Govt goes for Rs. 8,000-cr NH along border in J&K

In order to connect picturesque tourist spots and also strengthen surveillance across the border bin the Kashmir Valley, the Union government has decided to build a 600 km-long highway connecting Gujran with Kargil and Drass in Ladhak region to connect attractive spots like Keran, Gunj and Machhal, Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, J&K said, elaborating that the project will cost Rs 6,000 crore. The road will connect all unexplored tourist spots and picturesque valleys and help open them for the tourists. He also said that there will be 10-12 major tunnels along the road and it will also help in connectivity to the forward locations. Each of these tourist locations will be another Gujran and that picturesque Keran and Machhal are located along the Line of Control in Kupwara district, Gujran is a valley surrounded by snow-capped mountains in Bandipora district. Kargil and Drass now fall under the Union Territory of Ladakh. Gujran located about 50 km from Srinagar, is one of the best tourist attractions in the country with its snow-clad mountains, magnificent beauty and winter game facilities. In a related development, he also claimed that earlier, on an average 1,300 km rural roads were built in the changed circumstance the administration has planned to build 5,000 km rural road network in a given year.

Centre sanctions Rs. 7,922-cr multilingual projects in HP

In a big boost to water infra projects in Himachal Pradesh, the Centre has recently cleared a staggering sum worth Rs 7,922.69 crore for the construction of six irrigation, multipurpose and flood control projects under the river development and Ganga rejuvenation program. The approved projects include the Renukaj multipurpose dam project on Giri river in upper Yamuna basin of Sirmaur district, which will augment availability of water for Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan. The project will generate 40 MW of power during peak flow and is being executed by the Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL). Apart from HP, three schemes were also approved for Maharashtra and one for Tamil Nadu. From one of the six schemes cleared is the Renukaj dam project, a national project with an estimated cost of Rs 6,946.99 crore HP will get 40 mw of free electricity under the Renukaj project’s agreement and the company won on EPC model included an investment of, Rs 2,671 crore. The corridor 4 from Light House to Poonamallee Bypass is part of the 26-km corridor-4 from Light House to Poonamallee being funded Asian by Infrastructure Investment Bank under an eight lanes Access Controlled Expressway starting from junction with NH-63 and ending at junction with NH-1 in Gujarat from km 372+500 to 391+623 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina commanding contact value worth Rs 789.4 crore and also the construction of an eight lanes access controlled expressway starting from junction with NH-47 and ending at junction with SH-175 in Gujarat from km 328+500 to 351+000 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina with contract value worth Rs 1530 crore. In the fourth project, which the company won on EPC model included an eight lanes Access Controlled Expressway starting from junction with SH-63 and ending at junction with NH-1 in Gujarat from km 372+500 to 391+623 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina - project bid cost of Rs 1530 crore. In the fourth project, which the company won on EPC model included an eight lanes Access Controlled Expressway starting from junction with NH-63 and ending at junction with NH-1 in Gujarat from km 372+500 to 391+623 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina commanding contact value worth Rs 789.4 crore and also the construction of an eight lanes access controlled expressway starting from junction with NH-47 and ending at junction with SH-175 in Gujarat from km 328+500 to 351+000 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina commanding contact value worth Rs 789.4 crore and also the construction of an eight lanes access controlled expressway starting from junction with NH-63 and ending at junction with NH-1 in Gujarat from km 372+500 to 391+623 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina with contract value worth Rs 1530 crore. The project is also four laning of NH-232 A from km 0.000 to 70.000 in UP under NHDP I/B - with bid cost of Rs 1602.00 crore. The third is also four laning of Jagdishpur - Fazabad Section of NH-338A from km 47.800 to km 108.000 in UP under Bharatmala Parijyina - project bid cost of Rs 1530 crore. In the fourth project, which the company won on EPC model included an eight lanes Access Controlled Expressway starting from junction with SH-63 and ending at junction with NH-1 in Gujarat from km 372+500 to 391+623 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina commanding contact value worth Rs 789.4 crore and also the construction of an eight lanes access controlled expressway starting from junction with NH-47 and ending at junction with SH-175 in Gujarat from km 328+500 to 351+000 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina commanding contact value worth Rs 789.4 crore and also the construction of an eight lanes access controlled expressway starting from junction with NH-63 and ending at junction with NH-1 in Gujarat from km 372+500 to 391+623 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina commanding contact value worth Rs 789.4 crore and also the construction of an eight lanes access controlled expressway starting from junction with NH-47 and ending at junction with SH-175 in Gujarat from km 328+500 to 351+000 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina with contract value worth Rs 1530 crore.

CMRL floats tenders for Rs. 2,671-cr elevated corridor

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has recently floated tenders for an 8-km elevated line between Porur Junction and Poonamallee bypass whereby the stretch is part of the 26-km corridor-4 from Light House to Poonamallee Bypass being funded Asian by Infrastructure Investment Bank involving an investment of, Rs 2,671 crore. The Phase-I of the mega project will have 118.9-km across three corridors with 128 stations, to be built at a cost of Rs 69,000 crore. Construction for a 52-km stretch of the phase is likely to begin before the year-end and is to be ready by 2024-25. The tender calls for a company that can build the elevated corridor with nine stations including Chennai bypass crossing, Ramachandra Hospital, Iyyappanthangal bus depot, Kattupakkam, Kumanan Chavadi, Karayyan Chavadi, Mullai Thottam, Poonamallee Bus terminus and Poonamallee bypass as well as the approach to the depot to come up at Poonamallee in three years, said CMRL sources, elaborating that the Corridor 4 from Light House to Poonamallee cuts across the core part of the city linking several localities with the developing outskirt. Mylapore, Nandanam, T Nagar, Kodambakkam and Vadapalani will be connected to the developing IT hub in Porur and places such as Iyyappanthangal, Kattupakkam and Poonamallee, which are poorly connected currently.

PNC Infratech wins Rs. 6,731-cr highway contracts

A dding to its existing portfolio in the road and highway sector, PNC Infratech has recently signed concession agreements for the three HAM projects and contract agreements for the two EPC projects with NHAI involving a whopping investment worth Rs. 6731.8 crore. These include four laning of Aligarth-Kanpur (Mitarasen-Kanpur) Section from Km 373.085 to 433.725, Package- V of NH- 34 in UP under Bharatmala Parijyina - with bid cost of Rs 2052.00 crore on HAM model. It also signed agreement the four laning of Unnao-Lajajganj Section of NH 232 A from km 0.000 to 70.000 in UP under NHDP I/B - with bid cost of Rs 1602.00 crore. The third is also four laning of Jagdishpur - Fazabad Section of NH-338A from km 47.800 to km 108.000 in UP under Bharatmala Parijyina - project bid cost of Rs 1530 crore. In the fourth project, which the company won on EPC model included an eight lanes Access Controlled Expressway starting from junction with SH-63 and ending at junction with NH-1 in Gujarat from km 372+500 to 391+623 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina commanding contact value worth Rs 789.4 crore and also the construction of an eight lanes access controlled expressway starting from junction with NH-47 and ending at junction with SH-175 in Gujarat from km 328+500 to 351+000 of Delhi - Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) under Bharatmala Parijyina with contract value worth Rs 1530 crore.

GMRDC ready to award Rs. 942-cr metro contract

Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRDC) is all set to award the contract for the design, construction and completion of underground stations and a tunnel. The scope of work also includes the finishing works from Surat Railway station to Chowki Bazar Ramp from chainage 7160.6m to chainage 10720m, comprising twin bored underground tunnel between Surat Railway station and south ramp, all cut and a cover portion. Three underground stations viz. Chowk Bazar, Masaktai Hospital and Surat Railway Station with entries/exits & connecting subway by box pushing method and a portion of NATM and launching and receiving chambers of TBM for Surat Metro Rail Project of Phase-I, said an official spokesperson adding that in this connection the tenders were recently opened and the contractor will be selected shortly. The project work involved an investment of Rs. 942.16 crore and the project has to be commissioned in within a period of 3 years and 4 months.
Centre sanctions Rs. 6,399-cr for stressed NBFCs & HFCs

The Union Finance Ministry recently sanctioned 16 proposals worth Rs 6,399 crore for stressed NBFCs and HFCs under the special liquidity scheme announced as part of the Rs 20.97 lakh crore ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ package. The scheme permits both primary and secondary market purchases of debt and seeks to address the short term liquidity issues of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs). The Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS) of Rs 30,000 crore was announced as a part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package with an aim to improve the liquidity position of NBFCs and HFCs. FM Nirmala Sitharaman said, adding that NBFCs and HFCs came under stress following a series of defaults by IL&FS group firms. Any NBFC including microfinance institutions registered with RBI under the RBI Act, 1934 (excluding those registered as Core Investment Companies) and any HFC registered with the National Housing Bank under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 which is complying with certain specified conditions, are eligible to raise funding from this facility. The RBI has provided funds for the scheme by subscribing to government-guaranteed special securities issued by a trust set up by SBI Capital Markets Ltd (SBICAP). The scheme is being implemented by SLS Trust, the SPV set up by SBICAP. The special liquidity scheme is open for three months for making subscriptions by the Trust. Under the scheme, the government will provide an unconditional and irrevocable guarantee to the special securities issued by the Trust.

Railway invites bid Rs. 1,642-cr Chhatrapati terminus

The Indian Railways Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) has invited bidders for the redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT). The RFD is a process to shortlist and qualify applicants who will be invited to submit financial bids for the redevelopment involving an investment of Rs 1,642 crore. The project is likely to begin next year and is targeted to be completed in four years and that the RFD is called to inspect and check the information from the bidders. The process will take three months post which station plan will be called for. The redevelopment work is likely to start next year, said a senior IRSDC official, adding that CSMT will be redeveloped through the public private partnership (PPP) model. The plan will involve construction of commercial spaces including restaurants and cafes along with parking spaces for passengers inside the terminus. Segregation of outstation and local train passenger movements with the help of connecting decks has been planned. The ISRDPC plan includes construction of an elevated deck connecting platform number 8 to platform number 18. The deck will be accessible for passengers coming via the PD’ Mello Road entrance of the railway station towards the present main entrance of the terminus. ISRDCC has also planned for the construction of an underpass for passengers near the present pre-paid taxi stand near the divisional railway manager’s (DRM) office at CSMT. This will be done by dismantling railway buildings that comprise the main reservation office and railway offices that are adjacent to the DRM office. An additional holding area for passengers will be created at the P D Mello Road entrance along with the current main entrance for the outstation terminus, he insisted.

Salarpuria Sattva announces Rs. 600-cr projects in Bengaluru

Salarpuria Sattva, which is a leading player in Indian commercial real estate, is all set to start development of three new projects in Bengaluru at an investment of Rs 600 crore. Managing Director Bipul Agarwal said, elaborating that housing sales and construction activities were adversely affected during April-May, but from June onwards the situation is gradually improving. He said the company targets to sell its ready-to-move-in residential units worth around Rs 1,300 crore across various projects over the next one and half year. The coming three projects put together will have around 1,200 units, including 500 plots. One of the projects will be in the affordable housing category with expected revenue of about Rs 700-750 crore. Housing demand is not as bad as it was feared. The need for home owner ship and larger flats has increased because of work from home and online classes. Last year, Salarpuria Sattva group entered into affordable housing segment, which is being promoted by the central government with various tax incentives and GST rate of only one per cent and on commercial portfolio, the construction work is going on in projects having 12 million sq ft area and the company plans to start construction on another 8 million sq ft next year.

Konkan Railway invites bid for Rs. 277-cr Udhampur-Baramulla line

In a bid to fast track the construction work of the railway line in Jammu and Kashmir, the Konkan Railway Corporation has recently invited bids to build the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line. The scope of work in the project in question includes provision of EAM system which includes supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 33 kV and 11 kV HT power cable network, GIS substation, DG set, tunnel ventilation system, tunnel lighting, SCADA system and firefighting system, among others, for tunnel T-13 between 61 km to 70 km on the Katra-Srinagar segment. The mega railway project involved an investment of Rs 277.72 crore and command a completion period of 18 months, said an official spokesperson.

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

The state government in UP has recently decided to generate Rs 2,900 crore from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for the construction of 628-km Ganga Expressway, which involved a whopping investment of Rs 36,000 crore. The loan amount would be utilized for the land acquisition by UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), CEO & additional chief secretary Awanish Kumar Awasthi, said elaborating that expressway will entail acquisition of 6,566 hectares of land and traverse through Meerut, Amroha, Bulandshahar, Budua, Shahjahpur, Farrukhabad, Hardoi, Kannauj, Unnao, Rae Bareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj districts. This is among the most ambitious projects of the state government and other highway projects included the under construction Purvanchal Expressway, Gorakhpur Link Expressway and Bundelkhand Expressway. The UPEIDA Board has also cleared the proposal for raising loans worth Rs 9,900 crore for Bundelkhand Expressway from a consortium of banks led by public sector lender Bank of Baroda and comprising Union Bank of India, Indian Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and UCO Bank. The project entails an investment of Rs 15,000 crore and will link Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalua, Auraiya and Etawah districts and will also provide connectivity to the backward Bundelkhand region and NCR via Agra Lucknow and Yamuna expressways. RITES readies DPR for Rs. 10,599-cr metro rail in J&K

The railway consultancy firm RITES has submitted the final detailed project reports for light transit metro train service in Srinagar and Jammu where the metro systems are expected to be completed by the end of 2024 at an investment of Rs 10,599 crore. Once the projects are completed, Srinagar and Jammu will become the first two non-major cities in the country where the rapid transport network will be functional, said an official spokesperson, adding that the projects can be understood from the fact that the first train to reach Jammu and Kashmir had taken more than two decades after Independence and the first railway station came up in Jammu only in the 1970s. The light metro transit system is proposed to run 17 hours a day throughout the year in Jammu, whereas in Srinagar, it will run 17 hours daily during summers but 14 hours during winters. He added that the metro rail lines will have only elevated corridors as the underground tunnels were not found feasible in Jammu and Kashmir. The metro train service in Jammu will have its first corridor from Bantulaab to Bari Brahmana and in Srinagar from India Nagar to HMT station. The elevated metro system will not only facilitate people but also have a positive impact on the economy and the quality of life. According to the DPRs, the metro coaches will be modern, lightweight and made from stainless steel and aluminium, with an air-conditioning system.
RVNL awards Rs. 1,335-cr contract to HCC-DVL JV

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has recently started the casting work of the much delayed Ahmedabad-Dholera four-lane expressway project involving an investment of Rs 3,500 crore. In addition, the state government has also approved work orders for 750 km aerial power lines to be constructed in the Special Industrial Region (SIR) and the power generation and expressway projects worth Rs 8,500 crore are likely to kick off shortly after the monsoon. The 110-km four-lane expressway project is expected to be completed between 18 and 24 months, Manoj Das, additional chief secretary (ACS) to the CM, said, elaborating that he is overseeing implementation of the Dholera SIR project. The most arduous and challenging task of land acquisition for the project has already been completed and tendering process is over and the project is going to be awarded very shortly. NHAI and Gujarat government intend to formally kick-start site work shortly after the ongoing monsoon season. The Ahmedabad-Dholera expressway will have more advanced features than the Ahmedabad-Vadodara expressway. He further added that infrastructure projects worth over Rs 3,000 crore are currently in the pipeline. He also mentioned that the project is going to be awarded very shortly. The Joka-Esplanade link got a major boost last year when the railway ministry approved the project into two phases wherein the first phase of 61.79 km of new Metro lines shall be constructed across different corridors comprising of 45 Metro stations. These new sections will provide interconnected among already operational sections of Delhi Metro.

DMRC launches Aerocity–Tughlakabad Phase-IV corridor

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DLF-Hines JV secures Rs. 2,600-cr funds for project in Grugram

Dhawan, Group Chief Executive Officer, HCC said, “This is our third order win this quarter. RVNL’s 125 km new broad gauge rail line between Rishikesh to Karnaprayag will boost tourism, trade and connectivity for pilgrims between the five districts of Uttarakhand, including Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Garhwal, Rudraprayag and Chamoli.” The contract comprises the construction of 17 tunnels, 16 Major Railway bridges and 12 new stations. The rail line will connect to the new trade centres and will pass through many famous places connecting Devprayag, Srinarig, Rudraprayag, Gauchar, Kamprayag, Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Pauri Garhwal, Rudraprayag and Chamoli, he claimed.

Commenting on the recent cache, Arjun

In a major move, the Gujarat government has started development work of the much delayed Ahmedabad-Dholera four-lane expressway project involving an investment of Rs 3,500 crore. In addition, the state government has also approved work orders for 750 km aerial power lines to be constructed in the Special Industrial Region (SIR) and the power generation and expressway projects worth Rs 8,500 crore are likely to kick off shortly after the monsoon. The 110-km four-lane expressway project is expected to be completed between 18 and 24 months, Manoj Das, additional chief secretary (ACS) to the CM, said, elaborating that he is overseeing implementation of the Dholera SIR project. The most arduous and challenging task of land acquisition for the project has already been completed and tendering process is over and the project is going to be awarded very shortly. NHAI and Gujarat government intend to formally kick-start site work shortly after the ongoing monsoon season. The Ahmedabad-Dholera expressway will have more advanced features than the Ahmedabad-Vadodara expressway. He further added that infrastructure projects worth over Rs 3,000 crore are currently in the pipeline. He also mentioned that the project is going to be awarded very shortly. The Joka-Esplanade link got a major boost last year when the railway ministry approved the project into two phases wherein the first phase of 61.79 km of new Metro lines shall be constructed across different corridors comprising of 45 Metro stations. These new sections will provide interconnected among already operational sections of Delhi Metro.

RVNL pushes Rs. 2,680-cr Joka-Esplanade underground corridor

R all Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL), which has been assigned the underground section of the Joka-Esplanade Metro corridor, has started work including mapping underground utilities and labeling public utility mains that are crucial for building the 14.5km metro link in Kolkata. After studying the underground utility status report, the British-era brick sewer at Mominpore, CESIC cables and other lines for telecommunication, water mains, and waste-water pipes will be shifted accordingly and the coast freed for the tunnel boring machines (TBMs) to burrow and build twin tunnels through the alignment. The GPR method uses radar pulses to detect the utilities. The process started recently and will carry on for the next 10 days from Mominpore to Esplanade, RVNL said, elaborating that the utility mapping involves reviewing existing records identifying the type and location of the underground infrastructure. Stumbling unexpectedly over an underground feature during construction can have serious consequences for the project. The Joka-Esplanade link got a major boost last year when the railway ministry approved additional funds for building the underground tracks. With the revised Rs 2,685 crore allocated for the underground section, RVNL also started the process of land acquisition for the underground section. RVNL has split the project into two phases wherein the first phase is elevated – from Joka till Majerhat and the second phase covers surface stretch starts from Majerhat to Esplanade.
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Railway unveils 4,000-km
new cross-country industrial corridor

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Krisumi Corporation, which is a joint
venture between Japanese Sumitomo
Corporation and Indian auto components
major Krishna Group, has targeted to invest
Rs 650 crore to develop the first phase of
the 65-acre townships, excluding the cost of
land, in Gurugram in the NCR region. The
JV hopes to complete the project by June
2024, with three towers and 433 apartments
with a price tag of Rs 2.6 crore, said Akash
Khurana, CEO, Krisumi Corporation, adding
that after investing in designing, the company
has started construction on the site. Since the
company wants to market its product globally,
it tied up with India Sotheby’s International.
The development of more phases and
investment in other real estate projects
by the Krisumi will depend on the response
of the first phase. The company said that the
entire township, which is located in Sector 36A
in Gurugram, will take 10 years to complete
and they are targeting NRI’s who are ready to
invest in India. Sumitomo has delivered over
300 projects across Japan, USA, China
and Indonesia and this will be their first major
investment in India.

Krisumi Corporation starts construction of Rs. 650-cr townships

DMRC starts work on 5th metro bridge over Yamuna

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)
has recently commenced work on the
5th Metro bridge over river Yamuna, which
is coming up on the Majlis Park – Maujpur
Metro corridor of Phase 4 with a length of
560 metres. Currently, there are four bridges
of Delhi Metro on the Yamuna and the newer
one will connect the Soonghat Metro Station
and the Sonia Vihar Metro Station of the Majlis
Park – Maujpur corridor. After carrying out
geotechnical investigation at the location of
proposed piers, the activity of casting of test
piles is currently in full swing. To utilize available
time during this monsoon season, a coworker
away from active course of Yamuna has been
constructed by raising the level of ground by
filling of earth and sand from nearby area with
protection of its slope through bamboo, jute
netting and sand bags. The level of cowherd
has been kept same as level of adjacent road
to ensure supply of requisite construction
material like steel reinforcement, metal liner
and ready mix concrete. This bridge is coming
up between two existing bridges on Yamuna
i.e. Wazirabad Bridge and the Signature
Bridge. This will be the first ever Metro Bridge
over Yamuna to be built using the Cantilever
construction method. A cantilever is a rigid
structural element which extends horizontally
and is supported at only one end. Typically it
extends from a flat, vertical surface such as a
wall or pier, to which it must be firmly attached.
Cantilever construction allows overhangs
without additional supports. The introduction
of this technology will make the bridge look aesthetically better.

L&T wins Rs. 2,500-cr
construction contracts

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arsen & Toubro has bagged orders
worth Rs. 2,500 crore across segments
covering buildings and factories and sewage
treatment plants, said sources, elaborating
that it has been awarded an order by RCON
International for the construction of a viaduct
substructure up to pier cap level, for about
3 km as part of the Agartala-Akhauna New Rail
Link Project at Agartala, Tripura. L&T’s vast
and efficient treatment business won its first
order in Chandigarh from the Chandigarh
Smart City to build a 136 million litres per
day sewage treatment plant on a design, build
and operate basis. In the international arena,
its buildings and factories division has bagged
an order from a government organization
in Oman to develop the infrastructure
and utilities for a mixed-use facility at Muscat.
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Bihar unveils Rs. 5,024-cr
infrastructure projects

The state CM in Bihar has recently
launched 217 road and bridge projects
worth Rs 5,024 crore, including the 68.5km
Dumri-Sahebra section of the much-awaited
Bhita-Sarmera state highway, which will act
as another bypass road on the southern
side of the city, said an official spokesperson,
adding that the same state highway would
later become part of the proposed Greater
Patna Mahanagar ring road.

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Sadbhav sets to get Rs. 1,572-cr
NH projects in Gujarat

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railway sources said.

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in an order to provide trouble free facilities
to transport industrial products, the Indian
Railways has decided to build about 4,000-km
long new dedicated freight corridor connecting
industrial belts across eastern and western
parts to southern India through major ports
in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, said officials
sources, elaborating that the new DCFCs
are part of the next big ticket infrastructure
projects of the Railways. These DCFCs are – 1,115-km East Coast corridor from Kharagpur
(West Bengal) to Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh);
the East-West corridor which comprises 1,673
km connecting Bhusaval-Nagpur-Kharagpur-Dankuri (near Kolkata) route, and 196-km Rajhansar-Kailpakhri-
Andal (West Bengal) route. The third is the
975-km North South sub-corridor Vijayawada-Nagpur-Itarsi (Madhya Pradesh) route. The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) will soon begin the
survey for these corridors and will complete
the exercise in a year. Among others, these
corridors will provide connectivity to Paradeep,
Dhanbad, Gopalpur Ports in Odisha and Vishaakhatpatnam, Gangavaran, Kakinada,
Krisnagapatnam and Mahulpatanam ports in
Andhra Pradesh, ensuring faster movement of
goods and capacity enhancement in the over-
saturated sections of the railway network.
The proposed Kharagpur-Vijayawada corridor
will pass through the Odisha’s Kalinagar
Industrial area, connecting it with southern
India. The Kalinagar Industrial area will be
then connected with the western parts of the
country through the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.

Indian Infrastructure & Tenders Week
Railway kick starts Rs. 1,339-cr new line in Sikkim

The much delayed project of rail connectivity to Sikkim involving an investment of Rs. 1,339 crore is being completed on fast-tracked basis with officials of the Northeast Frontier Railway are going all out to complete the project as quickly as possible. The new rail line will start from Sevoke in West Bengal to Rangoon in Sikkim, a distance of 45 km where the tracks will cover 13 bridges and 14 tunnels, with stations in Rangoon, Ryang, Teestabazar and Melli. The rail project will cost Rs. 1,339 crore, of which Rs 607 crore has already been sanctioned in the current fiscal. The need for a railway line in Sikkim, which is situated near the India-China border, had gained momentum after the Doklam stand-off in 2017 and the recent clashes in Ladakh. Nathula in East Sikkim, which also borders China, is only 56 km away from capital Gangtok.

SPV in place to build, fund & operate Delhi-Mumbai e-way

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has recently formed special purpose vehicle to finance, construct, and operate the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and that the new arm has been registered as DMEl Development and will be wholly owned by NHAI. The SPV has been aimed at diversifying its resource base and developing a sustainable self-reliant India Socomec, which is a Global Power management expert in the availability, control and safety of electrical installations, has recently announced the launch of its digital campaign ‘Energising India’. The group, which was set up in 1922, in France, expanded its operations with representatives in more than 80 countries including India. While the group entered in India in 1990 through a partnership, the independent operations started in 2006 and recorded an exponential growth since then. The company made its presence felt in the highly competitive industry through its innovative power solutions and ensuring businesses to achieve their energy performance targets during the last three decades.

MoRTH kick starts Rs. 3,000-cr highways in Manipur

In order to provide better connectivity in Manipur state of north eastern region, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has recently laid the foundation stone for 13 highway projects involving an investment of Rs. 3,000 crore in the state. The projects, which involved the construction of 316 km of highways, will provide smooth transport facilities leading to convenience and economic growth in the state. Manipur Chief Minister NBiren Singh, who presided over the virtual function, said that road construction and infra projects involving similar amount of investment are currently in the full swing across the state.

Socomec launches digital campaign ‘Energising India’

Reiterating its brand’s steadfast commitment and contribution towards self-reliant India Socomec, which is a Global Power management expert in the availability, control and safety of electrical installations, has recently announced the launch of its digital campaign ‘Energising India’. The group, which was set up in 1922, in France, expanded its operations with representatives in more than 80 countries including India. While the group entered in India in 1990 through a partnership, the independent operations started in 2006 and recorded an exponential growth since then. The company made its presence felt in the highly competitive industry through its innovative power solutions and ensuring businesses to achieve their energy performance targets during the last three decades.

Commenting on the launch of the campaign, Sushil Virmani, Managing Director, Socomec Innovative Power Solutions, said, “Socomec has a strong belief in India’s future and developmental potentials in the country. That is why the company has been continuously investing and progressively expanding our manufacturing facility, engineering and commercial offices. In pursuit of the nation’s vision from “Make in India” to “Self-reliant India” to galvanize the economy, the company is proud to be a part of the government’s mission by fostering growth, innovation and sustainable business operations for Indian Industries through our highly efficient, safe and reliable power solutions.”

Real estate on way to resounding recovery

In view of the improve sentiments and construction activities getting back to normal in real estate sector, a large number of developers have lined up launches in the coming quarters. The case in point is that of the Bengaluru-based Prestige Estates, which had put all its launches on hold after the Covid-19 outbreak, plans to start seven residential projects across south India during the second and third quarters. With these projects, the company is targeting to get back to the pre-Covid quarterly level of over Rs 1,000 crore of gross bookings and collections from the second quarter of 2020-21 onwards. Sales numbers in the second quarter will definitely be more than double of the previous quarter, said Irfan Razack, chairman and managing director of Prestige Estates. The company’s focus on affordable/mid-income housing projects in south India and an expected recovery in the hotel business in FY22 will enable the company to get its growth story back on track, according to a ICICI Securities estimate, an real-estate firm of the company.

Mining activities gain momentum

The mining activities across the country, which were partially curtailed between April and June due to a slump in the consumption of raw materials by the industrial units due to their closure, are picking up pace again. Coal India’s two major subsidiary companies — Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCCL) — operating in Jharkhand reported a steady rise in their coal off-take in the second quarter of the current fiscal, P M Prasad, the chairman-cum-managing director of Dhanbad-based BCCCL, said adding that the production and coal off take were low but things have begun to pick up pace since July onwards and the company is on course to meet its annual production targets. The CIL subsidiary, which produced 27 million tonnes of coal in the 2019-20, has set its sights on producing 34MT coal in the ongoing fiscal year. As of July it produced 6.2MT coal and recorded a dispatch of 5.52MT. The Ranchi-based Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), which has its operations in eight districts, had hit a roadblock in meeting its annual production target of 7MT in this fiscal year in the first quarter as industries remained closed due to lockdown. There was less demand in the first quarter, but it is gradually increasing, CMD, CCL, Gopal Singh said.

Iron ore mines of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in West Singhbhum district also curtailed their production by as much as 50 per cent in the first quarter as SAIL’s plants reduced their production capacity by half owing to the lockdown and slump in the global steel market. In cumulative, the SAIL’s mines in the district, namely the ones in Kriburu, Meghatuburu, Gua and Chhila, have a cumulative annual iron ore production capacity of 20MT. The state government also missed out on its mining royalties from mica mining in Koderma during the lockdown as the licenses owned by Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation (JSMDC) to mine 6,000 metric ton mica expired just before the nationwide lockdown was clamped in March.

INDIAN INFRASTRUCTURE & TENDERS WEEK
**Stricter safety norms for construction equipment on anvil**

Ensuring greater safety on highways, the government has proposed stricter norms including features like machine-mounted audible travel alarms, non-metallic fuel tanks and wider operator visibility for construction equipment machinery. The transport ministry has come out with a draft notification for construction equipment vehicles that addresses issues of safety requirements, safety of the operator besides ensuring safety while such machines are running on public roads along with other vehicles. Currently, certain safety requirements are already mandated for such vehicles in Central Motor Vehicles Rules but the proposed notification aims to introduce AIS (Automotive Industry Standard) 160 to introduce several safety requirements like machine mounted audible travel alarms, visual display requirements, requirements for operator station and maintenance areas, non-metallic fuel tanks and Minimum Access Dimensions. Construction equipment vehicles are extensively used for carrying out various infrastructure projects and to ensure safety of operator while these machines are running on public roads along with other vehicles, the government has invited suggestion from stakeholders and people on the proposed safety norms. Construction equipment vehicle means a self-propelled machine with rubber tyred, rubber padded or steel drum wheel mounted compactor, wheeled hydraulic excavator, wheel loader, backhoe loader, skid steer loader, dumper, motor grader, mobile crane, dozer and pavers among others, the notification said.

**Centre speeds up Rs. 115-bn hydro projects in Nepal**

The construction of Arun-III hydropower project in Nepal’s Sankhuwasabha district is on fast track as five Indian banks and two Nepali banks have committed to lend debts for construction of the 900 MW mega power project. In the recent past, Nabil Bank, which is one of the lenders for the project from the Nepali side, signed a pact with India’s Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), setting a record of largest ever foreign direct investment to the Himalayan nation. Arun-III is Nepal’s largest hydro project and is being built with India’s assistance, Anil Keshari Shah, CEO of Nabil Bank said, adding, “This type of engagement with Nepali banks during the construction of Arun-III hydropower project will test the capability of Nepali banks as well as lend new experience in these types of big projects.” “Our engagement with SJVN for Arun-III has increased our aptness. Back in February, we had a financial closure which means we will be on ground to support them which in turn will be support for the whole nation,” he said.

Everest Bank and Nabil Bank from Nepal agreed to provide debt of Rs. 1,536 crore Nepali rupees for the project whereas five Indian banks – State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Axis Bank, and UBI have pledged Rs. 8,598 crore Nepali rupees for the same. The total debt tied up with banks is 7,660 crore Nepali rupees plus 2,274 crore Nepali rupees as a stand-by line of credit. The SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company Pvt. Ltd, incorporated for construction of the project, will be investing approximately 11,000 crore Nepali rupees in Nepal over the next five years. The total investment of the project is estimated to cross Rs. 115 billion, including Rs. 11 billion for the development of the transmission line.

Govt announces $500-mm infra projects in Maldives

With greater focus on connectivity between the two neighbors, India announced multiple developmental projects in the Maldives, including a $ 500 million Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP), billed as the largest ever infrastructure project in the country. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, after a meeting with his counterpart Abdululah Shahid, also announced the creation of an air bubble with the Maldives to facilitate movement of people from both sides for employment, tourism, medical emergencies. In a statement of external affair ministry, the government supports implementation of GMCP in Maldives, through a financial package consisting of a grant of $100 million and a new Line of Credit of $400 million and it will be the largest civilian infrastructure project in the Maldives, connecting Male with three neighboring islands - Viilingili, Guhifahuna whereby a port is being built under Indian LOC and Thilafushi new industrial zone – by construction of a bridge and causeway link spanning 6.7 km. Once completed, this landmark project will streamline connectivity between the 4 islands, thereby boosting economic activity, generating employment and promoting holistic urban development in the Male region. In addition, India also announced the commencement of a direct cargo ferry service between India and the Maldives and extension of urgent financial assistance worth $250 million, given the financial challenges faced by the island nation due to the Covid-19 situation. The minister announced that India had decided to extend in-principle urgent financial assistance to the Maldives through a soft loan arrangement, he claimed.

**Centre speeds up Rs. 115-bn hydro projects in Nepal**

**Ahuwalia Contracts wins Rs. 290-cr construction contract**

Ahuwalia Contracts (India) Limited has recently secured new order for the tune of Rs.290 crore in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. The scope of work in the project in question, involved the construction of new building of Pt. Jawaharlal Medical College and Hospital, Chamba (Himachal Pradesh) awarded from NBCC (India) Limited, said an official spokesperson.

**Decks cleared for Trilateral Highway project**

The Supreme Court recently allowed the Government of India to continue with the construction of the Trilateral Highway Connectivity Project between India, Myanmar and Thailand and issued the direction on this score. The court observed that in regard to the importance of the project, the work should go on, and in the interest of justice the Manipur High Court should expeditiously dispose of the matter within a fortnight. The court received a letter from Indian Ambassador in Myanmar, saying that China completed its projects swiftly and in time, but India’s credibility is under question. India needs to start construction of the first bridge so that Myanmar is not frustrated. In response to the court’s suggestion to order a status quo on the project, AG responded by saying that a status quo would lead to Myanmar government being very frustrated. It may be recalled that an agreement was signed between India and Myanmar, to construct and upgrade 69 bridges as part of the road project from Manipur till Thailand and then in November, 2017, the project was given to a joint venture of Niraj Cement Structures Limited and Manipur Tribal Development Corporation Limited. This was followed by the project being delayed which led to India (through project consultant IRCON Infrastructure and Services Limited) terminating the contract. The contractor challenged this termination before the Manipur High Court which is still pending on the plea of the validity of this petition by the contractor. According to the government, Manipur HC lacks jurisdiction to hear the case and any further pendency of litigation before Manipur High Court will be harmful to India’s bilateral relations with its neighbors and affect its trans-nationally significant development and connectivity initiatives.

**Tamil Nadu clears 10-km long elevated corridor**

Driving from the airport to the upcoming Mofussil bus terminus at Kilambakkam on the city’s outskirts in Tamil Nadu is going to be a smooth affair with the state highway department’s decision to speed up the construction of a 10-km long elevated corridor, which had conducted a feasibility study report for the elevated corridor linking Chennai Airport and Chengalpet, decided to transfer the project to the highways department for its execution. CMDA will, however, continue to be the coordinator for implementation. The project is expected to be in tune with CMRL constructions proposed along the corridor, the sources in the state highways department said that the project will be confined to the stretch between the airport and trambuluyur since the road beyond that comes under the purview of the NHAI.

**Indian Infrastructure & Tenders Week**

**INFORMATION 2015**

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**Govt lists Rs. 111 lakh-cr infra projects under NIP**

In order to inject a major boost to infrastructure investment across the country, the government has recently floated tenders for 6,385 projects under its Rs 111 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline, FM said in a statement, adding that the ministry has identified 1,280 projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline. Investors can use the India Investment Grid to access information on infrastructure projects, and form public-private partnerships with the government. According to the India Investment Grid portal, 3,678 projects worth Rs 92.51 lakh crore have been listed for investments — they include Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Project, Pune Airport Development Project among others. The National Infrastructure Pipeline aims to invest Rs 111 lakh crore by 2025 in a range of projects spanning across sectors such as energy, social and commercial infrastructure, communication, water and sanitation. The share of the central government and the states in the projects would be 39% and 40%, respectively, while private sector would contribute 21%. Projects identified are: 1,342 water and sanitation projects worth Rs 21.51 lakh crore that also includes Jal Jeevan Mission Implementation Project - 710 social infrastructure projects worth Rs 13.96 lakh crore, including Mumbai City Affordable Housing Construction Project - 617 commercial infrastructure projects worth Rs 5.77 lakh crore that includes Andhra Pradesh Industrial Housing Development Project, among others.

**Volvo Buses India integrates with VECV**

In order to strengthen their functioning in the Indian bus market, definitive agreements have been signed for the integration of Volvo Buses India business into VECV covering the manufacture, assembly, distribution, and sale of the Volvo Buses in India, and other rights forming part of the business. Consequently, the bus manufacturing facility at Hosakote, Bengaluru, and all employees of Volvo Bus India (VBI) will be transferred to VECV Volvo Buses India is currently a wholly owned subsidiary of Volvo Group, India Private Limited (VGIL). Commenting on the development shortly after the announcement, Siddharth Lal, Chairman, VECV, said, “This is a momentous occasion and testifies to a very strong relationship between Eicher Motors and Volvo Group. Over a period of time, the Volvo brand for buses in India has become synonymous with safety and comfort in both inter-city and intra-city segments. And we are extremely proud to have this iconic brand in our joint venture. With the integration of Volvo Buses India into VECV, we aim to shape up the future of the Indian bus industry by offering the widest range of transport solutions to our customers. Expressing his view on the integration, Hakan Agenwall, President of Volvo Bus Corporation, says, “We are pleased with this development of Volvo Buses in India and see it as an opportunity to further build upon the successful JV Company – VECV. By consolidating the operations of Volvo Buses India into VECV, we aim to further develop our bus business and strengthen our position in the Indian bus market. The new business division will offer a full range of modern buses covering customer needs for heavy, medium and light duty buses”.

On the occasion, Virod Aggarwal, Managing Director and CEO, VECV said “VECV’s strong presence in the Indian bus market with Eicher branded buses will be complemented by Volvo’s prominent position in the commercial vehicle space, and it’s premium segment. With this integration, VECV will be able to leverage synergies in the areas of product development, purchasing and manufacturing with access to Volvo Group, World class technology in buses”. The transaction will be completed once the conditions under the agreements are fulfilled and the final business transfer is expected to be closed within the next two months.

**NDHCL floats tenders for Rs. 117-cr NH project**

The National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation (NDHCL) has recently floated tender for Bamanchara-Srirampur section of the highway project in West Bengal involving an investment of Rs 117 crore. This is an official spokesperson, adding that the company is pleased with the adding to the new project in the portfolio in the road and highway sector.

**Dilip Buildcon bags HAM model project in Karnataka**

Continuing the process of winning more projects in the country’s road and highway sector, Dilip Buildcon has recently been declared as L-1 bidder for a new HAM model with scope of work of four-laning of the road from 42,000 km to 80.00 of Dadodaballapur Bypass to Hosakote section of NH-648 (Old NH-207) in Karnataka on Hybrid Annuity Mode under Bharatmala Pariyojna in Karnataka (Package-II), said an official spokesperson, adding that the company is pleased with the adding to the new project in the portfolio in the road and highway sector.

**Signature Global launching 10,000 affordable units**

The Gurgaon-based real estate developer, Signature Global Group, which is into affordable housing projects in a big way, has decided to launch 10,000 affordable housing units before March 2021. The builder has already launched over 800 units recently under the Dean Dalay Jan Awas Yojana, a scheme by the Haryana government under which it intends developing two lakh affordable housing units by 2022. The company has invested Rs 400 crore on the project so far on a land parcel it acquired a year ago and financial institutions like HDFC Capital, KRK, among others, have supported the builder for the project, Pradeep Aggarwal, Founder and Chairman, Signature Global said, claiming that affordable housing is one segment that has not been badly impacted by the pandemic. The affordable housing scheme has not been impacted by COVID-19 compared to other asset classes. The company is launching 1,700 units under the scheme. As many as 892 units have been launched as part of the first phase. The company is offering two sizes - 3bhk units spread across 1,081 sq ft and 2 bhk spread across 951 sq ft on 100 sq mtr and 88 sq mtr plots respectively with a price tag of Rs 45 to 55 lakh and that it has launched around 19,200 units since last year and with this it is on the right track to launch the targeted 30,000 affordable housing units over a period of time, he insisted.

**India unveils Rs. 10,000-cr port in Great Nicobar Island**

India is contemplating investing Rs 10,000 crore for building a transshipment port at Great Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal to provide shippers an alternative to similar ports in the region, PM said recently shortly after inaugurating the first underground fibre optic project to provide high-speed internet to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The 2,312-kilometer submarine optical fibre cable from Chennai to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, laid at a cost of Rs 1,224 crore, will provide “better and cheaper connectivity”. There is a plan to build a transshipment port at Great Nicobar so that large ships can dock after its commissioning. The dedicated container transshipment terminal at the strategic port locale in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands along the Bay of Bengal coastline offers two geographical advantages – proximity to the busy east-west international shipping route that can facilitate shorter transits and greater economies of scale, and deep natural water depths that can accommodate the latest generation of mega-ships. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration had last year floated an expression of interest for the container transshipment terminal with the Free Trade Warehousing Zone in South Bay, Great Nicobar Island to provide Indian shippers an alternative to Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang (Malaysia) transshipment ports. The PM said adding that Andaman & Nicobar will be developed as a hub of port-led development as it is at a competitive distance from many ports of the world. As India looks to establish itself as an important player in global supply and value chain, it is very important to strengthen the network of waterways and ports.
Mining sector awaits industry friendly reforms

The Union government is all set to announce more industry-friendly reforms in the mining sector very shortly, Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said in an official statement, elaborating that his ministry also invite investors to explore the huge opportunities that the Indian mining sector offers. The minister said that other issues like illegal mining, environment clearance and forest clearance will be deliberated and suitable action as per the law will be taken in the due course of time.

DMRC Phase-IV network gets greater heights

Apart from an ambitious expansion across the national capital, the Phase IV project of the Delhi Metro is set to take the network to greater heights as the upcoming Haiderpur Badli Mor section of the upcoming 28.92-km-long Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Mang corridor, trains will pass at a height of 28 metres — taller than an eight-storey building.

The corridor is an extension of the Janakpuri West to Noida Botanical Garden Magenta Line. The other two lines of Phase IV are Aerocity-Tughlaqbad (20.2 km) and Maupur-Majlis Park (12.5 km). The Haiderpur Badli Mor platform will also be the highest of the network at 23.5 metres, according to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The current highest peak of the 389-km-long operational network of DMRC is at Dhaula Kuan, where trains pass through a 23.6-metre high section.

Till 2017, a point near Karkardooma station trains pass through a 23.6-metre high section. The network of DMRC is at Dhaula Kuan, where trains pass through a 23.6-metre high section. The corridor is an extension of the Janakpuri West to Noida Botanical Garden Magenta Line. The other two lines of Phase IV are Aerocity-Tughlaqbad (20.2 km) and Maupur-Majlis Park (12.5 km). The Haiderpur Badli Mor platform will also be the highest of the network at 23.5 metres, according to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The current highest peak of the 389-km-long operational network of DMRC is at Dhaula Kuan, where trains pass through a 23.6-metre high section.

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