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INTRODUCTION

A sign of the times is that the Indian economy is on the fast-forward mode. Nowhere is it reflected as strongly and visibly as on the urban infrastructure development front, where schemes after schemes are being initiated and implemented with a rare zeal, either upgrading the existing facilities or creating brand new ones. The new highways, airports, seaports, and power generation plants that come up across the nation are a matter of pride to all. This Weekly Insight on Urban Infrastructure will help you have a proper grasp of what's happening where on the urban infrastructure development front, something that's a must for all those who give a shoulder to the nation's fast-paced growth.



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[DELHI/NCR]

\$150 m loan to improve urban infrastructure

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a 150 million multi-tranche financing facility to help India's National Capital Region (NCR) build urban infrastructure. Funds are expected to come in two or more tranches.

Population in the NCR, which incorporates Delhi and subregions of three states, is expected to almost double to 64 million by 2021 from 37 million now, and the NCR Planning Board has notified the Regional Plan 2021 that it has identified investment needs in transport, power, water and solid waste totalling about 43 billion dollars.

The first tranche loan of 78-million dollar will have a 25-year term, including a 5-year grace period, and an annual interest rate determined in accordance with ADB's LIBOR-based lending facility. An additional 50 million dollar will be provided by the NCR Planning Board for targeted investments. The Planning Board is the executing agency for the investment programme, which is expected to be completed by June 2017.

10-km water, sewer line in each Delhi constituency

Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit says the Delhi Government plans to lay 10-km length of sewerage line and 10-km of water line in each constituency a year. The Government planned to replace old sewer lines and water lines in each constituency, she told the state assembly.

[MUMBAI]

Squatters to be removed to speed up airport works



The Maharashtra government plans to shift over 7,000 families of slum dwellers from around the Sahar international airport in Mumbai, with a view to speeding up the airport's modernization process. This will be followed by the eviction of another 1,60,000 families.

Large tracts of the nearly 2,000 acre airport land, leased to Mumbai International Airport Pvt Ltd (MIAL) initially for 30 years, have either been occupied by squatters or are under litigation with the government. Efforts are on to provide these people homes in areas that are not far off, the guardian minister Nas-

em Khan said.

The passenger traffic at the airport is expected to grow to the level of 4 crore by 2012, requiring immediate start of airport expansion works.

Also affected by the encroachments and litigation is the Sahar elevated road project, being implemented under the Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project. The six-lane, two km long elevated road will help ease traffic congestion on the busy route between the airport and the Western Express Highway.

Halt in sand supply hits construction sector

A sudden stop in sand supply has affected the construction sector in Mumbai region in a big way, reports said.

According to the reports, over 600 sand transporters, owning over 7,000 trucks, under the banner of the Mumbai Reti Vahtuk Seva Sangh have stopped their activity in a protest against the authorities detaining trucks on the ground they did not have permit to ferry sand.

The real problem, say Sharad Nayak and Shivaji Mhaske of the Sangh, lay elsewhere. It was that there were those who illegally dredged sand with the help of suction pumps even as they had licence only for manual dredging. The government was not doing anything about this.

Among those affected are the Metro project, the monorail project, construction of flyovers, bridges and the thousands of new housing schemes.

"The dredgers let us ferry sand, but, they refuse to issue us a receipt. These receipts double as permits for us to ferry sand. Since we do not have them, state officials and the police detain our trucks for 'wrongful ferrying of sand'", the Sangh leaders were quoted in the media as saying.

Funds promised to MMRDA for BRTS

It's not money that's a problem for the implementation of the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS). Mumbai Metropolitan Road Development Authority (MMRDA) has been told by the Central government to take the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) more seriously and pursue its implementation more aggressively, and funds could be arranged from international funding agencies like the World Bank.

The offer was made at a recent meeting between officials of the state government and the Centre's department of urban development (UDD). State officials told the meeting that it was difficult to arrange funds of the order of Rs 1,300 crore for the project.

Revealing this to the media, Metropolitan Commissioner Ratnakar Gaikwad denied the allegation that the authority had been neglecting the project. He noted that the MMRDA's role in this respect was limited to that of a feasibility study, and it had promptly submitted the report to the implementing authority, namely BEST.

He said the authority would now send a fresh set of proposals to the Central

government, proposing three feasible routes of BRTS in Mumbai—one from Sion to Thane on the Eastern Express Highway (EEH); another from Bandra to Dahisar on the Western Express Highway (WEH), and the third, on the newly constructed Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road (JVLR).

BRTS projects are sanctioned under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) of the Central Government. These projects are taken up in nine cities. Under the scheme, the Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments, subject to conditions. They are tied to certain reforms like the setting up of a dedicated urban transport fund, making changes in bye-laws and master-plans of cities to integrate land use and transport planning, and setting up of regulatory mechanisms to periodically revise fares for all public and intermediate public transport systems.

[MADHYA PRADESH]

Special package for Bhopal outer ring road

Construction of an Outer Ring Road in Bhopal is on the cards. A proposal on this will be included in the special package for road transport for the state. The length of the Outer Ring Road would be 51 km and cost of its construction is Rs 300 crore.

Union Surface Transport and National Highways Minister Kamalnath gave a promise to this effect to Madhya Pradesh Urban Administration and Development Minister Babulal Gaur in New Delhi last week. Gaur met Kamalnath and discussed the long-pending proposal for Bhopal to erect an Outer Ring Road. Kamalnath assured Gaur that a meeting with the officers concerned of his ministry will be held soon and a positive decision taken about the Express Highway and other pending proposals.

At present three National Highways - National Highway No. 12 (Jabalpur to Jaipur), N H 69 and N H 86 pass through the city, adding to traffic problems in the capital.

Govt for smooth supply of electricity in MP

Madhya Pradesh's minister for energy and mineral Resources Rajendra Shukla has instructed the Power Trading Company to appoint a nodal officer for maintaining smooth supply of electricity to consumers. The nodal officer will discuss power supply with the power distribution companies, analyse the situation and advise the department on measures to be taken or speeded up. Shukla was reviewing the power supply situation at Mantralaya this past week.

[PUNJAB]

Urban development work to be decentralised

In a bid to decentralise the process of urban development, the Punjab government has decided to extend the jurisdiction of six developmental authorities—those of Mohali,

Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Patiala and Bathinda -- to cover the entire state.

Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal said these authorities would now also provide services to the public at the local level for the change of land use, licensing of colonies, completion certificates besides addressing grievances of plot holders and regulating urban development in the respective areas.

The Greater Mohali Area Development Authority would now also look after Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib and Rajpura in Patiala district. The jurisdiction of Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority had been extended to Moga, Nawanshahr, Ferozepur and Phillaur in Jalandhar district.

On the cleaning of rivers, water supply and sewerage projects, the state has embarked upon a plan that would cover 44 towns at a cost of Rs 2,055 crore. The objective of the entire project was to check the pollution caused by the discharge of untreated sewage of the cities, villages and industrial waste in the rivers of Sutlej, Beas and Ghaggar. An amount of Rs 1,342 crore had been sanctioned for the execution of works in 18 towns in the first phase. He said the work on the first phase of the project would be completed by November 2011. Badal also informed that Rs 68 crore had been sanctioned for the cleaning of Budda Nallah in Ludhiana.

[HIMACHAL PRADESH]

Town and Country Planning Act to be amended

The Himachal Pradesh government proposes to bring about major amendments in the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Act, 1977, and the Municipal Corporation Act to overcome shortcomings and ensure that there are no violations.

Replying to a question in the state assembly, the minister for town and country planning, Mohinder Singh, said cases of unauthorised construction were under the government's consideration. Some 187 buildings, both government as well as private, had erected buildings of more than five storeys in violation of the norms. "The High Court, too, has taken a very strict view with regard to unauthorised structures and after scrutinising the cases. The government would taken action against violators," he said.

[WEST BENGAL]

Growth in passenger traffic, but no growth for Bagdogra

West Bengal government's lackadaisical attitude to land acquirement is impeding the development of Bagdogra Airport that is witnessing rapid growth in passenger traffic and cargo movement, says the Airports Authority of India.

"We have witnessed a substantial rise in air traffic in Bagdogra with around 62 flights operating every week. Keeping this in mind, the AAI is in the process of upgrading the infrastructure at the airport by introducing the ILS (Instrumental Landing System) for planes to land at night and during inclement weathers," Praveen Seth, the member (operations) of the

AAI told The Telegraph.

He also said a master plan had been approved by the AAI to develop an integrated building wherein both international and domestic flights would arrive and depart. "All ancillary facilities needed for a modern airport will also be there. However, despite several correspondences, we are yet to get the necessary land from the government," said the official.

Seth was at the airport on Saturday to inaugurate a new administrative building. The three-storied structure was constructed with Rs 2.21 crore and has a carpet area of 1,807sqm. It has an elevator as well as a fire protection mechanism.

[KOLKATA]

Silt & sloth in cave-in city

As many as two cave-ins occur every three days in Calcutta, with dredging robbing its decaying British-era brick sewers of the last line of defence, says a report commissioned by the civic body.

The silt that chokes the century-old sewers is apparently also their only saviour, forming a thick layer that acts as a casing for the wobbly walls. So every time an underground sewer is cleared of silt, it makes the walls weaker and more susceptible to caving in under the weight of wheels on the road above, The Telegraph has reported.

"The only way out is glass-reinforced polymer jacketing, which is currently being used in parts of the city. But it would cost the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Rs 5,000 crore to reinforce the entire network," a senior official of the sewerage and drainage department was quoted by the daily as saying.

Around 249 cave-ins were reported during the five-year period between 1980 and 1985. The number shot up to 1,266 between 2001 and 2006.

According to a 2006 study, the number of sewer collapses has increased five times in the past two decades. "The vicious cycle started with acidic waste eroding the brick walls. Over time, the accumulated silt also became a buffer for the walls. Now removing silt without jacketing is the biggest danger," said the official.

The cost of repairs has increased nearly 15 fold. The civic body spent Rs 36.43 crore on repairing damaged sewers and roads in 2001-2006, against Rs 2.79 crore in 1980-85.

[CHENNAI]

Metro Rail works progressing in Chennai



The Tamil Nadu government is now looking at the feasibility of including Thiruvottiyur into the metro rail ambit, a spokesman of the Chennai Metro Rail Ltd has said. He said CMRL's Rs 14,600 crore project was gaining momentum and the piling works between Koyambedu to Guindy was progressing as per schedule.

"The linking of MRTS and Metro rail is still at a primitive stage," he said. "It will take at least five years to complete the Metro Rail."

There is increased clamour for early completion of the Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) route via arterial Inner Ring Road and Mount Road, so as to get relief from the increasing traffic congestion in the city.

On the move for Metro-MRTS merger, there are those who think it would be difficult. "The coach dimensions will vary and the other operation systems and signalling may vary from MRTS to Metro rail," a retired railway official was quoted as telling Deccan Chronicle.

Meanwhile, the Sriperumbudur MP and former union minister TR Baalu has demanded that Tambaram be brought onto the Metro rail network as the station was emerging as a third terminal benefiting south Chennai and neighbouring suburbs.

On completion of Chennai Metro Rail project, Chennai will be the first city in the south which could boast of having a twin corridor mode of transport. The project is due for completion in 2014-2015.

[KARNATAKA]

Mono Rail project on track

Marking the first phase of Bengaluru's Mono Rail project, the 15.7 km long Mono Rail track from Majestic to Agara Lake will be built using the Swiss Challenge method on a public-private-partnership basis, Chief minister BS Yeddyurappa has announced.

The Malaysian company, Scomi-Geodesic, would execute the project. It had submitted its proposal during the Global Investors' Meet, and quoted Rs 140 crore per kilometre for the proposed rail network. A global tender will be floated based on the technical and financial parameters proposed by the Malaysian firm. Any company can then challenge any component of the original proposal.

Yeddyurappa said the idea was to give Bengaluru a world-class transport system. Geodesic Scomi of Malaysia, which was already building the Mono Rail in Mumbai, had come forward to execute the first phase of the project in the city using the Swiss Challenge method, but the state government had decided to call for bids, he said.

As the Mono Rail will have a fully elevated track, the construction work is not likely to affect traffic in the city in a big way. IDD sources say the Mono Rail will mainly connect schools, colleges, restaurants, main market areas, hospitals, bus stands and railway stations that fall under 172 wards of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike. Mono rail will cover a distance of 60.6 km and will treat the Majestic area, Yeshwanthpur and Cantonment Railway Stations as centre points.

The Malaysian company's original proposal was to set up a 58 km-long mono rail

network touching three corridors in Bengaluru. The alignment has been planned within a five-to-seven km radius of the Vidhana Soudha. It has proposed 55 stations, including inter-change stations at Sujatha theatre near Rajajinagar, Hudson circle and St John's Hospital, and three depots.

The company has proposed to integrate the mono rail with the other mass rapid transit systems being implemented in the city, including the Metro rail.

Elevated toll way inauguration delayed

The inauguration of 19.5-km Yeshwanthpur-Nelamangala elevated toll way, a Rs 720 crore project, is likely to be delayed, as no decision has been taken yet on toll rates and on a possible ban on two-wheelers.

The elevated expressway and access-controlled corridor on Tumkur Road (National Highway-4) will benefit over a lakh people travelling to North Karnataka. The travel time to Nelamangala from the City will come down to 15 minutes as against the present one-hour drive.

Deccan Herald reported that issues like toll rates and ban on movement of two-wheelers are said to be delaying the decision to throw open the Rs 720 crore project to public. The rates for the six-lane axis control toll road leading to Nelamangala are yet to be decided. The gazette notification will be out soon, sources added.

Pais to sponsor four Govt colleges in Mangalore

As many as four Government Educational Institutions in Mangalore City Corporation limits will be sponsored and developed by Dr P Dayananda Pai and P Satish Pai of Century Group, Bangalore at a total cost of Rs 8 crore.

Announcing this, local MLA N Yogish Bhat said that the First Grade College at Car Street, the First Grade College for Women at Balmatta and a Government Pre University College for Women Car street will be sponsored by Dr P Dayananda Pai and P Sathish Pai. Besides, a new library block will be constructed at Government Pre-University College for Women, Bokkapatna.

A new college building will be constructed at a cost of Rs 4.5 crore in 3 phases at First Grade College in Car Street. At First Grade College for Women, Balmatta, the existing building will be extended at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore and a new building constructed at a cost of Rs 2.25 crore. Existing buildings will be extended at Government Pre University College for Women at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore. The proposed library block at Bokkapatna PU College will be put up at a cost of Rs 10 lakh. The colleges will be renamed after Dr P Dayananda Pai and P Sathish Pai, as a mark of respect for their philanthropic act. P Dayananda Pai said that the sponsorship does not mean taking over of the college management. The sponsors will only maintain the infrastructure of the colleges.

An artist's impression of the renovated Bangalore airport

Karnataka to float global tenders for Devanahalli

Failing to attract bidders to execute the state-of-the-art Business Park project in Devanahalli (BPD), the Karnataka government has decided to float global tenders to restart the project.

Chief Minister Yeddyurappa said that earlier the model of the project was that land would be leased to a contractor who would 'build and operate' the park for a specified period. Now it will be public-private-partnership model, which will be more transparent. "So, we abandoned the plan to hand over the prime 305 acre government property in the vicinity of the BIAL on lease to a private party," he said.

The DBP will come up along the National Highway 7 and adjoining the northern boundary of BIA near Devanahalli.

The DBP is proposed to have two IT & ITES parks on a 50-acre plot, and a central business district on a 35-acre plot, besides other facilities such as three multi-speciality hospitals, finance district, retail and entertainment, office complex, aviation academy and other utilities.

The Infrastructure Development Department had selected a promoter and awarded the project to be implemented on a Build, Operate, and Transfer basis.

The Government had offered to provide the required land on a 30-years lease to the promoter. However, the promoter backed out at the last minute as the Bangalore International Airport Area Planning Authority (BIAAPA) refused to give permission to construct any building of 32 meters height in 12 km-radius of Bengaluru International Airport, official sources were quoted by Deccan Herald as saying.

Foundation laid for Bellari airport



Two farmers laid the foundation stone for the airport at Bellary on Saturday, in the presence of Karnataka's chief minister BS Yeddyurappa and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj.

Leading diversified infrastructure development firm, MARG Ltd, has set up a special purpose vehicle (SPV) in the name of MARG Sri Krishnadevaraya Airport Ltd. to execute the project. It has been awarded the contract for the development and operation of the Greenfield airport by the Government of Karnataka, on a build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. Mr. GRK. Reddy, Chairman & Managing Director, MARG Group was also present at the ground-breaking ceremony.

Bellary Airport will come up on 900 acres of land at Sanganakar village, near Bellary town, which the state government has acquired for the Greenfield airport.

MARG will operate and maintain the airport for 30 years, after which it will be transferred to the state. In addition to terminal buildings, runways and control towers, MARG will also develop access facilities and build utilities necessary to serve the airport during the operational phase. MARG would plan and undertake the development of facilities, amenities and other infrastructure like an aviation academy, exhibition / convention centre, business parks, shopping mall, flying club, theme / entertainment parks etc. which would address the needs of the local population and tourists.

[BENGALURU]

Bangalore Metro Rail work on at UG-2



Work has begun on the Bangalore Metro Rail's underground section (UG-2) in the East-West corridor and construction of stations too could get under way soon. Tunneling could begin in November. The UG 2 stretch extends from MG Road to the Leprosy hospital via Vidhana Soudha, KR Circle, KG Road and Majestic. Both the UG1 and UG2 stretches will criss-cross at the Majestic.

The underground stations will be built at Minsk Square, Vidhana Soudha, Central College, City Railway Station and Majestic in the East-West corridor over a distance of 4.45 km. "The ramp work has begun in the East-West Corridor and we are in the process of shifting utilities and finding roads for diversion of traffic. Once this is done, we will begin work on the underground stations," says BMRCL spokesman B.L. Yasvanth Chavan. JV of CEC (Taiwan) and Soma (India) have bagged the contract for the East-West Corridor underground section after submitting the lowest financial bid for the 3.4 km twin tube tunnels and four cut-and-cover underground stations. CEC-Soma JV has ordered two new slurry tunnel boring machine (TBM) systems from Hitachi Zosen of Japan for the project.

"The machines will work through weathered rock and residual soils under a high water table. These are the first Hitachi Zosen TBMs and first slurry TBM systems to be used in India. They will be shipped to Bangalore in November," a BMRC official was quoted in the local media as saying.

[GOA]

Rs 33 cr expected for projects under JNNURM

Panaji City Corporation is expected to receive funds worth Rs 33 crore that had been sanctioned for its projects, including parks as well as gardens, and for works under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. The central scheme winds up in March 2011.

The mission was inaugurated by the prime minister Manmohan Singh in 2005, and it was aimed at improving the quality of life and infrastructure in Indian cities.

CCP Commissioner Elvis Gomes told The Navhind Times that the detailed project reports on the urban renewal works in the city, which had been passed by the urban development department's sub-committee headed by city MLA Manohar Parrikar and further given green signal by the state-level steering committee, is now before the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) of the JNNURM. "There was an inadvertent delay on the part of the appointed consultants in the preparation of these DPRs worth Rs 33 crore," Gomes admitted.

The detailed project reports (DPRs) pertaining to the urban renewal component include improvement of area/road from Boca de Vaca ward up to the riverfront, renovation of two city gardens, re-development of Divar jetty, development of road at Campal, Miramar beach beautification and 16 toilets around the city.

Stating that another two sets of DPRs, one pertaining to the beautification of St Inez nallah, with an estimated cost of Rs 23 crore, and another on solid waste management system, with an estimated cost of Rs 30 crore, are almost ready, the Commissioner said that the public works department has also been directed to prepare yet another DPR as regards water supply and sewage network improvement in the city, and a consultant has been appointed for the same.

Altogether 467 projects around the country have been approved by the Union Ministry of Urban Development under the Urban Infrastructure Governance (UIG) of the JNNURM so far. The cost of these 467 approved projects stands at Rs 50,340 crore. The city of Panaji, which is one of the beneficiaries of the JNNURM, is however, yet to get its works approved under the mission.

World Bank loan for Mumbai suburban rail network

World Bank has approved a \$430 million loan for Mumbai Urban Transport Project – II, the Lok Sabha has been informed.

The project consists of, among others, the erection of the fifth and sixth lines for the CST Main-Kurla sector; the laying of the fifth and sixth lines on the Thane-Diva sector; the laying of the sixth line between Mumbai Central and Borivali; and the extension of the Harbour Line from Andheri to Goregaon.

The other projects include the DC to AC conversion; the EMU procurement and manufacture; the maintenance facilities for EMUs, the stabling of lines for EMUs; undertaking technical studies and institutional strengthening of studies; resettlement and rehabilitation of project-affected households; and station improvement and trespassing control.

The project is expected to be completed by 2014-15, the Minister of State for Railways KH Muniyappa said in a written reply.

Urban Infrastructure projects update this week

Promoter	Project descriptopm	Progress this week	Project cost (Rs crore)	Location	State
Agra Devp. Authority	36 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant	Bids were invited for construction, erection, testing, commissioning works of the project. Estimated contract value:Rs.45 crore	45.00	Shastripuram	UP
AP Health & Medical Hig & Infra. Dev. Corpn.	Nursing Colleges	Work on the building at Warrangal was completed. An amount of Rs.5.81 crore was incurred till now for the project.	13.90	Tirupathi	AP
Govt of Maharashtra	Pharmacy College	Bids were invited from contractors to execute the project. Estimated contract value:Rs.8 crore	8.00		MAH
AP Health & Medical Hig & Infra. Dev. Corpn.	Residential School Complex	Civil work completed. Brick work and plastering on dormitory block was underway. Slab was laid on teaching and non-teaching staff quarters. Roof slab was laid for class IV employees quarters	6.52	Chintakunta	AP
AP Health & Medical Hig & Infra. Dev. Corpn.	School Project	Technical committee suggested to go for an alternate site as the proposed site requires huge quantity of filling.	4.75	Kakumanu	AP
AP Health & Medical Hig & Infra. Dev. Corpn.	Polytechnic College	Foundation work was underway. An amount of Rs.0.38 crore was incurred till now for the project.	4.55	Vempally	AP
AP Health & Medical Hig & Infra. Dev. Corpn.	Polytechnic College	Ground floor roof slab of collegge was laid and foundation work folr hostel was underway. An amount of Rs.1.23 crore was incurred till now for the project.	4.46	Simhadripuram	AP
AP Health & Medical Hig & Infra. Dev. Corpn.	Residential School Complex-Phase II	Finishing work on staff quarters and brick work and plastering on dormitory building was underway. An amount of Rs.3.25 crore was incurred till now for the project.	4.24	Hamamkonda	AP
AP Health & Medical Hig & Infra. Dev. Corpn.	Residential School Complex - Phase II	Work on teaching and non-teaching staff quarters, class - IV employees quarters was completed and dormitory building was underway. An amount of Rs.1.25 crore was incurred till now for the project.	3.57	Peapulley	AP