

DRYCOTEC DIARIES

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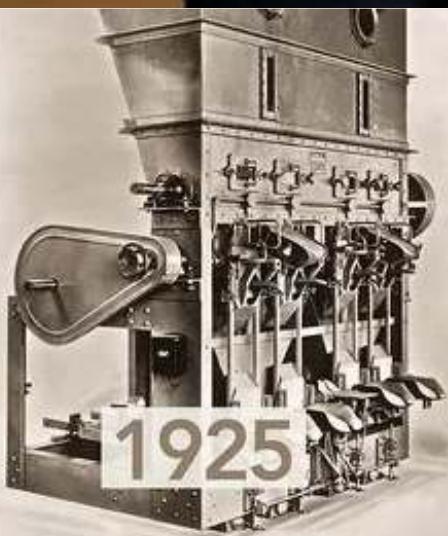


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Benefits : Gypsum

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Thickening
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Application Speed



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* Benefits are also dependent on quality of ingredients, formulation and optimisation of blend.



Editor's Page



As we enter the aircraft, a thought comes to mind that this article, which I am writing just now may never see the light of the day if the words "Mayday Mayday" fall on our ears. So, if you are reading it, obviously, it was a safe flight & we did not land in some hostel buildings.

Why does the best technology produce disastrous results?, Let us talk in air, about aircrafts and some interesting facts about different modes of travel.

It begins with the R101 airship crash in 1930, (48 lives) and was a big eye opener towards many parameters. In 1977, a collision between two Boeing 747s on a foggy runway in Canary Islands generated 583 fatalities, probably the largest accident. The iconic Concorde, renowned for its supersonic capabilities, suffered a catastrophic accident in Paris, killing 113 people.

The infamous disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 is a mystery. The aircraft, 239 passengers & crew, just vanished. (Kuala Lumpur to Beijing). Despite extensive searches, its wreckage has never been fully recovered.

A whopping 4000 Crores, is the net payout of Insurance in the latest Air India (Ahmedabad – London) crash. The black box headed for the factory. In addition, the TATAs declared 1 crore to the family of the deceased & one of the families offered them two crores to give them back their loved ones. For most of the passengers on board to London, 1 Cr would not matter at all.

Now the sea route. The big ship MV Wilhelm Gustloff (1945) – Over 9,400 deaths, the deadliest maritime disaster in history. The Doña Paz (1987) – A Philippine ferry collided with an oil tanker, killing over 4,300 people. The infamous tragedy of RMS Titanic (1912) – Sank on its maiden voyage, resulting in 1,500+ deaths. Le Joola (2002) – A Senegalese ferry, 1,864 people.

What about the train ?, Odisha Train Collision (June 2023), Involving the Coromandel Express, Howrah–SMVT Bengaluru Express, and a goods train near Balasore, Odisha. Nearly 300 people died and over 900 were injured. Kanchanjunga Express Collision (June 2024), a freight train rammed into the Kanchanjunga Express near New Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, many fatalities.

An aeroplane, a train & a ship, these all are bundles of energy. Both kinetic & potential energies. Ready to carry a large mass of people & materials across great distances. If misused can turn the same energy into destruction. They are actually potentially a bomb carrying litres of flammables.

So how do we travel ?, which is the safe one ?, should we select only the emergency exit seat ?, is it okay to walk the world ?, is it better to take the bicycle?,

Don't think too much, just travel. Life will end if it has to & you will be on 11A emergency seat if it is not the end for you. Bon voyage !!!

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My HR Diaries : Why Industry-Academia Co-Creation is the Future of Higher Education



Dr. S B Hegde can be introduced as Professor, Ex President - Manufacturing (Cement Industry), Global Consultant / Advisor, Domain Expert in Cement in International Bodies and Recipient of the prestigious "Global Visionary Award" (2020). He is a Seasoned, Global and Accomplished Cement Industry Professional, 3 decades of experience with demonstrated history of working both in and outside India.

The Problem

One of the biggest problems in higher education today is the gap between what students are taught and what the industry actually needs. Technology is changing fast, and many college courses are not keeping up. As a result, students graduate with degrees but often lack job-ready skills.

The Solution

Stronger collaboration between colleges and industry—working together to create learning that is current, practical, and future-ready. This idea of co-creation is already working well around the world. At Stanford University, over 60% of research is done with companies. Big names like HP, Tesla, and VMware don't just recruit there—they work closely with students and professors on live projects.

In Germany, students in the dual education system spend part of their time in the classroom and part in real industry jobs. Over 100,000 students follow this model every year—and most get job offers before they graduate.

In India, the need is even greater. According to the India Skills Report 2024, only 46 out of every 100 graduates are considered employable by the industry. Yet, India will need around 250 million skilled people by 2030. That's a huge gap to fill!!

Thankfully, some Indian institutions are showing the way: IIT Madras has signed over 200 agreements with industries, and even launched a dedicated center for innovation and entrepreneurship.

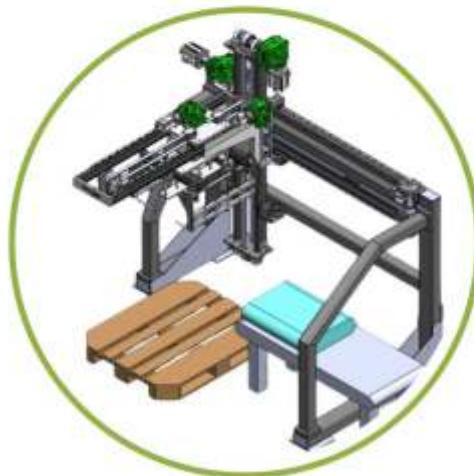
BITS Pilani runs a unique model where every student works in a company during two full semesters as part of their regular course.

In Karnataka, the K-Tech innovation hubs are working with 80+ colleges to create job-ready programs in areas like AI, cybersecurity, and mechatronics. The AICTE Internship Portal, working with 18,000+ companies, has already helped over 1.5 million students get internships.

These efforts are making a real difference. Students gain experience. Teachers stay updated. Companies get skilled talent. And learning becomes more useful and engaging. But there's still a long way to go. It's time for all colleges to open their doors wider—to invite industry experts into classrooms, to redesign curriculum together, to create joint research and mentorship programs.

As per India's National Education Policy (NEP 2020), flexibility and industry linkages are key to improving quality and employability. We now need to put that vision into action. Because in the future, the best colleges won't just be the ones with smart buildings—they'll be the ones with strong bridges between classrooms and companies.

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My Safety Diaries : Sanjay Chitnis : Earthquakes & Measures



Sanjay Chitnis, Retired Sr. Vice President (Technical Services), JK Lakshmi cement Ltd. has almost four decades of experience in the field of cement. He is an engineer from the COEP college in Pune, has done his MDI program from Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow & Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. He has also done his MBA from Annamalai University.

The national Seismic Zone Map presents a largescale view of the seismic zones in the country. Local variations in soil type and geology cannot be represented at that scale. Therefore, for important projects, such as a major dam or a nuclear power plant, the seismic hazard is evaluated specifically for that site. By knowing the longitude and latitude of the location, the Seismic Zone Map of India can be used to determine the Seismic Zone in which the location is located.

POINTS WHICH NEED ATTENTION :-

Buildings with simple, regular geometry and uniform distribution of mass and stiffness (both in plan and elevation) are less susceptible to damage during earthquakes than buildings with irregular configurations. To minimize seismic damage, efforts should be made to eliminate or mitigate irregularities by modifying architectural planning and structural configurations.

- Buildings with higher aspect ratio (length > 3 times width elongated shape) are more vulnerable to seismic forces than square shaped building.
- Square or rectangular plan shaped buildings ensures least damage during the strong earthquake ground shaking.
- Square plans are better than rectangular plans, because they are structurally efficient.
- Rectangular plans are better than L-shaped plans. Alternately, the building L-shaped in plan can be made of two separate rectangular units with a connecting flexible junction.
- The commonly used plan shapes (like T, L and C) with non-rectangular plan are functionally convenient but structurally poor.
- Soil testing is to be done to know the physical characteristics of soil/ rock at the site, water table depth . Wet, soft soils should be avoided. (Soft-Those soils, which have allowable bearing capacity less than or equal to 10 t/m²)
- Engineer to decide type & depth of foundation.
- Provide proper drainage around the building to discharge the storm water.
- Do not build on
 - a) Hill slopes that are likely to slide
 - b) Steep hills with slopes more than 30°
 - c) Natural waterways

- Openings in walls should be kept to a minimum in number and size.
- Keep minimum openings in walls especially at ground floor.
- Long walls should be supported by reinforced concrete columns.
- Using reinforced concrete in critical structural elements, such as walls and columns, can enhance strength and stability.
- Buildings with floating columns & set back columns perform poorly.
- The building having each floor at exactly the same height and all the columns on an even grid spacing, will perform better in an earthquake.

From large-scale “dampers,” which swing like pendulums inside skyscrapers, to systems of springs or ball bearings allowing buildings to sway independent of their foundations, technology has progressed. Important critical structures, are on these rubber (bearings) so that the building itself can sway.

THE IDEA IS LET THE BUILDING MOVE WITH EARTH.

Base isolation is one of the most powerful tools of earthquake engineering pertaining to the passive structural vibration control technologies. The isolation can be obtained by the use of various techniques like rubber bearings, friction bearings, ball bearings, spring systems and other means.

Base isolation units consist of Linear-motion bearings that allow the building to move, oil dampers that absorb the forces generated by the movement of the building, and laminated rubber bearings that allow the building to return to its original position when the earthquake has ended.

SOME EXAMPLES

More awareness is generated after Bhuj earthquake 2001. As per my knowledge, district hospital constructed post 2001 Bhuj earthquake incorporating lead rubber bearing system.

Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital (New Ward Block) located in Delhi's Trans Yamuna area, was constructed with base isolation technology to reduce the transmission of earthquake motions to the structure.

The largest base-isolated building in the world officially opened in earthquake-prone Istanbul, Turkey, on May 21, 2020. The 1-million-sm, \$1.5 billion Basaksehir Cam and Sakura City Hospital, located near the North Anatolian fault of the Europe side of this city, features 2,068 seismic isolators.

Taller buildings have lower natural frequencies and may experience more significant ground motion during earthquakes. Tall buildings cannot be base-isolated or they would overturn. Being very flexible compared to low-rise buildings, their horizontal displacement needs to be controlled. This can be achieved by the use of Dampers, which absorb a good part of the energy making the displacement tolerable.

The 42 is a residential skyscraper in Kolkata. The tower being very slender, it naturally sways quite a bit when there is heavy wind pressure or earthquake. A tuned liquid damper (TLD) tank was constructed at 246m, on the top most floor of the building. The TLD tank consists of two tanks, one atop the other separated by an intermediate baffle wall of 50% porosity. These tanks are filled with 120 tonne water. If the tower moves in a cyclone or earthquake, the water contained within the tank sloshes in the opposite direction of the tower's movement due to rules of inertia. The load of the tank at the top of the tower thus compensates for the sway of the building.



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Eirich Mixers : Making of UHPC

The Magazine CPI Worldwide has published the research work of two Germany researchers, Peter Lieblang of Fachhochschule Köln, Germany & Daniel Ringwelski, Tillman B. V. Construction Chemicals, The Netherlands

In the entire paper we, have focused on the mixing technology from Eirich & have given the same in this article.

OTHER MIXERS

Mixing means nothing other than placing a system consisting of many particles in a state of the greatest possible disorder. Different types of mixer are used for this purpose in the manufacture of concrete. Commonest are the variants designated according to DIN 459-1 as pan mixer, ring pan mixer and trough mixer. With these types the actual mixing process takes place by means of fast relative movements between the mixture and the mixing tool. Due to the design, relative movements take place at the same time between the mixture and the mixing vessel. Intensive mixers on the other hand have an inclined mixing vessel, wall-floor scrapers and eccentrically arranged agitators.

EIRICH MIXERS

Unlike the aforementioned mixer types, in the intensive mixer the mixture is transported upwards by static friction in the inclined mixing pan and falls back down again by the force of gravity. This coarse mixing process is additionally assisted by the scraper and feeds the mixture to the mixing tool. The fine mixing is accomplished by the agitator immersed in the mixture. As a result, material streams develop with a high difference in speed between the mixture and the mixing tool, without the occurrence of significant friction losses between the mixture and the mixing vessel. This circumstance is important when the power consumption of the mixer is increased, because the total energy that is input can be split up into two portions as products of power and time. These are on the one hand the work expended in order to overcome the 'internal friction', i.e. for the actual mixing of the raw materials, and on the other the work required to overcome the 'external friction', i.e. the loss between the mixture and the wall of the vessel.

Types of mixer in which a pronounced relative displacement occurs between mixture and vessel wall exhibit a non-linear correlation between the applied power and the mixing effect. On the other hand an increased power consumption in the case of intensive mixers with agitator and driven mixing vessel leads directly to an increase in the mixing effect due to the practically non-existent exterior friction, so that an approximately linear correlation between the power consumption and the applied mixing energy into the mixture can be assumed.

MAKING OF UHPC

Concrete composition (1.0 m ³)			
Materials name	Mass [kg/m ³]	Gross density [kg/dm ³]	Volume [dm ³ /m ³]
CEM I 52,5 R-HS/NA	832,0	3,10	268,4
Water	166,0	1,00	166,0
Quartz powder	199,0	2,65	75,1
Microsilica	128,0	2,35	54,5
Air void	0,0	0,00	40,0
Liquefier (PCE)	35,0	1,10	31,8
Basalt sand 0/2	1056,1	2,90	364,2
Total	2416,1	—	1000,00



TYPES OF AGITATORS & THEIR EFFECTS (TIME & ELECTRICITY USED)



Mixtures	Tool	Speed (~ Power) [m/s]	Criterion	Time [sec]	Energy [kWh]
1	Pin	5,3/0,7	Time	375	0,403
2	Pin	2,6/0,4	Time	374	0,247
3	Pin	7,9/1,1	Time	378	0,581
4	Star	5,3/0,7	Time	373	0,309
5	Star	2,6/0,4	Time	371	0,178
6	Star	7,9/1,1	Time	374	0,454
7	Pin	5,3/0,7	Energy	512	0,521
8	Pin	7,9/1,1	Energy	195	0,355
9	Star	5,3/0,7	Energy	528	0,523
10	Star	7,9/1,1	Energy	258	0,349
11	Star	5,3/0,7	Energy	502	0,399
12	Star	7,9/1,1	Energy	188	0,272
13	Pin	5,3/0,7	Energy	407	0,417
14	Pin	7,9/1,1	Energy	148	0,284
15	Pin	5,3/0,7	Time	702	0,671
16	Star	5,3/0,7	Time	702	0,534

IN SUMMARY

In this study the effect of mixing on the fresh and hardened concrete properties of UHPC was investigated. Attention was thereby mainly paid to the fresh concrete temperature, slump flow and compressive strength. The investigations show a linear correlation between the amount of mixing energy that is applied and the slump flow. Hence it is possible, using an intensive mixer, to adjust the consistency of a UHPC recipe with the aid of the amount of mixing energy that is applied. The mixing tool or mixing time employed is of minor importance. The interactions between power consumption, mixing time, fresh concrete temperature and consistency have not yet been investigated. There is still need for explanation here. In addition, the results obtained so far give rise to the assumption that the mixing process is of no great importance for the strength or strength development of UHPC. However, this assumption must be confirmed by further tests.

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Drycotec Diaries is happy to have a very senior author & expert **William Gilchrist** write for us. Mr. Gilchrist is a mortar & concrete professional with more than three decades of experience. He is based in Coventry, West Midlands, United Kingdom. Since the last ten years, he is working with Colton Precast, head quartered at Birmingham. In this article, he speaks about the history of Adhesives. This is a very unique & interesting topic. I am sure the readers will enjoy it.

HISTORY OF ADHESIVES

By definition an adhesive is any non-metallic substance applied to both surfaces of two separate items that binds them together resisting separation. A "sticky" afterthought, the earliest "adhesive" could this have been developed three billion years ago? A byproduct, or a mistake of human evolution, who knows.

Primordial cells produce a tacky outer membrane allowing them to stick to adjacent cells forming colonies. The first human use of adhesives dates back to 200,000 BC the Middle Pleistocene era. Neanderthals produced tars from the dry distillation of birch bark for use in binding stone tools to wooden handles. This birch-bark-tar is relatively easy to produce, involving burning the birch bark near smooth vertical surfaces in open air conditions. The first use of a compound plant-based adhesives was in 70,000 BC in Sibudu South Africa. This mixture of plant gum and red ochre (Iron oxide) produces a stronger product. The iron oxide prevents the adhesive from disintegrating in wet conditions.

Tree resins were used as adhesives by Neolithic man as early as 6000 years ago in the repairing of clay pots used in ancient burial rites. Again, adhesives occur garnered from nature. The Egyptians used animal glues to bind artifacts together these were found in the tomb of King Tut. The human word first made known the use of adhesives around 200 BC. Sources were very detailed including materials and how to produce various adhesives.

The use of adhesives was very prevalent during the Roman and Greek Empires. Veneering and marquetry were discovered by who Roman or Greek? The Romans were never discoverers of new technology rather they adapted new technologies to their own needs. Putting it more bluntly, they stole them from other civilisations. Veneering and marquetry were solely a Greek invention, a technique to bind thin layers of wood with adhesive or the placing of precious materials (e.g. gold leaf) in a thin surface layer using an adhesive comprising of egg whites. The commonly used adhesive between the fall of the Roman Empire ad WW1 were created from animal tissue, hooves and hides. This jelly is cooked, dried and stored in powder form. In 1910 Cellulose Nitrate adhesive was patented, the first plastic compound.

Technical innovations have a toxic dark side. Overuse of rubber, plastic and cellulose, virtually in-destructible has led to an ever-growing stranglehold as worldwide pollutants on civilisation today. A new threat MICROPLASICS looms large on the horizon. Mankind's rushing headlong towards its own self immolation.



Comparison of Water-Proofing Technologies



WATERPROOF SYSTEMS	LIQUID APPLIED WATERPROOFING MEMBRANES				PREFORMED SHEET MEMBRANES		CONVENTIONAL SYSTEM
	POLYUREA	POLYURETHANE	ACRYLIC HIGH-BUILD	CEMENTITIOUS MODIFIED	PVC / EPDM TPO / HDPE	APP / SBS MEMBRANES	BRICK BAT COBA
Adhesion To Substrate	Good	Very Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
Configuration	Seamless	Seamless	Seamless	Seamless	Overlaps every 1 to 2m	Overlaps every 1m	Built up System
Tensile Strength	Very Good	Very Good	Poor	Very Poor	Very Good	Good	NA
Elongation	Moderate	Very High	Moderate	Very Poor	Moderate	Moderate	NA
Crack Bridging	Mode rate	Very Good	Moderate	Very Poor	NA	NA	NA
Service Temperature	Good	Good	Moderate	Very Good	Good	Good	Very Good
UV Resistance	Poor	Very Good	Moderate	Poor	Good	Poor	Very Good
Water Absorption	Very Good	Very Good	Poor	Very Poor	Very Good	Good	Very Poor
Contour Detailing	Poor	Good	Good	Good	Very Poor	Poor	Good
Ease of Application	High skill workmanship	Easy to apply	Easy to apply	Easy to apply	High skilled workmanship	Skilled workmanship	Heavy Labour Oriented
Safety Concerns	High safety required	Easy	Easy	Easy	High safety required	High safety required	Easy
Application Equipment	Operated @ high temp. spray machine	Simple tools	Simple tools	Simple tools	Heating torch, electricity	Heat Torch, gas cylinder	Simple tools
Certified Life Expectancy	10 to 25 years	10 to 25 years	3- 5 years - walls 1-2 years - roof	Fails against thermal movements	10 years	Maximum 5-7 years but not Certified	Not Certified
Approximate Cost	Expensive	Moderate cost	Moderate cost	Low cost	Expensive	Moderate cost	Moderate cost
Protection required	Needed	Some times needed	Needed	Needed	Some times needed	Yes needed	Self finished
Vertical/Horizontal applications	Applicable on Vertical & Horizontal	Applicable on Vertical & Horizontal	Vertical only	Applicable on Vertical & Horizontal	Horizontal only	Horizontal only	Horizontal only
Movement capability	Poor	Very Good	Poor	Very Poor	Moderate	Moderate	Very Good
Traffic Control	Very Good	Very Good	Poor	Very Poor	Moderate	Poor	Very Good
Damp Surface appln	Very Poor	Good	Poor	Very Good	Poor	Poor	Very Good

Credit : <https://alchimica.co.in/resources/knowledge-center/comparison-chart/>

Cities in Q1, but Value Stays High

Faizan Haldar

New Delhi: Value of homes sold in India's top 15 tier 2 cities increased by 6% to ₹40,443 crore in Q1 2025 compared to ₹38,102 crore in the same period last year.

According to NSE-listed real estate data analytics firm PropEquity,

Lucknow, with 25% increase in number of units sold in Q1 at 1301 units, registered the highest growth amongst top 15 tier 2 cities. This was followed by Coimbatore at 21%, Gandhi Nagar at 18% and Mohali at 2%. Overall, the sales fell 8% to 43,781 units in the first quarter, compared to 47,378 units in the same period last year.

"The decline in sales in tier-2 cities in January-March period is in line with trends witnessed in tier 1 cities. However, less supply in this quarter resulted in lower sales in tier 2 cities. State capitals performed relatively better," said

SUPPLY SHORTFALL



Overall sales fell 8% to 43,781 units, even as sales value rose 6% to ₹40,443 crore as against ₹38,102 crore

Samir Jasuja, founder and CEO, PropEquity.

Eleven other cities saw a drop in unit sales in the March quarter, with Visakhapatnam recording the sharpest decline (37%) and Ahmedabad and Goa registering the smallest (1% each).

Coimbatore, with 52% growth, saw the highest increase in sales value at ₹1,120 crore. This was followed by Lucknow at 48%, Gandhi Nagar 36%, Mohali and Goa at 17% each,

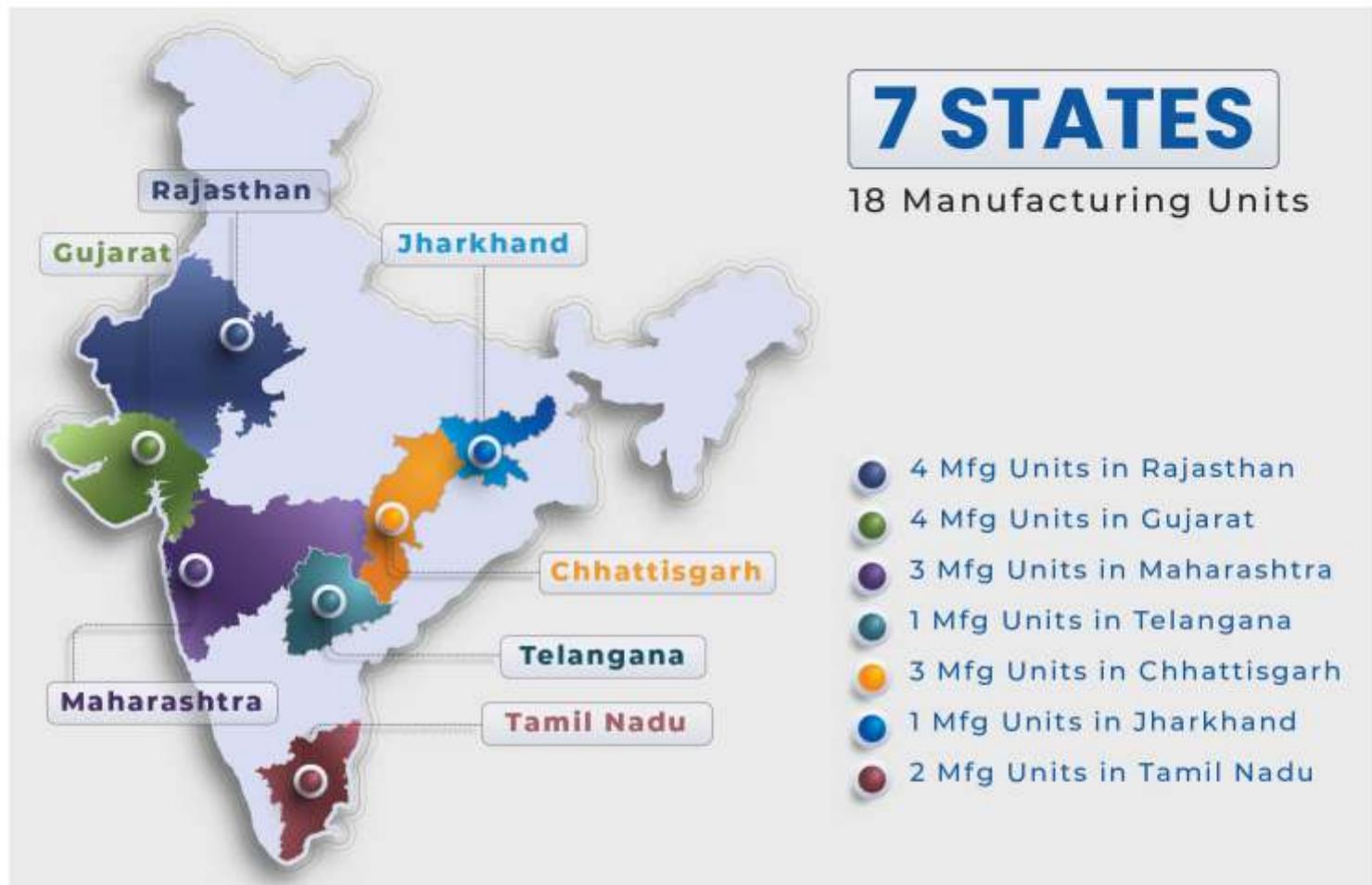
Ahmedabad and Bhubaneshwar at 7% each and Kochi 5%.

"The rise of Tier-II cities such as Indore, Sonipat, and Rohtak as real estate investment hubs can largely be attributed to their advancing infrastructure. Enhanced connectivity, smart city initiatives, and supportive government policies are attracting both homebuyers and investors seeking affordability, quality living, and long-term value appreciation," said Yashank Wason, Managing Director, Royal Green Realty.

Other Seven cities saw a decline in sales value in the quarter with Visakhapatnam recording the highest decline (35%) and Vadodara and Nagpur registering the least decline (1% each). The six State Capitals in top 15 tier 2 cities, namely Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur, Bhubaneshwar, Lucknow, Goa and Bhopal, saw 5% decline in sales and 17% increase in sales value, accounting for 25% of sales and 30% of sales value during the quarter under review.

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Polls, project delays hit construction equipment mkt

Pankaj.Doval@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Sales of heavy construction equipment, a key barometer of growth of infrastructure projects, such as roads and highways, airports, ports, industrial parks and mining, grew at its slowest in the last financial year. Restrictions on the announcement of new projects due to election rules as well as a slowdown in ongoing central and state projects, led to a contraction in demand.

Against healthy double-digit growths recorded previously, the industry saw a 3% rise in FY25, with purchases of heavy equipment slowing down uncharacteristically. The Rs 86,000 crore construction equipment industry, a key contributor to almost all the large infrastructure projects across the

RUNNING OUT OF STEAM



country, grew by 24% in FY24 and 21% in the year before that, according to data sourced from the Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers Association (ICEMA). Companies, such as Caterpillar, JCB, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery, Cummins, and Volvo CE are major providers of machinery. ICEMA president V Vive-

kanand, who is also MD of the Indian subsidiary of Caterpillar, said restrictions on new project announcements due to the model code of conduct before elections saw the central govt, as well as some states (which also went to polls), delay new project announcements.

Vivekanand told TOI that even the infrastructure ac-

vities slowed down during the year. "The pace of execution is a cause of concern. The pace of construction of roads has slowed down, not just the national highways but even the rural roads. Sometimes the projects were not delivered on time, and in other cases, the projects were not awarded on time and thus got delayed. Even in mining, demand was muted for the past 15 months."

Deepak Shetty, CEO & MD of Indian operations of British manufacturer JCB, said payments to contractors were believed to have been delayed in many states, which led to a slowdown in purchases of new equipment. "Work on many state highways has also slowed down. In some cases, there is a lack of availability of funds for infrastructure projects."

Sandeep Singh, MD of

Tata Hitachi, said "resolution of challenges in execution" of projects is key to kickstart demand.

"Govt support, in the form of incentives for both manufacturers and end-users, could accelerate this transition. Inclusion of construction equipment in the PM e-drive scheme and reduction of GST on electric machines are potential enablers," said Dimitrov Krishnan, MD of Volvo CE India.

Jaideep Shekhar, the India MD of Terex, which is an American manufacturer of materials processing machinery, waste, and recycling equipment, said the industry remains optimistic about registering better growth going forward. "The outlook remains positive, buoyed by the govt's emphasis on infrastructure development."



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- Client: Schwing Stetter India Pvt. Ltd.
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- Location: Kajaria Mfg. Facility, Rajasthan
- Scope of Supply: Impeller Type Open Mouth Bag Packaging Machines alongwith Industrial Stitching Conveyors
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- Packing Range: 20kg to 50kg



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EXPANDING HORIZONS:

Following this successful commissioning, R.S Enterprises is now collaborating on additional projects with Schwing Stetter India for their upcoming Dry Mix Mortar Plants across the country. Our partnership is growing stronger, underpinned by mutual trust, innovation, and performance.

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MUTED PERFORMANCE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR

Cement Makers Forecast a Concrete Comeback in FY26

Expect demand to rise in high single digits on the back of higher govt outlay, rural spending

Nikita Periwal

Mumbai: India's cement industry is likely to make a notable rebound this fiscal year in both volume growth and pricing, say large cement producers. This would mark a relief for the industry which bore the brunt of tepid growth and weak pricing power in FY25.

"FY26 should be far, far better than FY25," Vinod Bahety, chief executive officer at Adani Cement, told analysts recently. "In fact, FY25, if you slice it, the first 9 months and the last, say, 3 months, you will find the key differentiations already and that March 2025 quarter is also spilling over to now, say, June as well," he said.

Anchored by increased outlay by the Union government and higher spending on housing in rural markets, cement makers expect consumption of the construction material growing in high single digits in FY26. Sales grew by a lower-than-average



FOCUS AREAS

Rural housing and infrastructure collectively account for two-thirds of the total demand for cement in the country

4%, hit by extreme weather conditions, and an overall slowdown in infrastructure spending ahead of the general election.

"Given the government's focus on infrastructure and housing projects, along with increased rural and urban demand, a sustainable volume growth of 7-8% is expected, going forward," UltraTech Cement, India's largest cement producer, said in a statement.

The Aditya Birla Group company—having a more than a fourth

of the industry's total capacity of 655 million tonnes, and about a fourth of the market share—is confident of strong volume growth. "We expect to grow in double digits this year on a higher base," chief financial officer Atul Daga told analysts after quarterly earnings.

The Centre has earmarked ₹11.21 lakh crore as capital expenditure for this fiscal, a 10% increase from last year. Rural housing and infrastructure collectively make up two-thirds of total cement demand in the country.

India—the world's second-largest market for cement—has seen a robust growth in demand over the last few years. This, in turn, also led to most companies aggressively expanding their capacities. The last one year also saw several buyouts including India Cements, Penna Cement, Orient Cement, and Vadraaj Cement.

"Looking ahead, I expect consolidation to continue, driven not only by acquisitions but also by organic expansion as larger players scale up capacity more rapidly than the other smaller companies," Puneet Dalmia, CEO, Dalmia Bharat, told analysts. "Over the next two years, the top four companies are likely to account for about 60% of the industry's total capacity."

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