

Construction Week

NEWS, ANALYSIS, PROJECTS & BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Total number of pages 68

VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 9 • MAY 2022 • MUMBAI • ₹100

WWW.CONSTRUCTIONWEEKONLINE.IN

• EXCON: A PREVIEW



BUILD FOR GENERATIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE GIANTS IN THE COUNTRY ARE TAKING ON COMPLEX AND NOVEL PROJECTS THAT ALLOW THEM TO PLAY OUT THEIR ENGINEERING SKILLS. EQUIPMENT PLAYS A LARGE ROLE. BECAUSE PROJECTS MUST LAST.

BUILD FOR GENERATIONS

Infrastructure giants in the country are taking on complex and novel projects that allow them to play out their engineering skills. Equipment plays a large role. Because projects must last.

BY JAYASHREE KINI MENDES & MOLLY R

With over 35% y-o-y increase in capex and a proposed infrastructure spend of over Rs 10 lakh crore in Budget 2022-23, the Union government has reinforced its commitment to using infrastructure as a force multiplier for sustained economic growth. The budget has also highlighted the need for coordination between various Ministries/agencies

to enable identification and timely completion of priority projects. Both of these would be addressed through the Gati Shakti initiative. Digital technology, including GIS, will form the backbone of Gati Shakti.

Over the last decade, India has constructed some engineering marvels that have taken the world by storm. She has also created global landmarks that today rank at the top in terms of their standing in the world. In this issue, we explore some of those marvels and look at how they were built.

One of India's largest engineering companies, Larsen & Toubro, has created several spectacular monuments and landmark projects. Be it the Statue of Unity, the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Bridge on the River Kwai, and among the recent ones - \$1-billion contract from Saudi Aramco for an oil field development project, among several other large hydrocarbon orders; the contract to build the first three buildings of the upcoming Central Secretariat in Delhi; several metro orders; two large solar power orders in Saudi Arabia that total 1.7 GW capacity solar power plants, etc. The latest is the research on green hydrogen that the company is doing along with IIT (Bombay). The two institutes have come together to promote India to build its green hydrogen sector and create next-generation technology in this rapidly growing field. "L&T will always be in the frontline of driving technological improvements and indigenisation in India across areas. Along with our collaborators, we are ready to lead India's green hydrogen economy," said **SN Subrahmanyan, CEO & MD, L&T**.

India's favourite private sector company, Tata Projects, from the Tata Group, has also worked on some commendable projects across sectors. Be it nuclear reactors for NPCIL in Haryana or gas processing or compressing facilities or largest blast furnace works for JSPL, the



▲ The Metro rail project in Mumbai under construction.

company has constructed marvellous projects. One of the ongoing projects that will be a landmark one is the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL). Along with Daewoo Engineering and Construction it has launched a huge 90-metre-long orthotropic steel deck and this project is special due to its complexity and challenging sea-based location. The recently deck weighs a massive 900 metric tonnes and an 'H' shaped barge having a weight bearing capacity of more than 2000 metric tonnes carried the deck. **Vinayak Pai, MD-Designate & CEO, Tata Projects**, said, "This project will benefit millions of citizens and enable Mumbai and the nation to attain its true economic and growth potential. Our endeavour has always been to deliver large and complex urban and industrial infrastructure projects using world-class management techniques while ensuring safety and sustainability."

These steel decks are important since it will allow ships navigating nearby to pass beneath the sea link.

Bhopal-based Dilip Buildcon has several metro rail, roads & highways and airports projects to its credit. The Zuari bridge that will soon be inaugurated is its most recent. It also entered the hospitality business through opening a Taj property



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in Bhopal. **Dilip Suryavanshi, CMD, Dilip Buildcon**, said, "We are delighted to partner with Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) for Taj Lakefront, Bhopal. We believe this association will benefit Bhopal and will start a new chapter for the hospitality industry in the city."

India's prominent roads & highways construction company Ashoka Buildcon is a technology driven company. **Satish Parakh, MD, Ashoka Buildcon**, says, "We believe that the volume of work that needs to be done in the infrastructure sector and the pace that our government is trying to achieve, can be catered to only through advanced machinery and equipment. Our team keeps itself updated with new



▲ Tata Projects along with partner launched a huge 90-metre-long orthotropic steel deck for the MTHL project.



“OUR ENDEAVOUR HAS BEEN TO DELIVER LARGE AND COMPLEX PROJECTS USING TECHNIQUES WHILE ENSURING SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY.”

VINAYAK PAI



“WE ARE DELIGHTED TO PARTNER WITH IHCL FOR TAJ LAKEFRONT, BHOPAL AND THIS WILL START A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY.”

DILIP SURYAVANSHI

construction equipment being launched from time to time and we also remain in touch with equipment manufacturers to exchange ideas on how newer and better mechanical assets can be created."

The company recently completed India's first 8-lane extra dosed cable stayed bridge across river Narmada in Gujarat in a record time of 33 months. Work was hampered by major floods that hit them in two consecutive years. The package III of Budelkhand Expressway is another landmark in highway engineering.

Few Indian companies have come close to venturing into projects at a time when others seemed disinterested. SPML Infra is one such company. **Subhash Sethi, chairman, SPML Infra**, says, "SPML Infra started thinking about water more than 40 years ago, when nobody was talking about it. There



▲ The Bogibeel bridge, Dibrugarh.

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are several landmark projects we have built. One of them is Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana in Gujarat. This is a large water supply and irrigation project to provide drinking water facilities to 39mn people across 132 towns and 11,456 villages and irrigate 1.8 mn hectare of land in Saurashtra, Kutch and North Gujarat. SPML is currently engaged in Phase III of this project."

The company believes in investing in modern equipment and advanced machineries with fully trained engineers and skilled workforce to execute projects.

EVERLASTING PROJECTS

With the government constructing metro rail, airports and highways more extensively, tenders have been floating for many varied contracts. JKumar Infra is actively bidding for Metro projects in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Surat, Agra, Kanpur, and Chennai. It's also focusing on high-speed rail projects, and also for some building and waterline projects.

Nalin Gupta, MD, JKumar Infra, says, "Our orderbook as on 31st December stood at Rs 10,600 crore which gives us a clear visibility for the coming three years. We have also received work order from Pune Municipal Corporation for development of Mula Mutha river from Bund Garden bridge to Mundhwa under Pune River Rejuvenation project and construction & development of Riverside road from Bund Garden bridge to Mundhwa on PPP module."

Then there are others like HCC who have executed projects across hydro-, nuclear- and thermal power, transportation projects (MRTS, metro rail, roads & highways), water and industrial & buildings. It has signed an agreement with Cube Highways to sell Baharampore-Farakka Highways (BFHL) at an enterprise value of Rs 1,279 crore. In a consortium with KEC International (KEC), it has bagged a Chennai Metro Rail contract worth Rs 1,309 crore for the construction of 11.61 km elevated viaduct section and eleven elevated stations on Corridor 5 of phase 2 of the Chennai Metro.

In February 2021, Patel Infrastructure created history for a first-time world record by entering the Golden Book of World Records and India Book of Records. The record is a part of Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai project with eight lane expressway's construction (Manubar-Sanpa-Padra section of Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai expressway) in Gujarat. The world record attempt was with the construction of the highest quantity of pavement quality concrete laid by the world's largest fully automatic ultra-modern concrete paver machine and completed in 24 hours. **Arvind Patel, MD, Patel Infrastructure**, said, "We are ecstatic to have achieved this colossal task and be a part of the history books in the Indian



▲ A section of the Mumbai-Vadodara expressway.



THE VOLUME OF WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE INFRA SECTOR CAN BE CATERED TO ONLY THROUGH ADVANCED EQUIPMENT."

SATISH PARAKH



WE STARTED THINKING ABOUT WATER MORE THAN 40 YEARS AGO, WHEN NOBODY WAS TALKING ABOUT IT. WE HAVE COMPLETED MANY NOW."

SUBHASH SETHI



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▲ Tata Projects' Central Vista (Parliament) project site.



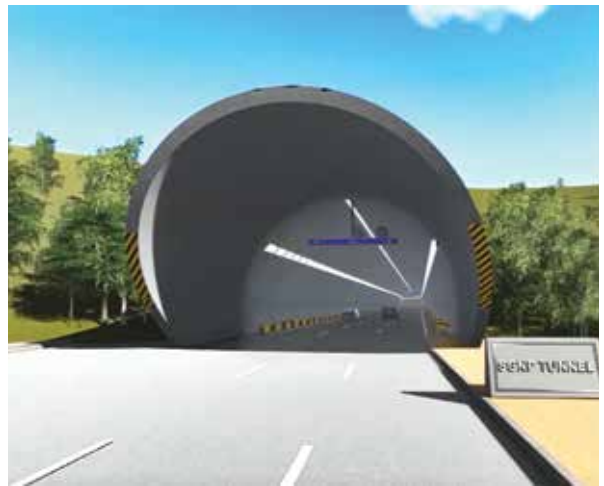
“OUR ORDERBOOK AS ON 31ST DECEMBER STOOD AT RS 10,600 CRORE WHICH GIVES US A CLEAR VISIBILITY FOR THE COMING THREE YEARS.”

NALIN GUPTA



“WE ARE ECSTATIC TO HAVE ACHIEVED THIS COLOSSAL TASK AND BE A PART OF THE HISTORY BOOKS. THE NATURE OF CONSTRUCTING A CIVIL PROJECT INVOLVES MANY FACTORS THAT ARE TO BE ALIGNED.”

ARVIND PATEL



▲ A section of the Thane Borivali tunnel.

road construction industry. The nature of constructing a civil project involves many factors that are to be aligned. We endeavoured not to set benchmark only in the segment of road and highway construction but to also do so in a responsible manner in other verticals.”

India's well-known infrastructure & EPC company, Afcons, Shapoorji Pallonji Group, has executed some intricate and difficult projects. Be it marine or industrial, surface transport, urban infrastructure, oil & gas, or hydro & underground projects, there is none that Afcons has not ventured into. Its most famous project is the Chenab Rail Bridge between Bakkal and Kauri in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. When completed, the bridge will span the Chenab River at a height of 359m (1,178 ft) above the river, making it the world's highest rail bridge.

Astounding modern man-made marvels can make anyone gasp in awe. Engineering wonders, such as bridges, tunnels or railways that connect cities and even countries, all have one thing in common. They are made to solve a problem and to make life easier for humankind. **CW**