I n an attempt to make up for the time lost due to covid-19, the Uttar Pradesh government has restarted roads, highways and bridge projects involving a staggering investment of over Rs. 1.3 lakh crore. To start with the state has fast tracked projects worth Rs 31,400 crore under the ambit of the UP public works department (PWD) and UP Bridge Corporation and Rajkota Niran Nigam (RNN), deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said, adding that it would not only help improve the economic activities across the state but also provided employment opportunities to laborers, especially migrants. The state PWD department accounts for 1,539 projects worth Rs 13,660 crore followed by RNN with 2,411 projects involving Rs 13,260 crore investments and that the remaining projects fall under the purview of the UP Bridge Corporation. However, the process of resuming the stalled projects was set rolling from April 20 in phases by conforming to the distancing protocols. Meanwhile, the state CM has also expedited the process of resuming the stalled projects involving a staggering investment worth Rs 750.82 crore, he added.

Triupati railway station gets Rs. 510-cr upgrades

The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has decided to inject Rs.510 crore for the redevelopment and giving Tirupati railway station a world-class upgrade in Andhra Pradesh and the work is set to start very shortly. The RLDA in a recent move has successfully conducted an online pre-bid for the project, which was attended by major infra builders including GMR, Oberoi and Ambience. The station is to be built through the public-private partnership (PPP) mode on the Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer (Model). The cost of the Tirupati station development portion is Rs 230 crore but the project needs more space for administrative infrastructure including security and station operation staff area and miscellaneous technical area requiring land acquisition. Indian Railways aims to re-develop the Tirupati station in three years, and the tenders are being opened next week itself. The re-developed Tirupati Railway Station will also be equipped with amenities like hospitality, security and station operation staff area and miscellaneous technical area requiring land acquisition. Indian Railways aims to re-develop the Tirupati station in three years, and the tenders are being opened next week itself. The re-developed Tirupati Railway Station will also be equipped with amenities like hospitality, security and station operation staff area and miscellaneous technical area requiring land acquisition. Indian Railways aims to re-develop the Tirupati station in three years, and the tenders are being opened next week itself. The re-developed Tirupati Railway Station will also be equipped with amenities like hospitality, security and station operation staff area and miscellaneous technical area requiring land acquisition.

NHIDCL floats tender for Rs. 750-cr Z-Morh-Zojila tunnel

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has included Amritsar in the amended alignment of the Delhi-Katra e-way expressway. The authorities are now re-evaluating the alignment on the directions of the Ministry for Road Transport and Highways, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, said elaborating that Amritsar has been included in the project and an amendment is being introduced accordingly. On this score, modalities are being worked out so that the alignment touches Manawala, about 17-18 km from Amritsar city, before tilting towards Gurdaspur. In the last alignment, the expressway was supposed to divert 60 km ahead of Amritsar city through Kartarpur (near Jalanderhaur). The land acquisition process for the project has already started in parts of Malwa and Majha. Once executed, the traveling time span between Amritsar and New Delhi will be cut to half. It will tentatively be just a four-and-a-half-hour drive to New Delhi and three-hour drive to Katra. Apart from promoting tourism, the e-way project is aimed at promoting religious tourism by connecting two major shrines — the Golden Temple in Amritsar and Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra in Jammu and Kashmir.
BRO connects challenging Chamba tunnel in Uttarakhand

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) recently achieved a breakthrough and a — perfect linkup connecting the north and south portals of the Chamba tunnel in Uttarakhand. The tunnel will be opened for traffic by the end of this year about three months before its scheduled date of completion. Located below the densely populated Chamba town on the Rishikesh-Dharasu road, the tunnel is a part of the Char-Dham Pariyajana, a project worth about Rs. 1,500 crore to improve and develop 889 km of national highways to provide all weather connectivity to the four holy places in Uttarakhand: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath. The project will also provide better connectivity to troops to the Line of Actual Control. By using the tunnel, troops, artillery guns and vehicles will be able to quickly reach important places along the border with China such as the Neling Valley, said official sources. The tunnel is on the road which leads to Bhojwani from Dharasu and then to Neling Valley ensuring that troops can easily move from depth areas to forward areas. The construction of the tunnel was a challenging task due to issues in land acquisition, weak geology and continuous water seepage. There was also a dense built up area above the tunnel, which increased the chances of it sinking in. The BRO started work on the tunnel’s north portal in January last year, but work on the south portal could commence only after October when issues regarding land compensation and safety of houses above the tunnel were resolved to the satisfaction of all stakeholders with active support from the state government, said Director General Border Roads Lieutenant General Harpal Singh, claiming that the latest Austrian technology has been used in the construction of the 450 m long tunnel worth Rs 88 crore. The development comes in the backdrop of the Chinese objecting to Indian road construction along Pangong Tso and on another road that is linked to the strategic Darbuk-Shyok-DBO road built last year.

MoRTH fast-track Rs. 35,000-crw Katra-Delhi expressway

The first-of-its-kind Katra-Delhi Express Road Corridor involving an investment of Rs. 35,000 crore is all set to come to command. As per the proposal accepted by the state government, the project is expected to be completed by 2023, Union minister Jitendra Singh, said, elaborating that the corridor will reduce the road travel time from Katra to Delhi to around six and a half hours, and from Jammu to Delhi to just six hours, he claimed shortly after meeting Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari. The 575-km long express road corridor will connect Katra to Delhi via Amritsar. The other important cities that it will touch include Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana in Punjab and, Kathua and Jammu. The unique feature of this road corridor is that it will connect the two holy cities of Katra and Amritsar, and at the same time also offer connectivity to score of the important religious shrines between the two destinations. The minister, who is representing Katra Vaishno Devi parliamentary seat, had been pursuing this project since 2015 and had for the first time about three and half years ago announced the project during a program at Katra. As of now, the process of survey, land acquisition, forest clearances are currently underway. However, Singh said that after the completion of the survey by M/S Feedback Consultants Ltd, the process of acquisition of land is nearly complete in the Haryana part of the corridor and will now be taken up in the Punjab area and thereafter in the Jammu and Kashmir segment. The formal approval of the proposal had already been obtained from the Jammu and Kashmir administration and now it has also been obtained from the Punjab government as well, he claimed.

Kerala floats tenders for Rs. 1,621-cr road & flyover project

The state highways department in Kerala has invited tender for the Rs 1,621.3 crore Avinashi Road flyover project for which the tender will be finalised on July 18 and the flyover will be completed in four years. For the project in question, the state government has already allotted Rs 200 crore and that the work would be handed over to only one company, which is being finalized shortly. The source said there was a need to acquire land to construct ramps to connect the flyover with the main junctions on Avinashi Road and the flyover will be completed in four years from the date of commencement of work. The stretch usually reports heavy traffic congestion during peak hours of 8am-11am and 4pm-8pm, thanks to the increased vehicle movements. The flyover – from Uppilipalayam junction to Goldwins on Avinashi Road, covering a distance of 10.01 km – is expected to decongest the stretch. The state highways department has already conducted soil test and prepared a detailed project report, which was accepted by the state government. The ramps would be constructed at Anna Statue, Nava India, Hope College and SITRA to help motorist easy access to the destinations within the city. The flyover, which will be 17.25 metres wide, will have four lanes and 304 pillars, claimed official sources.

Gujarat floats tenders for Rs. 593-cr water infra projects

The Gujarat Water Infrastructure Department has floated tenders for Chavand Bulk Pipeline Project involving an investment of Rs 593 crore. The scope of work involves design, construction and operation for Gadhadha to Chavand (Package-2, NC-40) bulk pipeline including ROU, construction of RCC U/G sump-pump house, SITC of pumping machinery and ancillary works at Navda Pumping Station including 10 years comprehensive operation and maintenance under Navda to Chavand Bulk Pipeline Project entailing an investment of about Rs. 363 crore with a completion period of 20 months. The second tender involves design, construction and operation for Gadhadha to Chavand (Package-2, NC-40) bulk pipeline including ROU, construction of RCC U/G sump-pump house, SITC of pumping machinery and ancillary works at Gadhadha and Chavand Pumping Station, including 10 years comprehensive operation and maintenance under Navda to Chavand Bulk Pipeline Project for a period of 20 months costing of Rs 230.68 crore.

LDA awards Rs. 277-cr construction contacts

The Lucknow Development Authority recently awarded contracts for five construction and developmental projects, including three housing projects for building 1,000 flats involving an investment of Rs. 277 crore. These housing projects involved Rs 162 crore and Rs 40 crore investments, respectively. Among others, the projects included providing facilities like the installation of four escalators each at Charbagh project included providing facilities like the installations of four escalators each at Charbagh projects. The first of these is for a period of 20 months costing Rs 230.68 crore. The second tender involves design, construction and operation for Gadhadha to Chavand (Package-2, NC-40) bulk pipeline involving an investment of Rs 593 crore. The scope of work involves design, construction and operation for Gadhadha to Chavand (Package-2, NC-40) bulk pipeline including ROU, construction of RCC U/G sump-pump house, SITC of pumping machinery and ancillary works at Navda Pumping Station including 10 years comprehensive operation and maintenance under Navda to Chavand Bulk Pipeline Project entailing an investment of about Rs. 363 crore with a completion period of 20 months. The second tender involves design, construction and operation for Gadhadha to Chavand (Package-2, NC-40) bulk pipeline including ROU, construction of RCC U/G sump-pump house, SITC of pumping machinery and ancillary works at Gadhadha and Chavand Pumping Station, including 10 years comprehensive operation and maintenance under Navda to Chavand Bulk Pipeline Project for a period of 20 months costing of Rs 230.68 crore.

NHAI takes charge of four National Highways in Kerala

National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has taken over the charge of the maintenance and renewal of the four National Highways in Kerala. Up till now, the state PWD was responsible for carrying out the maintenance works on National Highways with the funds that have been approved by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The state has been instructed to hand over the reach of National Highways to NHAI. The state is anxious about whether new reforms will be implemented including maintenance of highways. There is a chance that each reach will be handed over to construction companies and in that case, toll plazas will be set up at multiple places. The approval to develop Thalapadyappadu-Chengala, Chengala-Neelassaram reach on NH-96 was handed over recently after a long wait. State government is bearing 25 per cent of the cost of land acquisition and that it can save this amount of money if NHAI takes over the maintenance works of highways in Kerala.

BMRCL launches tunneling at Shivajinagar & Vellara junctions

Launching work on Phase II of BMRCL’s extension, underground metro line, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has launched tunneling work and deployed four tunnel boring machines for the purpose. The two tunnels start from Cantonment station to Shivajinagar and the other two from Shivajinagar to Vellara Junction in the city. The metro corporation started lowering the machines recently and has deployed as many as 950 workers for the underground metro line from Vellara BMRCL Junction to Tannery Road, said Managing Director, BMRCL, Ajay Seth, adding that the work of the underground metro line will need three years and commissioning of the line may require one more year. The machines are being assembled and testing is being carried out by the contractor and engineers. Under phase II, a total of 13.2 km of the underground tunnel network will be built in which the contractors of BMRCL have managed to retain 6,000 workers.
NOIDA Metro invites bids for Rs. 2,682-cr extension

NOIDA Metro Aqua Line is all set for an expansion and has recently floated tenders for extension of the NOIDA metro rail network. The network is set to be extended with five more metro stations namely, NOIDA Sector 122, NOIDA Sector 123, Greater NOIDA Sector 4, Eco Tech – 12, and Greater NOIDA Sector 2, said official sources, adding that the tenders for the construction of these metro stations have already been floated with details about the tender and the time for the submission of tenders. The work contract includes part design and construction of elevated viaduct and 5 elevated above-mentioned metro stations.

However, this will exclude architectural finishing and PEB works of metro stations. Earlier, it was reported that the NOIDA Aqua Line extension from NOIDA Sector 71 to Knowledge Park 5 will be 15 km long and will accommodate nine new NOIDA metro stations on the network. This will connect the densely populated residential areas of Gaur City and NOIDA extension. The project was approved by the Uttar Pradesh government at a cost of Rs 74 crore after detailed project report the new route will be completed in two phases. The five metro stations- NOIDA Sector 122, NOIDA Sector 123, Greater NOIDA Sector 4, Eco Tech – 12, Greater NOIDA Sector 2 will be developed under the first phase of the network extension.

Telangana takes up Rs. 2,518-cr road & bridge projects

In order to build trouble-free road network across the state including its rural heartland, the government in Telangana has decided to invest Rs 2,518 crore on building 1,875 mandal headquarters roads and will also convert them into double-lane roads. The State government has also decided to construct 511 bridges under R&B purview and 631 bridges under Panchayat Raj purview. For forest areas spread across Bhadrachalam Kothagudem districts up to Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. In the

Kochi Metro Rail plans Phase-II extension

The Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) has decided to extend the existing metro rail project Phase two of the project starting from Jawaharlal Nehru stadium to Kakkanad and is hopeful about getting the required Centre government’s sanctions. Though the Metro agency does not face any shortage in funds for executing various projects which are already approved and is in the process of execution, officials are concerned about implementation of projects like Bells City being planned at Kakkanad. The financial crisis has in no way affected ongoing projects like

Decks cleared for Rs. 230-cr Tidel Park in TN

As a series of legal hurdles and delays, over two-decade-old Outer Ring Road project is all set to be initiated shortly and is expected to be commissioned as quickly as possible. The project has paved the way for setting up the proposed Rs 230 crore smart Tidel Park at Patlabram, K Pandianaraj, Minister for Tamil Development, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, said, elaborating that the Outer Ring Road is key for the development of Tidel Park 3, which will come up in 5.57 lakhs square feet and will have huge job generation potential. The state CM laid the foundation for the park through video-conferencing recently. Now, in the wake of the High Court passing a judgment over land acquisition, the 200- m stretch will be completed soon, added Pandianaraj. This is the first Tidel Park to be developed by the AIADMK government and state government hoped that the Outer Ring Road would be comprise an IT corridor for North Chennai as Rajiv Gandhi Salai has been for South Chennai. The smart Tidel Park will deploy Internet of Things (IoT) concept and will have three blocks where the first will be a 21-storey building with a hanging garden.

YEDIA plans six lanes road connecting Yamuna e-way

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeda) has decided to build a six-lane road directly connectively Yamuna Expressway and the upcoming international airport at Jewar. It will also construct a six-lanes loop so that commuters can easily exit from the expressway to the airport site, said official sources, elaborating that the authority issued a tender to hire a contractor for constructing the 700-meter-long road and the loop and that the Yeda has already sanctioned Rs 74 crore for the two projects. The development comes 10 days after Zurich Airport International AG, which had won the contract for construction and operation of the Noita International Greenfield Airport project last year, got the security clearance from the Union home ministry to develop the mega project. The contractor will be selected in a month, and it will take three months to build this road. In fact, the authority is keen to build this road well before the Swiss company Zurich International AG begins developmental work on the project, said chief executive officer of Yeda and Noita International Airport Limited, Arun Vir Singh. The Zurich International will start development work at the airport site shortly and in this connection, top brass of Zurich is travelling to Greater Noida to sign an agreement to start work at the site as and when the international flight operations start in India.

MMRDA invites bids for Rs. 139-cr Metro Line 7 contracts

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has invited three separate bids for works of Mumbai Metro Rail Project Line-7. The scope of work involves external facade works for four elevated stations namely Gundavali, Mogra, Jogeshwari (East) and Goregaon (East) of Line-7 (Andheri East to Dahisar East) involving an investment of Rs 47.98 crore. Another tender invited involves external facade works for four elevated stations, including Areedy, Dindoshi, Kurlan and Poisar of Line-7 entailing Rs. 46.79 crore investment and the third tender is for external facade works for elevated stations, like Magathan, Devipada, Raashiya Usman and Ovaripada of Line-7 costing Rs 44.73 crore, said an official spokesperson.

NHAI unveils 1,735-km long NHs as model roads

National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is planning to develop 57 highway stretches across the country in and around the states’ capital areas as model roads with a length of about 1735 km. The roads aimed at helping educating the highway engineers as well as the state PWD officers. The model stretches will have all the required safety and aesthetic features like road signs, road markings, road furniture, and safety items, proper junctions and entry and exit points, apart from having functional drains, pedestrian facilities, street lighting, plantation and landscaping, elegant toll plazas, user facilities, and wayside amenities. As per the Road Transport and Highways Ministry, the stretches, when developed will look like a perfect textbook version of model roads. NHAI has issued guidelines to help the regional offices and project directors to plan the development and complete in a time bound manner. Amongst the 57 stretches identified for development include the NH-37 bypass in Guwahati from Saraighat Bridge to Khanapara, and Kurnur, Regional Officer, said, adding that the agency plans to develop 5 to 6-lane flyovers on the bypass and this new model road concept will be included in the process.

NMRCL floats bids for Rs. 430-cr project

In an attempt to build hassle-free transport facilities in the area, the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRCL) has invited bids for works of Noida-Greater Noida Metro Rail Project in UP in the NCR region. The scope of work in the project in question involves part design and construction of elevated viaduct and five elevated stations, namely Noida Sector 122, Noida Sector-123, Greater Noida Sector-4, Eco Tech-12, Greater Noida Sector-2, said official sources, adding that the Centre government’s sanctions. Though the Metro agency does not face any shortage in funds for executing various projects which are already approved and is in the process of execution, officials are concerned about implementation of projects like Blitz City being planned at Kakkanad. The financial crisis has in no way affected ongoing projects like

Aviation

In order to build trouble-free road network across the state including its rural heartland, the government in Telangana has decided to invest Rs 2,518 crore on building 1,875 mandal headquarters roads and will also convert them into double-lane roads. The State government has also decided to construct 511 bridges under R&B purview and 631 bridges under Panchayat Raj purview. For forest areas spread across Bhadrachalam Kothagudem districts up to Komram Bheem Asifabad district. In the
WeWork-CBA seals office space deal Bengaluru

WeWork India is all set to seal a 2,400 seats office deal with Commonwealth Bank of Australia at WeWork’s Manyata tech park facility in Bengaluru. The workspace will be fully equipped by WeWork and has a 4 years lock-in period, said sources, adding that the Commonwealth Bank of Australia went live with Tata Consultancy Services, BaNCS platform in 2010 with its first Indian branch in Mumbai. The new office space at WeWork will function as shared services centre for CBA Services India catering to US, Australia and Asian markets. Last year, Commonwealth Bank of Australia appointed industry veteran Pankajam Sridevi as MD India to scale up business. Separately, WeWork India is reviewing and modifying spaces in common areas and conference rooms at its properties to ensure social distancing norms. The company is ensuring a minimum of 6ft distance between two people across its properties. WeWork India, a fully-owned subsidiary of Embassy Group, had earlier plans to raise $200 million (about Rs 1,421 crore) to expand its India operations. The company currently has 40,000 members and 57,000 desks across 34 locations. Since the launch of the American shared workspace provider in India, the Bengaluru-based Embassy Group has invested Rs 1,500 crore in the WeWork affiliate. It currently operates desks across the top six markets in the country, including Bengaluru, Gurgaon and Mumbai.

Relief Package is insufficient for road developers: ICRA

The credit rating agency, ICRA in a recent announcement said that the relief measures extended by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) are insufficient for road developers who did not collect toll tax for 25 days due to the nationwide lockdown. The government had suspended the collection of toll tax on all national highways during 26 March-19 April and that in net present value terms, the measures do not adequately compensate for the losses incurred by majority of operational developer-run road projects, the agency said. According to ICRA’s estimate, the total operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses and interest costs for the build-operate-transfer (BOT) toll concessionaires for the 25-day period of toll suspension is estimated at Rs 649 crore. The relief package announced by NHAI for BOT toll concessionaires has two parts—the revenue loss during and after toll suspension period will be compensated in form of extension by three-to-six months in concession period and a coronavirus loan is provided for concessionaires where relief is not granted under Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) loan moratorium. Many BOT concessionaires have already opted for loan moratorium on their project debt, and thus, in such cases, the quantum of covid-19 loan eligibility is not significant. It said adding that NHAI seems to have taken a different approach when compared to the toll suspension during demonetization period, when it compensated the concessionaires for the interest and operations costs.* vice president, corporate ratings, ICRA, Rajeshwar Buria, said, adding that this approach may become contentious issue with concessionaires disputing the proposed relief measures.

AP approves DPR for tram system in Visakhapatnam

In order to provide hassle free transport facilities to the local masses, the State government in Andhra Pradesh recently approved the lowest financial offer worth Rs. 337.87 lakh quoted by Urban Mass Transit Company Limited (UMTC) for preparing Detailed Project Report (DPR). The project in question aimed at extending modern tram and metroite transport system in Visakhapatnam for a length of 60.20 km, including the preparation of alternative analysis report among others. The government authorized the Amaravati Metro Rail Corporation Limited to issue letter of acceptance to the UMTC for preparing the new Detailed Project Report, said an official spokesperson.

Railway launches work on Mehakari River Bridge

The Central Railway has recently started laying the girders at one of the biggest bridges across Mehakari river connecting Ahmednagar-Parli-Vaijanath areas with the rail network, said an official spokesperson, elaborating that the laying of steel girders at the height of 30m started recently by the construction team of Ahmednagar. The bridge in question falls on the new railway track being laid by the Central railway in Maharashtra. He said adding that the crossing across Mehakari river is known as Mehakari bridge, which is about 457m in length and the biggest in the Central Railways rail network.

AP starts construction work at Amaravati capital city

The state government in Andhra Pradesh has resumed construction work on the important structures in the capital city area at Amaravati and state CM has also directed officials of Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) to prepare an action plan to speed up work and a team of ministers has been assigned to the upcoming state capital. All the projects in the capital city were kept in abeyance since the YSRC took over the reins of the state and also appointed separate committees to look into the allegations of irregularities in the awarding of tenders and questions of feasibility of projects. The state government had also appointed a Group of Ministers (GoM) to study and suggest the projects required for Amaravati. Work on the permanent secretariat is also being expedited and also other works including the completion of bungalows of High Court judges, which remained incomplete due to the financial constraints. All these projects were stalled with a view to take a close look into their necessity and financial feasibility in view of the financial condition of the state.

NCRTC speeds up construction work on rapid rail corridor

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has expedited the construction of the Delhi-Gurugram- Alwar regional rapid transport corridor. To start with, the corporation has initiated work on road widening between the IDLP Complex and the Ashi Kataria Chowk in Gurugram and tenders for various components of the project are now being finalized on fast tracked basis and will be floated shortly, said, an official spokesperson, NCRTC, Sudhir Sharma, adding that unlike the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor, where there has been some disturbances in the construction schedule, the Delhi-Alwar corridor is not affected that much. On the contrary, the corporation is now solely focusing on planning and designing aspects for now so that they can be implemented quickly. Due to the absence of traffic in the past two months, officials were able to carry out other pre-construction activities in Gurugram smoothly. The NCRTC also undertook pre-construction tunneling studies during the lockdown. The Delhi-Rajasthan route has multiple tunnels in the alignment and score of them are 6 to 7 km long. During the lockdown, it undertook detailed studies to ensure proper ventilation for workers inside these tunnels once construction work commences.
ICRA: NHAI to provide extension in concession period & loan for BOT Toll projects

The Ministry of Road Transportation and Highways (MORTH), which suspended tolling on all national highways for a 25-day period between March 26, 2020 to April 19, 2020, is all set to provide extension in concession period to compensate for loss in net present value terms for majority of BOT Toll projects. As per ICRA, this event was expected to be treated under political force majeure clause of the concession agreement (CA), as was done during demonetization when the tolling was suspended for 24 days in November 2016. The agency said that, all force majeure costs (including interest and O&M) are to be reimbursed by the authority in case of a political event and revenue loss is to be compensated by extension in concession period. As per rating agency, the total O&M expenses and interest costs for the BOT Toll concessionaires for the recent 25-day period of toll suspension is estimated at Rs. 649 crore. The recent relief package announced by NHAI for BOT Toll concessionaires has two parts: (1) the revenue loss during and after toll suspension period will be compensated in the form of extension by three to six months in concession period and (2) covid-19 loan is provided for concessionaires to the extent relief is not granted under moratorium under RBI guidelines. Many BOT concessionaires have already opted for loan moratorium on their project debt; thus, in such cases, the quantum of covid-19 loan eligibility is not significant. For the entities that have not opted for loan moratorium earlier, the Covid-19 loan is a positive from liquidity point of view.

DMRC initiates ground work on Metrolite project

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has initiated ground work of the first Metrolite corridor from Kirti Nagar to Bamnaoli village and that tenders have been floated for topographical survey and geo-technical investigation work. The line will be a light rail transit system akin to a tram and that the idea behind the new light rail system is to reach out to those areas where frequency of public transport is lower. However, DMRC will provide fencing on both sides of the corridor. The 20-km-long corridor from Kirti Nagar to Bamnaoli village (ECC Dwarka Sector 25) will have 21 stations of which 16 stations spread alongside the road) and 5 stations spread on 6.64 km will be elevated. The distance between each station will be around 1 km with stations at Saraswati Garden, Mayapuri, bus depot, Mayapuri, Hari Nagar, Tihar Jail, Shiv puri, Dabri Village, Stapur extension, Mahavir Enclave and Dwarka Court. The length of the new Metro will be 45 metres with 3 coaches and it will run at a speed of 60 kmph. The Lite Rail Corridor (LRT) stations will be open like bus shelters and are expected to have an open ticketing system. The plan is to operate like a bus transit system where a driver and conductor will be present to help the passengers buying tickets, said DMRC sources.

Noida surges ahead in office space leasing in NCR

Noida witnessed a surge in office space leasing in the third and fourth quarters of 2019 and recorded the highest leasing in the National Capital Region (NCR), said a report by 360 realtors, adding that about 80 per cent of the total supply of office spaces was leased out during July-December of 2019. "In Q3 and Q4 of 2019, the Noida market witnessed unprecedented growth in leasing, leading in NCR & becoming the front runner with around 80 per cent leasing," it said. The report further claimed that during the first two quarters of 2020, the scenario has changed due to a slowdown in decision-making on leasing, amid the coronavirus pandemic. "But it is anticipated that a few segments in commercial may lead the pack and show rapid ascent. As a matter of fact, industrial demand is high in NCR and that to have an edge with clear zoning," Noida’s office really has witnessed space intake of 65 per cent in ready-to-move-in projects and 35 per cent for the under-construction ones. For retail real estate, the space intake is 47 per cent for ready-to-move-in projects and 53 per cent for under-construction projects. In Noida, industrial sectors accumulated 50 per cent, a major market share followed by institutional and commercial sectors with 35 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. Micro markets like Noida Sector-62, Sector-63, Sector-2, Sector-3, Sector-4 and Noida Expressway are the prime sectors and constitute 95 per cent of office space intake, it said. "Noida is considered to be one of the best realty destinations in Northern India and with the further development of its twin city, Greater Noida, its boundaries have been expanded. As a result, many multinationals have set their offices in this city. Noida market has witnessed robust growth in leasing in NCR," said the report.

RITES-IRSDC inks pact for stations redevelopment

In an attempt to push the pace of redevelopment of railway stations across the country, RITES recently signed an agreement with Indian Railway Station Development Corp. Ltd, (IRSDC). The company has been tasked with redeveloping railway stations across the country and has already resumed operations at most of its offices and project sites. It has achieved more than half of its capacity and will scale up its activities going forward, chairman & managing director, RITES, Rajeev Mehrotra, said, adding that the company has implemented a standard operating procedure (SOP) to guide its employees about precautions and safety measures at work. Along with its corporate office in Gurugram, project offices at Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Secunderabad and inspection offices at Bilahi, Delhi and Chennai have started operations. Key project activities have been resumed at various sites like rail line doubling project at Gooty- Dhamavaram, railway electrification work in Rajasthan, project monitoring services at several rail connectivity work of power plants and coal mines, workshops modernization of stations at Bikam in Rajasthan, Kurta wali in Maharashtra, Luming in Assam, Sarla in Odisha, quality assurance work at various locations. During the lockdown, the company delivered the 188 km route on Vijapur-Pachore Road-Maksi section railway electrification project in Madhya Pradesh. Besides working from home on various reports, tenders and designing based projects, it continued its operations at most of the locomotive leasing sites and inspection office at Bilahi.
MCG launches Rs. 145-cr infra project in NCR

The major projects that were halted due to lockdown have been kick-started by the Municipal Committee Gurugram at an investment worth Rs. 145 crore. The projects include a cultural centre in Sector 56, a stadium in Wazirabad and two parking lots in Sadar Bazar and Kaman Sarai. In this connection, the civic body received the permission through auto-approval mode, commissioner, Vinay Pratap Singh said, elaborating that about 12.29 acres has been leased out to MCG in Sector 52-53A (Wazirabad village) to build a multi-discipline sports stadium thereby meeting a long pending demand of residents. The stadium will be the third stadium in the city after Nehru Stadium in Old Gurugram and Tau Devi Lal Stadium near Rajiv Chowk. The MCG is going to float tenders for the cultural centre and Wazirabad stadium shortly, said chief engineer, MCG, Raman Sharma. The project cost of the parking facility at Kaman Sarai is entailed an investment of Rs 101.26 crore and the project cost of the multi-level parking at Sadar Bazar is Rs 44.66 crore and that both facilities will have 10 floors each.

Punjabi showers sops to real estate players

The state government in Punjab announced a slew of relief measures for the beleaguered real estate sector amid the unprecedented Covid-19 situation, including six month extension in the permissible period of construction of plots/projects for all allottees, whether private or allotted by state urban authorities, either through auction or draw of lots. The stimulus package announced by the Chief Minister, which is applicable to both allottees and developers, is aimed at providing them with immediate relief and assisting them in housing sector. The relief measures are applicable to all the urban development authorities of the state, and shall be restricted to amount due from April 1 to September 30. The CM said that by extending the huge financial implications for his government, he had decided to support the real estate sector, which had suffered major disruptions due to the pandemic. Various representations had been received by the government on this count, he said in a statement. Referring to the financial implications of the six-month extension in construction period, the Chief Minister pointed out that since development authorities annually receive non-construction fee of nearly Rs 35 crore, this particular relaxation would lead to reduction in receipt to the tune of Rs 15-18 crore for all the authorities put together. In another key relief measure, the Chief Minister announced that all the urban development authorities have also been directed not to charge non-construction charges/extension fee/licence renewal fee for the period from April 1 to September 30, 2020.

NHDCL invites bids for Rs. 150-cr road in Manipur

A dding to the road network in the border belt of the state, the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHDCL) has recently invited bids for carrying out construction works of Finch Corner-Hungung section of the highway in Manipur, said an official spokesperson, elaborating that the project entailed the scope of work of widening and improvement of the existing road stretch into two lanes with earthen shoulder of Finch Corner-Hungung section of NH-262 from 30.97 km to 43.12 km (Package 3) in the state on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) model. The project in question involves an investment worth Rs 150.32 crore and commands a completion period of 18 months.

RHB launches Rs. 200-cr housing project in Jaipur

The state government in Rajasthan has handed over the task of building 576 flats at an investment of Rs. 200 crore to Rajasthan Housing Board (RHB) after the state’s urban minister Shanti Dhanwal laid the foundation stone for the mega venture. The project, which has been named as Mukhyamantri Shishukhand and Pratki Awasa Yojana, will be completed within two and half years. In the project, the state government will construct flats for MLAs at Jyoti Nagar, Lal Koli and Jakpura areas of the state capital. The JDA is cooperating and transferring the title of land to RHB, in order to achieve the task. Apart from this, the minister has also launched two similar housing projects in other parts of the state to ensure that the adequate housing facilities are available for various sections of the society. To compete with private builders in terms of facilities and infrastructure, the RHB for the first time proposed to develop swimming pool, gym and cycle track, basketball and baseball courts for the residents. RHB commissioner Pawan Arora said, adding that this will be RHB’s first ever schemes to have such infrastructure. Apart from this, in Sector 26 of the city, the board earmarked 20,925 square metre areas to develop the condominiums and allied infrastructure in and around the housing colonies.

Sany donates 1 lakh N-95 masks & 5 lakh ply masks to Maharashtra

E xtending a helping hand to the state government in Maharashtra in its fight against the COVID-19, Sany, a leading manufacturer of construction, mining & material handling equipment, clean energy and renewable energy solutions donated 1 lakh N-95 masks & 5 lakh ply masks through MCD, said an official spokesperson, clarifying that Managing Director, Sany South Asia & Sany India, Deepak Garg, handed over the masks to Minister for Public Health & Family Welfare, Rajesh Tope. Sany has been in the forefront in helping people during the lockdown by donating masks & PPE kits to various hospitals and people who have been working at the construction sites. Sany also provided food ration to the needy families who were affected due to the lockdown.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deepak Garg, says, “We firmly believe that the fight against Covid should be a combined effort of the government, corporate houses/industries, healthcare professionals and the people in general. Within the company, we are adhering to all possible measures to ensure the safety of all our employees and stakeholders.” Speaking about this initiative, he further added, “As a socially conscious company, we have taken this small but significant step in providing the N95 masks with an intention of keeping our corona warriors, our doctors, nurses, paramedic staff, district administrators and police personnel safe from this deadly virus and we also need to applaud the commendable efforts taken by the health ministry in combating the pandemic. I sincerely hope that we become a corona free country soon.”

Public Health & Family Welfare Minister thanked Sany for the donation of masks and advised the company to keep doing such acts for the benefit of people of India.

While CEO of MDC, Dr. P. Anbalagan, (IAS), said, that it is really commendable to see that companies like Sany stand united with us in our fight against this invisible enemy. By providing the N95 and 3 Ply Masks, they have helped the real life warriors who are in the frontline and vulnerable to this deadly virus. As far as protective measures are concerned, it is critical to maintain the constant supply of masks and PPE kits to ensure the safety of our frontline workers. Having said that, I urge the companies to come forward and lend their support in whatever way possible.”

CREDAI: Realtors require one time loan restructuring scheme to stay afloat

Real estate body CREDAI has written an open letter to Prime Minister seeking immediate measures from the government to help the real estate sector to stay afloat. The industry body said that it has done its bit to mitigate the plight of over five crore labour forces in the sector by providing food and shelter. It said that although the loan moratorium may be helpful for the sector in the long run, the sector requires a one-time loan restructuring scheme as allowed by the Reserve Bank of India in 2009 amid the global financial crisis. As the real estate is already reeling under a cyclical downturn before COVID-19, such restructuring needs to be allowed for all accounts which were standard as on 31st March 2019. CREDAI further said that the Centre should direct all banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFC) and housing finance companies (HFC) to institute a scheme to permit additional Rs 15,000 crore to 20 per cent of the existing real estate project related advances, at the MCLR with no additional security.