

BASKAR REDDY & ANISH KUMAR  
Use agri reforms to create a roadmap for agri transformation

## EDITORIAL

Vested interests fanning farmers' protest; Punjab-Haryana will lose mandi taxes, arhatiyas face competition

## BAD DEBT PROBLEM

Privatise select PSU banks, dilute role of DFS: Raghuram Rajan



BYTE DANCE CONTINUES Trump says US no TikTok deal if China maintains control



NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

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# FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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## ■ IN THE NEWS

Foodgrain output target set at record 301 MT

THE GOVERNMENT HAS set foodgrain production target at a record 301 million tonne for the 2020-21 crop year, reports PTI. This is up nearly 1.5% from the previous year's output, on the back of good monsoon rains and higher acreage in the kharif season.

**HDFC Bank denies allegations made in US lawsuits**

HDFC BANK ON Monday issued a statement in response to the lawsuits filed against it by multiple law firms in the US, denying the allegations made therein, reports fe Bureau in Mumbai. The bank said that the litigant was a single security holder, who was purporting to represent a class of its shareholders.

**SBI raises ₹7k cr through Basel III compliant bonds**

STATE BANK OF India on Monday said it has raised ₹7,000 crore by issuing Basel III compliant bonds, reports PTI. The bonds qualify as tier II capital of the bank, and has face value of ₹10 lakh each, bearing coupon rate of 6.24% per annum payable annually for a tenor of 10 years, it said.

## FARM BILLS

Mandi tax reason for Punjab anger?

PDS purchases only through mandis boost state's coffers

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA  
New Delhi, September 21

SHIROMANI AKALI DAL leader Harsimrat Kaur's resignation from the Narendra Modi Cabinet over the farm Bills has fuelled protests against the reformist legislations, culminating in a ruckus in Parliament, but what lies underneath Kaur's dramatic move is nothing but survival instinct of the key grain-producing state's oligarchic mandi system.

Any political party in Punjab with real chances of being in government would avoid antagonising the mandi lobby because their networks enrich the state coffers, through compulsory levies collected from the government-run grain pro-



## Taxes on agri trade

Punjab*	8.5%
Pan-India average	6%
*market fee 3%, rural development cess 3%, arthiya commission 2.5%	
Central Pool's outgo on paddy, wheat purchases (Pan-India, ₹ crore, FY20)	
Market fee 4,000	
Arthiya commission 3,600	
Mandi fees collected on all crops (FY20)	
Punjab 1,750	
All India 8,600	

curement agencies.

Continued on Page 2  
Mandis and MSP will stay, says PM, Page 2

## Centre raises rabi MSP by 2-6%

THE CABINET COMMITTEE on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Monday approved 2-6% increases in the minimum support prices for the 2020-21 rabi season, reports fe Bureau in New Delhi. Even

as the winter sowing is yet to commence, the expectations of a bumper crop has brightened, since abundant rains in the monsoon season have led to improved soil moisture conditions. ■ Page 2

## AIR INDIA SALE

Allow bidders to quote own terms, says panel

Potential buyer may get more leeway on job cuts, debt, asset sales

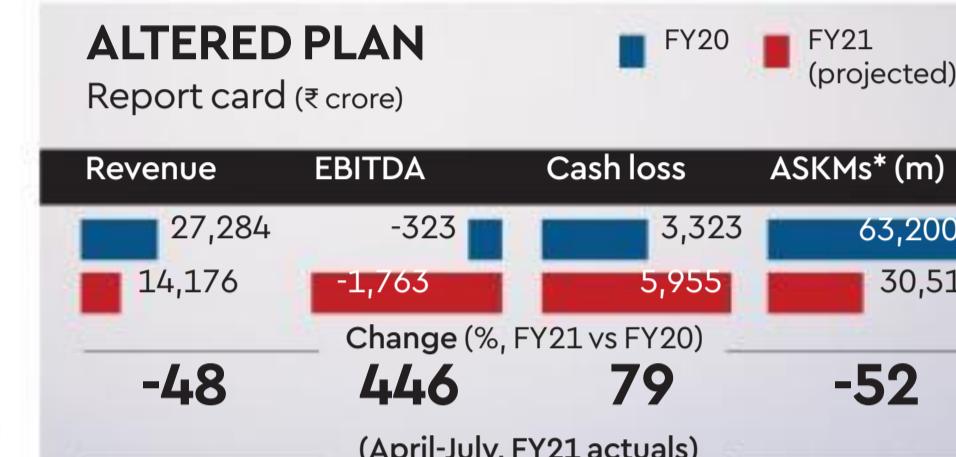
PRASANTA SAHU  
New Delhi, September 21

GIVEN THE FRESH uncertainties caused by Covid-19, an inter-ministerial group (IMG) on Air India privatisation plan has favoured allowing bids for the loss-making carrier on the basis of its enterprise value, sans any predetermined level of 'sustainable debt' for the potential bidders to reckon with.

Under the current plan, the buyer is required to take over the airline's estimated residual debt of ₹23,286 crore.

EY, the transaction adviser (TA), in a presentation to the IMG, said the winning bidder may have the leeway to cut its workforce immediately after the acquisition — the current expression of interest (EoI) provides for a one-year job protection for the state-owned airline's over 9,600-strong permanent workforce.

Also, the adviser sought removal of the ₹1,000-crore cap on asset sale in the first



₹15,435 crore  
Financial cost on the exchequer to run the airline for FY21-FY22  
Source: AI estimate quoted by Transaction Adviser  
\*Available seat kilometers

year post-acquisition of the national carrier by the buyer.

On the both these suggestions, the IMG, according to a note circulated within the government and reviewed by FE, holds the view that a decision could be taken during the actual signing of the purchase agreement (SPA) or at the request for proposal (RFP) stage.

The current EoI was prepared in January. With Covid-19

hitting the aviation sector hard, Air India has estimated that its cash losses would climb 80% on year to ₹6,000 crore in FY21.

Keeping in view the prevailing situation in the domestic and international aviation industry and a worsening of the national airline's performance, the TA has presented four options to the IMG for AI's strategic disinvestment.

Continued on Page 2

HSBC's shares in Hong Kong and Standard Chartered's in London fell on Monday to their lowest since at least 1998 after media reports that they and other banks, including Barclays and Deutsche Bank, moved large sums of allegedly illicit funds over nearly two decades despite red flags about the origins of the money.

The BuzzFeed and other media articles were based on leaked suspicious activity reports (SARs) filed by banks and other financial firms

SARs were filed with the US department of treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

More than 2,100 SARs were shared with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and other media organisations

HSBC, StanChart, Barclays and Deutsche Bank appeared most often in the FinCEN documents

Intraday level since 2009, after the lender's Hong Kong shares earlier touched a 25-year low. The stock has now nearly halved since the start of the year.

Continued on Page 2

## ILLICIT FUNDS REPORTS

HSBC, StanChart shares fall to 22-year lows

Reports say banks moved large sums of allegedly illicit funds over nearly two decades despite red flags about the origin



## MONEYTRAIL

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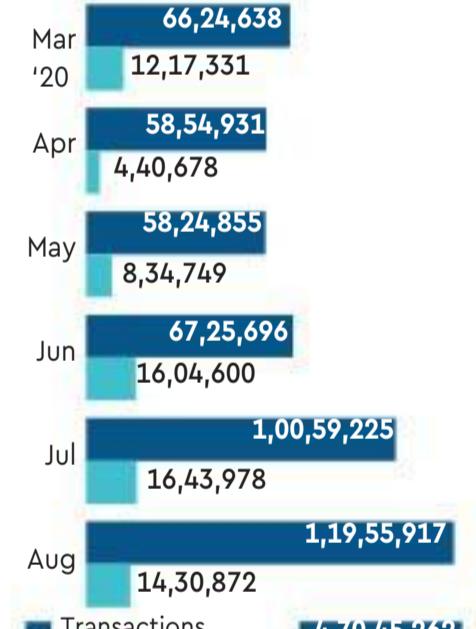
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## ● DIGITAL BANKING

**YONO to be stand-alone platform: SBI chairman**

ANKUR MISHRA  
Mumbai, September 21

## YONO during Pandemic



will enable other banks to use YONO platform with their own branding," Kumar said.

Continued on Page 2



## GANDHI-GIRI

Derek O'Brien of TMC and other MPs in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Parliament, hoping to give their protest against suspension of MPs some heft

## POTENT TOOL

Insolvency threat triggers ₹5-lakh-cr loan recovery

BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK  
New Delhi, September 21

AS MANY AS 14,510 cases involving defaults of ₹5.13 lakh crore were withdrawn by July 31 from various benches of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) before the applications were admitted by the adjudicating authority, since the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) came into being in late 2016, according to the latest official data.

This suggests, in most cases, creditors have recovered money from debtors by just applying for insolvency proceedings, reinforcing the efficacy of the IBC as a potent tool for bad loan resolution even before its actual use. As for defaulting promoters, the fear that their companies will change hands once the IBC is applied, has forced them to pay up.

As of end-July, 2,789 cases – with a combined default of ₹1,96,171 crore – filed by financial creditors under section 7 of the IBC were withdrawn. Similarly, 11,581 cases, filed by operational creditors under Section 9, with a total default of ₹1,63,927 crore and 140 cases (default of ₹1,53,372 crore)

## Deterrence value

₹1,96,171 cr

Default amount in 2,789 cases withdrawn by financial creditors by July 31

₹1,63,927 cr

Default in 11,581 cases withdrawn by operational creditors

₹1,53,372 cr

Default in 140 cases withdrawn by corporate debtors

With the passage of amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) by the Lok Sabha on Monday, decks have been cleared to speed up the process of insolvency proceedings for up to a maximum of one year against fresh Covid-related defaults from March 25. The Rajya Sabha has already approved the IBC (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill was brought in to replace an ordinance that was promulgated in June to protect thousands of firms, ravaged by Covid, from being dragged into insolvency proceedings.

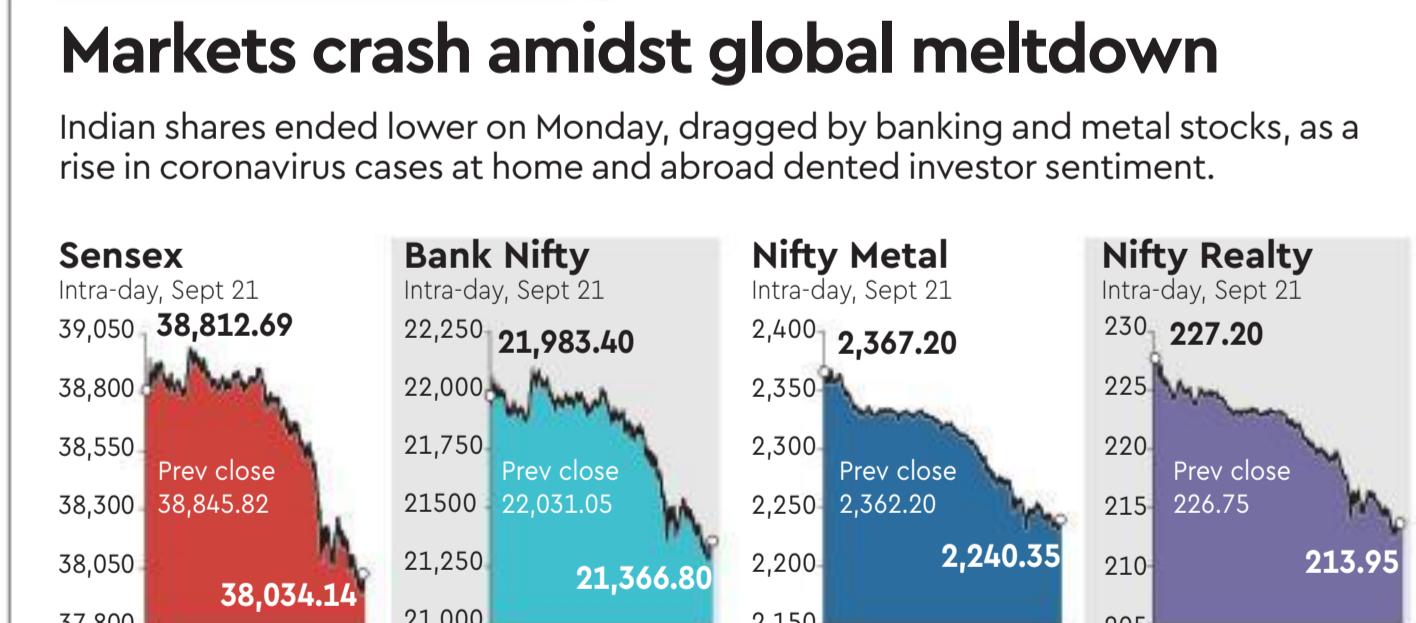
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## QuickPick

IT firms must move from reactive problem-solving to proactive problem-solving: Murthy

INFOSYS CO-FOUNDER NR Narayana Murthy on Monday said Indian IT firms must move from reactive problem solving to having a proactive problem recognition and solution mindset which will help increase its per capita revenue productivity, reports PTI. Speaking at an AIMCA event, Murthy said Indian IT companies will continue to grow anywhere between 7 to 10% with operating margins being between 15 and 20%. PAGE 4



any conflict in the Asia-Pacific region. The Chinese air force's two minute and 15 second video, set to solemn, dramatic music like a trailer for a Hollywood movie, shows H-6 bombers taking off from a desert base. The video is called "The god of war H-6K goes on the attack!" Halfway through, a pilot presses a button and looses off a missile at an unidentified seaside runway. The missile homes in on the runway, a satellite image of which is shown that looks exactly like the layout of Andersen

# Economy

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

## Quick View

**1,634 cr digital transactions in Apr-Aug: Dhotre**

**DIGITAL PAYMENTS HAVE**  
witnessed an increase with 1,634.92 crore digital transactions being conducted between April-August this year, the Parliament was informed on Monday.

**LS passes Bill to amend Foreign Contribution Act**

**LOK SABHA PASSED** a bill on Monday to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act that seeks to make it mandatory for the office-bearers of an NGO to provide their Aadhaar numbers during registration.

**Pre-filled GST return form soon: GSTN CEO**

**GSTR-REGISTERED BUSINESSES WILL** soon get pre-filled Return form, GSTR-3B, GST Network chief executive Prakash Kumar said on Monday.

**3.8 lakh cos struck off in 3 years under companies law**

**MORE THAN 3.8 lakh companies have been struck off from official records under the companies law during the past three years, according to the government.** In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, minister of State for corporate affairs Anurag Singh Thakur also said the term "shell company" is not defined under the Companies Act.

### ● COMMITMENT TO FARM SECTOR

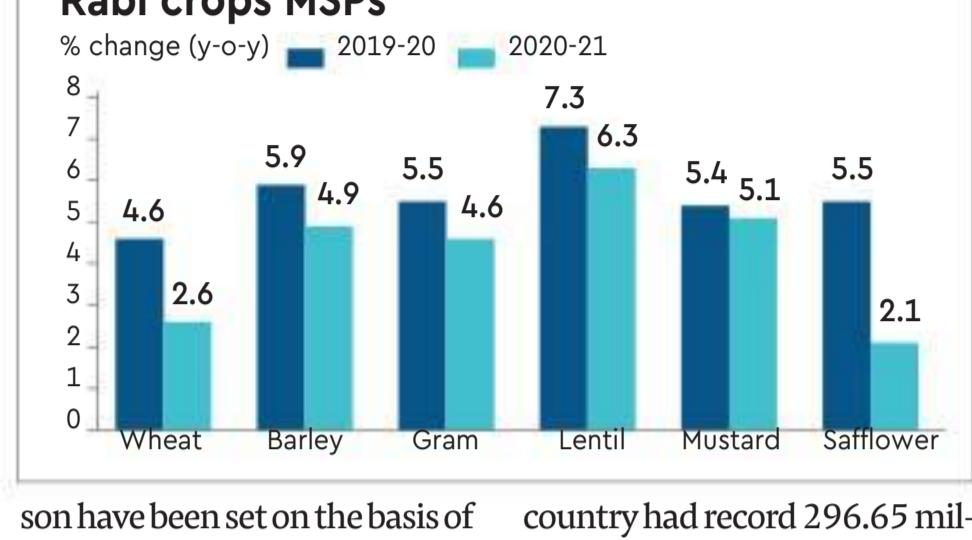
## Govt increases rabi MSPs in advance amid farmers' stir

**FE BUREAU**  
New Delhi, September 21

**THE CABINET COMMITTEE** on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Monday approved 2-6% increases in the minimum support prices (MSPs) for the 2020-21 rabi season. Even as the winter sowing is yet to commence, the expectations of a bumper crop has brightened, since abundant rains in the monsoon season have led to improved soil moisture conditions.

After a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar told Parliament the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other agencies would continue to buy the crops at their MSPs. The announcement of MSP was a month earlier than last year, probably to reassure farmers about the government's commitment on continuing the MSP amid the farmers' protests against the farm bills approved by Parliament. The new MSPs of rabi crops were announced in October or November.

Even as the MSPs for rabi sea-



son have been set on the basis of the government's promise to provide minimum 50% profit to farmers over their cost of production (A2+FL), the current hike is lower compared to last year's increase in the range of 5-7%.

In the case of wheat, the key winter crop, the new MSP will be ₹1,975 per quintal, up 2.6% over last year. This is also significant since the government is betting on higher production of wheat next year after it revised its 2020-21 (July-June) foodgrains output target to 301 million tonne, up from 298.3 million tonne in April. The first advance estimate of major kharif crops for 2020-21 may be announced next week. The

country had record 296.65 million tonne in 2019-20.

Robust production doesn't necessarily boost farmers' earnings. In the case of many crops, including oilseeds and pulses, the procurement levels are crucial and even the price support scheme sans procurement doesn't seem to be working on the ground. Although the government purchases have increased in last five years compared to previous five years, the benefits of MSPs are limited mostly to paddy, wheat farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. First time this year the FCI had purchased sizable quantity of paddy in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The new benchmark rate of chana is ₹5,100 per quintal, up 4.6% over the year-ago season while the MSP of mustard, the key oilseed crop of the winter season, has been raised 5.1% to ₹4,650 per quintal. To encourage cultivation of pulses, the support price of masur has been increased by 6.3% to ₹5,100 per quintal, highest among all rabi crops. Masur production has declined to 1.18 million tonne in 2019-20 from 1.23 million tonne last year after hovering below 1 million tonne for a decade until 2010. There has been a good increase in area under masur in Madhya Pradesh and higher yield in Bihar, the main grower of the crop.

The MSP of another winter-grown oilseed safflower has been hiked by 2.1% to ₹5,327 per quintal. The production of safflower has been declining and reached at 30,000 tonne in 2019-20 from a level of 2.4 lakh tonne in 2006-07.

Sowing of rabi crops begins from October and harvesting season starts from April. Some of the early-sown crops start arriving in the mandis from March.

### India's imports from China dip 27.63% during Apr-Aug: Goyal

India's imports from China declined by 27.63% during April-August this fiscal to \$21.58 billion over the same period previous year, Parliament was informed on Monday. Value of imports from China stood at \$4.98 billion in August and \$5.58 in July, according to the data provided by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.—PTI



### STRATEGIC STOREAGES

Dharmendra Pradhan, petroleum minister

India saved over ₹5,000 crore when the country in April-May used two-decade low international oil prices to fill up its three strategic underground crude oil storages

## Govt sets foodgrain output target at record 301 MT for 2020-21

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
New Delhi, September 21

**THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET** foodgrain production target at a record 301 million tonne for the 2020-21 crop year, up nearly 1.5% from the previous year's output, on the back of good monsoon rains and higher acreage in the kharif season.

The target for the 2020-21 crop year (July-June) was set at the National Conference for Rabi Campaign 2020, which was held on Monday to review the progress of the kharif (summer-sown) season and plan for the rabi crops.

With opposition parties vehemently criticising the legislations as "anti-farmers" and protests continuing in states like Punjab and Haryana, Modi again mounted a strong defence of these measures, saying farmers will now have the freedom to sell their produce at a place and price of their choice.

"The conference set a target

of 301 million tonnes of food grains production for 2020-21," an official statement said.

Rice production target has been fixed at 119.6 million tonnes (MT) in 2020-21 as against 118.43 MT output in the last year.

The target of wheat output has been set at 108 MT as compared to 107.59 MT. Coarse cereals output target is almost flat at 47.80 MT as against 47.48 MT in the previous year.

Pulses production target has been fixed at 25.60 MT, up from 23.15 MT output in 2019-20, while that of oilseeds was set at 37 MT as against the estimated output of 33.42 MT last year.

Tomar also complimented the farming community and states for higher sowing in the kharif season despite the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns.

routes to monetise these public-funded highway assets.

Experts say monetisation of these assets may help NHAI to raise up to ₹60,000 crore, at an annual average of ₹15,000 crore. NHAI had earlier said it would launch the first InvIT in the first quarter of 2020-21 with the aim of raising ₹5,000-6,000 crore.

NHAI needs additional funds as it is increasingly awarding projects through the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) route, where it is to bear all the expenses. It is in dire need of funds also to finance its burgeoning debt which touched ₹2.28 lakh crore at the end of February, 2020.

ing, were obtained by BuzzFeed News and shared with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and other media organisations.

In a statement to Reuters on Sunday, HSBC said "all of the information provided by the ICIJ is historical." The bank said that as of 2012 it had embarked on a "multi-year journey to overhaul its ability to combat financial crime".

StanChart said in a statement it took its "responsibility to fight financial crime extremely seriously and have invested substantially in our compliance programmes".

Barclays said it believes it has complied with "all its legal and regulatory obligations, including in relation to US sanctions".

The most number of SARS in the cache related to Deutsche Bank, whose shares fell 5.2% on Monday. In a statement on Sunday, Deutsche Bank said the ICIJ had "reported on a number of historical issues".

"We have devoted significant resources to strengthening our controls and we are very focused on meeting our responsibilities and obligations," a spokesperson for the bank said.

London-headquartered HSBC and StanChart, among other global banks, have paid billions of dollars in fines in recent years for violating US sanctions on Iran and anti-money laundering rules.

The files contained information about more than \$2 trillion worth of transactions between 1999 and 2017, which were flagged by internal compliance departments of financial institutions as suspicious.

The ICIJ reported the leaked documents were a tiny fraction of the reports filed with FinCEN. HSBC and StanChart were among the five banks that appeared most often in the documents, the ICIJ reported.

"It confirms what we already knew – that there are huge numbers of SARs being filed with relatively low numbers of cases brought through to prosecution," said Etelka Bogardi, a Hong Kong-based financial services regulatory partner at law firm Norton Rose Fulbright.—REUTERS

### From the Front Page

**Farm Bills: Mandi tax reason for Punjab anger?**

Even though the tax burden on the grain supply chains and the disparities of tax incidence across the states have reduced significantly after the introduction of the goods and services tax regime (under which grains are exempt), FCI and other state-run procurement agencies still fork out tidy sums as assorted levies in the process of procuring grains, mainly rice and wheat, from farmers for the central pool stocks. And this jacks up the Centre's food subsidy bill.

Punjab and Haryana are the only two states where the procurement continues to be wholly routed via APMC mandis. Both the states also maintain much higher level of taxes on agriculture trade, inflating the Centre's food subsidy outgo.

Punjab, for instance, levies an aggregate tax of 8.5% of the minimum support price at which the FCI and other agencies buy grains. This includes market fee 3%, rural development cess 3%, arthiya commission 2.5%. Haryana is not far behind with an aggregate levy of 6.5% (market fee 2%, development cess 2%, arthiya commission 2.5%). This is against the pan-India average of 6% of MSP.

Punjab and Haryana together collected ₹2,600 crore – Punjab ₹1,750 crore and Haryana ₹850 crore – out of ₹8,600 crore collected across India as mandi fees alone, of trade in all farm commodities in FY20.

Before the GST's launch, various levies paid by FCI added up to even higher 13% of the MSP paid to farmers on a pan-India basis. The levies ranged from a relatively modest 3.6% in Rajasthan to 11.5% in Haryana, 14.5% in Punjab and 13.5% in Andhra Pradesh, the major producers of grains.

While the relief due to GST is in terms of scrapping of VAT (which was subsumed in GST) is substantial, the assorted levies that FCI and other pro-

curement agencies still need to pay include mandi tax, arthiya (agent) commission, rural development cess, infrastructure development cess.

The agriculture marketing reforms through the two new Bills passed by Parliament will help the Centre reduce the tax burden on it on account of the Food Security Act/PDS, if FCI and other agencies start procuring at the market rates circumventing the mandis.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday made it clear in a televised address to the nation that the MSP system would continue. Stating that the current laws tied the hands of farmers, he said the reforms would enable them to be self-sufficient with access to multiple buyers.

However, even as Modi assured farmers that the Centre would continue to procure at MSPs, as a first step towards reforms, plan are already afoot in Punjab to purchase grains directly from farmers bypassing mandis and arthiyas during next paddy procurement season starting October 1.

The Centre (via FCI and other procurement agencies) had spent as much as ₹7,600 crore just to pay mandi tax and arthiya commission (in equal ratio) in procuring paddy and wheat during 2019-20. The total tax incidentals could even be higher considering the cess and other local levies.

To look over the scenario prevailed before the GST's July 2017 launch, FCI itself had paid ₹10,336 crore in 2015-16 towards VAT, market fee or mandi taxes and development fee to key rice and wheat procuring states such as Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Of this, the VAT component was more than a third.

**YONO to be stand-alone platform: SBI chairman**

"Suppose, someone wants to use API of personal loan, we can allow that," Kumar said. "Ultimately, SBI will also play for

### Air India sale: Allow bidders to quote own terms, says panel



absorb all debt and loss of jobs for all employees.

The core group of secretaries on disinvestment and the ministerial panel on AI disinvestment would take a final decision in this regard.

The Centre had floated EoI and preliminary information memorandum (PIM) on January 27 and EOI was sought by March 17 (extended to October 30 and may further be extended by up to 60 days with likely modified bidding conditions).

Along with AI, the government is also offloading its 100% stake in its low-cost subsidiary, Air India Express

(AIXL) and 50% of AISATS, which provides cargo and ground handling services at major Indian airports. The debt of AI and its low-cost subsidiary is being reduced by the government to around ₹23,286 crore (to be taken over by potential buyer) from ₹60,000 crore as on March 31, 2019. Additionally, the national carrier and its subsidiary have liabilities worth ₹25,000 crore. Of this, the buyer would have to take over only ₹9,700 crore liabilities backed by assets.

Buttressing its case for EV-based bidding, TA said "(this) allows for market discovery of the core strength of AI."

Such an approach would continue to have certain checks and balances in respect of GOI's interest in form of reserve prices," it added. The TA has observed that with each passing year AI is becoming less attractive as its domestic market share is shrinking and other airlines are expanding their footprint in international operations

including Essar Steel and Bhushan Power and Steel, have been mired in litigation, thanks to dogged pursuits of defaulting promoters to hold on to their firms.

Data available with the IBBI show, of the 2,108 ongoing cases as of June 2020, the resolution of as many as 1,094 has been dragging on beyond the mandatory 270 days, primarily due to legal hassles.

As FE reported earlier, to cut delay, the government is planning to soon notify a special insolvency resolution framework for stressed MSMEs, which is likely to reduce the mandatory time-frame for submitting a resolution plan for such businesses to just 90 days.

Atop executive with a state-run bank told FE: "Some legal purists may scoff at the perception that the IBC is being used more as a tool for recovery rather than resolution. But the fact is that it has helped enforce some discipline in the country's credit culture. Even if it's used purely as a recovery tool – which it's not – it's still fine. For far too long, defaulters had it too easy at the cost of lenders."

"That said, the challenge is to stick to the mandatory 270-day time-frame, and this is where more work needs to be done," said the banker. Most high-profile insolvency cases,

including the ones involving

value based on real assumptions, as the process is not anchored to a debt level that can be misconstrued as an indicative bid price. Such bidding method has some precedents (NCLT/IBC transactions follow similar construct).

Some of Dipam (department of investment and public asset management) disinvestment process (disinvestment of steel plants of SAIL being conducted on a debt-free basis) appear to have followed similar bidding pattern, it added.

"Such an approach would continue to have certain checks and balances in respect of GOI's interest in form of reserve prices," it added. The TA has observed that with each passing year AI is becoming less attractive as its domestic market share is shrinking and other airlines are expanding their footprint in international operations

(the core strength of AI).

Collin Koh, a research fellow at Singapore's Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, said the video was aimed at highlighting China's growing prowess in long-range power projection.

"The video is meant to warn the Americans that even supposedly safe, rearward positions such as Guam may come under threat when conflicts over regional flashpoints, be it Taiwan or South China Sea, erupt," he said.

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**LOCKDOWN EFFECT****Industries adopt captive solar power to cut costs**

VIKAS SRIVASTAVA  
Mumbai, September 21



FALLING REVENUES AND increasing electricity costs during the lockdown have forced a lot of companies across industries to shift to captive solar power generation to cut down on the recurring cost of energy, according to major solar end-to-end services players. Many companies have virtually managed to reduce their electricity cost to as low as the fixed cost, and see the payback on their investments in three-four years, these sources claim.

For consumption of 1 MW of electricity, companies pay around ₹2.7 lakh as electricity bill that gets reduced to ₹2 lakh or so in one year as they just pay the fixed cost component on thermal power, since the factors are still connected to the Grid.

Rahul Gupta, MD & CEO of Rays Experts, a major solar park developer in India, told FE their order book increased by over 50% year-on-year in the April-June quarter of 2020, as companies realised the importance of captive solar power plants in saving a major recurring cost. "Captive solar plants have turned out to be a really good business model. Given the incentives offered by the gov-

ernment in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat, people are making a 20-25% IRR. The commercial tariff is around ₹9/kWh, while industrial tariff is around ₹7-7.5/kWh, which is very high and can be essentially saved by the companies," Gupta said.

According to industry experts, the cost of installing a 1 MW solar power plant along with transmission cost is ₹4 crore that can be recovered in 3-4 years time frame. Since the companies do not have the luxury of space on the roofs, solar parks can help to build capacity and meet the entire requirement for companies. A lot of companies are using the rooftops as well as utilising resources from the solar park.

Puneet Goyal, founder & director of SunAlpha Energy, a major rooftop solar EPC player, that won around 10-12 large

clients during the April-June quarter of 2020, also said lockdown has compelled industries to look into their recurring expenses. Companies which used to focus on saving on revenue operations have now realised electricity cost could be saved. The falling interest rates for rooftop projects have also helped companies to get bank funding for captives solar power.

"A client of ours who invested close to ₹3.6 crore on a rooftop solar plant in Rajasthan has already saved ₹1.2 crore in one year which is reflecting in his balance sheet. If the roof was bigger he would have got a bigger plant and saved even more. Any industry that sees a payback in three years that becomes a natural investment," Goyal said.

Imaan Javan, director of operations at US-based EPC player, Suntuity REI, said: "We have done a 103 kilo watt (kW) power plant for a school at Marine Lines in Mumbai where the clients invested ₹50 lakh and their electricity bill reduced from ₹24 lakh per year to ₹2 lakh. We have customised the plant in such a way that around 99% of their demand is on solar. The payback period in this case is less than three years," Javan said.

**'India saved ₹5,000 cr by filling key reserves with low-priced oil'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 21

**INDIA SAVED OVER ₹5,000 cr** when the country in April-May used two-decade low international oil prices to fill up its three strategic underground crude oil storages, petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

India, the world's third-biggest oil importer, has built strategic storages in underground rock caverns at three places to meet any contingency.

"Taking advantage of the low crude oil prices in the international market, India purchased 16.71 million barrels (mbbl) of crude in April-May, and filled all the three strategic petroleum reserves created at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore, and Padur," Pradhan said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

The average cost of procurement of crude oil was \$19 per barrel, as compared to \$60 a barrel prevailing during January 2020. This helped save \$685.11 million or ₹5,069 crore, he said.

While the 5.33 million tonnes of emergency storage — enough to meet India's oil needs for 9.5 days — was built in underground rock caverns in Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh by the government, state-owned oil firms



Petroleum minister  
Dharmendra Pradhan

were in April asked to buy crude oil when global rates fell to a two-decade low. Oil prices globally had slumped after the coronavirus pandemic pummeled demand. The storages at Mangalore and Padur were half-empty and there was some space available in Vizag storage as well. These were filled by buying oil from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iraq.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve entity of India (SPRL) built the underground storages at Mangalore and Padur in Andhra Pradesh and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh as insurance against supply and price disruptions.

Mangalore storage has a total capacity of 1.5 million tonnes. Of this, half had previously been hired by Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) to store its crude oil. The remaining half was in April/May filled by oil bought by state-owned oil firms.

**Crude import bill falls 61% to \$17.7 bn in April-August**

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, September 21

**CRUDE IMPORT BILL** in the first five months of the current financial year fell 60.7% annually to \$17.7 billion, even though the volume of crude oil sourced from outside was only 22% lower than that in the same period a year ago.

In rupee terms, cost of crude imported in the period was 57.5% lower year on year (YoY) to ₹1.33 lakh crore. According to the government's petroleum planning and analysis cell, 73.8 million tonnes (MT) of crude oil have been imported in the country in the April-August period this year. The price of the Indian crude oil basket, which stood at an average of \$64 a barrel in January, is currently trading around \$42/barrel, after it had plunged to around \$20 in April.

India imports close to 85%

of its annual crude oil requirements, and the massive oil bill (it makes up for 21% of the country's imports) is the biggest driver of the country's trade deficit, and consequently current account deficit. Benefits of lower prices are seen to sustain going forward as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE and Kuwait, which account for 54% of India's crude imports, have recently reduced crude oil rates for October shipments.

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**UP aims 12,734-MW power output by 2022**

DEEPA JAINANI  
Lucknow, September 21

uaganj thermal project of UP Vidyan Utpadan Nigam will also start generation by December.

The other projects that would start power generation by the end of 2021 or early 2022 include the two units of 660 MW each at Obra-C, being built at a cost of ₹10,416 crore, two units of 660 MW at Jawaharpur thermal project, being constructed at a cost of ₹10,566 crore.

"Power evacuation from the ₹5,816.70-crore 600 MW Pankti thermal power project will start in December 2021, while the three units of the ₹17,2

3.80-crore Ghatampur project, a joint venture project with Neyveli Lignite Corporation, will also start from May 2022. The project will generate 1,980 MW of energy," said an official of Utpadan Nigam.

**Form No. INC-25A**  
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for conversion of Public company into a Private company

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Delhi Region  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of K S POLYSET LIMITED having its registered office at D - 12A, II<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi South Delhi DL 110016..... Applicant

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director at the address

of the concerned Regional Director at B-2 Wing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex New Delhi - 110003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and on behalf of the Applicant

Sd/-

CHANDRA SHEKHAR PRASAD  
(Director)  
DIN: 01139194

Date: 21.09.2020  
Place: Delhi

Company Add: D - 12A, II<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hauz Khas, South Delhi DL 110016

**Form No. INC-25A**  
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for conversion of public company into a private company

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
Northern Region  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s Maktak Speciality Chemicals Limited having its registered office at 251-252, Tribhuvan Complex, Ishwar Nagar, Friends Colony (West), New Delhi-110065, Applicant

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company is intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 31.08.2020 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director at the address

of the concerned Regional Director at B-2 Wing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi - 110003 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and on behalf of the Applicant

Sd/-

Ram Bachan Singh  
Additional Director  
DIN: 01316585

Date: 22.09.2020  
Place: New Delhi

Complete address of the registered office of the company

Maktak Speciality Chemicals Limited

251-252, Tribhuvan Complex, Ishwar Nagar, Friends Colony (West), New Delhi, 110065

**EXPRESS Careers**

**NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED**  
( Govt. of India Undertaking)  
CIN : L74899DL1974G01007417

A-11, Sector-24, Noida - 201301 Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.  
Phone: 0120-2412294, 2412445, Fax: 0120-2412397

Advertisement No. 01(Contractual)/2020 Date: 22.09.2020

**REQUIRES**

Consultant (Sales & Distribution) on contract basis initially for a period of six months. Age limit shall not exceed 62 years as on 01.09.2020. Detailed advertisement is available at NFL website www.nationalfertilizers.com → Careers → Recruitment in NFL → Engagement of Consultant (Sales & Distribution). Last date of receipt of application is 01.10.2020

Any corrigendum/addendum /errata for this recruitment shall be published only on the NFL's website.

Dy. General Manager (HR)

NFL : FARMER'S FRIEND, NATION'S PRIDE

**Fresh tender for Vande Bharat project**

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, September 21

**THE RAILWAYS HAS** floated a revised tender of semi-high-speed 44 Vande Bharat train sets after cancelling the previous one in which a Chinese company had participated.

This is the first big tender under revised DPPII norms of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', which makes it mandatory to use at least 75% domestic components while giving preference to local suppliers. The tender is

for three-phase propulsion, control and other equipment along with bogies for train sets.

The earlier tender allowed indigenous content of 50%, which was to be increased and revised in compliance with the new public procurement policy issued by the government in June.

These indigenous electric multiple units shall be manufactured at Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala and Modern Coach Factory in Rae-

bareli. The pre-bid meeting will be held on September 29 and the tender opening date is scheduled for November 17.

The ₹1,500-crore Vande Bharat project was taken over by the Railway Board, which had decided to float the tender after ICF failed three times to bid out the train set manufacturing contract. The last tender was floated on December 22, 2019, by the ICF and was opened on July 11 and finally discharged on August 21.

These indigenous electric multiple units shall be manufactured at Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala and Modern Coach Factory in Rae-

**IOCL to invest ₹17,825 crore in Gujarat refinery to boost petrochem production**

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, September 21

**STATE-RUN INDIAN OIL CORPORATION (IOCL)** will invest ₹17,825 crore in its Gujarat refinery to boost its capacity to produce petrochemicals, the company said on Monday. The development is in line with the IOCL's strategy to facilitate petrochemical integration into its refinery expansion plans, as this group of products is touted

to be the biggest driver of oil demand in the long term. The Gujarat refinery upgrade is expected to be completed in 42 months.

"The intention is to increase petrochemical intensity to insulate ourselves from the vagaries of auto fuel margin cracks and guarantee better refining margins," IOCL chairman SM Vaidya said on Monday while addressing the media after the company's 61st AGM. IOCL net profit

fell 47% annually to ₹1,910.8 crore in the quarter ended June 30, mainly due to inventory losses stemming from fluctuations in global oil prices. The petrochemicals business is expected to act as a cushion to its low-margin refinery business.

Vaidya said though the company was revising the long-term demand scenario after the coronavirus crisis, it was on track to spend the ₹26,233-crore capex earmarked for FY21.

**Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for conversion of Public company into a Private company**

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Delhi Region  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

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Northern Region

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Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company is intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2

# Companies

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020



## \$10-TRILLION ECONOMY

Sanjiv Mehta, CMD, Hindustan Unilever

In the last three decades, we have achieved about 6-6.5% GDP growth rate on an average...the potential of the country is there...in next 12-15 years, we could be on the cusp of becoming a \$10-trillion economy.

## Quick View



### RITES wins ₹475-cr contract for railway electrification works

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE Consultancy and Engineering firm RITES on Monday said it has won a ₹474.92-crore contract for railway electrification works. "RITES has been awarded a contract for railway electrification works on competition basis amounting to ₹474.92 crore," the company said in a regulatory filing.

### HCL Tech to acquire Australian firm DWS

HCL TECHNOLOGIES on Monday said it will acquire Australian IT solutions firm DWS, a move that will help it strengthen its position in the Australia and New Zealand market. In a regulatory filing, it said the total equity value payout will be about ₹850.33 crore after considering a total number of shares at 131.83 million on a fully diluted basis.

### MPL raises \$90 million in Series C funding

MOBILE PREMIER League (MPL), an e-sports and mobile gaming platform, has raised \$90 million in Series C funding, led by SIG and early-stage tech investor RTP Global, along with MDI Ventures and Pegasus Tech Ventures. The investment brings MPL's total funding to \$130.5 million, a press release said on Monday.

### Pep Technologies raises ₹42 cr in Series B funding

MUMBAI-BASED PEP Technologies, which owns caffeine-based skin and hair care brand mCaffeine, on Monday said it has raised ₹42 crore in a Series B funding round from a consortium of investors led by Amicus Capital along with RPSC Ventures and existing investor Telama Investments.

### ₹3-5k crore needed to create extra vaccine mfg facilities'

ZYDUS CADILA chairman Pankaj R Patel said India would need to invest around ₹3,000-5,000 crore to create additional facilities for making a huge number of vaccines required for the Indian population. He also said the vaccine alone is not the solution to the Covid-19 problem.

### Dalmia-OCL's 1.08-L tonne refractory line in Odisha

DALMIA-OCL on Monday announced setting up of a refractory line with 1.08 lakh tonne capacity at its Rajangpur plant in Odisha to produce magnesia carbon bricks. It said it aims to complete the project in phases over two years. It, however, did not disclose the investment amount.

### Amazon concludes 10-day initiative to help artisans

AMAZON HAS announced that 'Stand for Handmade' – a 10-week initiative to help over 10 lakh artisans and weavers and women entrepreneurs – has concluded. It enabled sellers from Amazon Karigar and Amazon Saheli register 3.2 times and 2.1 times growth, respectively.

## GETTING READY

# Logistics, e-commerce companies gear up for upcoming festive sales

DEVIKA SINGH

New Delhi, September 21

AFTER A HALT, the upcoming annual festive season is likely to inject the much-needed cheer back into the economy, especially on the back of e-commerce sales.

The e-commerce companies in India organise several sale events during the festive season. In anticipation of the surge in orders, logistics companies such as Ecom Express, Blue Dart and Shadowfax have started ramping up their infrastructure and hiring manpower.

The flagship sales by Amazon and Flipkart – The Great Indian Festival and Big Billion Days – are the highlights of the season and mark the onset of shopping festivities. The first event of last year's festive sales, according to RedSeer Consulting, had raked in \$2.7 billion in GMV (gross mer-

## ACCELERATING DEMAND

# As sales rise, Hyundai nears normal production volumes

SAJAN C KUMAR  
Chennai, September 21

SOUTH KOREAN CAR major Hyundai has said the company is close to achieving its normal production volumes in India, riding on the increased demand for its vehicles amid the ongoing Covid-19 unlock phase in the country.

With demand picking up month after month since May, Hyundai had started a third shift at both its production units in the Chennai plant from July end.

In an exclusive interview with FE, Tarun Garg, director, sales, marketing and service, Hyundai Motor India, who has been recently inducted on the company's board as a whole-time director, said the company has been ramping up its capacity utilisation with month-on-month sales registering an increase. From zero unit sales in April and 6,883 in May to 21,320 in June and 38,200 units in July, the company has been reporting constant rise in sales. In August, it reported a close to 20% growth in domestic sales on a year-on-year basis, he added.

Before the pandemic, Hyundai India had been producing 2,500 cars per day, while it had a total annual capacity of 7,500 lakh cars. Hyundai had ceased all production activities even before lockdown 1.0 was formally announced. During the actual lockdown from March 24 up to May 8, there was zero production. On May 8, Hyundai recommenced production, making 200 cars on that day. Ever since then, Hyundai has been gradually ramping up production.

For April to August, the carmaker retailed



We are happy our sales are showing good traction and month-on-month, we are seeing growth, but we also know the coronavirus is still there.

— TARUN GARG, DIRECTOR,  
SALES, MARKETING & SERVICE,  
HYUNDAI INDIA

1,22,945 units in the domestic market. In August, it retailed 43,535 units, a growth of 16% compared with July.

Garg further said the company believes that product diversity excites customers and brings them to car dealerships. In the last 18 months, Hyundai has launched eight new products in the Indian market – Kona, Venue, Elantra, Aura, Creta, Verna, Nios and Tucson. "We could grow the volumes in India

because of our portfolio of new and range of products that give a slew of options even during these challenging times," he said.

According to Garg, Hyundai is perhaps the only company offering the BS-VI model in petrol, diesel, turbo as well as CNG versions.

Hyundai said it has become the market leader in three vehicle categories – SUV Low(Creta), compact SUV(Venue) and mid-high segment of sedan (Verna) during the April-August period. It sold 33,726 units of Creta; 20,372 of Venue; and 5,321 of Verna during the period. Pointing out that diesel still plays a big role in its sales growth story, Garg said, in Creta, around 60% sales are happening in diesel, while in Venue and Verna it is above 30%.

There is cautious optimism in the auto sector, Garg said. Though Hyundai achieved a 20% growth in August, it came on the low base of August 2019 figures.

"We are happy our sales are showing good traction, but we also know the coronavirus is still there," he said.

Hyundai has seen bigger growth in smaller towns than in the metros. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand have been doing far better than Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu. "It may be because farmers' income was less impacted; thanks to the monsoon and good crops, the rural economy has withstood the impact of the lockdown," he said.

For the upcoming festival season, Hyundai is going to ensure adequate availability of cars with the dealers so that faster delivery can be achieved. "As supply chains are steadily improving, we will be able to send more vehicles to dealers," Garg said.

## Lodha, MP Birla Group firms file pleas before Calcutta HC division bench against single-bench order

FE BUREAU  
Kolkata, September 21

HARSH VARDHAN LODHA and MP Birla Group entities on Monday filed multiple applications before a division bench of the Calcutta High Court, challenging a single bench order which restrained him from holding any office in any of the entities of the MP Birla Group during pendency of the suit involving the contested will of late Priyamvada Devi Birla, the widow of MP Birla.

At least four applications were filed on Monday and more are to be filed before the hearing begins at the division bench later this week.

In a setback for Lodhas, the Calcutta High Court last Friday restrained Lodha, the chairman of MP Birla Group, from holding any office in any of the entities of the group. Justice Sahidullah Munshi, in his order, said Lodha shall be restrained from drawing any benefit personally from out of the assets of the estate of the deceased (Priyamvada Devi Birla) during pendency of the Testamentary Suit.

Cement maker Birla Corp, copper and fibre optic cables maker Birla Cable and telecommunication cables maker Vindhyा

The single bench restrained Lodha, MP Birla Group chief, from holding office in any of the group entities

committees by removing a member without giving any of them any hearing.

The genesis of the over 16-year-old legal row between the Birlas and the Lodhas over controlling the over ₹5,000 crore Birla Estate lies in the contested will of late Priyamvada Devi Birla, which was executed in July 1982 after the purported will allegedly transferred the shares of the MP Birla Group, collectively called the Birla Estate, in favour of Rajendra Singh Lodha. The legal tussle began after the July 1982 will gave away all assets to charities, but another dated April 18, 1999, gave them to Rajendra Lodha, now being pursued by his son Harsh Lodha and other heirs.

The officer said that telecom operators

can clear the balance dues in 10 yearly instalments the next financial year onward.

—PTI

## Xiaomi sells phones out of a van to expand reach

BLOOMBERG  
Mumbai, September 21

XIAOMI PLANS TO reach out to rural Indian consumers via a Mi Store on Wheels, hoping to sell smartphones to the remotest parts of the country at a time of growing anti-Chinese sentiment.

The country's top-selling smartphone brand is starting a travelling store, which will cover a specific route and stop in regions where people gather for weekly haats or street fairs. The pilot will also sell smart TVs, CCTV cameras, earphones, sunglasses and power banks, Xiaomi said in a release on Monday.

Xiaomi is just one of several brands that are taking their products directly to customers to make up for lack of traffic in stores during the pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns. The Chinese smartphone maker held onto its top position in India's smartphone market for the June quarter, even as smartphone shipments halved and tensions between Delhi and Beijing led to a growing backlash against Chinese brands.

"MSoW outlets will be fully safe for consumers to visit. With this new initiative and having the largest exclusive single brand retail network, we are determined to reach the remotest areas of the country and address the needs of customers, bringing the Mi Store experience to their neighborhood," said Muralikrishnan B, COO at Mi India.

## BPSL resolution: ED moves SC seeking stay on NCLAT order approving JSW Steel bid

INDU BHAN  
New Delhi, September 21

## THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED)

has moved the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) order that approved the JSW Steel's bid for debt-ridden Bhushan Power and Steel under the new amendment (under Section 32(A) to the IBC) that provides immunity to the new owners from ongoing criminal proceedings against the erstwhile promoters of the company.

The ED is opposing the BPSL's committee of creditors' appeal seeking direction to JSW Steel to implement the resolution plan it had proposed for the bankrupt company.

JSW had offered to pay ₹19,350 crore to the financial creditors as part of its resolution plan, a near 60% haircut for the lenders. Apart from this, JSW had offered to pay operational creditors a sum of ₹350 crore against their admitted claims of ₹733 crore.

NCLAT had on February 17 upheld NCLT's decision and ruled that JSW Steel cannot be held responsible for the alleged misdeeds of the past promoters at any stage.

Seeking a stay on the appellate tribunal's decision, the ED, in its appeal, told the SC that BPSL and JSW Steel are associated as shareholders, holding 24.09% and 49% equity, respectively, in a joint venture called Rohne Coal Company. Therefore, JSW is a related party of the corporate debtor, and the protection under Section 32(A) will not be available to it, it said.

Saying that the formation of JV was not mandatorily required, the investigating agency said the NCLAT conclusion was based on the incorrect assumption that JSW was mandated by the Central government to join hands with the corporate debtor by virtue of which they could not be related persons. It said the resolution applicant was responsible for the acts of the old management.

Citing recent developments, ED stated it had raided BPSL resolution professional (RP) Mahender Kumar Khandelwal at Gurgaon and Delhi for allegedly helping its former promoters "clandestinely" in clearing the finished goods from its Odisha plant to other plants in Kolkata and Chandigarh. This practice resorted to by BPSL's erstwhile management had continued even after initiation



of the CIRP on August 5, 2017, it said.

According to ED, the search operations conducted on August 19 and 20 on the residential premises of Khandelwal, BPSL office and the residence of one of BPSL ex-directors found incriminating documents, indicating a receipt of cash in lieu of preferential selection of coal suppliers and preferential selection of insurance firm for concerns under the NCLT were also found.

"The RP also attempted to destroy a crucial piece of evidence but it was prevented. Huge cash payments to various individuals outside the books of accounts indicate siphoning of cash from various concerns undergoing CIRP under NCLT. Further investigations are being conducted by way of recording of statements of various persons involved," the ED stated.

Further investigation had revealed that in May this year, sale of coke worth ₹43 crore had taken place from BPSL to Monnet Ispat and Energy, a JSW group company, the petition stated, adding that the sale had taken place without any tender.

The ex-promoters of BPSL are under investigation for diverting ₹4,025 crore bank funds taken as loans. The ED in October last year had provisionally attached BPSL's assets worth over ₹4,025 crore for diversion of funds by the erstwhile management prior to the commencement of CIRP. Though the attachment was lifted by NCLAT, the ED had then appealed against the order in the SC.

JSW has accused the CoC of deliberately misleading it by not disclosing the fact of siphoning of funds and fraud. The SC has not stayed the resolution plan, but has told the CoC that if JSW makes the payment but loses the case, the lenders should return the money within 60 days.

## IT firms must become proactive problem-solvers: Narayana Murthy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 21

INFOSYS CO-FOUNDER NR Narayana Murthy on Monday said Indian IT firms must move from reactive problem-solving to having a proactive problem recognition and solution mindset, which will help increase the per capita revenue productivity.

Speaking at an AIMa event, Murthy said Indian IT companies will continue to grow anywhere between 7% and 10% with operating margins being between 15% and 20%.

He cited the example of customer surveys conducted during his tenure at Infosys, where customers said that while the IT firm was providing great service, they expected the company to play a proactive role in helping resolve strategic issues. "I think if the Indian IT industry moves from being reactive problem-solvers to proactive problem-definers and solution providers, our per capita revenue productivity will improve. We will become much better known and the growth will be spectacular," he said.

Asked about his views on the work-from-home mode being adopted amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Murthy said he isn't a "great fan" of work from home. "I believe the office is the place to work, home is the place to spend time with your loved ones. Mixing the two is not a good idea on a long-term basis.

Yeah, I understand that there is no alternative therefore, we have adapted. But this should be a short-term solution," he said.

On mergers and acquisitions, Murthy said acquisition strategy should look at complementary strengths. He explained



that if the target company adds value in terms of adding strength in a sector, helps bolster presence in a geography or has an IP (intellectual property right) that can be leveraged for accelerating growth of services, there is merit such a transaction.

"I am a great believer in bottomline. I believe in topline, but that topline has to come with a very good bottomline... I am not a great fan of acquiring companies which have low margins," he added.

"Sebi must blacklist board members, officials guilty of governance deficit" Murthy also suggested that market regulator Sebi must blacklist board members and officials found guilty of governance deficit, and the compensation paid to them be recovered. "Sebi must blacklist these board members and officers. The shareholders must vote them out," he said.

Henoted that whistleblowing should not be an act of revenge by a disgruntled employee, and the whistleblower must substantiate his or her complaint with data and facts.

Ecom Express' seasonal positions have been created in towns beyond metros. "While we have been ramping up our infrastructure in smaller towns, we have to apply data science to offer a good delivery experience," says Siddharth Agarwal, vice-president, and head of business strategy and planning, Ecom Express.

The industry is also bracing up for a surge in demand for different product categories. "We are seeing increased demand for consumer durables and electronics that enable work-from-home, such as headphones, printers, smartphones and others," said Ketan Kulkarni, CMO and head of business development, Blue Dart.

Flipkart and Amazon together control about 55% of shipments (in volumes) in the e-commerce market. While their respective captive logistics arms Ekart and ATS manage 70% of these shipments, 30% of it is outsourced. Overall, independent logistics



# MAGNA ELECTRO CASTINGS LIMITED

CIN: L31103TZ1990PLC002836

Registered Office: 43 (Old No 62), Balasundaram Road, Coimbatore - 641018, Tamilnadu.

Tel.: +91 422 2240109 | Fax: +91 422 2246209 | E-mail: info@magnacast.com | Website: www.magnacast.com

Company Secretary and Compliance Officer: Sangeetha C

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ATTENTION OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS/ BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF EQUITY SHARES OF MAGNA ELECTRO CASTINGS LIMITED FOR BUYBACK OF EQUITY SHARES THROUGH TENDER OFFER UNDER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA(BUY-BACK OF SECURITIES) REGULATIONS, 2018, AS AMENDED.

This Public Announcement (the "Public Announcement") is being made in relation to the Buyback (as defined hereinbelow) of Equity Shares (as defined hereinafter) of **MAGNA ELECTRO CASTINGS LIMITED** through the tender offer process made pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 7(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Buy-Back of Securities) Regulations, 2018, as amended (the "Buyback Regulations"), for the time being in force including any statutory modifications and amendments from time to time and contains the disclosures as specified in Schedule II to the Buyback Regulations read with Schedule I of the SEBI Buyback Regulations.

**CASH OFFER FOR BUYBACK OF NOT EXCEEDING 4,00,000 (FOUR LAKH) FULLY PAID UP EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH AT A PRICE OF ₹ 175/- (RUPEES ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE ONLY) PER FULLY PAID UP EQUITY SHARE ON A PROPORTIONATE BASIS THROUGH THE TENDER OFFER ROUTE**

**1. DETAILS OF THE BUYBACK OFFER AND BUYBACK PRICE**

1.1 The Board of Directors (the "Board") of **MAGNA ELECTRO CASTINGS LIMITED** ("MAGNA" / "Company") passed a resolution on Friday, September 18, 2020 ("Board Meeting") to approve the buyback by the Company of fully paid-up equity shares of face value of ₹ 10/- each ("Shares" or "Equity Shares") of the Company not exceeding 4,00,000 (Four Lakh) Equity Shares from the equity shareholders/beneficial owners of Equity Shares of the Company as on Record Date i.e. Thursday, October 1, 2020 (the "Record Date") and such equity shareholders/ beneficial owners the "Eligible Shareholders" (for further details in relation to the Record Date, refer to Paragraph 9 of this Public Announcement), on a proportionate basis, through tender offer route (the "Buyback" / "Buyback Offer") at a price of ₹ 175/- (Rupees One Hundred and Seventy Five only) per Equity Share ("Buyback Price" / "Buyback Offer Price") payable in cash, for an aggregate maximum consideration not exceeding ₹ 7,00,00,000 (Rupees Seven Crores Only) (the "Buyback Offer Size"). The Buyback Offer Size represents 9.52% of the aggregate of the Company's paid-up capital and free reserves as per the standalone audited financial statements of the Company for the financial year ended March 31, 2020. The Buyback is subject to receipt of any approvals, permissions and sanctions of statutory, regulatory or governmental authorities as may be required under applicable laws including but not limited to Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") and BSE Limited (the "BSE") (the "Stock Exchange").

1.2 The Buyback Offer Size and the Buyback Offer Price do not include any expenses incurred or to be incurred for the Buyback like filing fees payable to the Securities and Exchange Board of India, advisors fees, public announcement publication expenses, printing and dispatch expenses, taxes *inter alia* including buy back taxes, securities transaction tax, goods and services tax, stamp duty and other incidental and related expenses.

1.3 The Buyback is in accordance with the provisions of Section 68, 69, 70 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act 2013, as amended (the "Companies Act"), the Companies (Share Capital and Debentures) Rules, 2014, as amended (the "Share Capital Rules") to the extent applicable and in accordance with Article 39 of the Articles of Association of the Company, and subject to the provisions of the Buyback Regulations and such other approvals, permissions as may be required from time to time from the Stock Exchange where the Equity Shares of the Company are listed and from any other statutory and/or regulatory authority, as may be required and which may be agreed to by the Board and/or any committee thereof. The Buyback would be undertaken in accordance with SEBI circular bearing number CIR/CDF/POLICYCELL/1/2015 dated April 13, 2015 and circular no. CFD/DCR2/CIR/P/2016/131 dated December 09, 2016 (the "SEBI Circulars"), which prescribes mechanism for acquisition of shares through stock exchange. In this regard, the Company will request BSE to provide the acquisition window.

1.4 The Buyback Offer Size represents 9.52% of the aggregate of the fully paid-up equity share capital and free reserves as per the standalone audited financial statements of the Company for the financial year ended March 31, 2020 (the last standalone audited financial statements available as on the date of the Board Meeting approving the Buyback) and is within the statutory limits of 10% of the aggregate of the fully paid-up equity share capital and free reserves under the Board of Directors approval route as per the provisions of the Companies Act. Since the Company proposes to Buyback up to 4,00,000 (Four Lakh) Equity Shares representing approximately 8.73 % of the total number of Equity Shares in the total paid-up share capital of the Company, the same is within the 25% limit as per the provisions of the Companies Act.

1.5 The maximum amount required by the Company for the Buyback aggregating to ₹ 7,00,00,000 (Rupees Seven Crores Only), is within permitted limits. The funds for the Buyback will be met out of internally generated cash resources of the Company. The Company confirms that as required under Section 68(2)(d) of the Companies Act and Regulation 4(ii) of Buyback Regulations, the ratio of the aggregate of secured and unsecured debts owed by the Company shall not be more than twice the fully paid-up share capital and free reserves after the Buyback.

1.6 The Buyback Offer Price of ₹ 175/- (Rupees One Hundred and Seventy Five Only) per Equity Share has been arrived at after considering various factors such as the average closing prices of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchange where the Equity Shares of the Company are listed, the net-worth of the Company and the impact of the Buyback on the key financial ratios of the Company. The Buyback Offer Price of ₹ 175/- (Rupees One Hundred and Seventy Five only) per Equity Share represents (i) a premium of 45.65% over the volume weighted average price of the Equity Shares on BSE for 3 months preceding September 14, 2020 being the date of intimation to the Stock Exchange for the Board Meeting to consider the proposal of the Buyback ("Intimation Date"); (ii) premium of 39.91% over the volume weighted average price of the Equity Shares on BSE for 2 weeks preceding Intimation Date; and (iii) premium of 23.50% over the closing market price of the Equity Shares on BSE on Intimation Date.

1.7 The Buyback shall be on a proportionate basis from all the Eligible Shareholders of the Company through the "Tender Offer" route, as prescribed under Regulation 4(iv)(a) of the Buyback Regulations. Please see paragraph 9 below for details regarding Record Date and share entitlement for tender in the Buyback.

1.8 A copy of this Public Announcement is available on the Company's website ([www.magnacast.com](http://www.magnacast.com)) and is expected to be available on the website of SEBI ([www.sebi.gov.in](http://www.sebi.gov.in)) during the period of the Buyback and on the website of Stock Exchange ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)).

**2. NECESSITY FOR BUY BACK**

Buyback is the acquisition by a company of its own shares. Buyback is an efficient form of returning surplus cash to the members holding Equity Shares of the Company, *inter alia*, for the following reasons:

i. The Buyback will help the Company to return surplus cash to its members holding Equity Shares broadly in proportion to their shareholding, thereby, enhancing the overall return to members;

ii. The Buyback, which is being implemented through the Tender Offer route as prescribed under the Buyback Regulations, would involve allocation of higher number of shares as per their entitlement or 15% of the number of shares to be bought back, reserved for the small shareholders. The Company believes that this reservation of 15% for small shareholders would benefit a large number of public shareholders, who would get classified as "small shareholder";

iii. The Buyback would help in improving return on equity, by reduction in the equity base, thereby leading to long term increase in shareholders' value; and

iv. The Buyback gives an option to the members holding Equity Shares of the Company, who can choose to participate and get cash in lieu of Equity Shares to be accepted under the Buyback Offer or they may choose to not participate and enjoy a resultant increase in their percentage shareholding, post the Buyback Offer, without additional investment.

After considering several factors and benefits to the shareholders holding Equity Shares of the Company, the Board decided to recommend Buyback not exceeding 4,00,000 (Four Lakh) Equity Shares representing 8.73% of the total paid-up equity capital of the Company at a price of ₹ 175 (Rupees One Hundred and Seventy Five only) per Equity Share, payable in cash, for an aggregate maximum amount not exceeding ₹ 7,00,00,000 (Rupees Seven Crore only) excluding filing fees payable to the Securities and Exchange Board of India, advisors fees, public announcement publication expenses, printing and dispatch expenses, taxes *inter alia* including buy back taxes, securities transaction tax, goods and services tax, stamp duty and other incidental and related expenses, which represents 9.52% of the aggregate of the Company's paid-up capital and free reserves as per the standalone audited financials of the Company for the financial year ended March 31, 2020.

**3. DETAILS OF PROMOTERS SHAREHOLDING AND INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BUYBACK**

3.1 The aggregate shareholding of the promoters, promoter group and person who are control of Company on the date of the Board Meeting i.e. Friday, September 18, 2020 is given below:

Name of the promoters and promoter group	No. of Equity Shares held	No. of Equity Shares held in dematerialized form	Percentage of issued Equity Share Capital
*N Krishna Samaraj	7,70,000	7,70,000	16.80
N Muthulakshmi	8,07,091	8,07,091	17.61
Ranganayagi N	1,95,000	1,95,000	4.26
Maithili Vijayakumar	22,600	22,600	0.49
Janardhana Nadu Vijayakumar	10,100	10,100	0.22
Vijayakumar Venkatakumar	45,000	45,000	0.98
Nivedita Lakshmi Narayanaswamy	2,30,000	2,30,000	5.02
Ajeya Vel Narayanaswamy	8,000	8,000	0.17
Aditya Vijayakumar	55,255	55,255	1.21
N Krishna Samaraj	77,000	77,000	1.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,20,046</b>	<b>22,20,046</b>	<b>48.45</b>

\*Shares held by N Krishnasamaraj HUF where N Krishna Samaraj is Karta

3.2 Aggregate Equity Shares purchased or sold by the promoters, promoter group and person who are control of Company during a period of six months preceding the date of the Board Meeting, i.e. Friday, September 18, 2020:

Name of the promoters and promoter group	Aggregate number of Equity Shares purchased	Nature of transaction	Maximum Price (₹)	Date of maximum price	Minimum price (₹)	Date of minimum price
*N Krishna Samaraj	5,000	Market Purchase	138.00	19/03/2020	125.00	20/03/2020
Nivedita Lakshmi Narayanaswamy	7,000	Market Purchase	140.00	18/03/2020	124.00	19/03/2020
Ajeya Vel Narayanaswamy	3,000	Market Purchase	134.00	19/03/2020	95.00	30/03/2020
N Krishna Samaraj	15,850	Market Purchase	140.00	18/03/2020	96.90	30/03/2020

\*Shares held by N Krishnasamaraj HUF where N Krishna Samaraj is Karta

3.3 In terms of the Buyback Regulations, under the Tender Offer route, the promoters and promoter group of Company have an option to participate in the Buyback. In this regard, the promoters and promoter group have vide their letters dated Friday, September 18, 2020 expressed they do not intend to participate in the Buyback.

**4. NO DEFAULTS**

The Board confirms that there are no defaults subsisting in the repayment of deposits, interest payment thereon, redemption of debentures or interest payment thereon or redemption of preference shares or payment of dividend due to any shareholder, or repayment of any term loans or interest payable thereon to any financial institution or banking company.

**5. CONFIRMATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board has confirmed on the date of Board Meeting (i.e. Friday, September 18, 2020) that it has made a full enquiry into the affairs and prospects of the Company and has formed an opinion that:

a) Immediately following the date of this Board meeting, there will be no grounds on which the Company could be found unable to pay its debts;

b) As regards the Company's prospects for the year immediately following the date of this Board meeting, and having regard to the Board's intention with respect to the management of Company's business during that year and to the amount and character of the financial resources which will in the Board's view be available to the Company during that year, the Company will be able to meet its liabilities as and when they fall due and will not be rendered insolvent within a period of one year from the date of this Board meeting; and

c) In forming an opinion as aforesaid, the Board has taken into account the liabilities, as if the Company were being wound up under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 or Companies Act, 2013 or Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016, as the case may be, including prospective and contingent liabilities.

**6. REPORT BY THE COMPANY'S STATUTORY AUDITOR**

The text of the report dated Friday, September 18, 2020 received from M/s. Srikanth & Co., Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditors of the Company addressed to the Board of Directors of the Company is reproduced below:

**Quote**

**Auditor's Report as prescribed in the Clause (xi) of Schedule I of the Buyback Regulations**

To  
The Board of Directors,  
**Magna Electro Castings Limited**  
43, (Old No 62) Balasundaram Road,  
Coimbatore - 641 018

# MAGNA

# ELECTRO CASTINGS LIMITED

CIN: L31103TZ1990PLC002836

Registered Office: 43 (Old No 62), Balasundaram Road, Coimbatore - 641018, Tamilnadu.

Tel.: +91 422 2240109 | Fax: +91 422 2246209 | E-mail: info@magnacast.com | Website: www.magnacast.com

Company Secretary and Compliance Officer: Sangeetha C

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ATTENTION OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS/ BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF EQUITY SHARES OF MAGNA ELECTRO CASTINGS LIMITED FOR BUYBACK OF EQUITY SHARES THROUGH TENDER OFFER UNDER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA(BUY-BACK OF SECURITIES) REGULATIONS, 2018, AS AMENDED.

Dear Sirs,

Sub: Report in terms of Clause (xi) of Schedule I of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Buy-Back of Securities) Regulations, 2018

We, Srikanth & Co., Chartered Accountants, the Statutory Auditors of the Company, have been informed that the Board of Directors of **Magna Electro Castings Limited** (the "Company") in their meeting held on 18th September, 2020, have decided to buy back Company's fully paid up equity shares as allowed under Section 68, 69 and 70 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Companies (Share Capital and Debenture) Rules, 2014 and subsequent amendments thereto and Securities and Exchange Board of India (Buyback of Securities) Regulations, 2018 ("Buyback Regulations") at a price of ₹ 175 (Rupees One Hundred and Seventy Five only) per share. In terms of the requirements of Clause (xi) of Schedule I of the Buyback Regulations, we confirm that:

(i) We have inquired into the state of affairs of the Company in relation to its audited financials statements for the year ended March 31, 2020, as approved by the Board of Directors in the meeting held on 1st June, 2020 and unaudited limited reviewed results for the three months ended June 30, 2020 as approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 31st July, 2020;

(ii) The amount of permissible capital payment towards buy-back of equity shares (including premium) in question as ascertained below in our view has been properly determined in accordance with Section 68(2)(c) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Regulation 4 of Buyback Regulations:

Particulars	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs) As on March 31, 2020 Standalone
<b>Issued, subscribed and fully paid up equity shares:</b>	<b>458.22</b>
45,82,000 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- each, fully paid up	458.22
<b>Total- A</b>	<b>458.22</b>
<b>Free Reserves</b>	
General Reserve	3400.00
Retained Earnings	3491.58
<b>Total- B</b>	<b>6891.58</b>
<b>Total C = A+B</b>	<b>7349.81</b>
Maximum amount permissible for the Buy-back i.e. 10% of the aggregate fully paid-up equity share capital and free reserves pursuant to Section 68(2)(b) of the Companies Act requiring Board Resolution.	734.98
Amount approved by the Board of Directors for buy-back in the meeting held on 18.0	

# Opinion

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020



**AN AUTOCRATIC REGIME**  
Chief minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee  
Suspension of the 8 MPs who fought to protect farmers interests is unfortunate & reflective of this autocratic Govt's mindset that doesn't respect democratic norms & principles

## The 'farmer' protests are driven by vested interests

States like Punjab & Haryana will lose out on hefty *mandi* taxes, and *arhatiyas* are faced with potential competition

**G**IEN THAT JUST 6-8% of farmers across the country benefit from the government's MSP operations—and the government has made it clear these are not going to be disbanded—it is very clear the so-called 'farmer' agitation is actually one driven by vested interests; the long-overdue agriculture reforms, once they take root, can make a meaningful difference to the sector, so there is no reason for farmers to protest. Indeed, it is not surprising states like Punjab are at the forefront of the agitation given how the 8% or so *mandi* taxes they collect each time the central government buys grain from farmers will be hit once there is more competition to the *mandis*. Given, the high commission that *arhatiyas* charge, they too will be hit once there are alternatives that will help farmers bypass them. The government should stay the course because it is on the right track; the three Bills aimed at freeing farmers from the *arhatiyas*, allowing agents to stock produce without being prosecuted and enabling contract farming, can help usher in a far more equitable ecosystem than the one we have today.

Of course, for the reforms to actually work—and for the government to win the confidence of the farming community—it has to ensure that its ₹1 lakh crore agriculture infrastructure plan is quickly rolled out to create the necessary infrastructure. To start with, it needs to help facilitate the setting up of enough rival *mandis* as soon as possible so that farmers can start moving away from the existing APMC-regulated *mandis* where the *arhatiyas* squeeze them. The state governments have been very tardy in dismantling the state APMC legislation, and they must now be persuaded—or pushed—to quickly part with land for the new *mandis*. Only when they get a good price for their produce, other than in the regular *mandis*, will farmers be convinced the new ecosystem is working in their favour. Indeed, when there are alternative selling avenues, including big retailers or Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) buying directly from farmers, even the *arhatiyas* will offer farmers a better deal. Contract farming will also help aggregate landholdings since, as the last agriculture census (2015-16) showed, 86% of all landholdings were small and marginal (less than two hectares).

Also, while MSPs are not the most efficient way to remunerate farmers—for over 90% of farmers, *mandi* prices are mostly below MSPs—it is probably politically astute to continue with the scheme until farmers have found better options. Once farmers start getting a better price, and with *arhatiyas* taking away less of this via their commissions, and once contract farming takes off, dismantling MSPs will be easier. Again, once inter-state and intra-state sales get going, the farmers will be better off. To be sure, since there are legitimate concerns on whether private-sector purchasers will really offer farmers good terms for their crop, it is important to put in various checks and balances and to ensure there is a good redressal mechanism. It is vital that the MSP system be dismantled, eventually, as this drives up costs, ensures water tables go down—as farmers grow the wrong crops—and distorts crop production patterns. Logistics costs add between 30% and 35% to the purchase price for the government. Indeed, it would be better, as Icrier professor Ashok Gulati argues, to replace the FCI-driven procurement with the China model—now being used in Telangana—a per-acre cash support instead. Since the scheme does not discriminate between crops in the manner the MSP one does, it will not influence what farmers grow.

If the terms of trade are, more often than not, against farmers, government policy has been an important reason for this. Indeed, the recent ban on onion exports as a response to rising prices makes it clear consumer interests generally trump farmers' interests; export bans and restrictions on the movement of produce across states have hurt farm profits over the decades. It is unfortunate that, while introducing three reform Bills, the government has opted to carry on some regressive policies of the past.

## Don't burden schools

Delhi HC order on digital-gap misses some ground realities

**T**HE INTENT OF the Delhi High Court (HC) surely was admirable—to ensure that no child gets left behind in terms of school education that is now being delivered digitally by many schools, thanks to the pandemic making regular classes an infection threat. But, its one-size-fits-all solution—last week, it ordered all schools, government and private, to provide digital devices and internet packs free to EWS/disadvantaged group (DG) students—will compound the problem. The court said if schools have decided to provide tuitions online, then they must ensure that EWS & DG students have access; failure to do so would be tantamount to "digital apartheid" and would be in violation of the Right to Education law. To be sure, the court made it clear that private, unaided schools will be entitled to claim reimbursement of "reasonable cost for procurement" of the gadgets/internet package from the state government under RTE. However, as a report in *The Indian Express* (IE) points out, there is many a slip between the cup and the lip.

As per the IE report, the distinction between fee-paying and EWS students is wafer-thin, mostly a matter of getting picked in the lottery draw or having the necessary documents to prove EWS status, in small private schools (popularly called budget private schools). Indeed, 10-15% of students who didn't have access to digital devices/internet in some of these schools belonged to both the fee-paying and EWS categories. So, while the HC said that by not providing equipment to EWS/DG students, the private schools were putting a financial barrier before such students in accessing digital tuitions, at the budget private schools, the order itself seems to be a barrier for fee-paying, but non-EWS students who still can't afford the gadgets/data packs. This is no small problem, given there are, as per the National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA), about 41,000 students in such schools in the national capital. Attempting to resolve an imagined "segregation" could end up making matters worse.

That apart, as per the findings of a NISA survey published earlier this month, fee payment at budget schools in the national capital during the period of the lockdown has fallen to 25% of the normal. With such low fee realisations—likely due to depressed wages/lost jobs in the fee-paying households—burdening schools with procurement and distribution of gadgets, and servicing data costs, against uncertain reimbursement by the state (the reasonable costs rider) could prove back-breaking for the small schools. At a time when, despite low fee realisations, they have invested in rolling out digital tuitions, involving infrastructure, talent, training, etc, costs, this will be patently unfair. A recent study, cited in a report by *The Times of India*, found that 1,000 schools—most of them with an annual fee under ₹50,000, were up for sale following the pandemic hitting their finances. At such a time, the state needs to facilitate schools and students alike, perhaps by procuring and distributing gadgets and servicing data costs for the needy rather than passing on the responsibility to the schools.

## Innovation CENTRAL

The govt must think of ways to sustain support for future technologies like AI, AR/VR, IoT, blockchain, etc

**T**HE GOVERNMENT—THROUGH its different departments—and statutory bodies like the Election Commission have engaged with start-ups for specific solutions in the past. But, it is only during the coronavirus pandemic that the government has shown a commitment to crowdsource innovations. It even held challenges to encourage indigenous app-development—giving a Kerala-based company a ₹1-crore award for developing a video-conferencing solution that could rival the likes of Zoom. Thus, the government announcing a challenge for AI solutions is a signal that it is on a track where it will actively encourage indigenous development of future technologies.

Last week, the government announced a ₹20 lakh reward for developing AI solutions for healthcare, education, agriculture, smart mobility, transportation and natural language processing. The top 15 start-ups will be supported at the virtual global summit on AI, AI-RAISE. India needs to invest more in such solutions, and focus on other upcoming fields, like blockchain, augmented reality, virtual reality, internet of things as well. It can learn from the US, which has even crowdsourced tech solutions for strategic sectors such as defence and space. Encouraging innovation through cash-rewards is one part of getting future-tech ready, the other is sustaining this. One way can be to have special terms of engagement for start-ups in government tenders. That is where the government—states and urban local bodies—can really benefit while creating a nurturing ecosystem.

## AGRI REFORMS

STATE GOVERNMENTS MUST USE THE AGRI-REFORMS TO CREATE A ROADMAP FOR AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION THAT TAKES THEM BEYOND THE SHORT TERM RICE-WHEAT-LED GAINS

# LEAD farmers, don't mislead them

**S**EVERAL COMMENTATORS HAVE hailed the passing of the farm bills in Parliaments as a historic, bold and transformative initiative taken under the leadership of the prime minister. Simultaneously, we are witnessing massive farmer protests in the agrarian states supplying the bulk of the government's MSP procurement. How did APMC, a critical pillar to ensure fair play in the 1960s, turn restrictive and regressive (in not allowing farmers to sell freely, to whomsoever they wished)? It is pertinent to know that only a farmer in India cannot exercise her fundamental right to sell what she produces to anyone she wishes, while a person in any other profession can do so. Caught in a time-warp, these set of reforms, in the Covid-times, have understandably laid bare conflicting positions, with many well-meaning farmer voices and entrenched interests on the same side.

There has been bipartisan consensus over the last two decades or so—both the UPA and the NDA governments have tried and failed to convince state governments to reform APMC Acts, notwithstanding periodic manifesto promises and model APMC Acts. They failed with both the 'carrot' and the 'stick' approaches, trying to link financial support to agriculture based on reforms. The present crisis created the perfect window to usher in these transformative reforms. We urge the commentator and practitioners to locate these reforms within the wider changes in the overall rural economy, demographic shifts, role of the state, advent of technology and critical shifts in post-Covid supply chains.

People on both sides of the divide, and even outside who know nothing about agriculture, can arrive at the commonsensical benefits that would be ushered in as a result of new laws as also the risks. The four fundamental changes proposed are:

■ A farmer will have the right to sell anywhere and to anyone who offers her the best price

**BASKAR REDDY & ANISH KUMAR**

Authors have been working in the social sector for the last 2-3 decades. Views are personal

■ There is no need for a farmer or a company to pay *mandi* tax if the *mandis* are not providing any additional services

■ Companies will only invest in infrastructure and food processing if they are given the freedom to procure and store whatever inputs are required for their business. *Ad hocism* in the form of stock controls leads to uncertainty, and as a result, companies do not invest in infrastructure

■ Companies engaging farmers in contract farming and providing crop advisory, inputs and assured buy-back is boon for the farmers. Of course, the government can always have a strong oversight on the way the companies engage with farmers and can anytime blacklist companies that are violating the prescribed norms.

If the benefits are so obvious, then why is there an opposition to these bold reforms? It is also pertinent to note the opposition is largely from two states, i.e. Punjab and Haryana, the two states regularly reporting farming as a profitable vocation. Unlike elsewhere, farmers from these states get 100% MSPs, thanks to the procurement by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). Two other stakeholders who stand to lose are state governments and commission agents (*arhatiyas*). *Mandi* boards play an important role in agriculture development; their stellar role in procurement

during the Covid lockdown is widely acknowledged. Flexibility on the part of the central government to compensate for the loss of revenue or let FCI continue to pay *mandi* taxes for the next few years would help upgrade them into market exchanges for modern times. As far as the commission agents are concerned, the governments should work on a clear roadmap to modernise them by facilitating them in providing value-added services. As most of these commission agents are well-off, they could be leveraged to set-up grading and sorting, warehousing, cold chains and food processing infrastructure. This way, it is a win-win for the state government, farmers and the commission agents. If the rice-wheat monoculture continues for long, climate change and depleting water tables may turn Punjab into a desert. It is in this context that the state governments should take the LEAD in developing a roadmap for agriculture transformation:

■ Leverage the reforms and move forward rather than getting stuck in the past: States can invite the private sector to invest in agriculture infrastructure and food processing units. Can we challenge ourselves to be the world's largest exporter of agriculture products and do better than small countries such as Israel and the Netherlands?

■ Engage in environment-friendly

**GAURAV BHATIANI & SANJEEV AHLUWALIA**

Bhatiani is Director, Energy & Environment, RTI International India and Ahluwalia is Advisor, ORF. Views are personal

South Asian nations need to see the comparative advantages they hold in various energy sectors, and must come together to benefit each other via trade links

**SOUTH ASIA MUST** invest at least \$1 trillion over the next decade to develop energy infrastructure, enhance energy security, and reduce carbon footprint. While investments within each of the countries have increased, investments enabling cross border energy trade lag. Regional investments promoting cross border energy trade will allow optimisation of differentiated energy resources across countries, develop mutually beneficial interdependencies, apart from mitigating geopolitical and climate risks across the region.

South Asian countries are physically adjacent, but political and institutional distances remain significant. Prof Kaushik Basu, former chief economist, World Bank, notes that "Trust promotes trade; and trade fosters trust, interdependency, and constituencies for peace". Trust is best created through collaboration and trade. South Asia remains the least interlinked region. India's regional trade is just 3% of its global trade against the regional average of 5%, well below the 22% in Sub Saharan Africa and 50% in East Asia.

The opportunity for trade in energy services arises from the differentiated natural resource endowments. Nepal and Bhutan have hydropower potential far more than their demand. All South Asian economies are deficient in oil and gas, which makes collaboration in gas import cost-effective, and all have significant potential for new renewable power (solar, wind and biomass). But, management of intermittent supply can best be done through connected regional infrastructure.

Trade-in energy is recognised as a pathway for greater regional cooperation. But practise has lagged theory, as reflected by the near dormant South Asian Free Trade Agreement 2006, which remains bogged down by discriminatory import duties, high transaction costs, and poor infrastructure. However, three mutually advantageous opportunities

present themselves.

First is co-development of Nepal's hydropower potential of 60GW, of which, only 2% is being used. Co-development via storage dams will enhance Nepal's electricity supply and income and revenue from the export of power. Importing countries will gain from enhanced clean energy supply; lower riparian areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will benefit from better flood management.

The proposed Sapta-Kosi and Sun-Kosi projects on the Kosi river are prime examples. For an estimated investment of \$4-5 billion, these projects will generate hydropower, prevent frequent floods in India, provide irrigation and drinking water in both countries, enable in-land navigation channel with direct sea-port connectivity from Nepal to Kolkata, and generate large spinoffs in livelihoods in both countries. India should look at the Columbia River Treaty where the US (being the lower riparian partner) paid Canada for power benefits and up-front one half the value of the estimated, avoided future flood damages.

The second opportunity is a large LNG facility on the Bay of Bengal coast with participation by India, Bangladesh and possibly Nepal. India has been importing LNG since 2004, Bangladesh since 2018. India proposes to expand the share of natural gas in its primary energy profile from 6% to 15%. New LNG terminals at Haldia and Dhamra are being developed. A private gas spot market was launched this year. The coverage of its gas pipeline network is being extended with spurs reaching Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's domestic natural gas reserves meet 50% of its energy demand, but declining production and the absence of major discoveries indicate import as the likely option. This is evidenced by the bids it has invited for an onshore terminal. India is committed to exploring the potential for a natural gas pipeline to Nepal. A trilateral

partnership between Bangladesh, India, and Nepal to develop shared pipelines, terminals, and gas storage facilities can enhance the economic viability of these investments and move the region towards a net-zero pathway.

Energy market development follows a pattern of organic growth, starting with intra-regional markets, culminating in international integration. Since gas usage is projected to double in all three countries, time is ripe for investments and collaborations.

By 2040, the demand for energy will double and treble for electricity. A net-zero pathway points to significantly enhancing the share of renewable electricity, the third opportunity. India has developed a competitive renewable energy market, in which electricity is traded at 3.5c/kWh. The ambition is to increase renewable capacity to 450 GW. Sri Lanka relies on imported fossil fuels and domestic hydropower. It plans to generate 100% electricity through renewables by 2050. This provides an investment opportunity to develop utility-scale wind and solar, including for the Indian private sector.

The missing transmission link between India and North West Sri Lanka can save Sri Lanka \$180 million annually in generation cost. Sri Lankan wind power, abundant in the North West, can complement Indian solar power. For India, exporting renewable power to Sri Lanka can enhance flexibility in grid management and reduce the curtailment of 400 GWh surplus renewable power. Sri Lanka would also be able to link in its offshore wind projects along the axis of the proposed transmission link. Shared energy infrastructure can spark regional cooperation in South Asia and help enlarge areas of trust and trade. India must lead by facilitating financing, developing harmonised technical regulations, deepening professional networks, and enhancing regional business opportunities.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Parliamentary breakdown

The Modi government's conduct of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha left a lot to be desired; it reeked of strong-arm tactics, it represented the diminution of parliamentary democracy, it provided a benchmark against which its commitment to democracy or, more precisely, the lack of it can be measured. Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu and deputy chairman Harivansh Singh acted like agents of the treasury benches and took blatantly unfair decisions. Harivansh Singh helped the government rush the farm bills through the Rajya Sabha by voice vote. The sight of BJP members whispering in his ears said it all. Venkaiah Naidu suspended eight opposition members for 'unruly behaviour' and ruled that the notice given by the Opposition against the deputy chairman for violating parliamentary norms was inadmissible. The rule book is sacrosanct; it clearly stipulates that even if one member asks for 'division by physical voting' the Chair cannot refuse it. The Chair has discretionary power over it. Still Harivansh Singh declared the bills to have been passed by voice vote amid the bedlam. The stance of the Akali Dal, BJD and TRS on the farm bills made the 'division by physical voting' all the more crucial and its outcome unpredictable. The manner of passing the Bills does our democracy no credit. The legal sanctity of the farm laws hurriedly passed to bolster up the *laissez faire* economy is now questioned, and for good reason. As for the newly-enacted farm laws, they will do away with APMC *mandis* and MSP regime, and corporatise and commercialise agriculture and benefit rapacious big agribusinesses seeking huge profit. What they hold in store for farmers is an aggravation of distress; they will impoverish and upend the lives of farmers despite assurances by PM Modi to the contrary.

— G David Milton, Maruthancode

● Write to us at feletters@expressindia.com



ILLUSTRATION: ROHIT PHORE

**A**S A RULE, individuals are not inclined to change, and hence any reform that disrupts the status quo equilibrium is treated with suspicion. This holds for the three ordinances passed in the agriculture domain that have caused a stir. Any move that questions existing entrenched systems questions the hegemony of those who wield power, and hence leads to opposition.

Let us examine the three issues that are on the discussion board. The first one relates to sale of produce outside the *mandi*. This ordinance defines the 'trade area' that is outside the *mandi*, and the 'trader' who could be the processor, the exporter or even the retailer. The new dispensation says that the farmer can sell to the 'trader' in these 'trade areas', which can be a place of production, collection or aggregation. The transaction need not go to the *mandi*, though the option still exists.

Hence, if an edible oils manufacturer wants to buy soybean from a farmer, the transaction need not go through the *mandi* and can be transacted at the farm-gate. Logically, this is an optimal solution because with information on prices being freely available today, the farmer can get the best price and eschew the *mandi*. These transactions will be free of any fee or cess that must be paid otherwise at the *mandi*. It is a Pareto optimal situation for the farmer and the trader where both can be better off. However, as this means skipping the *mandi*, which has vested interest built over the years, it is understandable that there is opposition.

At the limit, one can visualise a situation where most transactions take place outside the *mandi* and the market yards become less relevant, and the entire hierarchy of the *mandi* system, which includes commission agents, becomes unimportant. Now, intuitively, it can be argued that farmers will prefer the new 'trade area' to the *mandi* only if they see value in this option. The same holds for the trader who will purchase directly when there are cost advantages. Quite clearly, *mandis* will have to reinvent their systems to stay relevant. As there is a loss of fee which is collected that can range from 1-8% depending on the state and product, the fear of viability is genuine.

The way forward is to have open markets and allow free flow of goods across borders where there is transparency. In fact, the idea of eNAM has its genesis in this thought because, at the end of the day, the price discovery system must be transparent. This idea is taken several steps forward with trade being conducted in these new defined 'trade areas'. It should be remembered that farmers may still prefer to go through the *adathiyas* route because these agents often provide a variety of ancillary ser-

MADAN  
SABNAVIS

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Views are personal



## The farm reforms must be celebrated

The three agri-reforms that have been brought about will be quite positive for the agri-economy, and assurance that the MSP-based procurement system won't be withdrawn. Of course, if the system works well for farmers, the government can think of scaling down the MSP/procurement system that has distorted the market

vices, starting with crop advice, buyback, credit and logistics support, among others. This will probably intensify once a parallel system develops.

A corollary of freeing the market dynamics is having written agreements between the farmer and the company under contract farming. This is again a mutually-beneficial system where the corporate ties up with the farmer on pre-decided terms to grow crops of specific variety with support provided on credit and possibly the inputs too with the assurance of a guaranteed buyback. This is a win-win situation for both the sides. Corporates, who are into processing or manufacturing of end-products, would always look out for standardisation in quality of inputs. Farmers, too, can move to higher quality of crop rather than sticking to the median variety,

**The opposition to the reform measures can be largely political, which is understandable. But to argue that farmers are naïve and will be given a bad deal by large corporates is disingenuous**

farmers are *naïve* and will be given a bad deal by 'traders', meaning large corporates, is disingenuous. Indian farmers are quite sophisticated and do use all the information that is available when taking decisions. The current structures are traditional for sure, which have worked under prevailing conditions. But any new structure for sale or cultivation would be weighed appropriately before

which is the case today given the tradition that has been practised over the years.

Therefore, this move by the government will be extremely beneficial for Indian agriculture and bring about a major transformation in the landscape and make farming more commercial.

The opposition to both these measures can be largely political, which is understandable. But, otherwise, to argue that farmers are *naïve* and will be given a bad deal by 'traders', meaning large corporates, is disingenuous. Indian farmers are quite sophisticated and do use all the information that is available when taking decisions. The current structures are traditional for sure, which have worked under prevailing conditions. But any new structure for sale or cultivation would be weighed appropriately before

a decision is taken. Hence, the fear that the corporates will take over the entire community and make them subservient is not well-founded.

In fact, such measures will force the existing structures to change and ensure that farmers get a better deal. It is well known that farmers selling perishables like vegetables or fruits are forced to sell their products at lower prices in *mandis* as they cannot take their goods back to their village if a sale does not take place. This forces distress sale as commission agents buy at a lower price and deliver at a higher price at the retail end. This has been one reason why there is considerable disparity in wholesale and retail prices for almost all commodities—all of which cannot be explained by logistics costs.

The third reform has been the repeal of the Essential Commodities Act. This is progressive, as the Act which sought to penalise traders who held on to stocks beyond what was permitted did create problems for wholesalers and retailers. It must be realised that most crops are produced once a year and stored and made available throughout the year. The issue is that farmers must sell their crop immediately as they do not have the holding power. Intermediaries or traders who come into the picture store the crop and bear the costs of storage, interest on loans, possible deterioration in quality, transport, among others. There is, hence, intrinsic value that is being provided by these parties.

The Essential Commodities Act makes it a crime to go beyond the stock limits for all the defined commodities and is invoked whenever there is a shortage in supply of a product. Traders holding the stocks are now classified as hoarders and face penal action. The government has put in the safeguard of this Act being invoked only if retail prices rise by certain levels compared with the past period. This makes sense because if hoarding is seen to increasing prices, this Act can be brought in to check inflation as it has a bearing on overall CPI inflation and hence interest rate policy.

All these three reforms will be very positive for the agrarian economy, and with the assurance being given that the MSP will not be withdrawn, there is comfort being provided. But, logically, in course of time, if the system works well for farmers who are able to get better prices, the government can think of scaling down the procurement system and the MSP as the open-ended procurement scheme has distorted farm markets. *Adathiyas* will have to compete with corporates to retain their business and the overall system will only improve. Electronic trading will get a boost on the sidelines and the idea of free agricultural markets will see fructification over the next couple of years.

**The pandemic poses a set of new challenges for politicians and supervisors, but the eurozone has a useful set of rules it can rely on**

## A tightrope walk on banks by ECB

FERDINANDO GIUGLIANO

Bloomberg

**T**HE PANDEMIC HAS forced European governments to prop up their economies. They've rolled out furlough schemes, allowing millions of workers to keep their jobs, as well as 'moratoria' suspending loan repayments for families and businesses. Now they face a dilemma over when to terminate such programmes. Forcing companies to pay back debts too soon will put some promising ones out of business; postponing the inevitable for too long risks keeping zombie companies alive.

The puzzle over loan repayments speaks to a broader challenge facing financial regulators and supervisors. The European Central Bank has taken some steps this year to provide greater flexibility for lenders on prudential requirements, so that they can continue to support their customers. These measures—which include allowing banks to operate with less regulatory capital—will need to go eventually, but it is not yet clear when that will be. For now, the ECB needs to remain flexible, while resisting calls for a more permanent overhaul of its rules.

The steps taken to help the banking system include: granting banks permission to operate temporarily with less capital and liquidity, postponing the 2020 stress test and rescheduling inspections and remediation actions so banks could fully concentrate on handling the pandemic. In exchange, eurozone banks have been told not to pay dividends.

Some lenders have avoided making full use of the additional capital and liquidity flexibility, fearing the adverse reaction of investors and the sudden tightening of supervisory standards. But many have faced requests from their customers to make use of the moratoria. These debtors may or may not be able to service their debt when the payment holiday expires, making it very hard for now to assess the pandemic's impact on banks' health.

Still, the sharp slowdown in demand makes it reasonable to assume that there will be a rise in non-performing loans, which, in turn, will prompt questions over the strength of lenders' balance sheets.

So far, the ECB has taken a reasonable approach: It has made use of existing provisions allowing for lightening the supervisory burden on banks in exceptional circumstances. This stance provides sufficient flexibility going forward: If the economy recovers more slowly than expected, these exceptions could remain in place for some time. The same principle can apply to the moratoria, too.

A different question is whether politicians should change regulation permanently, especially with regard to the provisioning of bad loans. Just before the current crisis, the eurozone had adopted tougher standards that require banks to write down the value of their non-performing exposures depending on fairly strict time criteria. The ECB has no option but to apply them, since they are now part of the EU rulebook. And yet, parts of the European banking industry are already complaining that these measures risk undermining the recovery and threaten financial stability in the wake of the pandemic.

Watering down the existing rules appears a tempting strategy in the short run, since it would make balance sheets look healthier than they are. However, it would recreate the very problem that occurred after the financial crisis of 2008 and the ensuing European sovereign debt crisis, as banks used supervisory forbearance to avoid dealing with their mounting bad loans. When the day of reckoning eventually came, it took years to clean up the system, with adverse consequences for economic growth and dynamism.

Governments must show they have learned their lesson. Rather than hiding new problems, banks will have to seek fresh capital from the market if needed. There may be a case for selective instances of state aid—for example via recapitalisations or the creation of so-called 'bad banks' (asset management companies that deal with bad loans over time)—but these instruments must not be an excuse for keeping weak banks alive. Private investors must also be prepared to take a hit, rather than simply hoping to receive a taxpayer bailout.

The pandemic poses a set of new challenges for politicians and supervisors, but the eurozone has a useful set of rules it can rely on. Be flexible for as long as needed, but avoid turning back the clock.

## NEW MUTUAL FUND RULES

**A**RECENT CIRCULAR issued by the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), dealing with the composition of multi-cap schemes, has invited a lot of interest from, and discussion amongst, market participants. This is an important subject for the mutual fund industry. The circulars issued on September 11, 2020, and subsequently clarified on September 13, 2020, advise the mutual funds to maintain, in their multi-cap schemes, a minimum investment of 75% of total assets in equity and equity-related instruments. It further asks the mutual funds to maintain a minimum of 25% each in large cap, mid cap and small cap companies. These circulars have been issued to achieve two objectives:

**True to label schemes:** The portfolio should reflect the name of the scheme and the name of the scheme should correctly reflect the nature of the portfolio.

**Comparison with an appropriate benchmark:** The scheme performance should be disclosed to the investors vis-à-vis an appropriate benchmark.

The objectives are, without doubt, well-intended. A mutual fund has a fiduciary contract with its unit-holders that it will manage their money by investing in a certain set of securities. So, it is important that the promise be stated and monitored in clear terms. SEBI is trying to ensure these principles through the aforementioned circulars.

However, the tools and the process employed by SEBI have scope for improvement. Let us understand how the current

## New way to measure performance

Let funds be free to decide on portfolio. Sebi should require them to disclose data on risk and adjusted return instead

HEMANT MANUJ

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mode of classification of the schemes may not be the most appropriate.

Whether the names of the schemes on the lines of large, mid or small caps convey the risk fully?

There has been a lot of research over the decades to capture the relationship between risk and expected return from stocks. The three-factor model by Fama and French (1993) and the four-factor model by Carhart (1997) have demonstrated size, price-to-book ratio, and momentum, apart from beta, as the explanatory factors for expected return from a portfolio. Thus, the size of underlying stocks in a scheme is only one of the factors determining the risk in it.

If this is the case, what can we do to provide more meaningful information to investors?



### Simple, meaningful disclosures

I suggest a simple approach. A mutual fund may be allowed to choose its portfolio allocation in the scheme without any restrictions on size. It should, however, disclose the following, regarding the scheme:

(a) The total risk, rather than proxy measures like large cap, mid cap or small cap. SEBI may choose to mandate an appropriate risk measure like the annualised standard deviation for the portfolio.

(b) The expected risk-adjusted return.

A mutual fund may invest in any stock from large, mid or small cap category, up to 100% of its portfolio. Similarly, it may invest in growth or value stocks to any extent. The mutual fund would be

required to disclose upfront the risk and the risk-adjusted return for its planned portfolio. For this, it would run simulations of its potential portfolio with multiple combinations of risk factors, thereby computing the standard deviation and the expected Sharpe ratio. One year later, the mutual fund would again be disclosing the actual values of standard deviation and the Sharpe ratio achieved in the scheme. These figures should be compared with the figures disclosed *ex ante*.

The benefits of adopting the above approach are as follows:

(a) Investors will receive a simpler and better estimate of the true risk, rather than one dimension of the same.

(b) The performance of all the schemes

can be better measured because it would have announced, in advance, the specific levels of risk and risk-adjusted return targeted by it.

(c) The mutual funds will be incentivised, upfront, to disclose the risk closer to what they really believe to be true. As a result, the chances of mis-selling of products will be minimised.

(d) The monitoring of various individual dimensions of risk like size of stocks, sectors, etc, can be done away with. This will reduce the cost of compliance for the mutual fund and monitoring by the regulator and investors.

### The way forward

Currently, the mutual funds do publish their portfolios and returns, therefrom, monthly. They may now be asked to publish the standard deviation and the Sharpe ratio, historical (actual) and forward-looking (expected), monthly. The historical figures are, in fact, already being computed and published by various investment advisors.

In summary, SEBI need not prescribe any threshold of securities in which the mutual funds may invest. It has a larger role to play in minimising information asymmetry through adequate and meaningful disclosures. At the same time, it should establish a framework that provides the right set of incentives for the mutual funds as well as investors to make informed decisions. The purpose here is to lead a debate on making disclosures by the mutual funds more meaningful and transparent.

# International

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020



## ECB STILL HAS OPTIONS

Christine Lagarde, ECB President

We clearly showed that when the economic situation demanded, we were capable of finding the necessary responses. And we will continue to use the monetary policy instruments... Has the ECB fired its last cartridges? No, not at all, not at all. We can find answers to help economies.

## Quick View



### Musk gets shot to deliver on hints

**TESLA WILL PROVIDE** a highly anticipated technology update on Tuesday when Elon Musk takes centre stage at an event he has dropped hints about for months, and which has helped propel the company's sky-high valuation. The "Battery Day" presentation, which follows the annual shareholders meeting, is expected to showcase innovations designed to keep the company's lead in electric cars as rivals flood the market.

### China to lose access to space tracking station

**CHINA WILL LOSE** access to a strategic space tracking station in Western Australia when its contract expires, the facility's owners said, a decision that cuts into Beijing's expanding space exploration and navigational capabilities in the Pacific region. The Swedish Space Corporation has had a contract allowing Beijing access to the satellite antenna at the ground station since at least 2011.

### Blackstone nears \$2.3 bn Precision Medicine deal

**BLACKSTONE GROUP**, one of the world's largest investment firms, is nearing a deal to buy Precision Medicine Group for about \$2.3 billion, according to people familiar with the matter. The firm is set to buy a majority stake in the group from existing backers Berkshire Partners and TPG. No deal has been finalised and Blackstone may choose not to go ahead with the transaction.

### MAPPING THE VIRUS

- Johnson Plans Crisis Talks as U.K. Braves for Covid Surge
- Virtual UN is latest blow to New York City's battered economy
- Fewer people are dying of Covid as doctors gain practice, drugs improve
- Gottlieb warns of 'at least' one more surge in 2020
- German health minister says European trend 'worrying'
- China finds virus in Russian frozen squid packaging



South Korea will strengthen social distancing rules from September 28 to October 11, which will be designated as special quarantine period as the country celebrates Chuseok holidays from September 30 to October 4.

France's daily coronavirus cases rose by 10,569 on Sunday, after surging to more than 13,000 twice in the highest daily increases since the national lockdown ended in May on Saturday.

Around the world, at least 73 countries

haven't stopped running for days to transport patients.

Deaths in the United States.

"Prohibiting the identified transactions is necessary to protect the national security of the United States, and the department expects to soon seek relief from this order," the Commerce Department said.

### ANOTHER HURDLE

## No deal if ByteDance keeps control of TikTok: Trump

TikTok Global will likely be headquartered in Texas and will hire 25,000 people, says US president

JOSH WINGROVE & JENNIFER JACOBS  
September 21

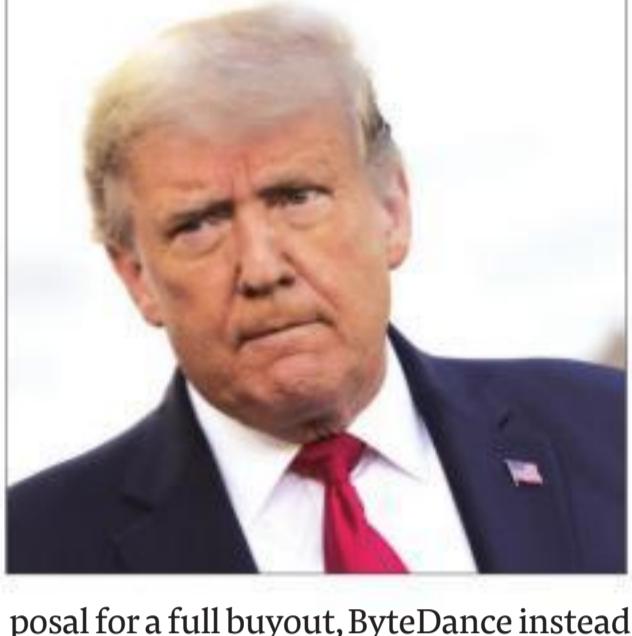
**US PRESIDENT DONALD** Trump said he would rescind his tentative blessing for a deal between Oracle and ByteDance to create a new US-based TikTok service if the Chinese company retains control of the operation.

Speaking in an interview on Fox News on Monday, Trump also indicated that he expected Chinese influence to be diluted by a future public offering of the new company.

"They will have nothing to do with it, and if they do, we just won't make the deal," Trump said, referring to ByteDance, which owns TikTok.

"It's going to be controlled, totally controlled by Oracle, and I guess they're going public and they're buying out the rest of it - they're buying out a lot, and if we find that they don't have total control then we're not going to approve the deal."

ByteDance was pressured into a deal for TikTok in August, when Trump threatened to ban the app in the US over national security concerns about the service's data gathering. After Microsoft made a pro-



posal for a full buyout, ByteDance instead turned to Oracle's offering, in which the Chinese parent will maintain a solid majority stake. ByteDance may end up owning as much as 80% of TikTok Global, which would include the app's operations in the US and the rest of the world excluding China.

On Friday, Trump said that he had approved of the deal with Oracle and Walmart "in concept."

Under the current proposal, there will be five seats on the board of TikTok Global. Walmart Chief Executive Officer Doug McMillon will become a director, the retailer said in a statement. TikTok Global will likely be headquartered in Texas and will hire "at least" 25,000 people, Trump said.

The valuation for TikTok has been a looming question in the wake of Washington and Beijing clashing over the negotiations. The service for the US market alone

### 'WeChat will struggle to draw new US users'

**TENCENT HOLDINGS HAS** said its messaging app WeChat may not be able to win new users in the United States. Tencent, in a statement filed at Hong Kong's stock exchange late on Sunday, said it has been evaluating the potential impact of a ban since the US Department of Commerce on Friday issued an order to block WeChat downloads on national security grounds. It also said routine updates of the app for existing US users may be negatively affected should Apple and Alphabet's Google remove WeChat from their stores.

— REUTERS

has been estimated to be worth \$20 billion to \$50 billion, or even more.

TikTok Global intends to hold an initial public offering within 12 months, Oracle and Walmart said.

ByteDance will get full access to review TikTok's source code and updates to make sure there are no back doors used by the company's Chinese parent to gather data or to spy on the video-sharing app's 100 million American users, according to people familiar with the matter.

Trump signed an executive order on August 14 giving ByteDance 90 days to relinquish ownership of TikTok. Oracle's account of the deal would mean that ByteDance would be complying with that order, while ByteDance's account would represent a policy reversal for Trump.

Some sources close to the deal have sought to reconcile the discrepancies by pointing out that 41% of ByteDance is owned by US investors, so by counting this indirect ownership TikTok Global would be majority owned by US parties.

ByteDance on Monday also confirmed plans for an initial public offering of TikTok Global. The Beijing-based firm said TikTok Global's board of directors will include ByteDance founder Zhang Yiming as well as Walmart's chief executive Doug McMillon and current directors of ByteDance. The company declined to fur-



ther comment on who else would be among the directors.

Oracle and Walmart said in a joint statement on Saturday that four out of the five board of directors will be Americans.

The current plan for TikTok Global does not involve any transfer of algorithms or technologies, and Oracle will be able to inspect TikTok's source code, ByteDance said. This is akin to US companies such as Microsoft sharing their source code with Chinese technology experts, ByteDance added. Oracle and Walmart have said all of TikTok's technology will be in possession of TikTok Global.

ByteDance owning the majority of TikTok Global and the algorithms means that ByteDance is "not out of the game" and has avoided the worst-case scenario, China's state-run newspaper Global Times said in an editorial published on Sunday.

Shen Yi, a Fudan University professor, said in a separate article published in the Global Times on Monday that Trump's nod to the deal "could even be seen as a reversal of US President Donald Trump's executive order issued in August" and that it was helped by a "concerted effort" by the Chinese government, ByteDance and US domestic forces.

## US to challenge judge's order blocking WeChat app store ban

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, September 21

**THE US COMMERCE** Department said on Monday it will challenge an order issued on Sunday by a judge that blocked the department's order requiring Apple and Google to remove WeChat from their US app stores.

US Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler in San Francisco issued a preliminary injunction that blocked the department's order, which would also have barred other US transactions with Tencent Holding's WeChat, potentially making the app unusable in the United States.

"Prohibiting the identified transactions is necessary to protect the national security of the United States, and the department expects to soon seek relief from this order," the Commerce Department said.



The Justice Department had urged Beeler not to block the action, saying it would "frustrate and displace the president's determination of how best to address threats to national security"

able in the United States.

"Prohibiting the identified transactions is necessary to protect the national security of the United States, and the department expects to soon seek relief from this order," the Commerce Department said.

Beeler said WeChat users who filed a lawsuit "have shown serious questions going to the merits of the First Amendment claim."

On Friday, the Commerce Department had issued an order citing national secu-

rity grounds to block the app from US app stores by 11:59 p.m. EDT Sunday.

The Justice Department had urged Beeler not to block the action, saying it would "frustrate and displace the president's determination of how best to address threats to national security."

Tencent declined to comment on Beeler's order.

WeChat has had an average of 19 million daily active users in the United States, analytics firm Apptopia said in early August. It is popular among Chinese students, Americans living in China and some Americans who have personal or business

relationships in China.

Beeler wrote "certainly the government's overarching national-security interest is significant. But on this record — while the government has established that China's activities raise significant national security concerns — it has put in scant little evidence that its effective ban of WeChat for all US users addresses those concerns."

WeChat is an all-in-one mobile app that combines services similar to Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Venmo. The app is an essential part of daily life for many in China and boasts more than one billion users.

### Covid-19 deaths near 1 m globally

NEW YORK TIMES  
September 21

IT IS A STAGGERING toll, almost 200,000 people dead from the coronavirus in the United States, and close to one million people around the world.

And the pandemic, which sent cases spiking skyward in many countries and then trending downward after lockdowns, has reached a precarious point. Will countries like the United States see the virus continue to slow? Or is a new surge on the way?

"What will happen, nobody knows," said Catherine Troisi, an infectious disease epidemiologist at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. "This virus has surprised us on many fronts, and we may be surprised again."

In the United States, fewer new coronavirus cases have been detected week by week since late July, after outbreaks first in the Northeast and then in the South and the West.

But in recent days, the nation's daily count of new cases is climbing again, fuelling worries of a resurgence of the virus as universities and schools reopen and as colder weather pushes people indoors.

When the first wave of infections spread around the world, governments



A customer leaves a store in London on Monday.

imposed sweeping restrictions: More than four billion people were under some sort of stay-at-home order at one point. Now, many countries are desperately trying to avoid such intense measures.

"We have a very serious situation unfolding before us," Hans Kluge, the World Health Organization's regional director for Europe, said last week. "Weekly cases have now exceeded those reported when the pandemic first peaked in Europe in March."

Deaths in the United States from the coronavirus neared 200,000 as of Monday morning. It was only four months ago, in late May, that the nation's death toll reached 100,000. Even the current tally may be a significant undercount of the toll, analyses suggest.

Dr. Tom Inglesby, the director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said it was conceivable that the death toll in the United States could reach 300,000 if the public lets down its guard.

"There are many countries we might consider our economic peers, or that are far less developed in terms of economy or health care systems, that are having far less mortality," he said.

### Illumina nears deal to buy Grail at \$8 bn

BLOOMBERG  
September 16

**GENETIC SEQUENCING GIANT** Illumina agreed to acquire Grail in a deal valuing the cancer-detection startup at \$8 billion.

Grail shareholders will receive \$3.5 billion in cash and \$4.5 billion in Illumina common stock, the companies said on Monday. Illumina already holds 14.5% of Grail's outstanding shares, and approximately 1.2% on a fully diluted basis.

Illumina, a giant in the DNA sequencing space, serves as the backbone for consumer genetics tests and is becoming an integral part of pharmaceutical research efforts. Grail, founded by Illumina and spun out as a standalone company, is developing a blood test to detect cancers early.

Illumina is also the sole supplier of the sequencers Grail uses for genomic tests.

Joining them back together would bring testing and sequencing under one roof.

Grail has a list of high-profile tech and health-care backers, including Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Merck, and Johnson & Johnson.

## Microsoft to buy Bethesda for \$7.5 bn

BLOOMBERG  
September 21

**MICROSOFT SAID ON** Monday it plans to acquire ZeniMax Media, owner of the storied video-game publisher Bethesda Softworks, for \$7.5 billion in cash, marking its biggest video game purchase ever.

Bethesda is the publisher of games like The Elder Scrolls, Doom and Fallout and also has at least two titles slated for debut next year. ZeniMax, based in Rockville, Maryland, also owns several other studios across the globe, giving Microsoft's Xbox business a much-needed infusion of titles and game developers. It's one of the biggest privately-held game companies with 2,300 employees worldwide, Microsoft said.

## Airbus unveils hydrogen designs with aim for zero-emission flight by 2035

CHARLOTTE RYAN  
September 21

**EUROPEAN PLANEMAKER** AIRBUS SE unveiled three designs it's studying to build hydrogen-powered aircraft as it races to bring a zero-carbon passenger plane into service by 2035.

The approaches include a turbofan jet with capacity for as many as 200 passengers — similar to its A321neo narrow-body — that can fly more than 2,000 nautical miles, according to a statement on Monday. It would be powered by a modified gas-turbine engine running on hydrogen.



The manufacturer also showed a design for a propeller plane which would seat about 100 passengers for smaller distances, and a flying-wing concept with 200 seats.

the coronavirus crisis. Both countries have committed billions to support hydrogen development.

While there are different approaches, hydrogen is likely to be used in aerospace and other industries to meet climate-neutral targets, Airbus said. The company has already said it's targeting the mid-2030s for the first zero-emission passenger jet. Developing a hydrogen aircraft on that timeline will be a real challenge because of the massive amounts of infrastructure and government investment required.

"I strongly believe that the use of hydrogen — both in synthetic fuels and as a primary power source for commercial aircraft — has the potential to significantly reduce aviation's climate impact," Chief Executive Officer Guillaume Faury said in the statement.

## Jack Ma's Ant to lift IPO funding target to \$35 bn

LULU YILUN CHEN  
September 21

**JACK MA'S ANT** Group is seeking to raise at least \$3.5 billion in its initial public offering after assessing early investor interest, people familiar with the matter said, putting the Chinese fintech giant on track for a record debut sale.

Ant lifted its IPO target based on an increased valuation of about \$250 billion, up from previous estimates of \$225 billion, said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters. It was earlier expecting to raise at least \$30 billion, people familiar have said.

Ant's simultaneous listing in Hong Kong and Shanghai may mark the biggest IPO ever

Kong and Shanghai may mark the biggest IPO ever, topping Saudi Aramco's record \$29 billion sale. Ant could exceed Bank of America's market capitalisation, and be more than twice the size of Citigroup. Among US banks, only JPMorgan Chase is bigger at \$300 billion.

Ant received a nod from regulators in Shanghai on Friday to proceed with its public share plans. In the wake of its IPO plans, the company's been hit by a flurry of new regulations aimed at reducing risks in China's online finance sector.

Regulators have curbed small-loan funding sources, capped lending rates, and imposed new capital and license requirements on Ant and other conglomerates.

# Personal Finance

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

## ON STOCK MARKETS

Vinod Nair, head, Research, Geojit Financial Services

With high valuations and worries that earnings may not justify such valuations anytime soon, markets may trade uncertain for the time being. Stay cautious.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

## Mediclaim policies set to be less opaque now

**With all indemnity-based health plans to have standardised wordings for exclusions & waiting periods, customers will now be able to compare & comprehend policies better**

SAIKAT NEOGI

FROM OCTOBER 1, all new indemnity-based health insurance policies will have standardised clauses. For existing policies, the same will come into effect from April 1, 2021 at the time of renewal of the respective policy. The insurance regulator's circular underlines that the objective is to simplify the wordings of general terms and clauses of the policy contracts and ensure uniformity across the industry.

The premium can be paid in instalments – half yearly, quarterly or monthly. Insurers cannot deny renewal of a policy on the ground that the insured person had made a claim or claims in the preceding policy years. The insurer will inform the policyholder about renewal and collect the premium before the end of the policy period.

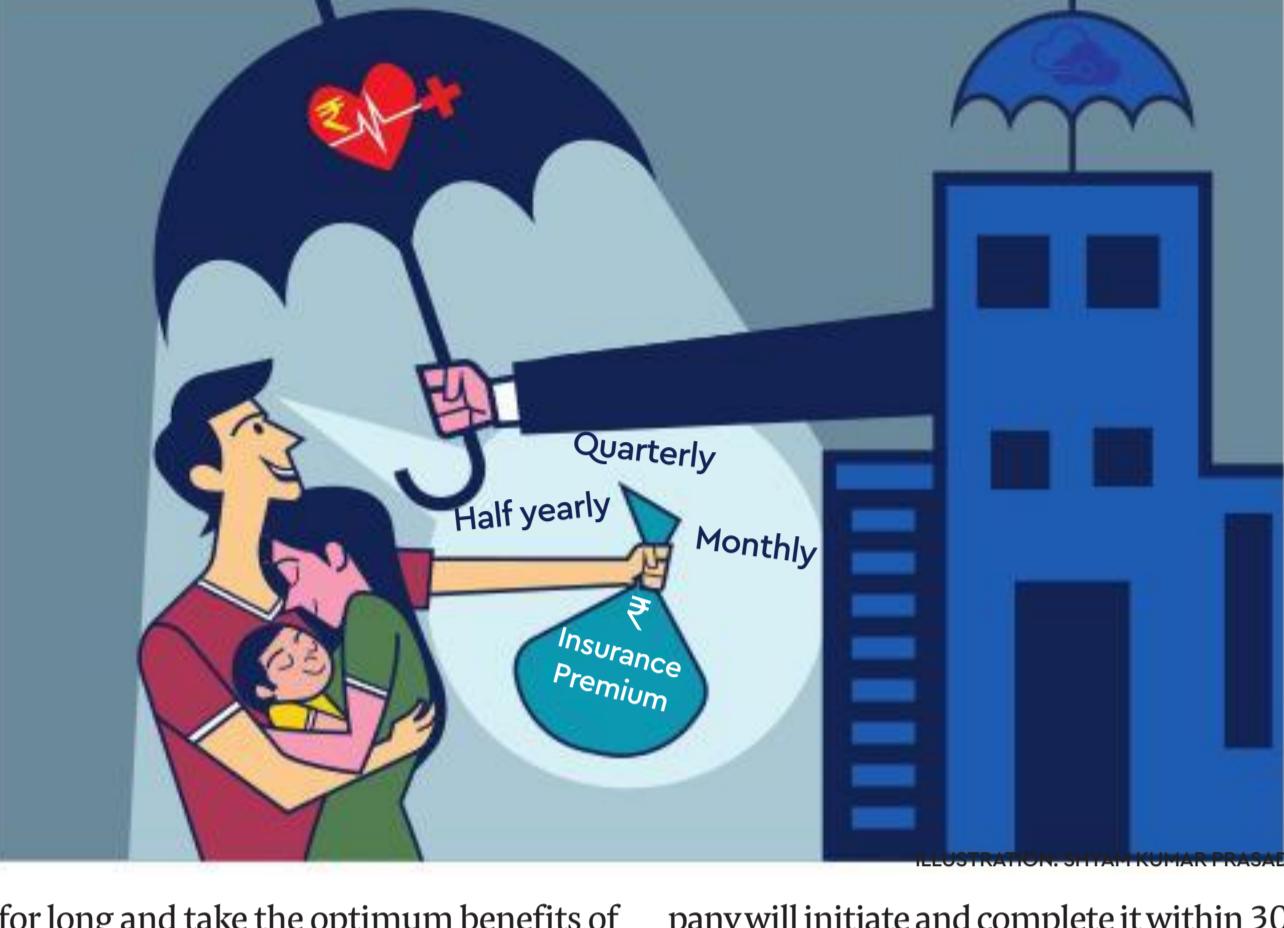
#### New guidelines

If the policyholder misrepresents or does not disclose any material fact, then the pol-

icy will be void and all premium paid will be forfeited to the company. After completion of eight continuous years, health insurance claims will not be contestable except for proven fraud and permanent exclusions specified in the policy contract. However, the policies would be subject to all limits, sub limits, co-payments, deductibles as per the policy contract.

Prasun Sikdar, MD & CEO, ManipalCigna Health Insurance Company, says the measures taken by the regulator are in the interest of the policyholders. "The standardisation of exclusions will help customers to understand and compare policies, leading to an informed decision. Also, instalment of premiums will ease the mode of payments for customers, the crystal clear exclusions will ensure there is less ambiguity with respect to policy wording," he says.

Similarly, Krishnan Ramachandran, MD and CEO, Max Bupa Health Insurance, says the implementation of the new guidelines from October will have a positive impact as the standardisation of wordings in the terms and conditions, waiting periods and exclusions will make it easy to understand and compare health insurance policies. "As each policy will have the same wordings for exclusions, and general terms and conditions, it will remove the ambiguity across products and bring more transparency. The inclusion of the moratorium clause in which health policy of more than eight years will not be contestable except in case of any fraudulent claim, would make consumers stay invested



for long and take the optimum benefits of the health policy," he says.

#### Claim settlement

The insurer will have to settle or reject a claim within 30 days from the date of receipt of last necessary document. In case of delay in payment of a claim, the insurer will be liable to pay interest to the policyholder from the date of receipt of the last necessary document to the date of payment of claim at a rate 2% above the bank rate. If the claim warrants an investigation, then the com-

pany will initiate and complete it within 30 days from the date of receipt of the last necessary document. If one has multiple policies, then the insurer chosen by him will have to settle the claim within the terms of the chosen policy. If the amount to be claimed exceeds the sum insured under a single policy, then the policyholder can claim the balance amount from the other insurer.

#### Uniformity in exclusion

The guidelines bring more uniformity in the list of excluded diseases as health condi-

tions such as age-related macular degeneration, mental illnesses, enteral feedings, internal congenital, genetic diseases will now be covered. "The modern way of treatment will be covered across all health insurance plans which will eventually help consumers to access quality and effective methods of treatment. The health policies that cover consultations through physical visits will need to include consultations over telemedicine as well. Telemedicine has become more prominent in the current times and policies with OPD will be more beneficial," says Ramachandran.

#### Proportionate deductions

The regulator has mandated that insurers cannot recover any expenses such as pharmacy and consumables, implants and medical devices and diagnostics towards proportionate deductions other than the defined 'associate medical expenses' while processing claims. Proportionate deduction takes place when a policyholder opts for a room where the tariff is more than the tariff capped by the insurer.

The regulator has directed insurers to ensure that proportionate deductions are not applied in hospitals which do not follow differential billing or for those expenses in which differential billing is not adopted based on the room category. Insurers are not permitted to apply proportionate deduction for ICU charges as the regulator has underlined that different categories of ICU are not there.

### YOUR MONEY

HEMANTH GORUR

## A few technical indicators that can help identify market trends

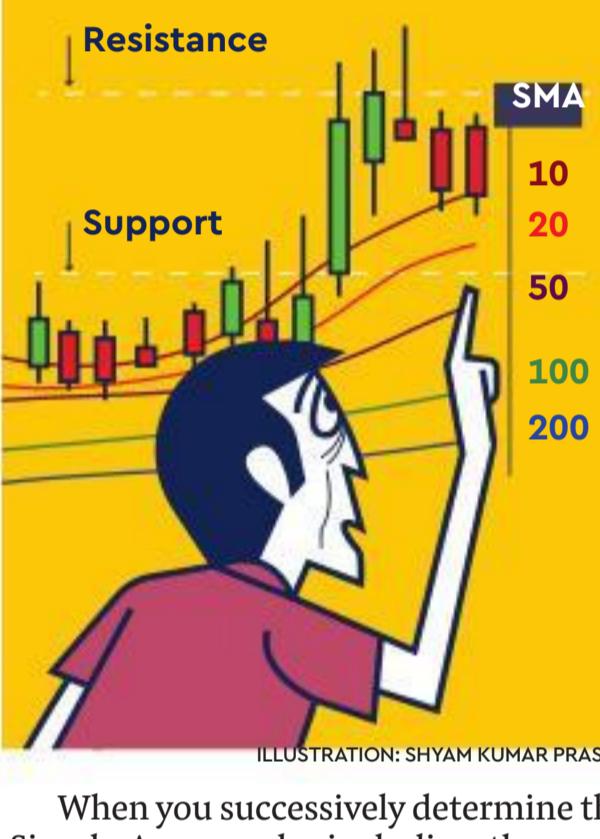
**STOCK MARKETS ARE** known to be brutal to investors who invest unscientifically or based on hearsay. While no one can predict stock price movements with certainty, it helps to take an educated guess or informed decision before investing.

Technical analysis of stock prices enables investors to do just that. Trend analysis of stock price movements using some useful technical indicators can help gauge the overall direction in which prices are moving, and how they may behave in future.

Let us look at some simple but powerful technical indicators.

#### Simple Moving Average (SMA)

A single price point contains almost no information useful for investing. On the other hand, when you take a series of consecutive price points and take their average, you get a composite data point. This is called a Simple Average. For example, the average of a stock's price points on ten consecutive trading days is a 10-day Simple Average of the stock price.



When you successively determine the Simple Averages by including the most recent price point and excluding the oldest price point, you get a Moving Average (MA). For example, you can calculate the 10-day Simple Average of stock prices on Day 1 to Day 10, followed by the 10-day Simple Average of Day 2 to Day 11, and so on. This gives you a series of 10-day Simple Averages, which when joined together, gives you a 10-day Simple Moving Average (SMA) trend line of the stock price. As daily stock prices are usually volatile, SMAs help to smoothen the curve and determine the overall trend or direction of the stock price movement.

**Exponential Moving Average (EMA)**  
The Exponential Moving Average (EMA) is similar to the SMA but allocates weightages to each price point, with more recent price points getting higher weightage, unlike the SMA which allocates equal weightage to all price points.

The formula for EMA is:  $EMA = Current\ stock\ price \times Multiplier + EMA\ of\ previous\ day \times (1 - Multiplier)$ .

The Multiplier can be calculated as:  $Multiplier = 2 / (Number\ of\ price\ points + 1)$

EMA will be more sensitive to recent price movements than earlier ones. Due to this, an EMA will "hug" the price movements more closely than an SMA. Some of the popular MAs are the 10-day, 12-day, 20-day, and 26-day MAs for short term trends, and the 50-day, 100-day, and 200-day MAs for long term trends.

#### Support Levels, Resistance Levels

Both SMA and EMA can be used as "support" or "resistance" trend lines. When the stock price is on an uptrend, it tends to "bounce" off certain price levels that coincide with an MA trend line. That is, the price refuses to drop below the MA. This is called a Support Level. This can be an interim entry point for buying into the stock, assuming the uptrend will sustain over your investment horizon. However, if price movements start breaking through the Support Level, it can indicate a trend reversal and investors can consider exiting the market.

Similarly, during a downtrend, as the stock price moves towards the MA trend line, it can bounce down after "hitting" the MA trend line. This can be an exit point for investors planning to sell some of their stock to take advantage of a temporary high in the stock price during a downturn. However, if price movements start breaching the Resistance Level, this can indicate a trend reversal and investors can look to enter the market.

The MA indicators are lagging indicators and should be used only to confirm a trend or trend reversal. However, entry or exit point for the investor into or from the market usually precedes a trend confirmation or reversal as indicated by an MA.

The writer is founder, Hermoneytalks.com

## Investor

### DR REDDY'S LABORATORIES RATING: BUY

## Patent deal dispels launch uncertainties

**Despite initial volume curbs, Revlimid to be a meaningful opportunity; FY21-23e EPS up 1-3%; TP raised to ₹5,400**

**DRRD ANNOUNCED SETTLEMENT** of its patent litigation with Celgene, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bristol Myers Squibb for Revlimid (lenalidomide) capsules. Revlimid recorded US sales of ~\$7.4 bn in 2019 and is indicated for treatment of multiple myeloma (MM), myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and mantle cell lymphoma. This settlement allows DRRD to start selling volume-limited quantities of gRevlimid in the US starting on a confidential date after the March 2022 date previously granted to Natco.

While the agreed-upon quantities were not disclosed, we believe the volume limit could be in the single digits, followed by a gradual increase till restrictions are lifted, similar to Celgene's earlier deals with Natco and Alvogen. DRRD is also licensed to sell gRevlimid without volume limitations starting on 31 January 2026.

**Settlement not the ideal outcome** though it removes uncertainties: The



#### Financials and ratios (₹)

Year to Mar	2020a	2021e	2022e	2023e
HSBC EPS	122.85	146.70	189.55	227.04
HSBC EPS (prev)	122.85	144.95	185.19	220.12
Change (%)	0.0	1.2	2.4	3.1
Consensus EPS	123.28	157.58	187.96	215.09
PE (x)	37.7	31.5	24.4	20.4
Dividend yield (%)	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
EV/Ebitda (x)	28.6	21.9	17.9	14.8
ROE (%)	13.8	14.7	16.7	17.2

Source: Company data, HSBC

ideal outcome for DRRD in patent litigation would have been if it had succeeded in proving its proposed generic does not infringe upon the polymorph patent covering Revlimid for MM. That could have potentially allowed it to launch its generic without any restrictions in 2022/23. Nonetheless, the patent settlement has paved the way for DRRD's generic launch well ahead of the expiry of the polymorph patent in 2027.

Natco (partnered with Teva) was the first company to settle patent litigation on Revlimid in Dec 2015 which allows it to start selling the generic in March 2022 in limited volumes. This was after Natco, Alvogen and Lotus Pharma settled their litigation.

**We build in NPV of ₹250/share for Revlimid:** Apart from Natco, Alvogen/Lotus and DRRD, there are eight other known ANDA filers on Revlimid. Patent litigation for these filers is in the early stages, and thus we expect generic competition to remain limited to three players for gRevlimid till the 2025/26 timeframe. Thus, we believe gRevlimid will be a meaningful and sustainable opportunity for DRRD despite initial restrictions on sales volume. We build in an NPV of ₹250/share for gRevlimid in the base case scenario in our valuations (bull case NPV: ₹500/share, bear case NPV: ₹100/share).

**Retain Buy:** We increase our FY21-23 EPS estimates by 1-3% to account for gVasclep opportunity which DRRD can potentially launch in the US in the near term after a recent favourable ruling. We roll forward our valuations to Sep 2022 from June 2022. Our revised TP of ₹5,400 (from ₹4,625) includes NPV of ₹250/share for gRevlimid (earlier none).

HSBC

### FINOLEX CABLES RATING: BUY

## Company priming for next phase of growth

B/S is strong; the focus on margin-accretive electrical cables a positive; valuation's inexpensive; 'Buy' retained

**FNXC'S POSTED +17% y-o-y PAT** despite March disruption in FY20. Its Annual Report delves deeper into FNXC's focus points for driving the next leg of growth – distribution, new launches and capex. FNXC retains a robust B/S (net D/E at ~0.3x) and good return ratios (16% RoE, 19% RoCE). Interim spike in March capital was due to lockdown and is likely to revert to normal in FY21e. We like FNXC's focus on margin-accretive Electrical cables and inexpensive valuation. **BUY**

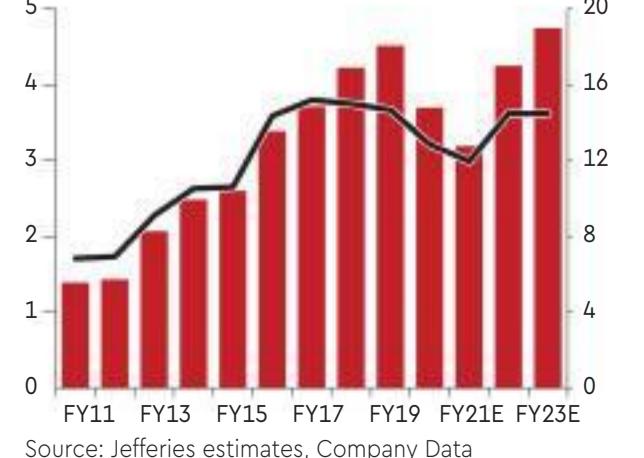
**Volumes:** Despite demand slowdown, falling RM (commodity prices) and Q4 COVID disruption, FNXC posted EPS growth at +17% y-o-y in FY20. Production volume split – (i) Electrical: 60,651 MT (-30% y-o-y); (ii) Communication: Metal Based at 7,773 MT (-4% y-o-y), Optic Fibre cables (60-70% of mix) at 1,295 KFM (-30%), impacted by slowdown in telecom sector (domestic

public & private).

**New launches:** In FY20, FNXC forayed into Industrial Switchgear – MCCBs, available in varying breaking capacities (63-800 Amps), with market size of ₹20 bn. Also, FNXC launched a wide range of electrical accessories (door bell, extension box, spike guard, angle holders and batten holders).

**Ad-Spend:** FNXC has increased ad-spends to ₹500 mn (1.6% of sales) in FY20 vs. ₹140 mn in FY16 (0.6% of sales). This augers well with New products (appliances).

#### Op-profit and margin trend



**Distribution:** While FNXC's communication cables is largely a B2B business, Electrical cables are sold to channel partners as well as institutional clients. In FY20, FNXC's distributors stood at ~5K and retail touch-points at 50K (30K in FY19) – this is targeted at 150K over near term, by connecting to ~500 distributors (300 retailers for each). FNXC is growing reach in the North and East markets.

**Capex:** FNXC has retained capex outlook at ₹ 2 bn over next 18 months. Ongoing projects: (i) Goa – Electrical Conduits facility likely to commission early next year; (ii) Pune – Solar Cables by deploying electron beam accelerators – an advanced technology; (iii) Pune – installing a new line to make tinned copper and foray into instrumentation cables, with a view to strengthening backward integration.

**Strong B/S, C/F:** FNXC's cash & investments stood at ₹16.6 bn as of Mar'20

Source: Jefferies estimates, Company Data



JEFFERIES



**FRAMEWORK UNVEILED****Sebi move to curb volatility in commodity futures**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 21



**SEBI ON MONDAY** came out with an alternative risk management framework to handle a scenario of 'near zero' and negative prices in commodity futures.

Sebi noted that in recent times an extreme volatility has been observed in commodity prices globally, particularly in the case of crude oil, wherein prices had unprecedentedly gone down to zero and subsequently even negative.

In such a scenario, margins equivalent to even 100% of the futures price would not have been sufficient to cover the steep upward or downward price variations in the futures market, it added.

In order to enable a risk management framework to handle such a scenario of 'near zero' and negative prices, Sebi constituted a task force of

tions and those commodities that cannot be disposed of or destroyed with ease may be in-principle treated as susceptible to the possibility of near zero and negative prices, Sebi said.

The clearing corporations (CCs) will have to ensure the readiness of their systems to implement the prescribed framework within 60 days. However, CCs, which do not presently provide for the clearing and settlement services of any such susceptible commodity, are not required to update their systems for the prescribed framework.

Based on the recommendations of the task force, Sebi said it has been decided that alternate risk management framework (ARMF) will be applicable in such cases of near-zero and negative prices for any underlying commodities/futures.

To begin with, commodities that need specialised storage space in physical markets, which, if not followed, may cause environmental hazards or have other external implica-

**Privatise select PSBs, dilute DFS role: Rajan**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 21

**FORMER RESERVE BANK** of India (RBI) governor Raghuram Rajan on Monday suggested the government to privatise select public sector banks, set up a bad bank to deal with NPAs and dilute the role of Department of Financial Services.

The reforms are necessary to ensure growth of the banking government without the periodic boom-bust cycles, said a paper, titled 'Indian Banks: A Time to Reform?', co-authored by Rajan and former RBI deputy governor Viral Acharya.

"Re-privatisation of select PSBs can then be undertaken as part of a carefully calibrated strategy, bringing in private investors who have both financial expertise as well as technological expertise; corporate houses must be kept from acquiring significant stakes, given their natural conflicts of interest," the paper said.

"Winding down Depart-



ment of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance is essential, both as an affirmative signal of the intent to grant bank boards and management independence and as a commitment not to engage in 'mission creep' when compulsions arise to use banks for serving costly social or political objectives," the paper noted.

According to the paper, private asset management and national asset management 'bad banks' should be encouraged in parallel to the online platform for distressed loan sales. "The national public sector 'bad bank' could serve as a vehicle to aggregate loans, create management teams for distressed firms, and possibly buy and hold distressed assets in a sector like power till demand returns..." it said.

**Google Pay, Visa partner for payments with tokenisation**

**GOOGLE PAY** ON Monday announced the rollout of tokenisation across its platform that will enable users to safely transact with their debit or credit cards.

Through tokenisation,

statement said.

"Working in close partnership with Visa and banking partners, this feature is now available to all users of Axis and SBI Card, with Kotak and more banks expected to follow suit

very soon," it added.

The feature also works with online merchants, delivering more native and seamless OTP experiences without any redirects to 3D secure sites, the statement said.

**TAURUS ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED**  
CIN: U67190MH1993PLC073154  
Head Office & Regd Office : Ground Floor, AML Centre-1, 8 Mahal Industrial Estate, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 093. Tel: 022 - 6624 2700  
Email: [customerservice@taurusmutualfund.com](mailto:customerservice@taurusmutualfund.com) A copy of CSID, SAI and KIM along with application form may be obtained from Fund's Website: [www.taurusmutualfund.com](http://www.taurusmutualfund.com)

**TAURUS**  
Mutual Fund

**NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM TO THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SAI), SCHEME INFORMATION DOCUMENT (SID) AND KEY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (KIM) OF SCHEMES OF TAURUS MUTUAL FUND**

Change to the List of Official Point of Transactions of KFin Technologies Private Limited, Registrar & Transfer Agent of Taurus Mutual Fund.  
Investors/Unit holders are informed to take note of the following changes in the Official Point of Transactions of KFin Technologies Private Limited, Registrar & Transfer Agent for Taurus Mutual Fund.

Branch (Region)	Changes w.e.f.	Old Address	New Address
Salem	Sept 24, 2020	KFin Technologies Pvt. Ltd. No. 3/250, 6th Cross Perumal Kovil, Back Side of Fairland's, Salem-636016 Tel : 0427-4020300	KFin Technologies Pvt. Ltd. No. 6 NS Complex, Omalar Main Road, Salem-636009 Tel : 0427- 4020300

This Addendum forms an integral part of the SAI, SID & KIM of schemes of Taurus Mutual Fund, as amended from time to time.

Place: Mumbai  
Date: September 21, 2020  
Notice cum Addendum No. 11/2020-21  
Sd/-  
Authorised Signatory

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

**Reliance Capital begins asset monetisation process**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 21

**RELIANCE CAPITAL, WHICH** recently defaulted on repayments to its debenture holders and other creditors, has begun the process for monetisation of

its assets, market sources said.

The key assets of Reliance Capital include Reliance Securities, Reliance Health and Reliance General Insurance Company. Other assets include Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, a 51:49 joint venture with Nip-

pon Life, and Reliance Capital's 49% stake in Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company.

Market sources said Reliance Capital has begun its monetisation plan and expression of interest by the trustee – Vistra – will be issued this

week. The resolution applicant can bid for controlling shareholding in Reliance Capital, or individual assets or any combination of assets. When contacted, a spokesperson of Reliance Capital declined to comment.

**PGIM India Asset Management Private Limited**  
(Erstwhile DHFL Pramerica Asset Managers Private Limited)  
2nd Floor, Nirlon House, Dr. A.B. Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030.  
Tel.: +91 22 6159 3000. Fax: +91 22 6159 3100  
CIN: U74900MH2008FTC187029 Toll Free No.: 1800 266 7446  
Website: [www.pgimindiamf.com](http://www.pgimindiamf.com)

**NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM [No. 23 of 2020-21]****NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM TO THE SCHEME INFORMATION DOCUMENT ('SID') AND KEY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM ('KIM') OF PGIM INDIA GLOBAL EQUITY OPPORTUNITIES FUND****Change in the total expense ratio of PGIM India Global Equity Opportunities Fund**

Notice is hereby given that, PGIM India Asset Management Private Limited (erstwhile DHFL Pramerica Asset Managers Private Limited) and PGIM India Trustees Private Limited (erstwhile DHFL Pramerica Trustees Private Limited), the asset management company and trustee company of PGIM India Mutual Fund ("PGIM India MF") have decided to change the fundamental attributes of PGIM India Global Equity Opportunities Fund.

PGIM India Global Equity Opportunities Fund is an overseas fund of fund scheme investing in PGIM Jennison Global Equity Opportunities Fund ("Underlying Fund"). PGIM Jennison Global Equity Opportunities Fund invests in equity and equity related securities of companies around the world in the early stages of acceleration in their growth.

The Trustees of PGIM India MF at their meeting held on July 29, 2020 have approved the change in the definition of PGIM India Global Equity Opportunities Fund (the "Scheme") in the Scheme Information Document as an overseas fund of funds scheme investing in equity oriented schemes. With this change, Trustees have also approved a recalibration of expenses aligned to what is permitted under SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.

Given the nature of asset allocation of the Scheme and the frequent need to remit sums to and from the Underlying Fund, the Scheme incurs expenses towards foreign exchange conversion and related compliances. Besides, due to the variability in the expense ratios of the Underlying Fund and the recent regulatory changes mandating all scheme related expenses to be incurred in the scheme, it is deemed necessary and expedient to have the expense ratios for the Scheme set to the permissible limits. The scheme would not be treated as an equity oriented fund under domestic taxation laws.

Accordingly, Trustees have decided to change total expense ratio of PGIM India Global Equity Opportunities Fund (the "Scheme"), from 2.00% to 2.25% of the daily net assets of the Scheme with effect from October 24, 2020.

There would be no other changes to the Scheme other than the change in expenses ratio. The details of the proposed change is being separately sent to the unitholders of the Scheme.

The Board of Directors of PGIM India Asset Management Private Limited and PGIM India Trustees Private Limited on July 23, 2020 and July 29, 2020, respectively, approved the above proposal for change in the expense ratio of PGIM India Global Equity Opportunities Fund. Further, SEBI, vide its communication dated September 17, 2020 has taken note of above change.

The change in expense ratio of the Scheme tantamount to change in the fundamental attributes of the Scheme as per Regulation 18(15A) of the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996. Such fundamental attributes changes can be carried out only after the unit holders of the Scheme have been sent written communication to provide them with an option of exiting the scheme within a period of 30 days at the prevailing net asset value ("NAV") without being charged an exit load ("Exit Option").

Accordingly, this Notice serves as a communication to the unit holders of the Scheme about the Fundamental Attributes Changes as described above and each unit holder of Scheme is hereby given an option to exit his / her / its investment in the Scheme at the prevailing NAV without exit load, if any.

The exit option will be available to all the unit holders of the Scheme as per the records of KFin Technologies Pvt Ltd. (the "Registrar"), as at the close of business hours on September 18, 2020. The option to exit without exit load can be exercised from September 24, 2020 to October 23, 2020 (both days inclusive) ("Exit Option Period") within scheme cut-off timelines. All transaction requests received after October 23, 2020, will be subject to load, as may be prevailing at that time in the Scheme.

Redemption / Switch requests may be lodged at any of the Official Points of Acceptance of PGIM India MF by filling out the redemption / switch request slip provided in Exhibit 2 of the Letter to Unitholders or by filling the transaction slips and submitting the same duly signed as per the mode of holding or through depository participant (in case of units held in electronic (demat) mode, or through our website as well as the mobile application. For list of Official Points of Acceptance, please visit our website [www.pgimindiamf.com](http://www.pgimindiamf.com). The redemption payment will be made within 10 business days of receipt of valid redemption request to those unit holders who choose to exercise their Exit Option. Unit holders who have pledged / encumbered their units will not have the option to exit unless they procure a release of their pledges / encumbrances and appropriately communicate the same to PGIM India MF / Registrar prior to submitting their redemption / switch requests during the exit option period. In case a lien is marked on units held by a unit holder or units have been frozen / locked pursuant to an order of a governmental authority or a court, redemption / switch out can be executed only after the lien / order is vacated / revoked within the Exit Option Period specified above.

If you have no objection to the proposed Fundamental Attributes Changes, no action needs to be taken by you. This offer to exit is merely an option and is not compulsory.

Please note that unit holders who do not opt for redemption on or before October 23, 2020 shall be deemed to have consented to Fundamental Attributes Changes as specified in this notice.

In case you require any further information / assistance please contact:

**PGIM India Asset Management Private Limited**  
2nd Floor | Nirlon House | Dr. Annie Besant Road | Worli | Mumbai - 400030

Telephone No. 1800 266 7446 | E-mail: [care@pgimindia.co.in](mailto:care@pgimindia.co.in)

Or,

**Registrar, KFin Technologies Private Limited**

Unit - PGIM India Mutual Fund

No. 23, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 034

This Notice-cum-Addendum forms an integral part of SID and KIM of the Scheme, as amended from time to time. All the other terms and conditions of SID and KIM of the Scheme will remain unchanged.

**For PGIM India Asset Management Private Limited**  
(Investment Manager for PGIM India Mutual Fund)

Sd/-

Ajit Menon  
Chief Executive Officer

Place : Mumbai

Date : September 21, 2020

**MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS,  
READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.**

Place : Mumbai

Date : September 21, 2020

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**TAURUS ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED**  
CIN: U67190MH1993PLC073154

Head Office & Regd Office : Ground Floor, AML Centre-1, 8 Mahal Industrial Estate, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 093. Tel: 022 - 6624 2700  
Email: [customerservice@taurusmutualfund.com](mailto:customerservice@taurusmutualfund.com) A copy of CSID, SAI and KIM along with application form may be obtained from Fund's Website: [www.taurusmutualfund.com](http://www.taurusmutualfund.com)

**TAURUS**  
Mutual Fund

**NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM TO THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SAI), SCHEME INFORMATION DOCUMENT (SID) AND KEY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (KIM) OF SCHEMES OF TAURUS MUTUAL FUND**

Change to the List of Official Point of Transactions of KFin Technologies Private Limited, Registrar & Transfer Agent of Taurus Mutual Fund.

Investors/Unit holders are informed to take note of the following changes in the Official Point of Transactions of KFin Technologies Private Limited, Registrar & Transfer Agent for Taurus Mutual Fund.

Branch (Region)	Changes w.e.f.	Old Address	New Address
Salem	Sept 24, 2020	KFin Technologies Pvt. Ltd. No. 3/250, 6th Cross Perumal Kovil, Back Side of Fairland's, Salem-636016 Tel : 0427-4020300	KFin Technologies Pvt. Ltd. No. 6 NS Complex, Omalar Main Road, Salem-636009 Tel : 0427- 4020300

This Addendum forms an integral part of the SAI, SID & KIM of schemes of Taurus Mutual Fund, as amended from time to time.

Place: Mumbai  
Date: September 21, 2020  
Notice cum Addendum No. 11/2020-21  
Sd/-  
Authorised Signatory

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

**PGIM India Asset Management Private Limited**

(Erstwhile DHFL Pramerica Asset Managers Private Limited)  
2nd Floor, Nirlon House, Dr. A.B. Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030.

Tel.: +91 22 6159 3000. Fax: +91 22 6159 31



# FINANCIAL EXPRESS



The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.,  
DIVISIONAL OFFICE, No.6, 3rd Floor,  
Opp: Metro Pillar No: 80, Pusa Road,  
Karolbagh, New Delhi – 110 005

## Possession Notice

(For Immovable Property)

Issued under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 09.03.2020 calling upon the borrower (1) Mis Growing Overseas Pvt Ltd, Ground Floor Kh No-153, Gali No-9, Main Shiv Mandir Road, Block-F, Swapn Nagar, Delhi - 110 042; (2) Mr. Gaurav Mehra, S/o. Mr. Ranveer Mehta, R/O No-47, Second Floor, Gali No-1, Shastri Park, Krishna Nagar, Delhi - 110 092; (3) Mr. Deepak Kumar, S/o Mr. Suresh Kumar, R/O/R-71, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad - 201 001; (4) Mr. Naresh Tayal, S/o Ram Dhaiyay, C-35, Nehru Road, Near Mother Dairy, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi 110 033 and (5) Mrs. Sapna Tayal, W/o Naresh Tayal, C-35, Nehru Road, Near Mother Dairy, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi 110 033 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.95,84,500.28 (Rupees Ninety Five Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Five Hundred and Paisa Twenty Eight only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the 19th day of September of the year 2020;

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED for an amount of Rs.95,84,500.28 (Rupees Ninety Five Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Five Hundred and Paisa Twenty Eight only) and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

### Description of the Immovable Property

Entire residential built up at First Floor (with roof rights) situated at Al-35, Khasra No-262/25/17/4 Hauz-Bust- No-50, Village Bharola, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi - 110 033 and bounded on:

Nort : 30' wide Road Below South: Property No-C-34  
East : 15' wide Road Below West: Remaining portion of said property

Place: Delhi Chief Manager & Authorized Officer  
Date : 19.09.2020 THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED

## FORM NO. CAA. 2

[Pursuant to Section 230 (3) and rule 6 and 7]

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, CHANDIGARH BENCH**  
CA Nos. 162/2020 & 163/2020 in CA(CAA) No. 4/C/Chd/Pb/2020

In the matter of sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 and in the matter of Scheme of Amalgamation between Hansvahini Auto Interior Private Limited (Transferor Company 1) and RSLH Auto Seat Trims Private Limited (Transferor Company 2) and Comfort Trims Private Limited (Applicant Company / Transferor Company 3) with HH Interior & Auto Components Limited (Transferee Company)

**Comfort Trims Private Limited**  
A company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956

having its registered office at D-36, Focal Point, Nabha, Patiala, Punjab - 147201 (CIN: U50400PB2012PTC049809) ...Applicant Company/ Transferor Company 3

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### NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF UNSECURED CREDITORS

#### OF COMFORT TRIMS PRIVATE LIMITED, APPLICANT COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that the Hon'ble Chandigarh Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal by an order dated July 24, 2020 has directed to reschedule the meeting of unsecured creditors of Comfort Trims Private Limited (which was originally scheduled on Saturday, April 18, 2020 and was postponed in view of Pandemic COVID 19) for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification(s), the Scheme of Amalgamation under section 230 to 232 of Companies Act, 2013.

In pursuance of the said Order and as directed therein in, the meeting of the Unsecured creditors of the Applicant Company ("Tribunal Convened Meeting") will be held as follows, at which place, date and time and the said Unsecured Creditors of the Applicant Company are requested to attend.

Sl. No.	Meeting	Day, Date and Time	Venue
1.	Unsecured Creditors	Friday, November 06, 2020 at 03:00 P.M.	Hotel Clarion Inn Amps, Main Sirhind Road, Patiala-147001

Copies of the said Scheme and Explanatory Statement along with the Form of Proxy can be obtained free of charge at the Registered Office of the Applicant Company. Persons entitled to attend and vote at the Tribunal Convened Meeting, may vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the prescribed form are deposited at the Registered Office of the Applicant Company at D-36, Focal Point, Nabha, Patiala, Punjab - 147201, not later than 48 hours before the aforesaid Tribunal Convened Meeting.

The NCLT has appointed Mr. Sanjay Bansal, Advocate as the Chairperson and Mr. Alok Kumar Jain, Advocate as the Alternate Chairperson and Mr. Jatin Singh, Company Secretary as the Scrutinizer of the said Tribunal Convened Meeting. The abovementioned Scheme, if approved at the Tribunal Convened Meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the NCLT.

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**Torrent**  
PHARMA

**TORRENT PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED**  
Registered Office - Torrent House, Off Ashram Road,  
Ahmedabad - 380 009 Gujarat, India  
Ph. +91 79 26599000  
Fax: +91 79 26582100

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the original share certificates, details of which are given hereunder, have been reported lost / misplaced:

Sr No.	Folio No.	Name of the Shareholder	No of shares	Certificates Nos.	Distinctive Nos. (From)	Distinctive Nos. (To)
1	TRE0022315	VIRBALA BHUTANI & RAJENDER PAL BHUTANI	200	1518	340101	340300

Pursuant to request received from concerned shareholder, the Company intends to issue Verification Report for releasing shares from IEPF. Public is cautioned against dealing with the above mentioned share certificate. Verification Report will be issued, unless any objection is received by the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

For TORRENT PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED

Place : Ahmedabad MAHESH AGRAWAL  
Date : 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020 VP (LEGAL) & COMPANY SECRETARY

**CROWN TOURS LIMITED**

(CIN: L63040RJ1989PLC004942)

Registered Office: Opp. Rajputana Sheraton Hotel, Palace Road, Jaipur-302 006, Rajasthan  
Tel No.: +91 141 4156 032/64; E-Mail ID: finance@crownjaipur.org;  
Website: www.crownjaipur.org /www.crownrajasthan.com

Recommendations of the Committee of Independent Directors ("IDC") on the Open Offer to the Public Shareholders of Crown Tours Limited ("CTL"/"Target Company") under Regulation 26(7) of SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 and subsequent Amendments thereto ("SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011"/"Regulations")

1) Date September 21, 2020

2) Name of the Target Company ("TC") Crown Tours Limited

3) Details of the Offer pertaining to TC The Offer is made by the Acquirer in terms of Regulation 3(1) and 4 of the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 for acquisition up to 8,06,000 Equity Share of ₹10 each (Rupees 10 only) representing 26% of the Equity Share Capital/Voting Capital of the Target Company at a price of ₹19.25 (Rupees Nineteen and Paise Twenty Five only) ("Offer Price"), payable in cash and take control over the management of the Target Company.

4) Name of the Acquirer Mr. Ranjith Soman ("Acquirer")

5) Name of the Manager to the Offer Mark Corporate Advisors Private Limited (SEBI Reg. No.: INMM00012128)

6) Members of the Committee of Independent Directors

1) Mr. Om Prakash Agarwal : Chairman

2) Mr. Sitaram Jhanwar : Member

7) IDC Member's relationship with the TC (Director, Equity shares owned, any other contract / relationship), if any IDC members are independent Directors on the Board of the Target Company. They do not have any Equity Holding in the Target Company. None of them have entered into any other contract or have other relationship with the Target Company.

8) Trading in the Equity shares/other securities of the TC by IDC Members No trading in the Equity Shares of the Target Company has been done by any of the IDC Members.

9) IDC Member's relationship with the Acquirer (Director, Equity shares owned, any other contract / relationship), if any None of the IDC Members are Directors in companies where nominees of the Acquirer are acting as Director(s) nor have any relationship with the Acquirer in their personal capacities.

10) Trading in the Equity Shares/other securities of the Acquirer by IDC Members Nil

11) Recommendation on the Open offer, as to whether the offer is fair and reasonable IDC is of the view that Open Offer is fair and reasonable.

12) Summary of reasons for recommendation IDC has taken into consideration the following for making the recommendation:

IDC has reviewed (a) The Public Announcement ("PA") dated August 05, 2020 in connection with the Offer issued on behalf of the Acquirer (b) The Detailed Public Statement ("DPS") which was published on August 12, 2020 and (c) The Letter of Offer ("LoF") dated September 14, 2020.

Based on the review of PA, DPS and LoF, the IDC is of the opinion that the Offer Price of ₹19.25 (Rupees Nineteen and Paise Twenty Five only) per Equity Share offered by the Acquirer (more than the highest price amongst the selective criteria mentioned under Justification of Offer Price) is in line with the regulation prescribed by SEBI under the Regulations and prima facie appears to be justified. However, the Public Shareholders should independently evaluate the Offer and take informed decision in the matter.

13) Details of Independent Advisors, if any None

14) Any other matter(s) to be highlighted None

To the best of our knowledge and belief, after making proper enquiry, the information contained in or accompanying this statement is, in all material respect, true and correct and not misleading, whether by omission of any information or otherwise, and includes all the information required to be disclosed by the Target Company under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011.

For and on behalf of  
The Committee of Independent Directors of  
Crown Tours Limited

Sd/-  
Om Prakash Agarwal  
Chairman-IDC

Place : Jaipur  
Date : September 22, 2020

Om Prakash Agarwal  
Chairman-IDC

For and on behalf of  
The Committee of Independent Directors of  
Crown Tours Limited

Sd/-  
Om Prakash Agarwal  
Chairman-IDC

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Chairman-IDC

For and on behalf of  
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