral locations such as Kompally, Attadabbi, Telfapur, and Patancheru, as DRR connects them with IT hubs, international airport, and emerging employment destinations. The demand for new projects by prominent developers with good track record continued to support prices, though the market favored the road to move segment, where prices have climbed a phenomenal 71 per cent in the past 5 years. Despite this, Hyderabad continues to offer a sizable but shrinking affordable housing market in the less than Rs 5,000 per sq ft segment. Also, prices of both ready-to-move and under-construction properties in the less than Rs 4,000 per sq ft segment fell q1 2020, while prices for the premium recorded resounding upswing, it claimed.

NHAI bets big on private players in road sector

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is relying on the private sector for constructing more than half of the projects during the current fiscal, a sharp shift from last year, when 60 per cent of the road length was executed by the authority through EPC, where additional works in the ongoing projects is exposing the agency to more liquidity issues and build-operate-transfer (BOT) and hybrid-annuity could boost private sector investment. The NHAI has set a target of building 4,500-kilometre highways in 2020-21, of which 40 per cent would be executed on hybrid-annuity and around 5-10 per cent on the BOT model. The remaining road projects will be executed by the authority through EPC, where

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