A Giant Leap: VECV achieves complete connectivity across product portfolio in CV industry

Leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, VE Commercial Vehicles Limited (VECV) recently announced the complete connectivity in modernizing the CV industry with its industry-first proposition of 100% connected vehicles across its entire product portfolio, powered by their connected vehicle solution –Eicher LIVE. From 1st August, 2020 onwards, the trucks and buses built on the EUTECH6 platform will be equipped with pre-fitted hardware that would enable them to be completely connected while on the road along with industry first ecosystem. This solution will help extract maximum possible fuel efficiency with savings of up to 10% in fuel costs thereby drastically reducing the operational cost of trucks and buses. The low asset utilization or limited hours the trucks and buses run every day, is another key reason for high operational costs in India. However, with improved infrastructure and the advanced commercial vehicles in BS VI range, it’s possible to run more. This solution will significantly improve uptime & logistics efficiency, hence the revenue-earning potential for Eicher customers. Being constantly connected, commercial vehicle owners will be able to maximize the potential of earning and saving, while improving service levels to their customers. Completely connected Eicher Trucks & Buses come with a host of intelligent features that will enable a three key benefits for the customer including fuel-efficient operations, superior uptime enabled by the industry-first Eicher Uptime Centre support, and segment-specific benefits such as enhanced logistical efficiency in e-commerce & passenger safety in buses.

Commenting on the achievement Vinod Aggarwal, Managing Director & CEO, VE Commercial Vehicles said, “The unique proposition of connected vehicles is a step forward towards modernising the CV industry. Starting with Eicher Live, then the uptime centre and now with 100% connected vehicles, we are closing the loop on providing a connected ecosystem for tomorrow, which is driven by the BS VI wave. These offerings will not only reduce the operational cost by maximizing fuel efficiency but will also increase revenue through improved asset utilisation with superior uptime. It will also offer better safety and logistical efficiency to our partners and customers.”

On expanding the technology across 100% of the vehicle range, he added, that “Large fleet customers who have high demands of fuel efficiency, safety and driving behaviour as critical elements will be able to maximise their productivity and profitability. This technology will not only benefit the big logistics players but also the last mile vehicles as effectively.”

Eicher’s advanced telematics system is fully integrated with the vehicle’s electronics and is engineered as an integral part of it. With the new emissions era of BSVI, the telematics system leverages the several sensors fitted in the vehicle and converts the large amounts of data to enable deeper insights, thereby creating a unique value proposition for customers. On one end, it is connected to the CAN, the electronics backbone of the truck and hence has access to vehicle data generated by sensors, ECUs and any exceptions through fault codes. On the other end, it’s connected with Eicher’s unique support solutions, such as Uptime Centre, Fuel Management services and segment-specific solutions.

Railway gets aggressive to connect all NE states by 2023

The Indian Railways is working hard on connecting capitals of all northeastern states to the rail network by 2023, railway board chairman VK Yadav said, recently, adding that the railway is implementing a project to connect capitals of all states of the northeast. As of now, except Sikkim, all northeastern states are connected to the rail network. Capitals of Assam, Tripura and Arunachal are already connected. Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya the capital connectivity is currently in full swing and the target has been indicated. Manipur will be connected in March 2022, Mizoram and Nagaland will get connectivity in March 2023, Meghalaya in March 2022 and Sikkim in December 2022 and that a lot of work has been undertaken in the region and much more would be undertaken in the next three years.

NHAI launches Rs. 4,500-cr Gurgaon-Mahendergarh NH project

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari recently laid the foundation stone for the 4-lane Gurugram-Mahendergarh road costing Rs 4,500 crore and would be part of the NH 352-W. It will help ease traffic pressure on the Delhi-Jaipur NH 8. The 46.1 km long Gurugram-Rewari road is also a part of the project. The project will have 99 culverts, 12 small bridges, 13 underpasses, two flyovers and one road over bridge. While Rs 2,300 crore will be spent on land acquisition and compensation, the rest will go into construction of the Rewari-Mahendergarh part of the project. The project would also include the construction of the 7-km long Pataudi bypass, which is likely to reduce congestion in Pataudi town. This road project will greatly improve the connectivity between Gurugram, Rewari and Mahendergarh by making commuting easier. The construction of this road is likely to reduce commuting time and also boost to employment opportunities as local youth would be able to access NCR with ease in a shorter time span.

NCRRTC launches precast work on the RRTS corridor

National Capital Region Transport Corporation NCRRTC has recently launched the first precast segment for the Delhi-Ghazipur-Meerut RRTS corridor at P922 between Guldhar and Dubai part of the corridor. According to details shared by NCRRTC, through various stages, the launching Girder which is also known as launching gantry is assembled on piers or pillars on temporary supports and later on, these are removed before segment lifting. In order to make viaduct, the various segments lifted are joined together to make viaduct. In the first span of 34 meters, there will be as many as 12 segments. Currently, the launch is between Guldhar and Dubai, NCRRTC said elaborating that the segments of the Delhi- Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor are being casted at the Vasundhara casting yard.
was the NGT ban on construction due to the 2019, with a deadline of September 2020, funds and hence had to halt the work. The agency has already invested its share of disbursement of funds to build highway 8 at an investment of Rs. 162 crore. Remaining amount is split between DLF and its share of disbursement of funds to build the project, which involved an investment of Rs. 126.39 crore commands a completion period of 24 months. The scope of work in the project in question includes the construction of a four-lane bridge over the Ganga River. The road will connect Sahibganj bypass in Jharkhand to Manihari bypass in Bihar. In the joint venture HCC commands a share of 26% amounting to Rs.494 crore, said, Arjun Dhawan, Group Chief Executive Officer, adding that the company is proud to work on this important NHAI project that will improve infrastructure in Bihar and Jharkhand enabling the states to enjoy long term benefits thereby improving the socio-economic conditions of the region. The scope of work envisages construction experience by providing modern amenities at the stations. The station will be reshaped with modern amenities and state of the art facilities which will ease and enhance passenger experience at the station, said Ved Parkash Dudeja, Vice-Chairman, RLDA, adding that apart from re-development of the railway station building, RLDA will also facilitate commercial development encompassing all land use categories like residential, commercial, institutional, warehousing, hotel and hospital. Space for these will be provided on nearby railway land and in the redeveloped railway station building.

**RLDA invites RFQ to rebuild Bhuj Railway Station**

Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has invited Request of Proposal (RFP) to depute a consultant for the redevelopment of Bhuj Railway Station in Kutch, Gujarat. The railway station will be redeveloped under the Public Private Partnership model (PPP). The selected consultant will be responsible for conducting the feasibility study, detailed master plan, urban design, engineering and preparation of a detailed project report for re-development of station of Western Railway. The Bhuj railway station is one of the 62 railways stations that the agency is redeveloping to enhance the passenger experience by providing modern amenities at the stations. The station will be reshaped with modern amenities and state of the art facilities which will ease and enhance passenger experience at the station, said Ved Parkash Dudeja, Vice-Chairman, RLDA, adding that apart from re-development of the railway station building, RLDA will also facilitate commercial development encompassing all land use categories like residential, commercial, institutional, warehousing, hotel and hospital. Space for these will be provided on nearby railway land and in the redeveloped railway station building.

**NHAI initiates works for elevated U turn on NH-8**

Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has recently released its share of disbursement of funds to build an elevated U-turn near Shankar Chowk between Delhi and Gurgaon on the national highway 8 at an investment of Rs. 162 crore. NHAI, which has already resumed the work on the projects, has a share of about Rs 66 crore and GMDA is pitching in Rs 14.72 crore. Remaining amount is split between DLF and Ambience Mall. According to NHAI sources, the agency has already invested its share of funds and hence had to halt the work. The work on the project was started on March 2019, with a deadline of September 2020, however, the first hurdle the project faced was the NGT ban on construction due to the rising pollution levels in NCR and the work had stopped for almost four months and then again halted due to clamping of the lockdown. But now NHAI resumed the work but still facing shortage of labour resulting in slow speed of the construction work.

**MoRTH invites bids for Rs. 126-cr bypass in AP**

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), in a recent move has invited bids for the construction of a bypass road in Andhra Pradesh, said official sources, elaborating that the project, which involved an investment of Rs. 126.39 crore commands a completion period of 24 months. The scope of work in the project in question includes the construction of a bypass road to Kadiri town from design ch 0.0 to 11.078 and 0.0 to 1.500 (existing ch 159.250 to ch 168.450) on NH-42 of two lanes with paved shoulder road in Andhra Pradesh on the engineering procurement and construction basis, he added.

**DBL-HCC in JV wins Rs.1,900-cr road contract**

 Hindustan Construction Company Ltd. (HCC), in a joint venture with Dilip Buildinton Limited (DBL), has been awarded a Rs.1,900 crore contract by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), for design and construction of a 22-km long road to link Jharkhand with Bihar. The contract in question includes construction of a four-lane bridge over the Ganga River. The road will connect Sahibganj bypass in Jharkhand to Manihari bypass in Bihar. In the joint venture HCC commands a share of 26% amounting to Rs.494 crore, said, Arjun Dhawan, Group Chief Executive Officer, adding that the company is proud to work on this important NHAI project that will improve infrastructure in Bihar and Jharkhand enabling the states to enjoy long term benefits thereby improving the socio-economic conditions of the region. The scope of work envisages construction of 15.885 km new link (NH-133B) including 6 km long Ganga Bridge to 4 lane standard connecting Jharkhand with Bihar, construction of 6 km Manhari Bypass in Bihar to 4 lane standard and widening of NH-131A ending near Narenpura to 4 lanes standard in Bihar. HCC’s association with the state of Bihar dates to the early sixties when it built India’s first road cum rail bridge - Rajendra Setu - across river Ganga at Mokamah. To date, the company has built several railway bridges for Eastern Railway, North Frontier Railways. The Indrapuri Barrage built across river Sone in Rotaus District in 1966 was the fourth-longest barrage (1,409 M) in the world. For the NHAI, HCC has built the Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project in 2007. Recent projects completed in Bihar are rail-cum road bridge across river Ganga at Munger and Sone Bridge on the outskirts of the state capital Patna.

**Embassy Group fast tracks 11 real estate projects**

Embassy Group in a recent move has decided to fast track as many as 11 real estate projects stretching across about 61.9 million sq ft area. In the newest initiative, the company has proposed to merge with Indiabulls Real Estate (IBREL) and take control of the merged entity. Currently, Embassy has around 14 per cent stake in IBREL which it bought in June 2019 for Rs 950 crore in an open market transaction. The projects that have been proposed to be merged are: Pristine, Grove, Boulevard, Lake Terraces, Springs, Embassy Residency, Embassy One, Concord Business Park, Knowledge Park, Embassy ACC Prism and Embassy Cornerstone. After merger it has proposed to take controlling stake and become promoter of the merged entity.

**India unveils new road in Bhutan bordering China**

The Union government has recently decided to build a road in Bhutan to enable New Delhi to quickly access Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, which borders China. The road will reduce the distance between Guwahati and Tawang by 150 km. It will also allow India to quickly deploy troops in the eastern region of Bhutan in response to any military misadventure moves by China. India has entrusted the task of road building to Border Roads Organization (BRO) as the new road will also be very important for Bhutan as well, as it will connect Lumla near Tawang with Trashigang in Bhutan. This is a part of the New Delhi and Thimphu having shared security interests as China has made fresh claims over Bhutanese territory. The boundary between China and Bhutan has never been delimited as Beijing also objected to Bhutan’s request for funds to develop the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary at an online meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) saying it is a disputed territory. The wildlife sanctuary, located in eastern Bhutan, covers 650 sq km and has never been disputed by China in the past. The Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary is said to be a home to the mythical Yeti or Migoi in Bhutanese and that the area is also home to Brokpas — a semi-nomadic population which migrated from Tibet in the 14th century.
HRIDC floats tenders for Rs. 212-cr elevated corridor

The Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (HRIDC) floated tenders for an elevated railway line worth Rs. 212.73 crore recently. The project in question is to be developed within the Thanesar city on Kurukshetra-Narnawa at an investment of Rs. 212.73 crore, said official sources elaborating that works would be starting in the next three months and the completion period is 30 months. This project has been a long-pending demand of Thanesar city residents as due to the five manned railway crossings on this line they face long traffic jams at several points and to undo this, CM Manohar Lal Khattar will lay the foundation stone next month. Once the project is completed, the residents of Kurukshetra city will get relief from perennial jams and traffic snarls as to avoid any hardships during construction period the project will be built on elevated rail tracks and the entire project will be commissioned within the stipulated time lines.

Dilip Buildcon bags Rs. 2,782-cr twin road contracts

The highways builder of national repute, Dilip Buildcon, has recently won Rs. 2,782 crore road contracts in Gujarat, Jharkhand and Bihar from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), said an official spokesperson, adding that in Gujarat it secured Rs 882-crore project to be executed on the hybrid annuity mode (HAM) model. On this score, Dilip Buildcon has been declared as L-1 (lowest) bidder for a new HAM project pertaining to the construction of four-laning of the Dhrol-Bhadra-Patia-S section and the Bhadora-Patia-Pipalia section of NH-151 on the private-public partnership basis. In another case, the company won Rs 1,900 crore highway projects in Jharkhand and Bihar in partnership, which will be executed on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) basis. Dilip Buildcon through JV has also been declared as L-1 bidder for a new EPC project, the company said, adding that the project pertains to construction of a new link NH-133B from Sahibganj Bypass in Jharkhand, including Ganga Bridge stretch and Manihan Bypass, and widening of NH-131A stretch also in Bihar.

MoRTH launches Rs. 20,000-cr highway projects in Haryana

The Centre has recently launched multiple highway projects including a 304 km Economic Corridor in southern parts of Haryana. These projects are part of the Rs 20,000 crore and Union minister, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stones of all the 11 projects recently. The southern Haryana will get 4-laning of Gurugram-Pataudi-Rewari section (46 km) costing Rs 1,524 crore and 14.4 km Rewari Bypass at Rs 928 crore. The bypass will be a 4-lane stretch and that the three other projects are 30.4 km 4-lane Rewari-Atri Mandi section of NH-11 costing Rs 1,057 crore and 40.8 km 6-lane Namau Bypass-Atri Mandi section of NH-11 costing Rs 1,380 crore. These projects will benefit people of Haryana by providing smooth connectivity within the state and other states such as Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. Apart from this, the plan also included the 6-lane Ambala-Ismailabad-Kotputli Economic Corridor, which will be completed in two years, which is likely to reduce congestion on Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Chandigarh highways, sources said elaborating that the highway stretch, which includes 227 km of new alignment or Greenfield road, will also create new avenues for industrial development in the state. Apart from this, the NHAI is promising that the distance of 260 km between Delhi and Chandigarh will be covered in two hours and this will be a reality by June 2023 as it has set tight schedules for the completion of Dwarka Expressway and Urban Extension Road in Delhi, Trans Haryana and the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressways. Though the length between these two points would be barely 20 km less than the Delhi-Chandigarh link, the travel time will be reduced by half as commuters will travel through five expressways. At a permitted speed of 120 kmph on expressways, a car can cover this 240 km in just two hours, the statement added.

PPS plans Rs. 1,200-cr metro coach factory in Noida

After the Jewar airport announcement, there is another investment boost to the Yamuna Authority area with PPS International asking Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) for 20 acres land involving an investment of Rs. 1,200 crore. On this score, the company has made a proposal and sent it to YEIDA and it is in the process of getting the green signal from central and state agencies. The Yamuna Authority has agreed on the allocation of land for the factory in Sector-32 once the factory is commissioned successfully, it will start manufacturing the stainless steel coaches based on German Technology in the Authority area in the NCR region. Apart from generating huge job avenues to locals, the project will also create new avenues for industrial development in the state. Apart from this, the Indian Government in Assam as this will be strategic importance for the round year connectivity between the North-Eastern states of Assam and Arunchal Pradesh. The road tunnel will be constructed with latest state of the art technique which will help the vehicles to operate at a speed of 80-100 kmph. The tunnel will connect Gohpur (NH-54) with Numaligarh (NH-37) in Assam, said sources, elaborating that the construction work on tunnel is expected to start in December this year. The tunnel will be constructed in three phases and its total length will be 14.85 km and will have four lanes and even the heavy military vehicles and others machinery can be transported easily through this tunnel which will save lot of time for reaching Arunachal Pradesh which share international border with China. The tunnel will be longer than the underwater tunnel being built by China below the Taihu Lake in Jiangsu province. The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) roped in US firm Louis Berger which also prepared the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the same. The underwater tunnel built by China below the Taihu Lake is 17.79-km long.

BMRCL floats tenders for Rs. 1,906-cr metro projects

Setting the stage for the much-awaited Airport-Metro corridor, BMRCL recently floated tender for the construction of civil work on the 36-km long KR Puram-Kempigowda International Airport line involving an investment of Rs. 1,906 crore, said official sources, elaborating that the BMRCL floated tender for civil work to be carried out in three packages — Rs. 639.9 crore, Rs 645.3 crore and Rs 620.9 crore, respectively. In this connection, it has also secured NOD from Asian Development Bank, which is funding the project. The first package will have eight stations: Kasturinagar, Horamavu, HBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, HBR Layout, Nagawara, Veeranapalya and Kempapura. The next will house Hebbal, Kodigehalli, Jakkur Cross, Yelahanka and Bagakur Cross stations and the third package is between Bellahalasuru and Doddbalapura near Yelahanka Air Force Station which will be constructed underground so as not to disrupt air base operations. Bangalore International Airport Limited will also build the two proposed Airport City station and KIA Terminal on the airport premises for which a separate tender will be floated shortly. The Centre has already given in-principle permission to seek loan funding from ADB and JICA. The move is expected to benefit thousands of airport-bound passengers and local commuters, who are currently facing lot of hardship while commuting to the airport.

Under water tunnel in Brahmaputra River gets approval

The Central government has granted in-principle approval for the construction of underwater tunnel in the Brahmaputra river in Assam as this will be strategic importance for the round year connectivity between the North-Eastern states of Assam and Arunchal Pradesh. The road tunnel will be constructed with latest state of the art technique which will help the vehicles to operate at a speed of 80-100 kmph. The tunnel will connect Gohpur (NH-54) with Numaligarh (NH-37) in Assam, said sources, elaborating that the construction work on tunnel is expected to start in December this year. The tunnel will be constructed in three phases and its total length will be 14.85 km and will have four lanes and even the heavy military vehicles and others machinery can be transported easily through this tunnel which will save lot of time for reaching Arunachal Pradesh which share international border with China. The tunnel will be longer than the underwater tunnel being built by China below the Taihu Lake in Jiangsu province. The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) roped in US firm Louis Berger which also prepared the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the same. The underwater tunnel built by China below the Taihu Lake is 17.79-km long.

The tunnel which will be constructed under river will have two different capsules (Tube) for seamless movement of traffic from both the sides. Special attention will be taken for stopping water leakages normally happen in tunnels and it will also have a ventilation system for the flow of fresh air in the tunnel. Among the other security features that the tunnel will have includes emergency exit, drainage system and also equipped with crash barrier system.
MoORTH speeds up Rs. 20,000-cr Chennai-Bengaluru e-way

In a bid to speed up the construction works for Rs. 20,000 crore Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway, the transport ministry has resumed the land acquisition process for the mega highway project. For the project, which is one of the 12 expressway projects being launched by the government, a nomination of the construction of 262-km-long, six-lane, access-controlled Bengaluru-Expressway starting from Hoskote in Karnataka and ending at Outer Ring Road near Chennai. The land acquisition for the project, which is being implemented under the public private partnership, has been hit due to COVID-19 pandemic but now it is in full swing in three districts of Tamil Nadu. It is learnt that there is a requirement of 694 hectares of private land in Tamil Nadu. The project is likely to reduce the travel time between Chennai and Bengaluru to four hours. In this connection, the award for acquisition of land has been issued in three districts - Tripuruth, Ranipet and Vellore, said an official spokesperson.

Bihar kick-start Rs. 1,710-cr Bridge works on Ganga River

T he construction work for the Agwan Ghat (Khagaria)-Sultanagar (Bhagalpur) bridge across the Ganga near Agwan Ghat under Pravarta block in Khagaria district has been started at an investment of Rs. 1,710 crore. The foundation of 3,160 meter-long bridge has been started at an investment of Rs. 1,710 crore. The foundation of 3,160 meter-long four-lane-cable-stayed bridge along with the approach road was laid by CM Nitish Kumar in February 23, 2014. The bridge will link NH-31 and 107, connecting Sultananganj with Khagaria, Saharsha, Madhepura and Supaul districts. After commissioning of the bridge, the burden of traffic on the Vikramashila Setu will be drastically reduced. The bridge, which will be provided with dolphin view point besides toll plaza facilities, is scheduled to be commissioned within three years of the foundation laying. It was, however, delayed due to a number of bottlenecks such as floods almost non-acquisition of land for approach road followed by about four months of lockdown. Meanwhile, the district administration has acquired 20 acres of land for the construction of approach road on June 30, Project director Ashok Kumar Jha said, claiming that the project is slated to be completed by the end of June next year.

MRVC inks MoU for Rs. 10,947-cr rail projects

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) and its development agencies for smooth implementation of railway expansion projects under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP-I)-I. MUTP-I was sanctioned by ministry of railways at a cost of Rs. 10,947 crore in February 2017. Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and City Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) are signatories to the subsidiary finance agreement with MRVC, said an official spokesperson, elaborating that the latest pact will accelerate execution of projects, including laying of a 28km suburban line between Panvel-Karjat (Rs 2,783 crore), construction of a 3.5km elevated line between Airoli-Kalwa (Rs 476 crore), quadrupling of a 63km line between Virar-Dahanu (Rs 3,578 crore), procurement of 47 rakes (Rs 3,491 crore) and trepass control (Rs 151 crore). The state government approved the project through MRVC on the lines of MUTP-I and II with 50:50 financial participation.

Telangana takes up Rs. 426-cr elevated corridor

T he state government in Telangana has recently launched the construction of a four-lane bidirectional elevated corridor from Indira Park to VST (Phase-I) and construction of a second three-lane bi-directional grade separate from Ram Nagar to Baghlingampally (phase – II) at Indira Park Road involving an investment of Rs. 426 crore. In this connection, the urban development minister KT Rama Rao has laid the foundation stone for the mega project. In order to provide the matching infrastructure to the global city of Hyderabad the state has targeted to invest Rs. 6,000 crore under strategic road development projects including construction of skyways, flyovers, and underpasses. During the lockdown, more number of works have been completed in a short time and works to be carried out in 10 months will be completed within two months as there is no traffic problem at the construction site. Special focus will be taken to complete the project during the early period. Similarly, a large number of link roads and slip roads have been undertaken by the HRDCL to reduce the traffic load on main roads as well as reduction of time and distance to commuters while commuting on these road stretches, besides helping reducing pollution.

Bharatmala project: Rs 20,000-cr e-way to connect Chennai-Bengaluru

The National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has recently invited bids for preparing DPR for the 865-km long and 4-lane high-speed D多数-Vishakhapatanam-Visakha corridor. The project is estimated to be completed in a period of 24 months. This will include the preparation of drawings of all the crossing bridges expected in the corridor i.e. over rivers, other rail routes, and highways and drawings of the proposed stations and maintenance depots within the next three months. The high-speed rail corridor will have four stations including Noda, Agara, Kanpur and Lucknow. It may be recalled that the project is one of the 12 high-speed rail projects identified by the government to connect Delhi with various parts of the country. NHAI invites bids for Rs. 1,417-cr EPC project in Gujarat

In order to add to the existing road network of the state, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has floated tenders for eight lane access-controlled expressway project in Gujarat. The scope of work in the project, which involved an investment of Rs. 1,470.07 crore, includes the construction of eight lane access-controlled expressway starting from Madhya Pradesh /Gujarat Border near Chhayan village and ending after bridge over Hadaf River near Hathiyawan village in Dahod district (Ch 696.920 to 728.795) section of Delhi-Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148) on EPC model under Bharatmala Paryojna. The road infrastructure network will be completed in a period of 24 months.

Railway unveils Rs 16,216-cr rail line in Uttarakhand

I ndian Railways has decided to build a 125-km long Rishikesh-Karnaprayag new broad gauge rail line in Uttarakhand, which will not just boost tourism, trade and connectivity among five districts of the state but will also make train journeys comfortable for general rail users along with job creation, reduction in accidents and pollution. The railway line will pass through many famous places that will be connecting Devprayag, Srinagar, Rudraprayag, Gauchar, Kamprayag, Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Pauri Garhwal, Rudraprayag and Chamoli. The Rishikesh-Karnaprayag line will have 12 new railway stations, 17 tunnels as well as 16 bridges and is destined to be commissioned by December 2024. In a related development the Railway Minister has notified that his ministry has planned to electrify balance broad gauge routes of Indian Railways network by December 2023. The electrification target of balance broad gauge routes of Indian Railways is 6,000 route km in 2019-20, 6,000 route km in 2020-21, 6,000 route km in 2021-22, 6,500 route km in 2022-23, 4,310 route km in 2023-24 (up to December 2023) thereby electrifying 28,810 km route miles in all.

IBR Infra is lowest bidder for Rs. 2,193.23-cr road project

C ontinuing the process of adding more and more projects into its portfolio in the road sector, IRB Infrastructure Developers (IRB), which is country’s leading highway developer, has emerged the lowest bidder for a project in West Bengal. With this it is now entering into the eastern region of the country. The project in question pertains to a 6.10 km of the National corridor 13 from Dinpur to Padma stretch worth Rs. 2,193.23 crore. The project is based on the build, design, finance, operate & transfer (DBT) model with a concession period of 17 years including construction period of 910 days and will get tolling rights from the appointed date, said Virendra D. Mehtarker, Chairman & Managing Director, IRB Infrastructure Developers, adding that the company continues to look for opportunities to expand and diversify its presence. With this win, it will enter the eastern parts of India. It is committed to build world class highway infrastructure for the development of eastern region and to bring quality connectivity with the rest of the country. It may be recalled that IRB Infra had recently bagged India’s largest TOT project of Mumbai Pune Expressway of Rs.8,626 crore and has already paid the first tranche of Rs. 6,500 crore as upfront sub-concession fee to the MSRDC.

IRB Infra is lowest bidder for Rs. 2,193.23-cr road project

IRB Infra is lowest bidder for Rs. 2,193.23-cr road project
WBPDCL launches Rs. 4,400-cr super critical power plant

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDCL) has started works for setting up its Rs 4,400 crore Sagardighi super-critical power plant to be completed over the next three-and-half years. The company has considered July 1 as the “zero date” for the implementation of the 660-MW thermal power plant project in Murshidabad district. Preliminary works like ground-leveling have commenced, WBPDCL director Infrantul Dutta, said, adding that the project completion period is counted from the zero date and the financial closure has been achieved and the Power Finance Corporation is offering the debt. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has bagged an order worth Rs 3,500 crore for supplying boiler, turbine, generator (BTG) for the project. The WBPDCL has four units of 1600-MW in Sagardighi and the fifth one will increase the plant's capacity to 2,260 MW. The power producer has four more plants in Bandel, Bakreswar, Kolaghat and Santakati with an overall generation capacity of 3,150 MW. It will take 42 months to complete the construction of the unit and another three months will be required for synchronization before its commissioning.

Railway unveils 5-star hotel on rail track in Gujarat

The Indian Railway has recently fast-tracked the construction work of the redevelopment of Gandhinagar railway station with facilities matching global aviation standards including housing a 5-star hotel on the rail track. Once the redevelopment work is complete, the revamped railway station will be at par with international standards and boast world-class passenger facilities. The Railways Ministry’s Indian Railways Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) is heading the project. For the first time in the history of Indian Railways, the redeveloped Gandhinagar railway station will boast a 5-star hotel above the rail tracks and renowned Leela Group will run the hotel above the rail tracks and renowned Leela Group will run the 5-star hotel. After the redevelopment, it will include a revamped building with the concourse area consisting of retail shops such as Shoppers Stop, Big Bazaar, etc., as well as food courts. There will also be a transit hall with a seating arrangement for a total of 600 passengers or railway users. The redevelopment of the Gandhinagar railway station is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) - Gandhinagar Railway & Urban Development Corporation Limited (GARUD). The SPV, GARUD has been formed by IRSDC and the state government of Gujarat. Apart from this, the redevelopment of the Habibganj railway station in Bhopal is also scheduled for completion by December 2020. The upgraded and modernized Habibganj railway station will have a glass dome-like structure at the station entrance. It will also have a dedicated concourse area with retail outlets, plush waiting lounge, food cafeterias and modern toilets, among others.

TN clears infra projects worth Rs. 2,500-cr

Tamil Nadu government recently cleared projects worth Rs 2,500 crore including investments from ITC for its carbon black major and Ather Energy, an electric vehicle maker, will invest Rs 600 crore each in different projects, while an auto component maker is planning to invest Rs 900 crore. These projects were cleared at the cabinet meeting. The CM has written to top automobile companies, electronics majors and those engaged in aerospace industry inviting them to have a role in funding and constructing this strategic transit route from Chabahar to Zahedan and also to build a new 5-star hotel on the rail track. Responding to Iranian expectation that India will play an important role in the transit route from Chabahar to the Turkmen border, Indian embassy in Tehran said, —India is committed to building the Chabahar-Zahedan railway line and is continuously engaged with Iranian authorities to take this important project forward. Explaining Tehran’s views, an Iranian government source said, —it was expected that in addition to the investment in Chabahar Port, India would also play a more crucial role in funding and constructing this strategic

India commits to build Chabahar-Zahedan rail line

India has committed to build and finance the Chabahar-Zahedan rail project, which is an intrinsic part of the Chabahar port project. Responding to Iranian expectation that India will play an important role in the transit route from Chabahar to the Turkmen border, Indian embassy in Tehran said, —India is committed to building the Chabahar-Zahedan railway line and is continuously engaged with Iranian authorities to take this important project forward. Explaining Tehran’s views, an Iranian government source said, —it was expected that in addition to the investment in Chabahar Port, India would also play a more crucial role in funding and constructing this strategic

Signature Global plans Rs. 225-cr realty projects in NCR

Real estate building major, Signature Global, will invest Rs 225 crore over a period of time to develop a new affordable housing project at Gurugram in Haryana in the NCR region. The project, comprising 852 units, will be developed under the Haryana government’s affordable housing policy. Group Founder & Chairman Pradeep Aggarwal said, elaborating that the selling prices of the units range from Rs 14.46 lakh to Rs 25.80 lakh as demand for affordable housing has increased manifold in recent times. The realization of the importance of one’s home has dawned on people while staying and working from home, as many of them have faced challenges. In the last five years, the company has launched around 20 affordable housing projects in Gurugram, Sohna and Karnal (Haryana) and has also launched commercial projects, including a shopping mall in Vaishali and Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), comprising over 7.5 lakh square feet area.

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INDIAN INFRASTRUCTURE & TENDERS WEEK
Himachal approves Rs. 450-cr industrial projects

A s many as 15 projects to be set up across industrial belts of the state involving an investment of Rs. 450 crore have been cleared by the State Single Window Clearance and Monitoring Authority (SSWCM&A). New proposals, which among others involved the creation of required infrastructure, approved are stretching across Baddi, Una, Kala Amb, Panchkula industrial belts of the state. The included M/s Shriha Tractors India Limited in Una district for manufacture of CI casting of tractor parts, M/s National Enterprises in Solan district for manufacture of autclave, clean parts, M/s National Enterprises in Solan district for manufacture of technical textiles for industrial use, M/s Vimal Industries Regd, Kala Amb, Sirmour district for manufacture of non woven spun bond fabric, face mask, disposable shoe cover and PPE kits. While M/s DS Engineers will manufacture tractor and auto parts at Dasamoya village in Baddi, Solan district and also M/s Auraya Healthcare in Baddi for manufacture of dry injection, tablet, capsule, dry syrup, soft gel capsules, among others.

NHs network gets Rs. 574-cr funds in Jammu & Kashmir

I n a big boost to road infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, the Central government has approved an amount worth Rs. 574.16 crore for national highway works in Jammu and Kashmir for the current fiscal. The major works included the construction of 3.23 km three flyovers in Srinagar on NH-44 (Jammu-Srinagar highway) at Bemina, Sanatarag and Nowgam at a cost of Rs. 220.68 crore, the Union transport ministry has asked for preparation of estimates for manufacture of angle channels TMT bars, M/s Amer Sil Ketex Private Limited in Una district for manufacturing of technical textiles for industrial use, M/s Vimal Industries Regd, Kala Amb, Sirmour district for manufacture of M/s Biotrendz Medicament in Baddi, Solan for manufacture of dry injection, tablet, capsule, dry syrup, soft gel capsules, among others.

Maharashtra offers stress funds for slum development

M aharashtra recently announced a series of relaxations in its slum development policy to ensure faster availability of housing for slum dwellers in Mumbai and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), state housing minister, Jitendra Awhad, said, adding that there will be a specific stress fund for stuck SRA projects. While the state government will infuse Rs 700-1000 crore, the remaining funds will be from banks of SBI. This stress fund will be used for the completion of stuck projects of SRA as fund will revive such stuck projects and benefit slum dwellers as well as help developers. Apart from this, the minister also made a major announcement that will bring cheer to developers troubled by non-cooperative slum dwellers. On non-cooperative slum dwellers who stall the projects, the government has ensured help of government machinery under SRA, the authority will ensure slum dwellers vacate the land under development, once the developer has cleared 75% of shanties and is facing problem with the remaining non cooperative slum dwellers and this measure will help those developers who face the problem of non-cooperative tenants in spite of 70% consent. Under Ease of Doing Business (EODB) the government has even reduced certain procedures. For example a file that would move six tables now will require the approval of only three officials. Similarly annexure II list with eligible slum dwellers will now be done by SRA as earlier it would require three organization, including BMC, Collectorate and SRA. In addition, the government has also decided the rent to be paid to slum dwellers by developers while carrying out a redevelopment project. In Mumbai up to Bandra, the rent will be Rs 12,000 per month and Rs 10,000 per month from Bandra to Andheri/Ghatkopar and Rs 8,000 per month beyond it. SRA has given a total of 1,856 LOIs to various developers for carrying out rehabilitation projects.

Hitachi ABB wins Rs. 120-cr railway contract

H itachi ABB Power Grids India has recently won Rs. 120 crore contract whereby the global technology leader will enable a public electric locomotive manufacturer to advance the government’s mission for 100 percent railway electrification in India. The 120-km railway electrification project, awarded to Chennapatana Locomotive Works (CLW), will be completed in 40 months. The order fall under Railway Project 18 (RP-18) category, which consists of the electrification of a 120-km section of the Broad Gauge track between Bellary and Chittapur in Karnataka. The contract is expected to enable the electrification of approximately 1,000 km of track, thereby reducing the carbon footprint. ABB Power Products and Systems India Limited will be delivering its transformers to the Government of India’s electric locomotive manufacturer, Chittapur Locomotive Works (CLW), for the production of 400 passenger and freight locomotive engines. Through this project, Hitachi ABB Power Grids continued to contribute to the country’s mission to be the world’s first net-zero carbon emitter by the end of the decade. The order from CLW is a prestigious one for Hitachi ABB Power Grids. It strengthens a two decades-long partnership with the customer and enables us to contribute further to India’s mission to advance the economy in a responsible manner, said N Venu, Managing Director, Hitachi ABB Power Grids India. “Railways are the backbone of environment conservation. The pioneering technology will help successfully balance energy expansion with the reduction of emissions. Hitachi ABB Power Grids India is supplying transformers, which are known for their endurance. They can withstand the harshest of climate conditions and yet maximize safety as well as energy and eco-efficiency. For railways, electric energy is supplied as high voltage to the catenaries fed substations. The transformers reduce the voltage to a suitable level before feeding it to the railway catenaries conductors used by locomotives. NRTI offers masters programs in railway engineering

T he National Rail Engineering System and Transportation Institute (NRTI) recently announced admission to 18 new courses including Masters in Railway Systems Engineering & Integration offered in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, UK. The last date for application is July 31 for BBA, BSc and post-graduate program; B Tech admissions will be based on JEE mains score, last date of application is 14 September 2020. Students can obtain further details at nrti.net.in NRTI has augmented teaching with quality online courses and summer internships in view of Covid 19. The institute is being developed at NAIR campus to cater to the growth. Dates are 10 JUL 2020 3:55PM by PBIB Delhi. The National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), A deemed to be University established by Ministry of Railways in Vadodara, has announced admissions for Academic year 2020- 21. This will be the third year of intake at the Institute, which has seen significant progress over these years towards its vision of being among the top Universities in the country, powering the growth and transformation of Indian transportation sector. NRTI will admit students to its established B.E. and BBA programs in Transportation Technology & Transportation Management respectively, as well as two new B.Tech, programs, two new MBA programs and four new MSc programs. The new programs also include an international Masters in Railway Systems Engineering & Integration offered in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, UK where students will spend one year at University of Birmingham.
Taiwan Smart Machinery: A best bet for smart production solution

Corresponding monitoring data for different history logs. In addition, DIAMMP can present maintenance, alarms, anomaly analytics, and real-time monitoring of equipment operation and management of production lines, deep understanding of clients’ needs. This manufacturing industry experience and a Visualization Platform based on years of development, Delta Electronics has line automation and factory intelligence. Facing the growing trend towards production manufacturing, many Taiwanese machinery companies have introduced smart production solutions, such as Taiwan Excellence Machinery award-winning companies Delta Electronics, Soliomand Chin Fong Machinery. Facing the growing trend towards production line automation and factory intelligence development, Delta Electronics has developed the Production Management & Visualization System. The platform is based on years of manufacturing industry experience and a deep understanding of clients’ needs. This platform can be applied to digital monitoring and management of production lines, equipment and production, and it can provide information including production progress, real-time monitoring of equipment operation status, utilization rate analytics, preventive maintenance, alarms, anomaly analytics, and history. In addition, DIAMMP can present corresponding monitoring data for different intervals and time periods with various reports and analysis charts to assist managers, and can control the operation status of production lines and equipment, as well as providing immediate abnormal or preventive maintenance warnings to avoid equipment shutdown out of the blue. In a nutshell, the platform can improve overall production, management efficiency, and production quality. As a matter of fact, Solomon’s Solivision intelligent detection solution is a set of leading integrated recognition functions including “recognition”, “positioning” “grading” (classification), “character recognition” and “measurement”. Solivision can self-learn like humans. When you input the sample image and mark its issues or features, Solivision can quickly identify various defects, missing parts and other features, and it is compatible with more than 20 well-known industrial arm brands and major PLC manufacturers around the world. Their solution helps customers save a lot of time and costs, and achieve a high return on investment (ROI).

IForPMMS, created by the world’s fourth largest power press manufacturer Chin Fong Machinery, is a set of intelligent forming solutions to help the stamping industry handle AI equipment and improve the application of big data collection and system integration. This can help to achieve real-time monitoring, enable intelligent production scheduling and order dispatching forecasting thereby improving productivity. On top of that, the predictive maintenance notification and model life prediction function extends the equipment service life. Therefore, it successfully transforms traditional stamping factories into smart factories.

The Taiwan Excellence Award is regarded as the Oscar of Taiwanese industry. The award-winning products are promoted worldwide in many ways including exhibitions and press conferences. In response to the digital era, the 360-degree 3D modeling “2020 Taiwan Excellence Smart Machinery Industry Virtual Pavilion” has been created to display 60 Taiwan Excellence Award-winning products from 50 top brands. These products include automation equipment, machine tools, electronic process machinery, and precision parts, which show innovative technologies and solutions in industrial production. Buyers can review these products anytime and anywhere online. (https://www.taiwanexcellence.org/en/smart_machinery)

MoRTH hastens ground works on Delhi-Katra expressway

The transport ministry has speeded up the ground work on the Katra-Delhi express road corridor as land acquisition process is currently in full swing, Union minister Jitendra Singh, said in a statement, adding that the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra in Jammu and Kashmir is visited by countless pilgrims round the year. The Union minister, who reviewed development works in Udhampur-Kathua-Doda, which he represents in the Parliament, also reviewed the status of various national projects in the region, in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic. In a recent meeting with DMs and senior officials, he directed them to hasten the process of various ongoing infrastructure projects across six districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar and also assured that the Katra-Delhi express road corridor is expected to keep its completion deadline of one-and-a-half year and also the river Devika project has picked up pace. The minister issued instructions for expediting the work on the Dayalchak road in Basohli region and the Majjala bridge in Ramagar and also the proposed industrial estate in Udhampur.

ICF Chennai floats tenders for 44 high speed train sets

The Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, has recently floated tenders for 44 semi-high speed rakes or train sets, railway ministry, said in a statement, adding that the financial bid (e-bid) as well as EMD particulars should be submitted online as stipulated in the bid document. At present, Indian Railways operates two world-class Vande Bharat trains – the first between New Delhi and Varanasi and the second between New Delhi and Katra. Both trains take just 8 hours between their destinations, hence reducing travel time substantially. Vande Bharat Express is Indian Railway first self-propelled engine-less train that can run at a maximum permissible speed of 180 kmph. During trials, Vande Bharat Express has hit speeds of 180 kmph, making it India’s fastest train. Last year, to transform passenger experience on the Indian Railways network, the Railway Ministry gave its nod for the manufacturing of 44 more under ‘Make in India’ Vande Bharat Express trains. The coaches will be equipped with many modern features including automatic plug doors with retractable footboards, side destination boards, automatic intercommunication door, speakers, mobile and laptop charging sockets, CCTV’s, emergency talk back units with networking system, diffused lighting for luggage racks, continuous LED lights, GPS antenna, mini pantry with modular equipment, etc. Unlike the older Vande Bharat trains, the upcoming semi-high speed trains will have basic units with four coaches, which can be attached or detached from the train, considering the demand. Therefore, in case of defects, it will be possible to replace the basic units or in case, the demand increases, the train length can be augmented up to 24 coaches.

Myanmar commits to fast track India-backed infra projects

In the backdrop of Beijing’s active cross-border support for rebel groups operating in the country, Myanmar has resolved to expedite India-backed infrastructure projects and also decided to widen security ties with India as it seeks to contain China’s expanding presence in the country. In view of this, the country pushed for early completion of BRI projects. While in Moscow, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met defense minister Rajnath Singh and explored Myanmar India defence cooperation. The two also discussed security cooperation to ensure successful implementation of the India-funded Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project across the Mizoram border. The project aims to open sea routes and a highway transport system linking the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with the country’s largest northeastern state of Mizoram, through Myanmar’s Rakhine and Chin states. Myanmar is upset with China’s pressure on Myanmar to implement Belt-Road-Initiative (BRI) projects in spite of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. Media reports suggested that China is planning a China-Myanmar-Economic Corridor (CMEC), on the lines of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), to get access to the Bay of Bengal and the eastern part of the Indian Ocean Region. Commander-in-chief of Myanmar armed forces called for international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, saying that terrorist groups exist because of China’s support to some ethnic insurgent groups and at the same time meddling in the peace process.
Telangana takes up Hyderabad-Vijayawada high speed rail project

The state government in Telangana has decided to build a high-speed rail corridor between Hyderabad and Vijayawada. This project has been initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Defence. The project aims to construct a 420 km long high-speed rail line connecting the two major cities. The project is expected to significantly reduce travel time between the two cities. The project is also expected to enhance intermodal connectivity and boost economic activities in the region.

NMDC’s Bailadilla Projects record sharp spurt in sales

Despite the nationwide lockdown due to Covid-19, the NMDC’s Bailadilla Projects have recorded a sharp spurt in sales. The company has seen a significant increase in sales of its products, particularly in the steel sector. The increased demand is attributed to the ongoing construction activities and the government’s push towards infrastructure development.

Railway launches Rs. 250-crore vertical lift sea-bridge in TN

The Indian Railways has recently launched a new vertical lift sea-bridge at Pamban in Rameswaram. The bridge is part of the ongoing work to develop the Pamban Port and improve connectivity between Rameswaram and mainland India. The project is expected to boost tourism and facilitate easier transportation of goods and passengers.

AP floating tenders for Rs. 736-cr Ramayapatnam Port

The state government of Andhra Pradesh has floated tenders for the development of the Ramayapatnam Port. The port is expected to be a major gateway for the east coast of the country, facilitating trade and connectivity. The project is expected to create hundreds of jobs and boost the local economy.

Govt targets Rs. 5.35 Lakh-cr investment in Phase-I of Bharatmala

A significant amount of Rs. 5.35 lakh crore is earmarked for the development of Phase-I of the Bharatmala Project. The project aims to develop port-city links, provide all-weather connectivity to Gangotri, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Badrinath, and enhance the country’s border infrastructure. The project is expected to boost the country’s economic growth and enhance its infrastructure capacity.

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Railway approves Rs. 527-cr for Kolkata metro corridor

The Railway Board has approved a project worth Rs. 527 crore for the extension of the Kolkata metro corridor. The project aims to extend the metro corridor to New Garia Airport in the city. The project is expected to enhance connectivity and reduce travel time for commuters.

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