

India Roads 2009 held

A conference called “India Roads 2009 — Better Roads Better India”, was organised recently in New Delhi. A report on the dipstick review of the land transportation sector.

The recently concluded roads conference was significant in that it focused on some core issues, and also threw a perspective on the government of India’s as well as the state government’s vision, mission and policies, strengths, challenges and emerging business opportunities in the Indian roads sector. It was organised with support from National Highways Builders Federation (NHBF), Foundation of Infrastructure Studies Training (FIRST), PMI, Vinergy, IL&FS Transportation and Supreme Infrastructure.

Mahadev Singh Khandela, Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, inaugurated the conference and spoke about government’s perspective policies and restructuring plans. BS Singla, MD, Haryana State Road Development Corporation (HSRDC), the Guest of Honour, discussed the current scenario and growth avenues in the Indian roads sector and his vision for expansion. Keynote speaker Didar Singh, IAS, Member Finance, NHAI, presented strategies, initiatives, investment opportunities, PPPs and future plans for Indian roads.

Earlier, Pratap Vijay Padode, Editor-in-Chief & MD, ASAPP Media Information Group, welcomed the delegates in his opening address.

HSRDC’s Singla identified land acquisition as a key issue in road development, and told

the audience that his state paid much higher rates for land than most others. Later, Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation’s (MPRDC) Deputy General Manager Neeraj Vijay informed the delegates about the road policies and opportunities in the highway sector, with special reference to MP’s experiences. He recommended that before the commencement of the project, at least 80 per cent of the required land should be acquired and “handed over on or before the appointed date of the project.”

Didar Singh has been a proponent of the Model Concession Agreement (MCA), during the conference he stressed upon on the National Highways Development Program (NHDP) which is for the development of the national highway system of India through upgradation and strengthening of an arterial network consisting of 70548 km through various phases along with their current status. Further he discussed the role of PPPs in the infrastructure sector through which it will have an added advantage of leveraging private entrepreneurship.

During the conference, IL&FS presented a case study of the Bahrain-Qatar sea link project. Other topics included flexible pavement, road safety, investment opportunities, the state of rural roads infrastructure and the role of Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

A global perspective on financing and dispute resolution, road models, BOT/Annuity, reviewing new model concession agreement, traffic enforcement on highways on PPP mode were presented during the event. Concerns on material, design, quality construction, maintenance and investment challenges in highways, expressways, flyovers and bridges were also a part of the conference.

Creditable inputs were put forth by expertise from the road sector like Raj Kalady Managing Director, PMI (Project Management); V K Raina Director Technical IL&FS (ITNL); B.P Charashekhar Director Technical National Rural Road Development Association; Kamal Verma, Director-Business Development, CEC International Corp India Pvt Ltd; Remy Ravindra Director Vinergy; Sunil Bose Director CRRI; Harman S Sidhu President - Arrive Safety; S N Kuda Director Ashoka Buildcon Ltd; D S Chari Head Roads & Bridges, Voyants; Rajesh Kumar, Asst Manager-Marketing; Harish Kumar Chief Technical Officer, Metro Infrasy; Neeraj Vijay Deputy GM MPRDC; Sachin Bhatia Director & CEO Metro Infrasy and KN Chatterjee Sr GM Gammon India.

India Roads 2009 saw active participation from giants like Ministry of Road Transport & Highways; NHAI; FICCI; ARNI University;

| INDIAN ROAD NETWORK | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Length – 3.3 Million km | Length (km) |
| National Highways | 70,548 |
| Expressways | 200 |
| State Highways | 1,31,899 |
| Major District Roads | 4,67,763 |
| Rural Roads | 26,50,000 |

Asian Paints; BBIPL Infrastructure; Birla Sun Life; Castrol India; Caterpillar India; Centrum Capital; Duraline India; DSC Ltd; DSP Merrill Lynch; FoxMandal Little; Gammon; GMR; Horizon Partner; HOCHTIEF India; IIFC; IRWM; IRD South Asia; Kajaria Ceramics; L&T-ECC Division; Leighton Contractors; LSI Financial; Macca Ferri Ltd; Maytas Infra; Mutha Group of Companies; Unity Infraprojects Ltd; ILFS-Transportation; PMI; Afcons Infrastructure Ltd; Escorts Constructions; JCB India; Omaxe Group; Union Bank of India, among others. India Roads served as a platform for the domestic and foreign companies serving the road sector in India with an opportunity to network and showcase their capabilities in a region offering major long-term business opportunities. AM Events has organised the next conference on Bitumen Energy & India Roads 2009 on 17-18 December 2009 at Hyderabad.

India Roads 2009 — Better Roads Better India

India Roads 2009, an International Conference on Emerging Opportunities, Technologies & Challenges in Indian Road Sector organized by AM Events, A division of ASAPP Media Information Group with support of National Highways Builders Federation, Foundation of Infrastructure Studies Training (FIRST), PMI, Vinergy, IL&FS Transportation and Supreme Infrastructure kicked off at The Taj Mahal Hotel (Mansingh Road), New Delhi, India on Friday 25 September 2009.



Inaugural by Mahadev Singh Khandela



*B.P Chandrashekhar
Director Technical NRRDA*



*D.S Chari
Head Roads & Bridges Voyants*



*Pratap Vijay Padode
Editor-in-Chief Construction World*



*Didar Singh
IAS Member Finance NHA1*



*Kamal Verma, Director Business Development,
CEC International Corp*



*K.N Chatterjee
Sr. GM Gammon India*



Panel Discussion at India Roads 2009 conference: (From Left to Right) Dr VK Raina, Chairperson, IL&AFS, Kamal Verma, Director-Business Development, CEC International Corp India Pvt Ltd, SN Kuda, Director, Ashoka Buildcon and Sachin Bhatia, Director & CEO, Metro Infrasyas



*Mahadev Singh Khandela
MOS Ministry of Road
Transport & Highways*



B.S Singla
MD HSRDC



Raj Kalady
Managing Director PMI



Neeraj Vijay
Deputy GM MPRDC



Harish Kumar Chief Technical Officer Metro
Infrasy



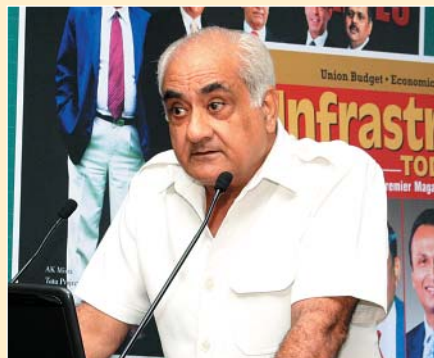
Rajesh Kumar
Asst. Manager Marketing Metro Infrasy



Rexy Ravindra
Director Vinergy



Sachin Bhatia
Director & CEO Metro Infrasy Pvt Ltd



V.K Raina
Director Technical (ITNL) IL&FS



S.N Kuda
Director Ashoka Buildcon Ltd



Harman S Sidhu
President ArriveSAFE



Participants at India Roads 2009



Sunil Bose
Director CRRI

