

Equipment INDIA

India's First Infrastructure Equipment Magazine

April 2024 • Vol. 17 No. 03

www.EquipmentIndia.com

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Published by
ASAPP Info Global Services Pvt Ltd,
A-303, Navbharat Estates, Zakaria Bunder Road,
Sewri (West), Mumbai-400 015.
Tel: 022-24193000. Fax: 022-2417 5734.

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INDIA'S EV REVOLUTION SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR

The Indian Government recently greenlit a groundbreaking electric vehicle (EV) policy worth \$500 million on March 15. This strategic move aims to entice global EV giants to invest in India, positioning the nation as a premier hub for cutting-edge EV manufacturing. With an array of incentives, the policy aims not only to provide Indian consumers access to state-of-the-art EV models but also to bolster the Make in India initiative, drive down production costs, slash oil imports, curb urban air pollution, and nurture a competitive domestic auto manufacturing sector. This initiative aligns with India's ambitious target of electrifying 30 per cent of new vehicle sales by 2030.

The integration of EVs in construction stands to gain rapid acceptance, given their limited range usage, which mitigates range anxiety and offers substantial cost savings compared to traditional fuel-powered equipment.

In another significant development, the Indian automotive industry is poised to inject up to Rs 58,000 crore by FY28 to enhance the localisation of advanced components, ranging from electric motors to automatic transmissions. This strategic investment aims to diminish reliance on imports and capitalise on multinational corporations' "China Plus One" sourcing strategy. Already, these firms have initiated over 500 localisation projects across 11 crucial component categories, with investments exceeding Rs 3,000 crore. This concerted effort aims to slash net imports by 5.8 per cent (double the initial target of 3 per cent), equivalent to Rs 7,018 crore, within the two years leading up to FY22.

Recently, JCB India celebrated the roll out of its 500,000th construction equipment. The event took place in the presence of JCB's Group Chairman, Lord Bamford at the company's India headquarters at Ballabgarh. The 500,000th machine, a telehandler, is a versatile machine for material handling.

The forthcoming RAHSTA Expo 2024, organised by the FIRST Construction Council, promises to be a groundbreaking event fostering innovation, collaboration, and transformation in India's infrastructure landscape. RAHSTA, an acronym for "Roads and Highways Sustainable Technologies & Advancement," will convene industry leaders, innovators, and stakeholders for two days of exploration into road construction equipment, technology, and sustainability.

The RAHSTA Expo 2024 will be officially launched on April 9, 2024 PHD Chamber in New Delhi, featuring esteemed figures like Vipin Sondhi, Anand Sundaresan, Dimitrov Krishnan, Sanjay Kumar Nirmal, RK Pandey, among others.

Nominations for the prestigious first RAHSTA Awards will soon be open, spanning 16 categories such as the Best Green Highway Award, Innovation Award in Project Execution, Road Max Award, and Excellence in Sustainable Road Construction Equipment Award. For further details, visit www.rahstaexpo.com.

The RAHSTA Expo and Awards will be integral components of the India Construction Festival (ICF), scheduled for October 9 and 10, 2024, at the JIO Convention Centre in Mumbai. Alongside the Expo and Awards, ICF will feature the India Roads Conference, Construction World Awards, and Equipment India Awards.

The 16th Anniversary Edition of EQUIPMENT INDIA is out! In this special edition, we have embarked on a journey into the forefront of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) and have explored their transformative influence on the construction equipment industry. The Anniversary Edition will be unveiled during CII's ICONEQ conference on April 10, 2024 in Gurugram. To secure your copy, please scan the QR code below.

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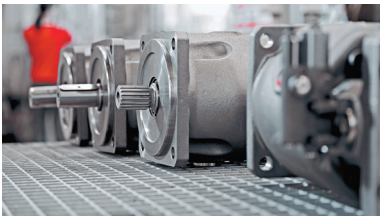


L&T CMB’s focus on reducing carbon footprints and enhancing resource efficiency is more relevant than ever, writes Arvind K Garg of L&T Construction & Mining Machinery.

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Intermat India rescheduled due to upcoming elections

Intermat India, a premier exhibition showcasing innovations and advancements in the construction and infrastructure sectors, announces a date change for its upcoming event due to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Originally scheduled to take place from 17-19 April 2024, the exhibition will now be held from 21-23 May 2024.

The decision to reschedule Intermat India has been made in light of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, ensuring the smooth conduct of both the exhibition and the electoral process. This change aims to



accommodate the needs of our participants, exhibitors, and visitors, allowing them to fully engage in both events without any conflicts.

Intermat India remains committed to providing a dynamic platform for industry professionals to explore cutting-edge technologies, network

with key stakeholders, and discover business opportunities. The rescheduled dates will offer an extended opportunity for participants to connect, collaborate, and drive innovation within the construction and infrastructure sectors.

All aspects of Intermat India will proceed as planned on the rescheduled dates. The venue and exhibition timings remain unchanged, offering a seamless transition for all involved.

For further information and updates regarding Intermat India, please visit <https://intermatindia.com>

Mines Ministry plans due diligence

The Mines Ministry of India is taking significant steps towards expanding the nation's lithium reserves by appointing a consultant for due diligence on an Australian lithium block acquisition. With the increasing demand for lithium, a key component in batteries for electric vehicles and renewable energy storage, India aims to secure a stable supply chain to support its growing green energy initiatives.

The appointment of a consultant underscores the government's commitment to strategically strengthen the country's access to crucial mineral resources. By conducting thorough due diligence, the Mines Ministry intends to assess the feasibility and potential benefits of acquiring the Australian lithium block.

JCB India rolls out its 500,000th CE

JCB India celebrated the roll out of its 500,000th construction equipment. JCB has been in India since 1979 and its products are used in infrastructure development across the country. With six manufacturing facilities in India, JCB proudly exports "Made in India" machines to over 130 countries.

The event took place in the presence of JCB's Group Chairman, Lord Bamford at the company's India Headquarters at Ballabgarh.

The 500,000th machine, a telehandler, is a versatile machine for material handling.

Deepak Shetty, CEO and MD, JCB India said, "It is only fitting that the 500,000th machine to roll out from JCB is Telehandler. This machine, ever since it was introduced in India, has made work sites Safer and more Productive with its superior design and



engineering. JCB is a world leader in telehandlers and as India grows, we see opportunities for this machine in the material handling sector. Additionally, our brilliant machines such as backhoe loaders, excavators among others will continue to be used in the Infrastructure sector"

He further added, "JCB India is today exporting to over 130 countries around the world. This has been possible only because of our relentless focus on one global quality."

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2047 roadways master plan unveiled

A visionary master plan for the roadways and expressways infrastructure of the future is currently in the works, aimed at shaping the transportation landscape up to the year 2047. This ambitious initiative comes at a crucial juncture as countries around the world grapple with increasing demands on their transportation networks due to population growth, urbanisation, and economic development.

The proposed master plan seeks to address the pressing needs and challenges faced by modern societies

in ensuring efficient, safe, and sustainable transportation systems. It aims to leverage advancements in technology, urban planning, and environmental sustainability to create a comprehensive roadmap for the development of roadways and expressways that can meet the needs of future generations.

By envisioning the transportation needs of the future, the plan aims to foster economic growth, enhance connectivity between regions, and



improve the overall quality of life for citizens. It recognises the importance of investing in robust infrastructure to support the movement of goods and people, facilitate trade, and stimulate economic activity.

Coal production hits bn-tonne milestone

India's coal production has reached a significant milestone, surpassing the billion-tonne mark, a development that underscores the nation's strides towards energy self-sufficiency and reduced import dependence. This achievement marks a pivotal moment in India's energy sector, reflecting the country's commitment to boosting domestic coal output to meet growing demand and reduce reliance on imported fuel sources.

The milestone comes as a result of concerted efforts by the government and the coal industry to enhance production capacity and streamline operations. Various reforms and initiatives aimed at modernising coal mining techniques, increasing efficiency, and promoting investment in the sector have contributed to this historic achievement.



The increase in domestic coal production is expected to have far-reaching implications for India's economy, energy security, and environment. By reducing reliance on imported coal, India can save valuable foreign exchange and strengthen its energy independence. Additionally, higher domestic production can lead to improved availability and affordability of coal, thereby supporting key sectors such as power generation, steel manufacturing, etc.

India to achieve self-reliance in metals, mining

During a virtual address, Pralhad Joshi, the Minister for Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs, emphasised the importance of minerals in the post-pandemic scenario and ongoing energy transition, stating that there has been a surge in demand for minerals worldwide. Further highlighting that the coal and mining sectors have been key drivers of India's economy. Joshi further stressed the significance of policy measures such as mine auctions and viability gap funding to boost the sector.

The minister also projected that India's metals and mining industry would witness sustainable growth in the upcoming decades, leading to self-reliance in production.

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New hydrogen engine plant unveiled by Tata Cummins

A new facility for hydrogen-based engines has been initiated by Tata Cummins Private Limited (TCPL) in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, with the aim of producing internal combustion engines for medium and heavy commercial vehicles.

The factory, which spans approximately seven acres, was inaugurated within a year of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jharkhand government. In addition to engines, the facility will also manufacture low- to zero-emission technology products.



TCPL, a joint venture of Tata Motors Limited and Cummins Inc. USA, established TCPL Green "Energy Solutions (TCPL GES)", a subsidiary, in March 2023, specifically tasked with designing and developing low and zero-emission propulsion technology solutions.

Ashwath Ram, Managing Director, Cummins Group in India, expressed, "Our commitment to manufacturing advanced low to zero-emission technology products that promote decarbonisation is not merely a promise. It is a responsibility we embrace, supported by tangible action."

NMDC explores lithium assets in Africa, Australia

NMDC, previously known as the National Mineral Development Corporation, is exploring lithium assets in both Africa and Australia, with the aim of expanding its portfolio beyond iron ore.

NMDC Limited is interested in exploring potential opportunities in the lithium market in these regions.

NMDC is in the process of seeking lithium blocks from the Indian government on a nomination basis. This strategic move indicates the company's intent to diversify its resource base and tap into the growing demand for lithium, a key component in various industries, including renewable energy and electric vehicles.

MoRTH revises BOT and TOT agreements to boost private sector investment

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has introduced a number of revisions to the model concession agreements (MCA) for build-operate-transfer (BOT) and tolling, operation, maintenance, and transfer (TOT) projects. These changes aim to encourage private sector investment in road infrastructure and clarify existing agreements.

Key amendments for BOT projects include providing construction support to ensure timely project completion and extending tolling periods to offset losses due to competing roads. The updated MCA also specifies compensation for force majeure events and termination payments if 40 per cent of the project is complete during



construction. Additionally, debt and equity provisions aim to align project costs with government projections.

Furthermore, the authority will continuously access escrow account statements to prevent funding shortages and project delays. The road ministry notified that these amendments were made following extensive consultations with stakeholders.

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Jindal Stainless supports Kolkata Metro's underwater project

Jindal Stainless, a leading player in the steel industry, has been selected to provide crucial steel materials for the Kolkata Metro's ambitious underwater project. This project marks a significant milestone in the expansion of Kolkata's transport infrastructure, aiming to enhance connectivity and ease congestion in the bustling city.

The Kolkata Metro has been a lifeline for millions of commuters, offering a swift and efficient mode of transportation in a city known for its congested roads and overcrowded public transport systems. With the city's population continuously growing,



the need for expanding and modernising the metro network has become imperative.

Jindal Stainless's involvement in supplying steel for the underwater project underscores its commitment to supporting critical infrastructure development in India. The company's expertise and high-quality steel

products make it a trusted partner for such monumental projects.

The underwater project of the Kolkata Metro is a testament to innovative engineering and meticulous planning. It involves the construction of tunnels beneath the Hooghly River, connecting Kolkata with its neighbouring areas. This ambitious endeavour will not only enhance intra-city connectivity but also facilitate smoother travel between Kolkata and Howrah. The selection of Jindal Stainless as the supplier for this project highlights the company's reputation for reliability and excellence.

NHAI raises over Rs 16,000 crore

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has successfully concluded its largest monetisation effort to date, raising over Rs 16,000 crore in the third round of its Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) monetisation programme. This milestone achievement underscores the robust investor interest in India's infrastructure assets, particularly in the road sector, despite global economic uncertainties.

The NHAI's InvIT monetisation initiative aims to unlock the value of its operational highway projects by leasing them to InvITs, which in turn raise funds from investors by issuing units. In the third round, the NHAI offered a portfolio of operational toll-road projects to potential investors, attracting significant interest from both



domestic and international investors.

The successful conclusion of this round further strengthens NHAI's financial position and its ability to fund new infrastructure projects across the country. The funds raised will be crucial in accelerating the pace of highway development and modernization, thereby enhancing connectivity and promoting economic growth in India. Investors have shown confidence in NHAI's InvIT model due to its predictable revenue streams and long-term growth potential.

Ministry boosts road development with Rs 1.386 bn

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced a significant boost to road development projects across the country, allocating a total of Rs 1.386 billion towards various initiatives aimed at enhancing infrastructure and connectivity. This investment underscores the government's commitment to accelerating the pace of road construction and modernisation to support economic growth and regional development. Key projects receiving funding include the construction and expansion of highways, bridges, and other critical road infrastructure. These projects are strategically selected to improve transportation networks.

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Dilip Buildcon JV secures MP project

Dilip Buildcon, a renowned name in the Indian infrastructure sector, has once again made headlines with its recent achievement. In a joint venture with another prominent player, the company has secured a significant Letter of Award (LOA) for a project valued at Rs 413 crore in Madhya Pradesh. This development underscores Dilip Buildcon's steadfast commitment to expanding its presence and contributing to the growth and development of infrastructure in the region. The project, located in Madhya Pradesh, holds strategic importance in the state's infrastructure roadmap. With a total value of Rs 413 crore, it encompasses various aspects of construction and development, including but not limited to roadways, bridges, and other essential infrastructure components. The successful bid and subsequent awarding of the project highlight Dilip



Buildcon's expertise and competitive edge in the sector.

Dilip Buildcon's track record in executing infrastructure projects speaks volumes about its capabilities and reliability. Over the years, the company has undertaken and successfully completed numerous projects across India, earning accolades and recognition for its commitment to quality, timeliness, and adherence to best practices in the industry. This latest venture further solidifies its position as a trusted partner in driving infrastructure development nationwide.

Dhami cabinet approves urban transport policy

The Dhami-led cabinet has taken a significant step towards promoting sustainability in urban areas with the approval of a new policy focusing on clean urban transport. This initiative comes at a crucial time when cities worldwide are grappling with environmental challenges exacerbated by transportation emissions.

The newly approved policy reflects a commitment to transitioning towards cleaner and greener modes of transportation within urban centres. It outlines strategies to reduce pollution levels, improve air quality, and mitigate the environmental impact of urban mobility. By prioritising clean transport solutions, the government aims to create healthier and more sustainable living environments for urban residents.



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- The role of infrastructure in goals set for Viksit Bharat
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Raimondi Cranes appoints Tecno Edicasa as official dealer for Veneto region

Raimondi Cranes, heritage manufacturer of intelligently-designed tower cranes, announces the appointment of Tecno Edicasa as its official dealer for the Italian region of Veneto. The strategic dealership appointment comes from a client partnership of over a decade with Tecno Crane.

Its rental fleet division counts 150 heavy lifters, including the manufacturer best-selling models, the MRT159 and the MRT84s, amongst others. All deployed across different jobsites; Tecno Crane presents a variety of machines in its fleet with different key features and lifting capacities.

The appointment stems from a culmination of several factors,

including the Group, formed by Tecno Crane – Tecno Nolo - Tecno Edicasa, sterling reputation for reliability, professionalism, and dedication.

“Raimondi recognises the pivotal role of a trusted dealership network; by leveraging Tecno Crane’s extensive experience and expertise in serving customers in the Veneto Region. We aim to enhance accessibility to our products and to better meet customer’s demand in the territory,” stated Luigi Maggioni, CEO, Raimondi Cranes.

The dealership agreement was penned alongside the installation of the first Raimondi T187 flat-top tower crane in the country. Purchased by Tecno Crane, the new model boasts best-in class specifications in terms of



lifting capacities, speed, and freestanding height. “We are proud to be the first rental fleet company in Italy to deploy the Raimondi T187. The crane is high performing and fitted with Raimondi’s ConCore control system. We considered a number of performance and operations specifications ahead of renting the machine to Cooperativa La Torrazza, contractor of the project,” explained Nicola Pizzeghello, MD, Tecno Crane.

Largest wheeled crane completes first lift in Hengshui

In a recent operation at a 200 MW wind farm in Jing County, Hengshui, China, the XCA4000 crane, delivered by XCMG, a global leader in the construction machinery industry, 20 days ago with the highest global lifting capacity and height, completed its first lift. The crane lifted a series of components, including a 130-tonne wind turbine nacelle, a 40-tonne wheel hub, and three 95-m-long blades weighing 28 tonnes each, to a height of 162 m for assembly on the tower.



This accomplishment signifies the seventh time XCMG has outdone its own world record since 2010.

The XCA4000 wheeled crane has been delivered to Hebei Rongcheng

Technology, boasting an unprecedented 4000-tonne lifting capacity, making it the ideal solution for the installation of wind turbines exceeding 10MW. With the capability to hoist 230 tonne at a height of 170 m, the XCA4000 sets a new benchmark for wheeled cranes’ highest and heaviest lifting capacity. XCMG’s commitment to innovation is evident in the XCA4000’s advanced features, including high-performance flexible boom technology.

Wolffkran enters into joint venture in Saudi Arabia

At the beginning of February, Wolffkran entered into a joint venture with the Zamil Group, one of the largest investment holding companies in the Kingdom, in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh. The aim of the joint

venture is to open a WOLFF crane production facility in Saudi Arabia and to build up a rental fleet of 300 WOLFF cranes. The production facility will be the first tower crane manufacturing plant in the entire Middle East and will supply WOLFF cranes only to the Saudi Arabian market.

Liebherr’s L series fast-erecting cranes

Liebherr’s fundamental revision of the L series sees the crane size specified in metre tonnes with immediate effect. The new cranes are therefore now known as the 25 L and 33 L.

These new L cranes are being launched on the market with substantial changes to the structural steelwork, an improved hydraulic system and a new modular drive system. Another new feature is a standardised radio remote control for all new Liebherr bottom-slewing cranes.



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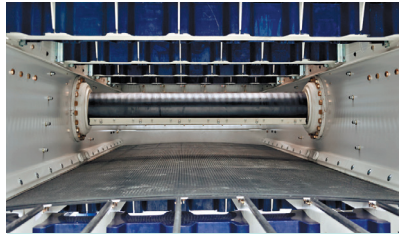
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Haver & Boecker Niagara showcases latest solutions at AGG1

Haver & Boecker Niagara, a leading manufacturer of screening, pelletising and mineral processing plants and systems, highlighted its latest screening equipment, technology and solutions for the aggregates industry at the 2024 Aggregates Academy & Expo (AGG1) show. The company showcased equipment in Booth 923, and representatives participated in panel presentations to offer insights and education for show attendees. AGG1



was held from March 25-27 at Music City Center in Nashville.

Niagara F-Class vibrating screen: The next-generation Niagara F-Class

vibrating screen features new technology for simplified maintenance combined with maximum performance and longevity.

Niagara Drop Guard wear liners: Niagara Drop Guard wear liners are polyurethane liners that provide 100 per cent cross beam protection for Niagara vibrating screens.

Pulse Condition Monitoring: Pulse CM is the latest addition to Haver & Boecker Niagara's Pulse portfolio.

Tigercat teases LS857 shovel logger prototype

Tigercat has revealed a prototype for the LS857 shovel logger. This machine represents Tigercat's commitment to advancing technology and efficiency in the forestry industry.



The LS857 shovel logger is designed to enhance productivity and performance in harvesting operations, offering operators a powerful and versatile solution for tackling a variety of logging tasks. With its robust design and advanced features, the prototype promises to revolutionise the way forestry work is conducted.

Tigercat's unveiling of the LS857 prototype demonstrates the company's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of forestry professionals and providing them with cutting-edge equipment that delivers exceptional results. The LS857 shovel logger is poised to set new standards for efficiency, reliability, and operator comfort in the forestry sector.

Liebherr launches new app: MyAssistant for Earthmoving

Liebherr has developed MyAssistant for Earthmoving, a new app that will provide significant support for construction machinery operators in their daily work.



The mobile application is available for wheeled excavators, material handling machines and wheel loaders of generation 6.0 and higher as well as for crawler excavators, graders and crawler loaders, pipelayers and articulated trucks of generation 8.0 and higher.

The new mobile app can be downloaded now free of charge from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. After successful authentication via the MyLiebherr portal, the full range of features is available to the user. MyLiebherr makes all Liebherr earthmoving and material handling machines in the company's fleet available to the user.

JCB launches 2 tandem-drum compactors

JCB has announced its return to the North American paving market by introducing two new tandem-drum compactors. The CT160 and CT260, designed for user-friendly operation, sustained

productivity throughout the day, low maintenance, and operator comfort, have already been available in markets outside North America. The unveiling of these compactors at Pave/X 2024, according to the company, sets the stage for the introduction of an extensive range of compaction equipment.

Magni unveils fixed-boom telehandlers

Magni has been on a roll lately, showcasing a series of updates and fresh models for its machinery lineup. Among the latest additions is the TH 7.10, a revamped version of the TH 6.10 model, unveiled following

the introduction of an expanded range of fixed boom telehandlers at ConExpo 2023. The company's recent releases feature redesigned cabs, prioritising enhanced visibility and improved accessibility. These upgraded cabins were first showcased on the TH and RTH models.





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ECO-DIGGERS!

Backhoe loaders are at the forefront of the sustainable construction movement, revolutionising the industry with groundbreaking energy-efficient technologies.

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The construction equipment industry in India, despite experiencing slight fluctuations, continues to exhibit resilience and growth, driven by factors such as infrastructure development, economic climate, and technological advancements. Among the diverse range of construction equipment, backhoe loaders stand out for their versatility and widespread use across various applications. In this article, we delve into the energy efficiency aspect of backhoe loaders, exploring current trends, market dynamics, and the future outlook,

while incorporating insights from industry experts and manufacturers.

The demand for backhoe loaders in India remains robust, fueled by infrastructure projects, urbanisation, and government initiatives such as the National Investment Pipeline (NIP). Despite minor fluctuations, the market has shown consistent growth, with sales of backhoe loaders witnessing a notable increase in recent years.

Manufacturers are responding to market demands by introducing innovative models

equipped with advanced features to enhance performance, reliability, and fuel efficiency. For instance, the Cat 424 backhoe loader by Caterpillar boasts higher torque and fuel efficiency, aligning with the industry's focus on sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Moreover, initiatives like the





Mahindra EarthMaster SX, featuring BS4 compliance and advanced telematics technology, highlight manufacturers' commitment to offering environmentally friendly and technologically advanced solutions.

Jalaj Gupta,
Business Head,
Commercial Vehicles
Business Unit,
Mahindra & Mahindra,

said, "The 'Guaranteed Higher per litre productivity (or Give Back Machine') Promise is a landmark move in the construction equipment space. There wasn't a better time to introduce this Customer Value Proposition given the spiraling fuel prices. We firmly believe that it will reaffirm our customers' faith in Mahindra's ability to create technologically advanced class-leading products and set higher standards for the Indian CE industry. The Service Uptime Guarantee further reinforces our commitment to our customers and our confidence in our products and after-sales capabilities."



Jalaj Gupta,
Business Head,
Commercial
Vehicles Business
Unit, Mahindra
& Mahindra

Leading manufacturers such as JCB India prioritise energy efficiency and environmental sustainability in their product design and manufacturing processes. Measures such as the introduction of fuel-efficient engines, advanced hydraulic systems, and innovative machine designs contribute to reducing fuel consumption and lowering emissions.

JCB's ecoXpert range, featuring the highly fuel-efficient JCB 444 engine, exemplifies the company's commitment to enhancing energy efficiency and reducing maintenance costs. Additionally, advanced features like

auto stop, auto idle, and economy mode further contribute to minimising fuel consumption and environmental impact.

Said **Deepak Shetty, CEO & Managing Director, JCB India**, “JCB products consistently stand at the forefront of technological advancements, offering unparalleled value to our customers. Within our ecoXpert range, our latest backhoe loader models are equipped with the highly fuel-efficient JCB 444 engine, providing approximately 10 per cent enhanced fuel efficiency and boasting a remarkable 15 per cent reduction in maintenance costs. Through our state-of-the-art in-house design centre, we have crafted the JCB range with best-in-class engine technology, eliminating the need for any after-treatment while ensuring highly efficient hydraulics.”

He added, “Among several other initiatives aimed at reducing maintenance costs, we have implemented a 100 per cent increase in hydraulic oil change intervals and introduced features such as auto stop, auto idle, economy mode, and roading mode, allowing our customers to conserve more fuel and achieve an overall reduction in total cost of ownership (TCO). For higher loading applications, our 4X4 range of 4WD machines delivers superior output and fuel efficiency.”

BKR Prasad – General Manager, Marketing, Tata Hitachi Construction Equipment, said, “Over the next five years, the market of backhoe loaders will be increasing considering the number of first time buyers. Also, keeping in mind the versatility of the machine, the market for backhoe loaders is expected to undergo several notable changes, particularly in response to environmental concerns



Deepak Shetty,
CEO &
Managing
Director, JCB
India

and the need for greater energy efficiency.”

He added, “There could be a rise in the adoption of alternative fuels such as biofuels, hydrogen, or compressed natural gas (CNG) in backhoe loaders. Tata Hitachi introduced a CNG powered backhoe loader in Excon 2021.

These fuels offer reduced emissions and can help address environmental concerns while enhancing energy efficiency. Although there is other evolving methods and technologies but the industry is in its early stages. In coming year, manufacturers will focus on improving the energy efficiency of backhoe loaders through advancements in engine technology, hydraulic systems, and overall machine design. This will not only reduce fuel consumption but also increase productivity and lower operating costs for users.”

SP Rajan, Head – Plant & Machinery, L&T Construction, said, “Today’s construction environment revolves around adjectives like the largest, tallest, longest, the most complex and most importantly the fastest, thus throwing challenges to the engineers on a daily basis. The only way forward is the use of advanced construction equipment technologies to meet these never-ending challenges.

Worldwide, there is a constant search for innovative approaches toward automation. While there are many, one of them, the advanced guiding system in construction machines, proves to be shortening the time cycles and improving quality. Obviously, such technologies come at a cost and the Indian market, being highly price sensitive, takes time to adapt. The basic cost, import formalities, after-sales support, government regulations, lack of knowledge and lack of interest are

a few deterrent factors preventing voluntary adoption of advanced equipment technologies.”

He added, “Megaprojects like greenfield airports, SEZs, and dedicated freight corridors consume huge quantities of construction materials like aggregate, cement, steel, bitumen, etc. Advanced construction equipment capable of processing these raw materials faster with minimum wastage and better quality is a dream for every construction firm. Further, a typical road project that consumed 36-42 months five years ago for concept to completion, now stares at just 18-24 months. This apart, various socio-economic and political environments exclusive to the country also reduce the time effectively available for production. Such a situation automatically leads to the search for alternative solutions and better practices. Every engineering and construction (E&C) stakeholder, thus, is keen on building his execution capability.”

Atul Bhobe, Managing Director, TPF Engineering, said, “NIP is well underway. The government will spend Rs 111 trillion on infrastructure and about 40-50 per cent of projects are under various stages of implementation. We have almost doubled the speed at which we are constructing highways. The metros too are being constructed at a rapid pace. The railways too are rapidly expanding – both the zonal railways as well as the PSUs that are implementing projects.”

Future outlook

Looking ahead, the market for backhoe loaders in India is poised for significant growth, driven by factors such as infrastructure development, urbanisation, and increasing environmental concerns. Manufacturers are expected to focus



BKR Prasad
General
Manager,
Marketing,
Tata Hitachi
Construction
Equipment



SP Rajan,
Head – Plant &
Machinery, L&T
Construction



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on developing cleaner, more energy-efficient solutions to meet evolving market demands and regulatory requirements.

Alternative fuels such as biofuels, hydrogen, and compressed natural gas (CNG) are likely to gain traction, offering reduced emissions and enhanced energy efficiency. Tata Hitachi's introduction of a CNG-powered backhoe loader reflects the industry's exploration of alternative fuel options to address environmental concerns.

Furthermore, advancements in engine technology, hydraulic systems, and machine design will continue to improve energy efficiency and productivity, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly construction equipment industry.

Hydrogen-powered!

JCB backhoe loader powered by a purpose-engineered hydrogen combustion engine developed by JCB to meet carbon emissions reduction targets was recently unveiled during Excon in Bengaluru. The advantage of hydrogen combustion engine, which works on the same principle as a normal diesel engine, is that it emits zero carbon and the only emission is water vapour.

Hydrogen is produced by splitting water and separating the elements but the process is expensive involving the use of electrolyzers. In India, Reliance Industries, the Adani group and some others have announced ambitious plans to produce hydrogen on a commercial basis. RIL, for instance, plans to retail trying up with original equipment makers while it also has plans to make hydrogen through tie ups. Officials at JCB indicated that it was in talks with several companies including the Ambanis for green hydrogen production in India.

The company states its existing drive to reduce fuel consumption means its diesel-powered machines use



50 per cent less fuel today on average than those manufactured more than a decade ago. This has saved 16 billion litres of fuel already, which is equivalent to 53 million tonnes of CO₂.

Shetty said: "It is very fitting that this JCB 3DX backhoe loader, powered by a hydrogen combustion engine, is being unveiled in India just as COP28, the UN Climate Change Conference is getting underway in Dubai, UAE. As the world assesses its collective progress towards achieving its climate goals, JCB is showing the world that it has a practical and affordable technology already in place to decarbonise construction, here in India and across the world. We are proud that India should be the first nation in the world to show this prototype backhoe loader machine in public."

"India is making concerted efforts towards making hydrogen our zero-carbon fuel of the future; the National Hydrogen Mission is creating the conditions for a hydrogen ecosystem, which is essential for making a success of this cutting-edge hydrogen combustion technology," added Shetty.

Said Prasad, "Manufacturers are evaluating multiple options of adopting alternate fuel, particularly as the country strives to address environmental concerns and transition

towards cleaner energy sources. Hydrogen-powered backhoe loaders offer zero-emission operation, emitting only water vapour as a by-product. This aligns with India's commitments to reducing carbon emissions and combating air pollution, making hydrogen technology an attractive option for sustainable construction equipment."

He added, "Hydrogen has high energy efficiency and can provide long operating ranges without the need for frequent refuelling. This can enhance the productivity and operational efficiency of backhoe loaders, particularly in remote or off-grid construction sites where access to traditional fuel sources may be limited. Despite its potential, the adoption of hydrogen-powered backhoe loaders in India may face challenges related to infrastructure, cost, and technology maturity. Establishing hydrogen refuelling infrastructure and addressing the high initial costs of hydrogen fuel cells and storage systems will be critical for widespread adoption."

Conclusion

In conclusion, the energy efficiency aspect of backhoe loaders is increasingly becoming pivotal in shaping the future of the construction equipment industry in India. Manufacturers are proactively embracing technological advancements and innovative solutions to offer cleaner, more fuel-efficient machines that align with market trends and environmental regulations.

As the industry evolves, backhoe loaders are poised to play a crucial role in driving sustainable development and infrastructure growth in India. By prioritizing energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation, manufacturers can contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future for the construction equipment industry and the nation as a whole.



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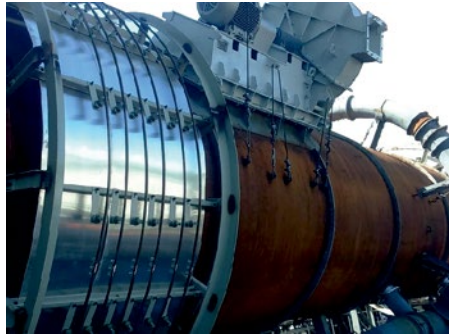
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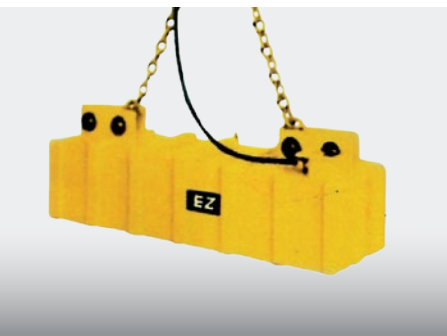
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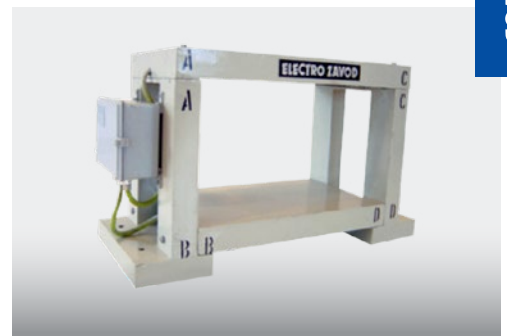
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"JCB AIMS TO CUT CARBON FOOTPRINT WITH FUEL EFFICIENCY PLAN."

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Deepak Shetty, CEO & MD, JCB India, speaks on the company's product range.

What are the current trends driving the demand for backhoe loaders in India?

The backhoe loader is always the first choice of customers in India due to its versatility in applications with quick inter and intra-site machine movement. The statement 'sales of backhoe loaders have been under retrogression' is not quite accurate, as during the last five years, backhoe loaders' market contribution has been in the range of 52 to 55 per cent.

Over the past three years, JCB has introduced fuel-efficient and low-periodic maintenance products, leading to a significant improvement in the total cost of ownership (TCO). JCB offers the largest range to serve different customer segments and applications.

We have launched the JCB Eco XPERT range with CEV Stage IV introduction to enhance profitability for customers. We have observed that rental charges have been improving across India during the past few years to accommodate inflation. As a short-term strategy, we continuously focus on every opportunity to reduce costs through a unique initiative called LASER, ensuring minimal price increases for customers. Through various field-level activities, we ensure that salient features are well understood by customers.

As part of our long-term strategy, JCB has set a vision and roadmap to reduce carbon footprint by improving fuel efficiency. We are committed to ensuring lower operating costs for JCB backhoe loaders, ensuring continued operations and maximum return on



investment for our customers. We are celebrating the achievement of 4.0 lakh+ JCB customers, which has made JCB synonymous with trust.

What measures does your company take to ensure energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact in the design and manufacturing of backhoe loaders?

JCB products consistently stand at the forefront of technological advancements, offering unparalleled value to our customers. Within our ecoXpert range, our latest backhoe loader models are equipped with the highly fuel-efficient JCB 444 engine, providing approximately 10 per cent enhanced fuel efficiency and boasting a remarkable 15 per cent reduction in maintenance costs. Through our state-of-the-art in-house design centre, we have crafted the JCB range with best-in-class engine technology, eliminating the need for any after-treatment while ensuring highly efficient hydraulics.

Among several other initiatives aimed at reducing maintenance costs,

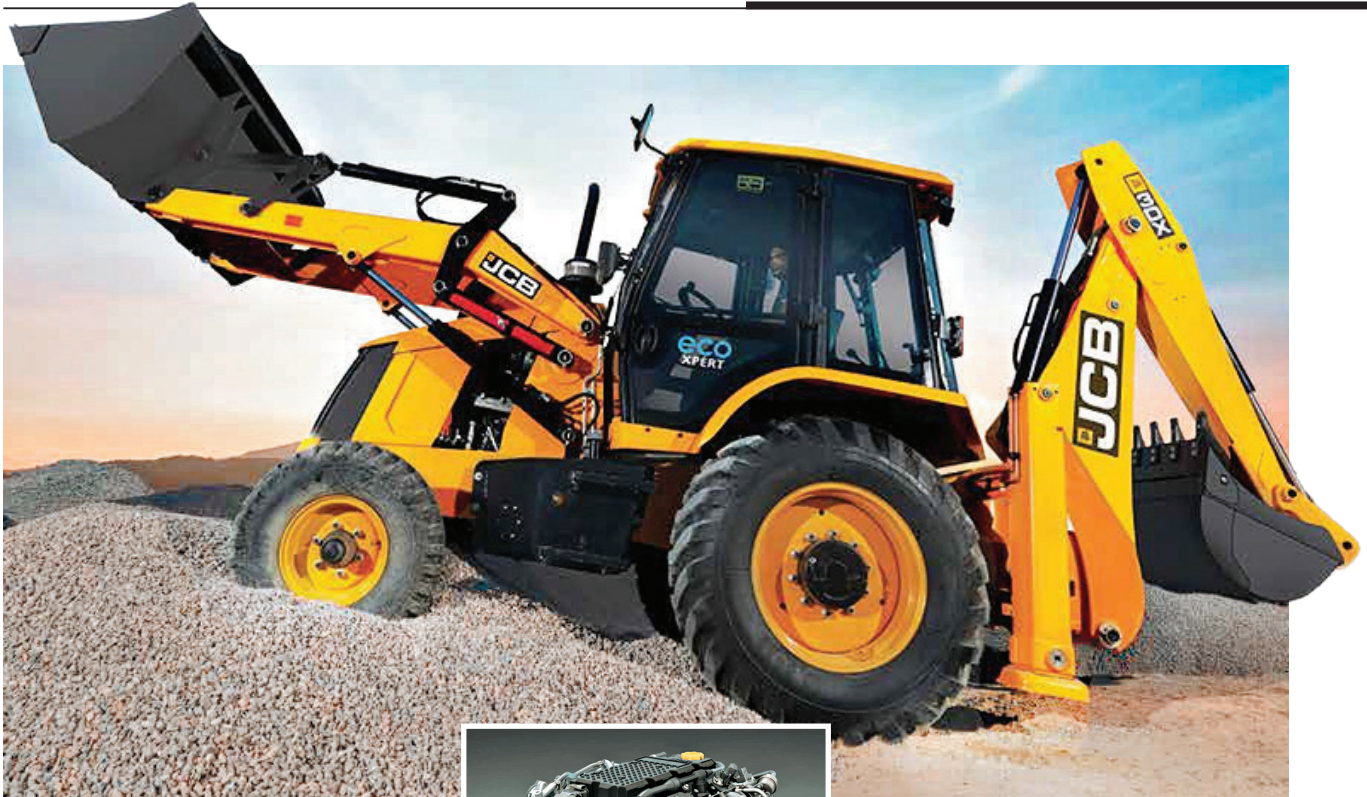
we have implemented a 100 per cent increase in hydraulic oil change intervals and introduced features such as auto stop, auto idle, economy mode, and roading mode, allowing our customers to conserve more fuel and achieve an overall reduction in total cost of ownership (TCO). For higher loading applications, our 4X4 range of 4WD machines delivers superior output and fuel efficiency.

Moreover, our newly integrated digital display provides real-time information about the machine's health, along with service reminders and fault codes. Ensuring minimum downtime, JCB's finest service support and extensive service network guarantee that our machines remain fault-free and operate seamlessly.

To further enhance our customers' experience, our machines are equipped with the advanced New Livelink 4.0, featuring 4G connectivity and a complimentary six-year subscription. This revolutionary system offers detailed analyses of machine utilisation and performance parameters, ensuring our customers stay informed and up to date.

With the introduction of the electronic engine with CEV IV range, we have engineered products that deliver outstanding performance with a 74hp engine. These machines are designed to offer low initial costs, minimal periodic maintenance expenses, and trouble-free operation without requiring any after-treatment.

What are the improved addons your new backhoe loaders feature towards



higher machine rigidity, faster duty cycles for digging, loading, breaking (with hydraulic jack hammers) stability and operator's comfort while making the machines suitable to work on varied applications?

At JCB, our commitment lies in enhancing the attributes of our machines to provide unparalleled performance, reliability, and durability. The introduction of the new JCB ecoXpert range marks a significant advancement, boasting enhanced efficiency, productivity, and a proven track record of performance in rigorous Indian conditions.

Prior to product launch, we conducted extensive field testing, cumulatively operating our machines for over 1.0 lakh hours. This rigorous testing process ensures that our machines are built to withstand and excel in real-world scenarios. Among the notable features of our machines is the incorporation of a new efficient variable displacement hydraulic pump, complemented by a robust fuel filtration system.



With the inclusion of the CEV IV range, we offer two distinctive modes to cater to different operational requirements. The "plus mode" enhances excavator operation speed, while the "loading mode" optimises loader performance.

Safety and operator comfort are paramount in our design philosophy. To this end, we have equipped our machines with a spacious and comfortable cabin, which includes an improved seat and an effortless throttle. Moreover, we have taken measures to reduce cabin noise by 7 per cent, providing a quieter working environment for operators. The integration of a new digital display with trip meters and digital speedometer further enhances the operator's experience, offering

a range of valuable information at their fingertips.

To address operator fatigue and boost front-loading productivity, our variants are equipped with an easy shift gear mechanism. This thoughtful addition streamlines the machine's operation and contributes to a more efficient workflow.

How are you orient your product lines to cater to the exports markets while making the machines adhere to the emission and other regulations? What is your present volume of exports?

By adhering to the one global quality principle, JCB India strives to maintain superior product quality for all its customers, whether domestic or international. This commitment is exemplified by the practice of manufacturing both domestic and export machines on the same production line. As a prominent exporter of construction equipment and machines, JCB India serves 130+ countries, each having diverse emission norms and regulations.



"OEMs ARE EVALUATING OPTIONS OF ADOPTING AF."

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BKR Prasad, GM, Marketing, Tata Hitachi, speaks on the current trends that are driving the demand for backhoe loaders in India.

What are the current trends driving the demand for backhoe loaders in India?

Considering India is poised to be a \$5 trillion economy and hence continues to invest in infrastructure sector. Post Covid-19, the economy continues to grow with strength and is projected to flourish further.

The government continues with its emphasis on infrastructure growth. In this direction, the Rs 111 lakh crore NIP was announced in 2020 to cover 24–25. To support this capex, investment through budgets has been growing at a 30 per cent CAGR over the last three years, with a record 10 lakh crore outlay for FY23–24.

Also, the central government's capex has seen significant front loading. Most of the state governments, are allotting sufficient funds for infrastructural development. Majority of this investment has been in key infrastructure sectors such as roads, water supply and sanitation, urban development, rural housing, lake renewal and waste shed development.

Backhoe loaders are very versatile machines capable of performing multiple tasks, making them highly efficient and cost-effective for various construction and infrastructure projects.

Moreover, increasing numbers of cities are building metro rail for better public transport, and record numbers of houses are being built each year through Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Government initiatives like the Bharatmala Project, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) focus on improving



road connectivity in rural and remote areas, driving the demand for backhoe loaders for road construction and maintenance.

All the above-mentioned activities have also been major demand drivers for backhoe loaders.

How do you foresee the market for backhoe loaders evolving in the next five years, especially considering environmental concerns and energy efficiency?

Over the next five years, the market of backhoe loaders will be increasing considering the number of first time buyers. Also, keeping in mind the versatility of the machine, the market for backhoe loaders is expected to undergo several notable changes, particularly in response to environmental concerns and the need for greater energy efficiency.

There could be a rise in the adoption of alternative fuels such as biofuels, hydrogen, or compressed natural gas (CNG) in backhoe loaders. Tata Hitachi introduced a CNG powered backhoe loader in Excon

2021. These fuels offer reduced emissions and can help address environmental concerns while enhancing energy efficiency. Although there is other evolving methods and technologies but the industry is in its early stages.

In coming year, manufacturers will focus on improving the energy efficiency of backhoe loaders through advancements in engine technology, hydraulic systems, and overall machine design. This will not only reduce fuel consumption but also increase productivity and lower operating costs for users.

Overall, the market for backhoe loaders is likely to evolve towards more environmentally friendly and energy-efficient solutions over the next five years, driven by regulatory requirements, technological advancements, and growing awareness of sustainability issues.

What are your thoughts on the potential of hydrogen-powered backhoe loaders in the Indian market?

Manufacturers are evaluating multiple options of adopting alternate fuel, particularly as the country strives to address environmental concerns and transition towards cleaner energy sources. Hydrogen-powered backhoe loaders offer zero-emission operation, emitting only water vapour as a by-product. This aligns with India's commitments to reducing carbon emissions and combating air pollution, making hydrogen technology an attractive option for sustainable construction equipment.

Hydrogen has high energy

efficiency and can provide long operating ranges without the need for frequent refuelling. This can enhance the productivity and operational efficiency of backhoe loaders, particularly in remote or off-grid construction sites where access to traditional fuel sources may be limited. Despite its potential, the adoption of hydrogen-powered backhoe loaders in India may face challenges related to infrastructure, cost, and technology maturity. Establishing hydrogen refuelling infrastructure and addressing the high initial costs of hydrogen fuel cells and storage systems will be critical for widespread adoption. Government incentives, subsidies, and policy frameworks can play a crucial role in promoting the adoption of hydrogen-powered backhoe loaders in India.

Is there anything else you would like to add regarding the future of backhoe loaders in India or your company's approach to the market?

Keeping in mind the popularity of the machine, it's essential to emphasise the significance of continued innovation and adaptation to meet evolving market demands. As India undergoes rapid urbanisation, infrastructure development, and technological advancements, there will be growing opportunities for backhoe



loaders to play a vital role in construction, agriculture, and other sectors as well.

Mini excavators and backhoe loaders are both versatile pieces of equipment commonly used in construction and excavation projects, each offering distinct advantages depending on the specific task at hand. Backhoe loaders, with its combination of a front loader bucket and a rear-mounted digging arm, offer greater flexibility for tasks that require both digging and material handling capabilities.

Backhoe loaders are often preferred for tasks such as excavating, loading trucks, and moving materials on construction sites as well. Mini excavators are compact equipment that are increasingly used as the economy and industry matures towards more modern equipment requiring low fuel consumption and having an ability to use a range of attachments particularly

in urban application. However, in case of backhoe loaders with ease of mobility being the biggest strength it will continue to remain popular in the foreseeable future.

Furthermore, as environmental concerns become more pressing, there will be a greater emphasis on sustainability and energy efficiency in the construction equipment industry. Companies need to invest in research and development to develop cleaner, more efficient, and technologically advanced backhoe loaders that align with these trends. This includes exploring alternative power sources such as electric, CNG, etc., as well as improving overall machine design and efficiency.

In terms of Tata Hitachi's approach to the market, we are committed to stay at the forefront of innovation and sustainability. We strive to develop cutting-edge backhoe loaders that not only meet but exceed customer expectations in terms of performance, reliability, and environmental impact. Additionally, we prioritise customer requirement and work towards product advancement basis the same. Moreover, we assist our customers with our vast spread network.

Overall, we see a bright future for backhoe loaders in India, driven by technological advancements, infrastructure development, and a growing focus on sustainability. By embracing these opportunities and challenges, we are confident in our ability to contribute positively to India's construction equipment industry and help shape a more sustainable and prosperous future.



Transforming Construction

The market for skid steer loaders is anything but static, constantly shaped by a confluence of factors spanning economic conditions, technological innovations, and industry-specific dynamics.

Scan to read



an evolving emphasis on productivity and cost-effectiveness, is gradually reshaping the narrative around skid-steer loaders' utility.

Shalabh Chaturvedi, the Managing Director of CASE Construction Equipment – India & SAARC region,

envisions a promising trajectory for the skid-steer loader market. He emphasised the adaptability of skid-steer loaders across various construction activities, heralding them as indispensable companions in India's journey towards infrastructural advancement. With a recent showcase of their skid steer loader SR175B at EXCON 2023, CASE Construction Equipment underscores its commitment to fortifying its product portfolio to align with burgeoning market demands.



Shalabh Chaturvedi, MD, CASE CE – India & SAARC region

However,

Sunil Newatia, Chairman and Managing Director, Suretech Infrastructure,

offers a contrasting viewpoint. Despite acknowledging the potential of skid-steer loaders, Newatia highlighted the prevailing challenges, citing low customer awareness and a preference for backhoe loaders. He said, "In a country like India, there is a market of approximately 500 skids in a year



Sunil Newatia, Chairman and Managing Director, Suretech Infrastructure

In the vast expanse of India's construction industry, where the symphony of progress resonates with the clang of machinery, the skid-steer loader emerges as a quiet yet pivotal player. As the nation navigates through urbanisation surges and infrastructural metamorphoses, the demand for versatile, compact equipment like skid-steer loaders is experiencing a notable shift. Let's delve into the multifaceted tapestry of the skid-steer loader industry in India, drawing insights from industry experts and market analyses.

In a recent report by Off-Highway Research, it was revealed that skid-steer loaders are still considered niche products in India, with anticipated sales hovering around 850 units this year. The construction sector predominantly drives this demand, although applications span across municipalities, waste management, and even garner attention from the armed forces. However, perceptions of high pricing coupled with the availability of inexpensive manual labor continue to constrain the market growth. The gradual uptick in labor costs, alongside



In the realm of skid-steer loaders, the advent of IoT-enabled features heralds a new era of efficiency and optimisation.

against 35,000 to 40,000 backhoe loaders. Skids are the highest selling construction equipment overseas while in India it is backhoes. Skids must be accepted as the most versatile and most important piece of equipment on a job site. Till that happens growth shall continue to remain sluggish.”

As the inventor of the world’s first skid-steer loader, Doosan Bobcat is a leading global manufacturer and distributor of premium brands leading multiple industry segments. Doosan Bobcat leads the industry in the design, manufacturing, marketing and distribution of compact equipment for construction, landscaping, agriculture, grounds maintenance, utility and mining industries. The Bobcat® S450 skid-steer loader’s width makes it a great performer for its size – and the tight turning radius lets you handle big jobs in small areas. The S450 features a radius lift path for greater maximum reach at mid-range heights, like dumping over a wall, backfilling or unloading flatbed trucks.

CASE India’s skid steer loader SR175B stands as a testament to innovation and efficiency. With an

all-women production line, this machine redefines workplace comfort and performance. Its ROPS/FOPS cab ensures operator safety, while ergonomic designs prioritise operator comfort and efficiency. The strategic hydraulic system enhances versatility, allowing for seamless attachment of hydraulic tools, while maintenance becomes a breeze with simplified access to essential components. Such innovations underscore the industry’s commitment to marrying functionality with user-centric design.

In the realm of skid-steer loaders, the advent of IoT-enabled features heralds a new era of efficiency and optimisation. Telematics, a subset of IoT, empowers fleet management by providing real-time insights into running hours, fuel consumption, and operator efficiency. Such data-driven approaches not only optimise operational costs but also enhance productivity and prevent breakdowns. However, the adoption of IoT-enabled features in skid-steer loaders is still in its nascent stages, presenting ample opportunities for future integration and innovation.

In the labyrinth of customer

preferences, price and brand emerge as the guiding beacons for decision-making. Bobcat, with its extensive equipment base and strong visibility, commands a significant market share, positioning itself as the preferred choice among customers. However, beyond brand allure, larger construction companies delve deeper into technical capabilities and product features before making purchasing decisions. Nonetheless, the paradigm of ownership is gradually shifting towards rental models, reflecting a broader trend towards operational flexibility and cost efficiency.

As the sun sets on the bustling construction sites of India, the silhouette of skid-steer loaders stands as a testament to innovation, resilience, and adaptability. Despite facing headwinds of perception and preference, the industry marches forward, driven by a collective vision of progress and efficiency. With each innovation, market insight, and technological leap, the skid-steer loader industry inches closer towards its zenith, poised to sculpt the landscape of India’s construction industry for generations to come.



"SSLs HAVE GARNERED SIGNIFICANT DEMAND COMPARED TO OTHER CE."

Shalabh Chaturvedi, MD, CASE CE – India & SAARC region, speaks on the market for SSLs in India.

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How do you see the market for skid-steer loaders evolving in India in the next few years?

Considering, India is a country which can adapt development at a very high pace, the market dynamics of skid steer loader is also very optimistic. It is the largest segment over the forecast period that can be employed in multiple activities like digging, grading, application handling, and trenching. As India is in a surge of urbanisation and the country is preparing itself for Viksit Bharat, there is an upward demand for skid steer loaders as well.

We at CASE recently showcased our skid steer loader SR175B, at EXCON 2023. As the industry is familiarising with the recent trends, we are also ready to strengthen our portfolio, adding value to ongoing mega projects.



What factors do you believe are driving the growth of the skid-steer loaders market in India? How would you describe the demand for skid-steer loaders compared to other types of construction equipment in the Indian market?

Consumers often seek efficiency without additional costs. The skid steer loader is crafted to cater to multiple tasks simultaneously, eliminating the need for separate machinery purchases. This versatility significantly drives its demand. Moreover, the increase in infrastructural development nationwide further fuels its popularity. By utilising a skid steer loader, large-scale projects can be executed within deadlines without the need for excessive machinery expenditures.

In the Indian market, skid-steer loaders have garnered significant demand compared to other types of construction equipment, owing to their versatility and adaptability. Skid-steer loaders offer a range of functionalities crucial for construction activities, including digging, lifting,





The SR175B packs rovides owners with a simple and intuitive platform for dirt work and material handling.

and material handling, making them highly sought after for various tasks on construction sites. The adaptability of skid-steer loaders to diverse building sites is a key factor driving their demand. Their ability to navigate and operate effectively in confined spaces or areas where manoeuvrability is essential makes them indispensable in many construction projects across India.

In India, the skid steer loader market reported a gain of 11.94 per cent in value shipments in 2022 compared to 2021, along with a 23.54 per cent increase in CAGR in 2022 over the period of 2017. This indicates a sustained upward trend in the adoption of skid-steer loaders within the construction industry.

Explain in detail the various products on offer in this segment. What are its salient features?

CASE India offers the skid steer loader SR175B, an all women

“
CASE India offers the skid steer loader SR175B, an all women production line. This machine sets new standards for efficiency at the workplace with its remarkable features.

”
production line. This machine sets new standards for efficiency and comfort at the workplace with its remarkable features. The ROPS/FOPS cab offers exceptional visibility, narrow wire lateral protection, and a lowered threshold, ensuring operator safety. Inside the cab, operator comfort is prioritised with a wide door, convenient grab handles, and suspension seats, creating a pleasant working environment by reducing noise and dust. The strategic design of the loader places supports at the chassis' bottom for optimal pushing power, enhancing

performance. Versatility is boosted by a hydraulic system providing fast cycle times and a connect under pressure (CUP) system for easy attachment of hydraulic tool hoses. Maintenance is simplified with a tilting cab and secure safety locking system, offering access to essential components.

The joystick's ergonomic design enhances operator comfort with a narrower palm grip, closer switch layout, and smaller head size. Further enhancements include smaller EH pods and improved drive motor pump controls for smoother operation. An optimised start-up procedure and improved instrument cluster positioning contribute to a more intuitive and efficient workflow. The CASE skid steer loader delivers reliable and innovative performance on the job. For specific customisation options, the consumer needs to consult our CASE dealer for the latest information, as machine specifications may vary within industry standards.



"SKIDS' GROWTH RATE LAGS BEHIND GLOBAL STANDARDS."

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Sunil Newatia, Chairman and Managing Director, Suretech Infrastructure, speaks on the factors that drive the market for skid-steer loaders in India.

How do you see the market for skid-steer loaders evolving in India in the next few years?

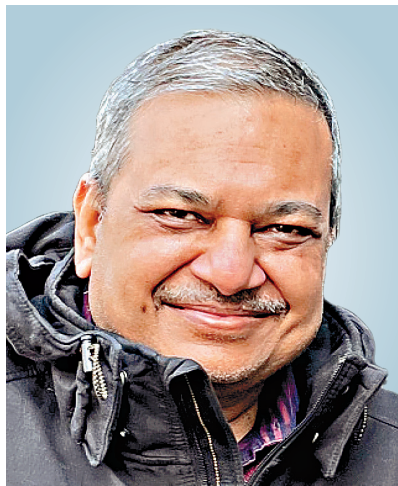
Skid steers were introduced the Indian market around 1990s. It's been 30+ years and volumes are hardly to be excited about. Customer awareness on the utility of skids is extremely low and they prefer backhoe loaders over the skids. I do not foresee much improvement in volumes of skid steers in the near future.

What factors do you believe are driving the growth of the SSL market in India?

The growth rate of skids is too low when compared to the rest of the world. In a country like India, there is a market of approximately 500 skids in a year against 35,000 to 40,000 backhoe loaders. Skids are the highest selling construction equipment overseas while in India it is backhoes. Skids must be accepted as the most versatile and most important piece of equipment on a job site. Till that happens growth shall continue to remain sluggish.

How would you describe the demand for SSLs compared to other types of construction equipment in the Indian market?

As highlighted above, demand for skids are extremely low in India. A significant part of production in India is exported to Africa, Middle East, Russia, etc. The demand for even low



volume products like graders, soil compactors, etc. is better than skids.

Explain in detail the various products on offer in this segment.

While the world has moved on to tracked skid loaders, India is still struggling with wheeled versions. Most of the skid manufacturers in India are making entry-level models of 49 HP and 75 HP. It is only Bobcat that is offering the entire range of standard and high flow skids, but they are all imported and not manufactured in India. The main feature in skids is option of using several attachments. Skids are designed to work with various attachments making it very versatile equipment for any job site.

How are IoT-enabled features gaining importance in skid-

steer loaders? What is the trend?

IoT is primarily being used for fleet management, popularly known as Telematics in India. They provide you information on running hours, fuel consumption, productivity, operator efficiency, etc. depending on the modules/service provider selected by the customer. Data has become a very important part of all operations and provide critical information, which can help you reduce operation costs, prevent breakdowns and measure productivity.

Can you share any insights into the preferences of Indian customers when it comes to selecting SSLs, particularly regarding efficiency?

Indian customers have a penchant to go for the products that are visible. Bobcat being the industry leader, has largest equipment base and has good visibility making it customers' first choice. Other players get somewhere of the market primarily on the price. I have hardly come across any retail customer comparing or studying product features and advantages.

Price and brand are the only criteria for selecting equipment. Large construction companies usually compare the technical and product capabilities before making the purchase, but now they hardly buy such small equipment and prefer to rent them.





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Booming Demand

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Industrial cranes are witnessing a soaring demand as they play a crucial role in various sectors, from construction to logistics, contributing to India's infrastructural growth.



India's industrial landscape is undergoing a transformative wave, propelled by rapid urbanisation, infrastructure development, and a surge in manufacturing activities. Among the pivotal tools driving this evolution are industrial cranes. These robust machines are witnessing a soaring demand as they play a crucial role in various sectors, from construction to logistics, contributing to India's infrastructural growth.

India's economy is on an upward trajectory, bolstered by ambitious initiatives such as Make in India and infrastructure development projects like Bharatmala and Sagarmala. These endeavours aim to enhance manufacturing capabilities, modernise transportation networks, and boost

overall economic growth. As a result, industries spanning construction, logistics, automotive, and shipbuilding are experiencing unprecedented expansion, driving the need for efficient material handling equipment, particularly industrial cranes.

Speaking on the market for industrial cranes in India, **Neeraj Waghela, Head – Product Development, ElectroMech Material Handling Systems (India)**, said, "India has been undergoing significant increase in infrastructure development across various sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, construction, and ports. Industrial overhead cranes are essential equipment for these



Neeraj Waghela
Head – Product
Development,
ElectroMech
Material Handling
Systems (India)

industries, driving demand."

ElectroMech has dedicated R&D team to work on new developments and ideas based on customer feedback and market surveys. R&D team has been working on several projects and has launched few innovative products in last couple of years and response to these products has been

amazing.

ElectroMech is amongst the largest manufacturers of industrial overhead cranes with more than 15,000 solutions supplied over and above 60 countries across the world. Said Waghela, "We are recognised for our customised, heavy duty and modular solutions that address challenging material handling

requirements across a wide spectrum of industries. We offer electrically-operated overhead cranes, gantry cranes, stacker cranes, explosion proof cranes, rubber-tyred gantry crane, battery operated transfer car, process crane, wall travelling crane and jib crane."

He added, "Digitalisation and automation in crane design has been focussed over last few years and same has been incorporated in recently supplied products. These have been very much appreciated in the market as it helps in improving overall operation and availability of equipment."

Everest Engineering Equipment offers an innovative passenger hoist, operating on a single mass section, making it the largest of its kind globally with a capacity of 3.2 tonne. Notably, it can adapt to different capacities, such as 3.2 tonne and 2.7 tonne, each with its own speed specifications. The hoist's length, initially at 4 m, can be reduced to 3.6 m or 3.2 m, offering versatility in accommodating 38 people or 32 people, respectively.

Said **PV Ramdev, Managing Director, Everest Engineering Equipment**, "The hoist's most significant feature lies in its design flexibility. Users can adjust its length, speed, and capacity according to site requirements without the need for separate hoists. This innovation addresses various needs within the industrial sector, particularly in applications like steel and cement plants, providing a comprehensive solution for lifting diverse parts and aiding in the construction of permanent structures."

Several factors are contributing to the escalating demand for industrial cranes in India:

- **Infrastructure development:** India's infrastructure is undergoing a massive overhaul, with projects encompassing roads, bridges, ports, and airports. Industrial cranes are

indispensable for tasks such as erecting structural steel, lifting heavy components, and facilitating construction activities, thereby witnessing heightened demand from construction firms and infrastructure developers.

- **Manufacturing growth:** The push for indigenous manufacturing under initiatives like Make in India has led to a proliferation of industrial units across the country. These facilities require advanced machinery for material handling and production processes, driving the adoption of industrial cranes in factories, warehouses, and assembly lines.



PV Ramdev
Managing
Director, Everest
Engineering
Equipment

- **Urbanisation and real estate:** Rapid urbanisation is driving the construction of commercial and residential complexes, shopping malls, and high-rise buildings in India's burgeoning cities. Industrial cranes are essential for lifting construction materials, installing prefabricated components, and facilitating vertical construction, thus becoming integral to the urban development landscape.
- **Ports and logistics:** India's burgeoning trade activities necessitate efficient handling of cargo at ports and logistics hubs. Industrial cranes, including container handling cranes and gantry cranes, play a pivotal role in loading and unloading containers, managing bulk cargo, and optimising logistical operations, thereby witnessing a surge in demand from port authorities and logistics companies.

Challenges and future outlook

Despite the promising growth prospects, the Indian market for industrial cranes faces several challenges. Inadequate infrastructure, including poor road networks and limited availability of skilled labour, poses logistical challenges for crane



deployment and operations, hindering the seamless execution of projects.

Intense market competition and price sensitivity among customers compel crane manufacturers to offer competitive pricing, potentially impacting profit margins and investment in research and development initiatives.

However, despite these challenges, the future outlook for the industrial crane market in India remains optimistic. Continued infrastructure investments, manufacturing growth, technological advancements, and a burgeoning focus on safety and sustainability are expected to sustain the upward trajectory of the market, presenting lucrative opportunities for stakeholders across the crane industry value chain.

Industrial cranes are emerging as indispensable assets driving India's infrastructural growth and economic development. With demand stemming from diverse sectors including construction, manufacturing, logistics, and ports, the market for industrial cranes in India is witnessing robust expansion. By embracing technological innovations, customisation, and sustainable practices, stakeholders in the crane industry are poised to capitalise on the vast opportunities offered by India's dynamic economic landscape, thereby contributing to the nation's journey towards becoming a global economic powerhouse.



"NEW CRANE DESIGNS EMBRACE RECENT AUTOMATION TRENDS."

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Neeraj Waghela, Head – Product Development, ElectroMech Material Handling Systems (India), speaks on what sets the company's cranes apart from competitors in terms of design, functionality, and performance.

What types of industrial cranes does your company specialise in? What sets your cranes apart from competitors in terms of design, functionality, and performance?

ElectroMech is amongst the largest manufacturers of industrial overhead cranes with more than 15,000 solutions supplied over and above 60 countries across the world. We are recognised for our customised, heavy duty and modular solutions that address challenging material handling requirements across a wide spectrum of industries.

We offer electrically-operated overhead cranes, gantry cranes, stacker cranes, explosion proof cranes, rubber-tyred gantry crane, battery operated transfer car, process crane, wall travelling crane and jib crane.

- **Engineering design:** Modular engineering heavy material handling solutions that enhance performance, safety, and efficiency.
- **Technology integration:** Integration of advanced technologies such as VFD controls, wireless controls, automation, IoT, and predictive maintenance to improve crane operation and minimise downtime.
- **Customisation:** Ability to tailor cranes to specific customer needs and applications.
- **Safety features:** Innovative safety features that exceed industry standards, ensuring safe operation



in diverse environments.

- **Durability and reliability:** Cranes designed for durability and reliability, minimising maintenance requirements, and maximising uptime.
- **After sales support:** Comprehensive service and support offerings, including maintenance, training, and spare parts availability for any make of cranes.

How do you look at the market for industrial cranes in India?

India has been undergoing significant increase in infrastructure development across various sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, construction, and ports. Industrial overhead cranes are essential equipment for these industries, driving demand.

- **Manufacturing sector growth:** India's manufacturing sector has been expanding, driven by initiatives like "Make in India" and increasing foreign direct investment (FDI). Industrial overhead cranes are crucial for material handling in manufacturing facilities, warehouses, and assembly lines.
- **Construction boom:** India has been witnessing rapid urbanisation and infrastructure development, leading to a surge in construction activities. Industrial cranes are indispensable for lifting heavy materials at construction sites.
- **Steel industry:** The demand in steel sector has drastically increased and to serve their requirements overhead cranes play a crucial role in lifting heavy slit coils and steel plates, driving demand in the steel sector.
- **Government initiatives:** Government initiatives aimed at modernising industries, improving infrastructure, and promoting manufacturing are expected to further boost the demand for industrial overhead cranes.

Can you discuss any recent innovations or developments in your crane designs in response to market trends?

ElectroMech has dedicated R&D team to work on new developments

and ideas based on customer feedback and market surveys. R&D team has been working on several projects and has launched a few innovative products in last couple of years and response to these products has been amazing.

Digitalisation and automation in crane design has been focussed over last few years and same has been incorporated in recently supplied products. These have been very much appreciated in the market as it helps in

professionals; and ongoing maintenance and inspections.

They are empowered to pause the work if any safety violation found and resume only after fixing the same.

Can you discuss any safety training or guidelines provided to crane operators?

Products manufactured and supplied by ElectroMech come with operation and maintenance document, which takes care of all the safety

is designed with pneumatic tyres and can be operated on concrete or asphalt floors to lift and carry heavy load with inside factory or in open yards. Tyton has been equipped with in-built genset and not external power supply or cables required to operate it. It can be operated very easily and negotiate curved path using wireless remote control. This product has been designed with modular construction and can be assembled or dismantled in short span of time up to three days and



improving overall operation and availability of equipment.

How does your company ensure the safety of your industrial cranes during manufacturing?

ElectroMech manufacturing and erection commissioning team has been trained and certified to work in factory or at site with adequate safety. They have been trained to use right equipment to protect lives while working.

ElectroMech team has been ensuring safety as per the guidelines set by the organisation such as: Compliance with regulations; quality assurance processes; protocols for manufacturing; testing and quality checks; documentation and manuals; installation by certified

aspects to be taken care while operating the crane. Operators and concerned team are advised to read this manual carefully before start using the crane. Apart from this proper operation and safety related training is given to customer representatives by ElectroMech experts.

Are there any upcoming product launches or developments that you would like to share?

Electromech team has been constantly working on development of new products and has come up with two new innovative products in market recently.

tyton (electric rubber tyred gantry crane) lifting capacity ranging from 10-200 t capacity and comes in customisable span and height. tyton

shifted to another location easily. It can also travel on floor which has slop up to 5 per cent.

STC (Battery operated steerable transfer car) can transfer loads varying from 10t to 100t effortlessly. As it is operated on battery equipped in the car, it has zero carbon emission and absolute environment friendly. There is no hydraulic involved here so there is no oil spillage or daily maintenance required. STC can travel on concrete, asphalt, or epoxy flooring within or outside factory. STC is best suited for transferring loads from one bay to another bay inside factory or to transfer heavy loads from within the factory to open yards. It can also travel on floor which has slop up to 5 per cent. It can be operated very easily and negotiate curved path using wireless remote control.



"WE AIM TO MAINTAIN A STEADY PACE OF GROWTH."

PV Ramdev, Managing Director, Everest Engineering Equipment

Scan to read



Please tell us about your newly-launched product at Excon? What are its unique features?

We are thrilled to unveil a groundbreaking product – a passenger hoist from GGJ. This innovative passenger hoist is unique in that it operates on a single mass section, making it the largest of its kind globally with a capacity of 3.2 tonne. Notably, it can adapt to different capacities, such as 3.2 tonne and 2.7 tonne, each with its own speed specifications. The hoist's length, initially at 4 m, can be reduced to 3.6 m or 3.2 m, offering versatility in accommodating 38 people or 32 people, respectively. The hoist's most significant feature lies in its design flexibility. Users can adjust its length, speed, and capacity according to site requirements without the need for separate hoists. This innovation addresses various needs within the industrial sector, particularly in applications like steel and cement plants, providing a comprehensive solution for lifting diverse parts and aiding in the construction of permanent structures.

Could you elaborate on the collaboration between GGJ and your company?

We are delighted to announce a joint venture agreement with GGJ, the registered brand owner, to commence production in India. Despite the stringent European standards and design validations that extended the timeline, we are now poised to produce these hoists in India. The production, set to begin in the year 2000, will yield a purely Indian product, with plans for exportation to various countries.

Tell us more about your new



manufacturing facility launch.

Our new manufacturing facility is located at Kolad, Maharashtra. We were supposed to integrate this in July. But due to some unforeseen circumstances, we couldn't complete it. However, we plan to inaugurate it soon.

In rentals, what are your offerings?

We do cleaning, rolling, or repairing depending on what's nearby the next site.

How does your company stay abreast of new market innovations, especially in research and development?

We maintain an in-house research and development team in India that collaborates with GGJ. Our commitment to innovation is evident in our effort to retain the same mass sections in our products, ensuring compatibility with existing customer equipment. This approach presents design challenges but underscores our dedication to meeting customer needs without necessitating costly equipment replacements.

Could you elaborate on the incorporation of AI and ML in your products?

We have already integrated AI into our passenger hoist to some extent, but full adoption is hindered by cost considerations and the lack of skills in maintenance of AI systems in India.

What challenges are you currently facing in the market?

One significant challenge is the difficulty for MSMEs to start manufacturing due to various hurdles and lack of proper government support.

How do you perceive the market with elections?

While there might be some temporary disruptions due to elections, the market is generally growing, albeit with challenges related to dependence on imports and bureaucratic obstacles.

Can you tell us about your recent achievements in terms of orders and product expansions?

We recently secured a big order for gantry cranes and ventured into the business of launchers for bridges and railways, aiming to bring manufacturing to India gradually.

What are your future plans?

We aim to maintain a steady pace of growth, despite potential disruptions, and are exploring opportunities to expand our manufacturing capabilities in India.

How do you view the ease of setting up a plant in India?

While the ease of setting up a plant varies from state to state and district to district, overall, government policies and regulations play a crucial role in facilitating or hindering such endeavours.



INNOVATIONS IN AI-DRIVEN CE

Scan to read



L&T CMB's focus on reducing carbon footprints and enhancing resource efficiency is more relevant than ever. The integration of AI and ML in construction equipment plays a crucial role in achieving these sustainability goals.



The landscape of the construction industry has been undergoing a remarkable transformation, largely thanks to the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) into construction equipment. This fusion of technology and heavy machinery promises not only to enhance efficiency but also to revolutionise the way infrastructure projects are undertaken. Seventy-five years ago, the leaders of L&T foresaw India's potential as a superpower, recognising that accelerated growth in infrastructure is key. L&T

Construction & Mining Machinery (CMB) continues this legacy today, focusing on sustainable next-generation technologies, including AI, ML, robotics, and e-vehicles.

Feasibility and advantages of incorporating AI and ML

The feasibility of incorporating AI and ML into construction equipment has been demonstrated by Komatsu, which is at the forefront of developing remotely operated mobile units, autonomous haulage vehicles, and customised attachments for specific industrial applications. These

innovations are not just theoretical but are being applied in real-world scenarios, showcasing the tangible benefits of digitalisation in construction and across mining sites.

AI and ML technologies enable construction equipment to operate with greater precision and efficiency. For instance, autonomous haulage vehicles can navigate complex mining sites safely, reducing the risk of accidents and ensuring uninterrupted progress. Similarly, machine telematics, exemplified by L&T DigiEye, allow for real-time tracking of machine parameters and location, facilitating

optimal performance and reducing downtime.

Predictive maintenance: A game-changer

One of the most significant advantages of AI in construction equipment is its potential for predictive maintenance. By analysing data from equipment sensors, AI algorithms can predict when a machine is likely to fail or require maintenance, allowing for intervention before costly breakdowns occur. This predictive capability not only minimises downtime but also extends the lifespan of the equipment, resulting in significant cost savings and improved project timelines.


Reducing carbon footprint and enhancing sustainability

In the current global context, marked by a pandemic and heightened environmental awareness, L&T CMB's focus on reducing carbon footprints

and enhancing resource efficiency is more relevant than ever. The integration of AI and ML in construction equipment plays a crucial role in achieving these sustainability goals. By optimising the operation of machinery, these technologies ensure that energy consumption is minimised and emissions are reduced, contributing to the overall sustainability of construction projects.

Moreover, L&T's commitment to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) parameters, including efforts in afforestation and biodiversity, underscores the company's holistic approach to sustainability. Incorporating AI and ML in construction equipment aligns with these efforts, demonstrating how technological innovation can complement and enhance environmental stewardship.

As L&T continues to navigate the crossroads of innovation and

sustainability, integrating AI and ML in construction equipment stands out as a beacon of progress. These technologies promise to enhance the efficiency and safety of construction projects and align with broader sustainability goals, offering a glimpse into the future of infrastructure development. The journey that began seventy-five years ago continues, with AI and ML leading the way towards a more efficient, safe and sustainable construction industry. 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



Arvind K Garg, Senior Vice President and Head, L&T Construction & Mining Machinery

Corrigendum

In our previous edition (page nos. 70 & 71), the images that were in the article were sourced from the internet, and not provided by the company. We apologise for any confusion.

USING TELEMATICS FOR TYRE MONITORING

Scan to read




Solid tyres are being increasingly used in severe service applications such as construction, waste handling, recycling, demolition and underground mining as users become aware of their features which include 100 per cent puncture proof, high damage resistance and zero maintenance. However solid tyres are prone to heat build-up when used in longer haul cycles and frequent loading and unloading. This is critical when the equipment is used in applications such as underground mining or industries such as petroleum, waste processing, etc.

Monitoring and logging performance parameters of solid tyres is also a tedious job. Trident has developed SmarTire, a Solid Tyre



Performance Monitoring System that addresses both of the above challenges. The system consists of sensors that are embedded in specially designed apertures in the tyre sidewall that monitor tyre temperature, distance travelled and service time for which the tyre has been in use. The sensors wirelessly relay the information to a receiver monitor in real-time thus alerting users of any excessive heat build-up. Maintenance managers can

also track service life of tyres both in terms of distance travelled and tyre/machine usage time.

Beyond its primary role to monitor tyre temperature, SmarTire incorporates telematics functionality, allowing machine owners to efficiently track tyre and machine usage, calculate associated costs, and optimise overall performance. This integration of real-time insights and telematics features further enhance the efficiency and durability of solid tyres in various applications. Trident has been granted a utility patent by the US Patent Office, European Patent Office and Indian Registrar of Patents for this invention that makes tyres safer and smarter! 

For more information, visit www.trident-intl.com

WHAT AI CAN DO FOR THE CE INDUSTRY

Scan to read



Productivity, safety and uptime are crucial drivers in the CE industry, where machine downtime can cost more than \$1 million per day.

Technological advancement is the need of every sector and this holds true for the construction and Construction Equipment (CE) sector as well. That said, particularly, in past few years, CE industry has gradually seen increased use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) which has the potential to boost productivity, efficiency and safety at the jobsite.

So, let us first know what is AI? Well, AI is an aggregative terms for describing when a machine mimics human cognitive function like problem-solving, pattern recognition

and learning.

Construction has always been a risky business. This is because of the usage of heavy machinery, uneven terrain, constant activity and risk of human error, all which can results in danger and accidents at the jobsite. Despite the focus on health and safety and use of various technologies and methodologies, yet the danger always looms at the jobsite. Here, comes the importance of AI-incorporated equipment and machine learning that has the potential to increase not only safety at the construction site but efficiency as well.

What is propelling the growth of AI in CE industry?

The need to produce superior results, complete projects at a fast pace and curb the problem of shortage of skilled operators are some factors that are leading to the growth of the AI in the CE sector. In addition, the adoption of the drones, robots and autonomous vehicles in the construction sector is also clearly backing the growth of the AI in CE industry. These technologies are being adopted by the companies for mapping, aerial imaging, surveying

construction sites and to automate the construction operations. This is developing myriad opportunities for the growth of the AI technology in the CE sector.

The benefits of AI for the Construction Equipment industry

Increasingly, companies are realising the benefits that AI-enabled machines can bring in for tackling not only health and safety issues but making work more efficient. Here are the benefits of AI for the CE industry...

- AI- incorporated equipment not only have the potential to ensure safety but offer plenty of other benefits such as they can automate all the mundane and repetitive tasks which otherwise can be very time consuming at the jobsite.
- AI can also help the inexperienced operators of heavy and complex equipment like the backhoe loader and motor graders to carry out

saying that any wrong move can cause heavy damage to the operator, equipment and even the people on the jobsite. However, either the skilled operators are not readily available or they are costly to employ. Thus, given the shortage of skilled operators, AI can help the contractors as well as construction company owners to make do with the unskilled operators also as most of the task can be easily performed by using the advanced technologies.

- AI systems can essentially help in predictive maintenance as well. With AI, business owners can learn patterns that lead to failures and make predictions such as CE failing if it is not serviced after a certain amount of time. Here, in this context, Mahindra Construction Equipment's (MCE's) EarthMaster Backhoe Loader deserves a special mention. The equipment comes with

reminders, fuel level details or warnings for low engine oil and other updates through SMS. This allows business owners to break-free from the lack of control over the equipment and helps them in managing their machine from the comforts of their office, car or home, thus, taking operating freedom to the next level.

That said, the incorporation of automation and AI is not easy on a large scale and there are lot of challenges associated with AI and the use of AI is limited to few applications only. However, change is gradually happening and the construction industry is gradually moving towards AI- enabled CE that can not only tackle fears around health and safety but boost productivity as well at the jobsite.

In a nutshell

Productivity, safety and uptime are crucial drivers in the CE industry,



difficult tasks which otherwise may consume a lot of time and still the end-result is substandard.

- AI can also sort out the major issue that is being faced by the CE industry today that is the shortage of skilled and experienced operators. Generally, heavy equipment like backhoe loaders or motor graders require trained operators who have expertise in safely handling the equipment to drive them as it goes without

REMOTECARE feature which is an intelligent communication system that keeps the business owner or fleet manager constantly informed about the machine. Through REMOTECARE, business owners can know what's happening with their equipment for the whole day and they can get useful business information like daily work reports, maintenance schedule

where machine downtime can cost more than \$1 million per day. Hence, what can define the bright future of CE segment is the adoption of newer intelligent features and increased use of AI-enabled equipment. Well, gladly, the change is happening and the industry is realising as to what benefits AI can offer to the construction and CE industry as a whole.



Article courtesy: Mahindra Construction Equipment

INDIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE BOOM: AIR COMPRESSOR'S VITAL ROLE

Air compressors are versatile tools that enhance efficiency, safety, and productivity in constructing and maintaining infrastructure, write **Ramesh Kumar G.**

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India's growth in 2023 and beyond will be driven by significant strides in key sectors, with infrastructure development being a critical force aiding the nation's progress. The infrastructure sector in India has experienced considerable growth and development in recent years, driven by a combination of government initiatives, increased investment, and the need to support the country's growing economy. The growth in the infrastructure sector is essential for sustaining economic development and improving India's overall quality of life.

As per the India Brand Equity Foundation, the construction market is

expected to reach \$1.42 trillion by 2027, expanding at a CAGR of 17.26 per cent during the 2022-2027 forecast period. This rapid growth is supported by new-generation tools and equipment that enable higher productivity at a lower operational cost. Air compressors, both stationary and portable, play a crucial role in the infrastructure sector, providing compressed air for pneumatic applications. These air compressors are essential in the construction, maintenance, and repair work at infrastructure project sites.

This growth in the infrastructure sector is anticipated to boost the need

for portable air compressors, presenting an attractive opportunity for air compressor brands such as ELGi to be part of the growth story. Electric and diesel-powered screw air compressors have become indispensable tools in the construction and infrastructure industry, providing a reliable compressed air source for various applications. Electric screw air compressors are the preferred choice of project managers for construction sites that have a reliable electrical supply.

Electric portable air compressors offer benefits such as higher energy efficiency, lesser operational expenses, and lower environmental footprint.



Additionally, electric compressors produce less noise, making them ideal for noise-sensitive construction sites. Their compact and portable design enables easy transportation and maneuverability at construction sites. Simultaneously, their ability to power various pneumatic makes them essential for construction tasks that require compressed air.

At construction locations where a consistent electrical power source might be missing, or mobility is essential, diesel-driven screw air compressors come into play. These compressors are typically mounted on trailers or skids, facilitating effortless transportation between construction sites. Designed to endure harsh dusty settings and rigorous construction tasks, diesel air compressors perform exceptionally well in challenging environments at infrastructure project sites. They provide enhanced versatility by functioning in remote or off-grid areas with no electrical power supply. Diesel compressors often provide higher airflow and pressure capabilities, making them suitable for challenging construction tasks that require substantial compressed air output.

Here are some critical uses of air compressors in the infrastructure sector:

Pneumatic Tools: Air compressors

power many pneumatic tools used in construction and maintenance work. These tools include pneumatic hammers, drills, wrenches, nail guns, and sanders.

Concrete and cement production:

In construction, air compressors operate equipment such as concrete pumps, cement mixers, and pneumatic vibrators. Compressed air helps convey and spray concrete, making construction more efficient.

Pavement maintenance: Air compressors are used for tasks like crack sealing, pavement marking, and road surface repair. Pneumatic equipment is commonly employed for these applications.

Road construction and repair:

In road construction, air compressors are used to power equipment such as pneumatic rollers, which are used to compact and smooth the road surface.

Bridge construction: Air compressors are used for drilling, piling, cutting, and maintenance work. They power tools like pneumatic bridge deck vibrators, concrete vibrators, and riveting machines.

Tunneling and mining:

In infrastructure projects that involve tunnels and mining, air compressors are used to operate rock drills, tunnel boring machines, shotcrete machines for concreting tunnel surfaces, and other pneumatic equipment.

Cleaning and maintenance:

Air compressors are employed for cleaning and maintaining infrastructure, such as removing dust and debris from construction sites, equipment, and structures.

Bridge and dam maintenance:

Air compressors are used to maintain and repair infrastructure such as bridges and dams. They power tools for inspection, repair, and corrosion control.

Pipeline construction: In the construction of pipelines, air compressors are essential for tasks like trenchless drilling and pipe laying, de-watering, pigging, and sandblasting. They also power pneumatic drilling rigs and other equipment.

Air compressors are engineered for various capacity requirements and end-use, including stationary and portable models. The choice of compressor depends on the specific requirements of the infrastructure project. They are versatile tools that enhance efficiency, safety, and productivity in constructing and maintaining infrastructure.

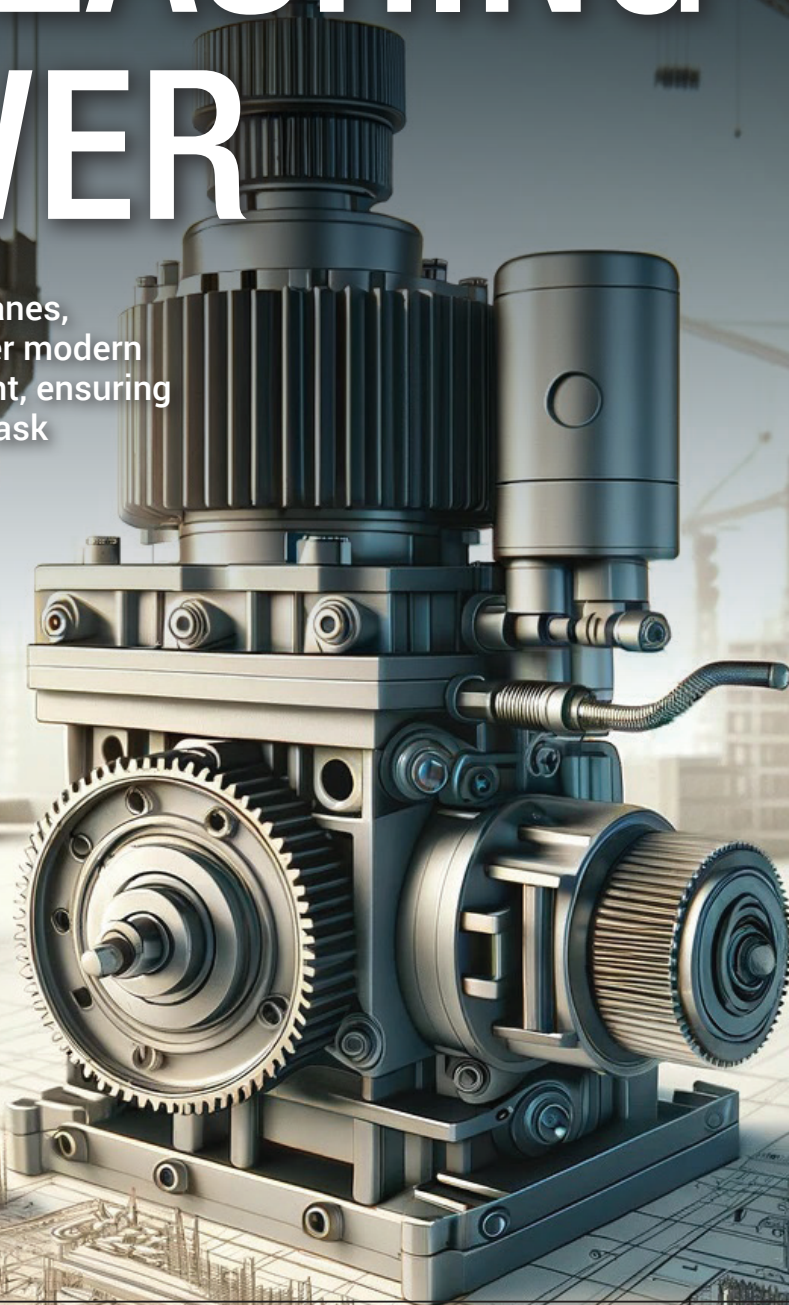


ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

The article is authored by Ramesh Kumar G, Vice President – Portables at Elgi Equipments, one of the leading manufacturers of compressors to a wide range of industries, including construction equipment.

UNLEASHING POWER

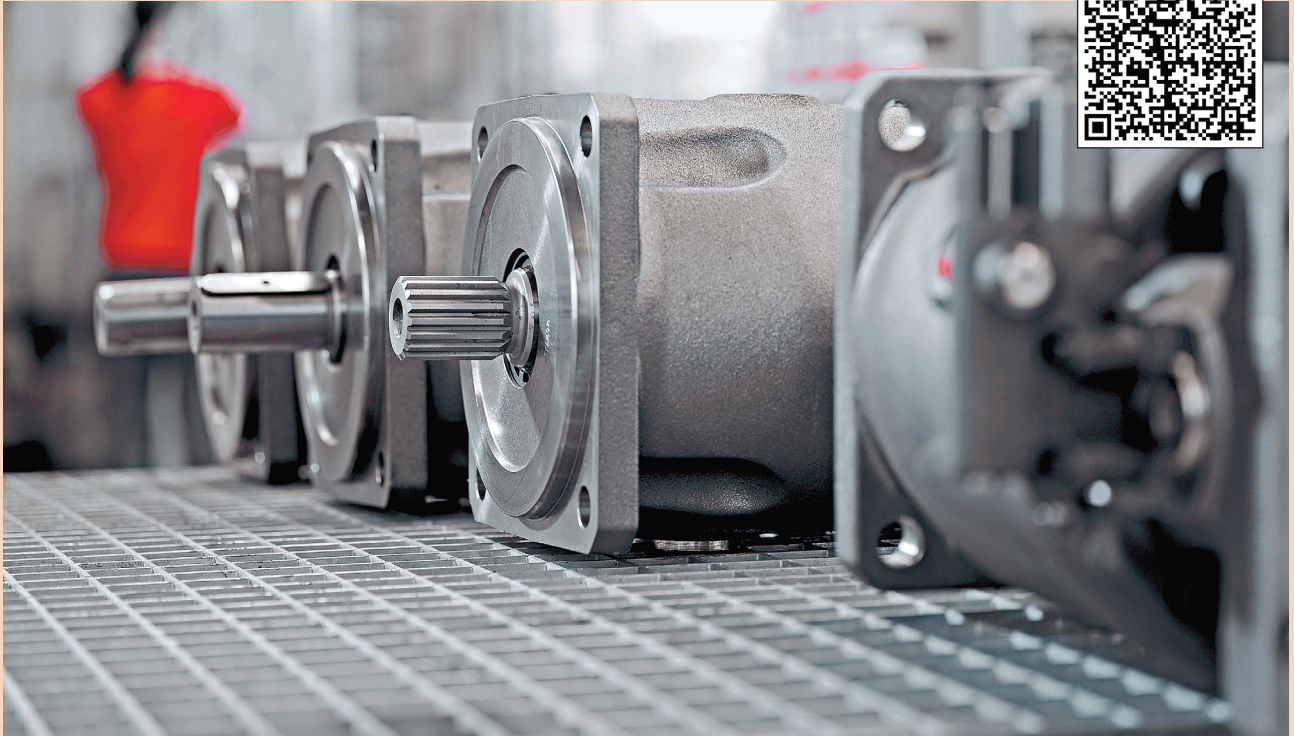
From excavators to cranes, hydraulic motors power modern construction equipment, ensuring precise and powerful task execution.



UNLEASHING POWER

From excavators to cranes, hydraulic motors power modern construction equipment, ensuring precise and powerful task execution.

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In the dynamic landscape of the construction equipment industry, hydraulic motors stand as the backbone of drivetrains, powering a plethora of heavy-duty machinery ranging from excavators to bulldozers. As the sector witnesses unprecedented growth driven by infrastructural development initiatives worldwide, the spotlight on technological advancements in hydraulic motors becomes increasingly crucial.

Hydraulic motors represent a pinnacle of innovation, harnessing fluid pressure to drive mechanical loads efficiently. Found extensively in earthmoving equipment like excavators, backhoe loaders, and heavy dump trucks, these motors are indispensable for the seamless functioning of construction machinery.

The selection of the right hydraulic motor is paramount, ensuring optimal performance tailored to the specific requirements of each application.

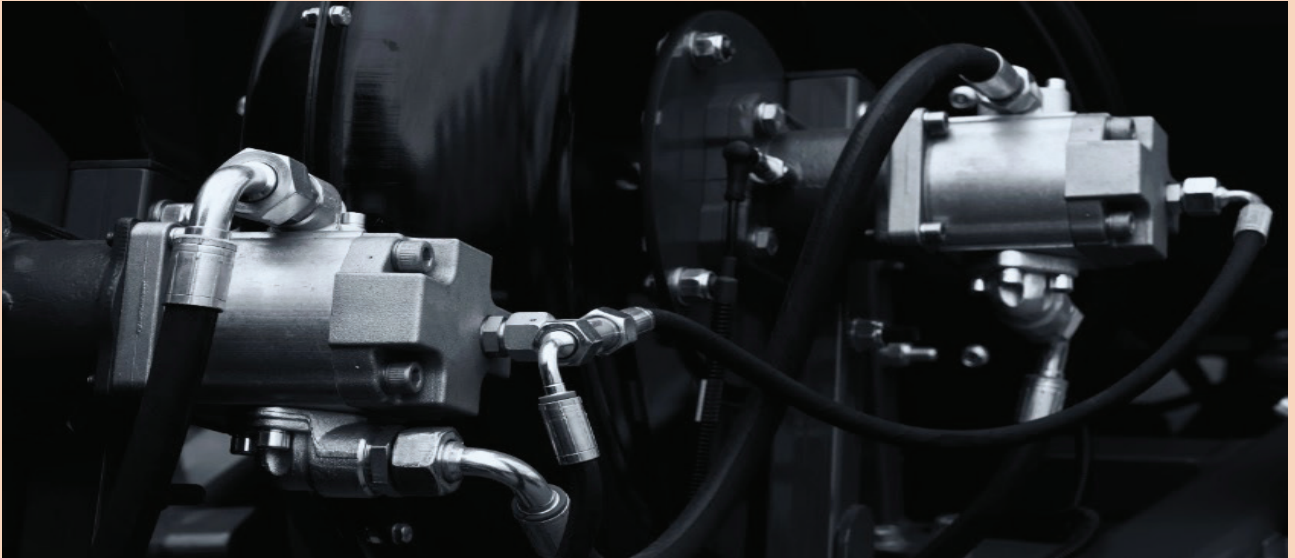
The application-driven approach dictates the selection process for hydraulic motors, with a focus on torque requirements and operational environments. Whether it's maneuvering through challenging terrains or executing precision tasks, hydraulic motors play a pivotal role in enhancing the efficiency and productivity of construction equipment.

Engineers meticulously evaluate factors such as load demands, speed, and gradeability to determine the most suitable motor type, be it hydraulic gear motors, piston motors, or hydraulic vane motors.

Technology trends reshaping the landscape

Amid a relentless pursuit of productivity and cost-effectiveness, technological innovations in hydraulic motors continue to redefine industry standards. Major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are at the forefront of this evolution, relentlessly improving the efficiency and reliability of their products. The advent of intelligent drive systems marks a significant stride forward, with compact, high-efficiency motors setting new benchmarks in performance. These innovations not only optimise energy consumption but also facilitate predictive maintenance, ensuring enhanced operational safety and efficiency.

The long-term market outlook



for hydraulic motors remains bullish, propelled by government initiatives aimed at infrastructure development. With a burgeoning demand for electro-hydraulic machines and intelligent drive systems, the industry is poised for exponential growth. Companies like NORD Drivesystems are spearheading the charge towards sustainability, offering innovative solutions for intralogistics and emphasising energy-efficient motor technologies. Condition monitoring concepts and mobile service tools further underscore the industry's commitment to proactive maintenance and operational excellence.

Customised solutions driving growth

In parallel, companies like ABB India are revolutionising the landscape with customised offerings tailored to specific market segments. Their focus on high-efficiency motors and drives, coupled with localised manufacturing, underscores a commitment to driving sustainable growth. As India's construction equipment segment gains momentum, ABB India's emphasis on energy efficiency and technology adoption becomes increasingly pivotal. The transition from IE2 to IE3/4 motors emerges as a linchpin in optimising energy savings and reducing carbon footprints, aligning

with India's journey towards achieving net-zero emissions.

In an era defined by digitalisation, the integration of smart technologies holds immense promise for the construction equipment industry. ABB India's embrace of digital transformation initiatives underscores a strategic shift towards enhancing efficiency, maintenance, and performance optimisation. By leveraging data analytics and IoT-enabled solutions, companies can unlock new avenues for operational excellence, driving sustainability and competitiveness in equal measure.

Bonfiglioli motors meet the most stringent demands for precision, dynamics and speed settings thanks to their high-quality neodymium iron boron rare-earth magnets and our excellent design. The motors are equipped with the latest encoder technology and are optimised for operation with frequency inverters and precision planetary gearboxes, offering an excellent synergy. More modularity is given with many options availabilities. Flywheel option provide excellent control characteristic for application with high load inertias, brake option, forced ventilation extend the performance in continuous duty operation and critical environment temperature. Even more flexibility is get due to our own design. Together

with customer we are partners in developing tailored made solution wherever more functionality and features are needed to meet specific requirements.

Future outlook and beyond

As the construction equipment industry marches towards a future defined by innovation and sustainability, hydraulic motors remain at the forefront of technological advancement. With a relentless focus on efficiency, reliability, and sustainability, industry players are poised to navigate the evolving landscape with confidence. The convergence of cutting-edge technologies, coupled with a steadfast commitment to customer-centric solutions, ensures that hydraulic motors will continue to power the growth trajectory of the construction equipment industry well into the future.

In conclusion, the technological trends in hydraulic motors for the construction equipment industry paint a picture of relentless innovation and transformative change. As industry players harness the power of technology to drive efficiency and sustainability, the stage is set for a future where hydraulic motors play an even more pivotal role in shaping the infrastructure of tomorrow.



"ELECTRONICS KEY TO HYDRAULIC SYSTEM ADVANCEMENT."

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Bharat Bhushan, Director, Sales, Danfoss Power Solutions India, speaks on the adoption of hydraulic motor technology that is evolving in the construction sector.

What are the major products offered by the company in hydraulic motors?

Danfoss Power Solutions is renowned for offering a comprehensive suite of hydraulic motors, boasting the industry's broadest range of low-speed high-torque motors, also known as Orbital Motors. Our portfolio stands out for its versatility, catering to an extensive spectrum of applications across multiple industries.

From the agricultural sector, where our motors power farm machinery, to the construction industry, where they drive heavy-duty equipment, Danfoss' motors play a crucial role. Additionally, our motors excel in material handling applications, ensuring seamless operation in diverse environments. Moreover, our motors find extensive use in various industrial settings, providing reliable performance in manufacturing processes and machinery. Furthermore, they are integral components in specialty machines such as road sweepers and drill rigs, where precision, durability, and efficiency are paramount.

One of our key strengths lies in our product range, which is unmatched in the market. Whether it's addressing the needs of small-scale applications or powering large industrial machinery, Danfoss motors offer tailored solutions to meet diverse requirements. Our



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Our commitment to innovation and quality ensures that our motors deliver optimal performance, reliability, and longevity.

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commitment to innovation and quality ensures that our motors deliver optimal performance, reliability, and longevity across a wide range of applications, making Danfoss the preferred choice for hydraulic motor solutions worldwide.

How do you see the adoption of hydraulic motor technology evolving in the construction

sector, considering environmental regulations and sustainability goals?

The adoption of hydraulic motor technology in the construction sector is poised for significant evolution, especially considering stringent environmental regulations and growing sustainability goals. Danfoss has been at the forefront of this evolution, with hydraulic motors having evolved over 90 years to become integral components in a wide range of applications, including off-highway vehicles/machines and industrial machinery.

One key aspect of this evolution is the development of hydraulic motors tailored for specific applications, such as underground mining, which require specialised features and the use of different fluids. This demonstrates the adaptability and versatility of hydraulic motor technology to meet the diverse needs of various industries, including construction.

As environmental regulations become increasingly stringent and sustainability goals gain prominence, there is a growing emphasis on the adoption of eco-friendly technologies in construction equipment. Hydraulic motors play a crucial role in this transition, as they offer several advantages in terms of energy efficiency, performance, and durability.

ARS 110.2 SOIL COMPACTOR
CEV STAGE IV



POWER WHERE IT MATTERS

POWER WHERE IT MATTERS.

The Ammann ARS 110.2 Soil Compactor delivers the highest applied force to the ground when compared to competitive products. And that's just the start. The 11-tonne machine provides:

- Varied amplitude settings that make it a great fit for multiple applications
- Rear-axle concept that enables unmatched stability, gradeability, traction and visibility
- An intuitive, reliable dashboard that helps even inexperienced operators succeed
- An optional, easy-to-install padfoot shell kit that offers deep penetration when needed

You'll also see cost savings after the purchase thanks to a fuel-efficient engine, durable components and accessible service points that enable quick maintenance.

The ARS 110.2 is built in India – especially for the Indian market.

Danfoss, with its extensive portfolio of hydraulic motor products, is well-positioned to drive this evolution in the construction sector. Our range of products not only meets the current demands of the industry but also provides innovative solutions that align with environmental regulations and sustainability goals. By offering a diverse array of products, including those optimised for specific applications and environment friendly options, Danfoss enables construction companies to meet their operational needs while minimising their environmental footprint.



The integration of smart and connected technologies into hydraulic systems enables real-time monitoring and predictive maintenance.



Are there any emerging technologies or innovations in hydraulic motors that you believe will have a significant impact on the construction equipment industry in India?

There are several emerging technologies and innovations in hydraulic motors that are poised to have a significant impact on the construction equipment industry in India. Danfoss already plays a vital role in this sector as many of our hydraulic motors are already utilised in various construction machines such as pavers, crushers, screens, and more, there are ongoing developments that promise to further revolutionise the sector.

The integration of smart and connected technologies into hydraulic systems enables real-time monitoring and predictive maintenance, enhancing equipment performance and reducing downtime. Additionally, innovations in motor design, advanced fluids, and lightweight materials improve efficiency, durability, and



environmental sustainability. These advancements represent a promising future for enhancing construction equipment performance, reliability, and sustainability in India. Danfoss remains committed to supporting this evolution by continuing to innovate and provide solutions that meet the evolving needs of the market.

What are the new tech trends in hydraulic motors? How do electronics play a role in the tech of hydraulic motors?

Innovations in hydraulic motors now encompass incorporating speed sensors, the Plus+1 compliances software, built-in valves, and optimisation techniques. These advancements enhance precision, efficiency, and versatility. Speed sensors provide real-time feedback on motor speed for precise control. The Plus+1 compliances software ensures adherence to environmental and efficiency standards. Integration of built-in valves streamlines system design, reducing complexity and offering more compact solutions with finer fluid flow and pressure control.

Electronics are pivotal in enabling these advancements, facilitating sensor integration, controller operation and communication interfaces. They also enable implementation of advanced

control algorithms, optimising motor performance and energy efficiency. As the backbone of modern hydraulic motor technology, electronics shape innovations driving enhanced performance and functionality. As industry needs evolve, electronics will continue playing a crucial role in advancing hydraulic systems across diverse applications.

What do you envision as the future of hydraulic motor technology in the context of construction equipment?

The future of hydraulic motor technology in construction equipment is marked by heavy-duty designs and direct integration onto wheels, eliminating the need for gearboxes. These innovations promise increased efficiency, durability, and agility in construction machinery, particularly in challenging environments. Ongoing research within Danfoss' Business Unit Motors ensures continuous advancements, focusing on enhancing motor efficiency, reliability, and adaptability to meet evolving industry demands. The developments aim to streamline equipment design, reduce maintenance requirements, and improve overall performance, shaping the landscape of construction equipment in the coming years.



"HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS TO SEE MORE ELECTRIFICATION, HYBRIDISATION."

Kennady V Kaippally, Country Manager, Bonfiglioli India, speaks on emerging technologies in hydraulic motors.

What are the major products offered by the company in hydraulic motors?

Bonfiglioli offers a range of axial piston hydraulic motors integrated with its track, wheel and slew drives. These integrated drives are available in both close and open loop drive series, with option of fixed and dual displacement. These drives are tailor made to suit specific applications and duty conditions. The major drive series include 600WT wheel drives, 700CK / 700XT / 700CT / 700CP track drives and 700TK slew drives.

Are there any emerging technologies or innovations in hydraulic motors that you believe will have a significant impact on the construction equipment industry in India?

One of the major innovations in hydraulic motors that Bonfiglioli is at the forefront, is the integration of hydraulic and mechanical systems



we offer 700CK drives that power whole class of machines ranging from 1 tonne to 120 tonne excavators. This product represents the best solution available today for crawler excavators. Extremely compact, lightweight, efficient, and smooth to operate remain the defining features of the product.

Likewise, Bonfiglioli 700 XT track drive excellently combine proven mechanical systems with ground-breaking hydraulic components, making

sensor and dynamic service brakes along with negative park brakes.

How do you see the adoption of hydraulic motor tech evolving in construction, considering sustainability goals?

We believe the future direction of hydraulic motor technology will be influenced by the same mega trends as electrification and hybridisation, artificial intelligence and autonomous operation, telematics, and diagnostics that are influencing other parts of industry. We expect a shift towards greater electrification and hybridisation of hydraulic systems. This could involve increasing integration with electric motors, energy recovery systems, and advanced energy storage solutions to improve overall efficiency and reduce environmental impact. The use of advanced control algorithms, machine learning, and artificial intelligence could enable autonomous operation and real-time performance optimisation of hydraulic motors in construction equipment. This would lead to enhanced productivity, energy efficiency, and predictive maintenance capabilities. Integration with telematics systems will enable remote monitoring and diagnostics of hydraulic motor performance across construction equipment fleets to optimise operations and maintenance schedules proactively.

Overall, the future direction of hydraulic motor technology in construction equipment will likely involve a combination of electrification, digitisation enhancements for control and analytics capabilities while prioritising sustainability and efficacy improvements.



700CK series



700XT series



600WT series



700TK series

in a single package. This single package combines hydraulic systems having motors with pressure relief and shockless Anti cavitation valves, with mechanical system comprising brakes and transmission elements, combined in a single unit. These units are compact, lightweight and offer ease of installation. They can further be customised to be optimised for specific application, like in case of excavators and mini excavators,

them the best choice for closed-loop applications and demanding construction equipment machines, such as compact track loaders (5.5 to 7.5 tonne), small dozers (5.5 to 7.5 tonne) or pavers (12 to 15 tonne). Among other features these drives have option of hydraulic two positions or electric proportional variable displacement control, zero displacement capacity, mechanical gear disengagement, speed

Scan to read



"OUR FOCUS IS TO PROMOTE HIGH-EFFICIENCY MOTORS AND DRIVES IN TIER 1-3 CITIES."

Sanjeev Arora, President, Motion Business, ABB India, speaks on customised solutions, localised manufacturing, and sustainability drive.

Can you outline ABB India's Motion business product portfolio and its focus on customised offerings, such as segment-focused motors and drives, etc.?

ABB's Motion Business area provides a wide range of products including low and high voltage electric motors and variable frequency drives as well as PLCs, for industries and buildings. Additionally, we offer complete package solutions that incorporate these products seamlessly. For rail and e-mobility segments we offer traction motors, converters, batteries, and battery chargers. We have observed a significant demand and potential in India, which has led us to strengthen our product lines.

Our company has always been customer-centric, and we design our products keeping in mind customer needs and the environment. Additionally, we have introduced our IE4 motors for small ratings tailored for the general-purpose and process industries. This has enhanced our portfolio by offering a comprehensive range of all IE4 motors up to one MW. We have noticed a significant uptake in HVAC systems, as these systems account for 30 per cent of a building's energy consumption. By adopting our motors and drives that run the HVAC system, customers can reduce their energy bills and promote sustainability by consuming lesser energy and emitting fewer carbons.



How significant is the 'Make in India' initiative for ABB India in terms of product localisation? Could you shed light on the company's approach towards technology adoption and innovation within the Indian market?

ABB India with its local manufacturing capability and global technology expertise is committed towards the 'Make in India' goal and significantly contributing to building the nation. We are extremely proud to have been contributed towards sectors such as cement, chemicals, metals, marine power, and mining, etc., where we stand a very good chance of growth. We have the customised our products to serve the market. An example is that we have been product suppliers to the OEMs that are building the Vande Bharat metro expansion projects.

Within the construction equipment segment in India, how do you see the growth?

Driven by the expenditure on infrastructure, the construction equipment industry in India is on an upward trajectory. The industry is gearing up for a significant growth spurt aiming for a 15 per cent YoY increase over the next five years. The industry is estimated to hit \$7.30 billion in 2024 and \$10.90 billion by 2029. The rising demand within the drives and motors for stone crusher and manufacturing sand is reflective of the growth in this segment. There is also larger potential for electrification of the construction equipment with scope for our e-mobility portfolio.

How does ABB India plan to address the increasing demand for higher efficiency motors and drives, particularly in tier 2/3 cities? Are there any specific strategies or initiatives in place to cater to these emerging markets?

The tier 2 and 3 markets in India is growing, also thanks to the entrepreneurs making best use of the eco-system, like raw material, manpower, infrastructure, and policies to cater to the growing local demand and also serve other potential markets. We have witnessed a remarkable 40 per cent growth in our channel partners, with most of them coming from tier 2 and tier 3 cities and is one such testimonial.

We are actively working with our partners and are very optimistic about our prospects especially for the energy efficiency portfolio. As a leading provider of high energy efficiency motors in India, ABB has the necessary supply chain and manufacturing capabilities to support this transition.

Our primary focus is to promote the widespread adoption of high energy efficiency motors and variable speed drives in tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 cities. By providing these solutions to our customers, ABB India aims to empower them to optimise their energy consumption and reduce their carbon footprints. This commitment to sustainable development will be a game-changer, especially as global companies consider sourcing from India.

Energy consumption and plans for reducing carbon footprints will undoubtedly become significant factors, and it is crucial that we prepare ourselves in advance. The buying behaviour of the tier 2 and 3 markets has also changed, now seeking value in terms of energy saving, reliability and service support and ABB with sales offices in tier 2 and 3 cities, channel partners and service partners is well placed to meet this demand.

With the shift from IE2 to IE3/4 motors, how crucial do you believe this transition is in optimising energy savings?

In India, the current Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for motors is IE2 efficiency. IE3 motors have approximately 15 to 20 per cent lower losses than IE2 motors, while IE4 motors have further 15 to 20 per cent lower losses than IE3. IE3 and IE4 motors constitute only around 18 per cent of the total motors manufactured, making the transition to higher-efficiency motors crucial. By replacing IE2 with IE3 as MEPS, savings from one year of production surpass 1 TWh, while IE2

with IE4 could save up to 2.1 TWh.

The potential energy savings from the transition are enormous with significant implications for lighting up villages and cities. This effect makes it urgent to implement and crucial for optimising energy savings. Educating customers about the advantages of these motors and garnering government support to establish efficiency benchmarks will be crucial in achieving these savings. Collaborative endeavors hold huge potential, and it's easy to replace the motors.

How does ABB India prioritise sustainability and energy efficiency in its drives and motors solutions, particularly concerning reducing carbon footprint? In what ways do you perceive motors and drives playing a crucial role in India's journey towards achieving net zero emissions?

ABB is committed to embracing sustainability with a key focus on three pillars: planet, people, and profits. Through a series of impactful sustainability initiatives, we have successfully achieved more than 80 per cent reduction in our scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions compared to our 2019 baseline. Notably, our manufacturing facilities follow eco-friendly practices and are powered by 100 percent renewable electricity and have received platinum or gold certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

We acknowledge the importance of addressing scope 3 emissions and we are joining forces with our stakeholders to ensure their involvement in the sustainability journey. This collective effort contributes to the development of a sustainable industrial ecosystem, reducing carbon footprint and moving towards achieving net zero emissions.

What benefits do you see

digitalisation bringing to both ABB India and its customers in terms of efficiency, maintenance, and performance optimisation?

ABB India aims to enable customers to optimise their energy consumption and reduce carbon footprint. By combining the commitment to energy efficiency solutions, higher adoption of efficient motors and drives, smart factories, digitalisation in the supply chain, and smart products, we aim to position ourselves as a leading provider of cutting-edge motion solutions in the Indian market.

We recognise the pivotal role of digitalisation in overall business growth and aim to leverage collaborations with startups and invest in digital transformation initiatives to strengthen our product portfolio and advance our manufacturing capabilities.

How do you foresee the market for motors and drives evolving in the near future?

The Indian economy has managed to stay strong despite numerous global and geopolitical challenges. The future outlook for growth is optimistic given the infrastructure push in the country, and it's exciting to think about how we can capitalise on this momentum. Our energy efficiency movement started with a vision to optimise energy efficiency and accelerate towards a decarbonised future for all and as the market expands, there will be a greater emphasis on technology, digitisation, and sustainability within the ecosystem.

Digitisation will play an even more important role in driving operational efficiency within the businesses while implementing advanced automation and connected products will surely set the path for the future to achieve enhanced reliability, efficiency, and quality and product performance.



A LEAP TOWARDS CLEANER FUTURE

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Hengst Filtration has unveiled cutting-edge filtration plant in Bengaluru, pioneering sustainable development in India.



Hengst Filtration's newly-inaugurated cutting-edge facility in Yelahanka, Bengaluru.

Hengst Filtration, one of the leading filtration companies from Germany, has unveiled its cutting-edge facility in Yelahanka, Bengaluru. This strategic move aims to address the surging demand for filtration systems in automotive, hydraulics, healthcare, and industrial sectors within the country. With an initial investment of Rs 17 crore allocated towards machinery, IT infrastructure, and warehousing, Hengst Filtration is laying the groundwork for its operations in India. Recognising India's pivotal role as both a key market and a potential export destination, the company is

poised to seize the abundant opportunities present.

Esteemed dignitaries and valued customers, including Rajinder Singh Sachdeva, Chief Operating Officer, VE Commercial Vehicles; B Srinivas, Executive Vice President, Product Strategy & Purchasing, VE Commercial Vehicles; and Rajesh Nath, Managing Director, VDMA India Services, graced the inauguration event, underscoring the significance of this expansion.

Speaking on the sidelines of the inaugural event, **Christopher Heine, Group CEO, Hengst Filtration**, said, "India represents a significant growth opportunity for Hengst Filtration. The

country's expanding economy, coupled with its growing demand for filtration systems across industries, makes it an ideal fit for our expansion plans. We are confident that our innovative solutions that bundle filtration for industry and the environment will be well-received by our Indian customers."

Sandip Mehta, Managing Director, Hengst India said, "We are excited about our latest and most significant expansion into this pivotal market, poised to contribute to reducing emissions in the production environment and enhancing air quality for the people of India. Our substantial investments, totalling around Rs 17 crore, underscore our unwavering

"Hengst sees India as a critical part of its global strategy."

An exclusive interview with Christopher Heine, Group CEO, Hengst Filtration, and Sandip Mehta, Managing Director, Hengst India.

Tell us more about the company. Could you elaborate on Hengst's primary business focus and its vision?

Christopher Heine (CH): Founded 65 years ago by Walter Hengst, an engineer, Hengst Filtration has been at the forefront of developing new filtration technologies.

Maintaining its roots as a family-owned business, it embodies a strong engineering DNA and a commitment to innovation in filtration.

Hengst specialises in filtration solutions across various sectors, including clean water, air purification, and equipment protection. Our vision, "Purifying our Planet", reflects on the commitment to contributing to environmental sustainability and a cleaner planet through innovative filtration technologies. The company's applications range from mobility (including vehicles and fuel cells) to heavy industry (like steel and cement manufacturing), healthcare, and semiconductor manufacturing.

How does the Bengaluru plant align with Hengst's global standards?

Sandip Mehta (SM): The new plant in Bengaluru has been set up with Hengst's global processes in manufacturing, logistics, and quality standards, marking a significant step in their expansion journey. This plant integrates Hengst's global processes in manufacturing, logistics, and other areas. The aim is to extend our legacy and introduce cutting-edge filtration solutions to the Indian market and beyond, contributing positively to the environment and supporting India's development story.



What role does Hengst play in industries beyond mobility, such as energy and heavy industry?

CH: Hengst supplies filtration solutions for energy production, including windmills and gas turbines, and for heavy industries like cement and steel production. Their high-efficiency filters support clean industrial processes

and contribute to reducing air pollution.

How does Hengst contribute to mobility and environmental sustainability?

CH: Hengst offers a range of products for the mobility sector, including oil and fuel filter modules that enhance engine efficiency and reduce CO₂ emissions. Our products support cleaner mobility solutions, including fuel cells for green hydrogen, and air filtration systems for vehicles and ships, contributing to the decarbonisation of transportation.

How does Hengst filtration technology benefit the healthcare and medical sectors?

CH: In healthcare, Hengst develops filters for surgical environments, ensuring clean air and protecting both patients and medical staff from harmful particles and gases during procedures. Their med-tech segment focuses on innovative solutions for maintaining high purity standards in medical facilities.

What are the future directions for Hengst in terms of tech and innovation in filtration?

SM: Hengst is focused on advancing filtration technology across various sectors, including the mobility sector's shift towards decarbonisation, healthcare

innovations, and addressing the challenges of climate neutrality and urbanisation. Our aim is to develop solutions that meet the increasing demands for clean air, water, and environmental sustainability.

How does Hengst view its role and opportunities in India, considering its expansion into Bengaluru?

SM: Hengst sees India as a critical part of its global strategy, with the Bengaluru plant being its first fully owned subsidiary in the country. The expansion aligns with India's growth story and its needs for advanced filtration solutions in various sectors, from industrial and automotive to healthcare and environmental protection.

The company already sources components from India for global use and plans to expand its export activities.

India's manufacturing competitiveness makes it an ideal hub for producing and exporting various products, particularly in mobility and other sectors Hengst operates in. This strategy reflects Hengst's intention to utilise India not just as a market, but as a key global manufacturing base.

Can you discuss the importance of R&D in Hengst's strategy and how it supports innovation in filtration technology?

CH: R&D plays a pivotal role in Hengst's strategy, focusing on developing new materials and methods to enhance filtration efficiency while reducing energy consumption. Through continuous innovation in filtration media and technologies, Hengst aims to lead the industry in offering solutions that meet the evolving needs of global markets and environmental standards.

dedication to India's progress. From automotive to medical technology, our mission is unequivocal: to mitigate emissions, safeguard machinery, and elevate air quality. Each of our products acts as a catalyst for positive change, fostering a cleaner, greener planet. With our diverse portfolio deeply intertwined with India's thriving sectors, we're fully dedicated to nurturing its trajectory of growth. The inauguration of our new facility at Yelahanka symbolises our steadfast commitment to establishing a robust foothold in the Indian market."

"India boasts exceptional manufacturing prowess and a skilled workforce, which will not only enable us to cater to the domestic market but also to expand into international markets. We anticipate making a significant impact through our partnerships in India and leveraging the nation's potential for global outreach," Sandip further added.

Spanning across 36,000 sq ft, the Yelahanka facility will manufacture a diverse range of products across multiple verticals, exemplifying Hengst's long-term growth strategy for India. This plant stands as a beacon of sustainability, constructed using reusable plastics to reduce carbon emissions, thus positioning it as a



Rajinder Singh Sachdeva, Chief Operating Officer, VE Commercial Vehicles, inaugurating the Yelahanka facility.

forward-looking factory.

Hengst Filtration prioritises sustainability through its filtration solutions, which contribute to environmental protection, resource efficiency, and improved quality of life. By purifying air and liquids, these solutions reduce pollutant emissions and enhance indoor air quality. Optimised for minimal air resistance, Hengst filters lower energy consumption and extend equipment lifespan. The company is committed to achieving zero emissions from fossil fuel combustion

and sourcing 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2030, aligning with its environmental responsibility goals.

As a family-owned company, Hengst Filtration stands for innovative filtration solutions in filtration and fluid management worldwide. With our products we work towards the goal of making the planet a cleaner place. Hengst Filtration is a family company founded in 1958 in Münster, Germany. With more than 3,500 employees at 23 locations worldwide, it develops innovative solutions in filtration and fluid management.



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ABB India turns half of its manufacturing locations 'water positive'

ABB India announced that its Peenya campus in Bengaluru has been certified water positive by the Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council. With this, three out of its six manufacturing locations are now 'water positive'. Their Peenya campus has a water positivity index of 1.05, demonstrating its contribution towards replenishing a much greater quantity of water for the environment than withdrawals for its manufacturing facilities. Previously, the Nelamangala campus and Nashik Plant 1 had received a 'water positive' certification from the GRIHA Council, in association with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).



In place of simply replacing the amount of water taken from the environment, the company implemented a systematic approach towards 'Water Positivity' to replenish more water than it consumes at these locations. The approach includes initiatives such as rainwater use and recharge, reduction in the use of freshwater, water recycling, and real-time monitoring of water consumption, recharge, and saving.

Uno Minda, StarCharge tie-up to produce EV supply equipment

Uno Minda, a supplier of proprietary automotive systems and solutions to OEMs, has entered into a Technical License Agreement with Starcharge Energy (StarCharge) to manufacture and sell EVSE in India. The EVSE comprises wall-mounted AC chargers designed for convenient home charging. These chargers are usually sold along with electric vehicles to the customers by the OEMs to provide ease of charging at home. With this partnership Uno Minda further builds up on its EV-specific product portfolio for the passenger car market.

Donaldson to showcase range of dust collectors



Donaldson India Filtration Systems celebrates the grand opening of its new experience centre in Pune. Showcasing Donaldson's unwavering dedication to innovation, the state-of-the-art facility ushers in a new era of digitally empowered filtration solutions. The experience centre provides a unique opportunity for Indian customers to experience live demonstrations of a range of Donaldson dust collectors along with iCue Connected Filtration Service, an IoT-based technology to remotely monitor dust collection equipment performance.

Goodyear introduces RL-5K heavy-duty OTR tyre

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company has introduced its latest innovation in Off-the-Road (OTR) tyres with the debut of the three-star RL-5K. Tailored for large wheel loaders and wheel dozers, the RL-5K promises enhanced load capacity and durability, catering to the demands of heavy-duty applications.

Designed specifically in the 45/65R45 tire size, the RL-5K incorporates cutting-edge technology to withstand high air pressure, resulting in a remarkable 16 per cent increase in load-carrying capacity. This advancement is set to revolutionise performance in severe underfoot conditions.

Loic Ravasio, General Manager of Global & Americas OTR at Goodyear, emphasised the tire's evolution to meet the growing demands of the market. "The RL-5K design has been updated to meet the increasing customer need for larger wheel loaders that meet the specifications of the newer vehicles entering the market," Ravasio stated.

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Bridgestone MEA to expand 'Guarantee Plus' programme into new markets

Bridgestone has continued to expand the reach of its Guarantee Plus program into key markets in the Middle East and Africa region. This strategic move aims to provide consumers in the region with access to top-notch maintenance and repair solutions, underscoring Bridgestone's commitment to customer satisfaction and sustainable mobility.

Guarantee Plus programme is a comprehensive tyre warranty solution that provides peace of mind to consumers by offering free puncture repairs and tyre replacements annually per vehicle. The program provides value-added services and additional support, ensuring the safety of



Bridgestone's diverse consumer base while prioritising sustainable production and consumption of its extensive tyre products. Leveraging cutting-edge technologies, this initiative aligns seamlessly with

Bridgestone's E8 Commitment, emphasising sustainability and innovation in every facet of its operations. With Guarantee Plus programme, Bridgestone has increased sales and improved Share of Business within OEM service workshops along with enhancing consumer happiness, thereby differentiating itself in the automotive market. The company ensures more value for the end-user at the same cost.

JK Tyre honoured with ICC Social Impact Award

JK Tyre & Industries received recognition for their water conservation endeavours at the 6th Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Social Impact Awards 2024, hosted in Kolkata. In the Clean Water and Sanitation category, JK Tyre's Water Conservation Project stood out as the undisputed winner, as acknowledged by the jury. The award was presented by Dr CV Ananda Bose, Governor of West Bengal, to BS Dagar, Head IR & CSR, JK Tyre & Industries.

JK Tyre has undertaken water conservation initiatives in the villages adjacent to its manufacturing facilities, empowering local communities to achieve water self-sufficiency.

ION Mobility drives electrification of urban mobility

Siemens Digital Industries Software announced that ION Mobility has used the Siemens Xcelerator portfolio of software and services to bring its breakthrough ION M1-S electric motorbike to market, which will help accelerate the electrification of mobility in Southeast Asia. ION Mobility is an auto-tech company on a mission to create and deliver affordable, desirable, and sustainable mobility for everyone. It offers 150 km range, 4.3 kWh capacity with a less than 3-hours recharge time.

DICV CY2023 business performance best-ever

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), the wholly-owned subsidiary of Daimler Truck AG, announced that in CY2023 it has achieved record sales and revenue performance. The company's CY2023 domestic truck and bus sales grew by 39 per cent and revenue grew by 21 per cent over 2022. DICV's bus volumes doubled in CY2023, growing 107 per cent over 2022. Its cumulative sales (including domestic and exports) from January to December 2023 grew by 13 per cent and its parts business grew by more than 21 per cent over CY2022.



In January 2023, DICV had transitioned its entire BharatBenz truck and bus portfolio to comply with OBD-II regulations, with a sharper focus on reducing total cost of ownership, increasing the productivity of its trucks and offering industry-leading service intervals in India.



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JCB, LEICA UNVEIL ADVANCED EXCAVATOR CONTROL SOLUTIONS

JCB and Leica Geosystems have joined forces to introduce cutting-edge excavator control solutions, dubbed Intelligrade, directly from the factory, providing both 2D and 3D capabilities.

Commencing this month, Intelligrade will debut on the JCB 220X tracked excavator, catering initially to customers in the United Kingdom. However, the rollout is scheduled to extend across the entire JCB X Series lineup and into other global regions.

These factory-fitted machine control solutions offer a semi-automated configuration, enhancing productivity, precision, and safety by automating crucial functions such as boom, bucket, and tiltrotator control, thus minimizing human error.

The 2D system operates within predefined site plans, furnishing real-time guidance for fundamental grading and leveling tasks.

For added flexibility, customers have the option to select the 3D-ready feature, enabling future upgrades to full 3D functionality. Upgrading to the 3D version can be seamlessly accomplished through contacting local Leica dealers, who will handle the



installation and calibration either at a JCB dealership or on-site.

Paul Swallow, JCB's business head for excavators, emphasizes the commitment to innovation within the X Series range, asserting that this advancement will usher in heightened efficiency and reduced operational costs. Moreover, operators can expect elevated precision in their tasks, thus maintaining consistently high standards on construction sites. The integration of Intelligrade also diminishes the necessity for additional

surveyors on-site, ultimately enhancing safety protocols.

Tommi Kauppinen, Vice President of Heavy Construction, Machine Control Field Solutions at Leica Geosystems, underscores the collaborative effort aimed at seamlessly integrating user-friendly machine control technology into JCB's excavators. This integration empowers customers to operate more efficiently, safely, and achieve optimal outcomes, capitalizing on the strengths and expertise of both companies.

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VOLVO UNVEILS NEW 50-T EC500 STRAIGHT-BOOM EXCAVATOR

Volvo Construction Equipment recently debuted its latest addition to the demolition excavator lineup, the EC500 Straight Boom, at the National Demolition Association Show.

This robust 50-ton crawler excavator is a variation of the standard EC500 model introduced at ConExpo 2023. However, it boasts a distinctive 25.5-foot straight boom, providing a remarkable 30 per cent increase in pin height compared to its counterpart with the standard boom configuration.

Enhanced with a purpose-built arm and a significantly heavier 6,610-pound counterweight for heightened stability, the EC500 Straight Boom is designed to tackle sizable demolition projects with ease. Notably, Volvo has engineered a hydraulic feature for effortless removal of the counterweight when transitioning between sites, adding a layer of convenience for operators.

Tony den Hoed, Volvo CE's director of demolition strategic accounts, highlighted the significance of the EC500 straight boom in expanding Volvo's offerings for large-scale demolition endeavors.

He emphasised its role as a complementary option to the existing high-reach models and the range of 14-tonne to 95-tonne standard excavators, all equipped with demolition-specific guarding and hydraulic enhancements.

The EC500 straight boom is fortified with heavy-duty features tailored to withstand the demanding conditions of demolition work. These include reinforced boom and bucket cylinder protection, a comprehensive track guard, a robust undercover and belly cover, and a sturdy side-impact-protection structure.

Incorporating an updated demolition-specific cab,

Volvo prioritises operator safety with features such as a rollover protection system and frame-mounted falling-object guards, shielding against potential hazards from debris. The cab's construction includes half-inch thick, high-impact resistant single-piece glass for both the roof and front windows, accompanied by standard washers and wipers for clear visibility. Furthermore, the front window guards are designed for easy swinging out to facilitate cleaning.

Inside the cab, operators benefit from a range of amenities, including a high-definition Co-Pilot screen, keyless start, wired and wireless smartphone charging capabilities, and a new work mode switch, all contributing to an enhanced working environment.

In terms of operation, the next-generation EC500 features electric joysticks that enable independent control of hydraulic pumps, allowing operators to manipulate the boom separately without affecting track speeds. Volvo emphasises that this not only improves safety but also ensures a smoother operational experience for users.



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DEERE INTRODUCES TELESCOPIC COMPACT WHEEL LOADER

The realm of compact wheel loaders is witnessing rapid growth, and John Deere is expanding its Performance Tiering lineup with the introduction of the new 326 P-Tier telescopic compact wheel loader.

Luke Gribble, Deere's go-to-market manager, underscores the appeal of the 326 P-Tier for owners and operators, citing its impressive reach, flexibility, and lift capacity. Gribble asserts, "Operators will appreciate its cab visibility, precise boom controls, and the exclusive Articulation Plus steering system.

the Load Torque Indicator system issues visual and audio alerts concerning the stability and movement of the lift arm if capacity limits are exceeded. In case of stability

constraints, movement of the lift arm is restricted until the load is reduced. Additionally, a separate indicator warns of potential overload of the tilt cylinder.

"These features enhance the confidence and ease of operation of the 326 P-Tier, making it one of the most operator-friendly wheel loaders available," remarks Gribble. "It's particularly beneficial for nurturing less-experienced operators, facilitating skill development."

The cabins of the new loaders are

designed for comfort and ease of navigation, equipped with all essential features for efficient lifting and loading operations. Notable features include a 9-inch touchscreen display providing crucial information at a glance. The customisable display presents vital data, warnings, status updates, and machine positioning, empowering operators to tailor the display and machine functionality to suit specific tasks.

Altogether, the 326 P-Tier embodies versatility."

At its core, the 326 P-tier telescopic compact wheel loader offers over 16 feet of reach with its telescopic lift arm, enabling access to elevated areas on job sites while maintaining a compact footprint suitable for

confined spaces. The telescoping arm's extension and retraction are seamlessly controlled via the mini joystick located on the main control lever; ensuring operators can adjust without interrupting their primary controls.

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CONVEYOR

**1 | Gujarat State Electricity Corporation**

Details: Tenders are invited for Wanakbori thermal power station, supply of various size and types of conveyor belt rollers for coal handling plant, WTPS.

Submission date: April 18, 2024

Location: Kheda, Gujarat

Contact: Chief Engineer [C&O], Wanakbori Thermal Power Station, Ta: Galteshwar,

Dist: Kheda-388239, Gujarat. **Email:** wtps.ceg@gebmail.com, www.gsecl.in

2 | Karnataka Power Corporation

Details: Tenders are invited for annual maintenance contract of repair to nylon /nylon conveyor belts of various sizes by cold jointing process at CHP-1 RTPS.

Submission date: April 22, 2024

Location: Raichur, Karnataka | **Tender value (Rs):** 17,998,474

Contact: Chief Engineer(Fuel Management), Raichur Thermal Power Station(RTPS), Shakthinagar, Raichur-584170, Karnataka. Mob: 09483819176

3 | Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India

Details: Tenders are invited for procurement of different type of coupling conveyor belt.

Submission date: April 9, 2024

Location: Narmadapuram, Madhya Pradesh

Contact: Balbir Singh Prajapati, Narmadapuram, Madhya Pradesh

CRANE

**4 | Western Railway**

Details: Tenders are invited for Preventative maintenance and repair/overhaul of eight-wheeler tower wagons/wagon mounted rail crane under construction unit of Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Baroda and Bhavnagar divisions for three years.

Submission date: April 12, 2024

Location: Ahmedabad, Gujarat | **Tender value (Rs):** 24,057,948

Contact: Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer-C, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

5 | South Eastern Railway

Details: Tenders are invited for supply of EOT crane 25 t, 35 t, and 50 t

Submission date: April 25, 2024 | **Location:** Ranchi, Jharkhand

Contact: Principal Chief Materials Manager, Ranchi, Jharkhand

6 | NMDC

Details: Tenders are invited for Dismantling and replacement of existing crane grider middle bay at dumper platform for increasing the height of dumper opening at Diom

Submission date: April 10, 2024

Location: Diom, Karnataka

Tender value (Rs): 4,885,687

Contact: General Manager (IE & Contracts), Donimalai Complex, Donimalai Township – PO -Sandur – Taluk, Ballari-583118, Karnataka. **Tel:** 08395-274628

7 | Irrigation Department, Government of Punjab

Details: Tenders are invited for supply of earthmoving tyre fitted hydraulic crane (Q3).

Submission date: April 9, 2024

Location: Multiple, Punjab

Contact: Manish Kumar-FACAO, Ranjit Sagar Dam Project, Department of Water Resources, Punjab

8 | Tamil Nadu Electricity Board

Details: Tenders are invited for supply erection testing and commissioning of 3t capacity EOT crane for chlorination plant at cooling water pump house ii including hoist runway girder.

Submission date: April 17, 2024

Location: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

Contact: Chief Engineer, Tuticorin Thermal Power Station, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

9 | Indore Nagar Parishad

Details: Tenders are invited for supply of civil materials and laying and providing of 3dx jcb, pocklain machine, dumper and tractor trolly with labour for different places of Nagar Rau

Submission date: April 13, 2024

Location: Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Contact: CMO, Nagar Parishad, Rau distt. Indore, Madhya Pradesh | **Email:** cmodepalpur@mpurban.gov.in

10 | Urban Development and Environment Department Madhya Pradesh

Details: Tenders are invited for twin bin dumper placer product and material transport (Q3)

Submission date: April 12, 2024 |

Location: Begamganj, Madhya Pradesh

Contact: Mahendra Kumar Vishwakarma, Nagar Palika Parishad, Begumganj-464881, Madhya Pradesh. T: 07487-272617

11 | Urban Development and Environment Department Madhya Pradesh

Details: Tenders are invited for supply of hopper tipper dumper (V2)

Submission date: April 11, 2024

Location: Pipla Narayanwar, Madhya Pradesh

Contact: Jay Prakash Rajak-CMO, Nagar Parishad Pipla Narayanwar, Madhya Pradesh

EXCAVATOR**12 | South Eastern Coalfields**

Details: Tenders are invited for procurement of hydraulic pumps and hydraulic motors suitable for BEML make hydraulic excavator model BE-300LC and BE1000-1 and 70 KL water sprinkler model BWS70 through OEM/OPM/OES only.

Submission date: April 11, 2024 | **Location:** Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

Tender value (Rs): 29,113,331

Contact: General Manager (MM)-HOD, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

13 | Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Details: Tenders are invited for procurement of two amphibious excavator with long boom

Submission date: April 12, 2024

Location: Delhi, Delhi |

Tender value (Rs): 78,181,044

Contact: Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division No. I. I&FC Deptt., Near DTC Depot Nangloi, Delhi-110041, Delhi

14 | Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation

Details: Tenders are invited for supply, commissioning and delivery of hydraulic excavator for SWM Department under Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation.

Submission date: April 13, 2024

Location: Bidhannagar, West Bengal

Contact: Executive Engineer, Poura Bhawan, FD - 415A, Sector - III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700106, West Bengal | **Email:** bidhannagar.corporation@gmail.com

FORKLIFT**15 | Indian Oil Corporation**

Details: Tenders are invited for non comprehensive annual maintenance contract of Voltas make 06 nos Forklift at BDFP Panipat marketing complex for three years.

Submission date: April 18, 2024

Location: Panipat, Haryana | **Tender value (Rs):** 465,623

Contact: Vinay Kumar, Panipat Marketing Complex, Village-Baholi, Panipat, Haryana

16 | Urban Development Department Chhattisgarh

Details: Tenders are invited for supply of backhoe loader (q3)

Submission date: April 15, 2024

Location: Mungeli, Chhattisgarh

Contact: CMO, Mungeli, Chhattisgarh

17 | Jamnagar Municipal Corporation

Details: Tenders are invited for comprehensive O&M contract for three backhoe loader machine for three years as per tender terms and conditions.

Submission date: April 15, 2024

Location: Jamnagar, Gujarat

Tender value (Rs): 15,700,000

Contact: Commissioner, Jubilee Garden, Jamnagar, Gujarat. **Tel:** 0288-2550231-235

18 | Urban Development Department Karnataka

Details: Tenders are invited for Supply of tractor mountable front end loader (Q3)

Submission date: April 15, 2024

Location: Ballari, Karnataka

Contact: Commissioner, Ballari City Corporation, Ballari-583101, Karnataka



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For more details contact:
Info@FIRSTinfocentre.org

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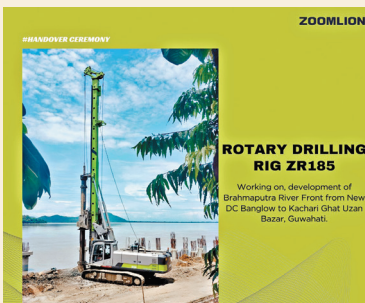
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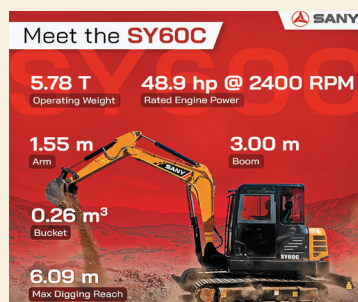


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One of the mantras to be competitive in the capital goods sector is by shortening the supply chain lines and involving more MSME partners. Deepak Shetty, Chairman, CII National Committee on Capital Goods & Engineering, and MD & CEO, JCB India Ltd at CII Seminar on #CapitalGoods.

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