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An optimum design solution

A new thrust in infrastructure development

Lauded for its versatility, affordability and flexibility Pre Engineered Building solutions have provided the much needed new thrust in infrastructure development. The industry is currently experiencing a growth rate of 25-30% due to the increase in the market share with sectors, like automotive, power, logistics, pharmaceutical, FMCG, and capital goods, opting for the pre engineered steel structures.

Pre Engineered Buildings proved itself to be relevant and beneficial to several construction verticals including warehousing, infrastructure, airports terminal buildings, multi-storey buildings, power plants, Industrial buildings especially manufacturing plants, oil & gas refineries as well as group housing. Apart from benefits like faster completion time, less expensive to maintain, easier to expand, larger clear spans availability, the beauty of pre-engineered building solution is its versatility across sectors. They are not only popular in industrial areas but in residential and commercial areas, too.

A believer of the benefits of PEB solutions, architect Kavi Jain, says, "PEB's (Pre Engineered Buildings) are now catching up fast with the conventional building technologies, and shall soon overtake them in executions, as acceptability and mindsets adapt to this change." The owner of the firm Nirman Consultancy feels, "Pre-engineering optimizes the exact requirement of the buildings and saves costs as the designers don't have to take into consideration a major factor that they assume in conventional structures for F.O.S (Factor



of safety) – the workmanship on site. The factory quality control gives designers more confidence of the product, thereby giving an optimum design solution. The versatility of PEB's opens myriad options for the designers and gives them flexibility in their creativity."

The PEB solution industry in India is growing proportionately to the increasing demand for green building construction. Many PEB manufacturers have developed high efficiency windows and insu-

lation for roofs, walls, ceilings & floors. The use of sky lights and solar panels on rooftops will meet daylight and captive power requirements, while, at the same time, reducing emissions and gaining carbon credits under clean development mechanism (CDM). The brilliant example is the T3 terminal at

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the Indra Gandhi International Airport of our capital city which has already won a Titanium rating. The metal roofing structure of the T3 terminal is made up of 100% steel, and is recyclable up to 90%. It saves primary resources and reduces waste hence saves energy, helps in reducing the carbon footprint by reducing the solid waste, improving air and waste quality and conserving natural resources by reducing the rate of consumption.

Pre Engineered steel buildings can be fitted with different structural accessories including mezzanine floors, canopies, fascias, interior partitions etc. and the building is made water proof by use of special mastic beads, filler strips and trims. This is very versatile buildings systems and can be finished

internally to serve any functions and accessorized externally to achieve attractive and unique designing styles. It is very advantageous over the conventional buildings and is really helpful in the low rise building design.

It has been observed that PEB solutions have reduced construction time with the buildings typically delivered in just a few weeks after approval of drawings. Due to the systems approach, there is a significant saving in design, manufacturing and on site production cost.

Buildings can be easily expanded in length by adding additional bays. Also expansion in width and height is possible by pre designing for future expansion. As buildings are manufactured completely in the factory under controlled conditions the quality is assured. The PEB Building can be supplied with various types of fascias, canopies, and curved eaves and are designed to receive pre cast concrete wall panels, curtain walls, block walls and other wall systems. As the complete building package is supplied by a single vendor, compatibility of all the building components and accessories is assured. This is one of the major benefits of the Pre Engineered Building systems.

The changing perception to a long term perspective and willingness to invest in quality & early occupancy is working towards the growth of Pre Engineered Buildings in the Indian construction industry and, in turn, making its scope very vast. As the industry grows, the structures are getting bigger and better.