



Congestion in Mumbai is a growing problem

INDIA

## US\$500 million to reduce Mumbai's congestion

major investment set to improve Mumbai's ageing suburban railway network

**T**he Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has lent US\$575 million (€518 million) for projects to ease congestion in Mumbai, India, and boost private capital investment in renewable energy, power transmission and water infrastructure.

A loan of approximately €450 million, granted to the government of India, is expected to fast-track work on Mumbai's suburban railway network, improving the safety and daily commute of millions of passengers across the city. A Traffic Index-2018 report compiled by TomTom ranked Mumbai as the most congested city in the world, with commuters spending an average of 65% extra travel time stuck in traffic. The funds will contribute to a quadrupling of Virar-Dahanu Road corridor (64km) to provide an extension of the suburban railway service to connect peripheral areas with Mumbai.

The project will also see the construction of a new suburban railway corridor of 28km between Panvel and Karjat to cater to commuters in the area which is experiencing rapid urbanisation and population growth.

Additionally, there will be an installation of control measures on 36 priority sections of existing lines to reduce fatal accidents. These measures include track segregation by fencing or using reinforced concrete walls and pedestrian crossings over or under the tracks.

Rail is the primary means of transport in Mumbai, where the suburban network totals almost 400km and carries more than 7.5 million passengers a day.

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PERU

## Peru's 'ambitious' retail project

Construction is ongoing on the Real Plaza Puruchuco Shopping Centre, which will be one of the largest shopping centres in Peru at 230,000m<sup>2</sup> when it is completed.

Ulma is heavily involved in the construction, with more than 2,000 tonnes of formwork and scaffolding having been

used so far, most notably Nevi and the Comain handset panel formwork system for walls and columns.

Multidirectional Brio scaffolding was used to provide worker access throughout the site. This was said to provide safe working areas for rebar installation, concrete pouring, formwork

stripping, material storage, and other needs.

Ulma's Technical Instructors provided training and oversaw all personnel in the proper use of both scaffolding and formwork, ensuring that safety standards – as well as the project's deadlines – were met.

The Real Plaza Shopping Centre is considered to be one of Peru's most ambitious retail projects, with an estimated two million visitors expected in the first year alone.

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Real Plaza will be one of the largest retail spaces in Peru



## WORLD NEWS

### WORLD IN BRIEF

**EUROPE** Rental has come to play an increasingly important role in the Italian market over the past ten years, according to the results of a survey published in the run up to Italian construction equipment trade show SaMoTer. The SaMoTer-Veronafiere survey, which looks at the period between 2008 and 2018, was conducted in collaboration with Prometeia and with the support of associations such as Ance Verona, Anepla, Assodimi - Assonolo, Nad, and Unacea.

**GLOBAL** Tickets are now available for the Off-Highway Global Briefing, which will take place on the Wednesday of ConExpo 2020 in in meeting room N257 at 8.00am. Speakers at the breakfast briefing on Wednesday 11 March will include Chris Sleight, managing director of Off Highway Research, who will present the latest regional and global trends for the industry. He will be joined by Scott Hazelton, managing director of construction consulting at IHS Markit, who will discuss the underlying drivers for the equipment industry worldwide.

**AZERBAIJAN** Heavy Lift company ALE has installed a steel bridge weighing 2,100 tonnes in between the two towers of a hotel, at a height of 120m. Part of a new development called Crescent Bay in Baku, Azerbaijan, the 28 storey La Luna hotel was designed in the shape of a crescent and covers 125,000m<sup>2</sup>. Measuring 72m high and 20m wide, the company said it used a bespoke methodology to manoeuvre the curved steel structure into place.

**AUSTRALIA** Salini Impregilo is on the shortlist for Sydney Gateway, a AU\$2.2-2.6 billion (€1.35-1.53 billion) project to improve road connections from Sydney Airport and Port Botany to the new Sydney motorway network at St Peters Interchange. The project will complete missing links in the motorway network and return local streets to the community by enabling around 80,000 vehicles a day, to travel on new roads. The project is part of an effort to improve infrastructure, with the population expected to grow from 8 to 12 million by 2056.

**GHANA** A concession deal to build a €2.34 billion light rail system in Accra, Ghana, has been reached, with financing set to be provided by the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund and the African Investment SkyTrain Consortium. The deal, which has been signed by the government of Ghana, is set to create an elevated, air-propelled monorail system known as the Accra SkyTrain – the first of its kind in Africa. Financing for the project was agreed during the 2019 Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg.

**EUROPE** The European Investment Bank (EIB) has agreed to loan Finnish airport company Finavia Corporation €150 million for the expansion of Helsinki Airport. The two parties signed a loan agreement for the financing of stage IV of Helsinki Airport's expansion plans for Terminal 2, which include the construction of new gates, arrival and departure halls and increased boarder control capacity. According to the EIB, the expansion project will increase the airport's capacity to 30 million passengers a year.