

# CW®

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## Construction World

India's Largest Circulated Construction Business Magazine

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# SMART CITIES: TOP PRIORITY

Smart city projects have evolved to help city administrations meet healthcare infrastructure needs during the COVID-19 pandemic by integrating technologies to manage surveillance, crowd management, monitoring quarantined people, spreading messages to populace, among others, as **CW** reports...18



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Cover photo courtesy: L&T Smart World



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Cover photo courtesy: Trimble Solutions India



Photo courtesy: Trimble Solutions India

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### **In the October 2020 edition, look out for:**

- 15<sup>th</sup> CONSTRUCTION WORLD ARCHITECT & BUILDER AWARDS 2020
- Facility Management Post-COVID • Mining Equipment • Glass and Façades

# EDITOR'S NOTE

## SOS: PRIORITISE ECONOMIC REFORM

After months of speculation on GDP numbers, the results have confirmed our worst fears: Our economy is suffering from a serious malaise. (Scan the QR code below to read my column on 'Are we headed for the Hindu rate of growth?') Construction has contracted by 50.3 per cent (from ₹2.62 trillion to ₹1.30 trillion) as the sector worst hit during this quarter, contributing to the overall GDP contracting by 23.9 per cent from ₹35.35 trillion in Q1 of 2019 to ₹26.90 trillion in Q1 of 2020 – incidentally, one of the worst GDP contractions in the world after the US during this period. Further, look at some of the contractions in construction-related activities below:

Indicator	Q1 2019 (%)	Q1 2020 (%)
GDP	+5.2	-23.9
Coal	+2.6	-15.0
Cement	+1.0	-38.3
Steel	+5.0	-56.8
Mining	+3.0	-22.4
Manufacturing	+2.4	-40.7

The rates of gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) to GDP, which have been falling ever since 2007 at its highest at 35.81 per cent, have plunged to 22.3 per cent. GFCF itself has halved to ₹5.99 trillion. The supply shock and COVID fear have traumatised demand. Just as during a boom, spending is based on the assumption that all values of assets will appreciate and so the assessment of wealth in the hands of spenders is inflated; at present, the reverse psychosis is in play.

The 'Atmanirbhar' package mostly offered liquidity relief and did very little or close to nothing in terms of demand stimulation. (Scan the QR code below for our report on 'Will Modi's economic package revive Indian businesses?') India's MSMEs, which employ about 120 million, contribute to 33.4 per cent of India's manufacturing output and make up 45 per cent of India's exports, have been at the receiving end. Whether it was demonetisation, GST or COVID, this segment has suffered the most. While agriculture will show improvement this year, its contribution to GDP is marginal. Demand stimulation will be the challenge



going forward. However, the government is strained for resources with the fiscal deficit already having exceeded budget estimates between April and July 2020. Against a revenue projection of ₹22.45 trillion, the government has received only ₹2.32 trillion while expenditure has remained at around similar levels of last year during the same period at ₹10.54 trillion, leading to a deficit of ₹8.2 trillion.

This brings us back to the way forward. The options are limited including privatisation of Indian banks, floating stock of public-sector companies through divestment, encouraging FDI, and structural reforms. (Scan the QR code below to read my article on 'Structural Reform: Vaccine against COVID-19.') Not following the western world in terms of paying/reimbursing salaries of workforce of affected businesses has saved the Indian Government some firepower as all these schemes had the basic assumption that the pandemic would be around for a limited period. However, given the way the crisis is playing out, it is here for the long haul.

The sector that can cushion the fall the most is the construction sector, given its ability to disperse livelihood across the country and build assets that will propel economic growth. It is time the government realised that social reform will suffer as the economic engine that can help afford the altruism has been sputtering far too long. Prioritise economic reform. Inviting pension fund investments into infrastructure assets should be a priority.

*Pratyap Padode*

Follow me on twitter @PratapPadode

Scan this QR code for the article on 'Are we headed for the Hindu rate of growth?'



Scan this QR code for the article on 'Will Modi's economic package revive Indian businesses?'



Scan this QR code for the article on 'Structural Reform: Vaccine against COVID-19 Indian businesses?'



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## Communication Feature

# Comprehensive Services

Global C aims to be part of innovation, infrastructure development and adaption of technology throughout the world on behalf of its clients.

Global C is a leading project and development management firm that provides concept to commissioning services for buildings, healthcare, hospitality and urban infrastructure projects to its clients pan-India and internationally. The expertise of key associates worldwide helps bring global domain expertise for this very Indian yet international firm.

“Our company is dedicated to grow, develop and maintain a truly professional staff and world-class suite of execution systems, focused on delivery to our clients,” says **Gaurav Moudgil, Founder, Global C**, an alumnus of the University of California at Berkeley, the US and PEC Chandigarh.

With each passing years of experience, the firm has been expanding its domain expertise by handling and completing complicated urban projects including the likes of multi super specialty hospitals, branded hotels, integrated townships, multi-storied residential condominiums, data cum profit centres, diplomatic missions, commercial malls, offices, cinema halls, interior fit-out projects, etc. It has successfully evolved to a full-service project development format and are serving as a one-stop consultancy in supporting its clients’ project expectations with in-house capabilities.

### Other key areas

Key areas of diversification of Global C in addition to the core comprehensive project management services include:

#### I – Advisory

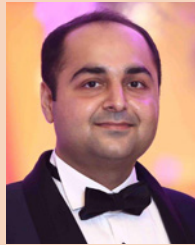
- **Dispute resolution and expert witness:** It offers additional

services an independent and neutral evaluation for construction, claim management and project disputes from a techno-commercial-legal perspective.

- **Due diligence:** Assisting client in feasibility, techno-commercial viability of real estate, industrial, hospitality and healthcare projects.
- **Investor’s representative:** Assisting external lenders, family offices and PE funds in technical due-diligence of investments in projects. The firm’s advice gives investors a clear understanding of what they are investing into, avoiding surprises later down the line.
- **Promoter and developer’s representative:** Global C also assists developers and promoters of projects in taking an informed decision by considerations of basic pre-engineering to workout project budgets and schedules.

#### II – Procurement management

- **Procurement managers:** For all type of projects, the firm assists clients in procurement management to source specialised equipment, FF&E (Furniture fittings and equipment) and OS&E (operating supplies and equipment) from global market.
- **Transparent procurement process:** Using cloud-based applications to monitor record



Gaurav Moudgil

and control procurement and contract management ensures that client gets full access to the tendering process followed and selection of the supplier and vendor.

#### III – Quality inspection and audits

- **Audits for smart projects:** Pre-commissioning and commissioning exercises for complex and smart ICT-enabled MEP systems is a standard services offered by Global C when being engaged as a project management consultant.
- **Quantity survey and cost management:** The firm offers QS and cost management as a standard suite of service.
- **Quality management:** Global C oversees that the works are implemented in accordance with the approved design, BOQ (Bill of Quantities) specification.

#### Consulting philosophy

What differentiates Global C is the expertise of seasoned professionals, in-depth problem solving and transparency in the processes with the clients, which are the fundamental pillar of service offerings. When navigating complex real estate challenges, commitment to fully understanding the specific needs of every individual client and preparing a custom solution is the basis. This ensures that clients are able to utilise the advice provided by Global C to make informed real estate decisions, optimise costs, create value and deliver a quality product.

**(Communication by the management of the company)**