

Economy

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

**MNREGA SUPPORT**

D Subbarao, former RBI governor

The expanded MNREGA provided a lifeline when most needed, and the frontloaded transfer payments to women, pensioners and farmers have put money in the hands of households and have helped revive demand.

Quick View

463L tonne of paddy bought by govt so far

THE GOVERNMENT HAS procured 462.88 lakh tonne of paddy worth ₹87,392 crore at minimum support price (MSP) so far this kharif marketing season. The government continues to procure Kharif 2020-21 crops at MSP from farmers, an official statement said. The kharif marketing season starts from October.

Around 4.37 cr ITRs for FY20 filed till Dec 28

AROUND 4.37 CRORE income tax returns for fiscal 2019-20 (Assessment Year 2020-21) have been filed till December 28, the I-T department said on Tuesday. In the comparative period last year, 4.51 crore ITRs were filed.

RailTel CMD Puneet Chawla honoured

RAILTEL CMD PUNEET Chawla has been conferred with the Eminent Engineers Award by Institution of Engineers (India) for his contribution to the field of engineering. In a ceremony held in Delhi last week, Chawla received the award from MoS Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre.

Probe initiated for subsidised imports from Malaysia

INDIA HAS INITIATED a probe into alleged exports subsidisation by Malaysia on an aluminium product, following a complaint by the domestic industry, according to a notification. The product is primarily used for automobile and allied applications.

Covid vaccine: 'Unless virus changes a lot, we can manage'

"The virus will not magically stop circulating the minute you get 60% of the population infected or vaccinated. A reduction in transmission is going to come from vaccinating young people. It's not going to come from vaccinating the elderly," she said. Till the time the public health programme has to tackle the pandemic, the government must give indemnity to vaccine-makers and others in the vaccine supply chain, Kang said, adding some level of indemnification was necessary to have access to the vaccines.

She stressed the need to involve the private sector in the inoculation process, pointing out it was drastically more complicated than anything attempted in the past. "My worry is we're not involving the private sector at all, at least, I'm not hearing about it," she said. Also, the government must appoint independent monitoring panels for the roll out, she explained.

Kang believes India needs more granular sero-surveys to determine how Sars-CoV-2 is spreading. "We only know the number of tests done and tests that were positive. Trying to make sense of numbers can only happen with sero-survey information. It would be very valuable if we could understand why the

● EASTERN DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR

PM inaugurates ₹5,750-cr section

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, December 29

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the 351-km-long 'New Bhaupur-New Khurja' section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor which will enable the railways to cut the costly delays in the transportation of goods and help the industries to benefit from improved logistical efficiency. Modi also unveiled the EDTC operation control centre at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

The 'New Bhaupur-New Khurja' stretch is part of the 1,875 km EDTC that connects Punjab's Ludhiana to

Dankuni in West Bengal. This section of EDTC is built at a cost of ₹5,750 crore and, when completed, will decongest the existing Kanpur-Delhi main line and double the speed of freight trains from 25 kmph to 75 kmph.

"We are seeing today, the biggest and modern railway infrastructure project after independence on the ground. When the first goods train runs in the Khurja Bhaupur freight corridor we can hear the roar of the self-reliant India. Freight corridors will reduce the logistical cost of the railways network, thus influencing the price of the goods. These corridors will also increase the ease



of doing business and attract greater foreign investment," Modi said. In a signal to investors, Modi said India was moving fast towards the path of becoming a big economic power with focus on modern connectivity through the five wheels of highways, railways, airways, waterways and i-ways.

Lamenting on the lack of modernisation of the rail network under previous governments, Modi said all this has changed with reforms like elimination of separate rail budgets and investing on the rail track. Pointing to past delays in execution of DFCs, Modi said not a single kilometre of track was laid till 2014.

"After the formation of the government in 2014, it was restarted with constant monitoring, meeting with the stakeholders and induction of new technology," Modi said.

The ambitious DFC project includes the EDTC and the

1,506 km Western Dedicated Freight Corridor which will connect Mumbai to Uttar Pradesh's Dadri.

The EDTC route has coal mines, thermal power plants and industrial cities. Feeder routes are also being made for these. The WDFC from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust to Dadri has ports like Mundra, Kandla, Pipavav, Dawri and Hazira which would be served through feeder routes. The industrial corridor of Delhi-Mumbai and Amritsar-Kolkata are also being developed around both these DFCs. There is also now planning for north to south and east to west corridors.

Ease of doing biz: Centre steps up focus on Kolkata, Bengaluru

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, December 29

THE CENTRE HAS firmed up several proposals -- from adopting an online system to approve building plan and e-filing of cases for the enforcement of contracts to providing electricity connections in as early as a week -- to make it easier for doing business in Kolkata and Bengaluru.

The move follows the World Bank's decision to add these two cities to the list of its existing destinations (Delhi and Mumbai) and widen the coverage of its survey for gauging India's performance in its ease of doing business index. The ranks are typically based on stakeholders' perception of reforms in the cities under the survey. So it becomes important to not just undertake reforms in these cities but also sensitise the stakeholders about them. The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has been spearheading the ease of doing business initiative.

The plans require massive collaborative efforts between the states (West Bengal and Karnataka) and central authorities, among others, for effective implementation, as most of these are in the states' domain. This collaboration becomes more critical in lag-



gard areas, such as enforcing contracts, starting a business and registering properties.

In enforcing contracts, in which India held an abysmal 163rd rank among 190 countries in the ease of doing business index last year, the Centre wants the relevant authorities to assess the requirement of commercial courts in Kolkata and Bengaluru, based on the amount of pending cases. It also wants the implementation of e-case management, which includes filing, payments, summons and orders, in all commercial courts to fast-track cases.

In registering property, the Centre wants all records relating to titles and encumbrances in these two cities digitised and available on a single portal. It also wants them to register and map all privately-held land plots. In this parameter, India was ranked 154th last year.

As for 'starting a business', the government wants the facility for real-time registration for shops and similar establishments. Also, it intends

to remove inspection requirement for registration of shops or trade licences. In this indicator, India occupied the 136th spot in last year's ranking.

To expedite construction permits, the Centre wants the states to adopt an online system for approving building plans and issuing completion-cum-occupancy certificates. Similarly, it wants an integrated online system, with all external and internal agencies involved in providing no objection certificates, for granting construction permits quickly.

As for providing electricity, the centre plans to further improve or at least maintain the dramatically rise in ranks in recent years. It wants the authorities to ensure that electricity connections (up to 150 KVA) are provided within a week where no right of way (RoW) is required and in 15 days where the RoW is needed.

The country's rank under the Modi government leaped from 142nd in the Bank's 2015 report (which reflected reforms undertaken mostly up to May 2014) to a record 63rd in the report released last year. But its lacklustre performance in the laggard segments delayed the achievement of its target of being in top 50 of the 190 nations surveyed.

The report, released last week, said the majority of these flows were destined for the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and the construction of sub-sector.

Regarding the ICT sector,

the report said the investment to India has evolved from

information technology services for multinational enterprises (MNEs) to the thriving local digital ecosystem where many domestic players, especially in e-commerce, have attracted considerable international investment.

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local digital ecosystem where many domestic players, especially in e-commerce, have attracted considerable international investment.

The report added that FDI outflows from South and South-West Asia increased for the fourth consecutive year, modestly growing from \$14.8 billion in 2018 to \$15.1 billion in 2019.

The geographical spread of FDI outflows from the subregion remained uneven, with just two countries (India and Turkey) accounting for the vast majority of outflows in 2019, it said.

"As such, the slight increase in outward FDI was predominantly due to an increase in outflows from India, which accounted for 80% of total outward investment from the subregion," the report said, adding that in 2019, India invested \$12.1 billion abroad, a 10% increase compared with the previous year.

The report noted that in the short term, both inflows and outflows from and to the sub-region are expected to decline.

In the first three quarters of 2020, the value of greenfield FDI inflows declined by 43 per cent compared to the same period last year, signaling a reversal of the growth trend in the subregion. — PTI

From the Front Page

Tata Sons to take over AirAsia India



So far, Singapore Airlines has not given its nod.

AirAsia Berhad had recently waived off the non-compete clause for Tatas thus giving them a free hand to bid for Air India through the low-cost carrier.

As is known, earlier this month Tatas submitted an expression of interest to buy out Air India, where the government is divesting its ownership. The selected parties will be shortlisted by the government on January 5 after which they would be given time to submit their request for proposal.

Announcing the sale of the additional stake to Tata Sons in a filing to the local exchanges, AirAsia Berhad said, "As India is a non-core market for AirAsia (being a non-Asean country), the company will continue to regularly re-assess its busi-

ness strategies and dispose of non-core investments to augment its liquidity. This transaction will reduce cash burn of the company in the short term and allow AirAsia to concentrate on recovery of its key Asean markets in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines in the long run".

Earlier this year, AirAsia had exited Japan on similar grounds.

Indicating that its

investment in India had been a loss-making proposition, the Malaysian carrier said, "The share of losses over the years have resulted in the carrying value of the investment at the date of transaction to be nil".

AirAsia India's revenue declined 69% in the July-September quarter. The company did not disclose its losses during the period but it was its fifth consecutive quarterly loss.

The state government had formed a committee to revise "abnormally priced" wind and solar power purchase agreements (PPAs) in July 2019, saying there might have been linked with "malafide intentions".

The state had gone ahead with this plan despite the Centre's advice that this could upset investor confidence in the sunrise sector and might have a pan-India adverse impact.

The Andhra Pradesh High Court had struck down the

state government order on renegotiating PPAs, and directed the discoms to pay more than 7,500 MW of wind and solar plants at a provisional rate of ₹2.43 per unit — against the ₹4.84 per unit tariff they were receiving earlier — till the legal disputes are resolved.

Renewable energy developers in Andhra Pradesh have recently sought the Centre's intervention to clear the outstanding dues of around ₹3,000 crore owed to them by the state-run discoms.

The developers have not been receiving payments regularly even at the reduced rates from the discoms, pending resolution of the disputes.

Overdues — receivables pending for more than 60 days — to solar and wind plants have increased 30% since April to ₹2,921 crore at October end.

The under-recoveries from lower tariffs are pegged at around ₹5,000 crore and the case is currently in the high court. The matter was last heard by the court on March 11, 2020.

Asset quality set to worsen sharply: RBI

Going forward, with gradual roll-back of policy measures, deterioration in asset quality may pose challenges, although build-up of buffers like Covid-19 provisions and capital raising from market may help alleviate the stress, the central bank observed.

After a gap of two consecutive years, the loan growth

interest (EoIs) from interested investors and received four proposals. According to a recent report by Business Standard, UK-based Liberty Group, a combine of the Centrum group and BharatPe, and two business families from Mumbai and Hyderabad have expressed interest in taking over the bank.

As depositors with the bank continue to hold protests at RBI's various offices across Mumbai, governor Shaktikanta Das has said the response to the resolution process has been "positive". During the post-policy press conference on December 4, he had said, "The bank and its management are fully engaged with the investors who had purchased the information memorandum... let us see what is the response and after that we can take a view on this."

Stamping out gangsters, and how!

"Efforts are on to zero in on the person who got the photographs of the criminals printed under the 'My stamp' scheme," he added.

It has been decided to take strict measures in the future to ensure such errors are not repeated, Varma said.

Under the 'My Stamp' scheme, anyone paying ₹300 can get stamps with their photos or that of their family members printed and released.

Rajan is currently in a Mumbai prison, and Bajrangi was murdered in UP's Baghpat prison in 2018.

Farmer unions defer tractor march ahead of talks with Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29

PROTESTING FARMER UNIONS have deferred to Thursday their proposed tractor march against the contentious agriculture laws, so that the rally does not clash with their talks with the government on Wednesday.

The unions have agreed to hold the next round of talks with the Central government on Wednesday, but insist the agenda of the meeting should include discussing modalities for repealing the three legislations. Earlier this week, Samyukt Kisan Morcha -- an umbrella body of 40 unions leading protests at Delhi border points -- had announced a tractor march from the Singhu and the Tikri borders to the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Highway on December 30.

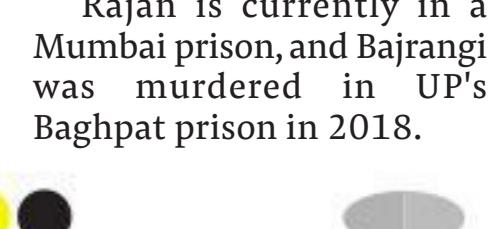
"In view of our talks with the government (on December 30), we have decided to defer our tractor march. The farmers will hold a march with their tractors on December 31," Abhimanyu Kohar, a senior member of Morcha, said.

He said that as farmer leaders would have a meeting with Central ministers on Wednesday, the protesting unions have decided to defer their proposed tractor march.

Thousands of protesting farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, have been camping at three Delhi border points -- Singhu, Ghazipur and Tikri -- for the last 31 days, demanding a repeal of three farm laws and legal guarantee for minimum support price.

On Monday, farmer leaders agreed to a government proposal for holding the next round of talks on the new agricultural laws on December 30, but remained firm on their agenda of scrapping the laws.

Enacted in September, the three farm laws have been projected by the Centre as major reforms in the agriculture sector that will remove the middlemen and allow farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country. However, the protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that the new laws would pave the way for eliminating the safety cushion of the



Govt mops up ₹8,965 crore till Nov from auctioned, allotted coal blocks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29



THE GOVERNMENT MOPPED up ₹8,964.75 crore till last month from the auctioned and allotted mines, according to the coal ministry.

These revenue figures consist of upfront amount and monthly premium only, while royalty and taxes or cess are payable over and above these payments, the coal ministry said in its E-Booklet on reforms.

Apart from 204 coal mines covered under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, the remaining blocks are allocated under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. Till date, 11 coal blocks

The Act ensured continuity in operation of the producing mines and bringing into production other mines expeditiously. It also amended the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act and the MMDR Act, thereby bringing uniformity in provisions of all the three Acts governing coal block allocation.

The Act permitted auction of coal mines for commercial mining by private entities. The proceeds of auctions shall accrue to respective states. The Act also provided that the land and mine infrastructure of prior allottee shall be transferred and vested in new allottee and compensation for land, and immovable mining infrastructure shall be paid to the prior allottee.

Steel manufacturers defend price hikes in letter to PMO

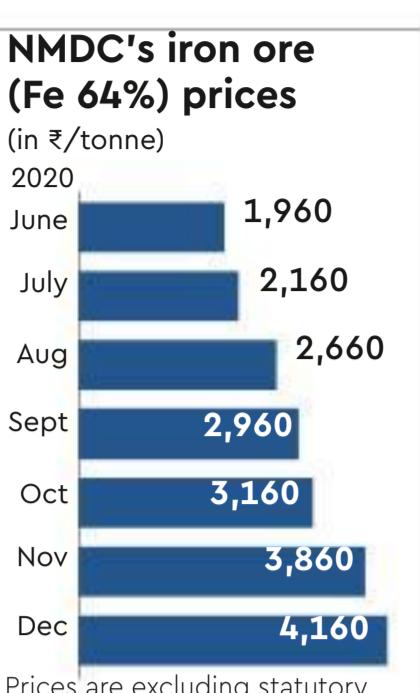
SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, December 29

FACING FLAK FROM different quarters, including MSMEs and road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari for jacking up prices 'exorbitantly' over the last few months, steel makers have written to the prime minister's office to 'place the matter in the correct perspective'.

Highlighting the 'compelling reasons' for the price increases, the Indian Steel Association (ISA), the representative body of the domestic steel producers, has attributed

the hikes to acute shortage of iron ore which led to a sharp rise in its prices, northward movement of steel prices in international markets with which Indian prices 'move in sympathy' and 'subdued domestic steel production'.

Gadkari has been vocal against the steel firms for raising prices by 55% in the last six months. The minister had also written to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention to arrest the trend. "Lowering the productivity and increasing the rate is not a good strategy," Gadkari lambasted the steel industry



at an Assocham event earlier this month.

In their letter to the principal secretary to the Prime Minister, ISA also said that crude steel production in November this fiscal was lower than the same month last year and overall, the production is down by 19% year-on-year. The fall in production is mainly due to the inability of the smaller steel producers to scale up output as they are facing the double whammy of

high input costs and non-availability of iron ore.

Requesting the government to implement quick policy measures for easing the supply of iron ore, especially in Odisha, the ISA has urged the government to impose a temporary ban on iron ore export for a six-month period till the situation stabilises as it will help the domestic steel industry by increasing the availability of iron ore in the country.

Nashik valley wine selected for Centre's 'One District One Product' scheme

WINE FROM THE Nashik valley has been selected by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of the Union ministry of commerce and industry for its 'One District, One Product' scheme. This is a part of the Union government's push to promote each district into a global manufacturing hub and a leading exporter.

Under this scheme, Nashik's Valley Wine, which

had earlier received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, will now come under the PM's Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme. Sumita Dawra, the additional secretary of the department, has written to the All-India Wine Producers' Association (AIWPA) seeking details on the wineries in Nashik. The AIWPA said that this move will help Nashik's wine sector brand and sell products more effectively.

— FE BUREAU

The Union government would come up with measures to help improve the sector's performance in the future, Jagdish Holkar, president, AIWPA said. Hereon, wines from Nashik (which contain at least 75% grapes of Nashik origin) shall bear the label of 'Wines from the Nashik Valley', Holkar said.

— FE BUREAU

POSSESSION NOTICE

Undersigned the Authorised Officer of the DCB Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, 2002, calling upon the borrowers / co-borrowers as mentioned in column no. 3 to repay the amount mentioned in the said Demand Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers and co-borrowers having failed to repay the amount as mentioned in column no. 6, notice is hereby given to them and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property as described herein below in column no. 4 in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules.

Sr. No.	Loan Account	Borrower / Co-Borrower	Description of Secured Assets	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Demanded	Date of Possession
1	DRBLDEL00445157	Kamla Singh And Nirankar Singh	H-15, Sector Alpha 2 Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh - 201306	06.08.2018	Rs. 72,73,892/-	26.12.2020
2	HHOMDEL00033428	Mahadev Chaudhary, Anita Chaudhary And Jadiash Chaudhary	Plot No. 23 Block-E, Sector 15 Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301	07.10.2015	Rs. 22,48,075/-	26.12.2020
3	DRBLDEL00404528	Chander Bhan Batra (Since Deceased), Deepak Batra, M/S Urvashi Rubber Works And Harkesh Batra	H No. 225/1, Raghuveer Colony, Near Sigi Gate, Balabaghgarh, Faridabad, Haryana - 121004	13.02.2020	Rs. 71,96,881.26/-	26.12.2020

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid property and any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the DCB Bank Limited for the amount mentioned therein and further interest and cost thereon.

Place : Greater Noida, Noida and Faridabad

Date : 30.12.2020

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Companies

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

EXPERT VIEW

Indian consumers are becoming more hygiene conscious. Demand for cleaning products continues to grow due to consumer alertness concerning the importance of hygiene and the spread of infectious diseases.

—Sunil Kataria, CEO India & SAARC, Godrej Consumer Products

Quick View



L&T wins 'significant' deal in Chhattisgarh

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Tuesday said it has won a significant contract in Chhattisgarh. The company did not provide the exact contract value. However, as per its classification, a significant contract ranges between ₹1,000 crore and ₹2,500 crore. "The Water and Effluent Treatment business of L&T Construction has secured an EPC order involving design, engineering, supply and installation of plant and equipment to lay 135 km of slurry pipeline and water pipeline systems between Bacheli and Nagarnar and associated facilities in the state of Chhattisgarh," the company said.

Sebi fines NDTV ₹5 crore over disclosure lapses

MARKETS REGULATOR SEBI on Tuesday imposed a penalty of ₹5 crore on NDTV for its failure to disclose price-sensitive information about VCLP loan agreements. The loan agreements were containing clauses and conditions that substantially affected the functioning of the media company, Sebi said in its order. The regulator said its probe began after receipt of complaints in 2017 from Quantum Securities about an alleged violation of rules by non-disclosure of material information to the shareholders.

NCOME raises ₹3.6 cr, led by Venture Catalysts, others

NCOME, AN ESCROW-AS-A-SERVICE platform, has secured ₹3.6 crore funding led by Venture Catalysts, 9Unicorns, PointOne Capital and LetsVenture, according to a statement. NCOME offers enterprise and individual customers with fast, secure, and low-cost digital escrow service, the company said.

Godrej Consumer forays into home cleaning products

FMCG COMPANY GODREJ Consumer Products (GCPL) on Tuesday said it has forayed into home cleaning products, a segment which is witnessing fast growth after the pandemic. The Godrej group firm would provide surface cleaning and disinfecting solution under its newly-launched brand Godrej ProClean, the company said.

Skoda planning to hike prices by 2.5% from Jan 1

EUROPEAN CAR MANUFACTURER Skoda on Tuesday said it is looking to hike car prices by up to 2.5% from January 1, 2021, in view of increasing production costs. Some of the automakers in the country have already announced price hikes for their vehicle models from January 1, 2021, on account of rising input and material costs besides fluctuations in exchange rates.

CSC partners IIT-D to set up innovation lab in hinterland

STATE-RUN COMMON SERVICES Centers Special Purpose Vehicle on Tuesday said it has partnered with IIT-Delhi to establish a design and innovation lab which will conduct research on new products and services for village level entrepreneurs. The labs would conduct research on design-led innovations related to leveraging livelihood and enhancing all-round entrepreneurial outlook, a statement said.

FPA Global Opportunity Fund sells CARE Ratings' shares

FPA GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY on Tuesday sold nearly 10 lakh shares of CARE Ratings worth about ₹5.2 crore through an open market transaction. As per the bulk deal data available on the BSE, FPA Global Opportunity Fund A Series Fund of FPA Hawkeye Fund divested 9,97,546 shares of CARE Ratings at an average price of ₹521.08 apiece.

Gramophone raises ₹25 cr from investors for growth

AGRI-TECH START-UP GRAMOPHONE on Tuesday said it has raised ₹25 crore from investors, including Siana Capital, and will use the funds for customer acquisition and strengthen its platform. The Indore-based firm in a statement said that it has raised ₹25 crore (\$3.4 million) funding round led by Siana Capital.

Supermarkets rejig business model for last-mile delivery

DEVIIKA SINGH
New Delhi, December 29

THE DISRUPTION DUE to the lockdown forced supermarkets to rethink their business models. They reached out to consumers via telephone calls and scaled up deliveries. "It was important to get close to the customer since they could not shop at our stores," Lavdeep Walia, chief marketing officer, More Retail, observed. The company claims to have grown its deliveries tenfold in the past few months by increasing deliveries, phone calls and using mobile vans.

Spencer's Retail tied up with Uber, Rapido and introduced a chatbot ordering platform for customers.

Experts opine that it will be easy for supermarkets to adopt digital channels since their back-ends are already digitised.

The 'hyper-local delivery' model will also give them an edge.

"Unlike e-grocery players, most supermarkets can deliver out of their stores and do not need to set up dark stores, etc," said Harminder Sahni, founder and managing director, Wazir Advisors. Sahni, however, added that these companies need to overcome the internal inertia to adopt the new channel.

Nidhi Sinha, content head, Mintel India, added that these companies will also have to battle the consumer preference of buying staples and daily need products from their neighbourhood kirana stores.

With the lockdowns progressively easing, most supermarket chains have seen a recovery in footfalls since October. However, business is yet to reach pre-Covid levels, especially, for non-essential categories.



"Categories like luggage and apparel, with still limited out of home mobility and fewer travel plans, will take a few months to reach the pre-covid numbers," Devendra Chawla, MD, Spencer's Retail and Nature's Basket said. Meanwhile, e-commerce is going to be a focus of the supermarkets in 2021, too, as they go omnichannel. "We will keep going stronger on our 'out of store' initiatives," Chawla added.

Modern trade hit a rough patch in 2020 with shopping disrupted by the lockdown imposed in the wake of the pandemic. While e-commerce and general trade flourished with consumers quick to adapt, modern trade struggled; the stores in malls virtually out of reach and those in markets open only for a few hours each day. Nielsen estimated modern trade's contribution to FMCG sales fell from 10.4% in Q1 2020 to 8.2% in Q3 2020. In contrast, general trade and e-commerce grew their shares by 1.6% and 0.5%, respectively.

With revenues under pressure earnings of supermarket chains were badly hit. Avenue Supermarkets, which owns and operates D-Mart, reported a 38% Yo-Yo fall in net profit to ₹199 crore in Q2. Future Retail, which runs BigBazaar, Foodhall, Easyday,

and Nilgiris reported a net loss of ₹692 crore in Q2, on the back of a 74% drop in sales. Most stores, nonetheless, reported an increase in basket size as consumers bought more at every visit. Shoppers also picked up more value packs.

While FMCG brands gave precedence to general trade and e-commerce this year due to changing consumer behaviour, they are optimistic about modern trade. These companies, such as Hamdard Laboratories and Cargill India, typically derived 12-15% of their business from modern trade before March. "We target urban families for our products and hence modern trade becomes an important channel for us to reach them," said Piyush Patnaik, MD, Cargill's oil business in India. Patnaik opines that as supermarkets evolve, consumers will return to the channel.

FY20 FIGURES

Amazon invests ₹11,400 cr across verticals in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29

US E-COMMERCE GIANT Amazon has pumped in over ₹11,400 crore (about \$1.5 billion) during FY2019-20 across its marketplace, payments and wholesale business units in India to bolster its position in the country's burgeoning digital commerce market.

The investments have been made even though most of the Amazon's business units in India registered losses during the fiscal.

Data analysis from regulatory filings by various Amazon entities showed that Amazon Seller Services, Amazon Wholesale (India), Amazon Pay (India) and Amazon Transportation Services saw their losses adding up to ₹7,899 crore in FY20 as against a loss of ₹7,014.5 crore in the preceding fiscal.

Amazon Seller Services, Amazon Wholesale (India), Amazon Pay (India) and Amazon Transportation Services had registered losses in FY20 at ₹5,849.2 crore, ₹133.2 crore, ₹1,868.5 crore and ₹48.1 crore,



respectively. Amazon Internet Services, which had clocked a net profit of ₹71.1 crore in FY19, slipped into the red with a loss of ₹20 lakh in FY20, the data showed.

The e-commerce giant, which has been investing millions of dollars towards promotions, building infrastructure and logistics as it woos customers to shop online, has seen its losses mount on account of higher expenses.

Filings showed that Amazon Pay's total expenses grew 62% to ₹3,234.8 crore in FY20, while Amazon Seller Services saw its total expenses rising over 25% to ₹16,877.1 crore in the said period.

In response to a detailed query sent to the company, an Amazon India spokesperson said: "We continue to be invested in India with a long-term view enabling customers in India to enjoy the ease and convenience of e-commerce and other digital products and services."

In January this year, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos had announced \$1 billion (over ₹7,000 crore) investment in India to help bring small and medium businesses online. Previously, Amazon had committed \$5.5 billion investments in India, one of Amazon's most important markets outside of the US and a key growth driver.

Future and Amazon continue letter fight; write to Sebi over Future-Reliance deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29

CONTINUING THEIR LETTER fight, Amazon and Future Group have written to market regulator Sebi with contrasting requests over a ₹24,713-crore buyout of assets of India's second-largest retailer.

Future Group has requested Sebi to expedite the review of the proposed deal and issue a no-objective certificate, while Amazon has urged that the review of the "impugned transaction" be suspended.

Amazon had dragged Future Group to arbitration at Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) after an indebted Kishore Biyani group firm signed a pact to sell retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing units to billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance in August this year.

Future Group firm Future Retail (FRL) approached the Delhi High Court, which earlier this month upheld Amazon's right to make representations to statutory authorities against the Future Group-Reliance Retail deal

possible" as any delay would cause loss to the company, its stakeholders and investors.

"In view of the judgment of the Delhi High Court, it is respectfully prayed that Sebi reviews the application submitted for its NOC/observations on the scheme to the stock exchanges as soon as possible as any further delay on this count would cause irreparable loss not only to FRL and its stakeholders, including lakhs of small investors, but also to other entities and their respective stakeholders and investors, who are involved in the scheme," it said. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has to issue an NOC after reviewing the scheme of merger of FRL along with other Future Group companies with RIL's Reliance Retail Ventures and Reliance Retail Fashion Lifestyle.

In its letter to Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi on December 21, Amazon said FRL's request for an injunction against Amazon has been rejected by the Delhi High Court, and that the court has held that the interim award by SIAC is valid under Indian law.

In its letter, dated December 23, FRL requested Sebi to decide over the NOC (No Objection Certificate) required for the sale of its retail and other businesses "as soon as

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GIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

REGD. OFFICE: National Insurance Building , 6th Floor 14 Jamshed Tata Road , Churchgate Mumbai -400020,
Telephone No's:- 022-22851766-68, 022-22884985

NCR AREA OFFICE: Delhi Area Office: UGF-10A-E, Kanchanjunga Bldg, 18 Barakhamba Road Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001,
Telephone No's:- 011-23737669, 23327548, 41522024, 41522025, Email: delhi@gichfindia.com

MEERUT OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Darshan Plaza, Samrat Enclave, Garh Road, Meerut U.P-250004, Telephone No's : 0121-2603730 / 9899584838 /
9871863167. Email: meerut@gichfindia .com

Ref:- Demand notice u/s 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

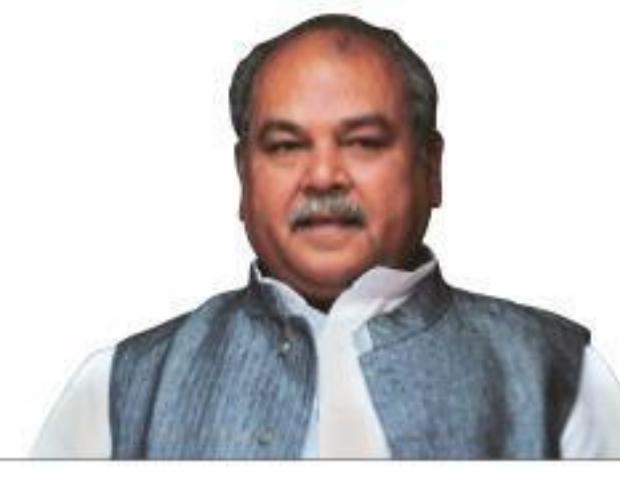
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of GICFL, pursuant to demand notice issued on its respective dates as given below under section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002, calling upon you/Borrowers (under named), to pay outstanding dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the respective notices. You all have failed to pay the said outstanding dues within stipulated time, hence GICFL are in exercise and having right as conferred under the provision of sub section (4) of section 13 read with rules thereto of SARFAESI Act 2002 have taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of following Secured Assets.

S. No.	NAME OF THE BORROWER & CO-BORROWER/LOAN FILE NO./BRANCH NAME	ADDRESS OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY	OUTSTANDING DUES AS ON 31.12.2020 (AMOUNT IN Rs.)	DATE OF ISSUE DEMAND NOTICE	OUTSTAND-ING DUES (As per De-mand Notice) (AMOUNT IN Rs.)	S. No.	NAME OF THE BORROWER & CO-BORROWER/LOAN FILE NO./BRANCH NAME	ADDRESS OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY	OUTSTANDING DUES AS ON 31.12.2020 (AMOUNT IN Rs.)	DATE OF ISSUE DEMAND NOTICE	OUTSTAND-ING DUES (As per De-mand Notice) (AMOUNT IN Rs.)
1	DL0110610006088 MR. RAM KUMAR SINGH / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No-01, 3rd Floor, Plot No-602,-D/19-E, Kh No-1151/3 min , Situated in Abadi of Lal Dora Ward No-3, Near Kali Mandir , Village- Mehrauli , Tehsil-Hauz Khas Delhi-110016	Rs. 29,74,692	02.11.2019	Rs. 29,09,115	29	UP0110610003299, MR. VIJAY SHANKAR DUBEY / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No- SF-3, Second Floor , Plot No-112 & 113, Kh No-164, Balaji Enclave Vill- Shaberi G.B Nagar U.P	Rs. 22,47,687	04.11.2019	Rs. 22,36,030
2	DL0111300103244, MRS. YASMIN/ DELHI BRANCH	House of 50 Sq. Yards Kh No-1233/2, Village - Makarpur Ghaziabad UP	Rs. 4,28,527	17.11.2020	Rs. 4,35,596	30	UP0110610005430, MR. AMIT CHAWLA / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No-204, Second Floor , Back Side , Plot No-8, Building Name - Sapphire-3, Kh No-230, Jupiter Enclave Vill- Hazipur Noida U.P-201304	Rs. 20,03,992	06.01.2020	Rs. 19,30,575
3	DL0111300103021, BALVINDER KUMAR /DELHI BRANCH	H.No-16, Kh No-332/1, 333/2, 334/3, Frinds Colony Dadri Gautam Budha Nagar U.P	Rs. 5,29,982	17.11.2020	Rs. 5,38,706	31	UP0110610003055, MR. ANIL KUMAR / DELHI BRANCH	H No-24, Block- E, Kh No- 89, Raj City Colony , Tronica City , Vill- Khan Pur Jatipuri Loni Ghaziabad U.P	Rs. 20,23,738	09.11.2019	Rs. 19,45,989
4	UP0110610004356, NAVNEEN KUMAR SRIVASTAVA / MRS. ALKA SINHA / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No-301, Kh No-314-317, 328-334, Building Name -Sai Homes , Floor :3 rd Floor , Plot No-1A, Vill- Basai Brauddin Nagar , Near Sapphire International School Dadri G.B Nagar U.P-201301	Rs. 19,60,678	17.11.2020	Rs. 19,51,187	32	DL0110610005396, MRS. SARAMMA G SKARIAH / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No-A-1, Upper Ground Floor , Without Roof Right Kh No-517, Ward No-7, Near Satya Vihar, Vill- Burari Delhi -110084	Rs. 18,68,363	22.02.2020	Rs. 21,01,824
5	DL0111300103746, RAJ BIR SINGH/ DELHI BRANCH	House Measuring 636 Sq. Yards , Lal Dora , Village-Badha , Tehsil- Palwal , Distt- Faridabad H.R	Rs. 5,14,410	17.11.2020	Rs. 5,21,141	33	DL0110610004171, MR. NAVNEEN KRISHAN / MRS. PINKI PAWAR / DELHI BRANCH	Flat of Entire First Floor without roof right , Plot No-47-48, part of Kh No-503 min, situated within Extended Abadi / Laldora , Shakti Enclave Near Shalimar Place , Village- Burari Delhi-110084	Rs. 48,81,546	09.11.2019	Rs. 46,24,386
6	UP0110610002974, MRS. NIBHA GROVER / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No- UGF-2, Plot No-G-23A, Keshav Kunj , Near Pipal Tree, Vill- Raispur Ghaziabad U.P	Rs. 11,24,748	17.11.2020	Rs. 11,26,644	34	DL0110610004323, MR. TITU SAHA / DELHI BRANCH	Flat of Third Floor , Plot No- D-38, Kh No- 362, Vishwas Park , Vill- Bindapur , Utam Nagar , Delhi	Rs. 20,57,139	02.11.2019	Rs. 20,19,998
7	UP0110610002784, RAJESH KUMAR / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No- GF-2, Front Right Side Plot No-97A-98, Kh No-164, Balaji Enclave , Vill- Shaberi G.B Nagar U.P	Rs. 19,46,022	24.10.2020	Rs. 19,45,637	35	DL0110610004633, MRS. ANJU LATA KUMARI W/O LATE SHRI SATYA PRAKASH / MR. NIKHIL KUMAR GAUTAM S/O LATE SHRI SATYA PRAKASH / MR. TARUN KUMAR GAUTAM S/O LATE SHRI SATYA PRAKASH (LEGAL HEIR) BORROWER/ DELHI BRANCH	Flat No - UGF-02, Upper Ground Floor, without Roof Right, Area measuring approx 86 sq. Yds. Part of Kh No 535 min near Shalimar Banquet Hall, Situated within Extended Abadi / Lal Dora of Village- Burari, Delhi -110084	Rs. 33,26,508	21.12.2020	Rs. 33,95,735
8	DL0111300103587, TAJBEER SINGH/ MR. SHREE CHAND / DELHI BRANCH	House Situated Kh No-80, Asram Road , Vill- Sihani Nandgram Ghaziabad U.P	Rs. 3,49,951	17.11.2020	Rs. 3,53,580	36	UP0610600001423, DEVESH P / SONI PRASAD /MEERUT BRANCH	Flat No SF-2, Second Floor, Royal Appartment, Plot No - 86, Khasra No- 11, Jeevan Jyoti Enclave, Shahberi, Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201009	Rs. 17,16,544	07.12.2020	Rs. 17,16,544
9	UP0110610005716, MARYANN MALHOTRA / SMT. VIJAY LUXMI / DELHI BRANCH	Plot No-C-9/4 A, DLF Ankur Vihar , Flat No-GF-4, Ground Floor Back Side , Ward No-12, Village- Sadul-labad Loni Ghaziabad U.P	Rs. 17,58,565	17.11.2020	Rs. 17,52,309	37	UP0610600001259, MR. RAVINDRA KUMAR / MAMTA / MEERUT BRANCH	House No. 82, Plot No - 82, ParvahanPuram Colony, Roshanpur Dorli, Roorkee Road, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh - 250002	Rs. 16,66,787	07.12.2020	Rs. 16,66,787
10	DL0110610004690, MRS. SUMAN / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No- FF-3, First Floor Without Roof Right , Area measuring 50 sq. yds. Plot No-10 & 16 Area measuring 200 sq. yds.) Part of Kh No- 631/2 & 630/2, Ward No-7, Situated Within Extended Abadi/ Laldora Numberdar Colony Vill - Burari Delhi-110084	Rs. 14,69,328	17.11.2020	Rs. 14,67,703	38	UP0610600000535, MR. SATISH KUMAR / SANDEEPA DEVI/ MEERUT BRANCH	Entire First Floor, Second Floor, Plot No 134A, Block - D, With Roof Right, Khasra No - 385, Govind Vihar, Harsao Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201002	Rs. 11,66,008	07.12.2020	Rs. 11,66,008
11	DL0110610003066, MRS. ISHA ARORA / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No- SF-1, Second Floor Measuring Area 50.16 SQ. Mtrs i.c 60 Sq. Yds Parts Of Plot No- 55-56, Out Of Kh No- 506, Situated at Extended Abadi Shakti Enclave ,Near Shalimar Place Village- Burari -Delhi-110084	Rs. 23,58,286	27.11.2020	Rs. 23,67,107	39	UP061060000488, MR. RAJEEV AGARWAL /MEERUT BRANCH	Flat No F-2, Plot No. B-196, Ganga Dham Colony, Rajpura, Meerut, Utter Pradesh, - 250001	Rs. 7,35,010	07.12.2020	Rs. 7,35,010
12	UP0110610004004, MR. DOMINIC CHRISTY/DELHI BRANCH	Flat No-TF-3, 3rd Floor , Back Side, Situated at Kh No-418, Krishna Homes Mohiuddin Pur Vill- Kanawani Indrapuram Ghaziabad U.P	Rs. 2,35,019	17.11.2020	Rs. 2,43,954	40	UP0610600000519, MR. PRAVEEN KUMAR /MEERUT BRANCH	Flat No SF-2, Second Floor, Plot No 41 & 42, Khasra No -1534, Krishna Kunj, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad, Utter Pradesh, 20100	Rs. 15,49,061	07.12.2020	Rs. 15,49,061
13	UP0110610003958, MR. HARENDRA SINGH/ DELHI BRANCH	Flat No- 206, Second Floor Plot No-3 & 3A, Harit Tower out of Kh No-320, 321, 323, 325, 327, Village- Basai Barudpur Noida G.B Nagar U.P	Rs. 19,94,655	17.11.2020	Rs. 19,92,695	41	UP0610600000805, MR. MANOJ KUMAR KAUSHIK / MRS JAGWATI MEERUT BRANCH	HOUSE NO. 1-A, PLOT NO 1-A, KHASRA NO 376, OM SAI GARDEN, CHIPYANA BUZURG, DADRI, GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH 201009	Rs. 16,74,167	21.12.2020	Rs. 16,74,167
14	UP0110610003855, MR. RAGHU RAJ GARG / SMT. RICHMAHESHWARI / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No-101, First Floor , Plot No-130, Kh No-35, Virandavan Garden Village- Shaberi G.B Nagar U.P	Rs. 19,84,588	17.11.2020	Rs. 19,86,223	42	UP0610600001243, MR. ASHWANI JAIN / NEHA JAIN / MEERUT BRANCH	Flat No TF-8, 3rd Floor, Plot No -754, Sector-1 Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201012	Rs. 23,01,939	07.12.2020	Rs. 23,01,939
15	UP0110610003505, MR. JI-TENDER SINGH / SMT SADHANA / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No- S-2, Back Side Plot No- F-9, Out of Kh No- 1559, Keshav Kunj , Vill- Raispur Dasna Ghaziabad U.P	Rs. 13,82,728	17.11.2020	Rs. 13,79,846	43	UP0610600000702, MR. KAMLESH KUMAR YADAV / MEERUT BRANCH	Plot No. 155, Khasra No.- 3026, Royal Paradiseext-1, Dhoon Manikpur, Dadri, Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P, 203207	Rs. 4,30,531	07.12.2020	Rs. 4,30,531
16	UP0110610005512, MR. RAVINDRA & SMT. SHIMLA/ DELHI BRANCH	Flat No- D-101, First Floor , Mannat Residency , Situated at Kh No-43, Ravi Enclave , Vill- Naya Gaon , Behaind Sector-88, Phase -2, Noida G.B Nagar U.P	Rs. 12,30,405	17.11.2020	Rs. 12,30,029	44	UP0610600000246, MR. LAX-ENDER YADAV/POOJA/KUSUM YADAV/ MEERUT BRANCH	EWS House No.1B-645/5, Madhavpuram, Scheme No- 10, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh 250002	Rs. 6,77,643	07.12.2020	Rs. 6,77,643
17	UP0110610003373, MR. RAHUL PARASHAR & SMT. DURGESH / DELHI BRANCH	Flat of Entire Ground Floor , Plot No- II-B/283, Sector-2, Vaishali Ghaziabad U.P-201010	Rs. 42,78,798	17.11.2020	Rs. 42,73,290	45	UP0610600000723 AMIT KUMAR / PRITI DEVI/ MEERUT BRANCH	Flat No -302, Third Floor, Plot No-67, Khasra No-205, Feiends Enclave, Shahberi, Dadri, Gautam Buddha Nagar Utter Pradesh, 203207	Rs. 17,83,277	07.12.2020	Rs. 17,83,277
18	UP0110610004736, MR. RAKESH SRIVASTAVA / DELHI BRANCH	Flat of First Floor , Plot No-201, Sector- 3rd F , Vaishali Ghaziabad U.P	Rs. 16,99,447	17.11.2020	Rs. 16,99,625	46	UP0610600001438 ABHISHEK VIHAN/ MEERUT BRANCH	Ground Floor Left Hand Side Flat, Plot No- 63, Akan-sha Aviance Colony, Mubarikpur Palehra, Pargana -Daurala, Tehsil -Sardhana, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, 250401	Rs. 16,12,478	07.12.2020	Rs. 16,12,478
19	UP0110610004893, MR. GAJENDER SHAH / SMT RITA DEVI / DELHI BRANCH	Flat of 3rd Floor , Entire With Roof , Plot No-206, Sector-3rd F, Vaishali Ghaziabad U.P	Rs. 11,23,022	17.11.2020	Rs. 11,20,552	47	UP0610600000840 SACHIN KUMAR / VIJAY /MEERUT BRANCH	Flat No UGF-10, Plot No- B-2 & B-2 A, Khasra No. 1446 & 1447, Akshay Enclave, Raispur, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh -201002	Rs. 14,04,661	07.12.2020	Rs. 14,04,661
20	UP0110610006591, MR. NARENDR N / DELHI BRANCH	Flat No- 243, Second Floor , Plot No-230 -A, 231, 232, 233, Kh No-547, Building Name- Surya Heights -II, Block-43, Vill- Chippiyana Bujurg G.B Nagar U.P	Rs. 11,95,706	17.11.2020	Rs. 11,91,535	48	UP061060000164 DAULAT / PUJA/MEERUT BRANCH	Flat No-SF-1, Second Floor, Plot No-33, Khasra No-16/4, Gupta Colony, Hafizabad Mewla, Meerut, Utter Pradesh-250002	Rs. 12,07,630	07.12.2020	Rs. 12,07,630
21	DL0110610004825,MR. DEEP KAMAL / MR. CHETAN KAMAL / SMT. INDRAWATI / DELHI BRANCH	302, Third Floor, Property bearing No-Plot No- D-35-D-36, D-37, D-38, D-39, D-40, D-41 & D-42, With									



Opinion

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

**CARE TAKER**

Union agriculture minister Narendra Tomar

Modiji has no selfish interest. His single-point programme is the development of the country and the welfare of the people



Online sales are the future & few firms can go it alone

Since it is unlikely buyers will want to use too many apps, it is critical to ensure the top apps sell your brand

TO BE SURE, shopping in malls and bricks-and-mortar outlets will pick up pace once the vaccine for Covid-19 is here and the fear of getting infected in crowded areas recedes. However, 2020 has shown us that an increasing number of consumers seem to be comfortable shopping online. This is true as much for India's smaller cities and towns as it is for the metros. And while buyers would no doubt want to visit the shops for big-ticket purchases and special items—such as those for a wedding—they are less likely to do so for groceries or standardised apparel. They have discovered the convenience of an app and home delivery.

This then is a signal for makers of goods that they can no longer afford to ignore the online channel. That's where much of the shopping, at least for day-to-day items, is going to take place from now on. The question is whether it is enough for manufacturers to have their own websites or whether they need to be a part of a large marketplace like an Amazon or a Flipkart. Experts reckon buyers will soon get used to a handful of apps, which would pretty much take care of about 70-80% of their needs. They are unlikely to look beyond these.

Indeed, there is already much chatter on Super Apps—which offer a wide range of products—and how many Super Apps the Indian market can accommodate. Right now, there are about half a dozen contenders, including Amazon, Flipkart, Paytm and Jio. And all of them are working to team up with brands to enhance their range of merchandise. The action in the B2B space over the next couple of years could well eclipse that in the B2C space as marketplaces scout for good brands to team up with and help them generate demand.

In October, Walmart, which owns Flipkart and the fashion portal Myntra, picked up a 7.8% stake in the Aditya Birla Fashion Retail (ABFR). The partnership will help ABFR accelerate e-commerce sales; apart from the existing B2B arrangements with Flipkart, ABFR has an agreement for the sale and distribution of its brands through Flipkart's marketplaces. ABFR could also potentially use Flipkart's supply chain to reduce time-to-customer and obtain consumer data from Flipkart and Myntra to analyse trends and efficiency. In July 2020, Flipkart had acquired a minority stake in Arvind Youth Brands and is most likely on the lookout.

But, makers of all products, from soaps and shampoos to biscuits and apparel, must latch on to one or more of them unless the product or service is unique and exclusive with a strong brand pull, it could get lost and be easily ignored by consumers. Some partnerships are emerging; there has been much talk about the Tatas creating a digital platform. Most manufacturers have realised the importance of the online channels and how critical it is to make sure their products are available on the online platform with a customer base. It is no longer about discounts, but about the availability of the merchandise. Today, the number of online shoppers lags Internet users by a wide margin. It is no surprise then that India's total e-tail GMV has been pegged at \$270 billion for FY30 and \$800 billion for FY40, up from the current \$120 billion, by Kotak Institutional Equities.

A vote for democracy

Allowing remote voting for migrants a good idea

ALLOWING CIRCULAR MIGRANTS—who alternate between their home constituencies and distant places of work—to cast their vote remotely will not only secure their democratic right but also compel the democratic set-up to be more responsive to their needs. The freedom to access the vote has been established through a clutch of Supreme Court judgments to be an inalienable part of Article 19 (1)(a), which guarantees the freedom of expression; however, this freedom, for circular migrants and many other groups, has become restricted by the fact that this right can only be exercised through in-person voting, in the constituency that they are registered. Against such a backdrop, the Election Commission of India (ECI) mulling over—as per a report in *The Economic Times* (ET)—allowing migrant workers to access their vote through 'dynamic ballot' in electronic voting machines (EVMs) is a progressive step. While the EVMs currently have ballot units that list candidates only for a specific constituency, one with a 'dynamic ballot' unit will display the contestants of a voter's home constituency. As per the ET report, 10,000 of these 'dynamic ballot' EVMs will serve the purpose, with 5-6 machines at designated 'remote voting' centres in a district—cities with a high migrant population will have a higher number of such machines.

The 'dynamic ballot' EVM would be a sea-change from migrants getting disenfranchised by economic compulsions—travelling back home, incurring spending and loss of income and, potentially, even employment often forces them to give up their franchise—with each such machines allowing the voters of multiple constituencies. With the pandemic having underscored the need for facilitating remote access for almost everything—from work to education—enabling remote-voting is only an evolutionary step for democracy. Recognising this, the ECI had set up a technical advisory group to develop a remote voting framework. There will be challenges specific to deployment of technology; remote voting will need a leap in terms of "connectedness" from what the current process allows; EVMs don't use internet at present to minimise the chances of hacking or manipulation. But, with the various existing safeguards and technological solutions that can be developed, the costs of this risk seem much smaller than tens of lakhs of migrants remaining disenfranchised in effect. To address challenges of voter fraud/verification, integrating Aadhaar-based biometric authentication with the process is something the ECI would do well to consider.

The ECI had backed the extension of Electronically Transmissible Postal Ballots (ETPB) to non-resident Indians—tens of lakhs of whom are eligible to vote but miss out due to the in-person, in-constituency requirement—last month. Allowing remote voting for migrants would also allow them to consolidate as a voter-base and force home-state policymakers and local authorities to take note of their requirements. Given how frequently they find themselves missing from the electoral rolls in their home constituencies, remote voting would ensure that this passive disenfranchisement by the state is also avoided.

ConservationDNA

DNA tracing for rhinos could help check poaching, can be a template for conservation efforts for other animals

CASES OF POACHING of rhinoceroses have come down drastically in South Africa ever since it implemented its Rhino Database as part of its conservation efforts. DNA tracing has allowed for conviction rates to rise sharply, while courts have handed harsher sentences that had been the norm so far. Against such a backdrop, Indian researchers planning a similar system for the animal in the country's jungles is welcome. Earlier this month, Indian researcher Tista Ghosh, along with Samrat Mondal from Wildlife Institute of India and Amit Sharma from WWF India, said that they have been able to identify 406 unique rhinos. The researchers could use this data to compare with rhino horn samples to trace the rhino back to its breeding population. This technique also helps identify trade routes and point to poaching hotspots. The project is part of the Rhino DNA Indexing System (RHODIS- India) conservation programme started a couple of years ago.

While instances of rhino-poaching in India have reduced over the years, there is still significant poaching activity in the country. Besides, if the technique is successful, India could also work towards implementing this approach for other animal and plant species. In South Africa, NTT and Cisco have combined efforts to install sensors to track the movement of people. Wildlife agencies elsewhere have been using modelling techniques to determine routes that poachers can take and predict when a crime is about to happen. DNA tracing can add to these technologies and convictions using scientific evidence can help with conservation efforts.

FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH

THE GOVT CAN GIVE IN WRITING THAT THE MSP SYSTEM AND THE APMC MARKETS WILL CONTINUE AND ALLOW FARMERS TO TAKE DISPUTES TO THE DISTRICT COURTS

Ending the stalemate over the farm reforms

ONE HOPES THAT the talks between the agitating farmers and the government come to an amicable solution soon. But if farmer leaders stick to demanding a repeal of the farm laws, then I am afraid the stalemate is likely to linger. In such a charged environment, rationality often becomes a victim of anger and hatred, which does not serve the purpose of any, including farmers.

Nevertheless, let me spell out some basic facts about Indian agriculture, which may help negotiators on both sides of the aisle, with a common objective to benefit the farming community's larger interest.

A major study that we at ICRER conducted with OECD showed that between 2000-01 and 2016-17, Indian agriculture was implicitly taxed to the tune of almost 14% of its value. It was primarily due to restrictive trade and marketing policies, ranging from export controls to stocking limits to the restrictive *mandi* system in the country. Therefore, the way to improve farmers' price realisation was to liberate agriculture from these various controls. The farm laws under discussion are intended to do precisely that. Interestingly, this had been a long-standing demand of one of the tallest farmer leaders, the late Sharad Joshi, since the 1991 reforms. But somehow, a fear has been created that these farm laws will rob farmers of APMC markets, their MSP, and they may even lose their lands to big corporate houses through contract farming. These fears, genuine or imaginary, have been blown out of proportion with political motives.

There is no doubt that the APMC markets and the MSP system will face competition from private markets and

out-of-APMC-*mandi* transactions. But will this hurt the farmers or play in their favour? Opinions differ. I believe it would help the farmers at large, especially the small and marginal ones. Creation of additional 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and the promised Agri Infrastructure Fund of ₹1 lakh crore would aid in that process. But many among the agitating farmers fear losing the MSP of wheat and paddy that they get in Punjab-Haryana.

What is the reality of the MSP? The NSSO's Situation Assessment Survey (70th round) revealed that, in 2012-13, only 6% of farmers sold their produce at MSP. And, of course, a majority of them were from Punjab-Haryana belt. After that, there is no such survey available in the country. In recent research with my colleague, Ritika Juneja, we worked out the value of agri-produce (paddy, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, and cotton) bought by government agencies at MSP for the year 2018-19, and what percentage of the total value of agri-produce this constitutes. Interestingly, the number again comes to about 6%!

So, all these years, since the MSP was introduced in 1965 through the

ASHOK GULATI

Infosys chair professor for agriculture, ICRER

Views are personal

newly-constituted Agricultural Prices Commission (now renamed as Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, which I had the privilege to chair during 2011-14) and Food Corporation of India (FCI), only 6% of farmers and broadly 6% of the value of agri-produce has benefitted from this system. And remember, the 'MSP and APMC' system helps primarily those who have large surpluses, mainly the large farmers. So, if one really wants to help the small and marginal farmers, the right approach is through FPOs at the village level and not in APMC *mandis*. About 86% of Indian farmers are small and marginal (owning less than 2 ha), operating roughly 47% of the total operated area. So, those arguing for APMC *mandis* and MSP

The govt can also commit to creating a fund of ₹25,000 crore under the Price Stabilisation Scheme, which can be used to support market prices of specified commodities that dip more than 10% below MSP

are basically arguing for 6% of farmers or 6% of the value of agri-produce.

Given these basic facts, how do we dispel fears of the agitating farmers?

First, the government should be ready to give in writing that the existing system of APMC markets and MSP will continue and strengthened. Second, the government can also give in writing that the contract is of produce, not of land. Third, farmers can take dispute settlement to district courts, if they

like. Fourth, to top-up these written assurances, the government can also commit to creating a fund of ₹25,000 crore under the Price Stabilisation Scheme, which can be used to support market prices of specified commodities that take a dip of more than 10% below MSP. This is akin to operations of NAFED to support market prices of pulses and oilseeds, or Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for cotton prices. This can be extended to maize, sorghum, pearl millet, etc. One major question with this approach is how to deal with the losses when these government procured stocks are unloaded in the market as they will invariably incur losses. And if stocks keep piling, as is the case with wheat and rice today, how do we correct this imbalance in demand and supply? In that case, either limit the size of procurement or go for price deficiency payments to those who buy 'put options' at MSP for specified quantities at the time of sowing. An expert committee will have to be set up to look into its operational guidelines. A further positive step will be to announce a diversification package for the Punjab-Haryana belt.

I must also say that repealing of these farm laws would be like robbing the rights of more than 90% of farmers who never gained from the MSP system and who are largely small and marginal farmers. Asking for making MSP statutorily binding even on the private sector will be anti-farmer as much of private trade will shun this, leading to chaos in the system. It will be worse than repealing these laws!

Lastly, one must remember that farmers always want a higher and higher price for their produce, but higher food prices can also bring pains to poor consumers. Art of policymaking is to balance the interest of producers and consumers within reasonable financial resources.

Atmanirbharta on seeds needs SAARC

Private industry, from India and SAARC nations, and farmers should be incentivised with tax breaks, export subsidies and capital subsidies to promote trade in the region

INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

Director, Policy and Outreach, National Seed Association for India. Author tweets at @indrassingh. Views are personal

MARKETS AND PRICES ARE the bloodlines of the agriculture sector. As the government lays stress on Atmanirbharta Bharat and agriculture, one begins to wonder whether the Indian market is enough to consume all that we produce, even in terms of grains and agri-inputs? Maybe not for long. Foreign markets have been central to American policy decisions for centuries; from the conquest of the Philippines, Cuba, etc. If India, too, plans to boost local industry peacefully, we must woo SAARC markets, including Pakistan, and build stronger economic relationships independent of politics.

SAARC nations—Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives—are growing economies where agriculture is a major contributor to GDP (between 16-30%) and a livelihood for most people. Geographically, all these countries, except Maldives, are part of the Indian subcontinent and share nearly similar agro-climates, culinary culture and history. Economically, however, India Inc has failed to harness the agri-markets in the region.

Our temporary loss is already a permanent gain for China, which gets access to strategic plant genetic resources from Pakistan and other countries. While Indian agri-sector wallows in red-tape and bad policy, the Chinese agri-sector is aggressively capturing SAARC markets.

the Indian seed sector is self-sufficient, and seed growth rate in India is 12% compared to the global growth of 6-7%. Our regulatory mechanism, IPR and phytosanitary laws are the gold standard in the region, giving Indian seeds a huge advantage.

Seed markets are untapped in Bhutan (90%) and Nepal (80%), with most seeds in circulation being from the informal sector. Despite friendly relations, farmers in the countries can't access Indian seeds. Bangladesh, a popular destination for Indian seeds, has been shaken during the lockdown. Loaded Indian trucks had to wait one month at Petrapole and other borders, despite carting essential commodities and the Bangladeshi side eager to receive them. Regressive policies are creating obstacles for trading with old partners.

Indian farmers and seed industry have lost over ₹200 crore since the severing of trade relations with Pakistan. India exports cotton, vegetable seeds, etc, each year from Punjab, yet no exemptions were made for these farmers.

As India shares a land-boundary with most countries, special agricultural economic zones (AEZs) need to be demarcated along the Bengal-Assam, Punjab-Rajasthan and UP-Bihar border to cater to these markets. Private industry, from India and SAARC nations, and farmers can be incentivised with tax breaks, export subsidies and capital subsidies to promote trade.

By allowing custom exports to these countries, India will become an agri-infra-R&D hub. SAARC nations will benefit too as, first, they will get superior seeds and other inputs at reasonable costs, and second, access better infrastructure, regulatory processes and cheaper transportation in the region without any additional costs.

An Atmanirbharta Bharat will desperately need SAARC markets to survive in the future. Without them, we are looking at over-production and stiff competition or monopolies. Politics has divided us, but agriculture can reunite the region. Even the US and Germany traded at the height of WW2; why can't India learn from history, keep politics aside and lead by creating a mutually beneficial agro-treaty?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Govt and farmers should call truce

As per media reports, the highways are now turning into virtual townships and neighbourhoods around Delhi border also pitching in with essentials/facilities. All this must serve as some wake-up call for the Centre. It also goes without saying that if the Centre does not relent on their key demand to withdraw the three contested farm laws and legalise MSPs on December 30, the extant highly fragile situation may further worsen in the near future.

And who knows, this Wednesday's meet could turn out to be a huge gamechanger for both the protesting farmers and the Modi govt. However one just shudders to imagine whether the Centre had actually 'erred' and underestimated the gravity of their 'pronounced' protests to be launched against the three farm laws that too at the 'seat of power' in Delhi itself? What else could explain the fast-growing support to their ongoing agitation even from some unexpected quarters despite the govt persistently making some all-out efforts to strike a peace broking deal with them? Reasonably speaking, the govt should try to see the 'writing on the wall' and seriously consider keeping in abeyance the implementation of these controversial laws.

— Vinayak G Bengaluru, Karnataka

Right decision

It is not a surprise that actor Rajinikanth has got himself eased out of his compulsion to float a new political party in Tamil Nadu. Right from the beginning, the actor had been reluctant to go in for a party realising the ground realities. The recent setback in his health condition has accorded him an opportunity not to float a political outfit. He should also refrain from extending his support to any party.

— Shalini Gerald, Chennai, TN

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Seed demand and supply gap (%)

Country	Rice	Wheat	Maize	Pulses	Oilseeds	Average
Bangladesh	33	62	8	92	88	57
Bhutan	23	30	24	0	81	32
India	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nepal	86	85	85	95	91	88
Pakistan	6	61	2	97	98	53
Sri Lanka	80	Nil	98	73	80	83
Reg Avg.	38	48	36	59	73	52

(Data Source: SAARC Seed Bank Board Member in SAARC Member States, 2019)

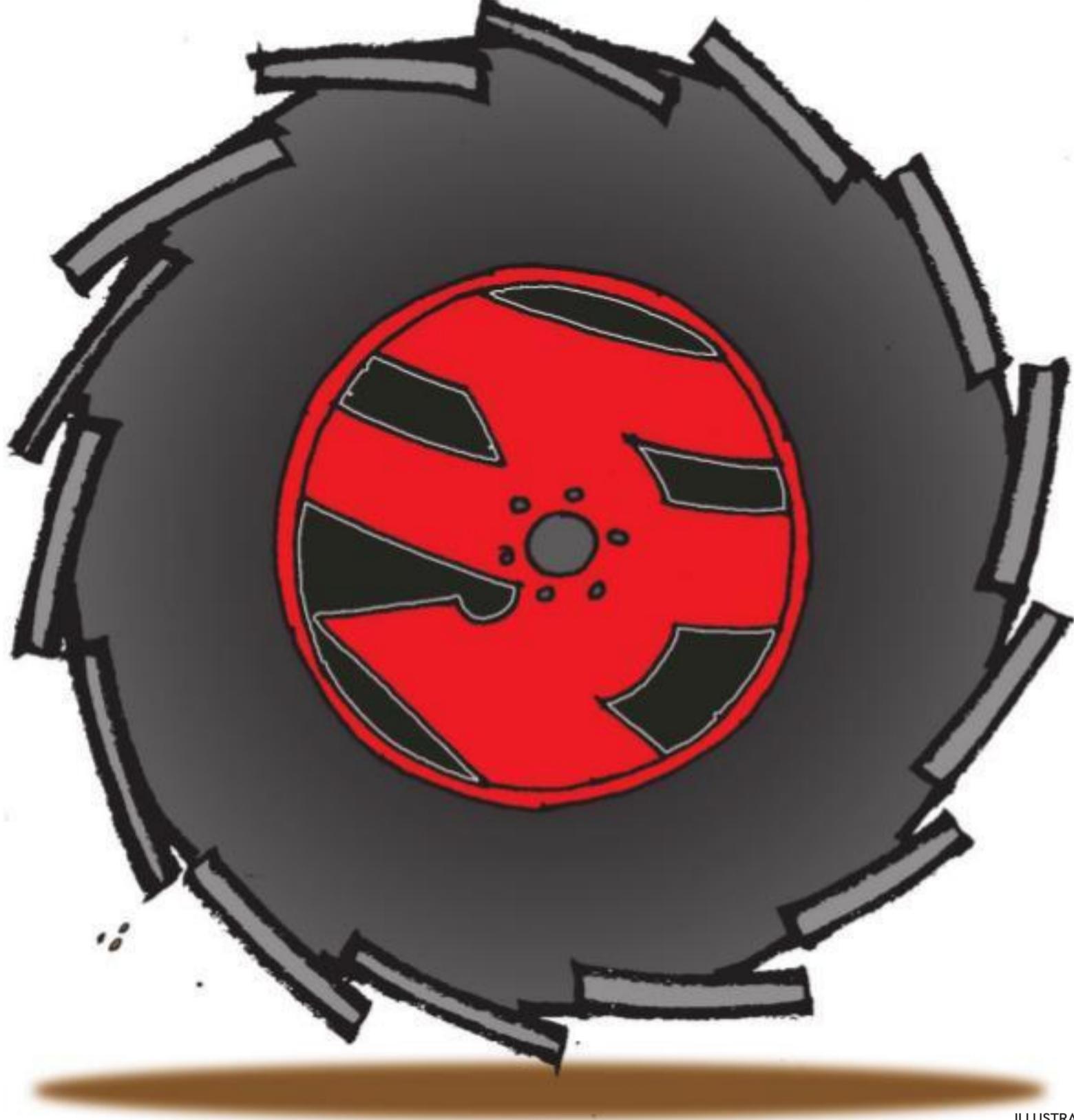


ILLUSTRATION: RONHIT PHORE

**NAVEEN P
SINGH**

The author is Member (Official), Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices. Views are personal

SEEDS OF CHANGE

New farm Acts are the need of the hour

The government should steadfastly articulate, and spread information on the merits of the laws, supplemented with action on the ground to create the required agri-infrastructure

EVERY CRISIS PROVIDES an opportunity to move the needle on pending reforms. Perhaps, for us, Covid-19 comes as an opportunity to adopt more meaningful and pragmatic policy for agriculture. There is perhaps not a single year after Independence that has been without a new farm intervention or a change in existing ones. Yet, improving farmers' socio-economic conditions, especially for small and marginal farmers, is largely driven by non-farm and off-farm income.

The legacy of farm interventions started with the preparation of a Model Bill based on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1928. With the enactment of the Agricultural Produce Markets Regulation (APMR) Act in the 1960s, the regulation of agricultural marketing practices com-

menced, and since then, it has acted as a conduit for gradual transformation from monopoly (executed by local traders) to oligopolies (farmer-trader relationship). This transformation is quite complex, symbiotic and seemed invincible till the new laws were approved. The laws envision the end of this relation/transmission by allowing the farmers more avenues to sell their produce, beyond the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) confines—beyond the clutches of traders and moneylenders.

It is apparent in villages/rural areas that commission agents, middle-men and traders are far wealthier than farmers. The reason is simple and well-established: Huge profits from exploitation of farmers (especially small and marginal) wherever possible. There have been several committees and commissions since

the 1980s that have actively promoted/suggested ways to correct this imbalance, but these did not get due sincerity for implementation from the regime of the day. It is still a mystery that farmers who grow staple crops are more affluent than farmers who grow high-value fruit and vegetables and other horticultural crops. In fact, farmers' incomes have risen in those states that see a large chunk of foodgrains procured via the MSP route, and their level of prosperity is can't be compared with others as some states have a geographical curse. It is, therefore, necessary to bring uniformity across regions, states and farmers. In the medium term, the enacted laws are expected to reduce inequities amongst farmers.

The need for reforms

This need has been felt for a very long time, and many states have tried to crack down on APMCs and a few have succeeded as well. It is evident that before reaching the consumer, agricultural products, in the process of exchange, have a potential to increase farmers' incomes by 11-12%. Liberalising of agri-markets is not a new call, but has been curated over the last two decades, taking cues from the 2001 Shankarlal Guru Committee's recommendations and other research studies. The main idea behind the three Acts—the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020, the Farmers' Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Service Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020—is reducing the dreadful loss to the producer. In addition to a set of benefits, viz. choices and options in marketing, better price discovery and realisation with traders competing with APMCs, attracting investment in market infrastructure (more than 80% of private investment in agriculture is done by farmers alone), efficiency gains, access to improved inputs, good agricultural practices and technology, etc, it would also ease farming across the country. Allowing direct procurement by building farm gate infrastructure would reduce the time taken for produce to reach the consumer, conveyance loss and ensure almost no deterioration in the quality of the produce.

As per the provisions of the Act, the farmer is free to market the produce at

the field, factory, warehouse or cold storage without any hindrance and without any market fee or any other charges that were earlier applicable under the APMC Act. APMCs are not under any kind of threat, but will face competition as farmers will have a parallel mechanism, to get fairer prices for their produce.

There are demands and suggestions for amendments to assure continuance of the MSP and that private procurement will not be permitted at rates less than the MSP. MSP, as of now, benefits hardly 6% of the farmers, who cultivate mainly wheat and rice, with an annual outgo of ₹2-3 lakh crore, and it includes all the paid-out cost and the imputed value of family labour. Studies indicate that a 10% increase in the MSP reduces the GDP by 0.33%, investment by 1.9% and increases aggregate price index by 1.5%. Thus, legalising MSP may have serious economic repercussions as it may move farm commodities from away global competition.

Under the provisions for contract farming, it is simply not possible for corporates to take over a farmer's land as the contract is for the produce and not for the land. Fear-mongering and undue speculation over this fact is the reason for large-scale agitation. Besides, the law doesn't allow the building of any kind of structure on a farmer's land by traders/corporates. Further, instances of successful contract farming are clearly visible—seed production and sugarcane cultivation are the best examples of contract farming that are successfully operating for the last several years. More than 60% of broiler production in the country is also through contract-farming, and even the dairy model is based on contract. Contract farming offers a wide range of opportunities and price assurance, while also sharing windfall gains in any case with the producer. Once contract farming is fully operational, farmer producer organisations (FPOs) can be leveraged for focusing commodity-wise and region-wise to achieve efficient use of resource endowments.

This may end a few state governments' earnings of thousands of crores of rupees via levies and taxes (amounting to 8.5%, which was 14% before GST) on the mandis. This cannot be counted as a loss as the mandi taxes bred crony capitalism in the APMCs. Because of the new measures, this amount should now reach the producer and the consumer.

There is also an apprehension that amendments to the Essential Commodities Act—intended to boost investment in agri-marketing infrastructure and reduce volatility in prices of agri-produce—will enable big agri-business houses to hoard commodities that will lead to artificial shortages and food inflation. The law mandates that provisions on stocking limits will be triggered in 'exceptional circumstances' in the event of retail prices of non-perishable food commodities shooting up beyond 50% and that of horticultural produce beyond 100% over the base price. The benchmark and base will be the retail prices in the preceding 12 months or the average retail price of the last five years, whichever is lower.

Overall, these amendments were overdue and are needed to free up the agricultural marketing system that has prevented farmers' incomes from rising commensurately with the economic growth of the country. The government should steadfastly articulate, and spread the information on the merits of the laws, supplemented with action on the ground to create agri-infrastructure, expedite tech-enabled platforms under eNAM, create a vast network of FPOs, tech start-ups, mobile and digital marketing extension and logistics.

These laws are the need of the hour for ushering in game-changing reforms in agricultural marketing and sound development of the agricultural sector. There is, in fact, a need to shift from entitlement to empowerment of small and marginal farmers and enable them to produce for and compete in international markets.

Mincing the middle layers

**SAMIR
KAGALKAR**

The author is the state convenor of BJP Economic Cell, Karnataka, and holds a PhD from IIM Bangalore

Modi's mechanism for a direct connect

ALTHOUGH HIS political journey, prime minister Narendra Modi has cut middle layers out of the equation, disrupting the older ecosystem. Some have quietly accepted that free lunch is over, while others are fighting to preserve their elitist positions in spite of the writing on the wall.

Mainstream media—the middle layer for engagement with voters of India: Earlier, the media controlled leaders' access to the common man through how the news was presented, how a particular view was promoted or anchored—making or breaking a person's profile. PM Modi took to the social media (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube prior to 2014) and later via Mann Ki Baat and the NaMo app to connect with the common man, bypassing the middle layer of mainstream media. If that didn't tell anyone loudly enough that PM Modi would not brook any meddling by the middle layer, there were more to come.

Karyakarta/common citizen connect through middle layer of district/regional leadership: Like in all political parties, gate-keeping by various leadership layers—starting from central, state and district-level leaders—with respect to karyakartas or a common citizen was normal. However, PM Modi introduced the NaMo app, which let a karyakarta/common citizen "directly engage with the PM and provide feedback on her MPs/MLAs/state leaders." This resulted in the entire leadership chain becoming more efficient and effective, leading to better engagement of middle-level leaders with the cadre.

PM Modi has either cut out the middle layer completely or reformed it meaningfully

While these are examples of PM Modi's leadership style, even in policies he has understood the need to reform the middle layer. He either cut it out completely or reformed it meaningfully.

Prices of stents for cardiac patients: This is a well-researched strike against the middle layer (overcharging

hospitals) that was hurting the interest of the common man.

Leveraging of a pass-through-cost item like a stent to earn obscene profits was unacceptable to PM Modi, who struck at the middle layer with a strong policy. A stent overpriced at ₹1.5 lakh was made available at ₹30,000, even after allowing a decent margin for the intermediaries. Exploitation by the middle layer was called out comprehensively.

JAM-based DBT of social welfare schemes: Social welfare measures are infested with middle-men eating away free money. Then PM Rajiv Gandhi spoke of how out of every rupee sent from Delhi, only 15 paise reached the beneficiaries. PM Modi ruthlessly implemented JAM-based direct benefits transfer (DBT). An estimated ₹1.9 lakh crore is saved cumulatively, thanks to monetary transfer being digital. Removal of the middle layer in subsidy processing should count as the biggest success in the fight against corruption.

Defence deals: The omnipresent middle-man was the oil that lubricated body politic, especially in defence deals, for a long time. Many non-acceptable deals made the cut (pun intended), thanks to these middle-men. And middle-man had his share even in good deals. AgustaWestland and Bofors are synonymous with corrupt middle-men. PM Modi struck a deal directly with other governments, benefiting two countries instead of middle-men. The Rafale deal renegotiated at government-level hurt vested interests a lot, who, in turn, led a maligning campaign, accusing the chowkidar of being a thief. Of course, it fell flat, both in the SC and polls.

Historic agricultural Bills and the exploitative middle-men: Till now, APMC-based cabal of merchants controlled foodgrains' sale. Poor farmers produced while middle-men/commission agents benefited. Farmers remained poor, in spite of hard work, while agents prospered. Removal of this monopsony by allowing non-APMC sale, allowing of a new partnership via contract farming or to traders with no stocking limits offering better price has left vested interested stunned. Not surprisingly, parties that supported the same reforms earlier are supporting those protesting.

In all the above instances, PM Modi ensured the middle layer was either disbanded or tamed. The fattened middle layer in the farm sector will face no different outcome in this regulatory strike by PM Modi, notwithstanding these orchestrated protests.

START-UP CAPITAL

IGP: The capital enabler for start-ups

The Innovators Growth Platform can increase Indian capital availability significantly and address the key issue of listing

**NAGANAND
DORASWAMY**

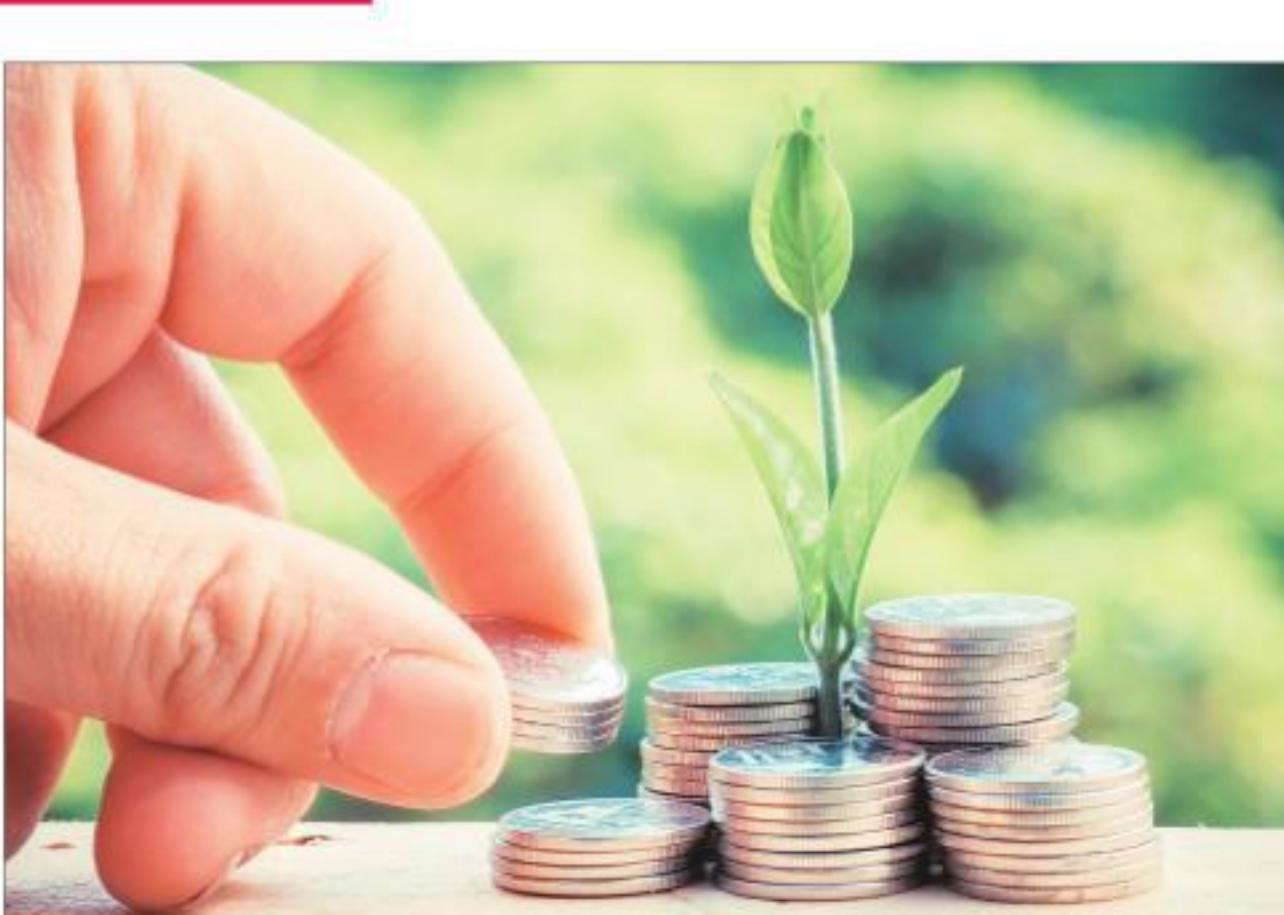
The author is founder & managing partner, Ideaspring Capital, and a volunteer at iSPiRT

the Institutional Trading Platform (ITP). Due to various reasons, including maturity of the start-up ecosystem, the response to this platform was tepid. The IGP addresses a few key pitfalls of the ITP.

The IGP restricts the listing of technology-focused companies with a proven 'product market fit' and entering the growth phase. The revenue of companies listing on this platform is expected to take risks and moving fast with financial discipline as against governance practices such as quarterly reporting and stability is advised.

fit' beforehand.

The governance issues are well-balanced—protecting investor interests but at the same time providing enough flexibility for the founders to have control over strategy and execution. Companies listing on this platform cannot be burdened with the same rules of public markets as they need to be very nimble. A balance between taking risks and moving fast with financial discipline as against governance practices such as quarterly reporting and stability is advised.



As in the case of investments in the AIF, the platform is selective about its investors. Companies listing on this platform need to operate as start-ups and not mature firms. The risks are much greater with these companies and hence it is critical for investors who understand these risks and who can understand these nuances.

Mergers and acquisitions (M&As) have been a key hurdle for start-ups in India. This is one of the key reasons for companies opting to flip and move their opera-

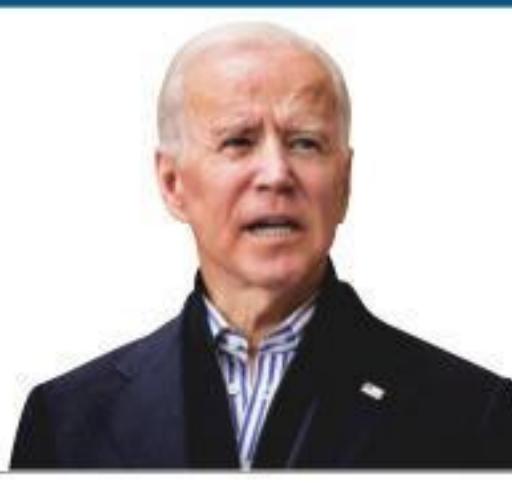
bodies. These include Indian Capital, Listing in India (IPO), and Ease of Business. The sentiment and perception of investors and corporates outside of India needs significant change. Improvements in all these aspects are critical. India needs more initiatives such as Fund-of-Funds (which has had a very meaningful impact on Indian capital by spurring early-stage funds such as Ideaspring Capital). India is now home to more than 400 venture firms. The IGP holds the promise on listing in India. There is an urgent need for such initiatives for 'ease of business'.

The IGP as a platform has the promise to increase Indian capital availability significantly and address the key issue of listing. It has the added advantage of enabling exits for early-stage investors. This increases liquidity in the market that will further spur the start-up ecosystem—a much-needed virtuous cycle.

The NASDAQ encouraged and enabled technology start-ups to list because of its adaptability and easier listing and governance guidelines. This accelerated technology start-ups in the US. The IGP has the potential to be that platform in India. India can build products for the world and has the potential to become the start-up capital. It needs a perfect storm of two Cs ('capital' and 'customers'), liquidity, policy and entrepreneurs. The IGP certainly has the promise to address the capital and liquidity aspects. Most importantly, it enables Indian start-ups to stay in India!

International

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020



WE CAN FIGHT COVID TOGETHER

Joe Biden, US President-elect
@JoeBiden

Meeting the most daunting threats of our time requires American engagement and leadership — but none of them can be solved alone.

● MEGA AGREEMENT

China and EU 'on verge' of major investment deal

The expected achievement highlights global cross currents after US President Trump sidelined the WTO

BLOOMBERG
December 29

THE EUROPEAN UNION and China indicated they could clinch an agreement within days to open the Chinese market further to foreign investors in what would be a major economic and political victory for both sides.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Tuesday that major progress had been made on the accord. And on Monday, EU ambassadors urged the European Commission to complete negotiations soon, according to an official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the talks are confidential. Another official said the commission could announce a draft deal imminently.

"Thanks to efforts from both sides, the talks have been continuously making major achievements recently," Wang said in Beijing. "We hope the deal can be achieved at an early date, which will provide a sound framework for future trade and bring benefit to people on both sides."

A successful conclusion of talks that began in 2013 on an EU-China investment accord would be a salvo against the "America First" challenge to the multilateral order by outgoing US President Donald Trump.

For the EU, the deal would expand access to the Chinese market for foreign

investors in industries ranging from cars to biotechnology. Furthermore, the pact would tackle underlying Chinese policies deemed by Europe and the US to be market-distorting: industrial subsidies, state control of enterprises and forced technology transfers.

For China, the agreement promises to bolster the country's claim to be a mainstream geopolitical force and may limit risks resulting from a tougher EU stance on Chinese investments in Europe. It also would strengthen Beijing's longstanding call for the start of negotiations on a free-trade accord with the EU, which has insisted such a move depended on an investment deal being reached first.

The expected achievement highlights global cross currents after Trump shook the post-war system over the past four years by sidelining the World Trade Organization, starting a tariff war against China and hitting or threatening US allies in Europe with controversial import duties.

EU-China relations themselves have been strained this year. A recent Chinese law curbing Hong Kong's autonomy has sparked sharp criticism across Europe, while the EU has accused Beijing of spreading disinformation about the coronavirus and targeted China-based operators with the bloc's first-ever sanctions over cyber attacks.

Biden warns of Trump officials' "roadblocks" to transition

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Wilmington

PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE Biden is warning of massive damage done to the national security apparatus by the Trump administration and "roadblocks" in communication between agency officials and his transition team that could undermine Americans' security.

Biden said his team has faced "obstruction" from the "political leadership" at the Defense Department and the Office of Management and Budget as they've sought to gather necessary information to continue the transition of power. "Right now we just aren't getting all the information that we need from the outgoing administration in key national security areas. It's nothing short, in my view, of irresponsibility," Biden said.

He warned that his team needs "full visibility" into the budget process at the Defense Department "in order to avoid any window of confusion or catch-up that our adversaries may try to exploit." He also said they need "a clear picture of our force posture around the world and of our operations to deter our enemies."

MAPPING THE VIRUS

Cases pass
81.2 million

Deaths surpass
81.2 million

Recoveries
54,808,870

- WHO official warns of more pandemics
- AstraZeneca vaccine not ready for quick European approval
- Covid drives Dutch death rate up to highest level since WWII
- China's struggling to get the world to trust its vaccines
- California Uber drivers, teachers vie for Covid vaccine priority
- Wuhan's Covid cases may have been 10 times higher, study shows



The European Medicines Agency doesn't currently have enough information to conditionally recommend the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford, Deputy Executive Director Noel Wathion told Belgium's Nieuwsblad daily.

Herd immunity against the coronavirus is not yet in sight for Spain's population, although the start of a vaccination programme marks a turning point in the fight against the virus, Spain Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Tuesday.

Quick View

Apple hits record as Dec surge sends it past Amazon

APPLE SHARES RALLIED to an intraday record on Tuesday, continuing a year-end surge that's cemented its lead over Amazon.com as 2020's best-performing of the largest technology stocks. Apple has advanced 16% in December amid signs of strong demand for its iPhone 12 models and optimism about its self-driving car efforts. The gains propelled Apple past Amazon with an 87% rally in 2020 compared to Amazon's 79% increase. The S&P 500 is up 16% this year. Wall Street has grown increasingly bullish on Apple's prospects in the coming year with analysts projecting that a recovering economy will fuel even more demand for iPhones, wearables such as AirPods and services.

Boris plans to make his Brexit deal law in a day

THE UK AND the European Union will on Wednesday sign the treaty formalizing the post-Brexit trade agreement the two sides reached on Christmas Eve. After European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Charles Michel sign the document, it will be flown by Royal Air Force jet to London where Prime Minister Boris Johnson will do the same. Lawmakers will get only a day to debate the agreement, because it needs to be implemented by the time the Brexit transition period ends at 11 pm on December 31.

Jimmy Lai resigns as Next Digital chairman

HONG KONG MEDIA tycoon Jimmy Lai, who was charged earlier this month with colluding with foreign forces under the city's new national security law, resigned as chairman of Next Digital, the company he founded said in a filing on Tuesday.

Boeing's 737 Max to return in US with American Airlines flight

BLOOMBERG
December 29

log of aircraft orders and represents the company's only offering in the crucial single-aisle market, in which the US plane-maker trails Airbus.

American said it hasn't seen signs that customers are trying to avoid the Max.

"Bookings on the Max are comparable to other aircraft, and we aren't seeing data to suggest customers don't want to fly the aircraft," Sarah Jantz, a spokeswoman for the Fort Worth, Texas-based carrier, said in an email.

For Boeing, the Max's return is the key-stone of the company's efforts to restore a balance sheet battered by the grounding and the coronavirus pandemic. The Max accounts for about 80% of Boeing's back-

Emergency vaccination kicks off in Wuhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Beijing, December 29

THE CHINESE CITY of Wuhan, where the novel coronavirus emerged a year ago before it became a pandemic and upended life across the globe, has started the emergency Covid-19 vaccination on some key groups, a senior health official said on Tuesday, even as China is yet to officially certify its multiple vaccines.

The vaccination, available at 48 designated clinics in 15 districts, began on December 24, targeting certain groups of people aged between 18 and 59 years, He Zhenyu, deputy director of the centre for disease control and prevention in Wuhan, told the media in Wuhan.

Those receiving the vaccine need to take two shots with an interval of four weeks, the state-run Xinhua news agency quoted He as saying.

As per the official Chinese time-line, the first cases of coronavirus emerged in

Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province, on December 31 last year. The city of 11 million people went into lockdown from January 23, followed by the entire Hubei province.

The Hubei province and Wuhan lifted a prolonged lockdown on April 8 this year after the virus was brought under control.

The death toll from the virus in Hubei province stood at 4,512, including 3,869 in Wuhan.

Wuhan has so far reported 68,134 confirmed Covid-19 cases in total.

Wuhan's cases may have been 10 times higher: Study

THE SCALE of the Covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan early this year may have been nearly 10 times the recorded tally, a study conducted by China's public health authorities indicates, leaving the city where the coronavirus first took hold still well short of the immunity required to protect against a potential resurgence. About 4.4% of those tested were found to have specific antibodies that can fight off the pathogen that causes Covid-19, indicating they were infected some time in the past, according to a survey of more than 34,000 people. —BLOOMBERG

Iran begins first human trial of locally made virus vaccine

THE FIRST STUDY of the safety and effectiveness of a coronavirus vaccine in Iran began Tuesday, state TV reported, with dozens due to receive the domestically developed shot in the hardest-hit country in the Middle East.

The vaccine, produced by Shifa Pharmad, part of a state-owned pharmaceutical conglomerate, is the first in the country to reach human trials. President Hassan Rouhani has said Iran is cooperating with a "foreign country" to produce another vaccine expected to run in tests in human volunteers in February, without offering further details.

Iran has struggled to stem the worst virus outbreak in the region, which has infected over 1.2 million people and killed nearly 55,000.

The study, a Phase 1 clinical trial, will enroll a total of 56 volunteers to receive two shots of Iran's vaccine within two weeks, according to Hamed Hosseini, a clinical trial manager, with results to be announced roughly a month after the second shot.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pierre Cardin, father of fashion branding, dies at 98

REUTERS
Paris, December 29

In a career spanning 60 years, Cardin drew scorn and admiration from fellow fashion designers for his brash business sense. His detractors accused him of destroying the notion of luxury in general. He once said it would not bother him to have his initials, PC, etched into rolls of toilet paper.

ing money. It's never been about the money."

Born near Venice on July 2, 1922, to French parents of Italian descent, Cardin was educated in the not-so-glamorous French city of Saint Etienne.

He went to work for a tailor in nearby Vichy at age 17 and dreamt for a time of becoming an actor, doing some work on the stage as well as modelling and dancing professionally.

When he came to Paris in 1945, he made theatrical masks and costumes for Jean Cocteau's film, "Beauty and the Beast", and a year later joined the then-unknown Christian Dior.

His first big commercial venture, when

he teamed up with the Printemps department store in the late 1950s, led to him being briefly expelled from the rarified guild of French fashion designers, the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture.

Couturiers in that club were forbidden at that time to show outside their Paris salons, let alone in department stores.

He also blazed a trail outside France long before other fashion multinationals in search of new markets.

He presented a collection in Communist China in 1979 when it was still largely closed to the outside world. And just two years after the Berlin Wall came down, in 1991, a Cardin fashion show on Moscow's Red Square attracted a crowd of 200,000.

Cardin also expanded into new businesses, buying fabled Paris restaurant Maxim's in the 1980s and opening replica outlets around the world.

He leveraged the investment further by launching Minim's, a chain of fancy fast-food joints that reproduced the Belle Epoque decor of the original exclusive Paris eatery.

His empire embraces perfumes, foods, industrial design, real estate, entertainment and even fresh flowers.

New Delhi

Personal Finance

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

ON NIFTY'S UPWARD MARCH

Deepak Jasani, head, Retail Research, HDFC securities

Nifty continues its upward march with some intra-day corrections. With no negative triggers expected on the horizon over the next few days, it could soon touch 14,000.

THE YEAR 2020: INSURANCE

Ironing out the kinks in the insurance armour

From standardisation of insurance products to digitisation of onboarding policyholders, Irdai has made it easier to select and purchase the right insurance product

SAIKAT NEOGI

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has led to faster digitisation of the insurance industry; the insurance regulator has come out with standard products and individuals are buying comprehensive health insurance policies and protection plans.

Standardisation of products

All general and standalone health insurance companies launched a standard health insurance policy known as Arogya Sanjeevani. The policy provides a basic health cover of ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh and there are no deductibles. The policy covers hospitalisation expenses such as room, boarding and nursing at 2% of the sum insured, maximum up to ₹5,000 each day. It also covers fees of doctors, surgeons, anaesthetists, etc. For intensive care units, the expenses will be 5% of the sum insured up to ₹10,000 a day. Even pre-hospitalisation medical expenses 30 days prior to the date of hospitalisation

will be admissible.

General and standalone health insurers launched Corona Kavach, an indemnity health insurance policy which covers hospitalisation and home care treatment expenses in case the policyholder is tested positive of Covid-19 infection. The tenure is of 3.5 months, 6.5 months and 9.5 months. Insurers also launched Corona Rakshak, a single premium policy which pays 100% of the sum insured as lumpsum in case the policyholder tests Covid-19 positive that requires hospitalisation of 72 hours or more.

Non-life insurers will soon launch a standard health insurance policy for vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, filaria, chikungunya, etc. The minimum sum assured will be ₹10,000 and maximum will be ₹2 lakh. The policy will have a fixed term of one year with a waiting period of 15 days and can be renewed.

The insurance regulator has issued guidelines for standard individual term life insurance policy Saral Jeevan Bima. All life insurance companies will have to mandatorily offer this policy from January next year. Saral Jeevan Bima will be a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan which will pay the sum assured in lump sum to the nominee in case of the life assured's death during the policy term. The minimum entry age will be 18 years and the maximum age 65 years. The policy term will be 5-40 years and the maximum maturity age 70 years. The minimum sum assured will be ₹5 lakh



ILLUSTRATION: SHYAM KUMAR PRASAD

and the maximum will be ₹25 lakh.

From April next year, general and standalone health insurance companies will offer a standard personal accident cover. The standard product will have a basic mandatory cover, the minimum sum insured will be ₹2.5 lakh and the maximum ₹1 crore. The death benefit will be equal to 100% of the sum insured and will be paid on death of the insured person due to an injury sustained in an accident during the policy period. For permanent total disablement, the benefit will be 100% of the sum insured.

Digitisation of onboarding

In order to make the compliance processes of onboarding easier and reduce the paperwork, the insurance regulator has asked all insurance companies to use video-based identification process (VBIP) for doing know your customer (KYC) process. The authorised person of the insurance company doing the VBIP for KYC will have to record the video and take photographs of the customer present for identification and obtain the identification information through Aadhaar. The live

location of the customer or geotagging will be captured to ensure that the customer is physically present in India.

The insurance regulator had allowed all life insurance companies to get customer's consent without requiring a wet signature on the hard copy of the proposal form. The completed proposal form can be sent to the customer's registered e-mail ID or mobile number in the form of an e-mail or a message with a link. If the prospective customer wishes to consent, then he can click the confirmation link or validate the one-time password. Insurers can issue electronic pre-policies to the customers on their e-mail IDs during the current financial year to address the difficulties faced by the companies in printing and dispatch of policy documents.

For the benefit of policyholders, health insurance companies will have to offer reward points to policyholders who maintain good health and regularly take part in various wellness and fitness programmes. The rewards could be redeemable vouchers for health supplements, membership in yoga centers, gyms, sports clubs or fitness centers.

Also, to address mis-selling of indemnity-based health insurance policies and increasing out-of-pocket expenses incurred by policyholders during treatment, the insurance regulator had directed all insurers to standardise the terms for all policies they underwrite. It has also directed them to include telemedicine as part of claim settlement of policy.

THE YEAR 2020: FIXED INCOME

PANKAJ PATHAK

Best of bond market rally over; lower expectations

THE YEAR 2020 has been an extraordinary year on many accounts. It has been a year of facing, learning and adapting to the unknown. The manner in which various markets have responded to the crises would have altered investor behaviour as well.

Mixed performance

Fixed income investors witnessed another year of mixed performance across various categories. Interest rates on bank deposits and returns on liquid and money market funds continued to go down and now at levels last seen during the 2008 financial crisis. Credit risk funds had yet another painful year and in some cases wiped out a significant part of investors' savings. Contrary to these, investors in long duration and high credit quality bond funds enjoyed another year of great performance.

The RBI continued its easy monetary policy by cutting policy rates and infusing a lot of liquidity into the banking system. The policy repo rate has been reduced by cumulative 115 basis points and the reverse repo rate by 155 basis points in 2020. This was after 135 basis points reduction in the policy rates in the last calendar year. The policy repo rate currently stands at 4% and the reverse repo rate at 3.35%

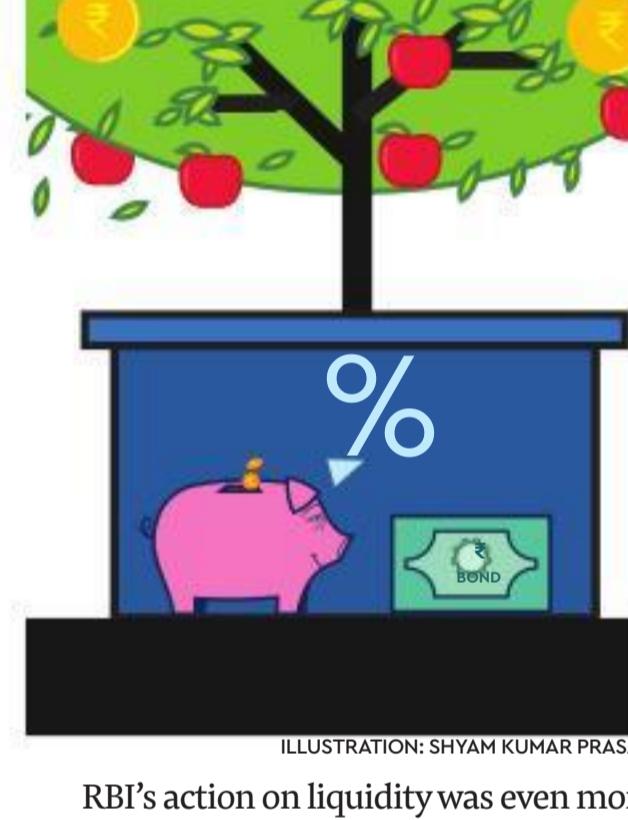


ILLUSTRATION: SHYAM KUMAR PRASAD

YOUR QUERIES



Prasun Sikdar

You will get continuity benefits on porting health insurance plan

• Two years ago I bought a health insurance policy and am not satisfied with it. If I port the policy, will all the benefits be carried to the new policy?

—Pradeep Kumar

Yes. Portability is allowed under all individual indemnity health insurance policies issued by general insurers and health insurers including family floater policies. Wherein, the continuity benefits are offered on time-bound exclusion to the extent of the previous sum insured.

• I plan to visit the US next year. Will my family floater plan cover any treatment, if required, in the US?

—Samsher Khan

Usually, health plan bought in India do not cover any treatment outside India. However, there are a few high-end products which offer coverage outside India. Check the terms of your policy to see if treatments outside India are covered.

• How much discount will I get if I buy a health insurance policy online?

—Vivek Joseph

Discounts are based on the product you intend to buy. While many life insurance products offer discounts for online purchase given the long term policy nature, many health insurance products do not provide any discount.

• I had a cataract surgery in February. Due to lockdown and Covid-19, I submitted my bills to the insurer in November. But it says it is too late to file a claim. What should I do?

—Sameer Iyer

This is a situation that is a byproduct of Covid-19 related logistic challenges. Irdai has taken steps to safeguard the policyholder's interest. Hence, insurance companies cannot reject a claim merely on delay of submission of documents. In such a situation, the customer should give a valid explanation as to why the delay has happened. Based on it, insurer should honour the claim.

• I have an office group cover and a family floater policy. Can I claim a part of the bill from my office policy and the rest from my floater policy?

—Akash Kumar

Of course you can. If coverage from one policy is insufficient to pay the bills then you can claim the remaining amount from another policy. The rule is that the same expense cannot be claimed twice from two different insurers.

The writer is MD & CEO, ManipalCigna Health Insurance. Send your queries to personalfinance@expressindia.com

eFE

NEW NORMAL

Making WFH productive and efficient



Tech firms roll out special integrated solutions for those working remotely due to the pandemic

SUDHIR CHOWDHARY

IN TODAY'S VERSATILE and dynamic business environment (greatly influenced by the pandemic), an office can be set up anytime and anywhere—be it a small office, a home office, even a medium scale business that is working remotely and away from the normal office setup. People are on the lookout for solutions that are compact and equipped with advanced features that can ensure productivity and cost efficiency. Naturally, technology companies are making available their latest offerings that can meet the demands of the new "remotely working worker".

Sharp Business Systems (India), a wholly-owned Indian subsidiary of Japan's Sharp has rolled out a special, integrated package of workplace solutions keeping in mind the requirements of professionals operating remotely. The special integrated package includes a unique combination of multi-functional printer, interactive touch panels, Dynabook laptops, software applications and commercial air purifier. The package can benefit all workgroups including startups but is designed for SMEs, BFSIs, large institutions and multinational companies to make working from home easier, safer and more efficient. The remote working package can be availed either through sale or through a pay-per-use model that further enhances its

affordability and relevance.

As part of the integrated deal, Sharp offers high-end digital multifunctional printers (MFPs) in both colour & mono with contactless printing through access cards, data security, and AI capabilities such as voice assist and high speed scanning to digitise documents. The next-generation interactive display enables better space utilisation and more productive col-

laboration in meetings, boardrooms and training rooms which would revolutionise the way conferences are conducted whether working from home or office. Dynabook laptops are engineered for business and education purposes to deliver high quality, reliable and optimum performance. Sharp air purifiers take care of overall indoor air quality by removing many bacteria and viruses thus reducing

chance of cross infection for workers.

"Sharp's focus on enabling business continuity has led to it creating this specially designed package for working professionals," says Shinji Minatogawa, MD, Sharp Business Systems (India). "This will enhance office productivity and efficiency and also create a safe work environment for employees whether at office or at home."

K Bhaskhar, senior vice-president, Business Imaging Solutions Division, Canon India, feels that accommodating a mobile workforce, embracing cloud technology and securing valuable business data are key in managing today's offices. Recently, the Japanese imaging major announced a new addition to the imageRUNNER (iR) multi-function device (MFD) line-up, comprising two A4 monochrome MFDs, the iR1643i and iR1643iF. Built to meet the needs of any contemporary office, the new MFDs will help businesses increase productivity with seamless mobile connectivity, supporting a wide range of mobile printing solutions including Canon PRINT Business, Apple AirPrint and Mopria Print Service.

"Our new imageRUNNER MFDs are designed to fulfill the requirements of modern offices," says Bhaskar. "Equipped with uniFLOW Online Express, Canon's cloud-based print management solution, the MFDs help businesses track and assess print, copy, scan, and fax usage, as well as allocate costs to departments accurately. The MFDs are also capable of safeguarding the confidentiality of business data with strong security features, such as Verify System at Startup, Encrypted PDF and Device Signature PDF, effectively prevent unauthorised device access and protect scanned documents."

by employees who are working in the foreign branches of an organisation. "Right now, the demand for foreign storage is not big for us to venture there but we will be watching the market closely," he says.

"Offering local storage increases trust among users. We have services in eight major Indian languages and being Indian ourselves, we figured out specific requirements of Indian users."

One such usage is integration with Gmail and providing transfer links which are valid for 45 days instead of seven days as provided by other services. "Once you start using the platform, you will know the experience is tailored for Indians," he says.

The startup has received endorsement from Niti Aayog, which launched the platform on the lines of 'Go vocal for local'. At the moment, Mitra feels that there is a challenge in attracting the right talent and so focusing on it will also be a priority as much as expansion into Indian market is one. "There is always a demand for the right talent and large established companies get the best talent easily. And as a new company we have to develop an understanding in them that we are making an impact. That will be our focus as well," he adds.

RBI's action on liquidity was even more aggressive. Liquidity surplus in the banking system has been kept at over ₹6 trillion for most of the time this year. This high liquidity surplus has kept the short-term money market rates such as 3-month treasury bills or PSU CP/CDs below the reverse repo rate. Currently, the 3-month treasury bills and PSU CPs are quoting below 3.2%.

Going into 2021, the drivers of fixed income performance are set to change. With inflation hovering above the policy repo rate, room for further rate cuts may not be available. We expect RBI to begin normalisation of monetary policy by middle of 2021.

Fiscal consolidation roadmap

Just like monetary policy, the government also stretched its fiscal position to deal with the crisis. Even before this pandemic, consolidated fiscal deficit of Central and state governments was at elevated levels.

In the crisis it faced a double whammy of lower tax collections and an increased spending on healthcare.

In the current fiscal, the Centre's fiscal deficit could rise to 8% of GDP while states could add about 5% of GDP. India's public debt could jump to about 90% of GDP this year. This is one of the highest among similar rated emerging economies.

A medium term fiscal plan will be needed to bring down fiscal deficit. The government's roadmap for fiscal consolidation will have a bearing on bond markets. Market will closely watch for cues in Budget 2021-22.

Outlook for 2021

In 2021, bond yields could reverse their downward trend and grind up towards the year end. Short end rates (up to three years maturity) are currently priced aggressively due to excess liquidity thus carrying maximum risk of reversal. The longer segment may continue to get RBI's support from OMO purchases and twists. Thus the yield curve will likely flatten in the next year (short term rates move up more than longer ends).

Fixed income investors should acknowledge that the best of the bond market rally is now behind us. Currently bond yields are at multi-year lows and scope for capital gains look limited. Going into next year, investors should lower their return expectations from fixed income funds.

The writer is fund manager, Fixed Income, Quantum AMC

CLOUD STORAGE

Storage becomes quick, secure and easy on the pocket

DigiBoxx lets you manage your pictures, videos, documents, folders, assets on-the-go, on any device

SRINATH SRINIVASAN

GURGAON-BASED DIGIBOXX wants to wrest away the cloud storage market from the multinational giants, who currently rule this market in India. As a first step, the bootstrapped startup has launched a made-in-India platform to store user data within Indian borders for as cheap as



Arnab Mitra, CEO, DigiBoxx

across all bandwidths present in different parts of the country.

Apart from having economical plans for businesses, DigiBoxx customises the platform for on-premise storage of data within an organisation. "Since we use latest in technology it is easy to integrate with on-premise servers that serve exclusively to the organisation," he says. To provide services to other organisations wanting storage but not on-premise, DigiBoxx has partnered with a number of datacentres across the country. As a result, the data is stored within Indian borders and can be accessed

Markets

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

EXPERTVIEW

"With the moratorium coming to an end, the deadline for restructuring proposals is fast approaching and with the possible lifting of the asset quality standstill, banks' financials are likely to be impacted in terms of asset quality and future income..."

—RBI report

Money Matters

G-SEC

The benchmark yield rose 0.007% under selling pressure



The rupee ended higher 0.105% on a weak dollar and strong local equities



The euro rose against 0.327%



RBI BANKING PROGRESS REPORT FOR FY20

Pvt banks' operating profit share rises to 43.4% at PSBs' cost

Net profits of SCBs turned around in FY20 after losses in the previous two years

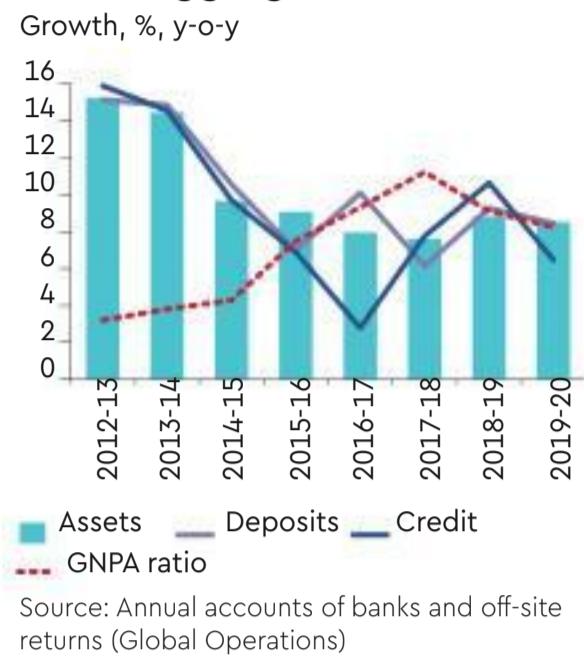
FE BUREAU
Mumbai, December 29

NET PROFITS OF scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) turned around in FY20 after losses in the previous two years. Although PSBs incurred losses for the fifth year in a row, the quantum of losses shrank. Payment banks (PBs) could not break-even as they incurred high initial capital expenditure and wage bills. The improvement in financial performance also reflected an increase in trading income on profit booking in the light of favourable yield movements. In line with the increasing share of private banks (PVBs) in banking assets, their share in operating profits also increased to 43.4% in FY20 at the cost of PSBs.

The consolidated balance sheet of SCBs has grown in H1FY21 after a deceleration in FY20 on account of subdued economic activity, deleveraging of corporate balance sheets and muted business sentiment impacting credit supply.

After a gap of two consecutive years, SCBs'

Select aggregates of SCBs



loan growth decelerated in FY20, reflecting both risk aversion and tepid demand. During FY21 so far, this phenomenon has been accentuated by the pandemic. The loan book of PVBs was affected disproportionately relative to their counterparts on asset quality concerns and higher provisioning requirements. Credit expansion was at a higher pace among PSBs during the March, June and September 2020 quarters, after three consecutive quarters of deceleration.

On the liabilities side, a slowdown in

deposit growth contributed to banks' financial weakness. The recovery in FY21 so far has been driven by investments and deposit growth in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, the central bank said. SCBs' deposit growth remained elevated throughout the first three quarters of FY20 relative to the period since September 2017. During the last quarter, however, deposit growth – especially in PVBs – decelerated. Currency with the public surged in response to the Covid-induced dash for cash while solvency issues related to a private sector bank (presumably Yes Bank) also brought about some reassignment of deposits, the RBI said.

During FY21 so far, deposits with PSBs have grown at a higher pace than usual, partly reflecting their perception as safe havens. Term deposits – contributing almost 60% of total deposits – moderated, reflecting the easing of interest rates and the lure of returns on competing asset classes. Term deposit growth of PVBs decelerated sharply even as it quadrupled in PSBs. Foreign banks aggressively raised low-cost current and saving account (CASA) deposits, although their share in total deposits remains low. Subdued credit growth and relatively robust deposit growth for a greater part of the year resulted in a decline in borrowing requirements of banks, except for PVBs, the report said.

IBC dominant mode of recovery at 45.5% rate

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, December 29

THE INSOLVENCY AND Bankruptcy Code (IBC) remained the dominant mode of recovery in 2019-20, according to the report on trend and progress of banking released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

While the recovery rate in IBC remained at 45.5%, lenders were able to recover 26.7% of the amount involved through Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002. Overall, the lenders were able to recover 23.2% of the amount involved through various recovery channels in 2019-20. This is better than 16.3% recovery through various recovery mechanisms seen in 2018-19.

The report also points out that recovery through SARFAESI Act may gain momentum. "With the applicability of the SARFAESI Act extended to co-operative banks, recovery through this channel is expected to gain further traction," the report said.

The report highlighted that asset sales by banks to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) declined in 2019-20. This could be due to banks opting for other resolution channels such as IBC and SARFAESI, the report added. A record 78 resolution plans were approved by bankruptcy courts in the first 9 months of 2020, according to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). The lenders were able to recover 23.2% of amount involved through various recovery channels in FY20



The lenders were able to recover 23.2% of amount involved through various recovery channels in FY20

data. "Going forward, insolvency outcomes will hinge around uncertainties relating to Covid-19," the report said. The government has suspended any fresh initiation of insolvency proceedings in respect of defaults arising during one year commencing March 25, 2020.

Sonam Chandwani, managing partner at KS Legal & Associates, said that National Company Law Tribunal was the last resort for financial institutions, but in the light of ongoing changes, more cases will be resolved outside court through inter-creditor agreement (ICA). "We may also witness a spike in cases getting resolved through one-time settlement (OTS) and expect banks to use the restructuring route a lot more over the next year or so," she added.

Recovery of loans through various channels

Recovery Channel	2018-19		2019-20		2019-20	
	Amount involved	Amount recovered	% of recovery	Amount involved	Amount recovered	% of recovery
Lok Adalats	53,484	2,750	5.1	67,801	4,211	6.2
DRTs	2,68,413	10,552	3.9	2,45,570	10,018	4.1
SARFAESI Act	2,58,642	38,905	15	1,96,582	52,563	26.7
IBC	1,45,457	66,440	45.7	2,32,478	1,05,773	45.5
Total	7,25,996	1,18,647	16.3	7,42,431	1,72,565	23.2

Source: RBI

ANALYST CORNER

Initiate with 'add' on SBI Cards with FV of ₹900

KOTAK INSTITUTIONAL EQUITIES

SWIPE TO EARN. We initiate coverage on SBI Cards (SBIC) with an 'add' rating and fair value of ₹900. We believe that the positives of strong revenue growth led by rising and underpenetrated

payments play, highly profitable lending book and benefit of a strong parentage that can lower the origination risk are partly offset by expensive valuations.

We like the space as it is one of the few areas where we see strong growth

prospects and we like SBIC given its

strong market share.

We initiate coverage on SBI Cards (SBIC) with an 'add' rating, valuing the company at a fair value of ₹900, which implies a valuation of 30X FY2023 EPS and ~8X PBR. This implies a 7% upside from current levels. SBIC has delivered strong earnings growth of 40% CAGR for FY2017-20 and we expect 30% CAGR for FY2020-24. With a reasonably long growth runway, we see valuation premium to remain high in the medium term which, in our view, should result in lower risk to multiple de-rating and remain a solid compounder.

There are two distinct characteristics that differentiate SBIC from other

lending products, rapid expansion in infrastructure for accepting digital payments (online and offline) that has led to better digital adoption trends leading to a solid play on low risk payment-related income and ability to build a long-term lending relationship, which is high yielding, granular, short-term and yet, highly profitable. Low penetration of digital products implies that the growth trajectory is quite healthy.

In this report, we discuss trends on retail payment behaviour across time periods and different geographies, stakeholders' perspectives on credit cards and the earnings model of the credit card business. On a risk-adjusted basis, we believe that this business is quite profitable on a through-the-cycle basis.

There are several risks to our thesis, SBIC is a standalone credit card company with limited access to data as compared to a traditional bank. The business is cyclical and expensive with greater emphasis on analytics. Earnings can be extremely volatile and different models in the credit card business can lead to wide variation among players in this segment. Regulatory intermediation on inter-change fees can lead to lower adoption rates.

Jindal Stainless: Maintain 'buy' with target price of ₹85

EDELWEISS SECURITIES

THE BOARD OF Jindal Stainless (JSL) has convened a meeting on December 29 to consider and review recommendations pertaining to consolidation of the group's stainless steel businesses. In our view, this will address the Street's concern of having two listed companies under the same promoter group, and is the final frontier in the company's transformation journey. While we await details, potential consolidation will result in economies of scale and scope in the short term and in the long term, create the largest stainless steel company in the world (ex-China).

Maintain 'buy' with target price of ₹85 (5.0x FY22E ebitda).

In our view, the consolidation of stainless steel businesses-JSL and Jindal Stainless (Hisar) is positive. Key points, JSL will have access to specialised products such as blade steel and coin blanks. Inter-corporate debt of ₹9 billion to JSL will be extinguished. Cross-

Quick View

ICICI Bank buys 9.09% stake in Myclassboard Educational Solutions

PRIVATE SECTOR LENDER ICICI Bank on Tuesday said it would acquire 9.09% stake in educational technology platform Myclassboard Educational Solutions for cash consideration of ₹4.5 crore. MESPL offers an online school management platform and reported turnover of ₹12 crore in FY 2020.

Shriram Transport Fin mulls funds raise via debt securities

SHRI RAM TRANSPORT FINANCE Company on Tuesday said its board would meet next month to consider raising funds through the issuance of debt securities. It said in this regard the meeting of the banking and finance committee/debt issuance committee/bond issuance committee would be held to consider and approve such issuances of debt securities during the month ending January 31, 2021.

SBI MD praises staff commitment

STATE BANK OF India MD Shri Challa Srinivasulu Setty appreciated the bank's staff for their commitment toward customer service during the pandemic. During his visit to Hyderabad, he conducted the local board meeting on December 28 and felicitated officials for their performance in business & operations in Telangana. SBI also donated two Maruti EECO vans to two orphanage homes under its CSR initiatives. Shri Setty also expressed his condolences for 202 SBI staff who lost their lives while serving customers during the pandemic.

Rupee logs fourth straight gains, rises 7 paise against \$

RISING FOR THE fourth straight session, the rupee appreciated by 7 paise to close at 73.42 against the dollar on Tuesday, amid heavy buying in domestic equities and unabated foreign fund inflows.

A weaker greenback in the overseas markets also supported the rupee, forex dealers said.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.42 against the dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.34 and a low of 73.44.

The local unit finally settled at 73.42 against the American currency, registering a rise of 7 paise over its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee had settled at 73.49 against the dollar. Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty scaled fresh record highs on Tuesday, extending their bull run for the fifth straight session on the back of gains in banking and IT stocks.

The BSE gauge Sensex settled with gains of 259.33 points or 0.5% at a new closing high of 47,613.08.

Analysts predict a good 2021 for private banks

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, December 29

AS THE ECONOMY hobbles back to normalcy and interest rates continue to remain low, private banks stand to gain the most in 2021, analysts said. The strengthening of capital buffers, build-up of excess provisions and improved liquidity positions could help large private banks gain market share and usher them into their "golden age", maintained some analysts.

In a recent report, Morgan Stanley Research said large private banks had emerged stronger out of the Covid crisis in terms of their capital positions. Moreover, they have been big beneficiaries of increased digital adoption

vate pack and State Bank of India (SBI). Their performance is likely to be driven by earnings delivery.

Banks, especially private banks, remain the best vehicle to gain exposure to the general economic uplift that we anticipate," the investment bank said in a recent report.

Also, the significant downgrades seen by banks in FY21 suggest that there is room for gain next year. With banks now comfortable with their corporate non-performing assets (NPAs), and growth outlook improving, Credit Suisse said risks of substantial cuts to FY22 earnings were low.

Morgan Stanley pointed out that another challenge for Indian private banks was that of funding, as they were gaining market share in loans faster than deposits. Consequently, loan to deposit ratios were high, and private banks were paying a premium on term deposits relative to state-owned banks. This premium has now shrunk. "...we note that large private banks have significantly accelerated pace of deposit market share gains over past two years, and hence reduced the premium that they pay on term deposits," Morgan Stanley said.

Credit Suisse has maintained its 'overweight' stance on banks, both for the pri-

ICA for Reliance Home Fin resolution extended till Mar 31

LENDERS TO TROUBLED mortgage firm Reliance Home Finance (RHF) have extended the inter-creditor agreement (ICA) for another three months. Reliance Home Finance, part of Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Group, recently got bids from six suitors as part of the debt resolution process.

"The lenders of the company forming part of the Inter Creditor Agreement (ICA), executed pursuant to the RBI circular dated June 7, 2019, on Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets, have extended the ICA period till March 31, 2021," the company said in a regulatory filing. As per June 7 circular of the RBI, lenders can extend the time period of the pact if a account has not been resolved within 180 days of signing ICA.

Of the six bidders, only two submitted compliant and binding bids while four bids are non-binding and not compliant with bid conditions, sources said.</

WINNING STREAK

Rising on 5th day, Sensex, Nifty scale fresh peaks

Buying in banking, tech stocks, cues from Asian markets in response to US stimulus and Brexit developments triggered rally

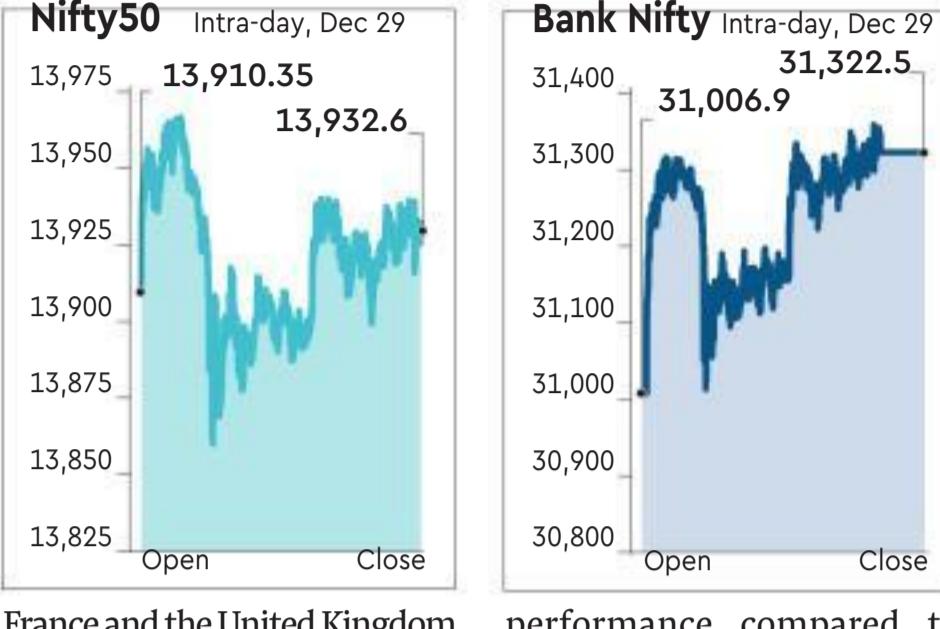
F E BUREAU
Mumbai, December 29

INDIAN EQUITIES CLOSED

Tuesday's trading session at a new record high once again, backed by strong buying in banking and technology stocks. The markets also followed cues coming out of Asia where markets were trading in the green responding to the US fiscal stimulus and Brexit trade developments. The benchmark Nifty rallied by 59.4 points (0.43%) to close at 13,932.6 whereas Sensex rallied by 259.3 points (0.55%) to close at 47,613.08.

The Indian markets started the trading session with record highs. The gains in the markets were capped as investors booked some profit during the day's trading session. The markets have closed at record highs for 15 out of 20 trading sessions in December.

The European markets in countries such as Germany,



France and the United Kingdom were up between 0.26% to 2.1%. The Asian markets in South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan were up between 0.42% to 2.6%.

The markets were responding to the fiscal stimulus signed by president Donald Trump. The developments around the Brexit trade deal have also kept the global markets buoyant in the last few trading sessions. Indian markets, which followed global cues, were also propelled higher by buying in banking and technology stocks.

The Nifty Bank rose by as much as 1.43% and the biggest gainers on the index were IndusInd Bank, Punjab National Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, and Bandhan Bank up by 5.72%, 2.78%, 2.06%, 1.92%, and 1.81%. The Nifty Bank has risen by 3.57% till date in December, which is an under-

performance compared to Nifty which has risen by 6.2% for the same period.

In its report, Kotak Institutional Equities stated while banks have been recovering, the loan growth could be slower than expected. In its report, the brokerage, said, "The current progress on loans suggests loan growth is likely to be slower than what is expected by market participants. Early delinquencies have jumped in credit cards."

According to experts, calendar year (CY) 2021 is likely to see the start of another earnings upgrade cycle as the economy starts to recover. Further liquidity flows across emerging markets (EMs) could remain strong which bodes well for Indian markets.

Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "As we enter 2021,

the markets are sitting at all-time high and are showing resilience on the back of abundant liquidity, positive developments on the vaccine front and signs of economic recovery. More importantly, Covid-19 cases have seen a meaningful decline." The brokerage expects Nifty earnings per share (EPS) growth of 6.9% in FY21 while expecting a sharp rebound of 36.2% in FY22.

Foreign portfolio investors have in December pumped in capital worth \$6.1 billion in total in Indian equities. According to provisional data on the exchanges, the FPIs have bought stocks worth \$313.27 million. The futures and options segment on the NSE saw a turnover worth ₹23.91 lakh crore and the cash market saw a turnover worth ₹51,692.59 crore. This is against the six-month average of ₹21.7 lakh crore in the futures and options segment as well as ₹59,316 crore in the cash market segment.

The biggest gainers on the Nifty were IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and HCL Technologies up by 5.72%, 2.19%, 2.06%, 1.92% and 1.54%. The biggest losers were Hindalco, Nestle India, Coal India, Tata Motors, and NTPC, down by 2.08%, 1.76%, 1.67%, 1.53% and 1.44%.

Brickwork Ratings asked the Commission to order investigation into formation of cartel and collusive bidding by the opposite parties in the tender processes of various PSUs for the period 2009 till date?

It alleged that in a 2019-20 tender invited by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to rate its upcoming ₹75,000 crore bond issuances, the credit rating agencies cartelised and quoted identical/similar rates.

As per the informant, the

quotes clearly showed price parallelism between the opposite parties. Brickwork Ratings also gathered information regarding tenders floated by various other public sector undertakings (PSUs) and alleged that the quotes of opposite parties evidenced bid rigging amongst themselves, it said.

Dhanlaxmi Bank seeks nod to appoint Shivan JK as new MD, CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vauld raises \$2m to expand ops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, December 29

SINGAPORE-BASED CRYPTO

lending platform Vauld on Tuesday said it has raised \$2 million (about ₹15 crore) from a clutch of investors to expand operations in India and abroad.

The fresh funding round follows \$500 thousand investment in the company by Singapore's LuneX Ventures and a few Indian-based angel investors in June.

The investors in this round include Pantera Capital, Coinbase Ventures, CMT digital, Gumi Cryptos Capital, LuneX Ventures, Robert Leshner (Compound Finance CEO) and Tarun Chaitra's Robot Ventures, CoinShares, Better Capital, New Form Capital, Jesus Rodrigues (IntoTheBlock CEO) and others.

"We finally see institutional capital come into India's fintech ecosystem with the expectation of banking integration that complement existing crypto credit offerings," Vauld CEO Darshan Bathija said in a statement.

Vauld claims to have grown 10 fold after LuneX Ventures' investment in the company.

"Hiring is the focus of the hour in the Indian Market," Vauld co-founder and chief technology officer Sanju Sony Kurian said.

Vauld plans to double down on engineering talent and opening offices across the country, the statement said.

"We also look forward to closely working with the commodities and banking regulators in the country and ensure our partners are and remain fully compliant through the changing regulatory landscape," Bathija said. Vauld is currently tackling the challenge to provide liquidity in new crypto markets (like India) for institutions to buy cryptocurrencies for the first time and generate a yield.

NHB slaps ₹47,000 fine on GIC Housing Finance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, December 29

HOUSING FINANCE REGULATOR National Housing Bank (NHB) has imposed a fine of ₹47,000 on GIC Housing Finance for violation of the guidelines.

The fine was imposed by NHB on Monday, the company said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday.

"Based on the examination of the issue, including the submission made by the company in the matter, the National Housing Bank has decided to levy a penalty of ₹47,000 for delayed and non-submission of returns," it said.

The company has been directed to pay the fine along with applicable GST of 18% within 10 days from the date of receipt of the letter dated December 28, 2020.

CCI rejects complaint against 4 credit rating firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29

THE COMPETITION COMMISSION of India (CCI) on Tuesday dismissed a complaint alleging that Crisil, India Ratings and Research, CARE Ratings and Icra indulged in unfair business practices.

The ruling came on a complaint filed by Brickwork Ratings India. The informant, Brickwork Ratings, alleged that the opposite parties — Crisil, India Ratings and Research, CCI said in an order.

CARE Ratings and Icra — contravened the provisions of the Competition Act by means of collusive bidding and bid rigging, and also indulged in below cost predatory pricing.

Brickwork Ratings averred that the credit rating agencies are involved in anti-competitive practices in contravention of the provisions of the Competition Act which is causing an appreciable adverse effect on the competition in India as well as on the Indian economy, CCI said in an order.

As per the informant, the

quotations clearly showed price parallelism between the opposite parties. Brickwork Ratings also gathered information regarding tenders floated by various other public sector undertakings (PSUs) and alleged that the quotes of opposite parties evidenced bid rigging amongst themselves, it said.

Following the presentation,

the financial bids of the eligible bidders would be opened by DIPAM. The government is planning to sell up to 15%

stake in RVNL, and had in October invited bids from merchant bankers and legal firms for managing the share sale process.

The government currently holds 87.84% stake in RVNL.

The responsibilities of the merchant banker include advising the government on the timing and the modalities of the OFS, ensuring best return to the government, conducting market survey, domestic and international road shows and investor meetings.

Shares of RVNL on Tuesday closed 1.29 per cent lower at ₹22.90 on the BSE. At the current market price, a 15 per cent stake sale would fetch about ₹700 crore to the exchequer.

RVNL had posted a profit after tax of ₹789.86 crore during 2019-20. As on March 31, 2020, it had a net worth of ₹4,499.77 crore.

grations that complement existing crypto credit offerings," Vauld CEO Darshan Bathija said in a statement.

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LARSEN & TOUBRO INFOTECH LIMITED
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NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, inter-alia, to consider, approve and take on record, the un-audited standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and nine-months ending December 31, 2020 along with the Limited Review Reports of the Statutory Auditors thereon.

This intimation is also available on the website of the Company at www.Ltninfotech.com/investors and on the website of the Stock Exchanges where the equity shares of the Company are listed i.e. www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com.

For Larsen & Toubro Infotech Limited

Sd/-
Manoj Koul
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Membership No.: ACS 16902

**BURGER KING INDIA LIMITED**

(Formerly known as Burger King India Private Limited)

Registered and Corporate Office: Unit Nos.1003 to 1007, 10th Floor, Mittal Commercial, Asan Pada Rd, Chhatrapati, Marol, Andheri (E), Mumbai, Maharashtra, 400 059; Tel: +91 22 7193 3000

E-mail: investor@burgerking.in; Website: www.burgerking.in; Corporate Identity Number: U55204MH2013FLC249986

NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT/ E-VOTING

Members are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 110 read with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act"), Rule 22 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI Listing Regulations") and Secretarial Standards on General Meeting ("SS-2") issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (including any statutory modification(s) or re-enactments thereof for the time being in force), General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020 read with General Circular No. 10/2020 dated April 13, 2020, General Circular No. 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020 and General Circular No. 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India ("MCA Circulars"), the Company is seeking approval of its members by way of Postal Ballot Voting (only through remote e-voting) for the businesses as set out in the Postal Ballot Notice dated December 24, 2020 together with the Explanatory Statement there to.

The Company is pleased to offer its Members the facility to cast their vote by electronic means through e-voting facility provided by Link Intime India Private Limited (hereinafter referred to as "LILP") in compliance with Sections 108 and 110 of the Act read with the Rules framed thereunder and Regulation 44 of the Listing Regulations.

The Company has on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 sent the Postal Ballot Notice only by e-mail to those members who have registered their email address with their Depository Participant(s) ("DPs") or with LILP, Registrar and Share Transfer Agent and whose names appear in the Register of Members / List of Beneficial Owners as received from Depositories i.e. National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") / Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL") as on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 ("Cut-off date").

In accordance with the aforesaid MCA Circulars, physical copy of the Notice along with Postal Ballot Form and pre-paid business reply envelope will not be sent to the members for this Postal Ballot and the members are required to communicate their assent or dissent through the remote e-voting system only.

Members who have not registered their email address and in consequence could not receive the procedure of e-voting/postal ballot notice may temporarily get their e-mail addresses registered with Link Intime India Pvt Ltd by clicking the link: https://linkintime.co.in/emailreg/email_register.html in their website www.linkintime.co.in at the Investor Services tab by choosing the e-mail registration heading and follow the registration process as guided therein. The members are requested to provide details such as Name, DPID, Client ID / PAN, mobile number and e-mail id. In case of any query, a member may send an e-mail to LILP at rmt.helpline@linkintime.co.in. On submission of the shareholders details, an OTP will be received by the shareholder which needs to be entered in the link for verification.

The e-voting period commences on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. and ends on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter. During this period, the members of the Company holding shares, as on the cut-off date, being Wednesday, December 23, 2020, may cast their vote by electronic means. Any recipient of the Postal Ballot Notice for information purpose only.

The Postal Ballot Notice, and manner of e-voting process can be downloaded from the Company's website www.burgerking.in and also on the website of Link Intime India Private Limited, www.linkintime.co.in.

The Board of Directors has appointed Ms. Ashwini Inamdar, Partner, M/s Mehta and Mehta, Company Secretaries, as a Scrutinizer to scrutinize the postal ballot and e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

The results of the voting by Postal Ballot will be announced on or before Saturday, January 30, 2021. The said result of the Postal Ballot along with the Scrutinizer's Report will also be displayed on the Company's website (www.burgerking.in) and also on the web site of Link Intime India Private Limited (www.linkintime.co.in) and shall be communicated to the Stock Exchanges where the Company's shares are listed i.e. BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nsindia.com) in accordance with the provisions of the SEBI Listing Regulations. The result of the Postal Ballot will also be displayed at the Registered Office of the Company.

Resolutions passed by the members through Postal Ballot are deemed to have been passed as if the same have been passed at a general meeting of the members convened in that behalf. The resolution if approved by the requisite majority of members by means of Postal Ballot, shall be deemed to have been passed on the last date of voting, i.e. Thursday, January 28, 2021.

In case shareholders/members have any queries regarding Postal Ballot through remote e-voting, they may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and

President to confer Digital India Awards on Dec 30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29

PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND will virtually confer the Digital India Awards 2020 on December 30 via video conferencing, according to an official statement.

Digital India Awards honour exemplary initiatives and practices in digital governance.

In line with Digital India's vision, this is the first time that the entire process of the Digital India Awards is being conducted online from nominations to screening to the award ceremony, the official release said.

"President of India Ram Nath Kovind will virtually confer the Digital India Awards 2020 on 30th December 2020...via video conferencing," it said.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) under Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has been conducting the biennial Digital India Awards to promote innovation in eGovernance and digital transformation of government service delivery mechanism.

Minister for Communications and IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad, and IT secretary

Ajay Sawhney and other dignitaries would attend the virtual event.

The Digital India Awards 2020 have been announced under six categories, including 'Innovation in Pandemic'.

The award in this particular category would felicitate a government entity which has developed an outstanding, innovative digital solution to enable the citizens to undertake various activities with ease during the time of pandemic, in areas including communication, health, education, travel or for ensuring continuity of government services.

Other categories include Excellence in Digital Governance, Open Data Champion, and Exemplary Product. In addition, the Jury Choice Award will be conferred to honour excellence in design and implementation of National Public Digital Platform.

"Central Government Ministries /Departments /Offices /Institutions, State Government Departments /Offices /Institutions, District Administrations and Indian Missions Abroad were eligible to apply for the Digital India Awards. A project could be nominated for more than one category," the release said.

● NEW STRAIN WORRIES

Genome sequencing for Covid positive flyers who arrived from Dec 9 to 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29

SAMPLES OF ALL international passengers who arrived in India from December 9 to 22 and tested positive for Covid-19 will be subjected to genome sequencing as part of the Centre's strategy to detect the mutated coronavirus strain that has emerged in the United Kingdom recently.

Others will be followed up by the state and district surveillance officers, and will be tested as per ICMR guidelines, even if asymptomatic, between fifth and 10th day of arrival, according to the Union Health Ministry's guidance document on genomic sequencing.

"All the international passengers who have arrived in India during the last 14 days (from December 9 to 22), if symptomatic and tested positive, will be subjected to



File photo of passengers arriving at Mumbai airport last week.

genome sequencing," the document said.

The presence of the new UK variant of the coronavirus has already been reported by Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, Italy, Sweden, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Japan, Lebanon and Singapore so far.

The health ministry has established the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) for laboratory and epidemiological surveillance and to expand the new coronavirus variant.

whole genome sequencing of the coronavirus in the country, aiding in the understanding of how the virus spreads and evolves.

India has put in place a strategy to detect and contain the mutant variant of the virus. It includes temporary suspension of all flights coming from the UK with effect from the midnight of December 23 till December 31 and mandatory testing of all UK returnee air passengers through RT-PCR test.

Ten regional laboratories have been identified by the Centre where states will send 5% of their Covid-19 positive samples for genome sequencing to detect the new coronavirus variant.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Epidemiological Surveillance and Response in the context of new variant of SARS-CoV-2 has already been issued by the Health Ministry.

6 returning from UK test positive for new variant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29

SIX PEOPLE WHO returned to India from the United Kingdom have tested positive for the new mutated strain of coronavirus, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

It said the UK variant genome of SARS-CoV-2 was detected in three samples in the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences Hospital (NIMHANS) Bengaluru, two in the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad and one in the National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune.

All these persons have been kept in single room isolation at designated health care facilities by respective state governments and their close contacts have also been put under quarantine, the ministry said.

"Comprehensive contact tracing has been initiated for co-travellers, family contacts and others. Genome sequencing on other specimens is going on.

"The situation is under careful watch and regular advice is being provided to the states for enhanced surveillance, containment, testing and dispatch of samples to INSACOG labs," the ministry said.

The ministry said that from November 25 to December 23 midnight, about 33,000 passengers disembarked at various Indian airports from the UK. All these passengers are being tracked and subjected by states and UTs to RT-PCR tests.

So far 114 have been found positive for Covid-19. These positive samples have been sent to 10 INSACOG labs (NIBMG Kolkata, IIS Bhubaneswar, NIV Pune, CCS Pune, CCMB Hyderabad, CDFD Hyderabad, InSTEM Bengaluru, NIMHANS Bengaluru, IGIB Delhi, NCDC Delhi) for genome sequencing.

UK flight suspension may be extended, says aviation minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29

INDIA IS LIKELY to extend the suspension of passenger flights to and from the United Kingdom to check the spread of the new strain of coronavirus, Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Tuesday.

The ministry had last week suspended all flights between the two countries from December 23 to December 31 over the mutated variant of the virus which is more contagious. "I foresee a slight extension of temporary suspension of India-UK flights," the minister told a press conference here on Tuesday. "In a day or two, we will find out if any additional steps need to be taken, or when we can start easing the current temporary suspension," he said.

The presence of the UK variant has already been reported by Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, Italy, Sweden, and other countries.

Non-judicious use of therapies can lead to mutation: ICMR head

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 29

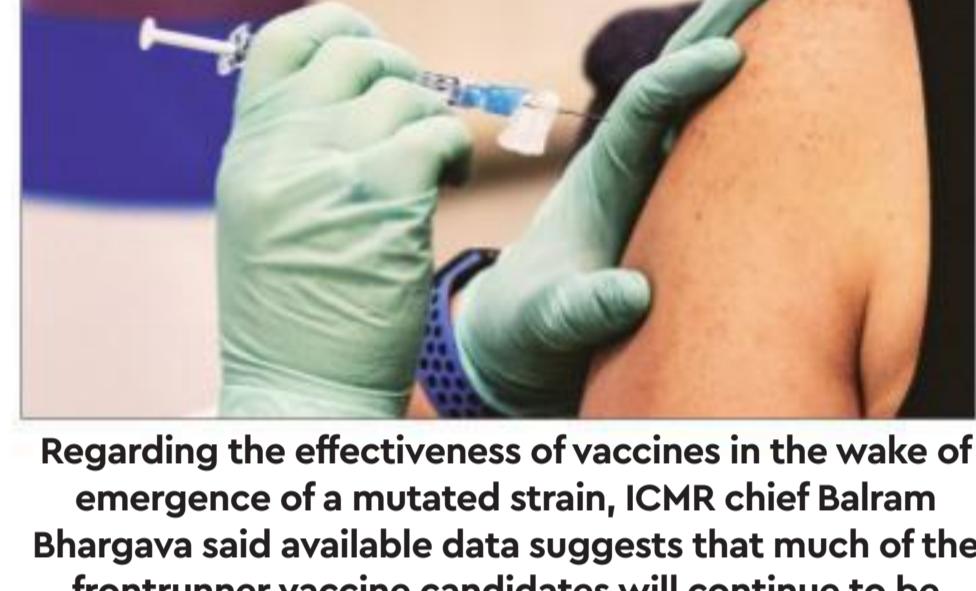
Non-judicious use of therapies that have not been scientifically established for treating Covid-19 put immune pressure on the virus, which can lead to mutations, said Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) chief Balram Bhargava on Tuesday amid concerns over the United Kingdom variant of the coronavirus.

Respiratory viruses may go through minor genetic mutations from time to time. But after several drifts, they can become a cause of concern as has happened with the new UK strain of the coronavirus. It has a higher transmissibility rate of about 60%, he said at a press briefing.

"That is a point of concern. We are carrying out tests in India regularly for those variants," Bhargava said.

The ICMR chief explained that these variations occur because of immune pressure on the virus.

"Immune pressure may be related to the environment, host, treatment or other modalities. So, it is important from the scientific community perspective that we do not put



Regarding the effectiveness of vaccines in the wake of emergence of a mutated strain, ICMR chief Balram Bhargava said available data suggests that much of the frontrunner vaccine candidates will continue to be effective against the virus.

too much immune pressure on the virus.

"We have to maintain judicious use of therapies which are going to benefit. If the benefit is not established, we should not use those therapies. Otherwise, they will put a tremendous immune pressure on the virus and it will tend to mutate more," he said.

Regarding the effectiveness of vaccines in the wake of emergence of a mutated strain, ICMR chief Balram Bhargava said available data suggests that much of the frontrunner vaccine candidates will continue to be effective against the virus.

data suggests that much of the frontrunner vaccine candidates will continue to be effective against the virus.

"Although much of the vaccines that are the front-runners are targeting the S-protein and also the mRNA, we find that they will continue to be effective, according to the data that is available. We have to be very careful to look for any immunity breakthrough that may happen by vaccination," he said.

time, as well as benefitting from policy initiatives like infrastructure investment trusts (InvIT) which have created transparent, market-driven exit opportunities for investors willing to invest capital in the development of greenfield infrastructure projects in India," Sharat Goyal, head of India, infrastructure equity at AMP Capital said.

Sterlite Power managing director Pratik Agarwal said, "We are happy to have like-minded partners like AMP Capital who believe in our core purpose and in our model of sustainable development". Globally, Sterlite has developed power transmission infrastructure projects of over 13,700 circuit km.

In August, Sterlite had announced the sale of its 14.7% stake in India Grid Trust InvIT for ₹840 crore. Sterlite Power had sold eight assets worth about ₹11,500 crore to IndiGrid. Another ₹6,500 crore is likely to be transferred in the current financial year.

Sterlite partners with Amp Capital to build 4 transmission projects

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, December 29

ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE company Sterlite Power has established a 50:50 partnership with global investment manager AMP Capital to develop four transmission projects in the country. AMP Capital and Sterlite Power will invest \$150 million each on the development of 1,800 km of transmission lines.

The partnership has the potential to reach an overall investment size of \$50 million, the companies said

Accordingly, all the aforesaid references wherever mentioned in Scheme Information Document ("SID") and Key Information Memorandum ("KIM") of the Scheme shall stand modified.

The changes proposed in the SID & KIM of the Scheme, MOF35 shall amounts to changes in the fundamental attributes of the Scheme(s). Hence, in accordance with Regulation 18(1A) of the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, all the existing unit holders under the Scheme are given an option to exit the Scheme(s) at the applicable Net Asset Value without any exit load on such redemption. This option is valid for a period of 30 days from publishing the notice.

If a Unit holder has no objection to the above proposals, no action needs to be taken by him and it would be deemed that such Unit holder has consented to the above proposals.

If a Unit holder disagrees to the above proposals, then they are requested to go through the below information on exit option.

Unit holder investor does not wish to continue in the scheme, unit holders of the scheme have the option to switch-out or redeem the units held by them at the prevailing NAV without being charged any exit load during the exit option period. The Unit holders are entitled to exercise exit option during the period commencing from January 07, 2021 and closing on February 05, 2021 (both days inclusive) ('Option Exercise Period'). During the Option Exercise Period, the Unit holders have following options:

a) Redeem their units [partly or fully] at applicable NAV;

b) Switch their units [partly or fully] to any of the schemes of MOMF at applicable NAV; or

c) Remain invested in the Scheme.

Unit holders are requested to note of the following conditions for switch out / redemption:

• The redemption / switch-out can be done by submitting a switch-out / redemption request form between (T day) to (T+30 days) (both days inclusive), subject to the terms and conditions set out in this letter, to any of our official points of acceptance within the applicable cut-off time mentioned in the scheme information document.

• An exit option will not be available to those unitholders who have pledged their units and on which the Fund has marked lien unless the release of pledged is obtained and communicated to the Fund / Registrar before applying for the redemption.

• In case of units held in demat mode redemption request is required to be submitted to the depository participant on or before the close of business hours of February 05, 2021 (T+30 days).

• The offer to exit is merely an option and is not compulsory.

• The redemption warrant / cheque will be mailed / redemption proceeds will be credited within 10 working days from the date of receipt of the redemption request.

• Redemption / switch out by the unit holders due to change in fundamental attributes of the Scheme or due to any other reasons may entail tax consequences. In view of individual nature of tax consequences, Unit holders are advised to consult his / her / their professional tax advisor.

• Please note that if you do not exercise your exit option on or before February 05, 2021 or if we do not receive your request for switch-out / redemption on or before February 05, 2021 by 3:00 pm, you would be deemed to have consented to the proposed proposal.

Securities Transaction Tax will be borne by AMC during the exit period.

Unit holders under the Scheme are / will be sent a communication in this regard, through an appropriate mode of communication (post, courier, email, etc). For any further assistance / clarification, Unit holders may contact any of our Investor Service Centers.

All the other terms and conditions of the SID and KIM of MOF35 shall be read with the addendum issued. The other terms and conditions mentioned in the SID and KIM of MOF35 shall remain unchanged.

This notice cum addendum forms an integral part of the SID and KIM of MOF35 as amended from time to time. All other contents remain unchanged.

Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company Limited

Registered & Corporate Office : 10th Floor, Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtulla Sayani Road, Opposite Patel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025

• Toll Free No.: +91 8108622222, +91 22 40548002 • Email : mfservice@motilosal.com

• CIN No.: U67120MH2008PLC188186

• Website: www.motilosalmf.com and www.mostshares.com

Notice cum Addendum to the Scheme Information Document (SID) and Key Information Memorandum (KIM) of the Scheme, Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund

Unitholders are hereby informed that pursuant to SEBI Circular having reference no. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF3/CIR/P/2020/228 dated November 06, 2020, Motilal Oswal Trustee Company Limited, Trustee to Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund has approved the following changes in Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund ("The Scheme") with effect from February 06, 2021:

Particulars	Existing Provision	Proposed Provision
Name of scheme	Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund (MOF35)	Motilal Oswal Flexi Cap Fund
Category	Multiplic Fund	Flexi Cap Fund
Benchmark	Nifty 500 TRI	No change
Type of scheme	An open ended equity scheme investing across large cap, mid cap, small cap stocks	An open ended dynamic equity scheme investing across large cap, mid cap, small cap stocks
Securities Lending	The Scheme will not participate in securities lending more than 20% of total Net Assets of the Scheme and would limit its exposure with regard to securities lending for a single intermediary to the extent of 5% of the total net assets at the time of lending.	The Scheme will not participate in securities lending more than 20% of total Net Assets of the Scheme.
Structured Obligation - Under Asset Allocation Section	-	The Scheme will not invest in debt instruments having Structured Obligations / Credit Enhancements.

Accordingly, all the aforesaid references wherever mentioned in Scheme Information Document ("SID") and Key Information Memorandum ("KIM") of the Scheme shall stand modified.

The changes proposed in the SID & KIM of the Scheme, MOF35 shall amounts to changes in the fundamental attributes of the Scheme(s). Hence, in accordance with Regulation 18(1A) of the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, all the existing unit holders under the Scheme are given an option to exit the Scheme(s) at the applicable Net Asset Value without any exit load on such redemption. This option is valid for a period of 30 days from publishing the notice.

If a Unit holder has no objection to the above proposals, no action needs to be taken by him and it would be deemed that such Unit holder has consented to the above proposals.

If a Unit holder disagrees to the above proposals, then they are requested to go through the below information on exit option.

Unit holder investor does not wish to continue in the scheme, unit holders of the scheme have the option to switch-out or redeem the units held by them at the prevailing NAV without being charged any exit load during the exit option period. The Unit holders are entitled to exercise exit option during the period commencing from January 07, 2021 and closing on February 05, 2021 (both days inclusive) ('Option Exercise Period'). During the Option Exercise Period, the Unit holders have following options:

a) Redeem their units [partly or fully] at applicable NAV;

b) Switch their units [partly or fully] to any of the schemes of MOMF at applicable NAV; or

c) Remain invested in the Scheme.

Unit holders are requested to note of the following conditions for switch out / redemption:

RELIANCE

NIPPON LIFE
INSURANCE

A RELIANCE CAPITAL COMPANY

Public Notice

We're moving, but always there to care!

Dear Customer/Policyholder,

In reference to our earlier notice on relocation of our Registered Office (Distinctive Code 1), this is to inform all concerned that we have successfully relocated our Registered Office from 5th floor, Reliance Centre, Off Western Express Highway, Santacruz East, Mumbai - 400055 to Unit Nos. 401B, 402, 403 & 404, 4th Floor, Inspire-BKC, G Block, BKC Main Road, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400051 w.e.f. 15th December 2020, earlier than the prior scheduled shifting date.

Some relationships go beyond any measured distance and we assure you of our best service through our offices, our employees, advisors and service partners who are distributed PAN India.

We value the faith you and your family have placed in us for all these years. We assure you, moving of our Registered Office will not change that equation.

Our customers can always reach us at:

a. Call us between 9 am to 6 pm, From Monday to Saturday, on Toll Free number 1800 102 1010

b. Our email address: nlife.customerservice@relianceada.com

Needless to reiterate that we would continue to receive notices and letters at the old and new Registered offices at least for two more months.

In case of a service request, claim or complaint, you can write us on: nlife.headcustomercare@relianceada.com or at the address mentioned above.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, if your grievance remains unresolved even after 10 working days, you may write to our Grievance Officer, at nlife.gro@relianceada.com or at the address mentioned above.

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Mktg/Registered office Public Notice 6/VI/Dec2020



PGIM India Asset Management Private Limited
(Erstwhile DHFL Pramerica Asset Managers Private Limited)
2nd Floor, Nirion 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.pgimindiafund.com

NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM [No. 33 of 2020-21]**NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM TO THE SCHEME INFORMATION DOCUMENTS ("SIDs") AND KEY INFORMATION MEMORANDUMS ("KIMs") OF SCHEMES OF PGIM INDIA MUTUAL FUND ("THE MUTUAL FUND")****Uniformity in applicability of Net Asset Value (NAV) across various schemes upon realization of funds**

Investors are requested to note that pursuant to SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF2/CIR/P/2020/175 dated September 17, 2020 on uniformity in applicability of Net Asset Value (NAV) across various schemes, the provisions with respect to the applicability of NAV for subscriptions/purchases/switch-ins of Mutual Fund Schemes (except liquid and overnight schemes) shall be as follows with effect from January 01, 2021:

- In respect of valid application received before 3.00 p.m. on a Business Day and funds for the entire amount of subscription / purchase / switch-in as per the application are credited to the bank account of the respective Scheme and are available for utilisation before the cut-off time, the closing NAV of the day on which the funds are available for utilisation shall be applicable.
- In respect of valid application received after 3.00 p.m. on a Business Day and funds for the entire amount of subscription / purchase/ switch-in as per the application are credited to the bank account of the respective Scheme and are available for utilisation before the cut-off time of the next Business Day, the closing NAV of the next Business Day shall be applicable.
- However, irrespective of the time of receipt of valid application on a given Business Day, where the funds are not available for utilisation before the cut off time on the day of the application, the closing NAV of the Business Day on which the funds are available for utilisation before the cut-off time (3:00 p.m.) shall be applicable.
- The aforesaid provisions shall also apply to systematic transactions i.e. Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) and Systematic Transfer Plan (STP).

The Trustee / AMC reserves the right to change / modify the provisions mentioned above at a later date.

This Notice-cum-Addendum forms an integral part of SID(s) and KIM(s) of the Schemes of the Mutual Fund, as amended from time to time. All the other terms and conditions of SIDs and KIMs of the Schemes of the Mutual Fund except as specifically modified herein above remain unchanged.

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

Sd/-
Authorized Signatory

Place: Mumbai
Date : December 29, 2020

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

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CIRCLE ASTRA Centre: East Delhi, Pocket-E, Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi-110091

POSSESSION NOTICE [Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank, Circle ASTRA Centre, East Delhi, CSC First Floor, Pocket-E, Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 01.10.2019 calling upon the M/s Katiani Images Indi Pvt. Ltd. (Credit facility sanctioned by erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce now amalgamated with Punjab National Bank as per Government of India Notification) Directors cum Guarantors 1) Sh. Vinod Kathuria S/o Sh. Ram Chand Kathuria residing at A-47, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi -110015 also at Plot No.182, Sector-4, IMT Manesar Gurgaon, Haryana. Directors cum Guarantors 2) Smt. Radha Kathuria W/o Sh. Vinod Kathuria residing at A-47, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi -110015 also at Plot No.182, Sector-4, IMT Manesar Gurgaon, Haryana to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 2,89,74,748.65 (Rs. Two Crore Eighty Nine Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Eight & Paise Sixty Five Only) as on 30.09.2019 with further interest, expenses and other charges etc. thereon within 60 days from the date of notice/date of the said notice.

The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor 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 section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the 29th December of the year 2020.

The borrower's/guarantor's/mortgagor'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.

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 Punjab National Bank Circle ASTRA Centre, East Delhi CSC First Floor, Pocket-E, Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi for an amount of Rs. 2,89,74,748.65 (Rs. Two Crore Eighty Nine Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Eight & Paise Sixty Five Only) as on 30.09.2019 and interest expenses, other charges thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Commercial Property at Plot No.182, Sector-4, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon Haryana measuring area 4050 Sq. Mtrs in the name of M/s Katiani Images (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bounded as: North - Road, South - Plot No.163-164, East - Plot No.181, West - Plot No.183.

Date : 29-12-2020, Place : Gurugram, (HR.) Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया BOI PREMISES DEPARTMENT STAR HOUSE, 1, 3RD FLOOR, VIBHUTI KHAN, GOMTI NAGAR, ZONAL OFFICE, LUCKNOW-226010, PH. 0522-2306039

Requirement of Premises at Mahanagar

Bank of India invites tender under 2 bids system from owner of office premises willing to offer on long lease basis readily built in Lucknow city at Mahanagar preferably on main road within 1km from existing premises at ground floor with parking facility for a lease period of 20 years for setting up a Bank branch. The tender form can be downloaded from the Bank's website www.bankofindia.co.in, or from the Zonal Office, 3rd floor, premises department on payment of Rs. 2000/- in favour of Banks of India (Non refundable). Last date for submission of offer will be upto 05:00 PM on 16th January 2021 at Star House, 3rd Floor, Premises Department, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010

Date: 30.12.2020, Place: Lucknow

Zonal Manager

DABUR INDIA LIMITED
CIN - L24230DL1975PLC007908
Regd. Office: 83, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi - 110 002
Tel. No. - 011-23253488, Fax No. - 011-3222051

Website - www.dabur.com; e-mail: investors@dabur.com

for Dabur India Limited
Sd/-
(A.K.Jain)

NOTICE
In compliance of Regulation 47(1)(a) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 this is to inform that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, the 29th January, 2021 at New Delhi to, inter-alia, consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter / Nine Months ending on 31st December, 2020.
Investors may also refer to the websites: www.dabur.com, www.seiindia.com or www.bseindia.com

for Dabur India Limited
Sd/-
(A.K.Jain)
E.V.P. (Finance) & Company Secretary

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Regional office 1:- 71 M.G. Road, First Floor, Nehru Nagar, Agra.

**SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER
(8) & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest Rules 2002, shall be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions.

Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor	Total Liabilities	Description of Properties	Type of Possession	Reserve Price	Symbolic
Borrower (s). Mr. Vijaylal Singh Kasana S/o Nihal Singh, Prop No 5, Khasra No 17/1, Raksha Vihar, Agra -282001	Rs. 7,50,686/- as on 22.12.2020 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	Commercial building plot no 5 on Khasra No 17/1, Nagla kali in Front of Raksha vihar tensi and Distt Agra in the name of Mr. Vijaylal Singh Kasana S/o Late Mr. Nihal Singh measuring 18.58 sq mtr. Bounded as: East- Residential plot, West- Rasta 9 mtr wide, North- Commercial plot no 6, South- Rasta 16 wide.	Symbolic	Rs. 10,32,000/-	

Gaurantor (s). Mr. Shailendra S/o Chandra Prakash Upadhyay, R/o 4/09, Bada Ukhra Rajpur Chungi Agra 282001.	Rs. 16,44,886/- as on 22.12.2020 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	House No 622, Type Sector C-1, Shastri puram Yojna, Lohamandi Ward, Agra in the name of Mr. Rakesh Kumar S/o Mr. Bachchu singh, Vill Dehtora near canara bank Sikandra agra-282007 and Mrs. Prevali W/o Mr. Rakesh, Near Village Dehtora, Near Canara Bank, Agra-282005, Gaurantor (s). Mr. Rajoo S/o Mr. Shiv Dutt, R/o Mamta Vihar, Dehtora Agra-282005.	Symbolic	Rs. 1,03,200/-	
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Borrower (s). Mrs. Rajini kaur W/o Rajwant singh, Mr. Rajwant singh S/o Mr. Nirmal Singh, Both R/o House no 23 A, Pawan Dham, Shamshabad Road, Agra-282001.	Rs. 36,76,347.37/- as on 31.12.2018 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	Residential building house no 10 plot no 15 and 16 on khasra no 209 and 210 kps ashiyana mauza nagla kali Tehsil and Distt Agra. Bounded as: East- Other land now pushpanjali NRI City, West- Rasta 6 m wide, North- Plot no 17, South- Plot no 14 now house on plot no 14	Symbolic	Rs. 25,79,000/-	
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Borrower (s). Mr. Leelawati Devi Chauhan W/o Mr. Than singh, R/o House No. C-29, Balaji puram, Shahganj, Agra-282000, Gaurantor (s). Mr. Mukesh Chauhan S/o Mr. Gajendra Chauhan, R/o House No. 9, Ma kalla Devi Estate colony, Pritvi Nath Phatak, Shahganj, Agra-282010, Mr. Bijendra Chauhan S/o Shri Than Singh, R/o House No C-29, Balaji puram, Shahganj Agra-282010.	Rs. 13,06,931.44/- as on 31.12.2018 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	House No C-29, Situated at Balaji Puram Colony, Mauza Bhogipura, Lohamandi ward, Agra measuring 104.61 sq mtr in the name of Mrs. Leelawati W/o Mr. Than Singh. Bounded as: East- Plot no 28, Owner Akhilesh Bhadoriya, West- Plot no. 30, North- Other Land & Owner House Bhadoriya, South- Rasta 30 Ft. Wide	Symbolic	Rs. 33,87,000/-	
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Borrower (s). Gejendra singh chahar S/o Mr. Soib Singh Chahar, Mrs. Ajayi W/o Mr. Gejendra Singh, Both R/o House no 59/128A/25 of Plot no 49, Ayodhya Kunj, Lohamandi, Agra-282001.	Rs. 24,21,421.40/- as on 31.12.2018 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	House No 58/128A/25 on Plot No 48, Ayodhya kunj, Lohamandi Ward, Agra measuring 155.57 sq mtr in the name of Mr. Gejendra Singh Chahar S/o Mr. Sahab Singh Chahar, Bounded as: East- Rasta, West- House of Guddi agrawal, North- House of Gejendra singh , South- House of Rahul, Sunil	Symbolic	Rs. 56,02,000/-	
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Borrower (s). Mr. Amit verma S/o Mr. Virendra verma, Dheeraj verma S/o Mr. Virendra verma, Both R/o 11/41 Seeta Nagar ki Nai Abadi Agra, U.P. 28 2 006.	Rs. 16,81,053.29/- as on 22.12.2020 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	House no 25, Sector- E, Shastri puram yojna, Lohamandi Ward, Agra measuring 44.36 sq mtr in the name of Mr. Amit Verma & Dheeraj Verma both S/o Virendra Verma. Bounded as: East- House no. 26, West- House no. 24, North- Lss Plots, South- Rasta 7.5 m Wide.	Physical	Rs. 13,64,000/-	
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Borrower (s). Mr. Jitendra Kumar S/o Mr. Jagdish Sharma, R/o 36 Panchwati , Shahganj, Vinay Nagar, Agra-282002.	Rs. 35,60,144/- as on 20.12.2020 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	UREM of Residential House no. 11, at Swapn Vatika, Near Silver City, Mauza Rohta, District Agra, UP. Admeasuring area 85.98 square meter owned by Mrs. Vandana Singh W/o Shailendra Pratap Singh. Bounded as: East- Others Property, West- 7.5 m wide road, North- Others Property, South- House no. 10	Symbolic	Rs. 39,91,000/-	
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Borrower (s). Mr. Smita Lata W/o Rajesh & Nishant Dev S/o Rajesh, Both R/o House No. 323, Sector-4A, Deep Dayal Upadhyaya Puram, Awas Vikas Colony, Sikandra, District Agra, Gaurantor (s). Arun Bhardwaj S/o R/o House No. 423/13C, Awas Vikas Colony Sikandra Agra-282002.	Rs. 37,80,745/- as on 20.12.2020 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	UREM of Residential House no. 323, at Sector-4A, Awas Vikas Colony , Deep Dayal Upadhyaya Puram, Sikandra, District Agra, U.P. Admeasuring area 62.75 square meter owned by Mrs. Snehala Pratap Singh. Bounded as: East- 6 mtr. wide road, West- House no. 324/4A, North- 9 mtr. wide road, South- House no. 322/4A.	Symbolic	Rs. 32,62,000/-	
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Borrower (s). Mrs. Vandana Bhati W/o Shailendra Singh, Mr. Shailendra S/o Mr. Jagendra Pal Singh, Both R/o House No. 34/77 Nagla Laturi Singh, Deori Road, Agra, Gaurantor (s). Jitendra Kumar S/o Mr. Jagdish Sharma S/o Mr. Rakesh, Both R/o 10/70 F 1, Jagdish Pura, Lohamandi, Agra-282002.	Rs. 35,60,144/- as on 20.12.2020 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	UREM of Residential House no. 11, at Swapn Vatika, Near Silver City, Mauza Rohta, District Agra, UP. Admeasuring area 85.98 square meter owned by Mrs. Vandana Singh W/o Shailendra Pratap Singh. Bounded as: East- Others Property, West- 7.5 m wide road, North- Others Property, South- House no. 10	Symbolic	Rs. 39,91,000/-	
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Borrower (s). Mr. Shekhar Tiwari S/o Shashi Tiwari, Both R/o House No. E12, Khasra No. 188 & 269, Govind Nagar, City, Mauza-Artoni, Tehsil & District Agra-282007, Gaurantor (s). Mr. Jitendra Kumar S/o Mr. Mahendra Kumar Bahal, R/o House No. F-20, Professors Colony, Shanti Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Agra-282002.	Rs. 15,23,436/- as on 20.12.2020 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	UREM of Residential House no.11, at Swapn Vatika, Near Silver City, Mauza Rohta, District Agra, Uttar Pradesh. Admeasuring area 85.98 sq mtr. owned by Mrs. Vandana Singh W/o Shailendra Pratap Singh. Bounded as: East- Others Property, West- 9 mtr wide road, North- 6 mtr wide road, South- Others Property, Plot no. E-14 Open, South- Plot no. E-10 House.	Symbolic	Rs. 27,52,000/-	
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Borrower (s). Mr. Shekhar Tiwari S/o Shashi Tiwari, Both R/o House No. E12, Khasra No. 188 & 269, Govind Nagar, City, Mauza-Artoni, Tehsil & District Agra-282007, Gaurantor (s). Mr. Jitendra Kumar S/o Mr. Mahendra Kumar Bahal, R/o House No. F-20, Professors Colony, Shanti Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Agra-282002.	Rs. 16,03,426.25/- as on 30.06.2020 + Int. & Others Charges thereon	Property at Plot No 33B, Preeti Vihar Colony, Khasra No 555, Mauza Basal Mustkil, Agra measuring 40.74 sq. m. Situated at Sector 01 at Awas Vikas Colony, Sikandra, Agra in the name of Smt Deepa Masand S/o Mr. Nanak Masand. Bounded as: East- 6 mtr. wide road, West- Others Land, South- 4.5 Meter Wide
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Govt. of Haryana



Haryana Government honoured for Good Governance



Hon'ble President
Sh.Ram Nath Kovind
will honour



**Haryana State's Antyodaya Saral Project today with
Digital India Award-2020**

The award has been conferred by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under the category **Excellence in Digital Governance - State / Union Territory**

Haryana was also honoured for Antyodaya Saral Project earlier with **National e-Governance Award, 2019-2020 (Gold)**

Features of Antyodaya Saral Project

Benefits of 549 schemes and services of 40 departments, boards, corporations through Online Saral portal.

Antyodaya Saral gets an overall satisfaction rating of **4.3 on a scale of 5 through** automated I.V.R.S. feedback call

Antyodaya Saral Platform is completely developed **in-house by technical teams of N.I.C. Haryana** and concerned departments.

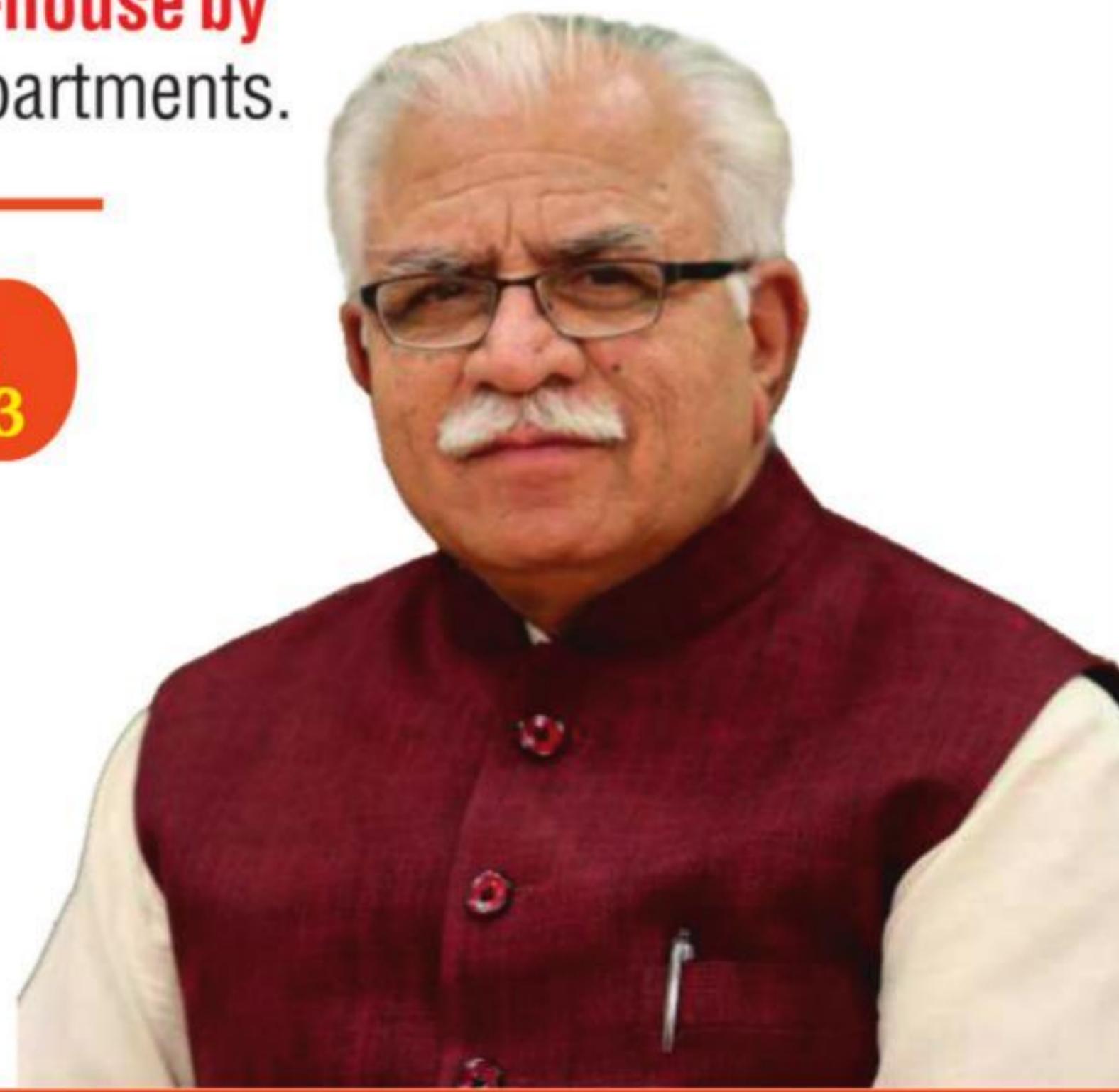
Antyodaya Saral Portal
<https://saralharyana.gov.in>

Toll Free Helpline No.
1800—2000—023

We express our heartfelt gratitude to Government of India for honouring the State with Digital India Award-2020.

Such positive encouragement boosts the morale of the Government and accelerates the development work on a faster pace. Our Government's aim is to bring transparency with Good Governance so that public welfare schemes can reach the grass root level.

- **Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana**



*Let us Together Combat Coronavirus
Wear Mask and Maintain Social Distance*



Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana
www.prharyana.gov.in

New Delhi



Regional Office South Delhi
Tamil Sangam Building, Sector 5,
R K Puram, New Delhi-110022.

CORIGENDUM

This is in reference to the advertisement published in this newspaper on dated 29.12.2020 for e-Auction Sale Notice in A/c Ram Tirth Handa (at Sr. No. 1) of East of Kailash Branch the Status of the Possession of the property should be read as Symbolic Possession instead of Physical Possession.

All other details will remain unchanged.

Authorised Officer, Canara Bank



Notice regarding lost certificates of ETB KARNATAKA STATE LIMITED Regd office: no.501 & 502 Front Wing 5th Floor, Manipal Centre, 120 Dikeson Road, Bangalore-560042 (We Meera Sharma resident at 8, Sir Fort Road II Floor New Delhi the registered holder(s) of the under mentioned shares held in the above said company hereby give notice that the share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares have been lost and I have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate certificate(s). Any person claiming right in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the Company at its above referred address within 15 days from the date, else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate(s) and no further claim will be entertained by the company thereafter.

Folio No.:M0001528 Certificate No.3346, Distinctive Nos.1767245-1767950, No. of Shares-2000

Folio No.:M0001529 Certificate No.4448, Distinctive Nos.1792113-17923212, No. of Shares-2000

Date: 30/12/2020

Place: New Delhi

Meera Sharma
Name of share holder

I, Harsh Bhalla S/o
Harmohinder Singh
Bhalla R/o WZ-1878
Multani Mohalla Rani
Bagh Delhi-110034 have
changed my minor son
name from Gavish
Bhalla to Gianveer
Bhalla permanently.

0040558976-10

EXTENSION OF E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Please refer to E-auction sale Notice of KOTHARI FOODS AND FRAGRANCES PVT. LTD., published on 15th Dec 2020. The Last date for submission of EMD and bid document has been revised from 28th Dec 2020 to 6th Jan 2021 & Date of E-auction has been revised from 30th Dec 2020 to 8th Jan 2021. Rest terms & conditions will remain unchanged & same.

Shravan Kumar Vishnoi
(Liquidator)

ALAMELU CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
Notice Inviting Tender

Alamelu Charitable Foundation (ACF) invites bids from eligible bidders for the Tender for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of the following Equipment/Goods from Manufacturers / Authorized Vendors for its Hospitals spread across India:

Tender No:1/ACF/CANCERCARE/KR/2020

Kitchen Equipment

Last Date of Submission: 20.01.2020 by 4 PM

Tender No:2/ACF/CANCERCARE/Int/2020

Interiors Works

Last Date of Submission: 14.01.2021 by 4 PM

Tender 3/ACF/CANCERCARE/MGPS/2020

Medical Gas Pipeline System

Last Date of Submission: 20.01.2021 by 4 PM

Tender 4/ACF/CANCERCARE/Med Con/2020

Medical Consumables Re-tender (Multiple Tenders)

Last Date of Submission: 20.01.2021 by 4 PM

Tender 5/ACF/CANCERCARE/Launder/2020

Laundry Equipment

Last Date of Submission: 20.01.2021 by 4 PM

Interested parties may download Tender

document from e-tender portal <http://ifsii.acf.procure247.com> and submit online bids by following the prescribed process.

Sd/- Director, Alamelu Charitable Foundation, Mumbai - 400005

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)

Regd. Office : 19-A, Dhuleswar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, CIN L3691RJ1996PLC011381

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest" Act, 2002 (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 demand notice dated 19-12-2019 calling upon the Borrower NANDAN VAIDH (Borrower & Mortgagor), MEETA VAIDH (Co-Borrower) [Loan Account No. A-1900106011572731] to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.747613/- (Rs. Seven Lac Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/ mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 24 Day of Dec. of the Year 2020.

The borrower/ mortgagor 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 AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for an amount of Rs.747613/- (Rs. Seven Lac Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen only) as on 18-Dec-19 and interest and expenses thereon until full payment.

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 IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property/Land/Building/Structure and fixtures situated at Commercial Property at Khasra No. 93, Shop of Nandan, Ground Floor, Municipal No 1647, Plot No 2, Govindpur, Gali No 15, New Delhi. Admeasuring 6.69 Sq. Mts. Owned by NANDAN VAIDH, Which is having four boundaries:-

East : PORTION OF PLOT NO. 51

West : GALI

North : PORTION OF PLOT

South : PORTION OF PLOT

-Sd/-

Authorised Officer

Au Small Finance Bank Limited

Date : 24-Dec-2020

Place : Delhi

FORM B
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS
OF BRIGHTSUN TECHNOCRAFT PRIVATE LIMITED

1. Name of Corporate Debtor BRIGHTSUN TECHNOCRAFT PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Date of Incorporation of Corporate Debtor 22.11.2007

3. Authority under which Corporate Debtor is Incorporated/Registerd

4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor U80904DL2007PTC170656

5. Address of the registered office & principal office (if any) of corporate debtor B-134 1st Floor, Joshi Colony Mandwali Fazalpur, Delhi-110092

175/F.I.E. Patparganj Industrial Area, New Delhi-110092

6. Date of closure of Insolvency Resolution Process 24.12.2020 (Order Copy of Hon'ble NCLT Bench-III, New Delhi received on 29.12.2020)

7. Liquidation commencement date of Corporate Debtor 29.12.2020

8. Name & Registration Number of Insolvency Professional acting as Liquidator Regn. No.: IBBI/PA-002/PA-00618/19981

9. Address and Email of the liquidator as registered with the Board 24, SF-21, Lado Sarai, New Delhi - 110030

E-mail: liquidator.brightsun@gmail.com

10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the liquidator 5, GF, F-21, Lado Sarai, New Delhi - 110030

E-mail: liquidator.rightsun@gmail.com

11. Last date for submission of Claims 29.01.2021

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi, Division Bench III has ordered the commencement of liquidation of the Brightsun Technocraft Private Limited on 24.12.2020 under section 33 of the (Order Copy of Hon'ble NCLT Bench-III, New Delhi received on 29.12.2020)

The stakeholders of Brightsun Technocraft Private Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 29.01.2021 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item No.10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only All other creditors may submit the claims with their copy in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proof of claims shall attract penalties.

Sd/-

Date : 29.12.2020

Name and signature of liquidator K Subha Narayan Mohapatra

Registration No: IBBI/PA-002/PA-00618/2018-19/1981

Financial Express - epaper 11



THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD.
No-3 Sant Nagar, East Of Kailash,
New Delhi-110065 Ph:66608041, 66608078
Email: east@kvbmail.com

AUCTION NOTICE

Public in general and borrower Shri Abhinendra Singh S/o Shri Vijay Singh R/o. H.no.6, Cedar Drive, Khasra No.1482/2,DLF Farm, Chattarpur, New Delhi-110074 are hereby notified that pledged ornaments, weighing approximately 12.2 grams will be sold in public auction to be conducted on 12.01.2021 at 3pm in branch premises for recovery of dues to bank. For detailed terms and condition please contact the undersigned.

Date: 30.12.2020

Place : Delhi

AUTHORISED OFFICER
THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD.



TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited for disposal of Bank's Vehicles:-

Sr. No Qty. (Nos.) Regd in the name of

1 11 Punjab National Bank

For details refer at the bank's website www.pnbindia.in

Last date of submission of tender is 19.01.2021 up to 15.00 Hrs.

Any corrigendum/addendum shall be loaded on website. Bidders are requested to regularly visit at our website for update.

Chief Manager, GAD, ZO: Delhi



Your Family Bank. Across India.

Head Office: Mangalore - 575 002 | CIN : L58110KA1924PLC00128

Asset Recovery Management Branch

8-B, First Floor, Rajendra Park, Pusa Road, New Delhi-110060.

Phone : 011-25813466 | E-mail : delhiarm@ktkbank.com

Mobile : 931891680 | Website : www.karnatakabank.com

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is here by given to public in general and in particular to Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured Creditors, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditors on 30-08-2019, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 21.01.2021, for recovery of aggregate amount of Rs. 94,46,339.00 (Rupees Ninety Four Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Nine and Fifty Paisa Only) (a) Rs.52,38,360.50 under PSDC AIC No.55370060012301 along with future interest from 01.06.2019 (b) Rs.35,06,18.00 under Invoked Bank Guarantees debited to Protested Bills A/c No.553700390001801 (c) Rs.7,01,361.00 under Invoked Bank Guarantees debited to Protested Bills A/c No.553700390019001 along with future interest from 01.12.2020 in account (b) and (c), plus cost, due to the Karnataka Bank Ltd, Delhi-G.T. Karnal Road Branch, No.6, (Jain Colony), Veer Nagar, GT Karnal Road, Delhi-110007, Delhi-Central Delhi, the Secured creditors from (1) M/s. Shree Balaji Roadways Represented by its proprietor Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Office No.14, 1st Floor, Plot No.5, Jagdev Singh Complex, Shiv Market, Pitam Pura, New Delhi-110034 (2) Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta S/o, Mr. Raj Kumar Gupta (3) Mrs. Pushpa Devi @ Pushpa Gupta W/o. Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, No.2-3 addressed at: H.No.183, Pocket B-9, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085, being borrowers/guarantors/co-obligants

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

1) All that part and parcel of the residential property bearing No. 183 measuring 25.90 sq mtrs situated at Block-B, Pocket-9, Residential Scheme, Sector-5, Rohini Delhi-110085 belonging to Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta.

Boundaries: East - Plot No.184, West - Plot No:186

North - Plot No.185. South - Entry to the property through open space

Reserve Price/Upset Price below which the property may not be sold: Rs.56,42,000.00 (Rupees Five Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Only)

Earnest money to be deposited/tendered: Rs.5,64,200.00 (Rupees Five Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Only)

(The borrower's / mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. www.karnatakabank.com under the head "mortgaged assets for sale".

The E-auction will be conducted through portal <https://bankauctions.in/> on 21.01.2021 from 12:00 pm