MoRTH approves Rs. 4,125-cr projects including a tunnel in U'khand

In a bid to decongest main cities in Uttarakhand, the Union transport ministry recently gave in-principle approval for the construction of a 2.74-km tunnel to be built in Mussoorie at a cost of Rs. 450 crore and also other road projects worth Rs. 4,125 crore.

The tunnel would start from Cart Mikenzie Road and terminate at the Kemply Fall Road and also gave in-principle nod for five other projects of building an elevated road and broadening stretches in the state at a cost of Rs. 3,675 crore. The tunnel would ensure that the vehicles going towards Kemply Fall, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Jaipur and Uttarkashi do not pass through Gandhi Chowk avoiding major traffic volumes. Earlier, CM called upon the Centre in principle approval to the project a major achievement to end the traffic woes of Mussoorie. The five other projects, which have received in-principle approval, are an elevated 7.5-km-long by-pass route worth Rs. 750 crore at Sinnag, two-laning of NH-31 at Mamta, two-laning of NH-34 at Pratap Nagar village to Dodka village of Vadodara District section of Delhi-Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) in Gujarat for a contract value of Rs. 758.40 crore.

Mega project of building an elevated road and culminate at the Kempty Fall Road and will have an extended arm on the Pandu road.

PNC Infratech wins Rs. 1,547-cr highway contracts

PNC Infratech, which is a renowned infrastructure builder of national repute, has recently secured two highway contracts, parts of Delhi Vadodara Expressway, involving an investment of Rs. 1,547.80 crore from NHAI, said an official spokesperson, adding that the projects have been secured on EPC basis under the Bharatmala Pariyojana and the company claimed the acceptance (LoA) for the projects. The scope of work included construction of eight lane access controlled expressway starting from NH-47 near Bhamiya village to SH-175 in Baletiya village in Panchnama District section of Delhi- Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) in the same stat for a contract value of Rs. 789.40 crore and that the completion schedule for both the project is 24 months, he claimed.

Maligaon in Assam gets Rs. 420-cr four-lane flyover

In order to decongest the Maligaon area in Guwahati city, the transport ministry is all set to start the construction work on the four lanes flyover involving an investment of Rs. 420 crore. As of now the city suffers from a lot of traffic snarls and congestion during peak hours and the 2.4-km long flyover, which will address the problem, has been planned and that the foundation stone for the mega project is expected to be laid shortly. The new flyover will run from Maligaon to Kamakhya Gate and will have an extended arm on the Pandu road.

Meanwhile, tenders for the project have been called in and the government aims to award the contract on fast tracked basis and the construction work is likely to start very shortly.

NHIDCL floats tenders for Rs 1,251-cr Bridge

The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) has recently floated tenders for the widening of the NH-40 starting from Shillong to Tamluk linking Moghalya with Bangladesh. Meghalaya deputy CM, Prestone Tynsong informed that the road project, which is being funded by the Japanese National Corporation Cooperation, involves an investment of Rs 1,251 crore and that the four packages to be executed in a phased manner. Each package of the tender will cost not less than Rs 120 crore. The 71 km long NH-40 will be converted into four-lane for about 15 km from Umshyrpi Bridge in Shillong to Batuk at the 7th mile in Upper Shillong. The project has to be completed in two-and-half years from the date of the allotment of work.

The widening work includes the construction of a new bridge over Umngot River at Dawki as an existing single-lane 136-metre suspension bridge is old and unable to support heavy load vehicles. The new bridge will be of 368 metres in length and 12.5 metres width and will be built upward of the existing bridge.

PNC Infratech wins Rs. 1,547-cr highway contracts

The second project pertains to construction of eight lanes access controlled expressway from Pratap Nagar village to Dodka village of Vadodara District section of Delhi-Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) in the same stat for a contract value of Rs. 789.40 crore and that the completion schedule for both the project is 24 months, he claimed.

Decks cleared for Rs. 3,000-cr metro line in Kolkata

Decks have been cleared for the construction of Joka-Esplanade Metro line in Kolkata with the ministry of defence allowing the construction work in the defence land area. As a matter of fact, the Metro station at Mominpur and tunneling below Maidan — both plots belonging to defence — with the MOD easing the defence land lease process for important public projects like Metro, defence secretary Ajay Kumar said, adding that this decision would give relief to Metro projects. Now, there is no lease rent for tunneling under defence land. It is a major boost for many Metro projects across the country, especially the Joka-ESplanade Metro project, as a significant part of the underground stretch requiring green signal from the MCD, said RVNL, the executing body of major Metro corridors in the city.

Recognising this advantage, Ajay Kumar said, ―the new guideline is providing relief to metro projects with no lease rent for tunneling of metro projects under defence land. Apart from the Mominpur Metro station in the Command Hospital ground, the tunnels are allowed near Turf View, the residential complex of defence personnel on Orphanage Road, Alipore and Maidan area of the Kolkata city.\n
---

**INDIAN INFRASTRUCTURE & TENDERS WEEK**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMPETITIVENESS PROMOTION ACT, 2002 THIS PUBLICATION DO NOT CLAIM ANY UNIQUE RIGHTS IN THE INTELLIGENCE, TECHNOLOGY OR INFORMATION (OTHER THAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS) CONTAINED IN THIS PUBLICATION. THIS PUBLICATION IS BEING DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT ANY EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED WARRANTY. FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT: WWW.NBMCW.COM
Railway floats tenders for Rs. 142-cr bridge in UP

In order to ensure smooth flow of train traffic on the Jhansi-Manikpur section in Uttar Pradesh, North Central Railway has recently floated tender for construction of two bridges on this stretch. According to an official spokesperson the scope of work in the project involves the construction of two important bridges at Belwa river (Br No 1141/1) and Dhasan river (Br No 1206/1) and two major bridges (Br No 1150/1 and 1207/2). The twin projects have been aimed at doubling of Jhansi-Manikpur section. He said adding that the assigned work will be completed at an investment of Rs 142.6 crore within a time span of 36 months.

Embassy Parks fixes Rs. 1,500-cr realty space on radar

Embassy Office Parks REIT in a newest move has decided to invest Rs 1,500 crore over a period of time to add 2.6 million square feet of commercial space into its existing portfolio of 26 million square feet of operational office space. This additional 2.6 million square feet of space is in the early stages of office space. This additional 2.6 million square feet of commercial space into its existing portfolio of 26 million square feet of operational office space. This additional 2.6 million square feet of space is in the early stages of construction and will be a part of its existing integrated business parks and campuses and that the earliest delivery will come in June of 2022, said Vikram Khilnani, Deputy CEO at Embassy Office Parks REIT, adding that given

India plans 13th Japanese industrial townships in Assam

In a bid to promote domestic manufacturing and strengthening economic ties between the two countries, India has decided to set up the 13th Japanese industrial township in Assam. Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Gunuprasad Mohapatra said, adding that the government is working on a Geographic Information System-enabled data base of industrial areas and clusters across the country. In terms of infrastructure, India has 12 Japanese industrial townships across nine states and at13th is being planned in Assam. These are integrated industrial parks with ready to move in infrastructure facilities, with world-class infrastructure, plug-and-play factories, pre-approved licences and investment incentives exclusively for Japanese companies. In this connection, a fast track system is being worked out with the objective to identify and solve problems faced by Japanese companies and investors with their operations in India in an effective and time bound manner. India is removing regulatory compliances like zero liquid discharge to encourage investments in sectors like semiconductors.

JCB Group appoints Deepak Shetty as Dy. CEO & MD in India

The JCB Group has recently announced the appointment of Deepak Shetty as Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of JCB India Limited. The new incumbent, who is 48 years old, has been with JCB for over 10 years in various leadership roles. He takes over the new assignment after having been the Executive Vice President Sales, Marketing, Product Support and Business Development for India and the South Asia region; a role he held for two years. Prior to this, he was the Managing Director of JCB’s Global Excavator business in the UK for four years.

Beginning next year, Deepak will take over as MD and CEO from Subir Kumar Chowdhury (age 61), who has announced his retirement after having been with JCB India for close to 15 years. Subir has played a significant role in JCB India’s growth story, expanding its operational ambit from one factory to five currently. Commenting on the new appointment, CEO, JCB Group, Graeme Macdonald said, “India continues to be an important market for the JCB Group. As part of our succession planning, we are pleased to appoint Deepak in this very challenging role. His experience in various leadership positions in India and the UK will help JCB India enter a strong and sustained phase of growth in the Indian construction equipment market. On behalf of the JCB Group, I wish Subir well for his retirement at the end of this year”.

BMRCCL launches Rs. 30,695-cr Phase-II of metro rail venture

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation has recently launched the tunnelling work on the Phase-II of the metro project involving an investment of Rs. 30,695 crore. The CM has set in motion the work by one Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) and there is a plan to extend the city’s metro line network from KR Puram to Kempegowda International Airport via Hebbal and Nagawara and with the lowering of tunnel boring machine (TBM) Urb in Shivajinagar which has started digging tunnel up to Cantonment and beyond and that the mega project under Metro Phase II will be completed in June 24. There is a plan to open the Yelahenahalli- Aranapura route in November this year and the Mysuru Road-Kengeri stretch in February next year. For this metro line extension, BMRCCL has acquired properties on various stretches of the alignment. The Phase 1 Bangalore Metro network consists of two corridors that include the East – West corridor. As a matter of fact, the Metro authority has also announced its plans to launch operations on Nagasandra- BIEC by Jan 2022 and Bypannahalli-Whitefield in June 2022. As for the new route, it plans to open RV Road Bommasandra in March 2022 and Kalena Agrahara-Nagawara in June 2024.

NHAI invites bids for road linking Gurgaon-Mumbai e-way

In an attempt to accelerate the construction work of the extension of Gurgaon-Mumbai expressway to DND Flyway in Delhi, NHAI has bid out first two packages from DND to Balabaghm where the work is scheduled for completion by mid- 2023. The NHAI will build an 8 km long 6-lane flyerway between DND to Jaitpur along the Yamuna and the second package from Jaitpur to Balabaghm (25 km) via the existing bypass will be built with six-lane signal-free stretch. These two stretches will have six lane service roads for local traffic, said NHAI, elaborating that the third package from Balabaghm to Sohna (26 km), which is a Greenfield stretch, will be awarded soon. The construction work on the Sohna-Mumbai stretch is in full swing and the first stretch from Sohna to Dausa is scheduled for completion in November next year. Works have been awarded for about 1,000 km out of the 1,250 km and the ambitious work is currently in full swing. On commissioning, the expressway to DND will provide great relief to commuters in the NCR and the road users can take this road towards Agra and Jaipur and that a new link would also be approved to provide direct connectivity from the expressway to Jawar airport. According to the Chairman, NHAI, S S Sandhu, the agency will push Rs 5,000 crore as equity in the SPV, which will raise the Rs 40,000 crore as loan to be repaid from toll revenue.

India plans 13th Japanese industrial townships in Assam

In a bid to promote domestic manufacturing and strengthening economic ties between the two countries, India has decided to set up the 13th Japanese industrial township in Assam. Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Gunuprasad Mohapatra said, adding that the government is working on a Geographic Information System-enabled data base of industrial areas and clusters across the country. In terms of infrastructure, India has 12 Japanese industrial townships across nine states and at13th is being planned in Assam. These are integrated industrial parks with ready to move in infrastructure facilities, with world-class infrastructure, plug-and-play factories, pre-approved licences and investment incentives exclusively for Japanese companies. In this connection, a fast track system is being worked out with the objective to identify and solve problems faced by Japanese companies and investors with their operations in India in an effective and time bound manner. India is removing regulatory compliances like zero liquid discharge to encourage investments in sectors like semiconductors.
Dilip Buildcon bags Rs. 1,140-cr highway contract

A dding its project portfolio in the country’s road sector, Dilip Buildcon has recently bagged a road and highway project worth Rs. 1,140.50 crore in Telangana, claimed an official spokesperson, adding that the company has been declared as L-1 bidder in the tender floated by the National Highways Authority of India for the project in the state of Telangana. The company further said adding that the project in question commands a length of 52.60 km and has to be completed in two years. The scope of work included the construction of a four-laning of NH-362 from Repallewada to Telangana/Maharashtra border in the state.

Decks cleared for Metro Line 4 in Mumbai

D ecks have been cleared to start the construction work on the Metro Line 4 with the Bombay high court (HC) allowing Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) authorities to cut 357 trees to comply with the conditions imposed by authorities while granting permission. Those include compensatory afforestation over a hectare of degraded mangrove forest at Gorai, where the authority will have to plant 4,444 mangroves saplings and also bear nursery cost, cost of raising, and maintenance of the plantation for 10 years. Bhakti Park station on Metro Line-4 comprises 48 piers on the alignment covering about 1,200 square metres passing through the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ)-II and mangrove forests. Besides, MMRDA authorities are also required to construct a temporary approach road for carrying out the construction work. Metro Line-4 will also provide inter-connectivity with existing Eastern Express Highway; Central Railway stations; Mono Rail; Metro Line-2B (connecting DN Nagar in Andheri with Mandale); Metro Line-5 (Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan); Metro Line-6 (Swami Samarth Nagar JVLR-SLEEPZ-Kanjurung-Vikhroli), and Metro Line-8 (Wadala-General Post Office).

NHAI steers Rs. 4,000-cr Chandigarh-Ludhiana NH project

T he NHAI has recently cleared a Rs. 4,000-crore project that includes faster connectivity to Chandigarh from Ludhiana. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said that this will be part of the upcoming Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway. The project, which is being developed under the flagships Bharatmala Paryojna, will reduce travel time between Ludhiana and Chandigarh to less than one hour from 1.5 hours currently with an envisaged reducing travel time from IGDSI to Chandigarh Airport to two hours via Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II), Delhi-Katra Expressway. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is developing the 670 km Long four-laning of NH-363 from Repallewada to Kochi/Maharashtra border in the state.

KMDA kick-start Rs. 600-cr flyover at Ruby crossing

Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) has hastened the construction work of the highest flyover worth 12m high on an elevated corridor at Ruby crossing at an investment of Rs. 600 crore. The design for the six-lane Ruby flyover, which promises to ease daily commute along EM Bypass, is almost ready. The corridor also will have the 5.5m skywalk planned below the upcoming Hemanta Mukherjee Metro station at the Ruby crossing and will take three years to build the flyover. The project has aimed at decongesting Ruby crossing and Kalkagpur or Abhishekta intersections, which are the most congested parts of the Bypass. The new flyover will address these two traffic quagmires and substantially increase mobility on EM Bypass for the next 30 years. In this connection, railway consultancy RITES has submitted the draft detailed project report (DPR) to KMDA, which is finalizing the project in consultation with the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), implementing agency of the metro project. The three-lane structures on either side of the New Garia-Airport metro viaduct from Kalkagpur to VIP Bazaar will be 2m taller than the metro stations. The south-bound flank, ending at Metro Cash and Carry, will be 3m and the north-bound one that goes a little beyond VIP Bazaar will be 4m. The flyover has been split into two separate structures, consisting of Garia-Airport Metro. Work for 7 stations is set to start shortly as the median has already been taken up by the metro viaduct. At Kalkagpur, near Abhishekta crossing, an 800m ramp turns right to the Anwar Shah connector to allow access to vehicles from Jadavpur and Behala, said official spokesperson.

MoRT speeds up 401-km four lanes new NH project

T he National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has fast tracked the project of building 401-km long four lanes highway project crisscrossing Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The new road covering 90 km of length in Vizianagaram district will pass through Visakhapatnam, Chirnivalavasa, Vizianagaram and Salur. Odisha’s Koraput, Umarkot, Baheda and Dighi to Raipur via Lakhm, Borai, Nagri and Kurud. Of the total road length, 164 km falls in Chhattisgarh of which 132 km will be developed as a two-lane road while the remaining 32 km as a single lane road. Currently, the goods traffic between Visakhapatnam and Chhattisgarh via Odisha has increased significantly and hundreds of goods transport vehicles including containers are continuously running from Vizag port and Ganganavaram port to Chhattisgarh, and Koraput and Jayore in Odisha. The existing two-lane road is not enough to meet the traffic and the heavy vehicles are frequently involved in accidents and the entire traffic is being obstructed. The Union government has decided to extend the road and discussed with all the stakeholders like Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. In Vizianagaram district, the road would pass through Kothavalasa, L Kota, Jam, Gantyada and Vizianagaram. Bhogapuram International Airport coming up in Vizianagaram district which is a neighboring district to Visakhapatnam where the government proposed to set up the executive capital.

KEC International wins Rs. 1,192-cr multiple contracts

C ontinuing the momentum of adding more and more projects into its portfolio in the construction and infrastructure sector, RPG firm KEC International claimed to have won contracts worth Rs 1,192 crore across its business segments in both domestic and international arena. Managing Director and CEO Vimal Kejriwal said adding that the engineering firm has secured Rs 821 crore contract in the transmission and an order worth Rs. 146 crore from the Kochi Metro Project for the construction works of viaduct along with station for the Phase 1 extension of the metro rail project. The company is pleased with the new order wins amidst global uncertainties and financial turmoil. Its Transmission & Distribution order book continues to grow on the backdrop of orders secured across various geographies, he added.

KEC International wins Rs. 1,192-cr multiple contracts

KEC International wins Rs. 1,192-cr multiple contracts

C ontinuing the momentum of adding more and more projects into its portfolio in the construction and infrastructure sector, RPG firm KEC International claimed to have won contracts worth Rs 1,192 crore across its business segments in both domestic and international arena. Managing Director and CEO Vimal Kejriwal said adding that the engineering firm has secured Rs 821 crore contract in the transmission and an order worth Rs. 146 crore from the Kochi Metro Project for the construction works of viaduct along with station for the Phase 1 extension of the metro rail project. The company is pleased with the new order wins amidst global uncertainties and financial turmoil. Its Transmission & Distribution order book continues to grow on the backdrop of orders secured across various geographies, he added.
RBI infuses Rs. 5,000-cr in National Housing Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently extended an additional liquidity facility (ASLIF) worth Rs 5,000 crore to National Housing Bank (NHB) and the amount is over and above Rs 10,000 crore already provided for supporting housing finance companies (HFCs). The facility will be for a period of one year and will be charged at the RBI’s repo rate. ASLIF is being provided to shield the housing sector from liquidity disruptions and augment the flow of finance to the sector through housing finance companies (HFCs), Governor, RBI, Shaktikanta Das, said, adding that in the third bi-monthly monetary, the central bank has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent and also kept the reserve repo rate at 3.35 per cent. The pause has come after two consecutive rate cuts. The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank rate remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent. The economic fallout on account of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to significant financial stress for a number of borrowers across the board. The resultant stress can potentially impact the long-term viability of a large number of firms, otherwise having a good track record under the existing viability, due to their debt burden becoming disproportionate, relative to their cash flow generation abilities. As such, the RBI decided to provide a window under the Prudential Framework to enable lenders to implement a resolution plan in respect of eligible corporate exposures without change in ownership, and personal loans, while classifying such exposures as standard subject to specified conditions.

Mysuru-Chennai high speed rail on the anvil

The railway has recently fast tracked the 435-km long high-speed rail (bullet train) corridor between Mysuru-Bengaluru-Chennai where the route will be among a network of high-speed bullet trains on seven new routes, official sources said elaborating that railways along with the NHAI will start the process to acquire additional land soon. NHAI will soon acquire land to lay tracks for high-speed trains along Greenfield expressways for integrated development of the rail transport network along expressway across the country. During an Infra Sector Group meeting held recently, it was decided that the NHAI will take over land acquisition and a four-member committee was formed to look into the matter. The committee will work on the modalities for acquiring land and its cost estimation. In fact, the Indian Railways plans to run bullet trains on 7 important new routes of the country including Delhi to Varanasi via Noida, Agra and Lucknow; Varanasi to Howrah via Hooghly river; Jammu Tawi to Amritsar via Jalandhar; Jaipur and Udaipur; Delhi to Amritsar via Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Jalandhar; Mumbai to Nagpur via Nashik; Mumbai to Hyderabad via Pune and Chennai via Mysore to Bengaluru. The bullet train will run at a maximum speed of 320 km per hour and the actual distance from Mysuru to Chennai is over 485 km while the bullet train corridor will be 435 km and in view of the train speed, it can cover the 145-km distance from Mysuru to Bengalore in just 45 minutes.

Cuddalore port in TN gets Rs. 135-cr expansion

After much dilly dallying, the Union government approved Rs 135 crore expansion of the Cuddalore port, which has already got environment and CRZ clearances. The plan is to enhance the Cargo handling capacity with construction of two additional berths with required modifications in the existing breakwaters. An expert appraisal committee of the Union ministry of environment and forests granted clearance, subject to conditions, including independent monitoring by a government/institute to evaluate impact during dredging. Impact of dredged material on coastal environment along with shape-line changes should be studied by the Tamil Nadu Maritime Board and necessary mitigation measures are to be taken in case any adverse impact is observed and details shall be submitted along with the six-monthly monitoring report and that no underwater blasting is permitted. The expansion plan has come in the wake of the port, which is in existence since pre independence days. It came close to being defunct for want of dredging to make the existing wharf operational for multi-cargo handling for 5.68 million tons per annum, including coal, fertilizer, cement and containers and clean cargo. The plan is to support and sustain the industrial growth in Cuddalore and adjoining districts, especially the serving mines and thermal power stations in Neyveli, besides the proposed thermal power plants in the coastal stretch and industrial development in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

100% Swadeshi

Proud to be Indian
Proud to be empowering the nation for last 25 Years

L&T, IRCON & Midha place bid for Zojila tunnel

Three construction majors— Larsen & Toubro, Medha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd and IRCON— have placed bid for the Rs 4,400 crore Zojila Pass tunnel connecting Kashmir with Ladakh. As per the bid condition, the successful bidder will need to provide helicopter services from Srinagar to the project site twice a month. The project, earlier awarded in 2017, was terminated after the crisis hit IL&FS, said official sources, adding that the project work will be awarded shortly and will be completed in six years. This is for the first time such a provision to provide helicopter services has been incorporated as in the bidding document of a road project to transport officials and workers to transport to the worksite to ensure that work can continue round the year. The contractor shall provide the helicopter service within one month from the appointed date. The construction period has been reduced to six years from the earlier estimate of seven years considering that the construction can continue round the year. The emergency escape tunnel has been done away with, which was estimated to cost Rs 850 crore and that the new bid has included widening of the existing 18 km approach road to 10 metres. The NHIDCL has targeted 2.5 years for completing the approach road, which will also have two tunnels with total length of 2 km and another underground portion of 2.5 km.

NHIDCL floats tenders for Rs. 277-cr highway in Sikkim

Adding to the existing road networks in the state, the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), has recently floated tender for two -lane road project in Sikkim in the north eastern region. The scope of work in the project in question envisages construction and upgrading the existing road to two-lane with paved shoulder from 37.700 km (new Rolops Bridge) to 52.000 km (Chochenpur) of Rhenok-Menla shoulder from 37.700 km (new Rolep Bridge) to 52.000 km (Chochenpur) of Rhenok-Menla. The NHIDCL has targeted 2.5 years for completing the approach road, which will also have two tunnels with total length of 2 km and another underground portion of 2.5 km.

Govt mulls 100% FDI in rental housing scheme

The government is all set to allow 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in affordable rental housing as it focuses on local real estate developers. The Indian government, in response to a demand for a conducive atmosphere for a small-to-medium-scale real estate developer, is ready to give a go-ahead for 100% FDI to boost the rental market. In a meeting with a group of real estate developers, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured them that the government is ready to provide a conducive atmosphere for the development of the rental market.

AP unveils Rs. 16,000-cr metro corridor along coastline

The state government in Andhra Pradesh is contemplating to launch a metro rail on the Visakhapatnam coast at an investment of Rs. 16,000 crore. The DPRs for light metro rail and modern tram corridors is being prepared by Urban Mass Transit Company while Amravati Metro Rail Corporation is busy in evaluating the cost of the project. According to the initial estimates, the tram corridor is expected to cost about Rs 100 to Rs 120 crore and construction of 60.20 km of tram corridor is estimated to cost Rs 7.320 crore. In view of this, the construction of the tram corridor will begin by June 2021.
Kolkata metro invites bids for Rs. 103-cr metro car depot

The Kolkata metro recently floated tenders for the construction of Rs 103.1 crore New Garia Metro car depot, which will enable the crucial work as the completion of the depot is key to the truncated New Garia-Ruby Park (Hemanta Mukherjee) Metro service that’s scheduled to start shortly. The tender has been sought to complete a series of works, including building roads, tracks, power supply, general electrical works, supply and installation and commission of machinery and plants besides water supply, drainage and sewage system. Once ready, it will be one of the biggest integrated Metro car depots in the city to serve the North-South and New Garia-Airport alignments. The depot will also facilitate the movement of cars from North-South alignment to New Garia-Airport alignment. The depot is very crucial for integrating the country’s oldest Metro corridor with New Garia-Airport line, said, RVNL, the executing agency of the project, in an official statement.

Komatsu Excavators works wonder for BRO’s project

As many as 20 units of Komatsu PC210-900 Hydraulic Excavators worked arduously at over 17,000 ft high altitude for a new 80 km mountainous road to Kailash Mansarovar constructed by Border Roads Organization BRO. The project in question was opened recently in the inhospitable terrain. Score of these machines, fitted with Rammer Rock Breakers, were used for breaking and excavating blasted hard rock, often disrupted by snowfall, landslides and flash floods. Komatsu PC210-20 machines played a critical role in the construction despite engaged for only six-seven months despite engaged for only six-seven months. The disbursements are up 46 times from the Rs 400 crore released during the corresponding period in last year, said official sources, elaborating that NHAI disbursed Rs 15.295 crore between 22 and 31 March and another Rs 15,000 crore in April. Both MoRTH and NHAI shifted from a milestone-based payments system to a monthly payments model. In the earlier system, billing and payments under the engineer, procurement, construction (EPC) model were linked to the completion of pre-determined physical milestones. For hybrid annuity model (HAM) projects, NHAI released funds for working capital needs even before the milestones were completed. The funds were offered at 200 basis points above bank lending rates, and offered low-cost working capital to developers. The payments are later set off against settlements that the government owes to contractors under the HAM projects.

MoRTH disburses Rs. 18,700-cr to road contractors

In order to offset the adverse impact of Covid-19 on road infra developers reeling under severe cash crunch, the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) and the NHAI have adopted faster payment mechanisms and disbursed Rs 18,700 crore to developers between April and May this year. The disbursements are up 46 times from the Rs 400 crore released during the corresponding period in last year, said official sources, elaborating that NHAI disbursed Rs 15.295 crore between 22 and 33 March and another Rs 15,000 crore in April. Both MoRTH and NHAI shifted from a milestone-based payments system to a monthly payments model. In the earlier system, billing and payments under the engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) model were linked to the completion of pre-determined physical milestones. For hybrid annuity model (HAM) projects, NHAI released funds for working capital needs even before the milestones were completed. The funds were offered at 200 basis points above bank lending rates, and offered low-cost working capital to developers. The payments are later set off against settlements that the government owes to contractors under the HAM projects.

UP fixes funds for Rs. 36,000-cr Ganga Expressway

The state government in UP has planned to generate Rs 2,900 crore from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (Hudco) for the construction of 628-km Ganga Expressway project involving an investment of Rs 36,000 crore. This loan amount would be utilized towards land acquisition for the mega infrastructure project by nodal agency UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA). A decision to this effect was taken recently in a meeting of UPEIDA chaired by its chief executive officer (CEO) and UP additional chief secretary Awanish Kumar Awasthi. Ganga Expressway will involve land acquisition of 6,556 hectares of land across Meerut, Amroha, Bulandshahr, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Farrukhabad, Hardoi, Kannauj, Unnao, Rae Bareli, Pratagarh and Prayagraj districts. Meanwhile, the UPEIDA board also cleared the proposal of raising loans worth Rs 5,900 crore for Bundelkhand Expressway from a consortium of banks led by Bank of Baroda and comprising Union Bank of India, Indian Bank, Bank of Maharastra and Uco Bank. The Bundelkhand Expressway, which involves and investment of Estimated to cost Rs 15,000 crore, will link Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Elaawah districts of the state and that the state had last year awarded six packages of the expressway to the selected bidders, including Apco InfraTrack, Ashoka Buildcon, Gawar Construction and Dilip Buildcon, said an official spokesperson.

AIIB extending $3-bn financing for infra projects

As part of its effort to improve connectivity, China-based multilateral funding agency AIIB is contemplating providing worth USD 3 billion financing for various big ticket infrastructure projects, including Delhi and Meerut Rapid Rail, Mumbai Metro Rail and Chennai Peripheral Ring Road project, over the next 12 months, vice president D J Pandian said elaborating that India is the largest borrower accounting for 26 per cent of the total lending by Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) so far. As of July 16, 2020, AIIB has approved up to USD 19.6 billion for 87 projects in 24 economies. Since its inception in 2016, AIIB has approved loans to the tune of USD 4.3 billion across 17 projects in India. Taking about future financing opportunities, Pandian said pipeline is very robust and many infrastructure projects are at various stages of approval. Projects worth USD 4.5-5 billion are there in the pipeline and the bank is approving another USD 3 billion to India very shortly. In Maharashtra alone, three projects of about USD 1.2 billion are under consideration and three road projects of Tamil Nadu including Chennai Peripheral Ring Road project worth USD 1.1 billion are at different stages of approval.

Telangana takes up Rs. 523-cr elevated road corridor

Facilitating hassle free traffic movement from Nalgonda X-roads to Owaishi Hospital junction at Hyderabad in Telangana, Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Minister KT Rama Rao, recently laid the foundation stone for an elevated corridor costing Rs 523.92 crore. It will provide major relief to traffic at IS Sadan junction and will reduce travel time towards Channapet and Chandrayangutta areas. As part of the Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP), the corridor will be constructed from Government Printing Press at Chanchalguda to Yadagiri theatre via Chanchalguda junction, Saidabad junction, Dohibhag junction, and IS Sadan junction. The corridor length will be 3.382 km, of which the flyover would constitute 2,580 km and the remaining for ramp on both sides. Grade-separated intersections will reduce number of conflicts at the Chanchalguda junction, Saidabad junction, Dohibhag junction and IS Sadan junction, said an official spokesperson.

SCR starts work on Rs. 3,000-cr Duvvada-Gudur rail line

South Central Railway has launched construction work of third railway bridge on the river Penna as the Ministry of Railways had sanctioned the new third line connecting Duvvada and Gudur at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore and allocated funds for the purpose. Railway authorities started works of third line in 2018 between Gudur and Vijayawada as part of Chennai and Howrah Mainline. Indian Railways engaged its own commercial arm, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), for taking up the works initially between Gudur and Bitruggara railway stations but it faced severe passengers’ rush and shipment of goods. Railways proposed to divert many trains to the third line enabling free movement of express and non-express trains. Execution of earthwork, construction of minor bridges and other works such as the construction of stations have also been proposed between Kommarapudi and Nellore stations will be carried out by the contractor.
MRIDCL unveils six lanes RoB in Reay Road

The Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (MRIDCL) has decided to build a six-lane road over bridge (RoB) between Reay Road and Dockyard railway stations. The bridge will have a width of 12 metres on both sides. The corporation will undertake the construction and reconstruction work of 11 RoBs and have a width of 12 metres on both sides. The construction work will include the construction of Tilak Bridge between Dadar and Matunga railway stations; RoBs at Ghatkopar, Byculla, Mahalaxmi, Currey Road and Lower Parel stations; RoB on Belas Road between Mumbai Central and Grant Road stations. MRIDCL will also construct a road under bridge at Matunga Road railway station and a cable-stayed RoB is also being built between Byculla and Sandhurst Road railway stations.

Quality Buildcon is lowest bidder for Patna Metro contract

The Delhi based Quality Buildcon has emerged as the lowest bidder (L1) among the seven other bidders for the construction of New ISBT Depot of Patna Metro Rail project in financial bids opened recently by DMRC. The scope of work in the contract package PC-02 involves the development of New ISBT Rail Depot including earth filling, boundary wall, depot buildings, workshop, inspection shed, plumbing, drainage, external development, architectural finishes, road works, design and construction of PEB works. The DMRC floated tender in April this year. Quality Buildcon quoted Rs 143.35 crore against the estimated cost of Rs 172.18 crore and emerged as the lowest bidder. The contractor will have to complete the construction and other activities for New ISBT Depot in 30 months. New ISBT Depot (Metro Carshed) will consist of 2 workshop bays with provision for 2 in the future, two inspection bays (IBLs) with provision for 2 in the future, 8 stabling bay lines (SBLs) which can accommodate a total of 32 (3-coach) trains along with an auto coach washing plant. Apart from this, buildings for other support activities like auditorium, training school, canteen, and operational control centre (OCC) will also be constructed under this contract.

DFCCIL to connect Haldia Port with Ludhiana

According to the Managing Director, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation India Ltd (DFCCIL) being one of the most prestigious infrastructure projects in the country, Dedicated Freight Corridor is a high priority area for the government. DFCCIL has decided to connect the inland waterways from Varanasi to the eastern corridor to provide direct connectivity from Haldia Port to Ludhiana in Punjab. It will also be allowing private players to operate on these corridors and that DFCCIL has injected a booster to the construction industry and once the operation starts, the logistics industry will greatly be benefited. While Achal Khare, Managing Director, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited claimed that under the High speed rail projects, there are total 25 construction packages out of which 20 packages are allotted to Indian companies and only 5 to Japanese companies. This will further give a thrust to the government’s vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Likewise LC Trivedi, General Manager, East Central Railways and North Eastern Railways, Indian Railways said that ministry of railways has ordered a gradual shift of all their tenders to GEM (Government e-Marketplace) for bringing more transparency in procurement thereby creating ample opportunities through participation of multiple stakeholders in the rail sector.

KEC International in JV cracks Rs. 168-cr metro contract

KEC International in JV cracks Rs. 168-cr metro contract as the company signed a Lease Agreement to provide long-term lease of 30 years, including construction period of 4 years in the first phase. The airport is expected to start operations around 2023-24, when the existing airport is set to exhaust its capacity of more than 100 million.

Jewar Airport gets Rs. 5,000-cr infra booster

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has signed an agreement for Rs 5000 crore in three years for the development of residential and commercial projects in and around the upcoming Jewar airport. The funds will be provided by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) and will be used for building the industrial estate, Electronic City and housing projects, said Anurag Vir Singh, CEO of the authority. As per the MOU, YEIDA will require Rs 4000-5000 crore for development around the Jewar airport and that the Uttar Pradesh government has earmarked about 5,000 hectares of land in Jewar on Yamuna Express for an aviation and transport hub.

DP World in JV to build Rs. 1,000-cr Trade Zone in Mumbai

The DP World and National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) joint venture (NSBP) Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in Mumbai. The facility will be equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure like specialized multi-product and temperature-controlled warehouses, and a container yard with ultra-modern digital & security systems. It will offer round-the-clock customs clearance and value-added services to provide customers a one-stop solution for all their consumption and trading needs. CEDO, DP World Subcontinent, Rizwan Soomar, said, “The Free Trade Zone will be ready towards the end of 2021 as this investment reinforces DP World’s strategy and commitment to India, and strengthens integrated logistics portfolio in the country. Alongside DP World’s global network of ports & terminals and inland logistics infrastructure in the region, the FTZ will provide a seamless experience for both domestic and international customers”. It is believed that the FTZ will contribute in establishing India as a major trade and manufacturing hub, and support the Government’s ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ Program. With its strategic location, the FTZ will help position India as a prime hub for exports to neighboring countries, and inject a major fillip to the manufacturing sector in the country.”

INDIAN INFRASTRUCTURE & TENDERS WEEK
The government will also flag off the third phase of 36.7km of National Highway-30 between Jalandhar; Mumbai to Nagpur via Nasik; Delhi to Ahmedabad via Jaipur and Udaipur; Delhi to Amritsar via Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Jalandhar; Mumbai to Hyderabad via Pune and Chennai; to Mysore via Bangalore, he said.

China companies may still have access to infra projects

A s most multilateral agencies mandate international competitive bidding for all projects funded by them where the contract amount is at least $3 million. In such cases, International competitive bidding is the most appropriate method of procurement under ADB financing in most cases. This provides an executing agency with a wide choice in selecting the best bid from competing suppliers and contractors. It gives prospective bidders from eligible source countries equal opportunity to bid on goods and services that are being procured under ADB financing. ADB’s procurement policy says. Chinese companies usually are very competitive in large transport projects, such as Metro, said an official of a multilateral agency working in India, under the condition of anonymity. For example, CRCC

Jaipur goes vertical in high rise construction category

The state capital of Rajasthan is all set to change with the urban development and housing (UDH) department amending the minimum height for a building under the high-rise category from 15 metres to 18 metres. The move is aimed at catering the demand for more and more space at a time when availability of land is shrinking. The decision to go vertical, a seven high-speed rail corridors for running bullet trains for which the detailed project reports are Delhi to Varanasi via Noida, Agra and Lucknow; Varanasi to Howrah via Patna; Delhi to Ahmedabad via Jaipur and Udaipur; Delhi to Amritsar via Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Jalandhar; Mumbai to Nagpur via Nasik; Mumbai to Hyderabad via Pune and Chennai; to Mysore via Bangalore, he said.

Ayodhya gets Rs. 500-cr infrastructure projects

The state government in Uttar Pradesh has approved out infrastructure projects worth Rs. 500 crore and the PM is slated to lay the foundation stones during the launch of the construction work on the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on August 5. In the process, foundation stones of projects worth Rs 326 crore will be laid including the four-laning of 36.7km of National Highway-30 between Ayodhya and Lucknow; of the water supply project in Ayodhya which is worth over Rs 54 crore and will be executed by the urban development department. Foundation stone of modernization work of Tulsiram Bhawan under Ayodhya Shodh Sansthan worth Rs 16.8 crore will also be laid on the same day. Among projects which are to be dedicated to the people include a lecture hall, an administrative building, a library, an academic block for boys and girls hostel at Rajagiri Dassharth State Medical College at a cost Rs 134 crore.

IRB Infra sets to get Rs. 1,755-cr highway project

Continuing the process of bagging more and more projects in the country’s road and highway sector, IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd (IRB), has emerged as a preferred bidder for construction of eight lanes of Vadodara – Mehsana expressway in Gujarat, on the Gandevada–Eana highway stretching a length 27.50 km and involving an investment worth Rs 1,755 crore. The project in question is a green-field venture of eight-laning of the (Package-II) corridor of India’s ambitious ‘Bharatmala Pariyojana’ of the NHAI under Phase-I. The concession will comprise 730 days for construction and 15 years Operations & Maintenance rights. IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd (IRB) has said, “We are happy to see the company being awarded another section of prestigious Vadodara – Mumbai Expressway in Gujarat. Winning this project once again validates our technical expertise, rich experience and execution capabilities demonstrated over last two decades.”

Quippo brings Kobelco’s equipment on its platform

Quippo, India’s first digital marketplace for infrastructure equipment (www.iQuippo.com), recently announced a strategic partnership with Kobelco Construction Equipment India Private Limited (“Kobelco”), to market and sell construction and mining equipment manufactured by the OEM on its platform. The non-exclusive arrangement will allow customers of iQuippo to choose from a wide range of equipment manufactured by Kobelco; avail finance from financial institutions for purchase of those equipment; negotiate rates online and receive real-time offers that are customised according to their financing needs.

The partnership will enable Kobelco to showcase its entire portfolio of products, including all the variants of construction and mining equipment, to more than 90,000 customers of iQuippo. The program will significantly enhance Kobelco’s reach and allow it to capture and monitor leads of potential customers through the entire lifecycle using the iQuippo platform.

Commenting on the partnership, Anant Raj Kanoria, CEO, iQuippo, said, “We are very excited to be working with Kobelco on our platform. I believe that this partnership will be a vital step for the digital transformation in the construction equipment industry, as a lot of services will be available to the customers online and they would be able to interact with the Kobelco dealers digitally rather than visiting the dealership points physically. This will enable the entire Kobelco dealership to offer more services through our platform and will also assist them in managing customer relationship online. At iQuippo, we have always attempted to bring best-in-class products and services at the doorstep of our clients and this association is an important step towards this direction. In this period of pandemic, equipment buyers can choose, purchase and avail finance on the iQuippo platform without stepping out of their homes and offices.”

While Koji Nakagawa, MD & CEO, Kobelco Construction Equipment India Private Limited, said, “Kobelco brand is well known for its high-end technologically advanced excavators. Our recent new initiatives to provide high-end solutions to infra and mining application has been well accepted by Indian customers. We will continue to provide the best possible solutions and expand our reach to meet the needs of all the aspiring Indian excavator customers. This new agreement with iQuippo is made in this direction to reach out to all potential customers across India and offer our product solutions along with the funding options provided by iQuippo through their digital platform. In this new era of advanced communication, it is very essential to use technology to reach out to customers and create brand awareness. I am confident that this will be a win-win agreement for both Kobelco and iQuippo.”

IRB Infra has been awarded the contract for the Vadodara – Mehsana highway project, which is expected to provide an important connectivity to the north, enhancing transportation and trade. The eight-laning of the Vadodara – Mehsana highway is a part of the National Highway-30 project, which is a major connectivity project that will connect Gujarat’s western coast with the north and north-eastern regions of the country, providing a vital link to the national highway network. The project is expected to improve transportation infrastructure and boost economic growth in the region. The project will be implemented by the Government of Gujarat, with IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd (IRB) as the implementing agency.
Tamil Nadu takes up projects worth Rs. 2,368-cr

The state CM in Tamil Nadu has recently laid the foundation stones for eight projects entailing a combined investment to the tune of Rs. 2,368 crore. Key projects for which the foundation stone were laid include the construction of a International Tech Park Chennai (ITPC) promoted by the Capitaland group involving an investment of Rs. 1,600 crore. The firm will commence construction for the first phase of the 23.3-acre IT park as the ITPC, radial road. has 4.6 million sq ft of development potential for premium Grade office space, said an official spokesperson, adding that Chennai is one of the key markets for development potential for premium Grade office space, said an official spokesperson, adding that Chennai is one of the key markets for growth. The company has invested in IT parks, industrial townships, warehousing and lodging in the city. With both operational Capitaland IT parks in Chennai – ITPC at Taramani and Cyber-sale – fully occupied, and the new ITPC at Radial Road will offer more options for IT and IT-enabled services companies to expand their businesses in the city. Another key venture is from TATA Chemicals which has proposed to establish a project for manufacturing Silica in SIPCOT Industrial Park, Cuddalore at an investment of Rs. 350 crore. Foundation stone was laid for Nessai Electric, Japan, which will manufacture electric and electronic components entailing investments worth Rs 105 crore. The CM also laid the foundation stones for Uusi Finland, India (Rs 100 crore); Dinex (Rs 100 crore); Steel Shoppe for manufacturing steel parts for automobile industry (Rs 150 crore); MRC Mills textile project in Sippcot Industrial Park, Cuddalore (Rs 47 crore) and Sri Raajarajeshwari Life Care (Rs. 16 crore), he added.

Kerala cracks Rs. 1,428-crore road widening project

The widening works of the NH 66 stretch from Thalappady in Kasaragod to Kathikottam in Thiruvananthapuram recently received a shot in the arm with the Taliparamba-Muzhupplangad reach getting the approval of Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for four stretches of NH 66 where land acquisition work is in the final stages. The stretches include Talapady-Chengal, Chengal-Neeleshwar, Neeleshwar-Taliparamba and Taliparamba-Muzhupplangad involving a combined investment of Rs. 1,428 crore, said an official spokesperson, adding that the flyover project, which is a major component of the work, has been selected on the basis of the comprehensive study undertaken by the State Forest Development Corporation (SFC) as the best option for the overall development of the area. The work on Thalassery-Mahe bypass is already underway, work on Kathikottam bypass was stalled due to financial troubles faced by the company that was awarded the contract and further that Rs.1,234 crore of the total Rs.1,428 crore earmarked for civil works in the four stretches, will be disbursed for land acquisition. The time line for completion of the work is 30 months. The works include construction of a major bridge, three minor bridges, 91 culverts, five flyovers and five viaducts. The total extent of the reach is 29.94 km and the project also envisages construction of 38.45 km of service road and slip roads, he said.

Telangana launches Rs. 523-cr elevated road corridor

The new ITPC at Radial Road will offer more options for IT and IT-enabled services companies to expand their businesses in the city. Another key venture is from TATA Chemicals which has proposed to establish a project for manufacturing Silica in SIPCOT Industrial Park, Cuddalore at an investment of Rs. 350 crore. Foundation stone was laid for Nessai Electric, Japan, which will manufacture electric and electronic components entailing investments worth Rs 105 crore. The CM also laid the foundation stones for Uusi Finland, India (Rs 100 crore); Dinex (Rs 100 crore); Steel Shoppe for manufacturing steel parts for automobile industry (Rs 150 crore); MRC Mills textile project in Sippcot Industrial Park, Cuddalore (Rs 47 crore) and Sri Raajarajeshwari Life Care (Rs. 16 crore), he added.

The financial performance of ICRA’s sample of 12 construction companies has also been a major challenge, and this is likely to have a major impact in Q1 FY2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic-related lockdowns, labour migration, supply chain disruptions, increased expenses (fixed costs and cost increase due to adherence to Covid-19 guidelines), etc. Commenting on the development, Abhishek Gupta, Assistant Vice-President, Corporate Ratings, ICRA, says, “While the construction activities started since April 20, 2020, labour availability and supply chain logistics had been a major challenge, and this is likely to reflect in the Q1 FY2021 performance. Though execution has been gradually picking up, challenges remain and with the monsoons’ impact in Q2 FY2021, execution is expected to ramp up meaningfully only from H2 FY2021, provided the Covid-19 pandemic remains under control.”

Escoorts records 5.3% upswing in standalone profit in Q 1

Escoorts Limited in a statement claimed that its net profit of Rs. 92.2 crore in quarter ended June 30, 2020, up by 5.3%, as against a profit of Rs. 87.5 crore in corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal and as against Rs 140.4 crore in sequential quarter. Revenue from operations came at Rs.1,061.6 crore as against Rs 1,423.3 crore in corresponding quarter and Rs 1,386.7 crore in sequential quarter. EBITDA for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 was at Rs. 119.6 crore against Rs. 142.4 crore in quarter ending June 2019; EPS reported at Rs. 7.71 as against Rs. 7.32 in corresponding quarter and Rs. 11.75 in sequential quarter. At consolidated level, revenue from operations at Rs. 1,089.3 crore as against Rs. 1,446.5 crore in corresponding quarter. Consolidated net profit recorded at Rs. 92.6 crore in quarter ended June 30, 2020, up by 5.4%, as against a profit of Rs. 87.7 crore in corresponding period last fiscal. Due to unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic situation during this period, the financials for the quarter ended June 2020 do not represent normal operations and to that extent are not strictly comparable with any normal quarter. Commenting on the outcome, Chairman and Managing Director, Nikhil Nanda, said, “We are maintaining business continuity and ensuring safety of all our employees, stakeholders & partners aligned to government advisories. In this prolonged pandemic we are trying to find new and innovative ways to connect with our customers and providing them with un-interrupted product distribution & service. Rural demand in agriculture has been encouraging and government focus will aid to the sector in helping farming to continue the momentum. Amidst the challenging environment, while we have witnessed faster revival in our agriculture business this quarter, our construction and railway business have been impacted because of lockdown and related issues across geographical environments. Hopefully, we will see a recovery soon as the current market situation gets better and the economy across layers improves. We are optimistic for the coming quarters and hope that the collective efforts will help in containing the crisis and the global economy will be on its strength soon again.”

2 SANDS 2 AGGREGATES 1 FEED

It remains adequate with an aggregate order book-to-operating income ratio (OB/OI) of 2.92 times as of March 31, 2020. However, ICRA expects the performance of the construction companies to be impacted in FY2021 by a major impact in Q1 FY2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic-related lockdowns, labour migration, supply chain disruptions, increased expenses (fixed costs and cost increase due to adherence to Covid-19 guidelines), etc.