

IN THE NEWS

FDI rises 15% during Apr-Sept to \$26 billion

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) into India grew 15% to \$26 billion in H1FY20, according to government data, reports PTI. Inflow of FDI during April-September of 2018-19 stood at \$22.66 billion. Sectors, which attracted maximum foreign inflows include services (\$4.45 billion), computer software and hardware (\$4 billion), telecom (\$4.28 billion) and automobile (\$2.13 billion).

CBI arrests DRI ADG in ₹3-crore bribery case

THE CBI ON Wednesday arrested a senior official of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and two middlemen in connection with a ₹3-crore bribery case, reports PTI. The official arrested is additional director general, DRI, Ludhiana, Chander Shekhar. It was alleged that in June 2019, the DRI had conducted a search at a private clearing agency which provides services to various exporters, a CBI spokesperson said.

SABKA VISHWAS

Govt collects ₹31,000 crore by settling tax disputes

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, January 1

ABOUT THREE-FOURTHS OF eligible taxpayers have settled their legacy excise and service tax disputes with the tax department after agreeing to pay ₹30,627 crore under the Sabka Vishwas scheme till December-end. When the scheme was launched on September 1, 2019, the disputed amount under 1.83 lakh cases was as high as ₹3.6 lakh crore. Pertinently, the total disputed amount involved in the cases of the 1.34 lakh people who have settled the disputes was ₹69,550 crore, just a fifth of the total amount that was locked in disputes. The amount involved in still-unresolved disputes is a staggering ₹2.9 lakh crore. Tax experts said cash crunch with many businesses could have a role in many large

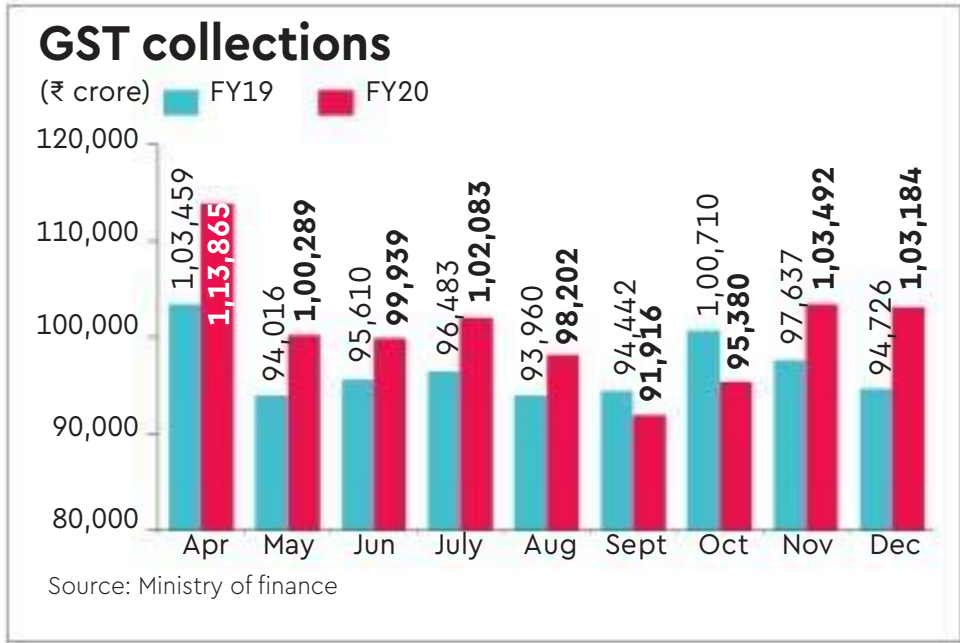
MODEST PICK-UP

GST mop-up rises 9% y-o-y in Dec

Reflects rise in compliance, ITC curbs; ₹1.17 lakh crore/month needed in Q4 to meet target set by govt

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, January 1

GOODS AND SERVICES tax (GST) collections in December (concerning November transactions) came in at ₹1,03,184



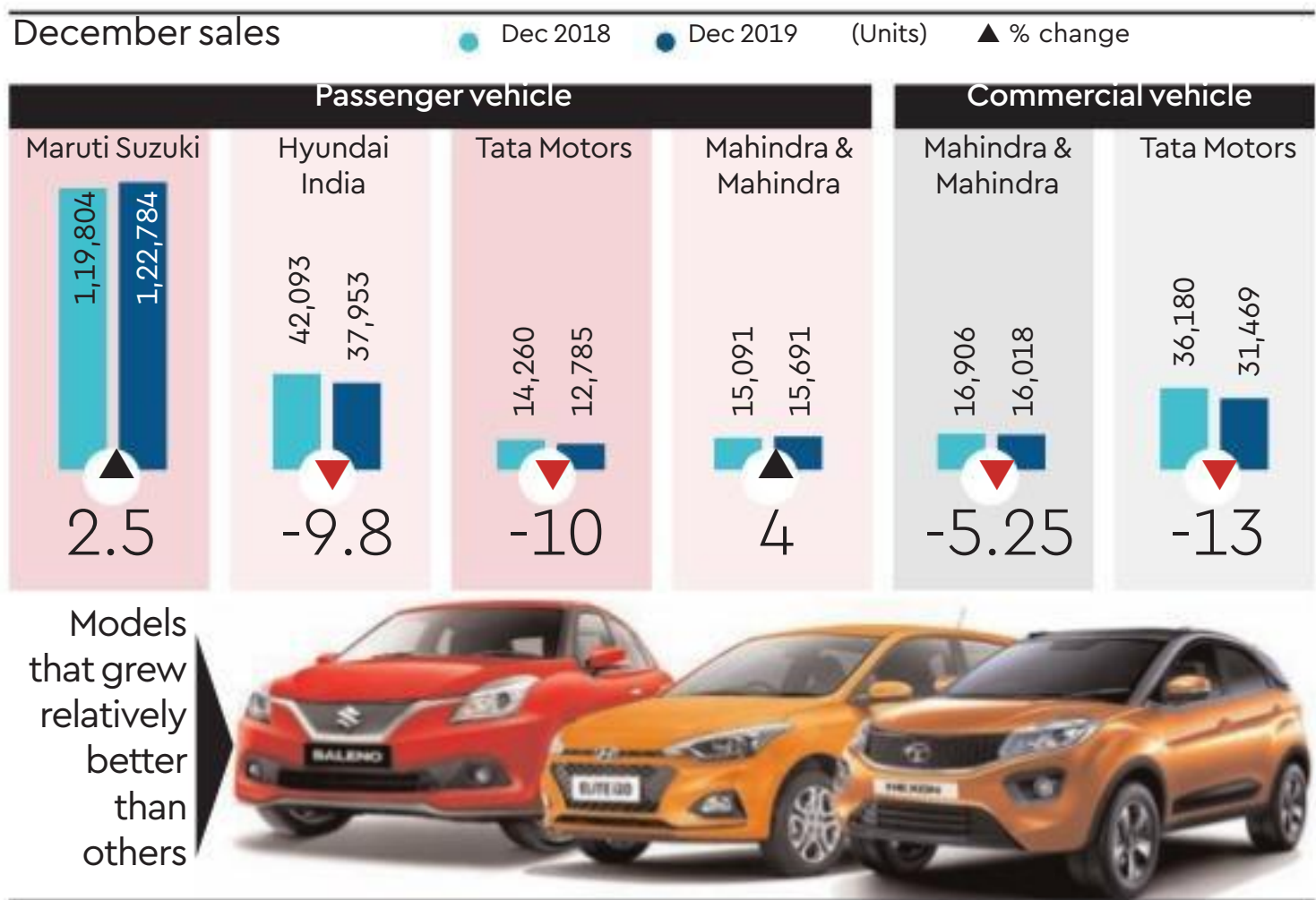
crore, closer to the mop-up in the previous month and up 9% over the year-ago month. This has indicated an improvement from the September-October period, when the collections were substantially below the ₹1-lakh-crore mark and even lower than in the year-ago period.

The collections still are below the run rate required for the Centre to fully compensate the states for their 'revenue shortfall' and meet its own overall GST budget.

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DECEMBER CHILL

Car despatches crawl; buyers ignore offers



PRITISH RAJ
New Delhi, January 1

CAR DESPATCHES SLOWED to a crawl in December with customers not enticed by big discounts and manufacturers not wanting to load inventory of BS-IV models onto dealers.

Wholesale despatches for a clutch of five carmakers showed a dip of 3% y-o-y despite a favourable base. The numbers dampened hopes the slightly better sales seen in October and November would sustain.

The 3% y-o-y fall is no

doubt far better than the steep double digit volumes — 20% y-o-y — seen for months before October 2019. This was due to a relatively good show from Maruti Suzuki. India's biggest carmaker reported a marginal 2.5% y-o-y rise in volumes driven by big discounts on models like the Dzire and Baleno.

Maruti Suzuki chairman RC Bhargava, however, was till recently not too sure sales growth would be very robust in the near term. "Prices for models fitted with the upgraded BS-VI engines have already

gone up. New launches too will come with a higher price tag and that would prolong the slowdown," Bhargava had observed in a mid-December conversation with FE. Analysts at Jefferies were also of the view that the fairly sharp price escalation post BS-VI is likely to be a headwind to demand recovery, at least initially.

Hyundai Motor India couldn't keep up its November performance and posted a 9.8% y-o-y dip in volumes in December.

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DEBT REPAYMENT

Banks allowed to utilise Mallya's movable assets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, January 1

A SPECIAL COURT here has permitted a consortium of 15 banks led by State Bank of India (SBI) to utilise movable assets of fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya towards repayment of his debt. The assets, comprising financial securities like shares of the United Breweries Holdings (UBHL), were attached by the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in 2016 when it declared Mallya a proclaimed offender.

Under provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, a court orders attachment of a person's movable assets after he or she has been declared a proclaimed offender.

A person against whom a warrant has been issued can be declared a proclaimed offender if the court believes that he or she has absconded or is evading execution of warrant. The consortium of banks earlier filed an application before the special court, seeking release of Mallya's movable assets to utilise them for repayment of loans given to him.

Senior counsel Rajeev Patil, appearing for the consortium, said the special court on Tues-



COURTSPEAK

Special court has, however, stayed its order till January 18 to enable the parties concerned to approach the Bombay HC in appeal

Assets comprising financial securities like UBHL shares were attached in 2016 when Mallya was declared a proclaimed offender

Lenders earlier filed a plea, seeking release of Mallya's movable assets to utilise them for repayment of loans

day lifted the attachment on the movable assets. The court has, however, stayed its order till January 18 to enable the parties concerned to approach the Bombay High Court in appeal.

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HIGHWAY AUCTION

NHAI sets target of ₹1L cr for TOT proceeds till 2025

SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, January 1

THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS Authority of India (NHAI) has set a target to raise ₹1 lakh crore via monetisation of its operational highway stretches over the next five years (till 2024-25) under the toll-operate-transfer (TOT) model, in a bid to find more non-budgetary, non-debt receipts for development of highways.

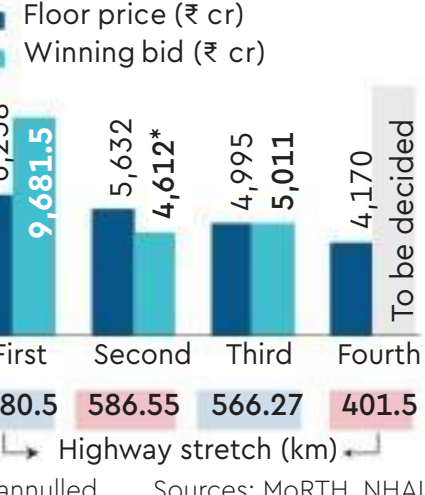
Under the TOT model, publicly-funded operational highway projects are given on long-term lease basis to domestic and foreign "patient capital" investors. Successful bidders are required to pay the lease amount upfront and recoup investments along with returns by collecting tolls over the lease tenure, usually between 15 and 30 years.

For the first time, in October 2017, NHAI had invited bids for monetisation of such public-funded highway projects through TOT. Since then, it has raised a little more than ₹14,000 crore under two successful rounds. One TOT round had to be annulled for want of bidders. Bidding for the fourth bundle is currently underway.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in 2016 allowed NHAI to monetise 75 highway projects through the



TOT story so far



TOT model. On November 20, 2019, the Cabinet gave NHAI virtually an unfettered authority to make suitable changes, wherever required, in its asset monetisation programme through the TOT model.

Earlier operational projects collecting tolls for at least two years were allowed to be given on lease against upfront payment. This has since been relaxed. Now, a highway project collecting tolls for one year can be put up for auction.

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Quick Picks

Power demand up 1.3% in Dec after 4 months of contraction

AFTER FOUR straight months of contraction in electricity demand that revealed the enormity of the industrial slowdown, the consumption of power increased 1.3% year-on-year in December, reports **fe Bureau** in **New Delhi**. This could give some comfort to the government with most high frequency data still not suggesting a bottoming out of the slowdown. Till December 15, power consumption was lower than in the year-ago period. The consumption has then picked up. **PAGE 2**

Lenders put up NPAs worth ₹8,500 cr for sale in Q3FY20

AHEAD OF the January 7 deadline for out-of-court resolutions for a clutch of bad loans, seven lenders sought to sell bad loans worth ₹8,543 crore in Q3FY20, reports **Shritama Bose** in **Mumbai**. So far, only one asset — Rattan India Power's 1,350-MW Amravati plant — has been successfully resolved outside the corporate insolvency resolution process. The long-overdue resolution of Essar Steel was completed in Q3 under the court-monitored insolvency process. **PAGE 8**

Non-subsidised LPG rate hiked by ₹19; ATF 2.6% costlier

JET FUEL or ATF price was on Wednesday hiked by 2.6% and that of non-subsidised LPG by ₹19 per cylinder on the back of a rise in international rates, reports PTI. Price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), used to power aeroplanes, was raised by ₹1,637.25 per kilolitre, or 2.6%, to ₹64,323.76 per kilolitre in Delhi, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Also, the price of non-subsidised LPG was raised to ₹714 per 14.2-kg cylinder from ₹695 previously. **PAGE 2**

Resolve tax grievances before PM's review

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

ALL INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT-RELATED grievances pending for over a month should be "expeditiously" disposed of, the CBDT has told the taxman. The directive comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled review of CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) on January 8.

The status check of grievances by the PM is part of the overall monthly review he undertakes under PRAGATI (Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation) platform. "You are accordingly requested to take all measures to get pending CPGRAMS grievances expeditiously disposed of and to ensure that there are no grievances pending for more than 90 days in your region or charge," a communication to I-T department's field heads said.

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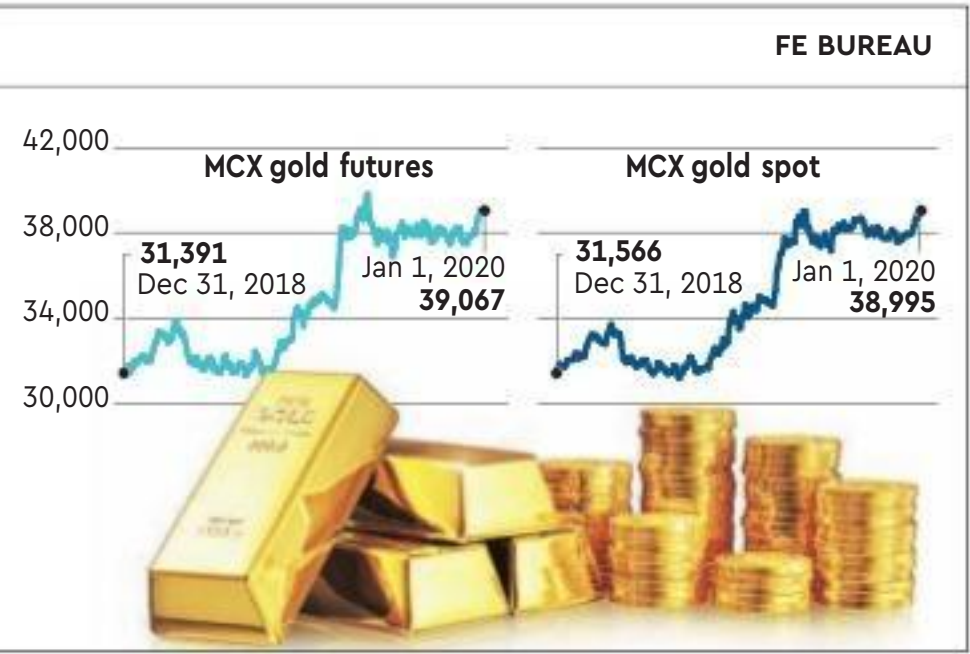
Top brass

India's first Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat (third from left) with Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane (left), Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh (second left) and Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria in New Delhi on Wednesday. All three service chiefs are batchmates from the National Defence Academy

Glitter intact

Gold sees bull run in 2019

After an almost steady rise in recent weeks, spot gold price dropped by ₹81/ten grams on MCX on Wednesday. Still, global spot prices in 2019 recorded their best year since 2010, having gained about 18%, driven by a trade war.



SPACE MISSION

Chandrayaan-3 launch in 2021; 4 from IAF chosen for Gaganyaan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Bengaluru, January 1

ISRO ON WEDNESDAY announced that the launch of the country's third lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3, may happen next year and said four from the Indian Air Force have been selected for the government's ambitious Gaganyaan programme, whose astronaut training would commence soon in Russia.

The announcement comes a

day after Union minister Jitendra Singh said India will launch Chandrayaan-3 in 2020.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Isro chairman K Sivan said work related to the third lunar mission was going on smoothly.

The third lunar mission will have a lander, rover and a propulsion module like its predecessor, he noted. He also said the launch of Chandrayaan-3 may shift to next year. Work on both Chan-



Isro chairman K Sivan (centre) during a press conference at Isro headquarters in Bengaluru on Wednesday

drayaan-3 and Gaganyaan, the country's maiden manned space mission, was going on simultaneously, he added.

Noting that Chandrayaan-2 orbiter's mission life was seven years, he said it would be used for the third lunar mission as well.

Giving an estimate of the project cost for Chandrayaan-3, Sivan said, "it would cost ₹250 crore".

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Quick View



Bank fraud: ₹ED attaches 51-cr assets
FISH TANKS, POULTRY farms and bank balances totalling over ₹51 crore of a Visakhapatnam-based man and his family have been attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged bank loan fraud case, the probe agency said on Wednesday. The assets belong to Kumar Pappu Singh, his family and firms linked to him.

IIMs seek quota exemption in teaching posts
ALL 20 INDIAN Institutes of Management (IIMs) have requested the HRD ministry to exempt them from reserving positions in the teaching staff for Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The premier business schools, which currently do not offer reservation in teaching positions, have been asked by the ministry to provide quota in faculty positions for SC, ST, OBC and EWS candidates.

RSDC, Atma to train 1 lakh tyre mechanics
THE MINISTRY OF skill development and entrepreneurship has assigned the rubber skill development council (RSDC) to speed up the project of re-skilling country's tyre mechanics. The ministry has set a target of reskilling and certifying 1 lakh tyre mechanics within the current fiscal itself. Automotive tyre manufacturers association (Atma) has collaborated with RSDC in this programme of up-skilling tyre mechanics.

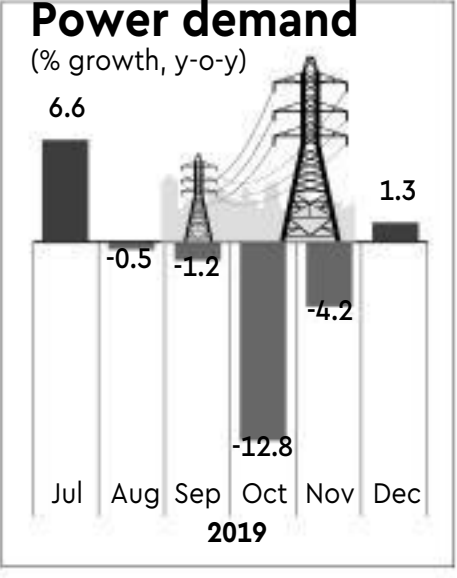
SILVER LINE

Power demand up 1.3% in Dec after 4 months of contraction

Till Dec 15, power consumption was lower than in the year-ago period

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, January 1

AFTER FOUR STRAIGHT months of contraction in electricity demand that revealed the enormity of the industrial slowdown, the consumption of power increased 1.3% year-on-year in December. This could give some comfort to the government while most high-frequency data are still not suggesting a bottoming out of the economic slowdown. According to official data released on Tuesday, the output of eight core infrastructure sectors contracted for the



fourth consecutive month in November by 1.5%, with electricity generation falling 5.7%. Till December 15, power consumption was lower than in the year ago period. The consumption has then picked up. While the rate of growth of power consumption had been falling since early this financial year, a phase of contraction began in August with electric-

ity consumption in August-November 2019 recording a 4.7% drop than in the year-ago period on pan-India basis. An unfavourable base also contributed to the trend of dipping electricity use as power consumed in the country in August-November 2018 was up 7.5% y-o-y, in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. While the usually rising power demand has fallen since August 2019, the decline has been sharper in the industrialised states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. In the festive month of October, power consumption in the country dropped 12.5% on year; the fall was a steeper 18.8% in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state Gujarat and an even more pronounced 21.2% in Maharashtra. Given that industrial and commercial consumers have a

much higher share in total power consumption in both these states (54% in Gujarat and 46% in Maharashtra) compared with Pan-India average of nearly 40%, it is clear muted activity in factories has been one of the principal reasons for the fall in demand for electricity. Though demand had contracted in August-November, it is not immediately known if this has led to higher duration of power cuts across India as the government's Urja portal, which publicises this data, has not been updated since July. It is difficult to identify the exact areas where power demand is falling because sector-wise consumption data is not available on monthly basis while central government agencies grapple with the poor quality data they receive from the states.

FDI rises 15% during April-September to \$26 bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT into India grew 15% to \$26 billion during the first half of the current financial year, according to government data. Inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) during April-September of 2018-19 stood at \$22.66 billion. Sectors, which attracted maximum foreign inflows during April-September 2019-20, include services (\$4.45 billion), computer software and hardware (\$4 billion), telecommunications (\$4.28 billion), automobile (\$2.13 billion) and trading (\$2.14 billion), the commerce and industry ministry data showed. Singapore continued to be the largest source of FDI in India during the first half of the financial year with \$8 billion investments. It was followed by Mauritius (\$6.36 billion), the US (\$2.15 billion), the Netherlands (\$2.32 billion), and Japan (\$1.78 billion). FDI is important as the

FDI in Guj doubled to ₹24,012 cr

THE GUJARAT GOVERNMENT on Wednesday claimed that foreign direct investment (FDI) in the state has almost doubled in the first six months of current fiscal to ₹24,012 crore compared to financial year 2018-19. "The milestone has been achieved in the first six months of the current fiscal as a result of transparency in the state administration, ease of doing business in Gujarat and industry-friendly policies. Due to these factors Gujarat has emerged as role-model for holistic industrial development for other states," the state government said in a statement. During 2018-19, Gujarat could attract ₹12,618 crore

FDI as per the data published by the central government's Department for Promotion of Industry and International Trade. According to the state government, in the past three years of the 2,574 large industries set up in the country, 734 came in Gujarat, and from the year 2000 till September 2019, the state attracted total ₹1.41 lakh crore FDI. Gujarat has emerged as a manufacturing hub and an automobile hub in the country, and the kind of FDI flow is coming into the state, some new sectors would be added in the this list, claims the government. — **FE BUREAU**

Niti Aayog for PPP model to link private medical colleges with district hospitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

TO ADDRESS SHORTAGE of qualified doctors and bridge gap in medical education, the Niti Aayog has come out with a public-private partnership model to link new or existing private medical colleges with functional district hospital to augment medical seats. In its draft Model Concession Agreement for Setting Up Medical Colleges Under the Public Private Partnership guideline document, the government think-tank said a concession agreement has been developed based on international best practices and similar PPP arrangements that are operative in Gujarat and Karnataka. "India has a dire shortage of qualified doctors. It is practically not possible for the Central/state government to bridge the gaps in the medical education with their limited resources and finances. "This necessitates formulating a public private partnership (PPP) model by combining the strengths of public and private sectors. Accordingly, a scheme to link new and/or existing private medical colleges with func-

tional district hospitals through PPP would augment medical seats and also rationalise the costs of medical education," the document said. It further said that under this envisioned model, a concessionaire shall design, build, finance, operate and maintain the medical college and also upgrade, operate and maintain the associated district hospital with a minimum annual student intake of 150 MBBS seats. "In consideration of making available the healthcare services, to the category of patients other than free patients, the concessionaire shall have the right to collect, appropriate and demand hospital charges...the concessionaire shall display the rates for the healthcare services, including the daily rate, for the bed occupancy in the district hospital at a place where it is visible to all," according to the guideline document. It further said the concessionaire shall be allowed to charge ₹10 as registration fees from the free patients. "The concessionaire shall provide all healthcare services to the free patient, free of cost," the guideline document said.

CBI arrests DRI brass in ₹3-crore bribery case

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

THE CBI ON Wednesday arrested a senior official of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and two middlemen in connection with a ₹3-crore bribery case, officials said. The official arrested is additional director general, DRI, Ludhiana, Chander Shekhar, they said. It was alleged that in June, 2019, the DRI had conducted a search at a private clearing agency which provides services to various exporters, a CBI spokesperson said here, adding some documents pertaining to an exporter were also seized. The complainant alleged that Anup Joshi, clearing house agent, and Rajesh Dhanda, a close friend of Chander Shekhar, demanded ₹3 crore on behalf of the public servant for ensuring that he is not implicated by the DRI over the documents recovered, officials said. The agency arrested Joshi and Dhanda while allegedly receiving ₹25 lakh as first

Bank fraud: ED attaches ₹18-cr assets of Guj firm

NINE WIND TURBINE generators and land, belonging to a Gujarat-based company, worth over ₹18 crore have been attached by the ED in connection with its probe in an alleged bank fraud case, the agency said on Wednesday. The Enforcement Directorate case pertains to a Surat-based company Nakoda, its chairman and managing director (CMD) Babulal Gumannal Jain, his son and joint MD Devender Babulal Jain and others. The company, the agency said in a statement, "had availed fund-based and non-fund based financial assistance from a consortium of 13 banks led by Canara Bank

and later on defaulted in repayment of loans to the tune of ₹2,107 crore." Probe found that the Jains "conspired" with a trader Puneet Kungta and Chartered Accountant Jagdish Somani to carry out "fake" sale and purchases of fancy fabrics with the companies floated by the latter two, it alleged. "On the strength of fake purchase invoices, Nakoda opened 1,212 Letters of credit (LCs) with banks amounting to ₹4,207 crore. Investigation also revealed that out of the 1,212 LCs, 202 worth ₹827.98 crore devolved due to non-payment by the company," the ED charged. — **PTI**

installment of the bribe demanded by them on behalf of the officer, they said. They said searches are being conducted in New Delhi, Noida and Ludhiana.

India will struggle to achieve 5% GDP growth in 2020: Steve Hanke

BIJAY KUMAR SINGH
New Delhi, January 1

INDIA WILL "STRUGGLE" to achieve 5% GDP growth in 2020 as the significant deceleration in past few quarters was largely owing to credit squeeze which is a cyclical problem, said noted American economist Steve Hanke. Hanke, who currently teaches applied economics at Johns Hopkins University (USA), pointed out that India experienced an unsustainable credit boom, and now the chickens are coming to roost with a massive pile of non-performing loans piled up, primarily at the state-owned banks. "The slowdown in India is related to a credit squeeze, which is a cyclical problem — not a structural problem... As a result, India will struggle to make a GDP growth rate of 5% in 2020," he told *PTI* in an interview. He also noted that India is already highly protectionist. India, which till recently was hailed as the world's fastest-growing major economy, has seen growth rate decline to a six-year low of 4.5% in the September quarter

of 2019-20. This has largely been attributed to the slowdown in investment that has now broadened into consumption, driven by financial stress among rural households and weak job creation. Hanke, who had served in former US President Ronald Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, further said that Modi government has failed to make any big economic reforms. Hanke opined that Modi government seems to have little interest in making tough and required economic reforms. "Instead, Modi government has focus on two things that are destabilising and potentially explosive: ethnicity and religion. "This is a deadly cocktail. Indeed, many believe that under Modi, India is already being transformed from the 'world's largest democracy' into the 'world's largest police state'," the economist, who is also a senior fellow and director of the Troubled Currencies Project at the Cato Institute in Washington said. E-mail queries sent to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) seeking comments did not elicit any response. — **PTI**

From the Front Page

Car despatches crawl; buyers ignore offers

THE KOREAN CARMAKER is moderating despatches of BS-IV models because it is yet to roll out BS-VI models. The story was somewhat similar at Honda Cars which reported a 35% y-o-y decline in volumes and at Tata Motors which reported a fall of 10% y-o-y. Naveen Soni, senior VP, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said his company had reduced despatches to dealers to ensure a smooth transition to BS-VI by April 2020. "We are doing this to make sure there is no BS-IV inventory in April because the cars can't be sold," Soni explained. Mahindra & Mahindra fared relatively well, posting a 4% y-o-y increase in December, on the back of demand for the compact SUV - XUV300. Analysts observed it was heartening inventories were back to normal levels. "While the worry seems to be over, we don't expect a secular recovery given the BS-VI transition," analysts at Motilal Oswal said. Indian cars must be fitted with BS-VI engines by April, 2020. Demand for cars has been tepid since July 2018 impacted by the sharp rise in prices and limited availability of finance; volumes have fallen in 16 of the last 18 months. In the nine months to December 2019, volumes plunged over 18% y-o-y. Demand for commercial vehicles remained tepid for the 12th successive month in December; despatches by Tata Motors dropped 13% y-o-y

reflecting the sluggishness in the economy. In Q2FY20, GDP grew at 4.5% y-o-y, an over six-year low. Demand has been muted since November 2018 when the new axle load norms were introduced. They created additional capacity to the tune of 15-20% allowing fleet operators to load more cargo on existing vehicles. Analysts at Nomura said weak demand and inventory de-stocking before BS-VI is likely to keep wholesales subdued.

GST mop-up rises 9% y-o-y in Dec

THE GOVERNMENT HAD said in the light of the April-November GST data that it could face a shortfall of ₹63,000 crore in the compensation kitty which is created out of assorted cess revenue. It has also set a gross GST collection target of Rs 1.1 lakh crore/month for the December-March period (four months), besides a target of Rs 1.25 lakh crore for one of these months. If this goal is to be achieved, the average monthly collections for January-March period would require to be Rs 1.17 lakh crore, which appears to be a tall order. While the improvement in collections since November is comforting, the fact that GST revenues from domestic transactions grew an impressive 16% in December signal a moderate pick-up in consumption. Sources said recent curbs on utilisation of input tax credit (ITC) have also boosted collections.

"With the trend of improving collections and the e-invoicing and new returns slated in the coming months, it is now expected that the GST collections would show a steady improvement, although it may still fall short of the annual targets," said MS Mani, partner at Deloitte India. The collections, however, continue to suffer from the negative growth of integrated GST on imports, which in December declined 10% from year-ago period. The government said that after regular settlement of IGST, total revenue earned by the Central government and the state governments stood at ₹41,776 crore and ₹42,158 crore, respectively, in December. The total number of GST returns (monthly summary) filed for the month of November was 81.21 lakh, compared with 78 lakh filed in the previous month, suggesting an improvement in compliance. The collections from cesses (for compensation to state) in December was ₹8,331 crore (if one goes by the Centre's Budget target, the compensation revenue/month should be ₹9,083 crore). Several states have complained of delays in the release of compensation amounts to them. Recently, the Centre released ₹35,227 crore to states as compensation for the August-September period. Officials said that the revenue leakages due to circular trading and fake invoices was being curbed more efficiently in recent months. Further, a restriction on availing input tax credit by applicants whose

suppliers don't upload invoices is also aiding collections.

NHAI sets target of ₹1L cr for TOT proceeds till 2025

ALSO, FLEXIBILITY has been granted to fix the lease tenure anywhere between 15 years and 30 years from the fixed 30 years earlier. In the first tranche, nine highway projects were offered and Australia-based Macquarie bagged them quoting ₹9,681.5 crore for the total length of 680.5 km against the floor price of ₹6,258 crore. NHAI's second TOT attempt, however, failed. Against its set floor price of ₹5,632 crore from eight highway projects with a total length of 586.55 km, the highest bidder (Cube Highways) quoted only ₹4,612 crore, forcing the authority to abandon the plan. In the third round, the Singapore-based Cube Highways won the bid, offering to pay ₹5,011 crore upfront to take on long-term lease nine stretches, 566.27 km, on offer against the floor price of ₹4,995.48 crore. In the fourth tranche, 401.5-km is on offer and the authority has kept the reserve price at ₹4,170 crore. Interested parties can submit bids by February 13. The NHAI needs additional funds as it is increasingly awarding projects through the engineering, procurement and

construction (EPC) route, where it is to bear all the expenses, as it failed to award projects through the traditional build-operate-transfer (BOT) and less-taxing hybrid annuity model (HAM) so far in the current fiscal. Analysts estimate NHAI's borrowings to go up to ₹3.31 lakh crore by FY23, if NHAI is to fund the construction of around 35,000-km highway projects, including the first phase of 24,800-km Bharatmala programme and the balance road works under the NHDP, in six years starting 2017-18. CBDT to taxman: Expeditiously resolve tax grievances before PM's review IT ADDED THAT grievances pending for 30 to 90 days must also be disposed of "proactively so as to reduce their pendency to the minimum possible level". The communication said that after quick "liquidation" of the pendency of these grievances, the status should also be "promptly" updated on the CPGRAMS portal. The CPGRAMS is an online system for receiving and disposing complaints and grievances of the public related to any central government department or ministry. The I-T department

receives a host of grievances related to refunds, PAN allotment, ITR filing and a variety of other issues of taxpayers and others. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) frames policy for the income tax department.

Debt repayment: Banks allowed to utilise Mallya's movable assets

SENIOR COUNSEL AMIT Desai, appearing for Mallya, said the court has ordered lifting of attachment of assets, which are UBHL shares. "However, we do not know if the court has ordered for the assets to be restored to SBI or the consortium. We are waiting for the order copy for further clarity," Desai said. Mallya, who is accused of money laundering by the Enforcement Directorate, fled India in March 2016 and is now based in London. The lenders in their application said they want to liquidate assets to claim over ₹6,000 crore. Chandrayaan-3 launch in 2021; 4 from IAF chosen for Gaganyaan ON THE LAUNCH pad to come

up in Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu Sivan said, "apart from the space port at Sathish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, the land acquisition for a second one has been initiated in Tuticorin district". As regards the choice of location, he said, "It was mainly to get advantages of southward launch especially for SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle)." Observing that the pad, once set up would be used for launching SSLVs initially, he said it may be expanded for big ones in future. On future missions, he said, "25 missions have been planned for 2020." "The missions that were planned in 2019 and could not be completed would be finished by March this year," he said. When asked what went wrong with Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-2, he said it was due to velocity reduction failure. "The velocity reduction failure was due to internal reasons," he said. The Chandrayaan-2 mission was India's first attempt to land on lunar surface. Isro had planned the landing on the South Pole of the lunar surface. However, the lander Vikram hard-landed. Sivan also congratulated the Chennai-based techie who recently located the Vikram lander that hard-landed and maintained that it was the space agency's policy not to release picture of the crashed module. Elaborating on the country's maiden manned space mission, Gaganyaan, the Isro chief said, four astronauts have been identified for the mission and their training will start

from third week of this month in Russia. He also mentioned that all the four astronauts chosen for the programme were men from the Indian Air Force. "We had a good progress in 2019 as regards Gaganyaan. And many of the designs were completed and astronauts' selection process is over. Now, four astronauts identified for training purpose.. that process is also completed," Sivan said. India has signed agreements with Russia and France for cooperation on the Gaganyaan mission. The ambitious Gaganyaan mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech in 2018. The space agency has sought an allocation of ₹14,000 crore from the Centre in the Budget for 2020-21. Govt collects ₹31,000 crore by settling tax disputes THE SCHEME ALSO provides relief from payment of interest and penalty. For voluntary disclosures, the relief is of waiver of interest and penalty on payment of full tax dues disclosed. The person discharged under the scheme shall also not be liable for prosecution. "The extension of time for the Sabka Vishwas legacy dispute resolution scheme would also help in increasing the indirect tax collections," said MS Mani, partner at Deloitte India.

Infra projects' cost overrun crosses ₹4-lakh crore mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

AS MANY AS 388 infrastructure projects, each worth ₹150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns of more than ₹4 lakh crore owing to delays and other reasons, according to a report.

The ministry of statistics and programme implementation monitors infrastructure projects worth ₹150 crore and above.

Of such 1,636 projects, 388 projects reported cost overruns and 563 projects time escalation. "Total original cost of implementation of the 1,636 projects was ₹19,52,524.85 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be ₹23,53,108.80 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of 4,00,583.95 crore (20.52% of original cost)," the ministry's latest report for Octo-

ber 2019 said.

According to the report, the expenditure incurred on these projects till October 2019 is ₹10.32 lakh crore, which is 43.86% of the anticipated cost of the projects.

However, it said the number of delayed projects decreases to 490 if delay is calculated on the basis of the latest schedule of completion.

Further, it said that for 720 projects, neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative gestation period has been reported.

Out of the 563 delayed projects, 185 projects have overall delay in the range of 1 to 12 months, 123 projects in the range of 13 to 24 months, 136 projects reflect delay in the range of 25 to 60 months and 119 projects show delay of 61 months and above.

The average time overrun in



The ministry of statistics and programme implementation monitors infrastructure projects worth ₹150 crore and above. Of such 1,636 projects, 388 projects reported cost overruns

these 563 delayed projects is 38.74 months.

The brief reasons for time overruns, as reported by various project implementing agencies, are delays in land acquisition, forest clearance and supply of equipment.

Besides, there are other reasons like fund constraints, geological surprises, geo-mining conditions, slow progress in civil works, shortage of labour, inadequate mobilisation by the contractor, Maoist problems, court cases, contractual issues, ROU/ROW (right of use/right of way) problems, law and order situation, among others, the report said.

It also observed that project agencies are not reporting revised cost estimates and commissioning schedules for many projects, indicating that time or cost overrun figures are under-reported.

India-Mauritius FTA nears finalisation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

THE PROPOSED FREE trade agreement between India and Mauritius is nearing finalisation as both the sides have concluded the negotiations for the pact, the commerce ministry said on Wednesday.

The proposed India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) seeks to mutually benefit both the countries in the area of trade in goods and services, it said in a statement.

Negotiations were held across several sectors including goods, services, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, trade remedies and dispute settlement.

"India-Mauritius CECPA negotiations for trade in goods and trade in services, have been completed. The agreement is near finalisation," it said.

In a free trade agreement (FTA), two trading partners cut or eliminate duties on

majority of goods besides liberalising norms to promote services trade and boost investments.

Mauritius was the second top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2018-19. India received \$8 billion (about ₹56,000 crore) foreign inflows from the country.

The bilateral trade between the countries increased marginally to \$1.2 billion in 2018-19 from \$1.1 billion in 2017-18.

India exports petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, cereals, cotton and electrical machinery, apparel and clothing accessories to Mauritius.

The island nation's exports to New Delhi include iron and steel, pearls, precious/semi-precious stones and optical, photographic and precision instruments.

It also said that in order to promote India-Africa trade and economic relations, the ministry regularly reviews trade ties through institutional mechanisms like joint commission meetings, joint trade committees and joint working groups.

Government deallocates coal block in Jharkhand allotted for power project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

THE GOVERNMENT HAS cancelled the allotment of a coal block for the power project in Jharkhand, as even after a decade of allotment no significant progress was made to operationalise it.

The coal block was allotted in 2009, to Karanpura Energy — an SPV of erstwhile Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB).

"It is noted that even after lapse of 10 years since allocation of the coal block (Mourya coal block), no significant progress has been made to op-



erationalise the coal block," the coal ministry said in a letter to the company.

Due to long delays in development of the coal block, show-cause notices were served by the coal ministry to the com-

pany in December 2013, and September and October, 2019. The company in its reply to the ministry in November, 2019 cited non-availability of land, water and resistance from the local inhabitants as imped-

iments in development of the coal block.

The coal ministry, however, said that the reply "was not found satisfactory".

As per the allocation letter, the ministry said, the mining lease of the block may be cancelled on the grounds, including unsatisfactory progress in the development of coal mining project and breach of any of the conditions of allocation.

In 2009, the ministry had conveyed 'in principle' approval to the working of Mourya coal block, in Jharkhand, for a power project to be set up by Karanpura Energy.

'1+1+1 combine' of three services should add up to '5 or 7, not 3': Gen Rawat



Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat inspects the Guard of Honour at the South Block lawns in New Delhi on Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

STRESSING ON INTEGRATION between the Army, Navy and Air Force, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat on Wednesday said it is important to ensure that the "1+1+1 combine" of the three services adds up to "5 or 7 and not 3" through synergised action.

General Rawat, who took charge as CDS, said the synergised effort of the services should not be the sum of the whole, but much more than that.

The focus will be to ensure best and optimal use of resources allocated to the three services, said General Rawat after receiving a Guard of Honour by the three services.

The three service chiefs — Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane, Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria and Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh — were also present as General Rawat took charge as the CDS. "The task cut out for the Chief of Defence Staff is to inte-

grate the three services and enhance their capability. We will continue working towards that," he said.

"The CDS will not try to run a force by his directions. Integration is needed. We have to ensure that 1+1+1 combine of the three services adds up to 5 or 7 and not 3. You have to achieve more through synergy and integration, that is the aim of the CDS," General Rawat said.

Apart from giving attention to integration and joint training, he said efforts will be made to ensure uniformity and integration of systems for procurement so that the Army, the Navy and the Air Force can work in coordination with each other.

Asked about his "1+1+1 combine" remarks, he said, "What I am saying is the synergised effort should not be the sum of the whole, it should be much more than the sum of the whole that is what it is... like what you say 1+1 should not be 2 but 11, so I am saying 1+1+1 should not be 3 when you work in synergy, you can make it more than the sum of the whole."

Australia scrambles military as bushfire death toll climbs

BLOOMBERG
Sydney, January 1

AUSTRALIA SCRAMBLED MILITARY helicopters and ships on Wednesday to help thousands of people cut off by wildfires raging across the southeast as the death toll from the national crisis continued to climb.

Some 4,000 holiday-makers and locals remain stranded in the remote township of Mallacoota in Victoria state after a bushfire tore through the community on Tuesday, forcing people to shelter on the beach or escape by boats.

The terrifying scenes were repeated in dozens of small towns in rural, forested parts of the state and across the border in New South Wales, as the infernos turned the sky a blood red and rained down embers and ash on locals and tourists during the peak summer holiday season.

"The fire was ferocious, it was angry," Lorena Granados, who battled in vain to save her home in the small town of Mogo, told the ABC. "The fire was just throwing the water back on us. It was like a demon attacking us."

Seven people, including a volunteer firefighter, have been killed this week in New South Wales, police said, taking the confirmed national death toll since the blazes broke out several weeks ago to at least 16.

A man was found dead Wednesday in Victoria's East Gippsland region, though police could not confirm whether it was fire-related. With several people unaccounted for, more than 150 fires still burning in the two states and extreme

temperatures and strong winds forecast for Saturday, authorities fear the death toll will rise.

The crisis has triggered an emotive debate about the impact of global warming in Australia, the world's driest-inhabited continent. It has also fuelled criticism of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative government, which strongly advocates for the nation's massive coal-export industry and rejects criticism it is not doing enough to curb emissions.

There appears no end in sight to the bushfire emergency, which is impacting all of Australia's six states amid a prolonged drought gripping much of the country. "We have got three months of hot weather to come. We have a dynamic and a dangerous fire situation across the state," Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner Andrew Crisp told reporters.

Trump deploys more troops to Middle-East

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Washington, January 1

CHARGING THAT IRAN was "fully responsible" for an attack on the US Embassy in Iraq, US President Donald Trump ordered about 750 US soldiers deployed to the Middle-East as about 3,000 more prepared for possible deployment in the next several days.

No US casualties or evacuations were reported after the attack Tues-

day by dozens of Iran-supported militiamen. US Marines were sent from Kuwait to reinforce the compound. Defense secretary Mark Esper said Tuesday night that "in response to recent events" in Iraq, and at Trump's direction, he authorised the immediate deployment of the infantry battalion from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He did not specify the soldiers' destination, but a US official familiar with the deci-

sion said they will go to Kuwait. "This deployment is an appropriate and precautionary action taken in response to increased threat levels against US personnel and facilities, such as we witnessed in Baghdad today," Esper said in a written statement.

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM CORRIGENDUM NOTICE						
Sr. No.	LETTER / MEMO. No. & DATE	NAME OF DEPT./BOARD /CORP/ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT/ TENDER NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPT./ BOARD CORP/ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1.	Ch- 23/ XEN DO- III B- 623 dt. 30.12.2019	UHBVN	280/ P&D/ 2019 (Bid No. B- 623)	Corrigendum- II Date of closing of E-tender: 27.01.2020 (11:00 Hrs.) Date of opening of Part- I: 27.01.2020 (15:00 Hrs.)	www.uhbvn.org.in	CE/ PD&C, UHBVN, Patanchikula, Tel. No. 3019145, 3019146 Email: xendc@uhbvn.org, xendc3@uhbvn.org.in

South Western Railway
E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2019-20/24 Dated: 30.12.2019
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of Work	Approx Value
Provision of lift-2 Nos (at each station) at Kadur and Birur Stations at Platform-1 & Platform-2&3.	Rs. 1.22,10,000/-

Last date of submission of bids : 21.01.2020 up to 11:00 Hrs.
For details log on www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical)
South Western Railway, Mysuru
PUB/372/IAASP/PBS/SWR/2019-20

South Western Railway
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 62/MYS/2019 Date: 30-12-2019
The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of Work	Approx Value
Assistant Divisional Engineer Davangere Sub Division : Sub Work-I :- Provision of escalator at Davangere station (Platform – 1) and (Platform – 2) (Only for escalator foundation portion). Sub Work-II :- Davangere: Provision of New Foot Over Bridge.	Rs. 1,23,71,800/-

Last date of submission of bids : 16.01.2020 up to 11:00 Hrs.
For details log on www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager (Works)
South Western Railway, Mysuru
PUB/371/IAASP/PBS/SWR/2019-20

GTPL
Reg. Off.: C-202, 2nd Floor, Sahajanand Shopping Centre, Digital City, T-11, Indraprastha, Opp. Swaminarayan Temple, Shahibabad, Ahmedabad 380004, Gujarat • CIN- L64204GJ2006PLC048908 • Phone : 079-25626470 Fax : 079-61400007 • E-mail : info@gtpl.net • Website : www.gtpl.net
NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulations 29 & 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 inter alia to consider and approve the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended on December 31, 2019. The said Notice is also available at Company's website - www.gtpl.net and on the websites of stock exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.
For GTPL Hathway Limited
Hardik Sanghvi
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
FCS: 7247
Place : Ahmedabad Date : 01/01/2020

ROYAL ORCHID HOTELS LIMITED
CIN: L55101KA1986PLC007392
Registered Office: No.1, Golf Avenue, Adjoining KGA Golf Course, Bangalore - 560 008 Ph: 080-41783000, email id: cosec@royalorchidhotels.com, website: www.royalorchidhotels.com
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations), that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company shall be held on **Wednesday, February 12, 2020**, inter alia, to consider and approve the Standalone & Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the Third Quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2019. The said Notice may be accessed on the Company's website at <http://www.royalorchidhotels.com> and may also be accessed on the Stock Exchange websites at <http://www.bseindia.com> and <http://www.nseindia.com>.
for Royal Orchid Hotels Limited
sd/-
Ranabir Sanyal
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Place: Bengaluru Date: 01/01/2020

SYNDICATE BANK
Badangpet Branch, Bheesma Nagar, Badangpet, Balapur Mandal, Rangareddy Dist-500058. Ph. No's: 08415244378 / 8333854295.
SALE OF VEHICLES BY PUBLIC AUCTION
Sealed tenders are invited for the sale of following vehicle on "as is where is basis"
1) Name and address of the borrower: Sri Naveen Gopi, Sri N.Pandur, Residing at H.No 17-1-391, Green Park Colony, Kamranganth-500079, Loan Account No.3305991000823; Loan Sanctioned Amount: Rs.7,00,000/-; Present O/s Balance: Rs.5,89,966/-; Vehicle Make and Model: 2016 & Maruti Swift Dzire VDI (O) BSIV Diesel; Registration No.TS08UB96923; Reserve Price & EMD of the Vehicle: Rs.4,45,000/-, EMD: Rs.44,500/-
2) Name and address of the borrower: Sri Erranki Sreeshanth, Sri E.Swaralan, Residing at H.No.3-38, Marudipally Village, Balapur Mandal, Rangareddy District-500058; Loan Account No.33059910001787; Loan Sanctioned Amount: Rs.7,00,000/-; Present O/s Balance: Rs.5,83,987/-; Vehicle Make and Model: 2017 & Maruti Swift Dzire VDI BSIV Diesel; Registration No.TS07UE3156; Reserve Price & EMD of the Vehicle: Rs.5,22,000/-, EMD: Rs.52,200/-
Both Accounts: Date and Time of Sale: 09-01-2020, Time: 10:00 AM onwards
Place of sale: Shriram Auto Mall Pvt India Ltd., S.No. 224/225, Beside HP Petrol Pump, Near Outer Ring Road Crossing, Pedda Amberpet, Rangareddy Dist-501505, Telangana.
TERMS & CONDITIONS: The intending bidders should send their bids in closed cover along with an EMD (being 10% of Reserve Price) (refundable without any interest to unsuccessful bidders) by way of DD drawn in favour of Syndicate Bank, Badangpet Branch payable at Badangpet. The EMD shall be liable for forfeiture without any prior notice if successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commit any default in any manner. Such bid shall be submitted/ sent so as to reach the undersigned on or before 09-01-2020 at 12:00 Noon.
Place: Hyderabad, Date: 01-01-2020 Sd/- Branch Manager, Syndicate Bank

Syndicate Bank
AFS BECUMPET BRANCH, SECUNDERABAD. CELL: 9440905036
SALE OF VEHICLES BY PUBLIC AUCTION
Sealed tenders are invited for the sale of following vehicle on "as is where is basis"

Sr. No.	A/c Number	Borrower Name	Product	Registration Number	Reserve Price
1	3048.791.379	B.Narasimha Raju	TATA Indica EV2 2016	TS07UA 7149	Rs.91,852/-
2	3048.991.284	Nagaiah Mandal	Swift Dzire - 2016	TS07UA 1018	Rs.97,155/-
3	3048.791.231	S.Nallagunta	TATA Indica EV2 2016	TS1TUA 6953	Rs.41,438/-
4	3048.791.401	Mangali Vittal	TATA Indica EV2 2016	TS07UB 7716	Rs.38,893/-
5	3048.991.265	Jyothi Pinniti	TATA Indica EV2 2016	TS08UD 0997	Rs.51,585/-

Date of Auction for S.No.1 to 5: Date: 04-01-2020 (Saturday) at 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
Venue: Shriram Auto Mall India Limited (SAMIL), Beside Patancheru R.T.A. Office, Indresham Road, Patancheru, Medak, Hyderabad-502319, Telangana State. Contact Person: Sri. Arun - 9703838666
Date of Auction for S.No.2 to 5: Date: 04-01-2020 (Saturday) at 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
Venue: S.R. Enterprises, 3-12-29/79-80, Srinivasa Nagar Colony, Mansoorabad, L.B.Nagar, Medchal Dist-500068. Contact Person: Sri. Satish Reddy - 9010418888
TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) The intending bidders should send their bids in closed cover along with an EMD (being 10% for above mentioned Accounts) (refundable without any interest to unsuccessful bidders) by way of DD drawn in favour of Syndicate Bank, AFS Begumpet Branch, Payable at Hyderabad. The EMD shall be liable for forfeiture without any prior notice if successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commit any default in any manner. Such bid shall be submitted/ sent so as to reach the undersigned on or before Auction date. 2) After opening the tenders, the intending bidders may be given an opportunity, at the discretion of the Branch Manager, to have inter-se bidding among them to enhance the offer price. 3) The tenders will be opened on 04-01-2020 at 3:00 pm in the Auction Site, in the presence of the attending public. 4) The purchaser of the vehicle has to bear the cost/ charges relating to transfer of vehicle in his name, taxes payable to the Transport Department, Vehicle Insurance and the like charges. 5) The Branch Manager may cancel/postpone the sale and /or add/ delete/ change any of the terms at any time, without any further notice to the owner, bidder, public etc. 6) For more particulars, Branch Manager, Syndicate Bank, AFS Begumpet Branch may be contacted during office hours on or before 04-01-2020. 7) The successful bidder should deposit the balance of the bid amount (exclusive of EMD) within 10 days from the date of confirmation of the sale. In case of default, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited.
Place: Hyderabad, Date: 01-01-2020 Sd/- Branch Manager, Syndicate Bank

Silly Monks Entertainment Limited
CIN: L92120TG2013PLC090132
Registered Office: 301, Ektha Pearl, 2-17-89, B.P Raju Marg, Kothaguda, Kondapur, Hyderabad - 500084, Telangana, India. Tele No.: 040 - 2300 4518 Email: investor@sillymonks.com, Website: www.sillymonks.com
NOTICE
Members are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 108 & 110 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, the Company has completed the dispatch of the Postal Ballot Notice along with the Postal Ballot Form on Wednesday 01st January, 2020 (a) through electronic means to the members whose email addresses are in the records of depository participants and (b) through physical mode, along with a postage prepaid stamped with self-addressed Envelope to the other members (whose email addresses are not registered), for seeking approval of members by way of postal ballot for the following business items:
• To Increase the Authorised Share Capital and consequent alteration to the Capital Clause of the Memorandum of Association.
• To approve Issue of Bonus Shares.
• Migration of Company's Equity Shares from SME Platform of NSE - Emerge to Main Board - National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.
The Company has extended e-voting facility as an alternate, for its Members to enable them to cast their votes electronically through CDSE e-Voting platform instead of dispatching Postal Ballot Form. Voting through electronic means has commenced from Thursday, January 02, 2020 (09:00 Hours IST) and will end on Friday, January 31, 2020 (17:00 Hours IST). The Board of Directors has appointed Mr. Jineshwar Kumar Sankhala, Practicing Company Secretary, as the Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot/ e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner. Members are requested to note that the duly completed and signed postal ballot forms should reach the Scrutinizer not later than 17:00 hrs IST on Friday, January 31, 2020. Please note that, the members as on the cut-off date, i.e., 27th December, 2019, may cast their vote. Any postal ballot form received after 17:00 Hours IST on Friday, January 31, 2020 will not be valid and voting by post or by electronic means shall not be allowed beyond the said date. Any member who does not receive the Postal Ballot Form may either send an e-mail to investor@sillymonks.com or may apply to the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company and obtain a duplicate postal ballot Form. The Postal Ballot Notice and the Postal Ballot Form can also be downloaded from our website www.sillymonks.com. The result of the voting by Postal Ballot will be announced on Saturday, February 01, 2020 at the Registered Office of the Company and will be displayed on the website of the Company at www.sillymonks.com, besides being communicated to Stock Exchange, the Depositories and the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company.
For any queries/grievances relating to voting by postal ballot or by electronic means, members are requested to contact Mr. R Amarendranath, Bighshare Services Private Limited, phone no. 040-23370295 Unit: Silly Monks Entertainment Limited, Ph: 2300 4518, email id: investor@sillymonks.com.
For and on behalf of the Board
M/s. Silly Monks Entertainment Limited
SD/-
Tekulapalli Sanjay Reddy
Chairman and Managing Director
Place: Hyderabad Date: January 01, 2020 DIN: 00297272

Companies

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

Quick View



IndiGo fleet size crosses 250 planes

INDIGO NOW has more than 250 planes in its fleet after inducting at least four neo aircraft on December 31, according to an official. IndiGo, which has a domestic market share of more than 47%, is also the first Indian carrier to have over 250 planes. Recently, the budget carrier also became the first airline to operate 1,500 flights per day. The official said the airline inducted four planes – three A321 neos and one A320 neo – on December 31. According to an aircraft deliveries tracking website, IndiGo has taken deliveries of 257 planes, including 222 Airbus 320 or A320 Neos, 10 A321 Neos and 25 regional jet ATRs.

VE Commercial Vehicles sales down 19%

VE Commercial Vehicles (VECV) on Wednesday reported 19.1% decline in sales at 5,042 units in December compared to 6,236 units in the same month in 2018. The company, which is a Volvo Group and Eicher Motors joint venture, said Eicher branded trucks and buses recorded a total sales 4,910 units last month compared to 6,113 units in December 2018, a decline of 19.7%. In the domestic commercial vehicle market, Eicher branded trucks and buses clocked 4,410 units last month compared to 5,112 units in December 2018, down 13.7%, the company said.

SAIL records 47% jump in December sales

STEEL AUTHORITY OF India (SAIL) on Wednesday said it has recorded a 47% rise in sales during December. "The company has achieved the highest-ever sales in a month during December 2019. With sales of 1.68 million tonne in December 2019, the company clocked a growth of 47% over corresponding period last year," SAIL said in a statement. Incidentally, SAIL posted a jump of 36% y-o-y in sales during November and the company is consistently maintaining the growth momentum in sales, it said. SAIL chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary said that despite the challenging steel market conditions, SAIL has exhibited resilient performance consistently and will continue to do so in future also.

Coal India production rises 7% in December

COAL INDIA (CIL), which registered negative growth in production of the dry fuel for past few months, has posted over 7% growth in December with 58 million tonne output, sources said on Wednesday. The coal behemoth had produced 54.13 million tonne in the corresponding month of 2018. In the last month, the production was about 8 million tonne higher from 50.2 million tonne produced in November, the company sources said. According to provisional data, the miner has produced 388.39 million tonne of coal during the April-December period of the current fiscal, down by 5.83% from 412.45 million tonne in the first nine months of the last financial year, CIL sources said.

Mindspace files draft papers for REIT IPO

MINDSPACE BUSINESS Parks REIT, backed by K Raheja Corp, has filed draft papers with markets regulator Sebi for an initial public offer. Certain entities of Blackstone Group are also the selling unitholders in the IPO. The IPO consists of a fresh issue aggregating up to ₹1,000 crore and an offer for sale by the selling unitholders, as per the document.

AK Shukla takes charge as Hindustan Copper CMD

ARUN KUMAR Shukla on Wednesday took charge as the chairman and MD of Hindustan Copper, an official release issued by the company said. He had joined the company in 2018 as director (operations). A mining engineering graduate of 1985 batch from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, Shukla has vast experience in the mining industry.

● PANNA-MUKTA FIELD

ONGC gets cracking as cost-saving moves help

Company has changed the contract for bringing oil produced from the fields lying in the Arabian Sea to land, resulting in saving of about \$5,000 per day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

OIL AND NATURAL Gas Corp (ONGC) has begun an exercise to shed excess cost at the Mumbai offshore oil and gas fields of Panna-Mukta whose control it regained after two-and-a-half decades and has already saved ₹1 crore in the shipping cost.

ONGC has changed the contract for bringing oil produced from the fields lying in the Arabian Sea to land, resulting in saving of about \$5,000 per day, sources with direct knowledge of the development said. It is expecting an upside in production too after a re-appraisal.

Sources said the previous operators, Shell India and Reliance, had engaged a floating storage and transportation vessel from Mercator for shipping oil.

Soon after taking over the field last month, ONGC changed the shipper to state-owned Shipping Corporation, resulting in saving of about \$5,000 per day, they said, adding that the saving totals to ₹1 crore-plus.

Sources said the company will lay a small undersea pipeline soon to completely do away with the requirement of hiring ships for transporting oil to land. ONGC had originally discovered the Panna-Mukta and Tapti (PMT) oil and gas fields in the Arabian Sea off the Mumbai



coast in the early 1990s. These were, however, taken away from the company and in 1994 awarded to a consortium of US energy giant Enron and Reliance Industries. ONGC, as a government nominee, was given 40% back-in rights.

Enron during its bankruptcy was taken over by BG Group of UK in 2003. BG Group's interest was subsequently taken over by Shell in 2016.

The 25-year production sharing contracts for the PMT fields expire this week and Reliance and Shell had decided not to seek an extension for Panna-Mukta fields, resulting in them being reverted to ONGC on December 21, 2019.

Reliance and Shell-owned BG Exploration and Production India (BGEPII) held 30% stake each in PMT. The Tapti fields had ceased production earlier in 2016 and the Tapti process platform facilities were handed over to ONGC (Government of India nominee) in 2016.

Sources said ONGC sees an upside in oil

and gas production from the Panna-Mukta field which it will firm up after doing a reappraisal of the reserves. The fields produce about 10,000 barrels of oil per day and 4 million standard cubic meters per day of natural gas.

The production sharing contracts (PSC) for the Panna-Mukta and Tapti fields, which were executed by the PMT JV with the Government of India in 1994, expired on December 21, 2019. Decommissioning and site restoration of residual Tapti facilities, including five unmanned platforms and in-field pipelines, are being carried out by the PMT JV under India's first offshore decommissioning and site restoration project.

The Panna-Mukta fields, off the Mumbai coast, have produced 211 million barrels of oil and 1.25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas since December 1994. In 2019, the average monthly production from the fields was around 10,000 barrels per day of crude oil and 140 million standard cubic feet of natural gas per day.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

LEADING ELECTRIC TWO-WHEELER maker Hero Electric has put on hold investment of up to ₹700 crore by a year with the sector taking a nosedive as FAME-II – scheme aimed to promote electric vehicles – has failed to deliver, according to a top company official.

Calling for a complete revamp of the policy, the company wants the government to include low-speed two-wheelers for subsidy, arguing that for mass adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in India these cost effective vehicles are critical.

"From an industry standpoint, there was a certain trajectory which was going on when we had FAME-I. With the coming in of FAME-II, whatever be the logic and reason, the manner in which FAME-II was introduced, the whole industry took a downturn and now the industry is recovering from that," Hero Electric managing director Naveen Munjal said.

As per the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicle (SMEV), sales of FAME-II qualified electric two-wheelers in the April-December 2019 period stood at just 3,000 units against 48,671 units in the year-ago period when FAME-I was in place, a decline of 93.84%.

Under FAME-I, low-speed two-wheelers with top speed of up to 25km/hr had qualified for incentives of up to ₹17,000 and ₹22,000 for high-speed ones. How-

● 'POLICY FAILURE'

Naveen Munjal, MD, Hero Electric

FAME-II has not delivered for sure... The policy has to be completely changed. If the industry has to pick up then it has to be from ground-up. What we have been saying is that it has to be the low-speed vehicles, which have to be targeted for masses.

Boeing 737 MAX: FAA says no timeframe set for completion of work

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

AS MANY AIRLINES worldwide await the final word on Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, the US aviation watchdog FAA has said a "thorough process" is being followed for testing the plane but no timeframe has been set for completion of the work.

In the wake of two fatal accidents involving MAX planes, regulators across the globe, in 2019, imposed a ban on flying these fuel-efficient aircraft.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) also ordered grounding of these planes in India.

Since then, Boeing has been working on addressing the problems with MAX aircraft. In India, SpiceJet is the only domestic carrier having MAX aircraft in its fleet. The budget airline grounded 13 737 MAX planes in March last year.

A spokesperson for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said the regulator is following a thorough process for returning the Boeing 737 MAX to passenger service.

"We continue to work with other international aviation safety regulators to review the proposed changes to the aircraft. Our first priority is safety, and we have set no timeframe for when the work will be completed," the spokesperson said.

For several weeks, testing of various types are being done on the proposed modifications to the aircraft flight control system. The process would continue in the coming weeks until certification is complete.

A senior airline official said test flight of MAX plane is likely to be done by the FAA and the EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency) together in January, possibly in the third week. Once the test flights are successfully completed, then it might take at least one month for certification



process, the official added. The airline is a MAX aircraft customer.

Queries sent to Boeing, EASA and SpiceJet regarding MAX planes did not elicit any immediate response.

In December, Boeing announced suspension of 737 MAX production starting in January due to certification moving into 2020. Jet Airways, which was shuttered in April 2019, was also operating these planes.

In December, aviation consultancy CAPA India said the continued grounding of the 737 MAX has had a significant impact on SpiceJet. This is because of the inability to benefit from the improved fuel efficiency of the aircraft or to access the sale-and-leaseback revenue generated from their induction, it had said in a report.

In March 2019, a Nairobi-bound Ethiopian Airlines' 737 MAX aircraft crashed after taking off from Addis Ababa and killed 157 people.

The fatal incident came less than five months after a 737 MAX plane, operated by Lion Air, crashed, killing over 180 people in Indonesia in October 2018.

FAME-II failed to deliver, ₹700-crore investment on hold by a year: Munjal

From an industry standpoint, there was a certain trajectory which was going on when we had FAME-I. With the coming in of FAME-II, whatever be the logic and reason, the manner in which FAME-II was introduced, the whole industry took a downturn.

— NAVEEN MUNJAL, HERO ELECTRIC

ever, under FAME-II, which came into effect from April 1, 2019, electric two-wheeler are mandated to have a minimum range of 80 km per charge and minimum top speed of 40 km/h to qualify for an incentive of ₹20,000.

Crisil had predicted that more than 95% of the electric two-wheeler models produced earlier would not be eligible for incentive under FAME-II.

When asked about the impact on the company's future investments, Munjal said: "we had to push back the plans. Fund raise has been pushed back to next year, so are the investments."

Earlier in August 2019, the company had said it was looking to invest around ₹700 crore in the next three years to ramp up production capacity of its electric scooters to 500,000 units annually from about 100,000 units. It was looking to raise fund for the same by roping external investors.

Munjal said the company lost four months in the beginning of the year on completely homologating products for FAME II. "It has taken a lot of time. Technically, one year is almost wiped out from our balance sheet," Munjal said, adding it made no sense to go ahead with investments as the company had to first get the products out of the door.

He, however, said the company is now getting back on track and has started working on capacity increase, "which we should have done six months back".

Calling for a total re-look at FAME-II, Munjal said: "FAME-II has not delivered for sure... The policy has to be completely changed. If the industry has to pick up then it has to be from ground-up. What we have been saying is that it has to be the low-speed vehicles, which have to be targeted for masses."

Arguing that 95% of electric two-wheelers is low-speed in India, he said: "If you have to really make this (EV) industry work, you have to focus at the base of the pyramid and the base is the low-speed. Everything else can ride on top of it, we are not saying you dissuade others."

Apollo, Varde pull out of race for Altico Capital

BIJOU GEORGE & RAHUL SATIJA
Mumbai, January 1

APOLLO GLOBAL MANAGEMENT and Varde Partners are no longer considering bidding for Altico Capital India, according to people familiar with the matter, narrowing the number of suitors for the troubled shadow lender.

The firms pulled out because they were unwilling to meet creditor demands to inject as much as ₹20 billion (\$280 million) of fresh equity into Altico, two people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private.

A spokesman for Apollo confirmed its withdrawal while Varde declined to comment.

That leaves Cerberus Capital Management, SSG Capital Management, and Kotak Investment Advisors in the race for the real-estate focused lender, three people said. Representatives for Cerberus, SSG and Kotak declined to comment.

Altico's troubles follow a spate of defaults among Indian shadow banks over the last 16 months, making it harder for



the sector to raise funds. The cash crunch is also spilling over into the broader economy, given that these lenders fund everything from the construction of condominiums to purchases of personal goods like cars and phones.

Apollo was only willing to inject part of the money creditors sought, while Varde wanted to wait for a turnaround in Altico before investing, two people said.

—BLOOMBERG

BSNL in talks with CBSE for sale of land parcels; eyes ₹300 cr from asset monetisation in FY20

Private companies to generate 7 lakh jobs in 2020: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

STATE-OWNED BHARAT Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has initiated discussions with the Central Board of Secondary Education and others for sale of specific land parcels, as it sets the ball rolling on asset monetisation plans that could yield ₹300 crore this fiscal, according to a senior government official.

Moreover, the Telecom Department has sounded out ministry of finance about BSNL's plans to issue sovereign guarantee bonds, and these could be floated as early as February, once the requisite approvals come in.

A senior official of Department of Telecom (DoT) said that Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) plans rolled out by both BSNL and MTNL have been highly successful and will help reduce BSNL's wage bill by 50% and MTNL's by 75%.

"They will be given sovereign guarantee for raising



bonds of over ₹15,000 crore. We have already written to finance ministry and as soon as they give us their clearance... because they have some issue of guarantee space... we will do it. So we hope to do it in January or February if the approvals come in by then," the DoT

official said.

The proceeds will be used towards retirement of debt and partly for capex.

On asset monetisation plans, the official said certain assets had already been identified and one meeting with Department of Investment and Public Asset Manage-

ment (DIPAM) has already taken place.

"Already one meeting has taken place on which assets can be taken up for sale immediately and all efforts are being made to expedite it," the official said.

Besides this, BSNL on its own is in negotiation with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and others for sale of some land.

Overall the asset monetisation plans may yield about ₹300 crore in the current financial year itself, the official said.

It may be recalled that BSNL chairman PK Purwar had recently stated that the corporation has cleared ₹1,700 crore of vendors dues.

BSNL has also made salary payment to its employees for the month of November.

Overall, the outstanding to creditors is ₹10,000 crore.

In October this year, the government approved a ₹69,000 crore revival package for BSNL and MTNL that includes merg-

ing the two loss-making firms, monetising their assets and giving VRS to employees so that the combined entity turns profitable in two years.

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved a plan to combine Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd — which provides services in Mumbai and New Delhi — with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd that services the rest of the nation.

Over the last few weeks both the companies launched their VRS plans and thousands of employees of BSNL and MTNL have opted for voluntary retirement, which is expected to save about ₹8,800 crore annually in salary bills for the debt-laden telecom companies.

The two firms will also monetise assets worth ₹37,500 crore in the next three years.

MTNL has reported losses in nine of the past 10 years and BSNL too has been ringing in loss since 2010.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

WITH BULLISH HIRING sentiments, private sector players are likely to create seven lakh jobs and the overall increase in salaries is projected to be around 8% in the New Year, according to a survey.

MyHiringClub.com & Sarkari-Naukri.info Employment Trend Survey (MSETS) 2020 indicated that most employers are optimistic about their hiring plans.

"Around 7 lakh new jobs are expected to be created in new calendar year 2020. Major contributors will be start-ups which are expected to create more jobs in every sector," MyHiringClub.com & Sarkari-Naukri.info CEO Rajesh Kumar said.

The survey covered 4,278 companies across 12 industry sectors in 42 major cities. Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi & NCR, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmadabad and Pune were among the top places in terms of places generating a total of 5,14,900 jobs and rest number of jobs opportunities will be in Tier-II and Tier-III cities in 2020.

"Tier II and Tier III cities are able to create more jobs compared to metros due to companies moving their setup gradually from metros to these cities to keep cost control. In 2020, technology or technical skills are more in demand compared to other skills," he noted.

Going by the survey, around 5.9 lakh jobs against expected 6.2 lakh jobs were generated in 2019.

In 2020, retail and e-commerce sector will lead the table and is expected to generate 1,12,000 jobs followed by IT &



ITeS (1,05,500), FMCG (87,500), Manufacturing (68,900), BFSI (59,700) and Healthcare (98,300), the survey said.

South zone is expected to retain its number one position in 2020 as it is expected to create 2,15,400 jobs, followed by North (1,95,700), West (1,65,700) and East (1,25,800), it noted.

As per the survey, salaries and bonuses in the country are projected to see single-digit hike, while the overall anticipated salary increment for 2020 is 8%.

"Increments have been conservative at 8% and bonuses

have been 10%, attributable to the prevailing market sentiment. The increment and bonus percentages have increased by 1 per cent points across levels compared to last year, with most impact at top management level," Kumar said.

Shine.com CEO Zairus Master said reskilling will be a priority for existing employees in 2020. He noted that to address this skills shortage, recruiters are shifting their focus to hiring professionals with the ability to adapt to changing roles in flexible organisational structures.

Further, he said the coming year will also witness a renewed focus on data literacy. "Organisations will be on the lookout for professionals who can read and analyse volumes of data to facilitate deeper insights and informed decisions about the organisation's workforce," he added.

'Investment in real estate to rise 5% to \$6.5 bn'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 1

INVESTMENT IN INDIA'S real estate sector is likely to rise by 5% to \$6.5 billion (around ₹46,000 crore) this year, driven mainly by huge demand for commercial office assets from IT firms, according to global property consultant Colliers.

Last year, the real estate sector attracted an investment of \$6.2 billion, up 8.7% from 2018 as foreign investors bought many office properties. Foreign funds accounted for about 78% of the total investments in 2019.

According to Colliers, India's real estate sector has recorded inflows of \$56.6 billion (₹410,000 crore) since 2008.

"During 2019, investments into the real estate sector touched \$6.2 billion (₹43,780 crore). During 2020, Colliers projects investments inflows of \$6.5 billion in the real estate sector," it said in a report.



The consultant expects investors to remain committed to commercial office assets over the next three years, with strong demand and outlook for further rental appreciation.

"We project that the commercial office sector will account for about 40% of the inflows in 2020," Colliers said.

Commercial office assets

accounted for 46% of the total inflows during 2019 at \$2.8 billion (₹19,900 crore).

Investors interest have risen because of plethora of reforms such as enforcement of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), roll-out of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

and a relaxation of foreign direct investment norms, the consultant said.

Colliers recommended investors to look at opportunistic assets including under construction office assets, supported by strong demand dynamics in information technology (IT)-led markets such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune.

"Due to the prolonged slowdown in the sector, investors should continue to

adopt a more conservative approach towards residential assets in general, as compared to commercial assets," the report said.

Co-living would draw considerable attention from investors as demand for rental homes rises among professionals relocating to cities having employment opportunities, the consultant said.

Warehousing, retail and co-working segments are also on investors' radar.

Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels files DRHP with Sebi

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, January 1

KOLKATA-BASED APEEJAY Surrendra Park Hotels has filed a draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to raise ₹1,000 crore through its proposed initial public offering (IPO).

The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of ₹400 crore and an offer for sale of up to ₹600 crore.

ICICI Securities, Axis Capital and JM Financial are book running lead managers to the issue.

The company will be selling the shares with a face value of ₹1.

Apeejay Surrendra Trust will offer shares worth ₹125.4 crore through the offer for sale route.

Similarly, Apeejay Private Limited and Apeejay House Private Limited will be offering shares worth ₹354.9 crore and ₹84.7 crore for the offer for sale.

The shares of the company will be listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

The company announced that it planned using the funds raised for general corporate purposes and to repay debt through the proposed IPO.

The company, in its DRHP said that it will set aside ₹300 crore from funds raised through the fresh issue to pare debt.

The company has its presence in cities like Chennai, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kolkata.

Currently, it owns and manages 22 hotels in India.

It is a part of the Apeejay Surrendra Group which has group businesses across real estate, hospitality and retail sectors.

BIOCON BIOLOGICS INDIA LIMITED
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Website: www.biocon.com. Tel: 91 80 2808 2808, Fax: 91 80 2852 3423

NOTICE
Notice pursuant to Section 201 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") is hereby given that, the Company intends to apply to the Central Government under Section 196, 197, 198 and 203 read with Part I of Schedule V of the Act and rules made thereunder and any other applicable provisions of the Act for seeking approval for the appointment of Dr. Christiane Hamacher (DIN: 07822113) as Managing Director of the Company for a period of 5 years effective from October 11, 2019, and, her remuneration is in compliance with the provisions of the Act and as approved by the Board of Directors of the Company.
For Biocon Biologics India Limited
Sd/-
Mayank Verma
Company Secretary
Place: Bengaluru
Date : January 1, 2020

PFC CONSULTING LIMITED (PFCCL)
(A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Ltd.)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
PFC Consulting Limited (PFCCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (A Government of India Undertaking), invites proposals as per the Guidelines for "Procurement of Aggregated Power of 2500 MW under Pilot Scheme-II for three years (covered under Medium Term) facilitated by PFC Consulting Ltd as Nodal Agency and through an Aggregator" issued by Ministry of Power, Govt. of India on 01.02.2019. Bidders may download the Bidding Document from PFCCL website www.pfcclindia.com and MSTC e-commerce website on DEEP Portal <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/atp2/index.jsp>. The last date for Bidders to seek clarification(s) is 07.01.2020 till 16:00 hrs and the last date of submission of Bid is 24.01.2020 at or before 16:00 hrs (IST) on DEEP Portal. Response to invitation will be opened on the same day at 16:30 hrs (IST) on DEEP Portal. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated regarding clarifications/ amendments/ time extensions, etc., if any.
Note: PFC Consulting Limited reserves the right to cancel or modify the process without assigning any reason and without any liability. This is not an offer.
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(A Wholly owned Subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation Ltd. – A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Registered Office: First Floor "Urjanidhi", 1, Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001
Corporate Office: 9th Floor (A Wing) Statesman House, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001

Union Mutual Fund
Union Asset Management Company Private Limited
Investment Manager for Union Mutual Fund
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U65923MH2009PTC198201
Registered Office: Unit 503, 5th Floor, Leela Business Park, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059
• Toll Free No. 1800 2002 268/1800 5722 268; • Non Toll Free. 022-67483333;
• Fax No: 022-67483401; • Website: www.unionmf.com; • Email: investorcare@unionmf.com

NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM TO THE SCHEME INFORMATION DOCUMENT (SID) AND KEY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (KIM) OF UNION LIQUID FUND
Change under the Fund Manager section:
NOTICE is hereby given that **Mr. Deep Mehta**, Co-Fund Manager of Union Liquid Fund - An Open-ended liquid scheme ("**the Scheme**") and a Key Personnel of Union Asset Management Company Private Limited ("**the AMC**") has resigned from his services with the AMC. Accordingly, Mr. Deep Mehta ceases to be the Co-Fund Manager of Union Liquid Fund and a Key Personnel of the AMC with **immediate effect**.
Consequently, the details pertaining to Mr. Deep Mehta appearing under sub-section 'H' 'Who manages the Scheme?' under section 'II' 'Information about the Scheme' in the SID of the Scheme hereby stands deleted.
Mr. Devesh Thacker, who is currently a Co-Fund Manager of the Scheme, will continue as the Fund Manager of the Scheme.
It may be noted that necessary/incidental changes, if any, shall be made in the SID and KIM of the Scheme in the above regard. The SID and KIM of the Scheme will stand modified to the extent mentioned above.
This Addendum forms an integral part of the SID and KIM of the Scheme. All other terms and conditions of the Scheme remain unchanged.
For Union Asset Management Company Private Limited
(Investment Manager for Union Mutual Fund)
Sd/-
Authorised Signatory
MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.
Statutory Details: **Constitution:** Union Mutual Fund has been set up as a Trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882; **Sponsors:** Union Bank of India and Dai-ichi Life Holdings, Inc; **Trustee:** Union Trustee Company Private Limited [Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U65923MH2009PTC198198], a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 with a limited liability; **Investment Manager:** Union Asset Management Company Private Limited [Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U65923MH2009PTC198201], a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 with a limited liability.
Copy of all Scheme Related Documents can be obtained from any of our AMC offices/Customer Service Centres/distributors as well as from our website www.unionmf.com.

Place: Mumbai
Date: January 01, 2020

UTI Mutual Fund
Hag, ek behtar zindagi ka
NOTICE - DIVIDEND DECLARATION
UTI Dual Advantage Fixed Term Fund Series III - II (1278 days)

Name of the Plan	Gross Dividend (₹)	Record Date	Face Value (per unit)	NAV as on 31-12-19 (per unit)						
UTI Dual Advanatage Fixed Term Fund Series III - II (1278 days)	*100% of distributable surplus as on the Record Date	Tuesday January 07, 2020	₹10.00	<table><thead><tr><th>Option</th><th>₹</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Dividend - Regular - sub Plan</td><td>11.3831</td></tr><tr><td>Dividend - Direct - sub Plan</td><td>11.9302</td></tr></tbody></table>	Option	₹	Dividend - Regular - sub Plan	11.3831	Dividend - Direct - sub Plan	11.9302
Option	₹									
Dividend - Regular - sub Plan	11.3831									
Dividend - Direct - sub Plan	11.9302									

*Distribution of above dividend are subject to the availability of distributable surplus as on record date. Dividend payment to the investor will be lower to the extent of Dividend Distribution Tax.

Pursuant to payment of dividend, the NAV of the dividend options of the scheme would fall to the extent of payout and statutory levy (if applicable).

Such of the unitholders under the dividend options whose names appear in the register of unitholders as at the close of business hours on the record date fixed for each dividend distribution shall be entitled to receive the dividend so distributed.

Mumbai
January 01, 2020

Toll Free No: 1800 266 1230

Website: www.utimf.com

The time to invest now is through - UTI SIP
REGISTERED OFFICE: UTI Tower, 'Gn' Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051. Phone: 022 - 66786666. UTI Asset Management Company Ltd. (Investment Manager for UTI Mutual Fund) E-mail: invest@uti.co.in, (CIN-U65991MH2002PLC137867).
For more information, please contact the nearest UTI Financial Centre or your AMFI/NISM certified UTI Mutual Fund Independent Financial Advisor, for a copy of Statement of Additional Information, Scheme Information Document and Key Information Memorandum cum Application Form.
UTI-SIP is only an investment approach applied to various equity, debt and balanced schemes of UTI Mutual Fund (UTI MF) and is not the name of a scheme / plan of UTI MF.
Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

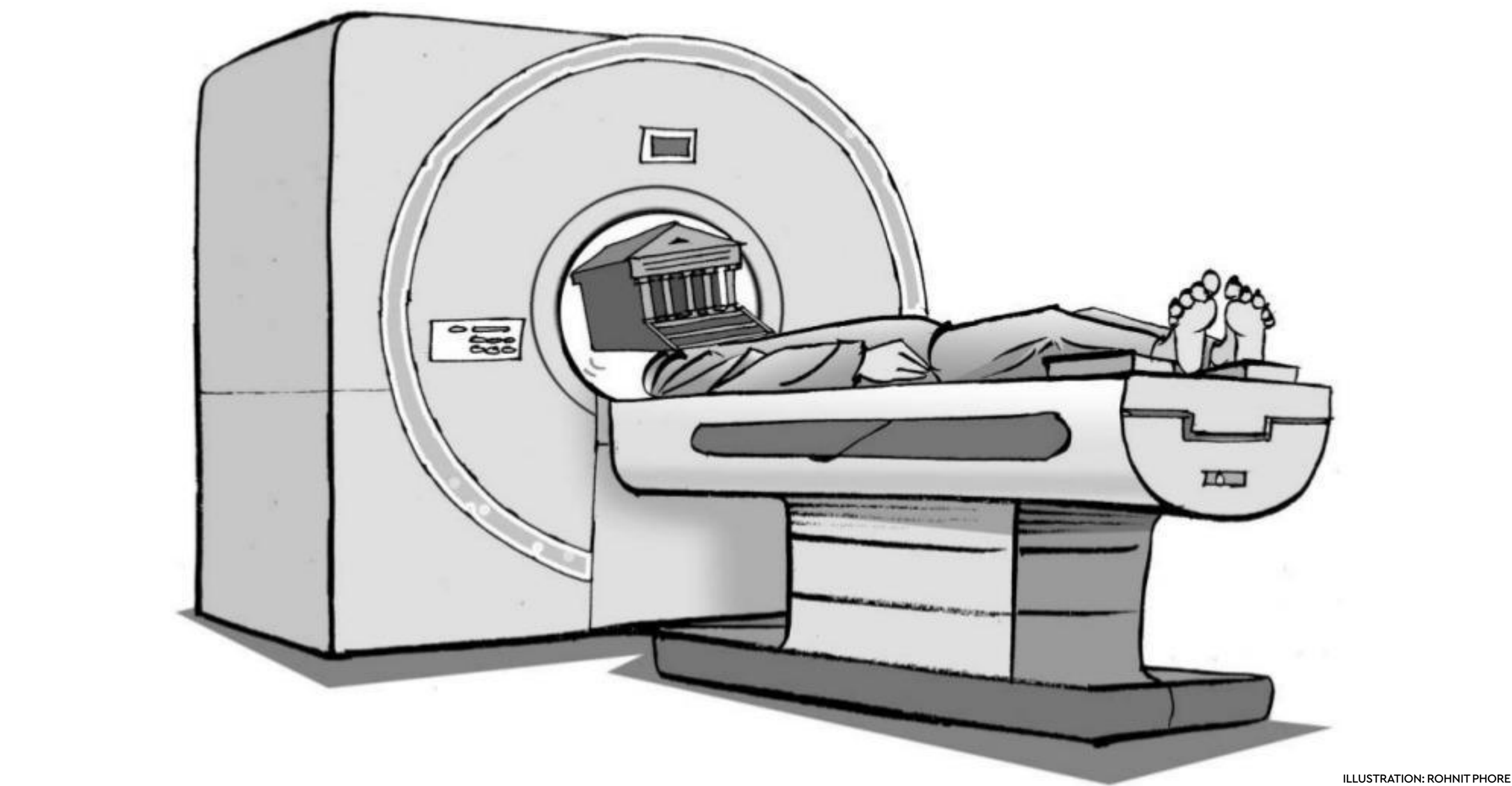


ILLUSTRATION: ROHNIT PHORE

MADAN
SABNAVIS

The author is chief economist, CARE Ratings. Views are personal



● FSR

Stability in sight

Although RBI's latest Financial Stability Report says that things have stabilised, one would have to be watchful and follow developments in the next 2-3 quarters, as external economic conditions will not be too ebullient, and banks, NBFCs and cooperative banks have to pay more attention to risk to strengthen their balance sheets and make them more resilient to shocks

THE RESERVE BANK of India's Financial Stability Report (FSR) is a cogent and comprehensive representation of the state of the financial sector which is brought out twice a year. It presents facts with explanations that are then iced with forecasts which point to how the regulator sees things going in the course of the year. The tone is firm without being judgemental, and it is left for the players to take necessary action to correct processes and ensure that the system is stable.

The latest FSR does indicate that the financial system has sort of stabilised, given the myriad challenges faced in the last couple of years, starting with the asset quality review (AQR) that affected public sector banks (PSBs) first, and later brought in some disruptive changes in private banks too. The good part of the

story is that the NPA levels have stabilised at 9.3% (in September 2019), and, more importantly, the slippage ratio which is defined as incremental NPAs during the period under review has been stable for industry, which is a big plus. It indicates that on an incremental basis NPA accretion is moderate, and the overall NPA ratio indicates that the AQR issue is tackled almost completely. The NPA ratio has been stable for industry at 17.3%, and had risen for agriculture and services in September compared with March. The stability in the ratio for industry is indicative of the NPAs being fully recognised. In fact, the slippage ratio for industry at 3.8% is lower than that in agriculture and services.

The fact that the CRAR (capital to risk weighted assets ratio) has improved to 15.1% is reflective of a great deal of resilience built in the system, with sub-

stantial support coming from the government in the form of recapitalisation of PSBs. Only one bank had a ratio of less than 9%. Also, the provisions coverage ratio at 61.5% shows that the banking system has largely gotten out of the rather nasty phase that lasted for around three years. And most assuring, the FSR also says the network analysis shows that there was a marginal decline in the bilateral exposures between entities, which means that the interconnected risks across sectors have stabilised. Therefore, the big plus of the system in the last six months is that, notwithstanding the NBFC crisis and the Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC) controversy, the financial system is back on its feet.

RBI is, however, cautious in the future outlook, where it has projected an increase in the gross NPA ratio to 9.9% in September 2020. This does not really cause alarm, but raises the flag that the system may not yet be out of the woods. It is indicative of the fact that overall GDP growth till Q2 of FY21 may still be uneasy, and the acceleration that may

have been expected next year would not be witnessed during the first half of the year. The current economic slowdown, which is flagged by RBI, is hence expected to increase the numerator and result in incremental NPAs. One must remember that even the retail segment is witnessing a slight uptick in the NPA rate, as the slowdown also affects the ability of individuals to service their debt. Also, while the SME NPAs are not going to be recorded as being impaired as of March 2020,

the same would be recognised subsequently unless there is a new dispensation that defers such assets. Hence, this will be something to look out for as it can get problematic if the volume increases.

The second factor flagged is that the denominator will increase at a slower rate as credit is likely to be sluggish. This is an important and critical judgement as banks today have surplus liquidity that is not being deployed due to both lower demand and relatively some extra caution being exercised while lending. In a way, it is also reflective of the implicit view on future GDP growth that may not be significantly higher than the 5% expected in FY20, in FY21. The finance minister has subsequently assured bankers that there should be no fear in lending as it would be within the domain of banks to escalate cases to the investigative agencies in case of suspi-

cion of wrong doing. It needs to be seen if bankers feel assured on this count.

An interesting outcome of the stable picture presented is the capital adequacy ratio of 15%. While it was necessary for banks to be well-capitalised to fund future growth, the CRAR is a delicately balanced concept. A low CRAR restricts lending, while a very high ratio means that banks are not making good use of their capital. This has happened as their balance sheets have not expanded through credit but investments in G-Secs, given the share of PCA banks—those under RBI's prompt corrective action—in the story. The focus must be on expanding credit in a judicious manner, or else it will not be an efficient use of capital. Quite clearly, banks must use their capital in lending, or else the purpose of dis-intermediation would be dented.

The other area of concern has been the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and here RBI is more cautious. The fact that funding to these institutions has been a challenge from markets as well as banks is well known. The asset-

liability mismatch that engendered the crisis is being addressed gradually by NBFCs, which will help in stabilising the system. However, given that this would take time to work out, one may expect the situation to linger for a couple of quarters, and it is here that RBI has waved the flag again on the possibility of their NPAs increasing.

In this context, the FSR has also analysed the real estate sector and the exposures of financial institutions. Interestingly, it shows that PSBs have lowered their exposures to this sector, while that of private banks and housing finance companies (HFCs) have increased. But in terms of impaired assets being carried on their books of this sector, PSBs have the highest ratio of 19%! Quite clearly, the credit standards are different for various imitations when lending to the real estate sector.

Hence, on the whole, the FSR does say that things have stabilised, though one would have to be watchful and follow developments in the next 2-3 quarters, as external economic conditions will not be too ebullient and banks, NBFCs, cooperative banks have to pay more attention to risk to strengthen their balance sheets and make them more resilient to shocks. The financial system is definitely on the right path, but should tread cautiously as the economic cycle turns around.

Notwithstanding the NBFC crisis and the PMC fiasco, the financial system is definitely on the right path, but should tread cautiously as the economic cycle turns around

CROSS THE RIVER, observed Deng Xiaoping, by feeling the stones. The current Union government may do well to heed this advice, as it struggles to tackle a serious slowdown in the economy and gets ready to present the Union Budget for 2020.

This slowdown is both structural and cyclical in nature. To the extent that it is cyclical, the economy will bounce back sooner or later. In fact, some green shoots of recovery are already visible. However, to the extent that it is structural, the road ahead to reverse it would, indeed, be steep. This is because it primarily relates to the poor institutional capacity in our country that has been deteriorating for the last 40 years. In fact, the lack of such capacity has created a trust deficit between the citizens and the government.

This has resulted in all-round poor governance that has impacted the economy. Following opaque processes, bureaucrats exercise vast discretionary powers, and are often governed by poor accountability standards. Since they are under no obligation to consult people for their decisions—and the knowledge and information base they rely upon is often dubious—it is not surprising that they get things wrong. Yet all these limitations have not deterred them from stepping in, even though governmental intervention is often costly and ineffective. Vijay Kelkar and Ajay Shah, in

Tackling slowdown institutionally

The country must look to institutions rather than individuals to solve problems

HARDAYAL
SINGH

The author is former chief commissioner of Income Tax



their latest book 'In Service of the Republic', have pointed out that a public outlay of ₹1 ends up costing ₹3 to the Indian society.

The country may have moved up from 142nd rank to 63rd in the the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings between 2014 and now (the current government undoubtedly needs to be given credit for this achievement), but its rank continues to be poor in respect of certain key parameters that really matter—enforcement of contracts (163), ease in paying taxes (115), starting a business

(136), etc. Even today, people shudder to get involved in litigation or deal with departments like Income Tax, police or the Enforcement Directorate because cases take years to reach closure.

This institutional weakness is what really holds the country back from realising its full growth potential as a nation. The obvious solution, of course, lies in strengthening institutions. This is essential because otherwise the country runs the risk of falling into a middle-income trap. Only four countries—South Korea,



Taiwan, Singapore and Israel—have been able to escape this trap. All four invested heavily in institution building. India has a long way to go before it joins the ranks of these countries. Its per capita income of \$2,172 makes it a low-middle-income country; this must increase about six times to \$12,056 before it can be classified as a high-income country.

The steps required to do this are not likely to be popular either with politicians or bureaucrats. The government must continue to focus on its sovereign func-

tions, i.e. maintaining law and order, ensuring settlement of disputes, collecting taxes, managing the defence of the realm, conducting foreign policy, and ensuring the stability of the currency. Outside of these areas, it must explore other options, before it decides to intervene.

And when it does, it must limit its intervention to the bare minimum and confine itself to situations where markets cannot function or have failed to perform—or when a negotiated solution cannot be found. Rather than further empowering

bureaucrats, the government should consider reducing their powers and check arbitrary exercise of power.

In the long run, we must prepare for a 50-year marathon. The country must look to institutions rather than individuals to solve problems. As a people, we are, at times, guilty of having developed highly romantic and idealistic notions of people who perform public service. We have to realise that public servants are ordinary human beings who act according to their self-interest. Power should, thus, be vested in teams rather than individuals, and concentration of power should be avoided.

Finally, we must bear in mind that whether we talk about ordinary citizens or officials, people respond better to incentives than coercion. Change the incentives and you change behaviour. When kerosene is cheap and petrol dearer, it is *naïve* to think that people will not adulterate petrol with kerosene. The future challenge for policymakers would be to devise simple rules that incentivise good behaviour and punish bad behaviour.

Good policymaking will have to be a slow affair, feeling the pebbles at the bottom of the water, one step at a time. Applied to GST, this would mean widening the coverage of the tax by reducing exemptions; and simplifying the levy, by reducing the number of rates, to one or two. Had the government heeded to this advice, it may not have enacted CAA so hastily.

● THE WORLD IN 2020

What sci-fi can tell us about the future

Most science fiction is not predictive. Yet it can still be a guide to the future

IN 'HIGH GROUND', AN episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* first aired in 1990, a crew member of the starship *Enterprise* is taken hostage by separatists on the planet Rutia IV. As her colleagues discuss how best to respond, one of them draws an analogy with a conflict on Earth several centuries earlier—the Troubles in Northern Ireland—noting that they were ultimately resolved by "the Irish unification of 2024". As the 2020s dawn, the upheaval of Brexit means the prospect of Irish reunification no longer seems like science fiction. A poll in September 2019 found that a slight majority of voters in Northern Ireland were in favour of it. "We are still on track for the Star Trek unification timeline," one fan tweeted. It is a striking example of a specific prediction being made in a work of science fiction. But despite perceptions to the contrary, such forecasts are the exception, not the rule. Just because sci-fi is often set in the future does not mean it is intended to be predictive. More often it is a commentary on the present.

I, Asimov

In 2020 (which happens to be the centenary of the birth of Isaac Asimov, a sci-fi legend), can the genre tell us about the future nonetheless? Set aside the aliens and the space-ships, and much contemporary science fiction is concerned with themes such as the impact of artificial intelligence, the danger of ecological collapse, the misuse of corporate power and the legacy of imperialism. Since the sexual revolution of the 1960s, sci-fi writers have explored changing attitudes to gender politics—imagining, for example, future societies in which gender is irrelevant or people can change sex at will. Another vibrant subfield today is Chinese science fiction, which offers an outlet for subtle dissent, and gives Western readers a sense of the country's hopes and fears. In all these cases, sci-fi authors are using the freedom granted by the genre to consider present-day concerns and extrapolate them to mind-stretching conclusions.

All of which does have some predictive value. It means science fiction can play a useful role as a forward-scanning radar for technological, social and political trends—but in the near term, not the distant future in which it is often set. This is the first of three ways in which science fiction can provide a guide to the future.

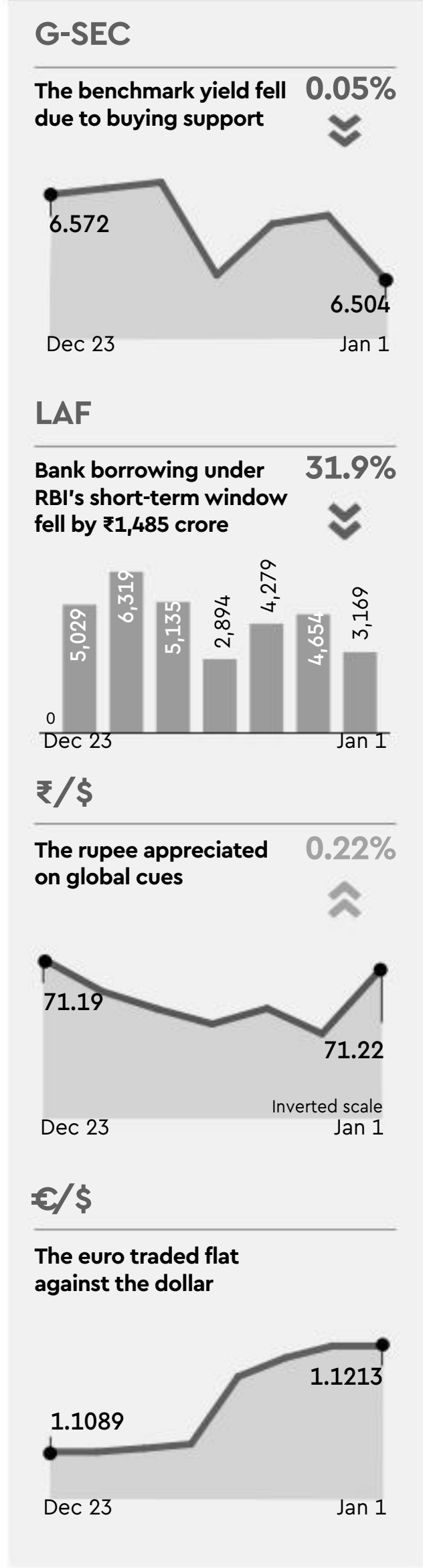
The second is that it can help broaden the mind when assessing future scenarios for planning purposes, both in government and in business. France's Defence Innovation Agency is setting up a 'red team' of sci-fi writers to propose scenarios that might not have occurred to military planners. Arup, an engineering firm, commissioned Tim Maughan, a science-fiction writer, to create four scenarios of what everyday life might look like as a result of climate change. Neal Stephenson, the bestselling author of *'Snow Crash'* and *'Cryptonomicon'*, has served as an adviser to Blue Origin, a rocket start-up, and Magic Leap, a firm developing augmented-reality glasses. Tech giants including Google, Microsoft and Apple have also employed sci-fi writers as consultants, using a process sometimes called 'design fiction'.

But bosses do not need to hire sci-fi authors to benefit from their expansive imaginations. Simply reading their books can help. Writing in the *Harvard Business Review* in 2017, Eliot Peper, a novelist, argued that science fiction is valuable "because it reframes our perspective on the world". Business leaders should read sci-fi, he suggested, because exploring fictional futures "frees our thinking from false constraints" and "challenges us to wonder whether we're even asking the right questions".

And then there is a third, more direct, way in which sci-fi can provide glimpses of the future: by inspiring people in the tech industry who want to make it come true. The creation of the mobile phone at Motorola was motivated by the handheld wireless communicators from *'Star Trek'*, and Amazon's Alexa voice-assistant by the talking computer on the *Enterprise*. The Kindle was inspired by an electronic-book device in Mr Stephenson's novel *'The Diamond Age'*, and an entire industry is trying to bring to life the virtual world he depicted in *'Snow Crash'*. SpaceX, the rocket firm founded by Elon Musk, lands its rockets on drone ships whose names are borrowed from Iain M Banks's *'Culture'* novels; another of Mr Musk's start-ups, Neuralink, is building brain-computer interfaces inspired by the 'neural lace' implants found in the same books. The tech titans of tomorrow are surely reading sci-fi today.

THE ECONOMIST

Money Matters



Banks put ₹8,500-cr NPAs up for sale in third quarter

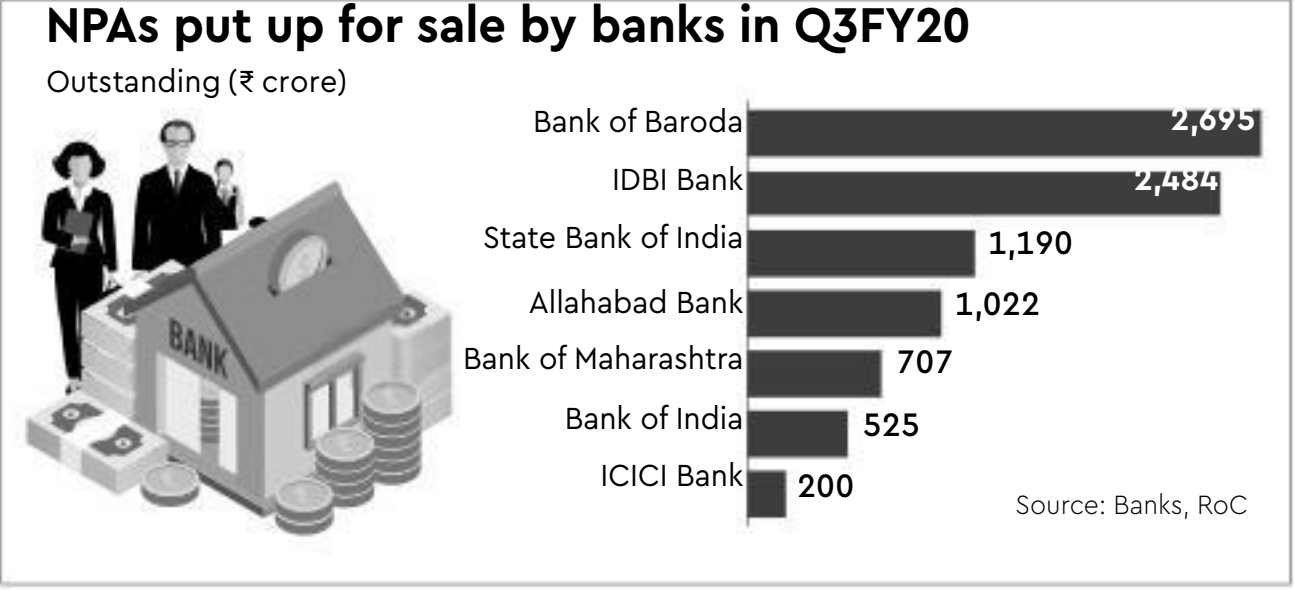
SHRITAMA BOSE
Mumbai, January 1

AHEAD OF THE January 7 deadline for out-of-court resolutions for a clutch of bad loans, seven lenders sought to sell bad loans worth ₹8,543 crore in the three months ended December.

So far, only one asset — RattanIndia Power's 1,350-megawatt (MW) Amravati plant — has successfully been resolved outside the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP). The long-overdue resolution of Essar Steel was completed in Q3 under the court-monitored insolvency process.

While asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) are also struggling to pick up toxic assets, banks are nonetheless trying their luck. In 2019, the number of deals executed between banks and ARCs thinned to a trickle. ARCs had bought quite a few assets from banks in 2018, but the emergence of a liquidity crisis late that year caught up with them in 2019.

The biggest cache of bad loans was put on the block by Bank of Baroda (BoB) and IDBI Bank, both of whom sought buyers for exposures. Among the large exposures on sale are Garden Silk Mills, which owes its lenders ₹1,721 crore, and IDBI's loans



to BILT Graphic Paper, which owes banks around ₹7,000 crore.

Loans to a large number of medium-sized enterprises have also been put on sale by banks. Resolving such accounts is a challenge for banks in the absence of a well-defined framework.

The system has been waiting for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to come up with a stress-resolution framework for assets under ₹1,500 crore. Earlier expected to be issued in Q4FY20, the framework is now set to be made public only in the next financial year.

Despite continuing challenges, ana-

lysts say recoveries improved in FY19 for a number of reasons. Explaining reasons for this, Kotak Institutional Equities wrote in a recent report, "Banks have reasonably improved their coverage on these bad loans, which is making it a lot more easier to work through the bad problems through one-time settlement or change in ownership through the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) process or outside."

Distressed funds, many of them run by foreign entities, moving in to acquire these assets with local partners has also helped recoveries, the report observed.

Bank credit to consumer durable grows 68% in Nov

HARIPRASAD RADHAKRISHNAN
Mumbai, January 1

BANK CREDIT TO the consumer durable segment saw a significant growth of 68% year-on-year (y-o-y) in November from 0.9% a year ago. This is in line with the trend of high growth since August 2019, as banks have been lending more aggressively in the segment.

Outstanding loans to the consumer durable segment stood at ₹5,499 crore as on November 22, up from ₹3,274 crore a year ago, data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed.

In August last year, the growth in the segment stood at 71.8% against 0.6% a year ago. Since then, a growth of around 70% has been witnessed in the segment. "This is a segment where most banks are focusing on at the moment. You are going to see this continue to trend high. Because of lower corporate credit, infrastructure issues and other factors, the avenues for banks are limited. This is one segment which is going to be strong," said Lalitabh Shrivastava, AVP — BFSI Research, Sharekhan.

Analysts say as the size of the segment is low, the growth numbers have seen a large jump. "The top three private sector banks have done good business on the consumer durable side," says Kajal Gandhi,



vice president — research, ICICI Direct. "In terms of value, the difference is about ₹2,000 crore which is not big for the banking industry. The banks are trying to get into the consumer durable and unsecured loan segment, which is why growth for banks is higher, and may impact other players," she said.

However, compared to March 2019, growth in loans to the consumer durable segment fell by 12.7% in November 2019.

The overall personal loans segment growth marginally fell to 16.4% y-o-y in November from 17.2% a year ago. Advances against fixed deposits declined 7.7% y-o-y against a growth of 26.9% a year ago. Housing loans grew 18.3% y-o-y, compared to 15% a year ago.

LVB appoints Sundar as interim MD and CEO

FE BUREAU
Chennai, January 1

LAKSHMI VILAS BANK (LVB) has appointed S Sundar, its chief financial officer, the interim managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) effective January 1, 2020. As part of this, he resigned from the post of CFO on Tuesday. He has also been appointed an additional director of the bank.

In August 2019, the bank's MD & CEO, Parthasarathi Mukherjee, resigned from the position and the post was lying vacant since then.

Sundar holds a bachelor's degree in commerce and is a chartered accountant. He started as a probationary officer with Andhra Bank and has more than 41 years of working experience in various banks including Andhra Bank, City Union Bank and LVB. He was serving as the CFO of the bank from April 27, 2018.

In a regulator filing, LVB said the appointment will be up to April 30, 2020 or till a regular MD & CEO assumes charge, whichever is earlier.

LVB had been in the news with the bank facing severe capital crunch and deteriorating asset quality. It has been put under the PCA by the RBI. Besides, in October 2019, the RBI had turned down its proposal to merge with Indiabulls Housing Finance and Indiabulls Commercial Credit.



Quick View

Muthoot Capital raises ₹145 crore

MUTHOOT CAPITAL SERVICES on Wednesday said it has raised ₹145.37 crore through securitisation. The company has completed the transaction, it said in a regulatory filing. "Muthoot Capital Services completed a securitisation transaction of ₹145.37 crore on December 31, 2019. With this transaction, the company has so far raised total funds of ₹578.81 crore through securitisation/direct assignment transactions during FY2019-20," it said.

Sebi's new executive director takes charge

MARKETS REGULATOR SEBI on Wednesday said G Babita Rayudu has taken charge as its executive director. Rayudu will handle legal affairs department, enforcement department and special enforcement cell, Sebi said in a press release. Prior to the promotion, Rayudu was in Sebi's legal affairs department.

Maha farmer bodies miffed at loan waiver scheme, say benefits inadequate

FE BUREAU
Pune, January 1

FARMERS OUTFITS IN Maharashtra are up in arms against the Jyotirao Phule Loan Waiver Scheme launched by the state government. These organisations allege that the government has gone back on its words of clearing 7/12 extracts of farmers, and most of them will be ineligible for the same as their pending dues exceed the ₹2-lakh limit.

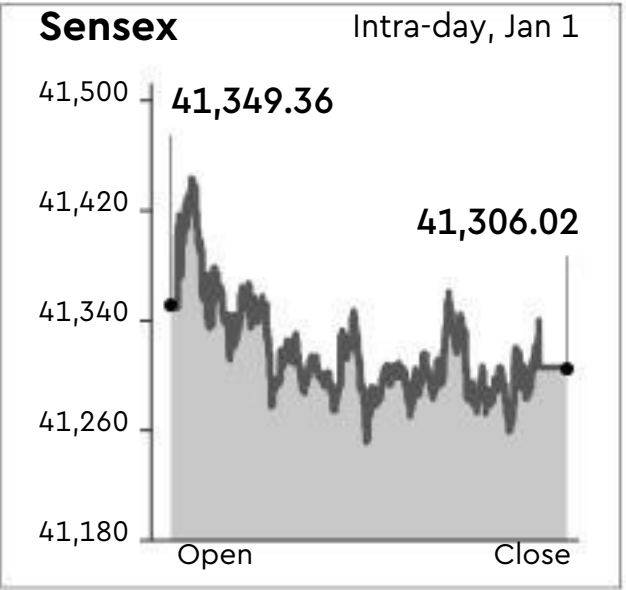
Anil Ghanwat of the Shetkai Sanghantana said since the scheme only covers outstanding crop loan, medium-term and long-term borrowers will not get the benefits. Farmers with outstanding loans before 2015 will be deprived of benefits. Many farmers will not be able to avail of loan waiver because of technical mistakes of banks and a piece of farm land having multiple owners. Since the loans were restructured in the past, farmers may not be eligible for the debt waiver, he said.

Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray has already announced that the government

is formulating another scheme for farmers whose debt amount exceeds ₹2 lakh, and for those repaying their debts on a regular basis.

Ghanwat demanded that the government should approve of 7/12 extracts of farmers as promised or similar benefits for the entire farming community. The government should give more freedom to farmers by recalling export ban on commodities, removing stock limits, and stopping imports. The farmers' body has threatened to agitate unless the government announces a full loan waiver.

The chief minister announced the scheme on December 20. Last week, the state issued a government resolution (GR) to implement it, according to which farmers with debt of more than ₹2 lakh, including the principal amount and interest, would not be eligible for benefits of the Jyotirao Phule Loan Waiver Scheme. The state government expects more than 30 lakh farmers to benefit from the scheme, which could cost the exchequer more than ₹20,000 crore.



dra Solanki, head fundamental research (investment services) — AVP equity research, Anand Rathi Shares

Govt cuts import duty on crude, refined palm oils, SEA disappointed

FE BUREAU
Pune, January 1

THE GOVERNMENT ON Wednesday slashed the import duty on refined palmolein to 45% from 50%, while that on crude palm oil (CPO) to 37.5% from 40% with immediate effect, a move that the industry opposed saying it will hurt domestic refiners. A notification in this regard has been issued by the finance ministry. The duty cut has been made under the Asean agreement and the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (IMCECA), the notification said.

Expressing disappointment over the move, the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) has urged the government to increase the duty differential between crude and refined palm oil to 15% by taking appropriate measures in the larger interest of the industry.

"Under the Asean and IMCECA agreements, the government reduced the import duty on RBD palmolein from 50% to 45% and on crude palm oil from 45% to 37.5% with effect from January 1,



2020. The duty difference between crude and refined palm oil has been reduced to 7.5% as against 10% earlier. This would make import of refined palmolein much more attractive and will seriously hurt the domestic refining industry. We fear import of refined palmolein would increase and the capacity utilisation of our industry would be affected, leading to a potential loss of employment," Atul Chaturvedi, president of SEA, said.

"This action of the government has come as a blow not only to our domestic palm oil refining industry, but to our oilseed farmers as well. After a long time, domestic oilseeds had started selling above MSP and improving farm incomes. Lower import duty would make it difficult to defend MSP and the new-found enthusiasm of oilseed farmers would be damped," he said.

This would be counterproductive and contrary to our stated objective of increasing domestic oilseed production. Needless to mention, our edible oil imports are now touching 70% of our consumption, Chaturvedi pointed out.

To protect its local industry, Indonesia imposed an export duty of \$50 on crude palm oil and \$30 on refined palmolein with effect from January 1. Similarly, Malaysia has imposed an export duty of \$31 on CPO and a zero duty on RBD palmolein which works out to be nearly 5% on CPO value, thus the effective duty difference is hardly 2.5% only. Each country is protecting its own industry and we sincerely feel India should do likewise, Chaturvedi said.

Rupee starts New Year positively, gains 14 paise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, January 1

THE RUPEE KICK-STARTED 2020 on a positive note with gains of 14 paise against the dollar.

The rupee settled at 71.22 against the previous close of 71.36 as positive macro data and optimism over the US-China trade deal boosted the investor sentiment.

"India's rupee rises in thin holiday trading as the nation's current account gap narrowed in the last quarter. The CAD was \$6.3 billion in the July-September period, or 0.9% of the GDP, lower than the median \$7.10-billion deficit estimated and compares with the previous quarter's \$14.2 billion, or 2% of the GDP," said VK Sharma, head — PCG & capital market strategy, HDFC Securities.

Traders said the rupee gained support amid positive developments on the US-China trade deal front. US President Donald Trump said a partial new US-China trade agreement will be signed in the middle of this month.

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Uday Kotak, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank

As the financial sector goes through its throes, KMB must meet the challenges and take this opportunity to strengthen its position as a credible, high-quality, high on integrity and value-based player in the system.

Personal Finance

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Six tips to become wealthy in the new decade

Correctly identifying your long-term financial goals is very important as you step into the new decade. So, whether you are in college, in a job or close to retirement, you need to identify your goals

ADHIL SHETTY

THE YEAR 2020 isn't just a new year; it also marks the end of a decade and the beginning of another consequential one. The next decade will have a monumental impact on all the facets of our lives, including our finances.

We need to set clear plans and execute them to perfection to extract the most out of the next 10 years and accelerate our journey to achieve financial freedom. With drastic changes in cost of living expected in the next decade, how should you manage your money and what are the financial tips you should follow? We have some pointers.

Identify long-term financial goals

Correctly identifying your long-term financial goals is very important as you step into the new decade. So, whether you are in college, in a job or close to retirement, you



ILLUSTRATION: SHYAM KUMAR PRASAD

need to identify your goals carefully. For example, college-going individuals of today would be starting a career in the coming decade, so they should prioritise repaying their education loan, building a contingency fund, saving money for their future, getting a life insurance policy and focusing on buying a car or house.

Similarly, people who are in the middle of their careers should focus on goals such as to repay their home loan quickly, stay adequately insured, and build up a fund for their children's future. And those about to retire should focus on the financial goals pertain-

ing to becoming debt-free and retiring with an adequate corpus which can help them maintain the same standard of living when their income sources deplete.

Invest keeping inflation in mind

The average inflation in the last decade had been lower than the inflation in the decade previous to that. In the next decade, the average inflation is expected to remain slightly lower than this decade. So, the rates in fixed interest instruments like PPF, bank FDs, etc., are expected to fall. The equity market is expected to become more stable and

robust. So, while investing your money, you should factor in the impact of inflation on the returns. Diversify your portfolio adequately and take investment risk strictly as per your risk appetite. You may invest in instruments like PPF, NPS, mutual funds, sovereign gold bonds, ETFs, etc.

Build adequate emergency fund

The emergency fund plays a vital role in boosting your confidence during an adverse situation. So, whether you are young, in the middle of your career or a retiree, keep an emergency fund worth at least six months of your expenses to take on any kind of financial distress. Keep increasing the size of the emergency fund as your cost of living and responsibilities change in the future.

Fine-tune your insurance plans

Depending on your age and career stage, you should start or increase your crucial insurance plans. If you would start a career in the coming decade, you should get life and health insurance policy with adequate risk cover. However, if you already have these policies, you should fine-tune your insurance policies. Medical inflation is highest in comparison to other forms of inflation, so it's important to stay adequately insured and avoid big expenses related to hospitalisation.

Similarly, you should be ready to save dependent family members from financial hardship by getting a life insurance cover of at least 10 to 20 times your current annual income.

Housing is going to be a big challenge in the next decade because the land bank is limited, and with a growing population, the property demand is expected to increase substantially

Rent or buy a house? Make your choice

Housing is going to be a big challenge in the next decade because the land bank is limited, and with a growing population, property demand is expected to increase substantially. So, make your choice now, whether you would be comfortable living in a rented home or would like to buy a home. In either case, make it a goal and start channelising your savings and investment

returns to achieve your goal on time. Plan for your children's higher education

Higher education costs have seen a major spike in the current decade and things are unlikely to change in the next one too. So, plan to raise an adequate fund for your kid's education as early as possible in your career so that you can avoid taking a loan at the end of your career. Set a separate financial goal to that end and consider regular investments in tools like PPF, SSY, SIPs, etc.

The author is CEO, BankBazaar.com

YOUR MONEY

BRIJESH DAMODARAN

How emotional quotient plays a big role in the investment journey

IN 2019, WHILE the the 30-share S&P BSE Sensex has delivered around 14% returns, the broadmarkets could not match the benchmark's performance. So, investment returns and the Sensex returns do not mirror. Can we know why?

The Sensex comprises 30 stocks. And the investment portfolio of the investor will be the universe of stocks which will be outside of the 30-stock Sensex. And moreover, a handful of stocks within the Sensex has delivered the returns.

In mid 2018, in order to streamline the Indian mutual fund industry, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had issued guidelines for scheme categorisation. This definitely made the existing schemes align with the guidelines issued by Sebi. For instance, it defined large-cap as the top 100 companies in terms of market capitalisation with similar guidelines for mid-cap and small-cap funds.

Category-wise returns

If one looks at the category-wise one-year return of a large cap mutual fund scheme, which is a more reflective return on account of the scheme categorisation, the



ILLUSTRATION: SHYAM KUMAR PRASAD

returns for the top 20 schemes vary from 4.3%-18%. Within the scheme also there is a large divergence in the returns. So ultimately, it is the stock selection and the holding period, which has made a difference. This is true in all the cases. The returns in majority of the mid-cap and small-cap schemes have delivered a low single digit or negative returns, with only one or two schemes delivering outlier returns.

It is said that history repeats. So let us see what were the Sensex returns in the immediate past two years. In 2018, it was 5.9% (it definitely reflected on account of the reorganisation of the schemes as per the Sebi guidelines). In 2017, the returns were 27.9%. So the one-year returns for each of the past three years did not move secularly. What about the three-year rolling returns for each of the past years. In 2017, it was 8.28%. In 2018, it was 11.92% and in 2019, it is 15%.

So, the three-year rolling Sensex returns reflected a much healthier picture as compared to a one-year return. All of this is data and how do we as an investor use this to our advantage in our investment journey?

Short-term vs long-term returns

Data is our friend and as one can notice there is a huge divergence in the returns in the short time frame. And in a longer time frame, the returns get normalised.

From the beginning of the year 2010 till date, the Sensex has grown by 2.40 times. The annualised return is 9.1% and this is after the Sensex return in the immediate following year 2011, delivered a negative return of 25%. When we compare data, point-to-point, what happens in the intervening period goes unobserved.

Data is like statistics, you can use the data points and periods to effectively track the returns and then use them to make investment decisions, to plan the goals and reach milestones.

Ultimately, it boils down to stock selection and the manner in which you have maintained your Emotional Quotient (EQ) in the investment journey. It is not incorrect to say that the temperament of the investor plays a bigger role in the investment journey. And adding to the temperament is the asset allocation which plays an important role and this is what the year 2019 has reinforced.

As an investor, if you are investing in equity as an asset class, you should brace for periods of suboptimal or even negative returns. Diversification among the mutual fund scheme categories in line with the goals and milestones is the approach. And more importantly, 'time in the market' rather than 'timing the market' must be your approach to investments.

The writer is managing partner, BellWether Advisors LLP

YOUR QUERIES



Dhaval Kapadia

MFs deduct tax on dividend income, not capital gains

Do mutual funds deduct TDS before giving the money maturity to investors?

BS Bisht

For capital gains, no tax is deducted at source by the mutual funds (except for NRI investors) and the investor is liable for paying any taxes, if applicable. For dividend income, tax is deducted by the mutual fund and the proceeds in the hands of investors are tax-free.

Should a resident Indian investor while filing his ITR declare his holding in SEBI registered Global Equity Mutual funds as a 'Foreign Asset'?

AVenkat

No, units of global mutual funds held by persons domiciled in India are not required to be disclosed as 'Foreign Asset' in income tax return filing.



MUTUAL FUNDS

Is it a good time to invest lumpsum in a fund? Please advise.

Rajesh Singh

Lumpsum investments are best suited for equity markets that are trading significantly below their long term fair valuations. Most investors find it difficult to make that assessment effectively. In case of volatile markets, SIPs are best suited to benefit investors due to the benefits of rupee-cost averaging that they offer. If the market rallies, the NAV increases, and investor gets fewer units for each subsequent SIP purchase instalment. The reverse happens when the market corrects, more units are obtained for the same amount. When you accumulate units in a correction phase, you are getting more units while prices are down resulting in lowering your average purchase cost and results in wholesome gains when markets recover.

How can I withdraw some money from equity mutual fund which I invest every month through SIP?

DS Kapil

For withdrawing your invested corpus, you can either place an online redemption request (via the AMC website or aggregator portals such as MFU online, PayTM, etc.) or submit a physical form at the respective AMC's investor service centre or any of the Registrar & Transfer agent's acceptance centres. You may withdraw a lumpsum amount or register for a systematic withdrawal plan (SWP) which facilitates automatic withdrawal at regular intervals. Be sure that the units being redeemed are not under the exit load period. Funds have minimum withdrawal amount as specified in their disclosure documents. Your SIP can continue.

The writer is director, Investment Advisory, Morningstar Investment Adviser (India). Send your queries to fepersonalfinance@expressindia.com

eFE

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Tech that defined the way we lived in 2019

There's never a dull moment for technology enthusiasts, and the best is always yet to come



Prakash Mallaya

TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES to redefine the way we live. It is an enabler that fulfills our wants and needs, and enriches our lives with comfort, convenience, entertainment, good health and even prosperity. And going by the trends, it seems like we can't get enough.

Our growing demand for compute and connectivity on-the-go has led to tremendous innovation in mobile devices. Technological innovations, such as autonomous cars for intelligent and safe travel and electronic banking facility for real-time monetary transactions, seem to emulate the 'change' constant of life.

Here's a look at how this evolution continued in the past year:

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

We have seen AI and machine learning (ML) gradually move out of the cloud and closer to edge devices where analytics happen in real-time. This is because data transmission delays (latency) associated with the cloud can adversely impact mission critical outcomes. In order to keep AI-powered devices, such as those in smart city surveillance systems, autonomous cars



and healthcare systems responsive enough, the data needs to reside as close as possible to the source. This shift has also been possible due to System-on-Chip (SoC) processors that lend more computing power to edge devices.

AI based solutions have progressed out of research labs and become mainstream now. For instance, in the world of healthcare, asthmatics have an AI-powered inhaler that runs real-time ML algorithms to recognise a patient's breath pattern with the help of a sensor module. AI-enabled voice assistants such as Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant provide users the comfort and convenience of interacting with devices by simply using speech as the medium of communication.

Internet of Things (IoT)

Gartner forecasts that there will be 20 billion Internet-connected things by 2020. While the list of IoT gadgets for consumers may seem unending, ranging from smart and connected gadgets as well as appliances such as smart refrigerators, air-

conditioners, watches, fire alarms, door locks, bicycles, medical sensors, fitness trackers, security systems, etc., there were some that particularly caught our attention this year. Take, for example, a specially designed watch with IoT integration for people suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's disease or autism, allowing the patient and the caregiver to stay connected round the clock.

Several automation products have IoT integration, such as the home automation range of connected smart devices, including those catering to the user's light and music preferences. This year saw several of these devices offering users a hands-free, voice-enabled experience rather than a touch screen.

In India, we've seen applications across retail, education, smart city initiatives, healthcare, among others. From self-service kiosks to smart classroom solutions to remote patient monitoring to surveillance applications, India has seen both product innovation and implementations with potential to scale.

VR, AR and MR

Taking things up a notch, Extended Reality (ER) is another trend that will make headlines in 2020. It can be explained as a term covering several new and revolutionary technologies that create immersive digital experiences. To break it down, this refers to virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and mixed reality (MR). We have all seen or experienced the digitally immersive experience of a computer-generated world that we can literally walk into using headsets that cut out the real world. AR, on the other hand, overlays digital objects and portrays them in the real world via smartphone screens or any other display. MR is an elaborate version of AR, where users can interact with digital objects in the real world. For example, a user could play holographic drums via an AR headset. The concept of Extended Reality is that of experiences.

Robotics

Powered with advanced AI technology, consumer robots will soon play a defining role in our daily life, assisting us with vacuuming the house, mowing the lawn, and cleaning the pool. The social robots will serve as companions and care for us. Advanced computer vision is also transforming the way drones operate. Drones with AI-enabled vision processing capabilities are being used to assess structural damage in buildings, rescue operations, remote study of wildlife and the effects of climate change, etc., without having to put human life at risk.

The world of technology is limitless and the list of technological innovations seemingly unending. There's never a dull moment for technology enthusiasts, and the best is always yet to come.

The writer is VP and MD - Sales and Marketing Group, Intel India

MAKE IN INDIA

Oppo aims to make India its export hub

The handset maker plans to double its production capacity in India to 100 million units by end-2020

PRASANTA SAHU

AIMING TO MAKE the country a global export hub for smart devices, leading smartphone maker Oppo will focus on 'Make in India' to double its production capacity in India to 100 million units by end-2020, senior Oppo officials told FE.

While the company will continue to cater to different price segments, its focus will be on growing the premium market with products that exemplify innovation. "We will continue to strategically invest

in talent, footprint, manufacturing, associations, research and development, and after sales," said Sumit Walia, VP - Product & Marketing, Oppo India.

Oppo achieved a market share of 11.8% in Q3, 2019 as attested by IDC with its shipment growing to 5.5 million compared to 2.9 million in Q3'18. "Oppo is now the second-largest vendor in the fast-growing \$300-500 (₹20,000-35,000) segment, achieved due to the recently launched Reno2 series," he said.

Oppo has an ongoing investment of ₹2,200 crores in its Greater Noida manufacturing facility, which is making close to 50 million smartphones

annually. Its capacity will be doubled by end-2020. "With the increased production and future export plans, we aim to achieve our dream of making India a global export hub for smartphones," Walia said. Oppo employs 10,000 people at its manufacturing unit at Kasna.

It has ramped up efforts at its Hyderabad R&D centre for providing localised innovative solutions. "Infact, the Hyderabad R&D centre has played a pivotal role in development of VOOC 3.0 and the recently launched ColorOS 7," said Tasleem Arif, VP - R&D, Oppo India.

Sumit Walia, VP - Product & Marketing, Oppo India

The reporter was in Shenzhen, China at the invitation of Oppo

International

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

Quick View

Drugmakers plan to hike US list prices

DRUGMAKERS INCLUDING PFIZER, GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi SA are planning to hike US list prices on more than 200 drugs in the United States on Wednesday, according to drugmakers and data analyzed by healthcare research firm 3 Axis Advisors. Nearly all of the price increases will be below 10%, and around half of them are in the range of 4 to 6%, said 3 Axis co-founder Eric Pachman. The median price increase is around 5%, he said.

Fatal Tesla crash near LA being probed by NHTSA

THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY Traffic Safety Administration will open an inquiry into a collision on Sunday near Los Angeles involving a 2019 Tesla Inc. Model S that collided with another vehicle, the agency said late Tuesday. Two people died and two others were injured when a Tesla exited a freeway, ran a red light and slammed into a Honda Civic, an *NBC* News affiliate in Los Angeles reported on Sunday, citing law enforcement.

Mariah Carey’s Twitter account hacked

FOR AMERICAN SINGER-songwriter Mariah Carey, the year 2019 ended on a rather unfortunate note after her Twitter account got hacked on New Year’s Eve. During the hack, which lasted close to half an hour, over 50 tweets were posted before the singer got it back in control. The hackers posted a series of unexplained links, racist slurs, references to a long-running feud with Eminem as well as other bizarre tweets on the official account, which has more than 21 million followers.

Macau gaming revenue worst since 2015

MACAU GAMING REVENUE slipped for the third straight month, marking the worst annual decline since 2015 as the world’s largest gambling hub struggled to lure high rollers amid geopolitical tensions and an economic slowdown. Gross gaming revenue was 22.84 billion patacas (\$2.85 billion) in December, down 13.7% from a year earlier, according to data from the Gaming Inspection & Coordination Bureau. That was lower than the median analyst estimate of a 15% fall.

Johnson vows to take UK out of EU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
London, January 1

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson has vowed that the first item on his agenda in 2020 is to fulfil the will of the electorate and to conclude the UK’s divorce deal with the European Union within this month. In his new year message, Johnson, who is currently on holiday in the Caribbean, said he hoped the country would “move forward united” after it leaves the 28-member bloc on January 31. Johnson, who was re-elected in the December 12 General Elections said the “first item on his agenda” when he returned to London was delivering on the mandate of the people and taking the UK out of the EU. He vowed to govern “for everyone”, not just those who backed him and the Conservative Party at the highly-divisive polls. “As we say goodbye to 2019 we can also turn the page on the division, rancour and

CAPITAL INFUSION

China moves to steady growth

Country’s central bank will inject \$115 billion into the financial system

THE NEW YORK TIMES
Hong Kong, January 1

CHINA ON WEDNESDAY moved to inject \$115 billion in cash into its financial system, suggesting that Beijing remains concerned about faltering growth despite signs that the world’s second-largest economy is stabilising. China’s central bank, the People’s Bank of China, on Wednesday cut the amount of money that it requires the country’s commercial banks to stash away for a rainy day, a measure called the reserve requirement ratio. The move will essentially inject about \$115 billion into the financial system after it goes into effect on Monday. The cut comes after a similar move in September. The change, announced on the New Year’s Day holiday, is likely to focus renewed attention on the health of the Chinese economy, a major driver of global growth. While the move is relatively modest given the vast size of the Chinese economy, it follows a recent meeting of the country’s top economic planners and comes just a few weeks before Beijing releases its growth figures for the last three months of 2019. China’s leaders are contending with the country’s slowest pace of growth in nearly three decades. Beijing has been trying to pare down the country’s dependence on borrowing, which helped fuel heady growth in recent years but left big debts on the balance

Japan eyes new tech law to fend off Chinese influence

BLOOMBERG
Tokyo, January 1

JAPAN IS PLANNING a law to provide incentives for companies to use domestic parts in high-tech equipment to increase local competitiveness and fend off Chinese influence in security-related infrastructure, the *Yomiuri* newspaper reported, without citing how it obtained the information. The Japanese government plans to introduce the bill in the ordinary Diet session and have it in effect by this summer, according to the Wednesday report. The government sees the incentives initially being used with the introduction of 5G telecommunication equipment and drones, the *Yomiuri* said. Private companies can apply for tax subsidies or government aid when installing high-tech



A television factory in Shenzhen, China, in August. China is contending with its slowest pace of growth in nearly three decades

equipment and will be judged on factors including safety, supply stability and international compatibility. China has said restrictions on Chinese technology could damage bilateral ties, and PM Shinzo Abe will have to tread carefully as he looks to host Xi Jinping. China has said restrictions on Chinese technology could damage bilateral ties, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will have to tread carefully as he looks to host President Xi Jinping for a state visit planned for the spring of this year. If Xi makes the trip, it would crown Abe’s drive to restore a relationship between the two largest economies in Asia that was in a deep freeze when he took office in 2012.

China has said restrictions on Chinese technology could damage bilateral ties, and PM Shinzo Abe will have to tread carefully as he looks to host Xi Jinping

uncertainty which has dominated public life and held us back for far too long,” he said. The Conservatives’ resounding election victory has “driven an electoral bulldozer” through the deadlock in Parliament, the prime minister said, and offered a way out of the “division, rancour and uncertainty” surrounding the Brexit debate since the landmark 2016 referendum vote. Legislation to ratify the withdrawal agreement with the EU easily cleared its first hurdle before Christmas, when MPs backed it by a majority of 124. With an 80-seat Conservative majority in the House of Commons, the remaining stages of the bill are expected to be completed quickly in January in time, he PM said, to “get Brexit done before the end of this month.” “We can start a new chapter in the history of our country, in which we come together and move forward united, unleashing the enormous potential of the British people,” he said.

We can start a new chapter in the history of our country, in which we come together and move forward united.

— BORIS JOHNSON, BRITISH PM



TRIAL NOT TRIBULATION

Donald Trump, US President

I don’t really care. It doesn’t matter. As far as I’m concerned I’d be very happy with a trial because we did nothing wrong.

Airbus beats Boeing on jet deliveries in 2019

REUTERS
Paris, January 1

AIRBUS HAS BECOME the world’s largest planemaker for the first time since 2011 after delivering a forecast-beating 863 aircraft in 2019, seizing the crown from embattled US rival Boeing, airport and tracking sources said on Wednesday. A reversal in the pecking order between the two giants had been expected as a crisis over Boeing’s grounded 737 MAX drags into 2020. But the record European data further underscores the distance Boeing must travel to recoup its market position. Airbus, which had been forced by its own industrial problems to cut its 2019 delivery goal by 2-3% in October, deployed extra resources until hours before midnight to reach 863 aircraft for the year, compared with its revised target of 860 jets. Deliveries rose 7.9% from 800 aircraft in 2018. Planemakers receive most of their revenues when aircraft are delivered - minus accumulated progress payments - so the end-year delivery performance is closely monitored by investors.

SOARING HIGH

- Airbus delivered forecast-beating **863** aircraft last year
- Airbus was forced to cut its delivery goal by **2-3%** in October
- Planemaker’s deliveries rose **7.9%** from **800** aircraft in 2018
- Boeing delivered **345** mainly long-haul jets in Jan-Nov period

Boeing delivered 345 mainly long-haul jets between January and November, less than half the number of 704 achieved in the same period of 2018, when the MAX was being delivered normally. For the whole of 2018, Boeing had delivered 806 aircraft. Airbus’s tally, which included around 640 single-aisle aircraft, broke industry records after it diverted thousands of workers and cancelled holidays to complete a buffer stock of semi-finished aircraft waiting to have their cabins adjusted.

N Korea no longer bound by nuclear moratorium: Kim

THE NEW YORK TIMES
Seoul, January 1

NORTH KOREA’S LEADER, Kim Jong-un, said his country no longer felt bound by its self-imposed moratorium on testing nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles, its official media reported on Wednesday, the strongest indication yet that the country could soon resume such tests. Kim also said the world would witness a new strategic weapon “in the near future,” according to the North’s official Korean Central News Agency, though no details were provided.

North Korea has not conducted a long-range missile test or a nuclear test in more than two years. Kim had announced his moratorium at a time when he hoped negotiations with the United States — and his budding personal relationship with President Trump — would prompt the United States to begin lifting crippling sanctions. Trump, who has met Kim three times, has often cited the North’s restraint as a major diplomatic achievement. Speaking with reporters on Tuesday night at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, Trump said he still had a “very good relationship” with Kim. The North had set a December 31 deadline for the United States to make at least some concessions, complaining that its 18 months of diplomacy with Trump had yielded limited results. And for weeks, American officials feared Kim might test an intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, to make his point. During the party meeting on Tuesday, Kim said his country “will shift to a shocking actual action” that will make the United States “pay for the pains sustained by our people,” the North Korean news agency said. It remained unclear if a test was imminent. It is possible that Kim’s announcement on Wednesday is, by itself, the warning shot he wants to send to prod Trump, on the eve of a presidential election year, to begin lifting sanctions. All of the North’s state media gave prominent coverage to Kim’s remarks, indicating that they may have replaced an annual New Year’s Day speech that he had been expected to deliver. In its New Year’s Day edition, the North’s main party newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, filled its front page with Kim’s



Kim Jong un says the world would witness a new strategic weapon ‘in the near future’

Kim is a man of his word: Trump

US PRESIDENT DONALD Trump said on Tuesday North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had signed a contract about denuclearisation and that he thought the North Korean leader was a “man of his word.” Hours after Kim said his country would continue developing nuclear programs and introduce a “new strategic weapon” in the near future, Trump said he got along with Kim and “we have to do what we have to do.” “But he did sign a contract, he did sign an agreement talking about denuclearisation... That was done in Singapore, and I think he’s a man of his word, so we’re going to find out,” Trump said.

remarks, including an exhortation to his people to “foil the enemies’ sanctions.” Kim, who had hoped to shift his focus to finally reviving his country’s economy, has been growing frustrated in recent months as his negotiations on denuclearisation with the Trump administration have stalled.

SELECTIONS FROM



“OUR CRIES HAVE not been heard by many,” said Ignatius Aphrem II, patriarch of the Syriac Orthodox Church, in November. He was at a conference in Budapest on the persecution of Christians, and he spoke for those in the Middle East who had been pushed from their homes, forcibly converted or killed. Despite such suffering, he lamented, “very few tangible steps have been taken.” There was an exception to the general apathy, however: Hungary, the conference’s host, which he praised for its “unwavering commitment” to Christians in need. The Hungarian government declared this year that it is “taking responsibility for all of the world’s Christian communities”. Since 2016 it has created a high-level posi-

tion dedicated to Christian-persecution issues; set up Hungary Helps, a foreign-aid agency that has reportedly given 90% of its assistance to Christians; and founded the International Conference on Christian Persecution, which representatives from 40 countries attended in late November. Driving the push is Viktor Orban, the prime minister, who bills himself as a defender of Christianity both at home (by rejecting Muslim people and Western liberalism) and worldwide (by sending aid to Christians abroad). His closest ally in this crusade is Russia’s president, Vladimir Putin, who has said that Russians watch the plight of Christians in the Middle East “with tears in our eyes”. Christians are undoubtedly at risk. The Pew Research Centre found that, in 2017, they were harassed in every Middle Eastern country, either by the state or by other groups. Increasingly, strongmen are using persecuted Christians as “instruments in a larger political conflict”, says Marie Juul Petersen, a researcher at the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

EUROPE A USEFUL STICK

Christians are persecuted in many places. Autocrats exploit this

Viktor Orban and Vladimir Putin blame liberals in Europe

For nationalist leaders, the cause has much appeal. To stir up Hungarian voters, Orban likens European Christians facing the “muzzle of political correctness” to Middle Eastern ones facing death. Internationally, meanwhile, he and others blame Western liberal democracies for failing to stand up for oppressed Christians. Some suggest that liberal leaders are

too cowardly to do so. Others hint at something darker. Orban speaks of “a mysterious force” that “shuts the mouths of European politicians and cripples their arms” to act on the issue. Sergei Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, says Europe “shamefully renounces its Christian roots”. And in September, at a panel on Christian persecution, co-hosted by Brazil and Hungary,

The Pew Research Centre found that, in 2017, they were harassed in every Middle Eastern country, either by the state or by other groups. Increasingly, strongmen are using persecuted Christians as “instruments in a larger political conflict”

the Philippines’ foreign secretary asked ominously: “Hear anything from Wall Street? Nothing. Lombard Street? Even less.” According to these men, couching Christian rights in broader religious-freedom language, as is common in Western countries, does not count. Central to their argument is a widespread refrain, repeated not just by Mr Orban but also by Germany’s chancellor, Angela Merkel: that Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world. This statement is hard to verify, according to Katherine Marshall of

Georgetown University. Varied definitions of persecution, hard-to-reach populations and overlapping religious and ethnic identities all complicate data-gathering. Anyway, there is little evidence that Hungary’s style of Christian-centric aid is especially helpful even to Christians. Much of it has gone towards individual building projects—about \$1.7 million to restore churches in Lebanon, and another \$450,000 to a school for displaced children in Erbil, the Kurdish capital. The overall amount of aid Hungary gives to persecuted Christians is “meagre”, says Balazs Szent-Ivanyi of Aston University. The government has claimed it totalled a modest \$40m over three years. The most serious harm that Mr Orban and his ilk do to the Christians they claim to champion is to corrode the idea of religious freedom itself. Helping illegal immigrants in Hungary can get you imprisoned for a year, and being a Jehovah’s Witness in Russia can get you tortured. Christianity’s loudest defenders are not very Christian. ©The Economist Newspaper Limited