

## Daily Economic News Summary: 30 December 2016

### 1. China's Pacific Construction Group inks \$5.5-bn MoU with Gujarat govt

Source: Hindu Business Line ([Link](#))

Chinese infrastructure and construction major, Pacific Construction Group (CPCG), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat Government's iNDEXTb to invest \$ 5.5 billion (approx Rs. 37,000 crore) for developing infrastructure facilities in the State. The MoU was signed by Pacific Construction Group Chairman Yan Hao and iNDEXTb Managing Director Rajkumar Beniwal in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister, Vijay Rupani, in Gandhinagar. The Chinese company is keen to invest in the areas of infrastructure sector, knowledge sharing, education innovations, GIFT City and iCreate through the MoU. Pacific Construction Group is positioned among the world's top 100 construction companies. A government statement said that Pacific Construction Group will be provided all support in connection with the necessary permissions, infrastructure facilities and incentives to implement its projects under the MoU.

### 2. Prestige Group to open 2 hotels in Bengaluru

Source: Hindu Business Line ([Link](#))

Prestige Group plans to open two big hotel projects, built at a cost of ₹1,000 crore — Sheraton Grand Whitefield Hotel and the Conrad Hotel, at Ulsoor here. Irfan Razack, CMD, Prestige Group, said: “The two hotels should be ready by April. Conrad Hotel is located right in the heart of Bengaluru’s CDB area, while Sheraton Grand is in Whitefield. Our convention centre at Prestige Shantiniketan is also ready.” The group is also planning to build a hotel on a piece of land in Pune, which the company has set aside for developing an IT Park. “We have also set aside properties for office buildings and IT parks in Ahmedabad and Kochi.” By early to mid 2017, the group is also planning to open the doors of two malls — one in Mysuru and the other at Prestige Shantiniketan, Bengaluru. Both the malls are to be opened early to mid 2017.

### 3. Ambuja Cement, ICICI Bank enter into partnership to boost cashless trade

Source: Hindu Business Line ([Link](#))

Ambuja Cement has tied up with ICICI Bank to drive cashless transactions among its business partners — retailers, contractors and masons — and help them open current accounts for regular business transactions. The Lafarge Holcim-owned company has launched a pan-India ‘Go Cashless’ campaign in the wake of demonetization of high-value currency by the government. The campaign is targeted to help its business partners conduct cashless transactions with ease and create awareness on various cashless options available, including swipe machines and other bank services. Ajay Kapur, Managing Director and CEO, Ambuja Cement, said the campaign is successful in seeding innovative thinking at the grass-root level and bringing information and technology to the forefront of the company’s business partners. The initiative has helped the company’s dealers to conduct cashless transactions. It has reached out to over 42,000 partners (retailers, contractors and masons) across India and over 45,000 via radio.

#### **4. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank to launch in first half of 2017**

**Source: Live Mint ([Link](#))**

After Airtel, Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank is set to launch its services in the first half of 2017. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank is a 51:49 joint venture (JV) between Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd (ABNL) and telecom major Idea Cellular, respectively. “The first half of 2017 will also see the launch of Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank,” Idea Cellular chief corporate affairs officer Rajat Mukarji said. In November, Airtel Payments Bank became the first payments bank to go live in the country with the rollout of its banking services in Rajasthan. Since then, it has expanded services to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as well. Airtel had said the pilot rollout in Rajasthan saw over one lakh customers opening savings accounts in less than two weeks of commencement of services. With the objective of deepening financial inclusion, RBI kicked off an era of differentiated banking by allowing SFBs (small finance banks) and PBs (payments banks) to start services.

#### **5. JMC Projects rallies on orders win worth Rs 1,457 crore**

**Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

JMC Projects rallied 15% to Rs 240 on the BSE in intra-day trade after the company said it has secured new orders worth over Rs 1,457 crore. The company has bagged Rs 454 crore shipyard modernisation project in Goa, Rs 446 crore flyover project in Maharashtra, Rs 282

crore commercial project in Hyderabad, Rs 224 crore residential project in Bangalore, JMC Projects (India), a subsidiary of Kalpataru Power Transmission, said in a press release. The company also bagged educational building project worth Rs 51 crore in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh, it added. Commenting on securing new orders, company's CEO and Dy Managing Director S K Tripathi said, "In the past few quarters, we have successfully increased our presence in government projects. It would enhance our growth sustainability going forward."

By Shreya Chopra

