

Thursday, August 1, 2024

mint

livemint.com



Taxman puts Infosys on notice over GST

P1



Byju's move to settle BCCI dues irks US lenders

P1

This is a public announcement for information purposes only and is not a prospectus announcement and does not constitute an invitation or offer to acquire, purchase or subscribe to securities. Not for release, publication or distribution directly or indirectly, outside India. Initial public offer of Equity Shares (as defined below) on the main board of BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE", and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges") in compliance with Chapter II of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, as amended ("SEBI ICDR Regulations").



(Please scan the QR code to view the RHP)

CEIGALL INDIA LIMITED

Our Company was originally incorporated as "Ceigall Builders Private Limited" at Ludhiana, Punjab, India under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated July 8, 2002, as a private limited company issued by the Registrar of Companies, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh & Chandigarh at Chandigarh. Upon the conversion of our Company into a public limited company, pursuant to a board resolution dated January 28, 2011 and a shareholders' resolution dated January 29, 2011, the name of our Company was changed to "Ceigall India Limited" and a fresh certificate of incorporation dated February 9, 2011 was issued by the Registrar of Companies, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh & Chandigarh at Chandigarh. For details in relation to the changes in the registered office of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters - Changes in the registered office of our Company" on page 244 of the red herring prospectus dated July 26, 2024 filed with the RoC ("RHP" or "Red Herring Prospectus").

Corporate Identity Number: U45201PB2002PLC025257

Registered Office: A-898, Tagore Nagar, Ludhiana 141 001, Punjab, India; Corporate Office: 2nd Floor, JMK Towers, Kapashera, Delhi 110 037, India. Contact Person: Utkarsh Gupta, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Tel: +91 161 4623666; E-mail: secretarial@ceigall.com; Website: www.ceigall.com

PROMOTERS OF OUR COMPANY: RAMNEEK SEHGAL, RAMNEEK SEHGAL AND SONS HUF AND RS FAMILY TRUST

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 5 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF CEIGALL INDIA LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE INCLUDING A SECURITIES PREMIUM OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE (THE "OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (THE "OFFER"). THE OFFER COMPRISES A FRESH ISSUE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES BY OUR COMPANY AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 6,842.52 MILLION (THE "FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 14,174,840 EQUITY SHARES (THE "OFFERED SHARES") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (THE "OFFER FOR SALE").

THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 5 EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 20.00 MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO [●]% OF THE POST OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY), FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS HERINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [●] AND [●]%, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

DETAILS OF THE OFFER FOR SALE BY SELLING SHAREHOLDERS AND THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 5/- EACH.

NAME OF SELLING SHAREHOLDER	TYPE	NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES OFFERED/ AMOUNT (₹ IN MILLION)	WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE (IN ₹)
Ramneek Sehgal	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 4,248,300 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 5 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	Nil
Ramneek Sehgal and Sons HUF	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 7,536,050 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 5 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	Nil
Avneet Luthra	Promoter Group Selling Shareholder	Up to 4,950 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 5 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	0.02
Mohinder Pal Singh Sehgal	Promoter Group Selling Shareholder	Up to 919,960 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 5 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	0.06
Parmjit Sehgal	Promoter Group Selling Shareholder	Up to 548,980 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 5 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	Nil
Simran Sehgal	Promoter Group Selling Shareholder	Up to 914,950 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 5 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	0.06
Kanwaldeep Singh Luthra	Individual Selling Shareholder	Up to 1,650 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 5 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	0.06

*As certified by Statutory Auditors, by way of their certificate dated July 26, 2024.

We are an infrastructure construction company with experience in undertaking construction of elevated roads, flyovers, bridges, railway over bridges, tunnels, highways, metros, expressways and runways. Our business model is broadly divided into engineering, procurement and construction projects, Hybrid Annuity Model projects and operation and maintenance.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations.

QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Category: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer | Retail Category: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer

Employee Reservation Portion: Up to [●] Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 5 each aggregating up to ₹20.00 million.

PRICE BAND: ₹380 TO ₹401 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹5 EACH

THE FLOOR PRICE AND THE CAP PRICE ARE 76.00 TIMES AND 80.20 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES RESPECTIVELY

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 37 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 5 EACH AND IN MULTIPLES OF 37 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 5 EACH THEREAFTER

A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 38 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION

In accordance with the recommendation of Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to their resolution dated July 27, 2024, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" section beginning on page 114 of the RHP vis-a-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition ("WACA") of primary and secondary transaction(s), as applicable, disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" section on page 124 of the RHP and provided below in this advertisement.

In making an investment decision, potential investors must only rely on the information included in the RHP and the terms of the Offer, including the merits and risks involved and not rely on any other external sources of information about the Offer available in any manner.

RISKS TO INVESTORS:

(For details refer to section titled "Risk Factors" on page 34 of the RHP)

- Our business is primarily dependent on contracts awarded by governmental authorities.** As on June 30, 2024, Fiscal 2024, 2023 and 2022 the NHAI projects awarded to us constituted 80.31%, 76.66%, 89.72% and 95.05% of our Order Book, while the remaining 19.69%, 23.34%, 10.28%, and 4.95% of our Order Book was from contracts with other central, state governmental and local departments. Any adverse changes in the central, state or local government policies may lead to our contracts being foreclosed, terminated, restructured or renegotiated, which may have a material affect on our business and results of operations.
- Losses and negative cash flow from operating activities in the past:** We have sustained negative cash flows from operating activities in the past and may experience earnings declines or operating losses or negative cash flows from operating activities in the future. If we are not able to generate sufficient cash flows, it may adversely affect our business and financial operations.
Details are as follows:
(in ₹ million)

Particulars	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2023	Fiscal 2022
Net cash generated from/ (used in) operating activities	(2,108.26)	(727.13)	(1,345.89)
Net cash generated from/ (used in) investing activities	(381.58)	(1,337.95)	(1,635.86)
Net cash generated from/ (used in) financing activities	2,749.22	3,259.72	3,096.12
- Competitive Risk:** All, EPC and HAM projects we operate have been awarded primarily through competitive bidding process. Our bids may not always be accepted. We may not be able to qualify for, compete and win projects or identify and acquire new projects, which could adversely affect our business and results of operations. In Fiscal 2024, 2023 and 2022, our Company has bid for 52, 50 and 139 projects and has been awarded 4, 5 and 14 projects. Further Market conditions may affect our ability to complete our HAM and EPC projects at expected profit margin.
- Operational Risk:** Our revenue from execution of projects in the roads and highways sector including specialized structures constituted approximately 92.71%, 96.57% and 97.46% of our total revenue for the Financial Years ended March 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Our business and our financial condition would be materially and adversely affected if we fail to obtain new contracts or our current contracts are terminated.
- Risk related to high working capital requirement:** We have high working capital requirements. If we experience insufficient cash flows to enable us to make required payments on our debt or fund working capital requirements, there may be an adverse effect on our results of operations and profitability of our Company. Our working capital requirement was ₹ 5,304.70 in Fiscal 2024, ₹ 4,059.98 in Fiscal 2023 and ₹ 3,080.25 in Fiscal 2022.
- Risk related to RoC non-compliance:** In the past, we have had instances of non-compliance under the Companies Act, 2013, where our Company had filed compounding applications for non-compliance by (i) not constituting nomination and remuneration committee; (ii) not constituting audit committee and (iii) not appointing at least two independent directors on Board. Any such instances of non-compliance may have an adverse effect on our reputation and impact our profitability.
- Risk related to delay in completion of construction:** Delays, such as natural disaster, seasonal impact, delay in land acquisition by authority and others, in the completion of construction of ongoing projects could lead to termination of our contracts or cost overruns or claims for damages, which could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.
- Risk related to operations with Joint venture:** Projects sub-contracted or undertaken through a joint venture may be delayed on account of non performance of the joint venture partner, principal or sub-contractor, resulting in delayed payments or non enforcement of performance guarantee issued by us, could lead to material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.
- Risk related to payment towards royalty charges for mining:** We are required to pay royalty charges for mining pursuant to terms of our contracts and specific central and state regulations. Any adverse change in the terms of contract and policies adopted by the government regarding payment of royalty on mining could adversely affect our project cost and profitability. We have paid mining royalty of ₹ 365.60 million in Fiscal 2024, ₹ 65.88 million in Fiscal 2023, ₹ 11.30 million in Fiscal 2022, ₹ 56.59 million in Fiscal 2021 and ₹ 1.03 million in Fiscal 2020.
- Operations related risk:** Our operations are subject to accidents, mishaps, failure of equipment, power supply, labour disputes, natural disasters or other force majeure conditions which are beyond our control and could expose us to material liabilities, loss in revenues and increased expenses, which could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.
- Regional Concentration Risk:** Our business is relatively concentrated in north, west and central region of India and any adverse development in these regions may adversely affect our business and results of operations.
- Risk related to arrangement or invocation of performance bank guarantee:** We are required to furnish financial and performance bank guarantees as part of our business.

Continued on next page...

...continued from previous page.

In Fiscal 2024, 2023 and 2022, Our Company has issued bank guarantee (including letter of credit) of ₹ 7,498.97 million, ₹ 5,524.82 million and ₹ 3,358.09 million. Our inability to arrange such guarantees or the invocation of such guarantees may adversely affect our financial condition.

13. The Offer comprises an Offer for Sale by the Selling Shareholders. The Selling Shareholders will receive the entire proceeds from the Offer for Sale (after deducting applicable Offer expenses) and our Company will not receive any part of the proceeds of the Offer.

14. We operate in a competitive environment and compete against various domestic and foreign engineering, construction and infrastructure companies and our failure to successfully compete could result in the loss of one or more of our significant customers and may adversely affect our business.

15. We may not be able to always complete our projects ahead of schedule and be eligible for early completion bonus, which could have an adverse effect on our profitability.

16. Weighted average cost of acquisition of primary and secondary issuances as compared to Floor Price and Cap Price:

Table with 4 columns: Past transactions, Weighted average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (₹)†, Floor Price (₹), Cap Price (₹). Rows include WACA of Equity Shares based on primary and secondary issuances.

† As certified by Statutory Auditors, by their certificate dated July 27, 2024.

17. Average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for our Selling Shareholders in the Offer is as stated in the below table and the Offer Price at the upper band of the price band is ₹401.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Number of Equity Shares, Average Cost of Acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹)*. Rows include Ramneek Sehgal, Ramneek Sehgal and Sons HUF, Avneet Luthra, Kanwaldeep Singh Luthra, Mohinder Pal Singh Sehgal.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Number of Equity Shares, Average Cost of Acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹)*. Rows include Parmjit Sehgal, Simran Sehgal.

* As certified by Statutory Auditors, by way of their certificate dated July 26, 2024.

18. Weighted average cost of acquisition of all shares transacted in the three years, 18 months and one year preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus:

Table with 4 columns: Period, Weighted average cost of acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹), Cap Price is 'x' times the weighted average cost of acquisition®, Range of acquisition price per Equity Share: lowest price-highest price (in ₹). Rows include Last one year preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus, Last 18 months preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus, Last three years preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus.

® As certified by Statutory Auditors by way of their certificate dated July 27, 2024.

19. The Price to Earnings Ratio based on Basis and Diluted EPS for Fiscal 2024 at the upper end of the Price Band is 20.70 times as compared to the average industry Peer Group PE Ratio of 18.34.

20. Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for the Financial Years 2024, 2023 and 2022 is 31.05%.

21. The three BRLMs associated with the Offer have handled 78 public issues in the past three financial years, out of which 20 issues closed below the Offer Price on listing date:

Table with 3 columns: Name of the BRLMs, Total Public Issues, Issues closed below Offer Price on listing date. Rows include ICICI Securities Limited*, IIFL Securities Limited*, JM Financial Limited*, Common Issues handled by the BRLMs, Total.

* Issues handled where there are no common BRLMs.

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME

BID/ OFFER OPENS TODAY

BID/ OFFER CLOSES ON MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024†

† UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 pm on the Bid/Offer Closing Date.

An indicative timetable in respect of the Offer is set out below:

Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors):

Table with 2 columns: Bid/ Offer Period (except the Bid/ Offer Closing Date), Submission and Revision in Bids. Rows include Submission of Electronic Applications (Online ASBA through 3-in-1 accounts), Submission of Electronic Applications (Bank ASBA through Online channels like Internet Banking, Mobile Banking and Syndicate ASBA applications made through UPI), Submission of Physical Applications (Bank ASBA), Submission of Physical Applications (Syndicate Non-Retail, Non-Individual Applications of QIBs and Non-Institutional Investors).

Table with 2 columns: Modification/ Revision/cancellation of Bids, Upward Revision of Bids by QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders categories†. Rows include Upward or downward Revision of Bids or cancellation of Bids by RIBs.

† UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 pm on Bid/Offer Closing Date.

‡ QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders can neither revise their bids downwards nor cancel/withdraw their bids.

Bid/Offer Period:

Table with 2 columns: Event, Indicative Date. Rows include Bid/ Offer Closing Date, Finalisation of Basis of Allotment with the Designated Stock Exchange, Initiation of refunds (if any, for Anchor Investors) / unblocking of funds from ASBA Account, Credit of the Equity Shares to demat accounts of Allottees, Commencement of trading of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges.

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON MAIN BOARD PLATFORM OF BSE AND NSE

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/ Offer Period shall be extended for at least three additional Working Day after such revision of the Price Band, subject to the total Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/ Offer Period for a minimum of one Working Day, subject to the Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band, and the revised Bid/ Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice and also by indicating the change on the websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Members of the Syndicate and by intimation to Designated Intermediaries and Sponsor Bank(s), as applicable.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended (the "SCRR"), read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") (the "QIB Portion"), provided that our Company in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors and the basis of such allocation will be on a discretionary basis by our Company in consultation with the BRLMs, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations (the "Anchor Investor Portion"), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the price at which allocation is made to Anchor Investors ("Anchor Investor Allocation Price"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs (other than Anchor Investors), including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, up to 10% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Investors ("Non-Institutional Category") of which one-third of the Non-Institutional Category shall be available for allocation to Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 2,00,000 and up to ₹ 1,00,00,000 and two-thirds of the Non-Institutional Category shall be available for allocation to Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 1,00,00,000 and under-subscription in either of these two sub-categories of Non-Institutional Category may be allocated to Bidders in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Category in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Investors ("Retail Category"), in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders (except Anchor Investors) shall mandatorily participate in this Offer only through the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process and shall provide details of their respective bank account (including UPI ID (defined hereinafter) in case of UPI Bidders (defined hereinafter) by which the Bid Amount will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs") or the Sponsor Bank(s), as the case may be. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. Further, Equity Shares will be allocated on a proportionate basis to Eligible Employees applying under the Employee Reservation Portion, subject to valid Bids received from them at or above the Offer Price. For details, see "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 414 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI Mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID available (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk.

Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with the notification issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and read with press releases dated June 25, 2021, read with press release dated September 17, 2021 and CBDT circular no.7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022 read with press release dated March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: For information on the main objects of our Company, investors are requested to see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" beginning on page 244 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" beginning on page 453 of the RHP.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMPANY: Limited by shares. AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of our Company is ₹ 1,000,000,000 divided into 200,000,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹5 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up Equity share capital of our Company is ₹ 785,680,000 divided into 157,136,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 5 each. For details of the capital structure of our Company, see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 92 of the RHP.

NAMES OF THE INITIAL SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The names of the initial signatories of the Memorandum of Association of our Company along with their allotment are: Allotment of 4,000 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each to Mohinder Pal Singh Sehgal, Ramneek Sehgal and Parmjit Sehgal. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 92 of the RHP.

LISTING: The Equity Shares offered through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received in-principle approvals from BSE and NSE for listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to their letters each dated June 5, 2024. For the purposes of the Offer, NSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange. A signed copy of the RHP has been filed with the Registrar of Companies, Punjab and Chandigarh at Chandigarh and the signed copy of Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with Section 26(4) and Section 32 of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the RHP until the Bid/ Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 453 of the RHP.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities stated in the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 388 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to the page 390 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE (the Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 391 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

GENERAL RISK: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the RHP. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 34 of the RHP.

ASBA* | Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

*Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to offers by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA. Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.



UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and Non Institutional Investor applying in public issues where the application amount is up to ₹ 500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in the Bid Cum Application Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" on page 414 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("AIBI") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. The Bid Cum Application Form and the Abridged Prospectus can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"), and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges" and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFP=yes&intmid=35 and https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFP=yes&intmid=43, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. HDFC Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited have been appointed as the Sponsor Banks for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of SEBI circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For Offer related queries, please contact the Book Running Lead Managers ("BRLMs") on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER



ICICI Securities Limited
ICICI Venture House, Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India
Tel: + 91 22 6807 7100; E-mail: ceigall.ipo@icicisecurities.com
Investor grievance e-mail: customercare@icicisecurities.com
Contact Person: Gaurav Mittal/ Nikita Chirania
Website: www.icicisecurities.com
SEBI Registration No.: INM000011179



IIFL Securities Limited
24th Floor, One Lodha Place, Senapati Bapat Marg,
Lower Parel (West), Mumbai 400 013, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4646 4728; E-mail: ceigall.ipo@iiflcap.com
Investor grievance e-mail: ig_ib@iiflcap.com
Contact person: Aartiya Ratul/ Pawan Jain
Website: www.iiflcap.com
SEBI Registration No.: INM000010940



JM Financial Limited
7th Floor, Chery, Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6630 3030; E-mail: ceigall.ipo@jmf.com
Investor grievance e-mail: grievance.ibd@jmf.com
Contact person: Prachee Dhuri
Website: www.jmf.com
SEBI Registration No.: INM000010361



Link Intime India Private Limited
C-101, 1st Floor, 247 Park, L.B.S. Marg,
Vikhroli West, Mumbai 400 083, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 810 811 4949; E-mail: ceigall.ipo@linkintime.co.in
Investor grievance e-mail: ceigall.ipo@linkintime.co.in
Contact person: Shanti Gopalakrishnan
Website: www.linkintime.co.in
SEBI Registration No.: INR000004058

Utkarsh Gupta
CEIGALL INDIA LIMITED
A-898, Tagore Nagar, Ludhiana 141 001 Punjab, India
Tel: +91 161 4623666; E-mail: secretarial@ceigall.com
Website: www.ceigall.com
Investors may contact our Company Secretary and Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related grievances including non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-receipt of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Offer related queries and for redressal of complaints, investors may also write to the BRLMs.

AVAILABILITY OF THE RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the "Risk Factors" beginning on page 34 of the RHP before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and is available on the websites of the BRLMs, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, IIFL Securities Limited at www.iiflcap.com and JM Financial Limited at www.jmf.com respectively, the website of the Company, Ceigall India Limited at www.ceigall.com and the websites of the Stock Exchanges, for BSE at www.bseindia.com and for NSE Limited at www.nseindia.com.

AVAILABILITY OF THE ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS: Acopy of the abridged prospectus shall be available on the website of the Company, the BRLMs and the Registrar to the Offer at www.ceigall.com; www.icicisecurities.com; www.iiflcap.com; www.jmf.com; ceigall.ipo@linkintime.co.in

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORM: Bid cum Application Form can be obtained from the Registered Office of our Company, CEIGALL INDIA LIMITED: Tel: +91 161 4623666; BRLMs: ICICI Securities Limited, Tel: +91 22 6807 7100; IIFL Securities Limited, Tel: +91 22 4646 4728 and JM Financial Limited, Tel: +91 22 6630 3030 and at selected locations of Sub-Syndicate Members (as given below), Registered Brokers, SCSBs, Designated RTA Locations and Designated CDP Locations for participating in the Offer. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and at all the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

SUB-SYNDICATE MEMBERS: Almond Global Securities Ltd.; Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd.; Axis Capital Ltd.; Bajaj Financial Securities Ltd.; Centrum Wealth Management Ltd.; Choice Equity Broking Private Limited.; DB(International) Stock Brokers Ltd.; Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Ltd.; Globe Capital Markets Ltd.; HDFC Securities Ltd.; ICICI Securities Limited; IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Ltd.; IIFL Securities Limited; JM Financial Services Limited; Jobanputra Fiscal Services Pvt. Ltd.; Keynote

CEIGALL INDIA LIMITED is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with the RoC. The RHP shall be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, on the website of the Company at www.ceigall.com and the BRLMs i.e., ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, IIFL Securities Limited at www.iiflcap.com and JM Financial Limited at www.jmf.com. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risks, please see the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 34 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with the SEBI for making any investment decision but can only rely on the information included in the RHP.

The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States, and unless so registered, and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold outside the United States in offshore transactions as defined in and in reliance on Regulation S and the applicable laws of each jurisdiction where such offers and sales are made. There will be no public offering of the Equity Shares in the United States.

Capital Limited; KJMC Capital Markets Ltd.; Kotak Securities Limited; LKP Securities Ltd.; Venture Growth & Securities Ltd.; Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited; Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Formerly known as Edelweiss Broking Limited); Prabhudas Lilladher P.Ltd.; Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Ltd.; Religare Broking Ltd.; RR Equity Brokers Pvt. Ltd.; SBICAP Securities Ltd.; Sharekhan Ltd.; SMC Global Securities Ltd.; Systematix Shares and Stocks (India) Limited; Tradebulls Securities Limited and YES Securities Ltd.

Escrow Collection Bank: ICICI Bank Limited | Public Offer Account Bank: HDFC Bank Limited | Refund Bank: ICICI Bank Limited. Sponsor Bank: HDFC Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited.

UPI: UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI Mechanism.

All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For CEIGALL INDIA LIMITED
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Utkarsh Gupta
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Punjab
Date: July 31, 2024

Thursday, August 1, 2024

mint

Think Ahead. Think Growth.

mint primer

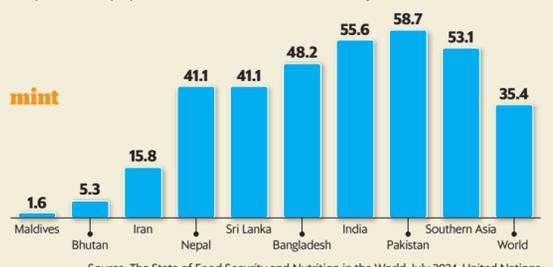
Fewer Indians go hungry. But what are they eating?

BY SAYANTAN BERA

Food insecurity in India is declining, yet over half of its population still cannot afford a healthy diet, says a UN report released on 24 July. And, with rising intake of junk food, the incidence of obesity has nearly doubled in a decade. *Mint* explains what these numbers mean.

Food for thought

Proportion of population unable to afford a 'healthy diet' in South Asia



Source: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, July 2024, United Nations
PRANAY BHARDWAJ/MINT

1 What does the United Nations report say?

The 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' is a cross-country comparison published jointly by five UN agencies. As per the report, the prevalence of undernourishment, or hunger, declined in India from 21.4% of the population in 2004-06 to 13.7% in 2021-23. But worryingly, 55.6% of India's population—roughly about 790 million people—were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2022. However, this is an improvement over 2017 when about 70% Indians were unable to afford a healthy diet. A healthy diet is defined as one comprising a variety of locally available foods which meet both energy and nutritional needs.

2 So, it's eating well versus eating more?

Yes. Hunger can be satiated by calorie-dense and low-nutrition items such as rice and wheat or even cheap ultra-processed junk items like savouries and biscuits. The data shows that India has largely fixed its hunger problem but the majority still cannot afford a nutritious diet. A healthy diet comprising fruit, vegetables, plant or animal sources of protein, and dairy can be costlier than a diet loaded with calories. Interestingly, numbers from the report show that between 2012 and 2022, the incidence of obesity rose from 4.1% of the population to 7.3%. India is now home to over 70 million adults who are obese.

AFP

3 How has the food security scheme helped in this?

India runs the world's biggest free food programme which supplies 5 kg cereals to over 810 million people every month. The scheme is limited to addressing hunger. Other schemes such as school meals offer a more nutritious diet but it varies from state to state. For instance, Tamil Nadu provide eggs to children every day while others like Uttar Pradesh do not offer any.

4 How does India compare with others?

Among South Asian countries, India, where 56% of the population cannot afford a healthy diet, ranks lower than Bangladesh (48%), Sri Lanka (41%), Nepal (41%), Bhutan (5%), and Maldives (2%) but better than Pakistan (59%). China (17%) and Brazil (25%) do far better. India scores lower than lower-middle-income countries (53%) as well as the global average (35%). The cost of a healthy diet in India increased by 17% in the five years to 2022, compared to 30% for the South Asia region. This means India did a better job taming food prices.

5 What is the fallout of an unhealthy diet?

Unhealthy diet is responsible for over half of India's disease burden, the National Institute of Nutrition cautioned in May. Cereals make up 50-70% of our daily energy needs while protein sources contribute just 7-9%—half the recommended level. As pulses and vegetables are costly, Indians are spending more on cheap junk food. Processed food and beverages were the biggest component in the monthly per capita spending of families, accounting for a tenth of all expenses in 2022-23, shows government data.

QUICK EDIT

Slowdown in China

China's purchasing managers' index (PMI) for manufacturing shows that the world's factory is sputtering. It logged a third month of contraction in a row this July, with a reading of 49.4, which is under the 50 mark that separates it from expansion. Consumer demand in China has been in a prolonged slump amid the deflation of its property sector, which accounts for a major chunk of people's wealth. As property values have dropped, their spending has diminished. Deflationary forces in various markets have hurt the pricing power of businesses, even as investments from the West decline. Some of the blame lies with Beijing's policy framework, which began giving the private sector a hard time a few years ago. Sure, its central bank has cut interest rates and the ruling party has pledged to step up efforts to support growth, which slowed to 4.7% in the second quarter from 5.3% in the first. With the West barricading many of its exports, however, its economic prospects may fail to brighten. Has China attempted to pivot prematurely from capitalism back to socialism? Whatever Beijing's grand plan, its shift-signalling slogan of "common prosperity" could turn into a story of common misery.

MINT METRIC

by Bibek Debroy

If you take a pillion ride,
In Kerala - a rule to abide.
If with the driver you converse,
The fine will make you worse.
Enforcement questions leave aside.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

While India stands to benefit from the re-orientation of global supply chains in the post-pandemic world, our growth and prosperity must be driven by job creation.

ANAND MAHINDRA
MAHINDRA GROUP
CHAIRMAN



MINT PODCASTS



OLA IPO GAINS

Ola Electric's IPO, priced at ₹72-76, could boost CEO Bhavish Aggarwal's stake to ₹10,000 crore, with earnings of ₹240 crore. Major investors and Bollywood stars stand to gain. Meanwhile, Adani eyes Jaypee Group's real estate for up to \$1 billion, expanding his footprint significantly.



SOLUTIONS FOR NRIs

Mint's Shipra talks with Urvil Modi, founder and CEO of Samriddhi Wealth Management, about challenges NRIs face while selling properties in India. They explore ways to streamline the process and reduce complexities, offering valuable insights for the NRIs.



AI TEDDY BEARS

In the latest *Mint* Techcetra, hosts Leslie D'Monte and Shouvik Das discuss Sky Rocket's AI Teddy Bear Poe, which creates unique stories for kids using Microsoft Azure and OpenAI ChatGPT 4.0. They also cover Samsung's Galaxy Ring, and the Galaxy Watch Ultra's FDA-cleared sleep apnea detection.





India keen for global rupee, but road is long

BY NANDITA VENKATESAN

India's ambition to make the rupee a global player got a push in the Budget when finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to "promote opportunities" to use the currency for overseas investments. However, turning the rupee into a hard currency—one that is politically and economically stable—would depend on several factors, such as convertibility on the capital account, sustained economic growth and promising export footprint that lowers trade deficit.

The agenda first gathered steam in July 2022 when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) put in place a mechanism to allow trade settlement in rupees. A headway came in December 2023 with India's first-ever rupee payment for oil from the UAE, a major trading partner. The budget announcement also comes at a time when the rupee has been in a sweet spot. Shielded by rising capital inflows, it has moved in a narrow range with low volatility this year, bolstering its credibility when peers have faced downward pressures, battered by a strengthening US dollar and rising commodity prices. While relative stability alone doesn't guarantee globalization, it is a show of strength and could push a case for increased global use.



Where do we stand?

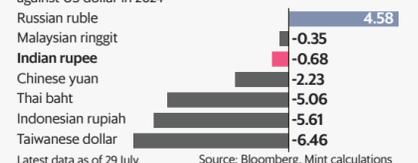
A recent timeline of key events on the road to rupee internationalization



Source: Mint research, Reserve Bank of India

Rupee has been relatively stable compared with other EM currencies

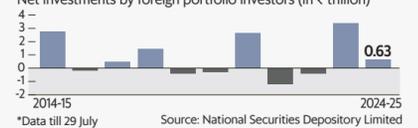
Change (%) in value of major emerging market currencies against US dollar in 2024



Latest data as of 29 July

Source: Bloomberg, Mint calculations

Strong capital flows in FY24 bolstered the rupee's stability but remain volatile



*Data till 29 July

Source: National Securities Depository Limited

Convertibility Dilemma

"WHAT FM Sitharaman announced is a continuation of existing efforts," Dhiraj Nim, chief economist at ANZ, said. "Internationalizing the rupee is a long-term game. More such measures will be needed over the coming years."

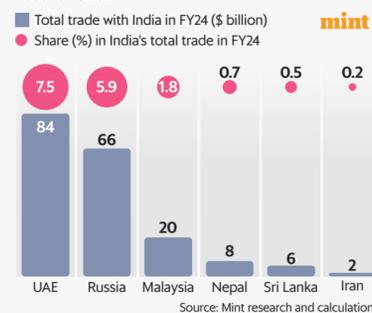
For a national currency to globalize, full convertibility—or free, market-driven exchange of a currency with others and vice versa—is essential. The rupee is fully convertible on the current account (for example, trade) since 1992; it's not on the capital account as there are restrictions and ceilings on rupee flows for cross-border investments.

As a lower middle-income economy in transition, India's approach to full capital account convertibility has been cautious as opening up comes with higher vulnerability to external shocks. "Our exchange rates are very vulnerable to capital flight risks. Huge strides in capital account convertibility will need a lot more stable economy," Nim said.

Steps to deepen our bond market, such as more Indian government bonds being traded on global indices, will attract more foreign capital. "We need a macro strategy where we are reducing our current account deficit, to support greater rupee internationalization. Our bond markets need to be deepened, making it easy for people to invest," said Sakshi Gupta, principal economist at HDFC Bank.

India's efforts so far have mostly tapped small partners for trade in rupee

Select countries with which India has full or partial rupee trade settlement*



Source: Mint research and calculations

Windows of Hope

WHILE THE US dollar remains the gold standard in the world of trade, giving rupee more wings could result in significant economic gains by slashing transaction costs and mitigating forex risks for traders. India has taken tiny steps in facilitating rupee trade with countries like Nepal and Sri Lanka, but these account for a minuscule share in India's as well as global trade. India could take lessons from China, which has made its currency the fourth most active currency for global payments by value, with a share of 4.6% in June 2024, according to latest data from SWIFT, an interbank messaging network.

However, China's push to internationalize the yuan started in the 2000s and it got included in the IMF's basket of reserve currencies only in 2016. India's attempt will depend on a balance of stable and substantial foreign flows and could take a long time. India's recent inclusion in the JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Series is a pivotal step towards this. The journey towards rupee globalization is complex and fraught with challenges.

nandita.venkatesan@livemint.com

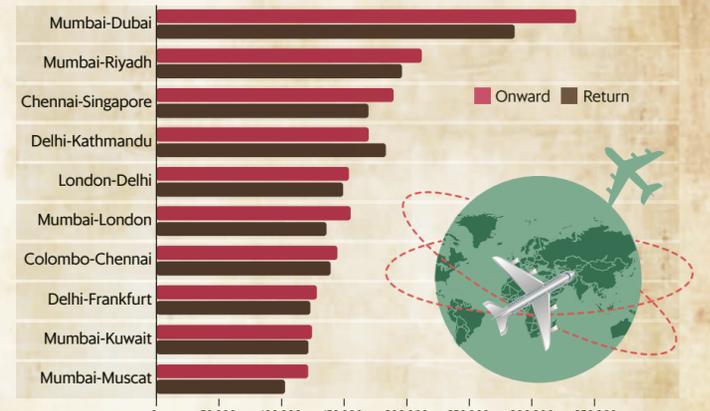
DATA REWIND

Data Rewind is an occasional Plain Facts feature that brings you interesting statistics and charts from yesteryear.

Nearly 6% of all international air traffic in India was between Mumbai and Dubai in 1997-98. The route between these two airports accounted for over 600,000 passengers (both ways) of the total 10.7 million international passengers handled by Indian airports that year. Riyadh, Singapore, Kathmandu, and London were the other popular destinations. Even today, the Dubai-Mumbai route continues to be the busiest international route for Indian airports, with over 6% share in 2022-23.

Which international flight routes were popular in India in the 1990s?

Number of revenue passengers carried between top 10 airport pairs in 1997-98



Compiled by Shuja Asrar



Source: Directorate General of Civil Aviation

PARAS JAIN/MINT

PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



Thursday, August 1, 2024

mint

livemint.com



Why did Licious cross the road to physical stores? ▶ P12



Luxe resorts hike rates by 60% for long weekend in Aug ▶ P5



Your moment to #LiveItUp has arrived!



Taxman puts Infy on notice over GST

₹32,403 cr IGST on services given by foreign branches: DGGI

Nikita Prasad & Jas Bardia
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Tax authorities on Wednesday flagged indirect tax evasion of ₹32,403 crore at Bengaluru-based Infosys Ltd over services provided by its overseas branches, in one of the largest cases since the debut of the goods and services tax (GST) regime more than seven years ago.

Infosys, India's second-largest technology services provider, said it believes the tax does not apply to the services in question.

A Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) note said it is investigating the technology blue-chip for evasion of integrated goods and services tax (IGST) over a five-year period till FY22. It said the IT



Infosys believes IGST does not cover the services in question. MINT

giant set up branch offices abroad for carrying out business and included the expenses it incurred towards these overseas branches as part of its export invoice from India. As Infosys creates overseas bran-

TURN TO PAGE 6

Tech staff must wait longer for pay hikes

Jas Bardia
jas.bardia@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of thousands of India's tech workers are staring at delayed wage hikes for the second year running, as companies navigating a winter of weak revenues and muted outlook look to shore up margins first. The delay comes at a time of falling headcounts at most tech companies.

While Wipro, HCLTech, Tech Mahindra and LTIMindtree are yet to decide on wage hikes, Infosys, which had given FY23 hikes in last November as against the usual June, isn't thinking about FY24 hikes yet.

"We are evaluating, considering all the factors that we

TURN TO PAGE 6

Byju's move to pay BCCI irks lenders

Priyanka Gawande
priyanka.gawande@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Struggling edtech Byju's on Wednesday sought to fend off bankruptcy by settling dues with India's cricket board, a move that faced stiff resistance from its US lenders.

Riju Raveendran, younger brother of the edtech's founder Byju Raveendran, has raised ₹158 crore to pay the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Byju's informed the company law appeals court. Byju's also agreed to submit an undertaking that this money came from Riju, not Byju's, after US lenders questioned its source.

Byju's paid BCCI ₹50 crore on 30 July, and will pay the rest on 2 and 9 August, its counsel Arun Kathpalia told the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). How-



Byju Raveendran, founder, Byju's.

ever, Glas Trust Inc., which represents some of Byju's US lenders, opposed the settlement, highlighting its claim to ₹8,000 crore which was disbursed to Byju's US subsidiary. The money "has disappeared", said senior lawyer Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Glas Trust.

It was BCCI, one of Byju's

TURN TO PAGE 6

DON'T MISS



Fed holds rates steady, nods to possible September cut

The Federal Reserve held interest rates steady—between 5.25% and 5.50%—but opened the door to reducing borrowing costs as soon as its next meeting in September as inflation continues coming into line with the central bank's 2% target.

Maruti sees discounts surge 50% to drive sales in the June quarter

Maruti Suzuki India has reported a 50% increase in discounts for the first quarter of FY25 compared with Q4FY24, a promotion expense to drive sales in a tough market impacted adversely by an acute heatwave and subdued sentiment. >P6

Former HDFC executives set up affordable home finance biz

Former officials of HDFC Ltd have set up an affordable housing finance business, a year after the largest mortgage lender merged with its subsidiary HDFC Bank. A few former HDFC employees have expressed interest in investing in the company. >P7

An Initiative of
SG LIVE



An Initiative of
EVA LIVE

BRYAN ADAMS



INDIA TOUR '24
10 DEC SHILLONG
12 DEC GURUGRAM
13 DEC MUMBAI
14 DEC BENGALURU
16 DEC HYDERABAD

Early access to tickets from 4 August to 7 August 2024

+ 30%

discount on
HSBC Visa Credit Cards
HSBC Visa Premier Debit Card
HSBC Visa Global Private Banking Debit Card



Get your HSBC Live+ Visa Credit Card now

Tickets available on **zomatoLIVE**

To Get All The Popular Newspapers.
Type in Search Box of Telegram

@sharewithpride

If You Want to get these Newspapers Daily at earliest

English Newspapers»»»

Indian Express, Financial Express, The Hindu, Business Line, The Times of India, The Economic Times, Hindustan Times, ET wealth, Business Standard, First India, Mint, Greater Kashmir, Greater Jammu, The Himalayan, The Tribune, Brill Express, The Sikh Times, Avenue Mail, Western Times, Millennium Post, The Statesman, State Times, The Pioneer, Hans India, Free Press, Orissa Post, Mumbai Mirror, Mid-Day, Deccan Chronicle, Deccan Herald, Telangana Today, Financial Times, The Asian Age, The Telegraph, Oheraldo, Gulf of Times, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, The Times

Hindi Newspapers»»»

दैनिक जागरण, राजस्थान पत्रिका, दैनिक भास्कर, दिव्यभास्कर, हिंदुस्तान, नवभारत टाइम्स, बिज़नस स्टैंडर्ड, अमर उजाला, जनसत्ता, द पायोनीर, राष्ट्रीय सहारा, प्रभातखबर, लोकसत्ता

Others»»»

Hindi & English Editorial, Employment News, Malayalam Newspapers, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Gujarati

Type in Search box of Telegram https://t.me/Magazines_8890050582 And you will find a Channel named @Lalit712 join it and receive daily editions of all popular epapers at the earliest

Or

you can click on this link

<https://t.me/sharewithpride>



Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh. REUTERS

India's Q2 fiscal deficit 8.1% of FY25 target at ₹1.36 tn

Govt spending in the quarter was ₹9.7 trillion against ₹10.51 trillion in the year-ago period

'India and Vietnam trade can touch \$20 billion'

Rhik Kundu
rhik.kundu@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on Wednesday sought closer cooperation between both countries in semiconductor technology innovation among other areas.

He said bilateral trade could zoom to \$20 billion from the current levels of about \$15 billion, in the coming years. The other areas of cooperation he mentioned were digital transformation, green hydrogen, pharmaceuticals, renewables, and biotechnology.

Pham Minh Chinh, who is on a three-day visit to India, said Vietnam is a key partner in India's Act East policy and acknowledging the role played by both governments in facilitating business between the regions.

"(Our) Countries have always met each other with mutual support for comprehensive strategic cooperation across the supply chain, strategic resources, climate action, environmental technology and human resources, defence, and security," Pham Minh Chinh said while addressing the Vietnam-India Business Forum organised by industry body PICCI.

"We need to advise each other..... We need to make sure that all benefits are shared," he added.

The bilateral trade between India and Vietnam stood at about \$14.82 billion, in value terms, during 2023-24.

During this period, India's exports to Vietnam were at \$5.47 billion, while imports stood at \$9.35 billion.

India's top exports to Vietnam include buffalo meat, marine products, iron and steel, rice, aluminium products, auto components, cereals, cotton yarn and pharmaceutical products.

Top imports from Vietnam include electronic components, telecom instruments, consumer electronics, iron and steel, computer hardware, copper products, electronic instruments, spices and rubber.

Rhik Kundu
rhik.kundu@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

India's fiscal deficit for the first quarter stood at 8.1% of the estimate for FY25 due to higher tax receipts, a handsome dividend payout by the central bank and lower government capital expenditure due to the general elections.

The fiscal deficit—the gap between expenditure and revenue—was ₹1.36 trillion during the quarter, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Wednesday.

The deficit for the corresponding period of the previous year stood at ₹4.51 trillion, or 25.3% of the annual estimate (of ₹17.87 trillion) for FY24.

The annual estimate for the FY25 full year stood at ₹16.85 trillion, according to the interim budget numbers.

However, the government brought down the fiscal deficit projected for this financial year to ₹16.13 trillion in the annual budget presented last week.

According to the target set out in the annual budget, the fiscal deficit during Q1 FY25 stood at 8.43% of the estimates for the financial year.

During Q1, FY25 period, the net tax receipts stood at ₹5.5 trillion, or 21% of the annual target set in the interim budget, against ₹4.34 trillion in the same period last year, according to the CGA data.



The Centre trimmed fiscal deficit target for FY25 to 4.9% of GDP, significantly lower than the 5.1% target announced during the interim budget in February. REUTERS

Total government expenditure during the period was ₹9.7 trillion, or 20.4% of the yearly target, against ₹10.51 trillion in the same period of the previous year.

Capital expenditure stood at ₹1.81 trillion during Q1, FY25 period, or 16.3% of the annual estimate, from ₹2.78 trillion or 27.8% of the annual estimates for FY24.

Additionally, government spending was subdued due to general elections.

During the Q1, FY25 period, while non-tax revenue stood at ₹2.8 trillion or 70.1% of the interim budget estimates, total revenue receipts stood at

₹8.3 trillion, or 27.6% of the estimates for FY25.

To be sure, the lower fiscal deficit target set by the Centre in the annual budget follows the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) unprecedented dividend payout of ₹2.11 trillion for the central government for FY24—14% higher than in FY23.

RBI's dividend payout will also be instrumental in compensating for any slippages in tax revenue or increased public spending in FY25, and ensuring the fiscal deficit reduction is in sync with the committed glide path of achieving a 4.5% fis-

cal deficit target by FY26.

"The Government of India's (GoI's) fiscal deficit shrank to ₹1.4 trillion or 8.1% of the FY2025 BE in April-June FY2024, led by a sharp compression in capital expenditure during the Election months, as well as the substantial dividend received from the RBI," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, head of research and outreach at rating agency ICRA.

"The GoI's capex was tepid at ₹374 billion in June 2024, compared to ₹1.1 trillion in June 2023.

To meet the FY2025 BE (budget estimate), ₹9.3 trillion of capex needs to be incurred in the last three quarters of the year, a growth of 39% relative to the same period of FY2024 (₹6.7 trillion), which appears quite challenging," Nayar added.

The central government has trimmed its fiscal deficit target for FY25 to 4.9% of gross domestic product, significantly lower than the 5.1% target announced during the interim budget in February.

During her budget speech on Tuesday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the fiscal deficit target for 2024-25 will be about 200 basis points below the earlier estimate for the ongoing fiscal year.

The government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.5% or less by FY26, maintaining its proposed fiscal glide path by the financial year 2025-26.

June core sector growth slows to 4%, crude contracts

Rhik Kundu
rhik.kundu@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

India's core sector output growth, which accounts for about two-fifths of industrial production, fell to 4% in June—its slowest in 20 months—provisional data from the ministry of commerce and industry released on Wednesday showed.

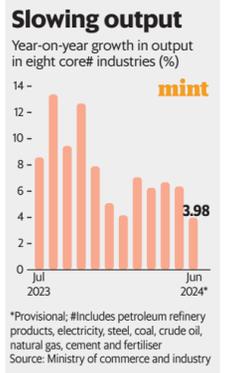
The lower growth can be attributed to a slowdown in activities in sectors like electricity, steel and natural gas, with the output of crude and refinery products contracting during the month.

A year ago, the output of the eight core industries—coal, crude oil, steel, cement, electricity, fertilizers, refinery products, and natural gas—expanded at 8.4%. A month ago, growth was at 6.4%.

The 4% growth in June was the slowest since the 0.7% in October 2022, when the economy was emerging from the pandemic.

The latest core sector data showed that only three—coal, fertilizers, and cement—of the eight core industries reported a sequential rise in production, while output in crude oil, and refinery products contracted during June.

During June, coal production grew by 14.8% compared with 10.2% growth in May, fertilizer grew by 2.4% compared with 1.7% contraction in the previous month, while cement output grew 1.9% against a



0.6% contraction in May.

Meanwhile, electricity output expanded by 7.7% in June, against 13.7% in the previous month, steel grew 2.7%, as against 6.8% growth in May and natural gas reported 3.3% growth in June versus 7.5% in the previous month.

Output growth in crude oil and refinery products contracted to 2.6% and 1.5%, respectively, in June.

Crude oil output contracted 1.1% in May while refinery products production grew by 0.5% in May.

The decline in the core sector growth could be due to lower government capex spending before the general elections and the slowdown in construction activity, said Suman Chowdhury, chief economist and head—research, Acuité Ratings & Research.

Monsoon to aid 5% farm output growth

Dhirendra Kumar & Gireesh Chandra Prasad
NEW DELHI

Timely monsoon showers, which are 2% above normal nationally so far, will help farming output grow by about 5% this financial year, up from 1.4% in FY24, NITI Aayog member Prof Ramesh Chand said. This will help cool prices of commodities, especially pulses, which have remained high over the past several months, he said in an interview.

Chand, an agricultural economist, said robust farm output growth would require government intervention to ensure that prices of pulses on the open market do not fall below their procurement prices that are meant to support farmers. High prices of pulses have in the past led to a series of administrative steps to cool local prices.

"In FY24, agriculture output saw 1.4% growth, after seven years of more than 5% average growth," said Chand, former director of the National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research.

"Given the low base of 2023-24, according to my calculations, [agriculture output



The ongoing monsoon season is witnessing above-normal rainfall so far. BLOOMBERG

growth in FY25] should be more than 5%. So far, indications about the kharif season are positive."

He added that for the next 10 years, the growth rate in agriculture needs to be maintained at 5% a year for good economic growth. "Some years, the growth rate might hover around 4% or even drop below that. This variability is expected due to the unpredictable nature of agricultural outputs, which is influenced by

factors such as weather, market dynamics and policy changes."

The kharif season begins with the onset of the southwest monsoon in June-July and ends in September-October. It plays a key role in determining farmers' incomes, consumption, and overall economic growth.

"Overall, at the national level, from 1 June to about 26 July, rainfall has been 2% more than normal. There is a slight

deficit in some parts of the country, but the forecast is that the deficiency will be made up for in August," Chand said.

"Normal rainfall" refers to the average rainfall received over a specific period, usually 30 years. Rainfall that's 96% to 104% of the long-period average is considered normal.

Chand said there are projections that La Nina will remain active in August, leading to more rain than usual that month. "That should compensate for any deficit in rainfall in northwestern and eastern states."

"Last year, sowing was delayed by a late monsoon. Sowing that is usually done by the end of July was completed in August," he said. This year, the area under tur and soybean cultivation is significantly larger because of early sowing, and the longer growing period is expected to result in higher yields, he added.

With the potential for above-normal production this year, it is crucial to ensure that prices do not crash, and the government must intervene by purchasing the produce in such a situation, Chand said.

dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com

Bill introduced to replace law on aircraft, ease of biz cited

Neha LM Tripathi
letters@hindustantimes.com
NEW DELHI

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu introduced the Bharatiya Vayuvan Vidheyak, 2024, in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, aiming to overhaul civil aviation regulations and replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act.

Addressing the lower house, Naidu explained the need for new legislation, citing the 21 amendments made to the 1934 Act over nine decades.

"As a result of numerous amendments over a period of ninety years, a need is felt to address the ambiguities and confusion experienced by the stakeholders, to remove redundancies, to enable ease of doing business and to provide for manufacture and maintenance in the aviation sector, and to re-enact the aforesaid Act in the form of a Bill," Naidu stated in the bill's 'statement of objects and reasons' section.

The proposed legislation includes provisions to regulate aircraft design and manufacturing, supporting the Atman-



Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu. PTI

irbhar Bharat initiative for self-reliance. It also enhances the Central government's authority to prohibit or regulate certain construction activities, issue directives, detain aircraft, and enact emergency orders when necessary.

During the bill's introduction, some members of the opposition questioned the Hindi nomenclature of the draft legislation.

"What is the logical reason for changing the nomenclature of the bill? People from south

India will be unable to even read the name of the Bill," RSP member N.K. Premachandran said, opposing the bill, according to news agency PTI.

Naidu said the objection to the nomenclature of the bill was settled during the discussion on the three criminal justice laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.

"We are not violating any part of the Constitution," the minister said.

The bill outlines 10 primary objectives, including regulating aircraft design, manufacturing, and maintenance. Additionally, it empowers the government to establish rules for international aviation standards, civil aviation security, and issue emergency orders for public safety.

However, experts said that the 26-page document does not appear significantly different from the 1934 Act. The government has not provided clarification on the changes made in the new bill compared to its predecessor.

With inputs from PTI

MINT SHORTS

India imports 1.13 mn tonnes of pulses in Apr-May: Govt

New Delhi: India imported 1.13 million tonnes of pulses in April-May this fiscal year to meet domestic demand, the government told Parliament on Wednesday. India had imported 4.7 million tonnes of pulses in the entire 2023-24 fiscal. Import of pulses stood at 2.4 million tonnes in 2020-21; 2.7 million tonnes in 2021-22 and 2.5 million tonnes in 2022-23. PTI

'Gold demand in India likely to be about 750 tonnes in 2024'

New Delhi: The duty cut announced in last week's



MINT SHORTS

Legal-tech startup Decover.AI raises \$2 million in seed round

Gurugram: DecoverAI, a legal technology startup, has raised \$2 million in seed funding round. It was led by Leo Capital with participation from other prominent investors. The fresh funds will accelerate the development and deployment of DecoverAI's technologies. DecoverAI's aims to augment legal teams with human-like intelligence through smart AI-assisted platforms. Founded in 2024, DecoverAI is a Washington, DC-based legal technology firm focused on delivering AI-driven solutions to enhance efficiency of legal professionals.

NITESH KUMAR

Hippo Innovations receives investment of ₹3.3 crore



ISTOCKPHOTO

Gurugram: India Accelerator and Finvolve have invested ₹3.3 crore in Hippo Innovations on Wednesday. The e-commerce solutions provider raised the fresh funds in its ongoing pre-series A round. Hippo Innovations will allocate the funds to augment its marketing efforts, automate workflows using AI and strengthen enterprise offerings. The funds will be used for partnerships with industry bodies and service integrators.

NITESH KUMAR

Nected raises \$1.5 million from Three State Ventures, others

Gurugram: Nected, a next-generation low-code, no-code platform, raised \$1.5 million in seed funding round led by Binny Bansal's Three State Ventures. The round saw participation from investors such as Endurance Capital, Relentless VC, Climber Capital, Lykke Capital and Forward Slash Capital. Additionally, it plans to invest in research and development to integrate AI-powered features.

NITESH KUMAR

Meta investors have laser focus on capex after Microsoft letdown

Meta Platforms Inc. investors will be hoping it can do a better job than Microsoft Corp. and Alphabet Inc. in convincing Wall Street that lofty spending on AI will be worth it. Wall Street is taking a more skeptical view of how much is spent on AI by tech firms and when it will start to pay off in terms of improved growth and profitability. The Facebook parent already irked investors in April by hiking its spending forecast above estimates.

BLOOMBERG

Intel to cut thousands of jobs to reduce costs

Bloomberg
feedback@livemint.com

Intel Corp. plans to eliminate thousands of jobs to reduce costs and fund an ambitious effort to rebound from an earnings slump and market share losses. The workforce reduction may be announced as early as this week, according to people familiar with the company's plans, who asked not to be identified because the information isn't public. Intel, which is scheduled to report second-quarter earnings Thursday, has about 110,000 employees, excluding workers at units that are being spun out.

Chief executive officer Pat Gelsinger is spending heavily on research and development aimed at improving Intel's technology and helping it return to prominence in the semiconductor industry. The company's once-dominant position eroded under Gelsinger's predecessors as rivals, such as Advanced Micro Devices Inc., have caught up and taken market share. An Intel spokesperson declined to comment.

Intel shares rose about 2% in premarket trading Wednesday, after closing at \$30.13.

Other chipmakers led by Nvidia Corp. have sprinted ahead in the development of lucrative semiconductors tailored for demanding artificial intelligence-related tasks. Intel is also coming to grips with uneven demand for chips that run laptops and desktop computers, its main business.

Gelsinger, betting that Intel can improve its technology, embarked on a plan to build factories to manufacture semiconductors for other chipmakers. Last week, Intel hired Naga Chandrasekaran from Micron Technology Inc. as chief global operations officer, putting him in charge of the company's overall manufacturing efforts.

IntelliSmart to buy stake in CyanConnode's India ops

The move comes at a time when the Indian smart meter market is expanding at a rapid pace

Rituraj Baruah
rituraj.baruah@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) backed IntelliSmart Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd is in talks with global smart metering major CyanConnode to acquire a majority stake in its Indian operations, said two people in the know of the developments. The transaction would be a secondary majority sale along with primary equity raise, they added.

The proposed value of the prospective deal, however, could not be ascertained by Mint.

"The proposed transaction in CyanConnode is a secondary majority stake sale and a primary equity raise. IntelliSmart is eyeing the majority stake," said one of the two persons mentioned above.

The development comes at a time when the Indian smart meter market is expanding at a massive pace and under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) the government aims to install 250 million smart meters by 2025. Several private players including Adani Group, Tata Power and GMR have entered the smart metering space.

Set up as a joint venture of NIIF and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) in 2019 as a digital solutions provider for power utilities, IntelliSmart has installed 4.92 million smart meters so far across the country, according to the company website.

With projects bagged in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Bihar, the company has ramped up its portfolio to nearly 20 million smart meters. Further, it has also been managing and executing EESL's smart metering projects in five states and two Union territories since 2019. It has installed smart meters in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Assam, Delhi (NDCM area), and



IntelliSmart has installed 4.92 million smart meters so far across the country, according to the company website. @INTELLSMARTX

Andaman & Nicobar islands.

Responding to a mailed query from Mint, IntelliSmart said, "The company does not comment on market speculation. Being a leading digital solutions provider in the power distribution sector, we are open to evaluating opportu-

energy sector, CyanConnode's IoT platform enables Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) solutions and provides secure communication between utilities and consumers in UK, India, Iran, and Bangladesh, among others. The company is in India since 2009

to announce any such investment if it took place. CyanConnode is the leading communication solutions provider for Smart Metering in India and globally on RF, Long Range Radios, and Cellular technologies, with millions of smart meters currently deployed globally communicating on our network. Our subsidiary, DigiSmart Networks Pvt. Ltd, is now empaneled as an AMISP (Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider) in India and is participating in smart metering tenders as a lead bidder," it added.

In response to a follow-up query seeking clarification on the above-mentioned response, the company spokesperson added, "As mentioned earlier, these are just rumors. We are listed on the London Stock Exchange and would be required to announce any such investment if it took place. We have no further comments at this time."

and has established CyanConnode Pvt. Ltd, which includes a local team of sales, project delivery and technical staff, said the company website.

In an email reply, a spokesperson of CyanConnode India said, "These are just rumors. We are listed on the London Stock Exchange and would be required

nities to expand our footprint and deliver innovative solutions."

UK-headquartered CyanConnode is a global player in the design and development of narrowband radio mesh networks helping consumers connect to smart grids, with contracts covering over 3.9 million end points. Within the

EXPANDING FOOTPRINT

THE transaction would be a secondary majority sale along with primary equity raise

INTELLISMART was set up as a NIIF-EESL JV in 2019 as a digital solutions provider for power utilities

SEVERAL private players including Adani Group and Tata Power have entered the sector

THE government aims to install 250 million smart meters by 2025 under the RDSS

ADVERTISEMENT

Lord's Mark Industries Emerges as Top Contender In UP Govt Solar Project

#HameshaAapkeSaath

Lord's Mark Industries Secures 50 MW Capacity in UPNEDA's Ambitious Solar Initiative

Earlier last month, the Government of Uttar Pradesh Floated Tender for their project of the New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) to set up 500 MW of grid-connected rooftop solar projects on government/semi-government buildings and other institutions in Uttar Pradesh under the RESCO model on a net metering basis.

In this tender, Lord's Mark Industries emerged as the top contender, securing 50 MW of capacity at the rate of Rs 4.90 Per Unit. Lord's Mark Industries plan to install rooftop solar systems on all state government buildings in Uttar Pradesh by December 2025.

The Ministry issued guidelines for the comprehensive program, stating that the rooftops of all government buildings, including all of autonomous bodies and subordinate offices, will be equipped with solar panels to the maximum extent of technically feasible. Recently, UPNEDA floated tenders to install a cumulative capacity of 500 MW on-grid rooftop solar systems for captive use on government buildings.

Lord's Mark Industries Limited succeeded in securing 50 MW tender, thus signifies a major milestone in its journey towards advancing renewable energy in India. Their commitment to leveraging indigenous solar modules and cells that adhere to the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Compulsory Registration Requirement) Order 2019 underscores their dedication to quality and compliance with national standards.

This initiative not only promises to contribute significantly to Uttar Pradesh's renewable energy targets but also sets a benchmark for other states to follow. With the installation of rooftop solar systems across government buildings, the project aims to provide sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions, aligning with India's broader vision of a green and self-reliant energy future.

Lord's Mark Industries is preparing for its upcoming BSE listing this would enhance company's growth and market presence. Thus, providing greater access to capital, enabling further expansion and investment in innovative projects across its diverse sectors. As the merger process advances, stakeholders are eagerly anticipating this significant milestone.



Lord's
hamesha aapke saath!



Immerse in
Mint Long Story
The art of storytelling

Read only on **mint**

COME... BUILD A RESIDENTIAL GROUP HOUSING PAR EXCELLENCE!

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, U.P.

Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'
Minister of Industrial Development, U.P.

Bid for Group Housing Plot
Scheme Code: YEA-GH-08/2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- Opposite Formula 1/ MotoGP Track
- Adjacent to Yamuna Expressway
- Eastern Peripheral Expressway with Yamuna Expressway (Proposed)
- Close to Noida International Airport, Jewar
- Near International Film City
- Medical Devices Park
- Dedicated MSME Apparel, Handicraft and Toy Park

PLOTS FOR ALLOTMENT & RATE OF ALLOTMENT							
S. No.	Plot No.	Sector	Plot size (In Sqm)	Rate of Allotment in Sqm	Applicable % of PLC	Reserved rate including PLC, Per Sqm (In Rs.)	Total
1	GH-03	18	16188.00	32375.00	5	33993.75	55.03
2	GH-03A	18	16188.00	32375.00	5	33993.75	55.03
3	GH-03B	18	16188.00	32375.00	5	33993.75	55.03
4	GH-03C	18	16188.00	32375.00	5	33993.75	55.03
5	GH-03D	18	16188.00	32375.00	5	33993.75	55.03
6	GH-03E	18	16188.00	32375.00	10	35612.50	57.65
7	GH-7A	17	12141.00	32375.00	5	33993.75	41.27
8	GH-7B	17	11513.72	32375.00	5	32375.00	37.28
9	GH-7C	17	11513.72	32375.00	5	33993.75	39.14
10	GH-8B	17	20235.00	32375.00	5	33993.75	68.79
11	GH-8C	17	24282.00	32375.00	5	32375.00	78.61
12	GH-11	22D	45731.10	32375.00	5	33993.75	155.46
13	GH-12	22D	47754.60	32375.00	5	33993.75	162.34
14	GH-13	22D	47754.60	32375.00	5	33993.75	162.34
15	GH-14	22D	48564.00	32375.00	10	35612.50	172.95
16	GH-01B/1	22D	20235.00	32375.00	5	32375.00	65.51
17	GH-01B/2	22D	20235.00	32375.00	5	32375.00	65.51
18	GH-01C/1	22D	20235.00	32375.00	5	32375.00	65.51
19	GH-01C/2	22D	20235.00	32375.00	5	32375.00	65.51

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
1st Floor, Commercial Complex, Block-P-02, Sector-Omega-1, Greater Noida 201308,
Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Tollfree: 1800 180 8296 • Website: www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com

महत्वपूर्ण सूचना : यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में प्राधिकरण द्वारा स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लॉन के अतिरिक्त प्लॉटिंग/हाउसिंग/कॉलोनी या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह से अवैध है। सामान्यजन इस प्रकार की खरीदफरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनी/इंजर् के ग्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचें। अधिक जानकारी के लिए प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com देखें।

Scheme Opens on
01.08.2024 at 11:00 am onwards

Scheme Closes on
30.08.2024 at 5:00 pm

Date & Time for E-Auction
30.09.2024 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

HOW TO APPLY
To know more, refer to the brochure which can be downloaded from our website: www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com

Exclusive Banking Partner बैंक ऑफ बरोडा Bank of Baroda

SCHEME BROCHURE LINK

REGISTRATION LINK



S&P BSE Sensex				Nifty 50				Nifty 500				Nifty Next 50				Nifty 100				S&P BSE Mid-cap				S&P BSE Small Cap			
CLOSE	PERCENT CHANGE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	PERCENT CHANGE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	PERCENT CHANGE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	PERCENT CHANGE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	PERCENT CHANGE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	PERCENT CHANGE	PREVIOUS CLOSE	OPEN				
81,741.34	0.35	81,455.40	81,655.90	24,951.15	0.38	24,857.30	24,886.70	23,530.80	0.38	23,440.90	23,495.85	74,788.10	0.77	74,215.85	74,514.80	26,025.60	0.43	25,914.10	25,960.40	48,634.46	0.86	48,220.58	48,483.40				
HIGH: 81,828.04	LOW: 81,434.32	HIGH: 24,984.60	LOW: 24,856.50	HIGH: 23,556.00	LOW: 23,459.60	HIGH: 74,879.05	LOW: 74,381.25	HIGH: 26,054.30	LOW: 25,931.45	HIGH: 48,680.74	LOW: 48,314.92	HIGH: 55,332.24	LOW: 55,411.62	HIGH: 55,685.07	LOW: 55,283.64												

MINT SHORTS

BOJ's rate hike halts long-term corporate bond sales

The Bank of Japan's interest-rate hike on Wednesday will likely make investors more reluctant to hold long-maturity corporate bonds with higher risks of price drops, and debt sale trends in recent months suggest they're already bracing for just that. Since Japan's fiscal year started in April, sales of longer yen company notes due in nine to 11 years have dropped about 5%, Bloomberg-compiled data show. The 10-year sector is particularly sensitive to the BOJ's cuts in bond buying. That came as issuance of similar debt maturing in four to six years jumped 22%. Signs of the central bank's hawkishness—only about 30% of BOJ watchers predicted a hike as their base-case scenarios, according to a Bloomberg survey—indicate that investors may avoid riskier debt even more. "Investor demand for long-term corporate bonds will probably fall due to higher rates," said Kazuma Ogino, senior credit analyst at Nomura Securities Co.



Hong Kong's gross domestic product expanded 3.3% in the three months ended June from the prior year.

Hong Kong economy growth surges on brisk exports

Hong Kong's economy grew faster than expected in the second quarter, pointing to some stability in key sectors despite challenges in real estate and retail. Gross domestic product expanded 3.3% in the three months ended June from the prior year, according to advance estimates from the Census and Statistics Department. That's higher than a median estimate of 2.7% and exceeded even the most bullish forecast among economists surveyed by Bloomberg News. The data signals resilience in the region's financial hub after several years of pressure from the pandemic and high borrowing costs. Increasing trade and capital flows from mainland China into the city have helped buoy growth so far this year. The better-than-expected uptick may help the government achieve its full-year growth target of 2.5% to 3.5%. It followed strong first-quarter expansion that was revised up to 2.8% from 2.7%. Exports grew at a double-digit pace for the last three straight months, driven by strong global demand. But the outlook remains challenged by the real estate sector downturn and a slowing economy in China, the city's largest trading partner.

How Sebi's plan will affect index derivatives traders

Neha Joshi & Ram Sahgal
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) proposed measures on Tuesday to strengthen the index derivatives framework did not come as a surprise. The capital market regulator has time and again voiced its concerns over the growing volumes of trade and losses in the derivatives markets.

Mint explains why Sebi is concerned about the rising trade volumes, the measures it plans to take, and the impact of these steps.

What are derivatives? Derivatives are financial contracts that derive their value from an underlying asset. Derivatives are of two types—futures and options contracts. They help in better price discovery, improve market liquidity and allow investors to manage their risks better.

The National Stock Exchange of India launched weekly options on the Bank Nifty index, the Nifty, the Nifty Financial Services index and the Nifty Midcap Select index in 2016. The BSE started Sensex weekly options in 2019. Currently, one option expires on each day of the trading week.

Why is Sebi concerned about rising trade volumes in this segment?

Following the pandemic of 2020, weekly options became a hit with retail and proprietary traders. In a consultation paper released on 30 July, the regulator pointed out that weekly index derivatives found favour with market participants, especially around their expiry. This was evident



Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch

by the hyperactive volatile trading Sebi found on expiry day compared with levels on other trading days.

Index option volumes on the NSE, which enjoys a market share of over 90%, surged almost 13-fold to ₹138 trillion in FY24 from ₹10.8 trillion in FY20. This brought the market segment under Sebi's radar.

To add to this, Sebi found that 9.25 million individuals and proprietorship firms traded in the index derivatives segment of the NSE and cumulatively incurred a trading loss of ₹51,689 crore in FY24.

"Sebi's study of 2023 showed that 9 out of 10 individual traders in the equity F&O segment incurred losses, which added to its concern that such speculative trading may have implications on market stability," said Vasudha Goenka, a partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, a law firm.

Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch has said that the surge in derivatives trading

had become a macro issue because household savings were going into speculation instead of capital formation.

What measures has Sebi proposed?

To actively enhance investor protection and ensure market stability, Sebi set up an expert working group headed by a former chief general manager of the Reserve Bank of India. The group submitted its recommendations to the Secondary Markets Assessment Committee (SMAC), which deliberated over the report on 15 July.

Sebi released a consultation paper to invite public comments on the matter by 20 August. The key points are:

Minimum contract size Sebi proposed increasing the minimum value of derivatives contract to ₹15-20 lakh from ₹5-10 lakh and, after six months, raising it to ₹20-30 lakh. Sebi claimed the benchmark indices had gone up nearly three times in the past nine years. "Given the inherently high-

her risk in derivatives and the large amount of implicit leverage, increase in minimum contract size would result in reverse sachtisation of such risk-bearing products," Sebi said.

Deepak Shenoy, CEO of Capitalmind, an investment advisory firm, posted on social media site X that increasing the minimum contract size would hurt traders with smaller capital, who are mostly buying, but not the sellers.

Increase in margin near contract expiry This measure involves raising the upfront margin on sellers.

At present, the increase in market volatility is not factored in the form of a higher margin to account for the increased risk, act as a deterrent or build additional buffers to absorb sudden price shocks. Currently, the premium traded decreases near the expiry date, creating a higher risk on a notional basis in options.

"This means that the capital requirement in trading will go up, which means your exposure margin will increase. With lot sizes going up to ₹30 lakh, one may need up to ₹6.5 to ₹10 lakh per lot," Vijay Bhambani, founder of trading firm Bhambani Securities Ltd, said on his YouTube channel.

Rationalisation of weekly index products Currently, weekly contracts across different indices expire on each of the five trading days, which results in speculative money moving from one expiry to another. The volatil-

ity and speculative trading on expiry day and during closing time, with a poor profitability outcome for individual investors, pushed Sebi to propose rationalising weekly index products. Sebi suggests cutting the number of weekly expiries to just one per exchange. "This change will likely impact volumes as the recent volumes in the equity derivatives segment have been driven by weekly expiries," said Dhiraj Relli, managing director of HDFC Securities.

Index option volumes on the NSE surged almost 13-fold to ₹138 tn in FY24 from ₹10.8 tn in FY20

Sebi proposed to widen the price intervals at which out-of-the-money (OTM) options strike (even when the option has not reached its strike price) to make it harder for retail investors to buy them because of the unfavourable risk-reward ratio. The strike price refers to the price at which the underlying security can be bought or sold when an options contract is exercised.

The regulator proposed to keep the strike interval uniform at 4% near the prevailing index price and increase it to 8% as the strikes move away from the prevailing price. It added that not more than 50 strikes would be introduced at the time of launching an index derivatives contract.

As expected, the BoJ raised its interest rate while all eyes are on US Fed policy to be announced later in the evening. Among the Sensex stocks,

For BEL, steady growth is key now

Ashish Agrawal
feedback@livemint.com

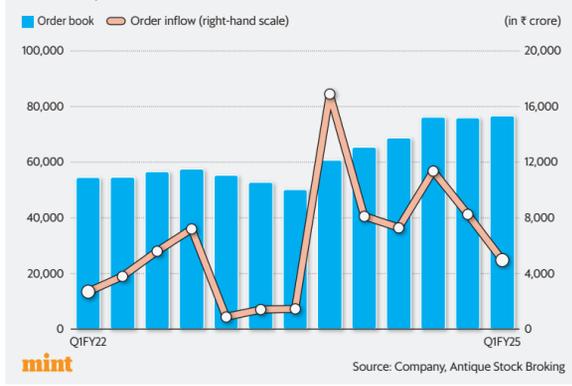
Defence public sector undertaking Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) showcased an impressive performance in the June quarter (Q1FY25) with crucial parameters better than the Street's estimates.

Among key highlights, revenue and Ebitda rose 20% and 41% year-on-year (y-o-y), aided by robust execution. Lower raw material prices meant a substantial 340-basis-point (bps) rise in operating margin at 22.3%. Even though the orders are awarded to BEL on nomination basis with a fixed margin, it has managed to generate higher margin because of operating efficiencies.

Q1 results have led to upgrades in earnings estimates. Prabhudas Lilladher analysts have raised their FY25 and FY26 earnings per share (EPS) estimates by 3.5% and 4.3%, factoring in healthy execution and better profitability.

For FY25, BEL management has maintained the full-year revenue growth guidance at 15% and Ebitda margin at 23-25%. Analysts at Nomura find the margin guidance conservative. They have raised its FY25-27 Ebitda

Good view
Bharat Electronics' order backlog offers strong revenue visibility despite the recent drop in order inflows



margin estimates by 20-70 bps to a range of 24.8-25.7%. This is driven by factors including execution of base orders received as part of import substitute in the past three years, cost savings via higher outsourcing from local vendors and better operating leverage. On the flipside, some dampeners

cannot be ignored. In Q1FY25, order inflows slid 39% y-o-y to ₹4,970 crore, albeit on a high base. For FY25, the order inflow guidance is ₹25,000 crore. Some of the orders expected to come in FY25 include ADFCR Atulya, an electronic warfare suite for Mi-17 V-5 helicopters, a security and surveil-

lance system for the Army and mountain radars, among others. However, this target is 30% lower than FY24, due to absence of large-ticket orders.

For now, a comforting factor is that BEL's huge order backlog of ₹76,700 crore, which is about 3.7 times trailing 12 months revenue, aids revenue visibility. In FY26, order inflows are expected to be worth ₹50,000 crore, led by strong base orders, and quick reaction surface-to-air missile (QRSAM) order.

Further, there has been a spike of 144% in provisions for liquidated damages to ₹132 crore, 14% of Ebitda. This could impact future profitability if it remains at an elevated level. In the backdrop of BEL's steep 70% rally in 2024 so far, these weak links suggest that investors should tread carefully.

True, there has been a significant thrust of the government on defence, which is likely to continue and BEL could be a beneficiary. That said, a meaningful upside from the current levels will require consistent earnings growth, which may be challenging.

"We await large ticket-size orders, better execution rate/margin visibility over the next few quarters for the stock to re-rate hereon," a Nuvama Research report said on 29 July. Nuvama said that BEL has more positive catalysts/triggers than negative ones, and has scope for a re-rating from current levels subject to aforesaid ask rates.

In FY25, BEL plans an annual capex of ₹800 crore. This will be utilized for projects including a land-based electronic warfare systems facility which will help expand its product portfolio. These should help it diversify into non-defence and exports business which account for 15% of total revenue currently.

In the order backlog mix, defence's share is the highest at 86%, followed by non-defence (11%) and exports (3%). Notably, a high dependence on defence projects adds to the company's vulnerability in case there is a delay in order placement. The stock trades at nearly 43 times estimated earnings for FY26, showed Bloomberg data. A consistent performance may support valuations.

QUARTER OF SUCCESS

BEL'S Q1FY25 revenue and Ebitda rose 20% and 41% y-o-y, respectively, on robust execution

FOR FY25, BEL management has maintained the full-year revenue growth guidance at 15%

Stock markets rise for 4th day ahead of key Fed policy decision

PTI
feedback@livemint.com

Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by nearly 286 points to close at a record high while Nifty settled above 24,950 level on Wednesday, extending their winning run to the fourth day on gains in metal, power and select auto shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex settled higher by 285.94 points or 0.35% at 81,741.34—its all-time closing high—with 20 of its components advancing and 10 ending lower. The index opened higher and jumped 372.64 points or 0.45% to hit an intraday high of 81,828.04.

The NSE Nifty rose 93.85 points or 0.38% to close at an all-time high of 24,951.15. During the day, it surged 127.3 points or 0.51% to hit a high of 24,969.35.

"The domestic market is attempting to cross above the psychological threshold of 25,000, as subdued Q1FY25 earnings and stretched valuations are curbing the challenge, while positive global trends and sector rotation are supporting the traction," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Positive global sentiment driven by expectations of an easing interest rate cycle by the US Federal Reserve and the RBI in



The 30-share BSE Sensex settled higher by 285.94 points at 81,741.34 with 20 of its components advancing and 10 ending lower.

the medium term, owing to benign inflation, ignited the rally, he added. As expected, the BoJ raised its

interest rate while all eyes are on US Fed policy to be announced later in the evening. Among the Sensex stocks,

JSW Steel, Asian Paints, Maruti Suzuki India, NTPC, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Bharti Airtel, ITC and Tech Mahindra were the major gainers.

Maruti Suzuki rose by 2.28% as the auto major reported a 47% jump in its net profit for the June quarter.

Reliance Industries, Tata Motors, Infosys, Mahindra and Mahindra, Bajaj Finance and Axis Bank were the laggards.

Prashanth Tapse, senior VP (research) at Mehta Equities, said Nifty ended comfortably in the green ahead of the FOMC outcome, closing just shy of the psychological 25,000 mark, signify-

ing the bulls' continued strength on Dalal Street.

Investors now await key data releases and the FOMC outcome, with expectations set on Jerome Powell's commentary, Tapse said.

The US Federal Reserve (Fed) will announce its fifth interest rate decision for this year later in the night, after a two-day meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC).

From this meeting, the Fed might offer hints about a possible rate cut in September.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth ₹5,598.64 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

FirstCry's parent firm Brainbees Solutions to launch IPO on 6 Aug

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Online e-commerce platform FirstCry's parent, Brainbees Solutions Ltd, is set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on 6 August.

The three-day issue is scheduled to close on 8 August and the bidding for the anchor portion will open for a day on 5 August, according to the red herring prospectus (RHP). The proposed public issue of Pune-based Brainbees Solutions consists of a fresh issue of equity shares valued at ₹1,666 crore and an OFS (offer for sale) component of up to 54.4



The IPO consists of a fresh equity issue worth ₹1,666 cr.

million shares by existing shareholders.

The price band of the public issue will be announced on Thursday. Under the OFS, SVF Frog, a Cayman Islands-registered entity of Softbank, will

sell 20.3 million equity shares of Brainbees Solutions Ltd, and automaker Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) will offload 2,806 million shares of the company.

Currently, Softbank holds a 25.55% stake in Brainbees Solutions, and M&M owns a 10.98% stake in the multi-brand retailing platform.

Apart from Softbank and M&M, other selling shares in the OFS are PI Opportunities Fund, TPG, NewQuest Asia Investments, Apricot Investments, and Schroders Capital.

Launched in 2010, FirstCry is India's largest multi-channel, multi-brand retailing platform for mothers', babies' and kids' products.

Unicommerce set to float IPO

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

SoftBank-backed SaaS platform Unicommerce eSolutions Ltd will launch its initial public offering (IPO) on 6 August.

The initial share sale will conclude on 8 August and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on 5 August, according to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP). The issue is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) aggregating up to 25.6 million equity shares by the selling shareholders. Since the IPO is completely an

OFS, the entire proceeds will go to the selling shareholders.

Under the OFS, SB Investment Holdings (UK) Ltd, an affiliate of Japan's SoftBank, will offload 11.6 million shares and promoter AceVector Limited (formerly known as Snapdeal Limited) will sell up to 9,438 million shares.

Founded in 2012, Unicommerce eSolutions is India's leading e-commerce enablement software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform.

The company's suite of SaaS solutions enables end-to-end management of e-commerce operations for brands, retailers, marketplaces and logistics service providers.

It serves a large and growing base of clients in India including Lenskart, Fabindia, Zivame, TCNS, M a m e a r t h, Emami, Sugar, BoAt, Portronics, Pharmeasy, Cello, Urban Company, Mensa, Shiprocket, Xpressbees.



Scan the QR code to read an extended version of this story.

Rural, co-op banks hit by malware, ops disrupted

Anshika Kayastha
anshika.kayastha@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Several cooperative banks and regional rural banks (RRBs) were impacted on Wednesday, facing an interruption in retail payments, following a ransomware attack on associate technology service provider C-Edge Technologies Ltd, National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI).

"It has been brought to NPCI's notice that C-Edge Technologies Ltd, a technology service provider who caters mostly to cooperative and regional rural banks, has been possibly impacted by a ransomware attack impacting a few of their systems," it said. To prevent a larger impact on the payments ecosystem, NPCI has temporarily isolated C-Edge Technologies from accessing NPCI's retail payment systems. NPCI is the umbrella organization for all retail payments systems in India and offers products and services such as RuPay, BHIM UPI, Bharat Bill-Pay and IMPS, among others.

"Customers of banks serviced by C-Edge will not be able to access payment systems during the period of isolation," NPCI said, adding that restoration work is underway on a "war footing" along with C-Edge Technologies.

Can drive in a hybrid SUV soon if demand rises: M&M

M&M expects a good pick-up in demand for its upcoming range of electric vehicles

Alisha Sachdev
alisha.sachdev@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Automotive major Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) can get a hybrid sport utility vehicle (SUV) to the market in a reasonable timeframe if demand revs up, and also expects a good pick-up in demand for its upcoming range of electric vehicles (EVs), the company's top official said on Wednesday.

"If there is a very strong consumer demand for hybrids or other powertrains, we can get that at a reasonable timeframe as well," group chief executive and managing director of M&M Anish Shah said in the company's earnings press conference, adding that in terms of pick-up for the EV segment, "We feel pretty good that with the product set that's coming out, we will be very favourably positioned".

Shah was responding to Mint's question on whether the company will focus on diversifying its powertrain mix away from diesel-powered vehicles to better comply with the upcoming fuel efficiency norms. M&M derives the majority of its sales from diesel-powered variants of its SUVs like XUV700, Scorpio-N and Thar. Recently, a UP government directive



Anish Shah, managing director, Mahindra & Mahindra.

to implement a 100% road-tax waiver on hybrid vehicles has revived interest in the technology, offered in India by OEMs such as Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Maruti Suzuki.

Shah's comments come against the backdrop of rival Tata Motors choosing to stay away from hybrids, even as sales of EVs moderate and hybrids gain more popularity as a more practical, fuel-efficient alternative to EVs and traditional IC-engine variants. The company on Wednesday reported a 20% year-on-year (y-o-y) increase in consolidated operational

profit to ₹3,283 crore for the quarter ended 30 June. Its net profit, however, was down 6% y-o-y.

"The reported PAT drop is on account of two one-off gains last year; we had a gain of ₹405 crore on our KG Mobility investment at the time of listing of the stock and we recorded a gain on sale of our stake in MCIE for ₹358 crore. These numbers—adding up to ₹763 crore—are not repeated in this year's [Q1 FY25] numbers", the company said in a statement.

The company reported a 1.8% y-o-y increase in auto margins to 9.5% in

Q1FY25. It did not indicate a specific margin guidance for the current (July-September) quarter, but said the adverse impact from recent aggressive pricing actions will be "negligible".

The SUV-maker, which recently reduced prices of its flagship XUV700 by about ₹2 lakh for certain top variants, said it expects negligible impact on its margins due to the price cuts, citing a lower premium on semiconductor prices at present, as well as its capacity augmentation to 10,000 units monthly, which will let it play more "aggressively" in the market.

"The price of the XUV700 had gone up by about ₹4 lakh compared with the launch price over a three-year period and we felt that if we're getting the benefit of this (softening commodity prices, cost reduction efforts), we should firstly pass that benefit to customers," Rajesh Jejurikar, executive director and CEO (auto and farm sector), M&M said. "Secondly, (we wanted to) use that as an opportunity to grow the size of the pie, and that gives us operating leverage."

Jejurikar indicated the company could initiate similar pricing actions on other products to expand accessibility for its products, even as he remarked that there's no plan to cut prices across a whole portfolio of products.

1.8%
The y-o-y improvement in auto margins

20%
The y-o-y increase in consolidated operational profit

Star India terminates ICC sub-licensing arrangement with ZEEL

Gaurav Laghate
gaurav.laghate@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Star India has ended its exclusive agreement with Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL). The Walt Disney Company-owned network had sub-licensed the linear TV rights for the ICC Men's T20 World Cups and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

The termination follows Star India's arbitration proceedings initiated in March, where the company sought either specific performance of the agreement by ZEE or compensation for unquantified damages.

ZEE has disclosed that Star India is now pursuing damages in the ongoing arbitration process, which are yet to be quantified.

"During the previous year,

agreement, signed on 26 August 2022, had positioned ZEE as a key player in broadcasting major ICC events, including the ICC Men's T20 World Cups and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

The termination follows Star India's arbitration proceedings initiated in March, where the company sought either specific performance of the agreement by ZEE or compensation for unquantified damages.

ZEE has disclosed that Star India is now pursuing damages in the ongoing arbitration process, which are yet to be quantified.

"During the previous year,



ZEE has contended that Star India's actions amount to a repudiation of the deal.

Star had sent letters (to ZEE) alleging breach of the Alliance Agreement due to non-payment of dues for the rights

fee's first instalment, aggregating to \$203.56 million (₹1,693.42 crore), along with the payment for bank guarantee commission and deposit interest aggregating ₹17 crore, and financial commitments, including furnishing of corporate guarantee/confirmation as stated in the agreement," ZEE said in its disclosure.

"Based on legal advice, the management believes that Star has not acted in accordance with the Alliance Agreement

and has failed to obtain necessary approvals and execute necessary documentation and agreements," the company added.

ZEE has also contended that Star India's actions amount to a repudiation of the contract. The company has accrued ₹72.14 crore towards bank guarantee commission and interest expenses and has requested a refund of ₹68.54 crore from Star India.

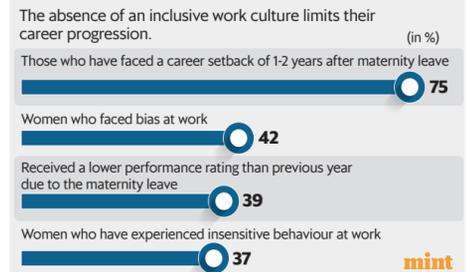
In August 2022, Star India

won the media rights of the ICC tournaments for the 2024-2027 cycle for \$3.03 billion. It later sub-licensed the linear TV rights to ZEE, a rival network.

The initial deal was a strategic move for ZEE, marking its return to the sports broadcasting sector after selling its Ten Sports network to Sony Pictures Networks India.

However, the sub-licensing agreement's execution depended on fulfilling several conditions, including financial commitments, bank guarantees, corporate guarantees, and obtaining final approval from the ICC, ZEE said in its disclosure.

Gender bias



Nearly half of women in India Inc may quit in 2 years

Devina Sengupta
devina.sengupta@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Nearly half the women in India Inc are either unsure about how long they will stay with their current employers, or plan to quit in two years, citing reasons such as bias and pay disparity, a study by consulting firm Aon said.

Aon surveyed 24,000 women working in various companies, and the 47% who said they were unsure or would leave their employers in two years blamed the absence of an inclusive work culture, harassment, and limited career progression as other key reasons for their likely decision. "Of the 47% who are unsure, 27% said they will not stay beyond 2 years and 20% said they are unsure about how long they will stay," Shilpa Khanna, associate partner and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) practice leader of talent solutions in India for Aon, told Mint.

The study-Aon's 2024 Voice of Women—was conducted from March to June 2024. The research gathered responses from 24,000 women from over 560 participating small, medium and large companies.

As per the study, women who faced bias are 3.5 times more likely to perceive aspects of their organizational experience as unfair and 21% indicate leaving in less than a year versus only 6% of women who have not faced bias. The need to

recruit more women across sectors is coming at a time when participation of women in formal and informal sector had dropped during the pandemic as work from home and lack of support system became a challenge. This year, the Union budget set aside ₹3 trillion towards schemes aimed to benefit women and girls, in an attempt to increase women's participation in the workforce, and raise their contribution to economic development.

"We will facilitate higher participation of women in the workforce through setting up of working women's hostels in collaboration with industry, and establishing creches," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her budget speech on 23 July.

Harassment at the workplace is another challenge that women face. Aon's study showed that 6%, or more than 1,400 of the women surveyed, said they faced sexual harassment at least once.

However, less than half of them officially reported the incident to their employers. In its AGM in May, India's largest IT firm TCS was questioned on the rise in harassment cases and the reason behind the difference in median salaries of men and women employees.

Tata Sons' chairman N. Chandrasekaran emphasized that while TCS, with more than 600,000 employees, has zero tolerance towards harassment, the uptick in cases could be due to more employees expressing themselves.

Women blame the absence of an inclusive work culture, limited career growth as the key reasons for their decision

Luxe resorts raise rates by 60% for long weekend in Aug

Varuni Khosla
varuni.k@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

An interesting trend is playing out as India's 77th Independence Day approaches. With 15 August falling on a Thursday, and Raksha Bandhan on Monday, 19 August, a potential five-day-long weekend beckons for those willing (and able) to take the Friday off. This has resulted in tariffs of holiday resorts shooting up across the country even as hotels roll out discounts to retain business.

Luxury resort properties are likely to see a rate increase of 15-60% during this period depending on the location. For instance, the Oberoi Sukhvilas in Chandigarh is sold out for 14-19 August, while its Agra property will sell upwards of ₹37,500 a night for a regular room, about 15-25% higher than its usual rates. Mint found in its research.

Similarly, pool view suites at the plush ITC Grand Bharat in a remote corner of Gurugram will start from ₹32,000 a night excluding tax, which is ₹8,000 higher than its usual rate.

Then, Suryagarh Jaisalmer and Narendra Bhawan Bikaner are being prepared for a thronging crowd to come in to stay as the mega long weekend approaches. Sameer Mehra, chief operating officer of the MRS group, the company



Pool view suites at the plush ITC Grand Bharat in a remote corner of Gurugram will start at ₹32,000 a night.

behind these luxe properties, is expecting a 15-27% increase in occupancies on this long weekend over last year.

"By adding one day on either side of this weekend, it becomes a five-day long holiday," said Mehta. "A lot of travellers still have hybrid work systems and so at least at our properties, we have not seen any decline in travellers even though international travel has resumed in full swing."

According to Mehta, the Suryagarh property will see a 27% increase in travellers this long weekend but a relatively modest increase in prices of about 10%. Narendra Bhawan Bikaner, on the other hand, will have a similar increase in the number of travellers because of good connectivity to bigger cities, including direct flights, and will take a 50-60% increase in its room rates for this period.

"We are witnessing nearly a 20% surge in demand for resorts and hotels versus last year and anticipate this trend to further accelerate mid-August," said Nikhil Sharma, MD and area senior VP for South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group, adding that newer destinations like Kumbhalgarh, Saputara, Pondicherry, and Mahabalipuram along with Udaipur, Jaipur and Agra are seeing the most traction from travellers.

"Our guests are also willing to spend 20% higher than previous years on hotels that offer exceptional experiences and good value," Sharma said. "This uptick in bookings throughout our portfolio is promising and we are positive that momentum will continue."

While domestic hotel tariffs for last-minute bookings have increased as compared to last year, low-season offers from hotels and luxury stays (deals like free extension stays, complimentary meals) are driving strong interest for companies like Thomas Cook India.



MARKING THE GOLD



INNOVATION | EXECUTION | TRANSFORMATION

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2024

S. No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		QUARTER ENDED		YEAR ENDED		QUARTER ENDED		YEAR ENDED	
		30.06.2024	31.03.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024	30.06.2024	31.03.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024
		(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Revenue from Operations	453.78	606.18	503.67	2,312.00	485.76	643.25	544.35	2,452.85
2	Other Income	21.36	32.98	17.69	126.92	22.49	24.43	18.28	86.12
3	Total Income	475.14	639.16	521.36	2438.92	508.25	667.68	562.63	2,538.97
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) Before Tax*	86.45	164.08	129.08	596.87	114.98	186.69	162.55	670.36
5	Net Profit/ (Loss) After Tax for the Period/Year*	64.86	123.07	95.88	454.11	90.44	136.67	119.58	495.20
6	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit/(Loss) (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	66.14	125.18	97.33	460.40	91.79	138.68	120.89	501.32
7	Equity Share Capital	240.30	240.30	240.30	240.30	240.30	240.30	240.30	240.30
8	Other Equity (excluding non-controlling interest)				2266.57				2368.71
9	Earnings per share (EPS)**								
	Basic (₹)	2.70	5.12	3.99	18.90	3.29	5.25	4.49	18.95
	Diluted (₹)	2.70	5.12	3.99	18.90	3.29	5.25	4.49	18.95

* There were no Exceptional items during the period.
** EPS is not annualized for the quarter ended June 30, 2024, March 31, 2024 & June 30, 2023.

Notes:
1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 31st July, 2024.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full formats of the quarterly financial results are available on the Stock Exchange websites www.sebindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.rites.com.
3. The Financial Results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, as amended.
4. Ministry of Railways (MoR) vide letter dated 18.10.2021 had decided in principle for closure of Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC), in which Company has an investment of ₹48 Crore. Closure activities are underway and Board of IRSDC has decided to transfer the assets & liabilities of IRSDC to Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) for consideration not less than book value. Financial statement of IRSDC has been prepared on liquidation basis. As on 30.06.2024, net worth of IRSDC comes to ₹233.26 Crores, out of which 24% share i.e. ₹56.98 Crores belongs to RITES. Therefore, management does not perceive any impairment in the value of investment in IRSDC.
5. The Board of Directors have declared 1st interim dividend of ₹ 2.50 per share (face value of ₹10 per share) for the FY 2024-25.
6. Consequent upon utilisation of entire MAT credit in FY 2023-24, REMC Limited has adopted corporate tax rate of 25.168% under Section 115BAA of Income Tax Act, 1961 w.e.f. FY 2024-25 (Previous year corporate tax rate was 29.12%).
7. Figures for the quarter ended 31st March, 2024 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the figures for nine months ended 31st December, 2023 which were subject to limited review.
8. The figures for the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever necessary.

For & on behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
(Rahul Mithal)
Chairman & Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
DIN: 07610499

Place: Gurugram
Dated: 31.07.2024

RITES LIMITED
(A Navratna CPSE)

Registered Office: SCOPE Minar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, India. Ph.: 0124-2571666;
E-mail: cs.cell@rites.com, Website: www.rites.com, CIN: L74899DL1974GOI007227

Transforming to GREEN

Railways | Exports | Urban Engineering & Sustainability | Highways | Bridge & Tunnels | Buildings & Airports | Ports & Harbours | Ropeways | Quality Assurance

Future Ready Not just more of the same, but much more of the New!

Despite discount rush in Q1, Maruti posts 47% profit rise

Net sales of the carmaker rose to ₹33,875.3 crore, up from ₹30,845.2 crore in Q1FY24.

Alisha Sachdev
alisha.sachdev@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki, India's largest carmaker, reported a significant 50% increase in discounts for the first quarter of FY25 compared with Q4FY24, a promotion expense to drive sales in a tough market impacted adversely by an acute heat wave and subdued sentiment, the company said on Wednesday.

The carmaker's discount offerings surged to an average ₹21,700 per vehicle in the June quarter, compared with ₹14,500 in the previous quarter.

Despite the discounts, the company's net profit in the quarter ending June 2024 rose sharply to ₹3,649.9 crore, up 46.9% year-on-year (y-o-y) from the previous year's ₹2,485.1 crore.

The rise was driven by cost reduction efforts, favourable commodity prices, and beneficial foreign exchange rates, the company said in a post-earnings conference call.

Net sales, meanwhile, rose to ₹33,875.3 crore in the quarter, up from ₹30,845.2 crore in Q1FY24.

"On a sequential basis, the raw material-to-net sales ratio improved by 90 basis points, aided by the reversal of a one-off adverse element from Q4FY24 and marginal benefits from commodity prices," Rahul Bharti, chief investor relations officer, Maruti Suzuki, said, adding that operating income also contributed to margin expansion, despite increased advertisement expenses related to the Swift launch and the T20 World Cup.

Consequently, Maruti Suzuki's EBIT (earnings before interest and tax) margin improved from 10.8% in Q4FY24 to 11.1% in Q1FY25.



Maruti Suzuki's net profit rose sharply by 46.9% y-o-y due to cost reduction, favourable commodities, and forex gains. REUTERS

"Despite the less-than-ideal market conditions, we could achieve retail sales nearly at par with the previous quarter," Bharti added.

Maruti Suzuki sold a total of 521,868 vehicles in Q1FY25, an increase of 4.8%

the heatwave and elections, which kept many potential customers away from our showrooms," Bharti said.

"We also get a sense that there are indeed customers in the market, but might be waiting for an auspicious

season coupled with the onset of the festive period is where the industry is pinning its hope," he said.

The company maintained its outlook for sales for the full fiscal year of a low-single digit growth in PV (passenger vehicle) sales.

The carmaker said rural markets continue to outperform urban areas for Maruti Suzuki, a trend that has persisted over time.

In April 2024, Maruti Suzuki commissioned an additional vehicle assembly line at its Manesar facility, adding a capacity of 100,000 units per annum, bringing the total manufacturing capacity at Manesar in Haryana to 900,000 vehicles per year. Additionally, a new biogas plant at Manesar began operations in June 2024, it said.



y-o-y. Domestic sales stood at 451,308 units, a 3.8% rise, while exports rose 11.6% to 70,560 units.

"In the domestic market, the demand for passenger vehicles was muted to some extent, largely due to

period or a more attractive time or some reasons to make their purchase," he said, adding that the company is increasing its focus on improving retail sales.

"Going forward, a better monsoon

Is Ola IPO an electrifying deal?

By Niti Kiran & Mayur Bhalerao
niti.k@livemint.com

The Ola Electric IPO is certainly generating a lot of buzz. As a pioneer in the electric two-wheeler segment, the company has captured significant market share and garnered investor interest. Let's navigate its high-speed chase in the electric lane.



Scan QR code for full story.



Total issue size ₹6,112-6,146 crore

Fresh issue ₹5,500 crore

Issue opens on Friday 2 August

Issue closes on Tuesday 6 August

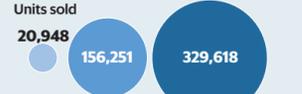
Price band ₹72-76/share

STRENGTHS

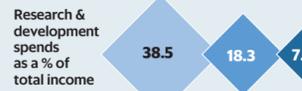
The company demonstrates its strength through impressive revenue growth and a substantial commitment to research and development. This dual focus positions the company as a leader in the electric mobility sector, driving innovation and expanding its market reach.

Riding high on revenue and innovation

Units sold



Revenue from operations (₹ crore)



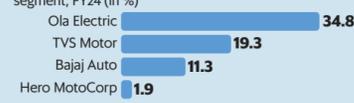
Financials based on consolidated data

OPPORTUNITIES

The company's push into the electric two-wheeler market is undeniable. It is leading the charge in the electric two-wheeler market with a 35% share, and its aggressive capital expenditure underscores its ambition to solidify its dominance.

Ola is on top of electric two-wheeler market

Market share of key players in electric two-wheeler segment, FY24 (in %)



Significant outlays reflect ambitious growth plans



WEAKNESSES

Ola Electric's revenue from electric scooters is not evenly spread, with a bulk coming from just two models. This raises questions about its overall product diversification. Moreover, its premium valuations compared to established players could be a point of contention for investors.

A one-trick pony?

Revenue contribution of EV scooter models in company's revenue from operations, 2023-24



Commanding a premium valuation

Market cap-to-revenue ratio (in times)



*Estimated market capitalization post-issue based on upper price band. For the peers mcap data as on 30 July. Consolidated revenues used for FY24.

THREATS

The company is grappling with challenges on multiple fronts: experiencing high employee turnover rates, impacting operational efficiency and a concerning uptick in order cancellations is putting pressure on its business model.

Facing headwinds: High attrition and rise in cancellations

Employee attrition rate (in %)



The percentage of fully paid and confirmed orders that were cancelled during each year



Source: Company's red herring documents, Mint analysis

PARAS JAIN/MINT

IT cos drag heels on hikes, anger staff

FROM PAGE 1

always consider including inflation, including when was the last wage revision taken, the environment, the macro environment as well as the peer practice," Infosys CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka, told analysts in a post-earnings call on 18 July.

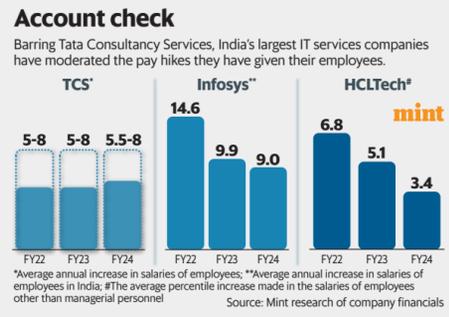
Tata Consultancy Services Ltd, the No. 1 IT services company, is the only one to stick to its wage hike cycle, giving the hikes in the previous quarter.

Both Tech Mahindra Ltd and LTIMindtree Ltd, the country's fifth and sixth largest software services companies, respectively, have delayed annual salary hikes to their employees.

On the other hand, HCL Technologies Ltd and Wipro Ltd, which are to give hikes later in the year, have not set a date.

Bengaluru-based Wipro pushed the wage cycle by three months last year, disbursing hikes to its 240,000 employees in December. This year seems no different.

"We have not decided when to give the salary hikes. We will decide in this quarter but will be in line with the market



whenever we decide," said Srinivas Pallia, CEO of Wipro, in the post-earnings analyst call.

Each of the four IT services companies mentioned above, have reported their best April-June quarter margin performance in three years in comparison with the preceding three months.

Inside companies that have not yet set a date or have delayed hikes, employees are jittery and unhappy.

Salary hikes are the primary job incentive for junior level employees, who have around three years of experience and earn about ₹4 lakh per annum. "To keep employee morale

high, the company must have given hikes," an employee of a top IT company said, requesting not to be named.

"If it (salary hike) doesn't happen this quarter, it won't happen this year. The management does not have intent and will push the ball to another quarter."

"We get to know more about salary hikes from news organizations than from our own company's management," quipped a second employee of the firm, reflecting the lack of communication from the company in addition to the delay.

An expert believes job hopping can pose difficulty for

homegrown software services companies in the future.

"Companies may face difficulties retaining junior talent as these employees might seek opportunities elsewhere with better compensation packages," said Krishna Vij, vice-president for IT staffing at headhunting firm TeamLease Digital, adding that this could lead to a widening skill gap between junior employees and those with specialized skills.

"Over time, companies might find it challenging to manage wage costs if they do not maintain a balanced workforce that includes both junior and senior employees," said Vij.

However, at least one analyst said that employees don't have that option to switch jobs.

"Employees can't leave their present company in search of jobs that would give them hikes or more hikes simply because those companies were not hiring as much. Therefore, the bargaining power is in the company's hands and they can call when to give or not give hikes," said a Mumbai-based analyst on the condition of anonymity.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com).

Tax authorities put Infosys on notice for over ₹32,400 crore

FROM PAGE 1

ches to service clients as part of its agreement with the clients, those branches and the company are each treated as 'distinct persons' under the IGST Act, DGGI said, adding Infosys is being investigated for non-payment of IGST on import of services as recipient of services.

In its incident report, DGGI said services provided by the overseas branches ensured efficient running of the company's businesses in foreign countries; better delivery of the company's services; better co-ordination between the customers; and helped sell the company's services to international clients.

Infosys informed stock exchanges about the tax notice late in the evening.

"The company believes that as per regulations, GST is not applicable on these expenses. Additionally, as per a recent circular (circular number 210/4/2024 dated June 26, 2024) issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs on the recommenda-



Infosys informed stock exchanges about the tax notice late in the evening. MINT

tions of the GST Council, services provided by the overseas branches to Indian entity are not subject to GST," it said.

Infosys said GST payments are eligible for credit or refund against export of IT services, and that it has responded to the notice. "Infosys has paid all its GST dues and is fully in compliance with the central and state regulations on this matter," it said.

"The matter appears to pertain to a technical interpretation as per the LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement) filing by the

BoB's profit up 6% as it calibrates loan growth

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Bank of Baroda on Wednesday reported a 6.19% growth in June quarter consolidated net profit at ₹4,727.81 crore, as the state-run lender calibrated loan growth.

On a standalone basis, the public sector bank's net profit grew 9.5% to ₹4,458 crore.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) said its core net interest income grew 5.5% on the lower advances growth of 8.1% and the net interest margin narrowing by 0.09% to 3.18%. The overall deposit growth came at 8.9%.

Other income of the lender declined by 25% to ₹2,487 crore, especially because of the performance of the treasury operations which were down 74%.

The bank's chief executive and managing director D. Chand said it undertook a calibration exercise, wherein it decreased its reliance on bulk deposits and had to forego lending opportunities, especially on the corporate front.

He exuded confidence that the bank will be able to cover-up the June quarter's shortfall from Q2, and reaffirmed its overall deposit growth and credit growth guidance at 10-12% and 12-14%, respectively.

The bank will keep the net interest margin (NIM) in the 3.10-3.20% range and efforts will be made to widen the key metric.

Without sharing a number, he said the bank has a healthy pipeline of loan proposals from sectors such as infrastructure, renewable and data centres.

In the June quarter, it had to decline well-rated corporate loan possibilities which resulted in the corporate loan growth getting restricted to 2.6%.

Riju Raveendran raised ₹158 cr to repay BCCI: Byju's to NCLAT

FROM PAGE 1

operational creditors, which had taken the company to the bankruptcy court for payment default. Under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), financial creditors must be repaid before operational creditors. If NCLAT approves the settlement between Byju's and BCCI, the bankruptcy suit may be dropped, and the company may remain in the hands of Byju Raveendran.

Citing a Delaware court judgement, Rohatgi said Byju Raveendran and his edtech have diverted more than \$500 million. "If they are unable to pay the staff, then where is this money coming from? The

money should come to us," he added.

Tushar Mehta, representing BCCI, said the board's claim of ₹158 crore was relatively small and that Glas Trust should independently seek an order in the matter. "Let (Glas Trust) not come in the way of our two parties settling the issue," Mehta said, adding the settlement would not be paid by Byju Raveendran or his company.

Kathpalia, Raveendran's counsel, said Riju Raveendran had independently raised the money. "He is the largest shareholder of the company... There is no order which prevents him from making this payment; therefore, no one is being prejudiced," Kathpalia said. He said



BCCI is to be repaid by Byju Raveendran's sibling. BLOOMBERG

creditors such as Glas Trust could only object if the money was coming from the corporate debtor's (Byju's) account.

Rohatgi said the money that has come when Byju's has not

been paying salaries, belongs to the lenders, and urged NCLAT not to sanction the settlement.

"Byju and his brother have conspired to siphon off more than \$500 million; it is our money that was withdrawn by them," Rohatgi said.

Mehta said BCCI will not condone any round-tripping or illegal activities, and that the money came through banking channels. To this, Rohatgi insisted that Byju's should show that to be the case.

Pooja Mahajan, counsel for the interim resolution professional, told the court that it has been 16 days, and they haven't got any access to Byju's. "The coaching centres are shut. The employees are not turning up in office, the IT head is not responding. I managed to find two laptops but all the data has been deleted," Mahajan said.

Byju's had filed the appeal in NCLAT to try and halt the for-

mation of a committee of creditors (CoC), as this would make it harder for the company to exit bankruptcy. On Wednesday, Byju's lenders told NCLAT that they will not form a CoC until the matter is disposed of on Thursday.

Byju's had raised \$1.2 billion in November 2021 from a group of lenders in the US, but began defaulting on payments in June 2022. The amount was raised specifically for its US expansion and could not be transferred to India under the terms of the agreement.

The lenders have since sued Byju's to recover their money. Last year, they took control of Byju's US subsidiary Alpha, which held the bulk of the



HDFC's former staff set up home finance biz

They started the firm after the mortgage lender merged with HDFC Bank

Gopika Gopakumar
gopika.g@htlive.com
MUMBAI

Former officials of HDFC Ltd have come together to set up an affordable housing finance business, a year after the country's largest mortgage lender merged with its subsidiary HDFC Bank.

Led by Satrajit Bhattacharya, former head of investments and M&A at HDFC, the new venture is called Weaver Services, which will specialise in low-cost housing finance. The company, which was set up earlier this year, is in talks with private equity players to raise funds to acquire 2-3 small-sized housing finance companies (HFCs) in different geographies. A few former HDFC employees have also expressed interest in investing in the company.

"HDFC was like a family. After the merger I didn't want to join anywhere and instead thought of making this entrepreneurial journey," Bhattacharya told *Mint*. "We are currently looking at mid-sized HFCs as there is a lot of opportunity available and applying for a licence takes time," he added.

The story about the HFC first appeared in a news website *Short Post*.

Weaver is currently looking to hire employees. It may rope in former HDFC employees, some of whom are now with HDFC Bank, to join the firm. The hires include Sid-dharth Das, former co-founding CEO of Jio Financial Services, who has joined Weaver as chief technology officer.

After subdued growth during the pandemic years 2020 to 2022, affordable housing saw a sharp uptick in FY23. However, this category of housing units priced under ₹40 lakh has seen a decline in overall sales since the pandemic, to 19% in H1 2024 from over 38% in the same period before the pandemic in 2019.

Over the last few years, affordable hous-



The new venture, Weaver Services, will specialise in low-cost housing finance. MINT

ing finance companies (AHFCs) have seen strong investor interest amid growth expectations. The sector has seen big-ticket deals like the acquisition of Aadhar HFC by Blackstone in 2019, followed by Bain-Adani Capital deal, TPG-Poonawalla Housing Finance deal and Shriram Housing Finance-Warburg Pincus deal.

agement (AUM) of all AHFCs was ₹1.1 trillion as of March 2024, compared to the total AUM of ₹5.9 trillion for all housing finance companies. ICRA expects AHFCs to grow at 22-24% in FY25.

"Affordable housing finance companies have demonstrated resilience across cycles. Strong fundamentals such as pristine

asset quality, secular growth, book stickiness and healthy return profiles continue to generate high investor interest. Government is further catalysing the industry by increasing the PMAY outlay...AHFCs are expected to grow at 20% CAGR in medium

to long term to reach an AUM of over \$50 billion by FY30. These factors, particularly the risk-return profile, have made the sector attractive for financial sponsors as well as strategics," said Anshul Agarwal, managing director and co-head, consumer, financial institutions group & business services, Avendus Capital.

Sneha Shah contributed to this article.

BUILDING GROWTH

THE firm is in talks with PE players for funds to acquire 2-3 small-sized housing finance companies.

A FEW former HDFC employees have also expressed interest to invest in the company.

IT IS looking to hire employees. Among industry leaders, it is looking to rope in ex-employees of HDFC

AHFCs cater to the under-served category of low- or mid-income customers who may be salaried, work in the informal sector or run a small business. Typically the loan size is below ₹15 lakh.

AHFCs have been growing faster than HFCs. During FY24, AHFCs grew by 29% year on year compared to 13% growth for HFCs. The outstanding assets under man-

agement (AUM) of all AHFCs was ₹1.1 trillion as of March 2024, compared to the total AUM of ₹5.9 trillion for all housing finance companies. ICRA expects AHFCs to grow at 22-24% in FY25.

Sneha Shah contributed to this article.

CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No: ELS/AQ/DRG/WCQ/24-25/14 dated 22.07.2024

Name of work: Provision of Trap Chamber in Three Phase locomotives (WAP-7 & WAG-9) for collecting coal/dust particles from BP train pipe during emergency brake application.

Estimated Cost of work: 41,96,880.38/-
Earnest money Deposit: 83900/-
Last date & time of submission of tender: 22/08/2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Details on Railway website www.ireps.gov.in
Sr.DEE/TRS/ELS/AQ, Nagpur

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है।

NGP-191

Have fun with facts on Sundays

Catch the latest column of



A quiz on the week's development.



HT FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

Immerse in
Mint Long Story

The art of storytelling



Read only on **mint**

JK LAKSHMI CEMENT Ltd.

₹ in Crores

Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the Three Months ended 30.06.2024

Sl. No.	Particulars	Consolidated		
		Three months ended 30.06.2024	Three months ended 30.06.2023	Year ended 31.03.2024
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	1576.96	1741.38	6856.58
2.	Profit before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes (EBITDA)	235.45	207.36	1120.26
3.	Net Profit for the Period before Tax & Exceptional Items	115.35	118.54	723.88
4.	Net Profit for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	117.95	118.54	732.49
5.	Net Profit for the Period after Tax & Exceptional Items	67.60	79.79	487.87
6.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	66.97	79.54	490.41
7.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value ₹5/- per Share)	58.85	58.85	58.85
8.	Reserves (excl. Revaluation Reserve)			3127.80
9.	Earnings Per Share (of ₹5/- each) (Not Annualised)			
	Basic:	5.97	6.67	40.10
	Diluted:	5.97	6.67	40.10

NOTES:

- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 31st July, 2024. The Auditors of the Company have carried out a "Limited Review" of the same.
- Standalone Financial Information of the Company, pursuant to Regulation 47(1)(b) of SEBI (LODR):

Particulars	Three months ended 30.06.2024	Three months ended 30.06.2023	Year ended 31.03.2024
	Audited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from Operations	1536.69	1647.18	6383.78
Operating Profit (EBITDA)	276.73	181.45	927.76
Profit before Tax & Exceptional Items	210.81	111.51	645.56
Profit before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	210.81	111.51	645.56
Net Profit/(Loss) for the Period after Tax & Exceptional Items	156.31	74.88	424.32

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter ended 30th June, 2024 Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone & Consolidated Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and also on Company's website at www.jklakshmicement.com.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 31st July, 2024

Vinita Singhania
(Chairperson & Managing Director)



Shareholders holding Shares in Physical Mode are requested to dematerialise them and complete their KYC.

Admin Office: No. 4, Nehru House, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002 | Regd. Office: Jaykaypuram - 307019, Dist. Sirohi, Rajasthan
Website: jklakshmicement.com | E-mail: jkic.investors@jklmail.com | Fax No.: 91-011-23722251 | CIN: L74999RJ1938PLC019511

MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA LIMITED

Registered Office : Plot No.1, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070

CIN : L34103DL1981PLC011375 ; Website: www.marutisuzuki.com ; E-mail : investor@maruti.co.in ; Phone : + 91-11-46781000 ; Fax: +91-11-46150275/76

Extract of Standalone Unaudited/Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2024

INR in million, except per share data

Sr. No	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
		June 30, 2024	March 31, 2024	June 30, 2023	March 31, 2024
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	355,314	382,349	323,269	1,409,326
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	46,891	49,978	31,902	170,404
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	36,499	38,778	24,851	132,094
4	Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the period [comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	39,941	38,074	25,637	134,782
5	Equity Share Capital	1,572	1,572	1,510	1,572
6	Reserve as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet				838,248
7	Earnings Per Share (of INR 5 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
	(a) Basic	116.09	123.34	82.27	431.08
	(b) Diluted	116.09	123.34	82.27	431.08

Extract of Consolidated Unaudited/Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2024

INR in million, except per share data

Sr. No	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
		June 30, 2024	March 31, 2024	June 30, 2023	March 31, 2024
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	357,794	384,712	325,348	1,418,582
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	48,357	51,076	32,690	174,245
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	37,597	39,523	25,429	134,882
4	Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the period [comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	41,030	38,837	26,218	137,551
5	Equity Share Capital	1,572	1,572	1,572	1,572
6	Reserve as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet				854,788
7	Earnings Per Share (of INR 5 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
	(a) Basic	119.58	125.71	80.88	429.01
	(b) Diluted	119.58	125.71	80.88	429.01

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 are available on the websites of BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on Company's website at www.marutisuzuki.com.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors

Place - New Delhi
Date - 31 July, 2024

(Hisashi Takeuchi)
Managing Director & CEO

Ambuja Cements Q1 profit falls 29%

Naman Suri
naman.suri@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Ambuja Cements Ltd, part of the Adani Group, on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹646.31 crore for the first quarter of the current fiscal year (Q1FY25), marking a 28.6% year-on-year (y-o-y) decline. This drop in net profit was attributed to rising expenses and lower revenues.

In the same quarter last year, the company had reported a consolidated net profit of ₹905.61 crore.

Consolidated revenue from operations fell 4.6% y-o-y to ₹8,311.48 crore, hurt by declining prices. Sales volume showed a slight increase to 15.8 million tonne (mt), up 0.4mt on year.

The earnings missed Bloomberg's estimates, which had projected a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹743 crore and revenue of ₹8,440 crore.

"Our persistent performance sets the tone for the rest of the financial year, as we expand our footprint and capacities across new geographies. Our continued improvement in costs brings visibility of achieving the targeted cost reduction of ₹530 per tonne by FY28," said Ajay Kapur, whole-time director and chief executive, Ambuja Cements.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) fell 23.2% y-o-y to ₹1,280 crore, with margin at 15.4%. Ebitda per tonne fell to ₹807 from ₹1,082 in the corresponding period last year.

Total expenses rose to ₹7,566.91 crore from ₹7,469.74 crore the previous year.

Tata Steel to end UK's blast furnace-based steelmaking

The closure of blast furnaces and related assets was critical to halting the cash burn at UK ops

Nehal Chaliawala
nehal.chaliawala@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Tata Steel is on track to end blast furnace-based steelmaking in the UK by September, its top management said, as the company seeks a transition to cleaner technologies and to stem losses in Europe.

However, it remains paramount for Asia's oldest steelmaker to get the new Labour government to align with its plan, as it relies on a £500 million (£5,370 crore) grant to fund the transition.

"In (the) UK, we have safely ceased operations at one of the blast furnaces (BF #5) at Port Talbot and are on track to close the remaining blast furnace by September 2024," T.V. Narendran, the managing director of Tata Steel, said Wednesday in a press statement. His comments came as the company declared its first-quarter (April-June) earnings, where profits surged due to lower losses in Europe.

The closure of the blast furnaces and associated assets was critical to arresting the cash burn at the UK operations, company chief financial officer Koushik Chatterjee said. Tata Steel UK has two blast furnaces in total.

"We are working closely with the recently-elected UK government on finalization of grant funding process for the new electric arc furnace project," Chatterjee said in the statement. The issue stems from the high inherent costs involved with steelmaking in the UK. These include expensive utilities, the high cost of importing coking coal that runs the blast furnaces, and the environmental levies associated with the emissions that steelmaking generates.

Tata Steel threatened to pull the plug

Steely gains

Lower losses in Europe and better performance at Neelachal Ispat aid 75% year-on-year rise in Tata Steel's profit in the June quarter.

	Q1FY24	Q1FY25	(in ₹ crore)	Year-on-year change (in %)
Tata Steel financials				
Revenue from operations	59,490	54,771		-7.9
Ebitda	5,347	6,694		25.2
Profit after tax	525	919		75.0
Segment-wise Ebitda				
Tata Steel India	7,600	6,750		-11.2
Neelachal Ispat Nigam	13,279	2,046.2		2,046.2
Tata Steel Europe	-1,596	-499		68.1
Other India operations	98	104		6.1

Source: Company data

SATISH KUMAR/MINT

on Port Talbot steelworks if the UK government did not bear a part of the cost to fund a transition to electric arc furnace-based steelmaking. These electric furnaces are less polluting and cheaper to run, partly because they need fewer people to operate.

The Labour government wants Tata Steel to promise job guarantees.

"I'm going to make sure that job guarantees are part of the negotiation that we're having," Jonathan Reynolds, the UK government's new business secre-

dated profit for the quarter ended 30 June to ₹919 crore.

The consolidated revenue for the quarter was 8% lower, compared to last year, at ₹54,771 crore, largely due to lower realizations. Steel prices have been tepid globally due to lower demand and oversupply from China.

However, lower losses in its European operations and better performance at the recently acquired Neelachal Ispat Nigam helped Tata Steel shore up its consolidated margins. Consolidated earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) grew 25% on-year to ₹6,694 crore. Ebitda margin improved 323 basis points to 12.2%. One basis point is 0.01%.

"During the quarter, subdued steel demand across most regions weighed on global steel prices. In India, steel demand was broadly stable despite some impact due to elections and heat waves," Narendran said.

The company produced 5.3 million tonnes (mt) of steel in India, which was 5% higher year-on-year. Sales at around 4.9 mt were the highest ever for the first fiscal quarter for the company. The growth was led by the automotive market, Narendran said, amid a rush for new cars in India.

Tata Steel will be investing ₹6,000 crore in Neelachal this fiscal year to fund capacity expansion.

Acquired two years ago, the plant plugged a crucial shortfall in Tata Steel's portfolio to manufacture long products.

These are slender formations of steel, as opposed to flat sheets, and are used to make steel rods, bars and wires. Tata Steel plans to take up the capacity of this plant from 1 mt a year to 5 mt and eventually 10 mt a year. Tata Steel shares ended 0.8% higher on the BSE on Wednesday at ₹165.35 apiece. The benchmark Sensex gained 0.4%.

Indus expects past dues payments by Vi to improve

Gulveen Aulakh
gulveen.aulakh@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Indus Towers, India's leading telecom tower provider, is anticipating a boost in free cash flows due to an expected rise in co-locations from Vodafone Idea (Vi) and improved collection of past dues from the carrier. This financial strengthening could give the company the flexibility to consider additional share buybacks later this year.

"We have made collections against the past overdue for the third consecutive quarter from a major customer while sustaining 100% collection against the monthly billings," said managing director and chief executive Prachur Sah, referring to Vodafone Idea, but not naming the company.

The management mentioned that they anticipate payments of outstanding dues to stabilize in the coming months as the Aditya Birla Group-backed carrier secures funding through equity and debt to support its network expansion. However, they did not specify an exact timeline.

"We've seen good progress in the last quarter. I think we expect to gain more momentum in the coming quarter and we hope to monetize as quickly as possible," Sah said.

Indus Towers has opted for a share buyback worth ₹2,640 crore to distribute returns to shareholders in a tax-efficient manner, particularly ahead of the upcoming tax regime change on 1 October.



Indus Towers has opted for a share buyback worth ₹2,640 crore.

This decision follows two years without issuing dividends, as highlighted by top executives during the post-results earnings call on Wednesday.

"There is more confidence in our free cash flow generation going forward, our dividend policy continues to be linked to free cash flow, so at the end of the year, we will continue to assess our free cash flow situation, and if situation permits, then there is the possibility of considering buyback again," said chief financial officer Vikas Poddar.

Starting 1 October, the Union budget has proposed that companies will no longer pay tax on the buyback of shares.

Starting 1 October, the Union budget has proposed that companies will no longer pay tax on the buyback of shares.

Instead, the amount received from the buyback will be treated as a dividend in the hands of shareholders and taxed at the applicable slab rate for individual shareholders. Companies cannot claim any expenditure against the amount of buyback treated as a dividend.



Sharing credentials with immigration authorities in advance will allow for faster clearances at airports.

Digi Yatra to speed up immigration for global travellers

Anu Sharma
anu.sharma@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

India is preparing to roll out its facial-recognition technology already available to domestic passengers at several airports to international travellers as well, to ensure smoother navigation of security and immigration protocols for both flyers and staff.

As per the Digi Yatra concept, sharing credentials with immigration authorities in advance will allow for faster clearances at airports both in

of months we should be able put it out as an update on our app."

Since its launch in December 2022, Digi Yatra has onboarded more than 4 million users across its Android and iOS applications. On average, it registers about 24,000 daily downloads.

The cumulative number of passengers using Digi Yatra at airports increased to 14.5 million in February from 11.3 million in December, government data show. According to the Digi Yatra Foundation, the facility is seeing an adoption

rate of 30-40% at the 16 airports where it is available. The adoption is nearly 70% at smaller airports such as Varanasi and Vijayawada.

In two months, the Digi Yatra network is expected to add 13 more airports, including those at Bagdogra, Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Indore and Srinagar.

"So, by the end of another two months, Digi Yatra will be able to cater to 90% of Indian air traffic with the help of these 29 airports," Khadakbhavi said. "The aim is to have a Digi Yatra usage rate of over 50% at all these 29 airports by March 2025."

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](#)

'Chip market to cross \$100 bn'

Shouvik Das
shouvik.das@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

India's semiconductor market, which includes a robust chip design and engineering sector, is tipped to cross \$100 billion in valuation by 2030, Union minister of state for information technology Jitin Prasada said in Parliament on Wednesday.

Initiatives that will help the domestic semiconductor market reach the milestone included production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for setting up chip fabs (fabrication plants), display fabs, chip testing and packaging plants, a design-linked incentive (DLI) scheme to boost local chip design, and, promote local component manufacturing and domestic manufacturing of "large scale electronics," he added.

Further, efforts to modernize the Centre-owned Semiconductor Laboratory in Mohali are underway—which could add to this milestone.

Prasada said that from a market value of \$38 billion in 2023,



MoS IT Jitin Prasada.

the semiconductor market will grow to \$109 billion by 2030—suggesting a 16% compounded annual growth rate for the industry. Key to these plans will be the semiconductor fab, being set up by Tata Electronics in partnership with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp. (PSMC) in Dholera, Gujarat—which the Centre has projected will be ready by 2027, and will produce 3 billion chips annually following a net investment of \$10.9 billion, including Centre- and state-backed incen-

tives. The chip fab is expected to produce chips across 28nm, 50nm, 55nm and 90nm die sizes—all of which are expected to become applicable in industrial use cases such as railways, electric vehicles, white goods and more.

Further adding value are assembly, testing, marking and packaging (ATMP) and out-sourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facilities. US-based Micron announced an ATMP facility with net investment of \$2.75 billion in 2022, becoming the first beneficiary of Centre's PLI push.

Alongside this, India already has a robust chip design industry as well. On Tuesday, fabless US chipmaker Qualcomm announced a new mobile processing platform designed for budget-range smartphones in the country. Chris Patrick, senior VP and GM for handsets at Qualcomm, told *Mint* that most of the company's networking modems, as well as a sizeable section of all of its chips, are designed by engineers in India.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](#)

Godfrey Phillips to exit retail biz under brand 24Seven

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Cigarette maker Godfrey Phillips India Ltd on Wednesday said it is going ahead with plans to exit from the retail business operated under the '24Seven' brand following the setting aside of an interim injunction on the move by a district court in the Capital.

Earlier an injunction order was passed against hiving of the retail business on 27 June by a city court over an application filed by its executive director Samir Kumar Modi.

Now the District Judge of South-East District at Saket Court, New Delhi has set aside the said injunction order in favour of the company, said a regulatory filing from the company. Consequently, the company is taking steps in accordance with the decision of the board of directors on 12 April 2024, it added.

The company's board on 12



24Seven had a negative net worth as of 31 March.

April, approved exiting from carrying out the retail business division operated under 24Seven, subject to completion of the necessary formalities.

However, an ex-parte ad interim injunction order was passed by the District Judge, South-East District, Saket Court, New Delhi on 27 June, 2024, directing the company to maintain the status quo with regard to the retail business, Godfrey Phillips India said.

The next day, legal counsel

for Samir Kumar Modi had served a copy of the order to the company, it added.

Godfrey Phillips India said revenue from operations from the retail business division for FY23-24 was ₹403 crore, being 7.6% of its total revenue from operations. The retail business division had a negative net worth as of 31 March 2024.

The company claimed after due consideration of the stakeholders' feedback, long-term performance of the division since inception, prevailing market conditions of the retail sector and long-term business strategy of the company, the board had decided to exit from the retail business.

Godfrey Phillips India is the flagship company of Modi Enterprises. It makes popular cigarette brands like Four Square, Red and White, Cavanders, Tipper and North Pole.

It also manufactures and distributes brand Marlboro under a licence agreement with Philip Morris.

'SC mine royalty ruling to hit PSUs if applied retrospectively'

Krishna Yadav
krishna.yadav@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that its recent ruling, which grants states the power to tax mineral rights and mineral-bearing land, could impose a financial burden of ₹70,000-80,000 crore on public sector units (PSUs) if applied retrospectively.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta said, without naming, that one major PSU could face demands amounting to three times its net worth, indicating that it is a profitable Maharatna undertaking.

Mehta opposed the apex court's consideration of retrospective recovery of royalties levied on mines and mineral-

bearing land since 1989. He suggested that neither the states should demand retrospective levies, nor should any PSU or undertaking seek refunds. "The burden will eventually fall on the common man, as no industry can absorb this. If the judgment has retrospective effect, the demand from PSUs will be ₹70,000 to 80,000 crore," Mehta said.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, representing Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd, a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd, also argued that past levy demands could exceed the net worth of many companies, and that retrospective application of the judgment risks bankrupting these companies.

Conversely, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, representing the mineral-rich state of Jharkhand, argued that the judgment should be applied



Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta.

retrospectively. Dwivedi suggested that past arrears could be settled in a staggered manner through instalments. He also contended that claims of financial difficulty should be supported by concrete evidence and requested that companies produce their bal-

ance sheets and file affidavits to substantiate their claims.

The Jharkhand government also argued that the Court should not be moulding the relief at the instance of assessee companies that have not discharged their burden. Regarding concerns raised by

the Solicitor General Mehta about the impact on the common man, Jharkhand stated that the money collected by states is also meant for the common man's welfare.

On 25 July, a nine-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court upheld the rights of states to collect tax on mining activities, and held that royalty paid to states on minerals does not qualify as tax.

Advocate general of Odisha Pitambar Acharya argued that state legislations were primarily welfare measures aimed at the tribal population residing in mining regions. He also submitted that the increase in royalties by the Union has benefited the State. He argued that

the Court should not mould the relief at the request of companies who have not demonstrated their burden.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, representing Uttar Pradesh, noted that the state levy was upheld by the High Court and approved by the Supreme Court. All companies except Hindalco and Kanoria Chemicals have been paying the state tax. Upon hearing these arguments on Wednesday, the nine-judge Constitutional bench of the Supreme Court reserved its verdict on whether the judgment should be applied prospectively or retrospectively.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](#)

NILKAMAL LIMITED									
CIN : L25209DN1985PLC000162									
Registered Office: Survey No. 354/2 & 354/3, Near Rakholi Bridge, Silvassa-Khanvel Road, Village-Vasona, Silvassa - 396230 (Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu)									
Website: www.nilkamal.com • Email: investor@nilkamal.com									
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 TH JUNE, 2024									
(₹ in Lakhs)									
Sr. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Quarter Ended 30/06/2024	Quarter Ended 31/03/2024	Quarter Ended 30/06/2023	Previous Year Ended 31/03/2024	Quarter Ended 30/06/2024	Quarter Ended 30/06/2023	Previous Year Ended 31/03/2024	
		Unaudited	Audited (Refer Note 2)	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited (Refer Note 2)	Unaudited	Audited
1	Revenue from Operations	72,861.31	82,053.66	76,897.71	3,13,410.96	74,269.31	83,419.26	78,308.16	3,19,632.68
2	Net Profit for the period before Tax, Exceptional and Extraordinary Items	1,900.29	4,707.36	3,771.03	14,321.12	2,172.20	4,593.64	3,972.55	15,136.85
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax, after Exceptional and Extraordinary Items	1,900.29	4,707.36	3,771.03	14,321.12	2,172.20	4,593.64	3,972.55	15,136.85
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax, after Exceptional and Extraordinary Items	1,420.16	3,556.18	2,813.30	10,731.22	1,834.17	3,556.93	3,245.58	12,243.19
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the Period [Comprising Profit for the Period (after tax) & Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	1,410.52	3,601.46	2,807.15	10,782.35	1,792.73	3,787.13	3,353.04	12,565.03
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of ₹ 10 per Share)	1,492.25	1,492.25	1,492.25	1,492.25	1,492.25	1,492.25	1,492.25	1,492.25
7	Other Equity				1,31,489.48				1,39,496.66
8	Earnings Per Share (Face value of ₹ 10 each) Basic and Diluted (not annualised) (in ₹)	9.52	23.83	18.85	71.91	12.25	23.79	21.73	81.92

Notes:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites (www.bseindia.com) and (www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.nilkamal.com).
2 The figures for the quarter ended 31st March 2024 as reported in these unaudited financial results are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the unaudited published year to date figures up to the end of the third quarter of the relevant financial year.

By order of the Board
For Nilkamal Limited
Sd/-
Hiten V. Parekh
Managing Director

Place: Mumbai
Date: 31st July, 2024

Waaree Renewable Technologies Limited
BSE Listed : 534618

WAAREE | RTL
Execution with Pace & Comfort

Harnessing clean, green energy to achieve carbon net zero

EBITDA Growth 206.60% Y-O-Y
EPS Growth 209.20% Y-O-Y
PAT Growth 208.52% Y-O-Y

One Stop Solar EPC Solution from Land to Asset Management

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Particulars	Standalone Quarter Ended		Consolidated Quarter Ended	
	30-06-2024	30-06-2023	30-06-2024	30-06-2023
	UNAUDITED	UNAUDITED (RESTATED)	UNAUDITED	UNAUDITED (RESTATED)
1. Total Income	23,911.74	12,966.39	23,911.70	12,968.27
2. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	3,956.51	1,246.28	3,927.47	1,243.46
3. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	3,956.51	1,246.28	3,927.47	1,243.46
4. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	2,846.54	918.37	2,816.14	912.80
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	2,844.90	899.48	2,814.50	893.91
6. Equity Share Capital	2,082.99	2,081.48	2,082.99	2,081.48
7. Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 2 / - each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
1. Basic:	2.73	0.88	2.72	0.88
2. Diluted:	2.72	0.88	2.71	0.87

Note:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 and it is not a statutory advertisement required under SEBI guidelines. The detailed financials is available on the website of the Company at www.waareertl.com.

All Figures are in ₹ Lakhs except for EPS

1800-2121-321
info@waareertl.com www.waareertl.com

CIN: L93000MH1999PLC120470 | Register Office:- 504, Western Edge-1, Western Express Highway, Borivali(E), Mumbai - 400 066.

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्रथम तल, कॉमर्शियल कॉम्प्लेक्स, सेक्टर-ओमेगा-1 (पी-2) ग्रेटर नोएडा
Toll Free No. 18001808296, वेबसाइट : www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com

पत्रांक: वाई.ई.ए./मूलेख(तह.आर.एस.)/829/2024 दिनांक: 31.07.2024

सार्वजनिक सूचना

जन सामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण बोर्ड द्वारा लिये गये निर्णय, आबादी भूमि आवंटन विनियमावली 2010 व प्राधिकरण बोर्ड की 70वीं बोर्ड बैठक में संशोधित नियमावली के विन्दु संख्या 5.5 के क्रम में ग्राम मुँजखेडा, परगना दनकौर तहसील सदर, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर में बैनामे से क्रय भूमि के सापेक्ष 07 प्रतिशत आबादी भूमि आवंटित किये जाने हेतु पात्र व्यक्तियों की अनन्तिम सूची तैयार कर निम्न स्थानों पर सार्वजनिक सूचना हेतु प्रदर्शित की गई है।

- नोटिस बोर्ड, मुख्य प्रशासनिक कार्यालय, पी-2, ओमेगा-1, ग्रेटर नोएडा।
- नोटिस बोर्ड मूलेख विभाग, यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे प्राधिकरण।
- सामुदायिक केन्द्र भवन / प्राथमिक विद्यालय / पंचायत भवन, ग्राम धनौरी।
- प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट पर।

आबादी विनियमावली के विन्दु संख्या 5.5 के अनुसार परीक्षित सूची में वर्णित किसी विवरण के संबंध में यदि किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह लिखित आपत्ति प्रकाशन के दिनांक से 15 दिनों के अंदर यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

डिप्टी कलेक्टर
यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे प्राधिकरण

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में प्राधिकरण द्वारा स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान के अतिरिक्त प्लॉटिंग/हाउसिंग/कॉलोनी या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह से अवैध है। सामान्यजन इस प्रकार की खरीद-फरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाइजर के ग्राहक विज्ञापनों से बचें। अधिक जानकारी के लिए प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com देखें।

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Re-Tender Work

S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of the work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	02/DGM/S M(WC-1)/2024-25	M/O Road (Corridor Improvement of Udyog Marg from DSC road Tender Amount to Sector-11, T-Point as a Model road), Noida.	4076.26
2	54/DGM/S M(WC-7)/ET/2023-24	Strengthening of Road (Resurfacing of DBM and BC work at A-38 to A-78, A-78 to A-220 and A-219 to B-15 Sector-83), Noida.	127.37

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 07.08.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 08.08.2024 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (Civil)
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
(Rajasthan Government Undertaking), C-Block 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilk Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005 (Rajasthan) Tel: 141-2921112, Email: info.risl@rajasthan.gov.in

NIB Ref No. : F4.2(611)/RISL/Tech/2023/3353 Date : 30.07.2024

Bids for "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Design, Development, Implementation and Maintenance of an Integrated Health Management System 2.0 (IHMS 2.0) for the State of Rajasthan", are invited till 18.09.2024 02:00 PM. For more information visit Public Procurement Portal and Department website https://risl.rajasthan.gov.in.

1. https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in - UBN No. - RIS24255LOB00031
2. https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in - Tender ID - 2024_RISL_409633_1

Raj_Samwad/C/24/3096 Additional Director

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyt Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-11, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in

WBSETCL

E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS HAVING EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR NATURE OF WORK:-

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/MOOSE CONDUCTOR/24-25/02
Date: 01.08.2024

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/SST/2024-25/03
Date: 01.08.2024

• Supply of 100 Kms ACSR Moose Conductor (NIT 02). Bids shall be submitted online up to 04:00 P.M., 02.09.2024.

• Supply of 21 nos. Station Service Transformers (NIT 03). Bids shall be submitted online up to 04:00 P.M., 03.09.2024. ICA: T128793/20204

Bid documents can be downloaded from 01.08.2024, 11:00 A.M. Visit the following websites:- www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.

mint
Think Ahead. Think Growth.

Connecting you to Global Insights!

Discover comprehensive business news & perspectives curated by the Leaders in Journalism

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. | mint | The Economist

Immerse in Mint Long Story
The art of storytelling

Read only on mint

Mint App | www.livemint.com | Mint Newspaper

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Members of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited ("Company") will be held on **Thursday, 22nd August, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (IST)** through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM"), in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and General Circular dated 25th September, 2023 read with Circular dated 5th May, 2020 of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and circular dated 7th October, 2023 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Electronic copies of the Notice of the 35th AGM, procedure and instructions for e-voting and the Annual Report 2023-24 have been sent on 31st July, 2024, to all those Members whose email IDs are registered with the Company/Depositories in terms of circular dated 7th October, 2023 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The Notice of the 35th AGM and the Annual Report 2023-24 are also available on the website of the Company at https://www.powergrid.in on the website of the National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at www.evoting.nsdl.com and on the websites of BSE Limited at https://www.bseindia.com and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at https://www.nseindia.com

The Company is providing the facility to its Members to exercise their right to vote on the businesses, as set forth in the Notice of the 35th AGM, by electronic means through both remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM. All Members are informed that:

- Members may attend the 35th AGM through VC / OAVM or watch the live web-cast at www.evoting.nsdl.com by using their remote e-voting credentials.
- The instructions for participating through VC / OAVM and the process of e-voting, including the manner in which Members holding shares in physical form or who have not registered their e-mail address can cast their vote through e-voting, are provided as part of the Notice of the 35th AGM.
- Members whose names appear in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. **Friday, 16th August, 2024**, shall only be entitled to avail the remote E-Voting facility or E-Voting at the AGM, as the case may be, at the AGM.
- Remote e-voting shall commence at **9:00 AM (IST) on Monday, 19th August, 2024 and end at 5:00 PM (IST) on Wednesday, 21st August, 2024**. Remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond **5:00 PM (IST) on Wednesday, 21st August, 2024** and once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
- In case a person has become a Member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice but on or before the cut-off date for remote e-voting & e-voting at the AGM, or has registered the e-mail address after dispatch of the Notice, such Member may obtain the user ID and password for remote e-voting and E-voting at the AGM as per the procedure provided in the Notice of 35th AGM.
- Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may attend the AGM through VC / OAVM, but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. Members who have not registered their e-mail address for remote e-voting and are present in the AGM through VC / OAVM, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting at the AGM.
- Mrs. Savita Jyoti of M/s Savita Jyoti Associates, Company Secretaries, has been appointed as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the remote e-voting and e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
- Manner of casting vote(s) through e-voting:** In terms of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, the Resolutions for consideration at the 35th AGM will be transacted through remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM. The Company is taking services of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") for facilitating voting through electronic means. Shareholders who hold shares in physical form or who have not registered their e-mail addresses and wish to participate in the AGM or cast their votes through remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM can log on to the e-voting website www.evoting.nsdl.com by using their credentials. Shareholders are requested to read instruction contained in the Notice of AGM available on the website of the Company/Stock Exchanges.
- Manner of registering / updating email ID & Bank Details:** Shareholders who have not yet registered their email IDs and Bank Account details are hereby requested to register the same in following manner:
Physical shareholders are hereby notified that based on SEBI Circular number: SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD-PoD-1/P/CIR/2023/37, dated March 16th, 2023, all holders of physical securities in listed companies shall register the postal address with PIN for their corresponding folio numbers. It shall be mandatory for the security holders to provide mobile number. Moreover, to avail online services, the security holders can register e-mail ID. Holder can register/update the contact details through submitting the requisite ISR 1 form along with the supporting documents. ISR 1 Form can be obtained by following the link: https://ris.kfintech.com/clientservices/isc/isrforms.aspx
ISR Form(s) and the supporting documents can be provided by any one of the following modes:
a) Through 'In Person Verification' (IPV): the authorized person of the RTA shall verify the original documents furnished by the investor and retain copy(ies) with IPV stamping with date and initials, or
b) Through hard copies which are self-attested, which can be shared on the address below, or
c) Through electronic mode with e-sign by following the link: https://ris.kfintech.com/clientservices/isc/isrforms.aspx
Detailed FAQ can be found on the link: https://ris.kfintech.com/faq.html
For more information on updating the email and Mobile details for securities held in electronic mode, please reach out to the respective DP(s), where the DEMAT a/c is being held.
- In case of any query/grievance regarding e-voting or technical assistance for VC / OAVM participation, Members may contact National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at 022 - 4886 7000 or send a request to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre at evoting@nsdl.com
- Members are requested to read carefully all the Notes set out in the Notice of the AGM and in particular, instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting vote through remote e-voting or through e-voting at the AGM.

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
(Satyaprakash Dash)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Date: 31.07.2024
Place: New Delhi

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Corp. Off: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001 (Haryana), Phone: 0124-2822999, & 2822000
Regd Office: B-9, Qutub Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110016, Phone: 011-26560112, 26560115 & 26560193
Website: www.powergrid.in, Email ID: investors@powergrid.in, CIN: L40101DL1989G0038121

A Maharatna PSU



The race is on to control the global supply chain for AI chips

The focus is no longer just on faster chips, but on more chips clustered together

The Economist

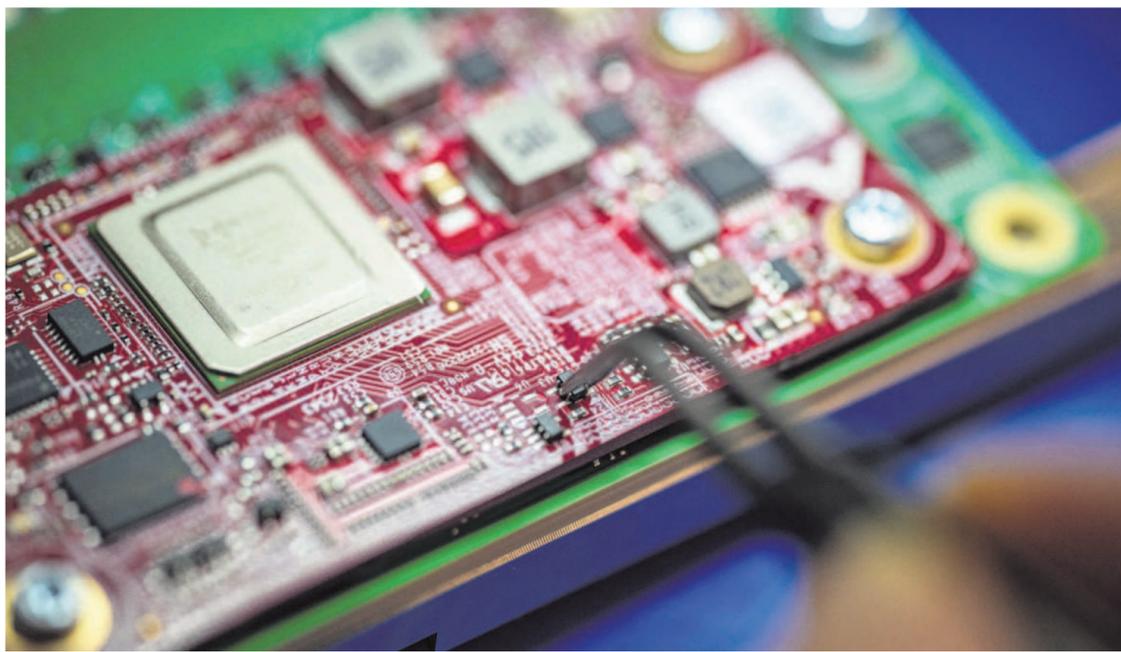
In 1958 Jack Kilby at Texas Instruments engineered a silicon chip with a single transistor. By 1965 Fairchild Semiconductor had learned how to make a piece of silicon with 50 of the things. As Gordon Moore, one of Fairchild's founders, observed that year, the number of transistors that could fit on a piece of silicon was doubling on a more or less annual basis.

In 2023 Apple released the iPhone 15 Pro, powered by the A17 Pro chip, with 19bn transistors. The density of transistors has doubled 34 times over 56 years. That exponential progress, loosely referred to as Moore's law, has been one of the engines of the computing revolution. As transistors became smaller they got cheaper (more on a chip) and faster, allowing all the handheld supercomputing wonders of today. But the sheer number of numbers that ai programs need to crunch has been stretching Moore's law to its limits.

The neural networks found in almost all modern AI need to be trained in order to ascertain the right "weights" to give their billions, sometimes trillions, of internal connections. These weights are stored in the form of matrices, and training the model involves manipulating those matrices, using maths. Two matrices—sets of numbers arrayed in rows and columns—are used to generate a third such set; each number in that third set is produced by multiplying together all the numbers in a row in the first set with all those in a column of the second and then adding them all up. When the matrices are large, with thousands or tens of thousands of rows and columns, and need to be multiplied again and again as training goes on, the number of times individual numbers have to be multiplied and added together becomes huge.

The training of neural nets, though, is not the only objective that requires lightning-fast matrix multiplication. So does the production of high-quality video images that make computer games fun to play; and 25 years ago that was a far larger market. To serve it Nvidia, a chipmaker, pioneered the design of a new sort of chip, the graphics-processing unit (gpu), on which transistors were laid out and connected in a way that let them do lots of matrix multiplications at once. When applied to AI, this was not their only advantage over the central processing units (CPUs) used for most applications: they allowed larger batches of training data to be used. They also ate up a lot less energy.

Training AlexNet, the model which ushered in the age of "deep learning" in 2012, meant assigning weights to 60m internal connections. That required 4.7 x 1017 floating-point operations (flop); each flop is broadly equivalent to adding or multiplying two numbers. Until then, that



Chipmakers are working to make transistors smaller, and are even stacking them up vertically to squeeze more of them onto chips.

much computation would have been out of the question. Even in 2012, using the best CPUs would not just have required a lot more time and energy but also simplifying the design. The system that trained AlexNet did all its phenomenal FLOpping with just two GPUs.

A recent report from Georgetown University's Centre for Emerging Technology says GPUs remain 10-100 times more cost-efficient and up to 1,000 times faster than CPUs when used for training models. Their availability was what made the deep-learning boom possible. Large language models (LLMs), though, have pushed the demand for calculation even further.

Transformers are go

In 2018 Alec Radford, a researcher at OpenAI, developed a generative pre-trained transformer, or GPT, using the "transformer" approach described by researchers at Google the year before. He and his colleagues found the model's ability to predict the next word in a sentence could reliably be improved by adding training data or computing power. Getting better at predicting the next word in a sentence is no guarantee a model will get better at real-world tasks. But so far the trend embodied in those "scaling laws" has held up.

As a result LLMs have grown larger. Epoch AI, a research outfit, estimates that training GPT-4 in 2022 required 2 x 1025 flop, 40m times as many as were used for AlexNet a decade earlier, and cost about \$100m. Gemini-Ultra, Google's most powerful model, released in 2024, is reported to have cost twice as much; Epoch AI reckons it may have required 5 x 1025 flop. These totals are incomprehensibly big, comparable to all the stars in all the galaxies of the observable universe, or the drops

of water in the Pacific Ocean.

In the past the solution to excessive needs for computation has been a modicum of patience. Wait a few years and Moore's law will provide by putting even more, even faster transistors onto every chip. But Moore's law has run out of steam. With individual transistors now just tens of nanometres (billions of a metre) wide, it is harder to provide regular jumps in performance. Chipmakers are still working to make transistors smaller, and are even stacking them up vertically to squeeze more of them onto chips. But the era in which performance increased steadily, while power consumption fell, is over.

As Moore's law has slowed down and the desire to build ever-bigger models has taken off, the answer has been not faster chips but simply more chips. Insiders suggest GPT-4 was trained on 25,000 of Nvidia's A100 GPUs, clustered together to reduce the loss of time and energy that occurs when moving data between chips.

Much of the \$200bn that Alphabet, Amazon, Meta and Microsoft plan to invest in 2024 will go on AI-related stuff, up 45% from last year; much of that will be spent on such clusters. Microsoft and OpenAI are reportedly planning a \$100bn cluster in Wisconsin called Stargate. Some in Silicon Valley talk of a \$1trn cluster within the decade. Such infrastructure needs a lot of energy. In March Amazon bought a data centre next door to a nuclear power plant that can supply it with a gigawatt of power.

The investment does not all go on GPUs and the power they draw. Once a model is trained, it has to be used. Putting a query to an AI system typically requires roughly the square root of the amount of computing used to train it. But that can still be a lot of

calculation. For GPT-3, which required 3 x 1023 flop to train, a typical "inference" can take 3 x 1011 flop. Chips known as fpgas and asics, tailored for inference, can help make running ai models more efficient than using gpus.

Nevertheless, it is Nvidia that has done best out of the boom. The company is now worth \$2.8trn, eight times more than when ChatGPT was launched in 2022. Its dominant position does not only rest on its accumulated know-how in GPU-making and its ability to mobilise lots of capital (Jensen Huang, its boss, says Nvidia's latest chips, called Blackwell, cost \$10bn to develop). The company also benefits from owning the software framework used to program its chips, called cuda, which is something like the industry standard. And it has a dominant position in the networking equipment used to tie the chips together.

Supersize me

Competitors claim to see some weaknesses. Rodrigo Liang of SambaNova Systems, another chip firm, says that Nvidia's postage-stamp-size chips have several disadvantages which can be traced back to their original uses in gaming. A particularly big one is their limited capacity for moving data on and off (as an entire model will not fit on one GPU).

Cerebras, another competitor, markets a "wafer scale" processor that is 21.5cm across. Where GPUs now contain tens of thousands of separate "cores" running calculations at the same time, this behemoth has almost a million. Among the advantages the company claims is that, calculation-for-calculation, it uses only half as much energy as Nvidia's best chip. Google has devised its own easily customised "tensor-processing unit" (TPU) which can be used for both

training and inference. Its Gemini 1.5 AI model is able to ingest eight times as much data at a time as GPT-4, partly because of that bespoke silicon.

The huge and growing value of cutting-edge GPUs has been seized on for geopolitical leverage. Though the chip industry is global, a small number of significant choke-points control access to its AI-enabling heights. Nvidia's chips are designed in America. The world's most advanced lithography machines, which etch designs into silicon through which electrons flow, are all made by ASML, a Dutch firm worth \$350bn. Only leading-edge foundries like Taiwan's TSMC, a firm worth around \$800bn, and America's Intel have access to this tool. And for many other smaller items of equipment the pattern continues, with Japan being the other main country in the mix.

These choke-points have made it possible for the American government to enact harsh and effective controls on the export of advanced chips to China. As a result the Chinese are investing hundreds of billions of dollars to create their own chip supply chain. Most analysts believe China is still years behind in this quest, but because of big investments by companies such as Huawei, it has coped with export controls much better than America expected.

America is investing, too. TSMC, seen as a potential prize or casualty if China decided to invade Taiwan, is spending about \$65bn on fabs in Arizona, with about \$6.6bn in subsidies. Other countries, from India (\$10bn) to Germany (\$16bn) to Japan (\$26bn) are increasing their own investments. The days in which acquiring ai chips has been one of AI's biggest limiting factors may be numbered.

©2024 THE ECONOMIST NEWSPAPER LIMITED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



Microsoft's Copilot is a popular tool for companies that want to experiment with AI.

For many companies, spending on AI means spending on Microsoft

Isabelle Bousquette
feedback@livemint.com

The enthusiasm that fueled spending on generative AI is calming, analysts and corporate technology leaders say. But when companies do spend, Microsoft is winning many of their dollars.

Dan Ives, managing director and senior analyst at Wedbush Securities, said he estimates about 70% of artificial intelligence software spending in the last 12 months is tied to the Microsoft ecosystem.

That is in part thanks to the company's Copilot tool, which can be integrated with its existing suite of products, and its relationship with OpenAI, whose GPT models run on Microsoft's Azure cloud infrastructure.

Revenue for the Azure cloud business rose 29% in the quarter ended June 30, Microsoft said Tuesday. Analysts expected 30% growth, according to FactSet.

Google parent Alphabet, which has been pouring money into artificial intelligence investments, last week reported slower overall revenue growth for the second quarter.

There is anecdotal evidence that enterprise spending on AI is less frantic than it was a year ago, said Jason Ader, partner and co-group head of the technology, media, and communications sector at financial services company William Blair. He said it appears that companies are focusing on simple and limited applications of AI.

Organizations are expected to spend \$38.8 billion on generative AI in 2024, up from \$19.4 billion in 2023, according to market research firm International Data Corp. The firm said it doesn't track quarterly spending.

"Eighteen months ago, I think everybody felt like they had to get in the game," said Chad Simpson, chief information officer of Florida-based City Furniture, about the generative AI spending spree. Now, he said, companies appear to be more tempered.

A starting point
Ader, of William Blair, said that based on his anecdotal research, Copilot for Microsoft

365 seems to be the most popular tool for companies that want to experiment with AI. That is in part because Microsoft's 365 suite is so widely used and plugging in the Copilot is a natural starting point for many organizations, he said.

Many CIOs say they are also using Microsoft's GitHub Copilot coding assistant, which Ader said has been gathering steam over the last couple of years. For companies that opt to build applications in house, OpenAI's GPT model, which runs on Microsoft's Azure, is another common choice.

City Furniture's Simpson said his company is using Microsoft GitHub Copilot, which is rolled out to about 80 engineers and tech associates at the company. It is also trying out Copilot for Microsoft 365, available to about 5% of the workforce. "The natural integration that exists if you use the Microsoft stack just lends itself to such ease of use," he said.

Simpson said he isn't totally sold on Copilot for Microsoft 365. Those with access aren't using it

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

daily or fully integrating it into their workflows. But he said he is continuing to test it.

Many of the dollars being spent on generative AI today are for testing and experimentation, and there is uncertainty over the value Copilot for Microsoft 365 delivers given the price of \$30 a user, Ader said.

Workwear brand Carhartt's information-technology operating budget for the fiscal year is mostly flat, but CIO Katrina Agusti said she is making sure some funds go to generative AI. It is a single-digit percentage of the overall IT budget, she said. Most of it is being spent with Microsoft, which was already a vendor. That includes a trial group with Copilot for Microsoft 365, she said.

And at Radisson Hotel Group, Global CIO Jaime González-Peralta said spending on generative AI and emerging technologies ranks as his third priority—below enabling business growth and cybersecurity. The money the company is spending on generative AI is going both to EY and Microsoft, he said.

With generative AI, he said, "I prefer to be very prudent."
©2024 DOW JONES & CO. INC.

Hamas leader Haniyeh killed in Iran by an alleged Israeli strike

AP
feedback@livemint.com
BEIRUT

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed by a pre-dawn airstrike in the Iranian capital Wednesday, Iran and the militant group said, blaming Israel for a shock assassination that risks escalating the conflict even as the US and other nations were scrambling to prevent an all-out regional war. Iran's supreme leader vowed revenge against Israel.

There was no immediate comment from Israel, which has pledged to kill Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders over the group's 7 October attack on southern Israel in which the Palestinian militant group killed 1,200 people and took some 250 others hostage. The strike came just after Haniyeh had attended the inauguration of Iran's new president in Tehran—and only hours after Israel targeted a top commander in Iran's ally Hezbollah in the

Lebanese capital Beirut.

The dramatic assassination of Hamas's top political leader threatened to reverberate throughout the region's intertwined conflicts. Most explosively, the strike in Tehran could push Iran and Israel into direct conflict if Iran retaliates.

"We consider his revenge as our duty," Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a statement on his official website. He said Israel had "prepared a harsh punishment for itself" by killing "a dear guest in our home."

Bitter regional rivals, Israel and Iran risked plunging into war earlier this year when Israel hit Iran's embassy in Damascus in April. Iran retaliated and Israel countered in an unprecedented exchange of strikes on each other's soil, but international efforts succeeded in containing that cycle before it spun out of control.

Haniyeh's killing could also prompt Hamas to pull out of negotiations for a cease-fire and hostage release deal in the

10-month-old war in Gaza, which US mediators had said were making progress.

And it could enflame already heightening tensions between Israel and Hezbollah—which international diplomats were trying to contain after a weekend rocket attack that killed 12 young people in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

Tuesday evening, Israel carried out a rare strike in the Lebanese capital that it said killed a top Hezbollah commander allegedly behind the rocket strike. Hezbollah, which denied any role in the Golan strike, said Wednesday that it was still searching for the body of Fouad Shukur in the rubble of the building that was hit in a Beirut suburb, killing two women and two children, according to the Lebanese health ministry.

There was no immediate reaction from the White House to the killing of Haniyeh.

Asked by reporters in Manila about the Tehran strike, US secretary of defence Lloyd Aus-



The strike in Tehran that killed Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh could push Iran and Israel into direct conflict if Iran retaliates.

tin said he had no "additional information to provide." But he expressed hope for a diplomatic solution on the Israeli-Lebanon border. "I don't think that war is inevitable," he said. "I maintain that. I think there's always room and opportunity for diplomacy, and I'd like to see parties pursue those opportunities."

But international diplomats trying to defuse tensions were

alarmed. One Western diplomat, whose country has worked to prevent an Israeli-Hezbollah escalation, said the double strikes in Beirut and Tehran have "almost killed" hopes for a Gaza cease-fire and could push the Middle East into a "devastating regional war." The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive situation.

An Israeli military spokes-

man declined to comment. Israel often doesn't comment on assassinations carried out by its Mossad intelligence agency or strikes on other countries.

Iranian media showed videos of Haniyeh and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian hugging after Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony Tuesday. Hours later, the strike hit a residence Haniyeh uses in Tehran, killing him, Hamas said in a statement.

It also quoted a past speech by Haniyeh in which he said the Palestinian cause has "costs" and "we are ready for these costs: martyrdom for the sake of Palestine, and for the sake of God Almighty, and for the sake of the dignity of this nation."

Pezeshkian vowed his country would "defend its territory" and make the attackers "regret their cowardly action." An influential Iranian parliamen-

tary committee on national security and foreign policy was to hold an emergency meeting on the strike later Wednesday.

Hamas military wing said in a statement that Haniyeh's assassination "takes the battle to new dimensions and will have major repercussions on the entire region." It said Israel

"made a miscalculation by expanding the circle of aggression."

Speaking to the AP, a Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said the loss of Haniyeh won't impact the group, saying it had emerged stronger after past crises and assassinations of its leaders. Haniyeh left the Gaza Strip in 2019 and had lived in exile in Qatar. The top Hamas leader in Gaza is Yehya Sinwar, who masterminded the 7 October attack.

In the West Bank, the internationally backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

condemned Haniyeh's killing, calling it a "cowardly act and dangerous development." Political factions in the occupied territory called for strikes in protest at the killing.

In April, an Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed three of Haniyeh's sons and four of his grandchildren. Meanwhile, Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces, a coalition of Iranian-backed militias, said that a strike Tuesday night on a base southwest of Baghdad killed four members of the Kataib Hezbollah militia.

The group accused the United States of being behind the strike. Kataib Hezbollah, along with some of the other militias, has in recent months carried out attacks against bases housing US troops in Iraq and Syria in retaliation for Washington's support for Israel in the war in Gaza. US officials did not immediately comment.

Israel is suspected of running a years-long assassination campaign targeting Iranian nuclear scientists and others associated with its atomic program.



NEWS NUMBERS

70%

THE PERCENTAGE of the 600 million people who have filed income tax returns so far that opted for the new simplified tax regime, which offers lower rates

11,250

THE NUMBER of jobs slashed by Indian startups in the first half of 2024, compared to 21,000 job cuts in H1 2023 and 15,000 in H2 2023, as per Longhouse Consulting

₹8,637 cr

THE VALUE of sales bookings reported by Godrej Properties in the June quarter, compared to ₹2,254 crore in the year ago period

₹50 cr

THE DUES Byju's paid to its creditor Board of Control for Cricket in India on 30th July. It promised to pay the rest in August as it fights insolvency proceedings

27%

THE PERCENTAGE of women employees who said they will quit their firms within two years over bias and pay disparities, according to a survey by Aon

HOWINDIALIVES.COM

GPL clocks ₹8,637 cr bookings in Q1

Godrej Properties Ltd (GPL) clocked bookings worth ₹8,637 crore—the highest among the top listed developers—in the June quarter, the real estate firm said on Wednesday. The Mumbai-based developer had recorded sales bookings worth ₹2,254 crore a year ago. “...The residential real estate sector in India has been strong over the past three years, and we believe thesectoral tailwinds will continue over the next few years. The significant levels of business development we have executed in previous years at favourable terms continue to allow us to scale our bookings and, in turn, our earnings,” said Pirojsha Godrej, executive chairperson of GPL. GPL’s sales volume stood at 8.99 million square feet in the first quarter of 2024-25, compared to 2.25 million sq. ft in the year-ago quarter. Its net profit jumped 316% y-o-y to ₹520 crore from ₹125 crore. **MADHURIMA NANDY**



BHEL reported a net loss of ₹213 crore for the June quarter from a net loss of ₹212 crore a year ago.

BHEL posts slightly bigger loss in Q1

State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) reported a slightly wider first-quarter loss on Wednesday, as higher expenses overshadowed demand growth for power equipment, sending its shares 1.2% lower. The power and industrial equipment manufacturer reported a net loss of ₹213 crore for the quarter ended 30 June from a net loss of ₹212 crore a year ago. The company restated figures from the previous year to reflect adjusted expenses of ₹233 crore, which included deferred tax and provisions and write-offs, according to an exchange filing. BHEL’s expenses, which have hurt its earnings in the past four quarters, increased 9% to ₹5,875 crore, driven by a 9.4% rise in the cost of materials and services. Revenue from operations rose nearly 10% to ₹5,485 crore in the quarter, owing to a 4% rise in revenue from the power segment. India’s electricity generation hit record highs in the April-June quarter—peak summer in the country—as demand surged, boosting orders for power equipment. **REUTERS**

Coal India beats Q1 profit estimates

Coal India surged past first-quarter profit estimates on Wednesday, as higher sales volumes and dip in employee costs countered weakness in prices. The company, which produces about 80% of India’s coal, reported consolidated net profit of ₹10,959 crore, up 4% from a year ago. However, this was well ahead of analysts’ average expectation of ₹8,035 crore, as per LSEG data. “Coal India’s results came in bigger-than-expected supported by a decline in employee costs,” said Kunal Kothari, research analyst at Centrum Broking, which had forecast a profit of ₹7,429 crore. A 5% decline in employee costs to ₹11,455 crore beat Centrum’s estimates of ₹12,000 crore, leading to a flattish cost of production, Kothari added. Meanwhile, a 6.2% rise in sales volume offset a 5.5% dip in realisation, Kothari said. The company did not disclose its average realisation—the average selling price per unit of coal. **REUTERS**

Gadkari urges FM to withdraw 18% GST on insurance premiums

Union minister of road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari has requested finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw the 18% goods and services tax (GST) on life and medical insurance premiums. In his letter to the finance minister, Gadkari raised concerns of the Nagpur Division Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, which had submitted to him a memorandum regarding the issues of the insurance industry. Referring to the memo, the minister said, “Levying GST on life insurance premiums amounts to levying tax on the uncertainties of life. The union feels a person who covers the risk of life’s uncertainties to give protection to the family must not be levied tax on the premiums to purchase cover against this risk.” Further, he said the main issue raised by the union is related to withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premiums. Gadkari also pointed out that the union has raised issues related to differential treatment to savings through life insurance, re-introduction of income tax deduction for health insurance premiums and consolidation of public sector general insurance firms. **PTI**



Union minister of road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari. **PTI**

DEATH AND DEVASTATION



Army personnel carry out rescue operations on the second day following landslides triggered by heavy rain at Chooralmala in Wayanad district on Wednesday. At least 167 people have been killed and over 200 injured in the tragedy, according to officials. **PTI**

PM package will make youth more employable: Sitharaman

The FM said India's inflation rate has been lower than other EMs over the last 10 years

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
gireesh.p@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that the Indian youth are more employable than they were a decade ago. The Prime Minister’s package announced in the Union budget for 2024-25 will further improve employment prospects, she said, countering opposition criticism on unemployment. Sitharaman also defended the government on inflation, asserting that India’s inflation rate has been lower than other emerging markets over the past 10 years. Unemployment and inflation were key issues for Opposition in the recent national elections, where the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government retained power, but lost its absolute majority, relying on coalition partners for its third term.

Defending the government’s economic performance, Sitharaman compared the NDA’s handling of the covid-19 pandemic to the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government’s poor response to the 2007-08 global financial crisis, which resulted in high inflation and fiscal deficit between 2009 and 2013. Citing the Periodic Labour Force Survey, she said the labour market indicator for those aged 15 and above steadily improved from 2017-18 to 2022-23. “Labour force participation has also increased from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 57.9% in FY23. Women’s labour force participation has risen to 37% in FY23 from 23.3% in 2017-18. The unemployment rate has declined from 6% in 2017-18 to a low of 3.2% in 2022-23.”

Youth unemployment for 15-29 years declined sharply from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23, she added. Quoting an SBI research report from July 2024, Sitharaman said India created 125 million jobs between 2014 and 2023, compared to 29 million jobs from 2004 to 2014. “In the last decade, employability of Indian youth has increased sharply, rising from below 34% in 2014 to over 51% in 2024. We will improve it further through the PM’s package on employment and skilling.” In recent years, the jobs situation sparked intense debate, however, the government countered a Citi report, claiming it failed to consider comprehensive positive employment data from sources such as the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and the RBI’s KLEMS data.

On 8 July, the Centre had said over 80 mn employment opportunities were created from FY18 to FY22, averaging over 20 mn per year.

RBI mulls secured payment methods

India’s central bank on Wednesday proposed to allow a wider set of alternatives, including fingerprints and passwords, as additional factors of authentication for all digital transactions. An additional factor of authentication requires two or more ways of verifying the identity of the user, typically used to reduce fraud and cyber crime. Currently, India does not have any rules for how to authenticate digital payments, but the industry has primarily adopted text-based one-time passwords for authorisation. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday proposed to allow other options like fingerprints, passwords or personal identification numbers as additional factors of authentication, according to a draft circular. It has also said passphrases, card hardwares or software tokens could be used for authenticating digital transactions. **REUTERS**



Toyota will invest of around ₹20,000 crore in the new manufacturing plant. **REUTERS**

Toyota to set up unit in Maharashtra

Automaker Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Wednesday said it will set up a new manufacturing plant in Maharashtra at an investment of around ₹20,000 crore. The company has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government to examine the setting up of a greenfield manufacturing facility at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said in a statement. Headquartered in Karnataka, TKM already has two manufacturing units located at Bidadi near Bengaluru. In Karnataka, the automaker, including its group companies, has invested more than Rs 16,000 crore and created close to 86,000 jobs in the entire value chain, it said. Toyota’s cumulative export contributions also stand at around ₹32,000 crore thus representing the company’s export focus, it added. **PTI**

‘Call rates in India one of the lowest’

India now has 1.17 billion mobile connections and 930 million internet connections, telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday while noting that call rates in the country are one of the lowest in the world. Scindia said the cost of call for every minute was 53 paise and it has come down to just 3 paise now, which is a 93% reduction, one of the lowest rates in the world. The minister said the cost of one GB data is ₹9.12, which is cheapest in the world. He said under the Digital India Initiative, various technology-led startups and innovation schemes like Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0), Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups, domain specific Centres of Excellence and Next Generation Incubation Scheme have been undertaken with a total funding outlay of around ₹800 crore in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. **PTI**

In Q2, smartphone shipments dip 2%

India’s smartphone shipments fell 2% year-on-year (y-o-y) in June quarter, hurt by the heatwave and slower demand, as per a report by global research firm Counterpoint that showed Xiaomi reclaimed top spot in volume share and Samsung led in value terms. Notably, 5G smartphones captured their highest-ever share of 77% in the overall shipments, according to Counterpoint’s Monthly India Smartphone Tracker. Another key takeaway was that India’s smartphone market hit its highest ever Q2 value, driven by the ongoing trend of premiumisation. “India’s smartphone shipments fell 2% y-o-y in Q2 2024 (April-June),” it said. The decline was influenced by a heatwave, a seasonal slump, and slower demand from Q1 2024. “In response, OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) hosted sales events in Q2 to clear inventory, leading to a reduced sell-in and a period of degrowth,” it said. **PTI**



Capital Group offloaded the stake in SIS for over ₹258 crore via open market transactions. **BLOOMBERG**

Capital Group sells 4.3% stake in SIS

Financial services company Capital Group on Wednesday offloaded a 4.3% stake in SIS for over ₹258 crore through open market transactions while Abu Dhabi Investment Authority bought shares in the company. Capital Group, through its two affiliates Smallcap World Fund and American Funds Insurance Series Global Small Capitalization Fund, sold a total of 6,226,115 shares, amounting to 4.3% stake in cash logistics solutions provider SIS. Shares of SIS were sold at ₹415 apiece, taking the transaction size to ₹258.39 crore, as per the bulk deal data available on the BSE. At the end of June quarter, Smallcap World Fund held 3.68% stake in SIS. Meanwhile, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority Stable and 360 One Mutual Fund purchased 5.17 million shares or 3.6% stake in SIS. Shares were acquired at ₹415 per piece, taking the combined transaction value to ₹214.95 crore. Details of the other buyers of SIS could not be ascertained. Shares of SIS settled 3.41% lower at ₹415.20 per piece on the BSE. **PTI**



WHY DID LICIOUS CROSS THE ROAD?

It's not a chicken and egg situation, but with its growth projections falling flat, the online meat retailer wants to get to the other side—because 99% of the market is offline

Samiksha Goel
samiksha.goel@livemint.com
BENGALURU

Bengaluru resident Geetha, a cook by profession, is understandably passionate about food. When *Mint* caught up with the 40-something culinary expert in a busy market in the city's Mahadevapura locality, she was about to enter a shop selling poultry and mutton. Asked why she was buying meat in person when she could do it from the comfort of her home, Geetha shot back, "Why would I go online when I can get fresh meat from the shop near my house?"

At a time when they have grown accustomed to placing orders online and getting all their needs delivered at the doorstep, the vast majority of India's carnivores steadfastly continue to buy their meat and seafood at neighbourhood outlets. Like Geetha, they have little interest in shopping for their animal protein online.

And so, despite the emergence of direct-to-consumer (D2C) online retailers such as Licious, FreshToHome, Zappfresh and Meatigo over the last decade, the offline trade still has a stranglehold over India's \$31 billion (an industry estimate) meat and seafood market, commanding a share of nearly 99%. To put that in perspective, the size of the online industry was a mere ₹2,500-3,000 crore, less than half a billion dollars, in 2023, according to Satish Meena, an independent e-commerce analyst and advisor at research platform Datum Intelligence.

While no data is available on its breakup today, a 2021 study by consulting firm Redseer reported that seafood accounted for more than two-thirds—70%—of the overall market, followed by poultry at 16%, and mutton at 11%. Pork and other items made up the rest. The composition is unlikely to have changed much in the last three years.

Within the offline segment, there is a small organized section comprising retailers of frozen meat such as Godrej Agrovet, Venky's, Suguna and Nandu's, some of whom also flog their wares online. The rest is made up of small chicken, mutton and fish vendors, who rule the roost. A new contender is now looking to alter the pecking order. Licious, a category creator online and the largest venture-capital funded company in the industry, has waded into the wet market.

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM...

Over the last decade, online retailers have tried to disrupt the market with technology but most could not get a handle over the supply chain, manage costs or compete with the pricing that offline offers. Licious, however, survived and grew bigger, despite its slightly premium model.

Valued at \$1.5 billion, Licious, which was founded in 2015 by Vivek Gupta and Abhay Hanjura, has raised a total of \$490 million from investors such as Mayfield, Avendus Temasek and 3one4 Capital. While the company raised capital during the highs of the early adoption and pandemic-stimulated growth, there is a realization now that the kind of growth it needs to justify its valuation cannot come from an online play alone. Hence the decision to go offline.

But the founders will have to walk on eggshells as they feel their way through the new terrain. The offline market is a fragmented, price-sensitive space, with the carcasses of brands such as Fipola, which had attempted to conquer it earlier, dotting the landscape. Even food-delivery giant Swiggy had to close its meat delivery business last year. So, can Licious, with its premium-priced products, succeed where others have failed, especially at a time when its balance sheet is under pressure?

The online meat retailer, which had reported 64% growth in 2021-22, was expecting its revenue to surge 120% in 2022-23 over the previous year to ₹1,500 crore; instead, it grew just 10%, to ₹748 crore. Licious' losses for the period, meanwhile, widened from ₹485 crore to ₹500 crore.

In comparison, Venky's poultry segment saw its turnover increase from ₹1,429 crore in 2020-21 to ₹1,752 crore in 2022-23. However, its profit after tax declined from ₹266 crore to ₹0.54 crore over the same period. Meanwhile, Godrej Tyson Foods Limited, best known for its 'Real Good Chicken' brand, saw revenue decline slightly to ₹981 crore in 2023-24

from ₹1,003 crore a year earlier. However, over the same period, its profit before exceptional items and tax rose to ₹50 crore from ₹13 crore.

Licious' disappointing performance is a red flag for the prospects of the online meat delivery business in India. When *Mint* met with them at their office in Bengaluru, however, Gupta and Hanjura put on a brave front. "Covid has confused the state of affairs for everybody," said an exasperated Gupta, when asked if growth had plateaued. "Online was growing at a certain speed, then covid caused a surge in growth for everyone. Nobody knows if it was genuine growth or not. Post-covid, the numbers fell but remained higher than the baseline. People have overread this growth and decline."

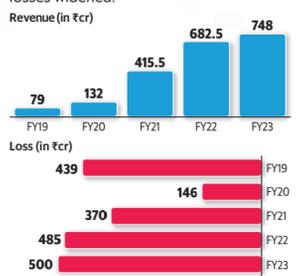
The company has opened its first offline store in BTM Layout, Bengaluru, and will be opening three more by the end of this month, the founders told *Mint*. Reiterating that the pressure in the online business has nothing to do with their taking the offline route, Gupta said, "This year, we are not going to open in more than 20-25 cities. If I had that much pressure from the online business, I would have opened hundreds of stores, as I am still holding a lot of cash."

The founders claim to have ₹800 crore in the bank. Gupta added that the founders had decided earlier that they would go offline only after the online business had become sustainable. "We have picked up the offline battle this year because we are operationally profitable and by March, I think we should turn fully profitable in the online business," he said. But with the company's losses at over ₹500 crore in 2022-23, full profitability in 2024-25 seems like a tall order.

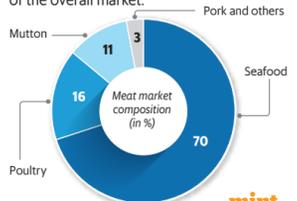
Industry watchers have a different view. "The days of hypergrowth online are gone. Back then, it was just starting, so the base was low and there was 100-200% growth happening," said Ankur Bisen, senior partner and head-con-

THE MEAT OF THE MATTER

Growth cut
Licious grew just 10% in FY23 while its losses widened.



The pie
Seafood accounts for more than two-thirds of the overall market.

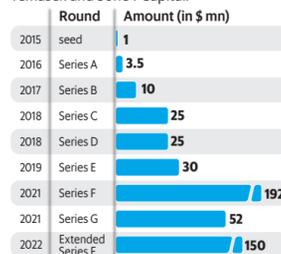


In the March quarter, the founders claimed Licious had recorded 12% growth in its revenue run rate sequentially and 22% year-on-year growth. Despite this decline from earlier levels, Gupta insisted that the company would continue to see 20-30% growth in the online business over the next few years.

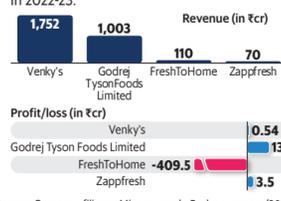
Industry watchers have a different view. "The days of hypergrowth online are gone. Back then, it was just starting, so the base was low and there was 100-200% growth happening," said Ankur Bisen, senior partner and head-con-

Well stocked

Licious has raised nearly \$490 million from investors such as Mayfield, Avendus Temasek and 3one4 Capital.



Large pieces & mini bites
Venky's poultry segment was a clear leader in 2022-23.



Source: Company filings, Mint research, Redseer report (2021)
SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA/MINT

sumer, food and retail, at Technopak Advisors, an advisory firm. "I don't see that growth happening anymore in the pure online business."

THE IDEA

Gupta, a chartered accountant hailing from Chandigarh, and Hanjura, a biotechnology graduate from Jammu, were working in corporate jobs in Bengaluru before starting Licious in 2015. The duo saw a gap in the meat market and decided to start a business focusing on quality and hygiene.

Explaining the rationale, Hanjura said, "The nation, even back then, had learned how to put idli-dosa batter in a packet, chocolate milkshake in a packet... But meat, which is most susceptible to contamination, was still being peddled in the wet markets." By and large, the Licious founders observed, modern trade, general trade, big business houses and retailers had never done anything in the category.

Initially, the idea wasn't to deliver online or take the D2C route. But Hanjura and Gupta quickly realized that if the product lost its quality by the time it reached the customer, there was no point. "We decided to take the product to the consumer. What helped us is the fact that the average order value is high enough for a last-mile delivery, which is why we became a D2C company," said Hanjura.

Today, about 45% of Licious' revenue comes from the sale of chicken, 20% from seafood, and 18% from mutton. The rest is brought in by the sale of eggs and ready-to-eat products. While the company has also been offering its products online through quick-commerce outfits such as Zepto and Swiggy Instamart, it has no plans to follow in the footsteps of rivals Godrej and Venky's, which have been selling frozen food through organized retailers for years.

The online business is currently operational in 20 urban cities. Entering the offline segment will facilitate the company's entry into tier two markets, where people may prefer offline first over online, said Gupta.

THE OFFLINE BET

D2C companies across categories have been opting for an omnichannel strategy for new growth. "Offline becomes an important channel as these companies also have to grow at a much faster rate," said Datum Intelligence's Meena.

mint
SHORT
STORY

WHAT

While they are used to getting all their needs delivered at the doorstep, the vast majority of India's carnivores continue to buy their meat and seafood at neighbourhood outlets.

SO

The online industry makes up just 1% of the overall meat and seafood market. Given this reality, and with its top-line growth stalling, Licious is now eyeing growth offline.

BUT

Licious will face stiff competition from unorganized chicken, mutton and fish vendors, who make up the bulk of the market, as well as organized companies such as Godrej and Venky's.

"You have clusters where people are ordering online but that's about it. It's a big market and there are supply chain challenges, perishability issues, traceability issues," added Technopak's Bisen. "So, in clusters that are not ready, or not mature to handle online, offline comes in," said Bisen.

"There was also covid-induced growth because everything else was closed. But after that, everything is now back to normal and people have not changed their habits significantly. There's a cost angle and supply chain maturity angle to it. So, that's why multi-channel is what people have reconciled with," he added.

In an earlier interaction with *Mint*, Shan Kadavil, founder of Licious' primary competitor, FreshToHome, admitted that the company has also been facing a slowdown in online growth. FreshToHome, too, is counting on the offline business and the export market, where it has just begun operations.

For Licious, offline is an adjacent business and a long-term play. "We are not doing offline in a hurry," Gupta emphasized. "About 10 years later, the ₹3 trillion meat market will be, let's say, ₹6 trillion. How much will online be? Let's just say online is now ₹5,000-7,000 crore. After 10 years, it may be ₹50,000 crore, ₹70,000 crore or ₹1 trillion. Still, ₹5 trillion will be sold offline. Then what is our reply to that? I think that is the aspiration with offline," he explained.

A COSTLY BUSINESS

Tendercuts and Fipola are among the startups that couldn't survive in the offline meat arena. Tendercuts was acquired by GoodToGo, another meat business, while Fipola shut shop last year. The co-founders of Licious believe these companies failed because they entered the offline trade too quickly, without a strong supply chain or model in place. Tendercuts and Fipola started as omnichannel players but struggled to raise additional funding amid muted investor sentiment.

Gupta also noted that the companies were much smaller. "We are such a known brand that when we open a store, the consumer response is very different," he declared. But capital expenditure and competitive pricing are challenges for Licious as well.

Running your own store is a loss-making proposition, said an industry executive, requesting anonymity. "There are certain businesses that feel they can make money, but profitability may not come because of rental costs. It will end up in a few stores being profitable," he explained.

Licious, however, claims to be well prepared. Gupta emphasized that the company is ready for its offline venture with the online intelligence, supply chain and other integrations it has built over the last nine years. "I have a full supply chain network in Bangalore—factories, vehicles, dark stores. I don't need to invest in any supply chain. For us offline is just one more outpost of sales, I don't have any other extra cost for this business," said Gupta.

The founders added that Licious would



Liked this story? Share it by scanning the QR code.



Budget 2024 changes tilt the scale: Why ETFs eclipse FoFs

ETFs now offer a compelling advantage due to shorter holding periods and trading flexibility

Anil Poste
anilkumar.poste@livemint.com

The Budget has reshaped the investment landscape, making exchange-traded funds (ETFs) significantly more attractive compared to funds of funds (FoFs). With the changes in tax treatments for gold, silver, and overseas investments, ETFs will now offer a compelling advantage due to shorter holding periods and trading flexibility. Previously, investments in ETFs and FoFs faced distinct tax rules, but the new regulations have streamlined these, creating a more favourable environment for ETFs. This shift not only reduces the time needed to benefit from long-term capital gains (LTCG), but also enhances trading convenience, positioning ETFs as the preferred choice for savvy investors looking to optimise their portfolios.

ETFs are bought and sold via stock exchanges and held in demat accounts. In contrast, FoFs are held in statement of account form (with the registrar and transfer agents, or RTAs) and bought directly from asset management companies (AMCs) and redeemed directly with AMCs.

Old vs new regime

ETFs: Before April 1, 2023, investments in gold, silver and overseas ETFs were subject to LTCG tax if held for more than 36 months—taxed at 20% with indexation benefits. Short-term capital gains (STCG) for these ETFs were taxed at the investor's applicable income tax rate.

FoFs: Commodity (gold and silver) and overseas funds followed similar tax rules but were classified differently.

The 2023 Budget had redefined the tax treatment and holding periods for these investment vehicles, making them taxable at the slab rate. It had grandfathered investments made before April 2023, allowing them to enjoy the benefits of 20% with indexation. However, the Budget 2024 made another change. For redemption made after 31 March 2025, the holding period for capital gains calculation has been standardized to 24 months. This aligns the treatment of the instruments with other assets but gives ETFs an advantage due to the reduced holding period.

ETFs and FoFs are both taxed at the slab rate in the short term, and 12.5% in the long term. However, the holding period to be considered long-term for ETFs is 12 months because they are listed securities, while it is 24 months for the FoFs.

Advantage ETF

ETFs now have a shorter holding period than FoFs with the same tax rate

Tax treatment for investments

Investment type	Holding period for LTCG	STCG tax rate	LTCG tax rate with indexation benefit
Gold, silver & overseas ETFs & funds	36 months	Slab rate	20%
Gold, silver & overseas ETFs & funds	NA	Slab rate	Slab rate

Tax treatment from 23 July 2024

Investment type	Holding period for LTCG	STCG tax rate	LTCG tax rate with indexation benefit
Gold, silver & overseas ETFs	12 months	Slab rate	12.50%
Gold, silver & overseas funds	24 months	Slab rate	12.50%
Debt ETFs/FoFs (over 65% in debt)	N/A	Slab rate	Slab rate
Equity ETFs and FoFs	12 months	20%	12.50%



Note: Effective 1 April 2025, Section 50AA redefines specified mutual funds as those investing over 65% in debt instruments. *Equity ETFs and FoFs with more than 65% in equity

Benefits of ETFs over FoFs

With the same tax treatment but different holding periods, ETFs present a more attractive option for investors as the benefits are multifaceted.

ETFs have a reduced holding period of 12 months compared to 24 months required for FoFs to qualify for LTCG tax. This shorter holding period makes ETFs more flexible and appealing for investors aiming to optimize tax liabilities. So, if you hold a Gold ETF for just over a year, you'll enjoy 12.5% LTCG tax rate. With FoFs, you'd need to wait two full years for that benefit. It's a clear win for ETFs.

While both ETFs and FoFs are taxed similarly under new regime—slab rate for STCG, and 20% with indexation benefits for LTCG—the shorter holding period for ETFs means investors can benefit from the lower LTCG tax rate sooner.

Moreover, ETFs offer trading convenience as they are traded on the stock exchanges, allowing for intraday trading, liquidity, and price transparency. This flexibility is not available for FoFs, which are typically bought and sold at the end of the trading day at the fund's net asset value (NAV). For instance, if

you need to liquidate an ETF, you can do it anytime during market hours but with an FoF, you'd have to wait until the end of the day to make your move.

Additionally, ETFs have low expense ratios compared to FoFs, making them cost-effective for long-term investors. This is another area where ETFs shine. Generally, ETFs have lower expense ratios because they passively track an index and don't require active management. FoFs, however, usually come with higher fees due to extra layer of fund management.

Besides, ETFs provide targeted exposure to specific sectors, commodities, or international markets, enabling you to customize your portfolio to your precise needs. If you want to invest specifically in global technology stocks, for instance, there's an ETF for that. An FoF, however, might give you broader exposure that includes multiple sectors, which might not align with your targeted investment strategy.

However, investing in ETFs requires a demat account, which is not necessary for FoFs. This requirement can be a barrier for some investors who are not familiar with stock market operations or prefer simplicity of investing via

mutual funds.

For equity ETFs and FoFs investing heavily in equity funds (over 65% in stocks, and over 90% in equity funds, respectively), the tax rate for short-term gains is 20% and 12.5% for long-term gains. These ETFs fall under Sections 111A or 112A, with a 12-month holding period for long-term classification. In contrast, pure debt ETFs and FoFs, with significant investments in debt and money market instrument, are taxed at the slab rate, regardless of the holding period under Section 50AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Conclusion

The new tax regime favours ETFs over FoFs for asset classes such as gold and overseas equity, primarily due to the shorter holding period required to benefit from LTCG tax rate. The advantage, combined with inherent benefits of ETFs like liquidity, lower costs, and trading flexibility, makes them increasingly attractive option for investors in gold, silver, and overseas markets.



Liked this story? Please share it by scanning the QR code

MINT 20* MUTUAL FUND SCHEMES TO INVEST IN



We have hand-picked 20 mutual funds for your portfolio that have jumped through hoops of good returns, low risk, good portfolio hygiene and our own qualitative research. We have restricted the choice universe to 10 categories out of the total 37 and given you at least two options to pick from each.

EQUITY	3-years return (%)	5-years return (%)	Corpus (₹ cr)
LARGE-CAP			
UTI Nifty Index Fund - Growth	17.22	18.18	18,345
HDFC Index Fund - Nifty 50 Plan	17.11	17.98	16,592
Category average	16.39	17.70	
EQUITY FLEXICAP			
Canara Robeco Flexi Cap	16.94	20.67	13,190
Parag Parikh Flexi Cap	19.13	25.60	71,700
Category average	17.86	20.87	
EQUITY SMALL AND MIDCAP			
Axis Midcap	20.53	26.13	30,144
SBI Small Cap	24.39	30.45	30,836
Category average Midcap	25.05	28.31	
Category average Smallcap	24.91	30.68	
EQUITY (TAXSAVER)			
Canara Robeco Equity Tax Saver	17.73	22.62	8,457
Mirae Asset Tax Saver	18.53	22.56	24,346
Category average	20.30	21.87	
HYBRID			
BALANCED ADVANTAGE			
Edelweiss Balanced Advantage	13.74	16.84	11,721
ICICI Prudential Balanced Advantage	14.10	14.39	58,562
Category average	13.52	14.17	
ARBITRAGE			
Kotak Equity Arbitrage	6.04	5.43	48,000
Tata Arbitrage	5.63	5.30	11,519
Category average	5.68	5.11	
OUT OF THE BOX			
	Returns since launch	Date of launch	Corpus (₹ cr)
BHARAT Bond ETF - April 2031	5.59	23-Jul-20	13,834
Motilal Oswal S&P 500 Index Fund	18.39	28-Apr-20	3,391

Returns as on 29 July 2024; Corpus data as of June 2024; Growth option in regular plans has been used

Absolute returns for 'Out of box', CAGR for the rest. For detailed methodology refer to:

Keep a smart, flexible and minimalist MF portfolio

<https://www.livemint.com/personal-finance/keep-a-smart-flexible-and-minimalist-mf-portfolio-1638378827521.html>

Download mint app for latest in Business News - <https://bit.ly/32XEFEE>

*Debt funds can be viewed in the full table online

Data and analysis by CRISIL Research

Compiled by Neil Borate

Why did Licious take the decision to cross the road?

FROM PAGE 12

leverage the intelligence gathered from its D2C business to drive decision-making in the offline business. "We have a highly scaled up D2C business in each of these catchments, so we already know something about them," said Hanjura. For instance, he explained, if there are more Malayali consumers in an area, more fish varieties would be offered.

PRICING PREMIUM

Licious products are priced slightly higher than the same items in a local shop. Gupta justifies this. "It is not a premium—if you ask me, that is a cost of quality," he told Mint. "Every category that gets organized is at some premium. For example, if you check the rate of flour and the starting pack of simple Aashirvaadatta, it will be at least 30% more expensive. Only thing is, when those categories got organized, there were large companies doing it; here our company is fighting that battle."

The founders do not plan to lower prices at Licious' offline



Many chicken and mutton shops offer home delivery with customizations as needed. APP

stores. "The pricing has worked for us online and it will work for us offline," asserted Gupta. The company's chicken products, for instance, are priced ₹30 higher than similar items in the wet market, he pointed out.

But the offline stores may end up cannibalizing some of Licious' online business. "Offline is a very competitive pricing market. If you are opening a premium store, it will attract a premium customer. But that premium customer may already be buying from you

online," pointed out an industry expert, requesting anonymity. Moreover, many of the local chicken and mutton shops offer home delivery, with weight and cut customized to customer requirements, and this will be a challenge for Licious' higher-priced meat just as it is for the company's online business.

Datum's Meena agreed that pricing would be a big factor in determining Licious' success offline. "Online, you are not competing with anyone because you are niche. The customer is ready to pay the price premium for the comfort. But now you are fighting on pricing with the local players and fighting with the convenience of the quick-commerce companies at the same time," he said.

Gupta and Hanjura know there are many challenges ahead and do not want to count their chickens before they hatch. "It's a learning phase for offline. We will not press the accelerator until we get the engine right," said Gupta. However long that takes, one thing is clear: the Licious founders will no longer put all their eggs in the online basket.

'Sebi's proposed rules to enhance investor protection'

PTI
feedback@livemint.com

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)'s proposal on tightening rules for index derivatives, if implemented, may result in erosion of volumes from Futures and Options (F&O), experts said on Wednesday. At the same time,

it will enhance investor protection and promote market stability in derivative markets, they added.

In its consultation paper on Tuesday, Sebi proposed seven measures, including increasing minimum contract size and upfront collection of option premiums, intra-day monitoring of position limits, rationalisation of strike prices,

removal of calendar spread benefit on the expiry day and increase in the near contract expiry margin.

One of the proposals is to rationalise weekly expiry and restrict it to one per week on the benchmark index per exchange. This change will likely impact volumes, as the recent volumes in the equity derivatives segment have been

driven by weekly expiries, HDFC Securities MD & CEO Dhiraj Relli said.

"Reducing volumes in F&O will bring down realised daily volatility and intra-day volatility in Nifty induced because there is expiry practically on all days. This happens because large weights are common for most indices. HDFC, for example, is part of Fin Nifty, Bank

Nifty, Nifty and the Sensex," Anand Rathi Wealth Ltd Deputy CEO Feroze Azeez said.

Besides, these measures are likely to lead to a reduction in monthly option prices, particularly for OTM options, resulting in lower implied volatility and a more balanced skewness in option pricing. It will make the market accessible and less risky for investors, he added.

REMOVING INDEXATION ON REAL ESTATE WILL NOT BENEFIT MOST. HERE'S PROOF



POWER POINT
SAYANTAN KUNDU & AMARENDU NANDY

Respond to this column at feedback@livemint.com

The Union budget's modifications to the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on real estate warrant careful scrutiny. While the finance ministry portrays the reduction of the LTCG tax rate from 20% to 12.5% as good for the middle class, our analysis reveals potentially adverse implications for the real estate market and the broader economy.

Let us dissect the core components of the policy change. The reduction in the LTCG tax rate to 12.5% appears beneficial at first glance. However, this apparent benefit is offset by the removal of the indexation benefit, which previously allowed taxpayers to adjust the purchase price for inflation. Without this adjustment, the taxable gains are calculated on the nominal increase in property value, disregarding the erosive effect of inflation.

In a market with a relatively inelastic supply such as real estate, a higher tax burden may weigh heavily on buyers through higher prices, with a potentially smaller impact on transaction volumes. This may be especially pronounced in the short to medium term. To quantify the impact, we analysed the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of real estate prices, the holding period, and

the cost inflation index. Our calculations show that the effective tax rate under the new regime is lower only if a property's CAGR significantly exceeds historical averages. For a 20-year holding period with a cost inflation rate of 5.5% a year, the CAGR must be above 9.48% for the new tax structure to be advantageous.

An examination of actual performance of the real estate market provides more insights. Data from the National Housing Bank's Residex, covering March 2013 to March 2024, shows the average CAGR of property prices across 36 Indian cities is just 5.11%. The highest recorded CAGR is 8.56% in Hyderabad, which is below the threshold needed to benefit from the new tax regime. This suggests that, contrary to the finance ministry's claims, the effective tax burden will increase for most real estate investments.

Claims vs reality

The demographic aspect of real estate transactions is another crucial consideration. Most real estate sales are conducted by individuals with annual incomes exceeding ₹15 lakh, meaning that the new tax policy will disproportionately affect higher-income groups. While the government aims to redirect the increased tax revenue to support lower-income groups, doing so by presenting misleading claims that nominal real estate returns are in the 12-16% range is problematic. Such claims do not align with empirical data and undermine the credibility of the policy.

Also, the lack of indexation means that inflation-adjusted gains will be taxed more heavily, potentially discouraging long-term investment in real estate. This could lead to reduced market liquidity, a crucial factor for efficient price discovery and resource allocation. Reduced liquidity can lead to higher transaction costs and price volatility, potentially destabilising the real estate market. This could also have spillover effects on the bank-

CAGR required at different inflation rates for 12.5% tax rate to be advantageous



ing sector, given the significant proportion of loans backed by real-estate collateral.

Long-term investors punished

The removal of indexation could have other regressive effects, too. Unlike financial assets, real estate often appreciates in nominal terms, without corresponding increases in real value. By taxing nominal gains, the policy disproportionately affects those who have held properties for longer periods, including retirees and long-term investors for whom real estate is a significant part of retirement planning. This could force some individuals to sell their properties prematurely to avoid higher taxes, leading to potential disruptions in the real estate market.

Finally, the policy's impact on real estate developers should

not be overlooked. Already facing challenges such as regulatory hurdles, fluctuating demand and high financing costs, developers may find that the new tax regime adds another layer of strain. Increased taxes on gains from property sales could reduce profit margins, leading to longer completion times and higher costs for homebuyers. Given that affordability is already a critical issue, this could exacerbate the housing crisis and make it harder for the average Indian to own a home.

A realty data repository can align the policy assumptions with the market realities

From a policy perspective, reintroducing the indexation benefit would align the tax burden more closely with real gains, providing a fairer and more transparent tax structure. A phased approach to reducing the tax rate and indexation could balance the need for revenue with the principles of equity and efficiency. Additionally, clear and accurate communication from the government, based on empirical data rather than optimistic projections, would foster greater trust and compliance among taxpayers.

The government should establish a real estate data repository to address the disconnect between policy assumptions and market realities. This would enable more accurate forecasting, facilitate evidence-based policymaking, and improve market transparency. Such a repository could provide crucial insights into regional variations in real estate performance, allowing for more targeted and effective policy interventions.

Sayantan Kundu is assistant professor of finance, International Management Institute, Kolkata, and Amarendu Nandy is assistant professor of economics at IIM, Ranchi.



OUR VIEW

ANURAG BEHAR
is CEO of Azim Premji Foundation.

MY VIEW | OTHER SPHERE

Funders of NGOs should realize that this isn't a T20 cricket game

Unrealistic performance demands are making too many Indian NGOs lose authenticity and rigour

Sebi is spot on: The tail should not wag the dog

The market regulator's proposals to tighten rules for derivatives trading reflect a hardened resolve to squash a frenzy of retail speculation—which entails broad risks best kept in check

The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) latest proposals of rule revisions for derivatives trading reflect a reinforced resolve to contain retail speculation, an evident frenzy of which has been flagged for its risks. The slew of measures it has proposed include an increase in the minimum contract size from ₹5 lakh to ₹15-20 lakh, higher upfront margins to be paid for trades, allowing only one weekly expiry per exchange (as opposed to daily), and the intraday monitoring of position limits. These and other steps would be in addition to the action it took earlier. On its part, the Centre's budget has doubled the securities transaction tax on futures and options. The broader message is clear. Authorities are going all out to tighten screws on speculative trading, which is seen as having gone out of hand. "The tail had grown bigger than the dog," Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch told *Mint*, referring to an exponential rise in derivatives trading. "Yes, it does look, as someone said, that the tail is wagging the dog, because, ultimately, [the use of futures and options] was meant to be a way of risk management, hedging, etc," she added.

The data has been dropping jaws. Index options volumes on NSE surged almost 13-fold from ₹10.8 trillion in 2019-20 to ₹138 trillion in 2023-24. Meanwhile, cash market turnover during the same period rose a modest 2.25 times from ₹89 trillion to ₹201 trillion. Though cash-segment trading is still considerably higher, the gap is closing fast. On current trends, it may not be long before derivative trades match their underlying segment of assets, which would be a conceptual anomaly. But what's behind this boom? As conceived, equity derivatives derive their value from

stocks, with contracts designed for genuine risks to be hedged by sophisticated participants in capital markets. Since their market values move up and down, they also attract punters who find that outsized bets can be placed with relatively small sums. Little margin money to be paid upfront—for the difference to be settled at the end of the transaction cycle—has resulted in investments by people who may prove unable to fully pay up what they owe should their game go wrong. For all their enthusiasm, market surveys show that retail investors rarely end up winners. About 70% of intraday traders made losses in 2022-23, according to a recent Sebi study. A previous Sebi survey had found that nine out of 10 individuals in the equity derivatives segment were making losses. Clearly, the odds are stacked against them, no matter how highly they fancy their chances.

In an economy that lets markets be shaped by free interactions of demand and supply, state intervention to curb any kind of trading can be controversial. In general, investors should be at liberty to take the risks they deem fit. If losses arise, it would serve them a lesson and the resultant caution ought to keep hazards in check. Yet, reckless behaviour can overpower and outlast corrective forces. Derivatives cater to the "gambling instincts" of humans, as noted by this year's *Economic Survey*, and instability in this segment could have negative spillovers across capital markets. So, while it's helpful to educate participants on what's best for their own safety, ample signs of naive investing in this segment also make a case for exceptional curbs on behalf of others who may suffer the fallout of a crash. Derivatives do serve a useful purpose, but only in an adjunct role. We must not let the market's tail wag the dog.

pushed the normal bell curve of goodness towards the bad.

Their methods have made NGOs more fake and less authentic, and also more flaky and less rigorous. While this is an overall shift, there exist a large number of NGOs that are very good (authentic and rigorous, i.e). Equally, not all funders are of this kind, but the majority now seem to be.

This has happened because funders have requirements that influence the work of NGOs. When a large number have similar requirements, it has a cumulative effect on the NGO sector.

What are these requirements and why have they had such an effect?

Let's begin with an analogy. Think of the owner of an IPL cricket team who demands that it must make at least 260 runs in every match, irrespective of the pitch, weather conditions or bowling quality. The owner has only watched cricket, but never played it professionally. Targeting 260 runs is a good thing, but futile to do so without an understanding of the pitch and opposition. While this analogy is useful, it is an oversimplification, since social issues are far more complex than a cricket game. For a start, the contexts are far more varied, path dependencies are greater, responses are unpredictable, uncontrollable factors are many more, conflicts are rife and the interactions between factors are infinitely complex.

Now let's consider the specific 'requirements' pushing the distribution curve of NGOs, all of which are interconnected.

The first is scale—a push for greater numbers, be it in terms of geographical coverage or the count of people impacted. This is because of ignorance or underestimation of the fact that social-human interventions do not scale in industrial mode. They must be worked upon person-by-person, context-by-context. The demand for scale, however, tempts NGOs to do superficial (flaky) work or exaggerate (fake) what they are doing.

The second requirement is of definitive changes that are instantly visible.

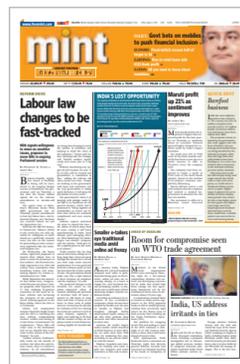
This is another push towards superficiality, with NGOs opting to work on narrow problems and not getting into the depth of issues. If you take on complex issues, it is very hard to see a definitive change. Certainly, there are markers of progress along the transformation path even on complex matters, but these also require great effort to achieve. Taking on simpler matters means easier work for an NGO and quick gratification for funders—a comfortable equilibrium.

The third requirement exacerbates this drift on the fake-flake axes—the demand for speed. Human and social changes take time. Demanding quick changes, and that too those that are definitive and clear, leads NGOs down a slippery slope of flakiness and fakeness. One manifestation of the need for speed is that specific projects are run for short periods and then shut down—usually 2-3 years and often just a year. Even the surface of social issues cannot be scratched within such time frames.

The fourth requirement is of permanence or sustainability of change. This arises from a basic misunderstanding of the world. Nothing can be sustained without working at it continuously. Even our democracy requires constant work to maintain it. So, how can anything maintain itself is the face of much larger social-cultural-political-economic forces? It can't. But too many funders embrace this illusion.

Everyone in the social sector wants to improve the lives of more people quickly by effecting real changes that endure. However, when it becomes like a cricket team owner demanding 260 runs scored in every T20 match, then it mars the character of the team as well as the game. Which is what has happened to the NGO sector. Funders' requirements have eroded authenticity and rigour. NGOs can hardly resist this dynamic, because their very existence depends on funders. It is for funders like us to reflect and change course.

10 YEARS AGO



JUST A THOUGHT

Whenever financial sector development precedes national development, the story hasn't ended well... The Asian crisis of 1997-98 is a very important example.

V. ANANTHA NAGESWARAN

MY VIEW | WORLD APART

Harris's comeback is a big moment in American politics

RAHUL JACOB



is a Mint columnist and a former Financial Times foreign correspondent.

A week, as the cliché goes, is a long time in politics. Even so, it has been decades since we last saw a week quite like the one leading up to US Vice-President Kamala Harris becoming the Democratic Party's presumptive nominee for America's presidential election. One would have to go back to the tragic assassination of Robert Kennedy in 1968 for such a dramatic turn in an election. Harris's, though, is possibly a more transformative marker in US politics. She was the underdog of the 2020 Democratic primaries for the party's candidate, coming across as over-scripted. Now, if she succeeds—and opinion polls show her in a dead heat with Donald Trump—she might even help the Republican Party wrest itself free of Trump.

This time, Harris seems more relaxed and has improbably become a TikTok sensation known for her distinctive laugh and comic aphorisms. Yet, this transformation is one of substance far more than style. She claimed the spotlight and her party's gratitude with

steadfast loyalty to President Joe Biden after his alarmingly incoherent debate with Trump on 27 June. Immediately after, she was asked on *CNN* about the debate. The former attorney general of California aimed her prosecutorial skills at Trump's record of lying and refusal to accept the 2020 election result as well as his role in curtailing women's abortion rights, both through administrative actions and by packing the Supreme Court with judges who would undo the protections of *Roe vs Wade*.

In that reply to *CNN*'s Anderson Cooper are the seeds of Harris's success and weakness. Last October, Elaina Plott Calabro wrote an article for *The Atlantic* headlined "The Kamala Harris Problem: Few people seem to think she's ready to be president. Why?" Plott Calabro says Harris is most effective when her prosecutorial skills come to the fore. Happily for the Democrats, Trump's candidacy, coupled with his record of falsehoods and convictions, makes Harris a perfect counterfoil as a trained lawyer and former public prosecutor. In the past, says Plott Calabro, when asked general questions, such as her dreams for the US or about her own life, she came across as inauthentic.

In the heady days since Harris became her party's presumptive nominee, however,

even that inability to open up in interviews appears well behind her. Now, pop singers are calling her cool and internet memes about her use of the phrase "You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?" have been widely shared.

As the son of an irrepressibly witty Tamil mother, even though I don't speak the language, I heard enough comic Tamil phrases as a child to relate to what Harris' indomitable mother Shyamala said to her.

In *Nikkei Asia*, Vishaka Desai, president emerita of the US-based Asia Society, argues that "the discussion of the coconut meme without any reference to its Indian context is not unlike the visible absence of much discussion of the strong influence Shyamala had on her daughter." This is true enough, although Harris warmly recalls that on holidays to then Madras, she would overhear her maternal grandfather, a retired civil servant, speaking animatedly with his friends about our first generation of post-independence

leaders. Harris has said that it's likely that her interest in public service took root back then.

In many ways, even more remarkably than exposing Kamala and her sister to south Indian culture, Shyamala, who went to the US in the 1950s to study at Berkeley, ensured

that her daughters imbibed plenty of idealism about the civil rights struggle of African-Americans, long after she and her husband Donald Harris, who moved to the US from Jamaica, divorced. This makes Harris cosmopolitan in a way that many Indian Americans are not. It is no coincidence that, as Desai notes, "Kamala solidified that connection by attending Howard University, a preeminent member of the historically black colleges and universities."

This means that Harris will likely energize young African-American voters and Latinos. First-time contributors are making donations to her campaign in record numbers. Yet, all these seeming positives are already being repackaged for the Republican base

by their spin doctors as proof that Harris is a dangerous left-leaning radical who got this far because of her racial identity and gender.

However, it says something about the Democrats' rejuvenated campaign that even vicious personal attacks are being turned into own-goals for the Republicans. Vice presidential Republican nominee J.D. Vance's view that people without children do not have a stake in America's future and his 2021 comment that the country was run by "childless cat ladies" are now centre stage. This was largely a swipe at Harris, who has stepchildren. Harris's stepchildren and her husband's first wife have spoken movingly about her.

"Childless cat ladies" has become a much discussed comment, one that also draws unflattering attention to the Trump-Vance campaign's misogynistic position on abortion. Both are likely to alienate women, generally, and crucially also suburban American women. There is speculation that Trump, no stranger to saying offensive things about women, might take Vance off the ticket.

In this action-filled, accelerated sprint for the White House, anything could happen. The US presidential race will give me knots in my stomach till its result is declared in November. May the best woman win.



MY VIEW

MINT CURATOR

An analysis of wealth creation could guide how it's best spent

It's not about judging someone's spending but looking at riches in the broad context of an economy's structure and prospects



DEVINA MEHRA is chairperson, managing director and founder of First Global, an Indian and global asset management company. Her X handle is @devinamehra

Of late, there have been many discussions on how much spending or ostentation is "too much" for a rich person. And the views are polarized along, "It is bad/immoral/unforgivable to spend so much when most of your fellow citizens need free food" to "It is their money and how they spend it is no one else's business."

Without getting moralistic, the question is whether there a way or framework to think about this in pure economic terms?

That is what I attempt to do in this piece. My analysis is largely based on a research paper, 'Perspectives: Explaining Influence Rents: The Case for an Institutions-Based View' by Gautam Ahuja and Sai Yayavaramand, published in the journal *Organization Science*, and some discussions with Professor Ahuja. Any distortions or over-simplifications are, of course, mine.

The framework, very broadly, is this: There are five types or sources of wealth creation, and the freedom to spend the money as desired should depend on how that wealth has been earned. These five can be roughly ranked in 'moral' terms. 'Moral' not in a spiritual sense, but determined by whether the money is 'deserved' in economic terms. Thus the questions are: How much of the wealth was earned by means of the honest efforts and capabilities of its current owners? And there is a hierarchy to this which determines the moral right to that money.

The logic? For an economic system to work well, rewards and efforts should be aligned, businesses should pay for their related costs, and the market should allow reasonable competition—meaning that another player should have a fair chance of replacing the incumbent.

Coming back to the five sources of wealth, here are the five in decreasing order of desirability:

The first are returns from a talent (or an ability) and/or effort. You design clothes or jewellery that your customers love, for example, or start a D Mart in a crowded business arena and make a success of it. These are legitimate ways to earn wealth.

The second is wealth created from innovation or an invention. It could be an electric bulb, Viagra or iPod. In such circumstances, it is only fair that the innovator be rewarded—both for making the world better and for incentivizing other inventors.

In both these categories, it can be argued that the wealth created belongs completely to the owner, to spend as they deem fit, whether it is on buying a private plane or an island, or partying with the biggest names in showbiz.

Now we start to move into relatively grey areas.

The third category relates to externalities. These are cases where a business may be making profits where a part of the costs of that business are being



ISTOCKPHOTO

borne by the economy or society at large. Textbook examples include the health damage caused by cigarettes and pollution from automobiles, neither of which is paid for by the companies making these.

Then comes income or wealth made on account of monopolistic advantages. For example, some sectors like railways, ports, airports, oil exploration or even large-scale oil refining, electric utilities, telecom, etc, tend to develop natural monopolies. In such cases competition, especially new competition, is either missing or weak due to the structure of the industry. This is why most monopoly businesses have traditionally been either government run or heavily regulated. This is also the reason why anti-monopoly laws exist in most jurisdictions. In more recent times, a platform like Facebook or Google can provide the incumbent many monopolistic advantages, including very high entry barriers for anyone else.

The last type is 'influence rents,' as economists call them. This is the worst way to generate wealth (short of actual crime). These arise because the person or business controls the institutions and rules by which the economic activity is regulated. Those who benefit from this often have access to market opportunities and contracts that are not available to others, and frequently receive exceptional treatment. Plus, rules and laws are fashioned to favour them and disfavour their rivals.

Under this framework, economically speaking, it is fine if someone spends money that has been earned through talent and/or effort, or by innovation. Money from externalities, monopolies or the exercise of influence, however, is a different story.

Wealth does not always fall into a single 'source' category. For example, in its business of e-commerce, Amazon started out as an innovator and a business doing things more efficiently. But, later on, it allegedly did not hesitate to use and misuse its monopoly or dominant position. Therefore, in every case, one would need to make a judgement on

the mix of wealth sources before we can say whether its holders are entitled to spend it as they wish.

But why do we need to do that? Is it for gossip or remarks about extravagance on social media?

Actually, the issue goes much deeper. Influence rents, for example, can impair the productive capacity of an economy because they distort and destroy incentives to invest or work hard, and thus condemn everyone to longer-term sub-optimal outcomes. In economic theory, it has been shown that societies characterized by certain market features and processes work better to maximize economic development and growth. An ideal economic system features fair competition as well as a robust institutional, legal and regulatory structure, with appropriate laws that cover competition, contracts, consumer protection and more.

These are not just theoretical constructs. As the paper's authors point out, the US's economic system during the Cold War was heavily driven by that logic, in contrast with the socialist economic system adopted by the Soviet Union. The Soviets were able to match the US on military strength and technology, but were not able to match the efficiency of the economic and legal institutions of the US. Ultimately, the collapse of the Soviet Union was an economic phenomenon, and not on account of a military defeat.

A society and economy will not prosper if it is weakened by hollowed-out institutions, where wealth is created via capturing and influencing these. We can see this play out in many resource-rich countries around the world that continue to struggle economically, or for that matter even in post-Soviet Russia, controlled as it has been by oligarchs or others close to the power centre.

Hence, it is not just about judging someone's spending, but what that tells you about the structure of an economy and the brightness or otherwise of its future. At least we now have a framework to think about this.

GUEST VIEW

Married women: Opting out of work or being pushed?

PRITHA DEV & AKSHAYA VIJAYALAKSHMI



are associate professors at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad.

The budget for 2024-25 highlights the urgency of job creation and skilling, and emphasizes the need to get more women into India's labour force. As the government prepares to roll out employment-linked incentives and other schemes aimed at first-time workers that may increase the participation of women in the workforce, we must also think about women who have exited. Our research with low-skilled workers in the manufacturing sector clearly shows that manufacturers face a huge turnover among women working on the shop-floor. At the same time, our conversations with highly-skilled women from premier business schools in India show that they too are quitting the workforce at a far higher rate than their male counterparts.

India's labour force and employment numbers suggest that when a woman gets married, she is likely to drop out of the workforce. Married women and employment, it seems, are not a match made in heaven. On the face of it, this appears to be an issue of

cultural norms, with married women being encouraged by their families not to continue working. Or about lost motivation to work after marriage. However, the phenomenon is more complex than that. Women, married or unmarried, are interested in being financially independent and have an identity that goes beyond being a daughter, wife, sister or mother. Then why do women leave the workforce after getting married?

To understand this, we conducted focus group discussions with MBA women graduates of premier Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in the country. Some of them had taken a career break and either returned to the industry they'd quit or were pursuing their dreams in new fields. These were highly skilled and ambitious women who spent much of their youth persevering with the education and jobs they had chosen.

In the course of our conversations on career breaks, we found multiple factors influencing that decision. While we found that marriage to some extent led women out of the workforce, the workplace culture had an equally strong role in pushing married women out.

The household marriage story: Women were found likely to leave the workforce after marriage for the usual reasons, such as

the husband's job location or transfer, pregnancy or the demands of parental care. Our interviewees found that it was hard to sustain highly competitive careers, especially if they chose to have children. Moreover, recent studies point to the growing use of IVF for childbirths. Such pregnancies call for extra rest and caution, leading many women to step back from work.

The workforce marriage story: On the other hand, we also found a pattern of married women being nudged out of organizations by their workplace culture. A workplace that requires its employees to be available at all hours strongly signals that it does not want women, since they tend to be primary caretakers at home. This kind of culture that takes a myopic view of productivity (with one's presence required at all times) could explain Foxconn's alleged aversion to recruiting married women for its shop-floor in India. Such a culture equates maternity leave with a vacation, which couldn't be farther from the truth.

In our discussions, a woman pointed out that her bonus and promotion were put on hold once the management learnt about her pregnancy. Additionally, women see men being promoted and chosen for opportunities while their pregnancy or family obligations are seen as a handicap. Such covert discrimination impacts not just the women who experience it directly, but also sends signals to other women that focusing on their personal life would be treated as being disloyal to the organization.

However, some women said they also encountered supportive managers. And those who took a long-term view of the value delivered by their team members were rewarded with loyal and hardworking women employees. We also found that women preferred joining non-profit organizations after a break. While these jobs are as or more demanding than roles at for-profit organizations, bosses in this sector appear to be more empathetic, providing flexible work hours and opportunities for mutual goal-setting.

Support women returning from breaks: We need to rethink our family and workplace cultures that place the burden of returning to work entirely on women. Changing a culture that affects familial norms is much harder than changing organizational norms. However, there exists an opportunity for organizations to mould rather than mirror society. Rather than setting up a returning woman for failure, employers should take a more supportive approach.

Employers should be more proactive and open to integrating women who return to work from breaks. The organizational culture could make space for the returnee to rebuild her diminished confidence and lost networks. Substantive support should be offered in the form of flexible work hours, projects that do justice to her talent and empathy from managers. In return, women are likely to reward such an organization with dedication and loyalty.

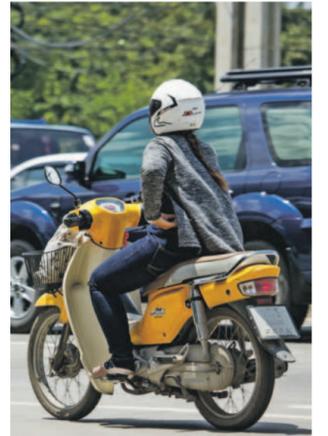
Organizations that focus on recruiting women eager to rejoin employment should be willing to forgo immediate productivity gains till such employees find their footing. But once returning employees settle into their roles, such employers could look forward to productivity gains that will eventually pay them back.

EV laggard Honda's two-wheel rivals are leaving it in the dust

The firm is running out of time to accelerate its EV game in India



DAVID FICKLING is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering climate change and energy.



Honda's global two-wheeler market success is at threat. ISTOCKPHOTO

Which automotive company, more than any other, is responsible for getting the world's population moving? Ford, whose Model T turned the car into a mass-market product? Volkswagen, which sold more vehicles than any competitor over the past decade? Toyota, whose Corolla is the best-selling car in history? There's a good case for the answer to be none of the above. Instead, it's Honda, whose cheap and cheerful Super Cub motorbike deserves to be recognized as the most important road vehicle in history. Since its debut in 1958, cumulative sales have been more than 100 million, well over twice the Corolla's numbers.

The Super Cub's ubiquity in developing countries makes it transformative. Four-wheelers are mostly competing in affluent nations. The core customer for a Super Cub, however, is a rural farmer or newly minted urbanite in Asia, Africa or Latin America, getting a first taste of road freedom. That makes Honda's slow response to the next revolution confounding.

In India, the world's largest two-wheeler market, sales of electric bikes are growing faster by the month. Volumes were up 28% in 2023-24, even as the government wound back purchase subsidies. More electric two-wheelers were sold in the year than all battery-powered cars and three-wheeled rickshaws put together. None of them was sold by Honda.

Domestic players aren't standing still. Ola Electric Mobility Ltd, led by Bhavish Aggarwal, has nearly half the local market and is working on an IPO of \$658 million. TVS has sold more than 300,000 of its iQube e-scooters, and is starting exports. Hero Motocorp is also looking at overseas markets for its Vida V1 scooter, which it has been selling since 2022. The numbers of electric two- and three-wheelers from Bajaj Auto quadrupled last fiscal year. "We are just about getting started," Bajaj's CFO Dinesh Thapar told investors on 17 July, and will be "expanding this business in multiples in the times ahead."

Honda has laid out ambitious plans, but it has been far too slow on the execution. By 2030, it wants to have 30 electric bikes on the road and be selling 4 million models worldwide a year, equivalent to about a third of its total bike volumes at present. It has promised \$3.3 billion between now and 2030 for electrifying its two-wheelers, too.

Three years after CEO Toshihiro Mibe announced plans to convert the entire business to electric, we're still waiting for a first Indian e-scooter that the Japanese automaker has promised for later this year.

©BLOOMBERG



www.maims.ac.in

MAHARAJA AGRASEN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES



PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE GRANT OF

AUTONOMOUS STATUS FROM UGC



10 ACRE TECH SAVVY MATES CAMPUS,
WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE

COURSES

MANAGEMENT

- BBA
- BCA

LAW

- B.A. LLB (H)
- BBA LLB (H)
- LLM

COMMERCE

- B. Com (H)
- B.A. Economics (H)

HUMANITIES

- Journalism
- B.A(JMC)

MAHARAJA AGRASEN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
www.mait.ac.in
Inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, 10th Prime Minister of India

ENGINEERING (B.TECH):

- Computer Science & Engineering (CSE)
- CSE (Artificial Intelligence)
- CSE (Data Science)
- CSE (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- Computer Science & Technology (CST)
- Information Technology
- Information Technology & Engineering
- Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)
- EC- VLSI
- EC- ACT
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE)
- Mechanical Engineering (ME)
- BBA & MBA

Ranked 4th Best College (Private) India Today Survey
INDIA TODAY
CSE, ECE, and MAE Accredited by
NBA NATIONAL BOARD OF ACCREDITATION
1.22 Cr. Highest Package

MAHARAJA AGRASEN BUSINESS SCHOOL
www.mabs.ac.in
Inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Ram Nath Kovind, 14th President of India

PGDM
Approved by AICTE, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
Academic Partnership with Grant Thornton Bharat

MAHARAJA AGRASEN UNIVERSITY (HIMACHAL PRADESH)
www.mau.ac.in
Inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India

SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

- BCA - MCA
- B.Tech- CSE/ CE/ EEE/ ME/ ECE
- B.Tech (Mechatronic)
- B.Tech (LEET)
- B.Tech in Computer Science with AI and Machine learning
- B.Tech in Computer Science with Data Science
- M.Tech- CSE/ CE/ EEE/ ME/ ECE
- Ph.D. - CSE/ CE/ EEE/ ME/ ECE

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

- D. Pharma
- B. Pharma
- M. Pharma (Pharm. Chem.)
- M. Pharma (Pharmaceutics)
- Ph.D Pharmacy

SCHOOL OF LAW

- LLB/ BA LLB (H)/ B.Com LLB
- LLM
- Ph.D Law

SCHOOL OF BASIC & APPLIED SCIENCES

- B.Sc. (CS- AI, DA & ML)
- B.Sc. (Med./ Non Med)
- M.Sc. - Physics/ Chemistry/ Bio Tech/ Zoology/ Maths/ Pharm. Chem./ Microbiology/ Environmental sciences)
- Ph.D - Env. Sc./ Eng./ Chem./Maths/ Bio Tech/ Zoology/ Phy.

school of technology: B.Tech in computer science with AI and Machine learning

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

- BBA - BBA HFM - BBA Logistics
- B.Sc. (Hotel Mgmt. & Administration)
- MBA (Hospitality & Tourism)
- MBA Part Time
- B.Com - B.Com (H)
- M.Com
- Ph. D Management/ Commerce/ H&T

2021-22 Highest Rating from IIC of MHRD
50+ MOUs & Collaborations with Corporates
NAAC

- 10000+ Students From Delhi/ NCR
- 30+ Wide range of Course
- 400+ Top Corporate Recruiters
- 150+ MoUs
- 25000+ Alumni Trust Base
- 75+ High-Tech Labs & Computer Labs

Achievements

- 100 Gold Medalists
- Selection in UPSC
- 1000+ Research Papers Published & Patents Registered
- Placement in Top Companies

Recognitions & Approvals

Facilities

- 500+ Top Faculty
- Incubation Center for Start-Ups
- NCC and NSS
- State of Art Auditorium
- Hostels for Boys
- GYM for boys and girls
- Yagyashala
- Meditation Centre
- Spiritual Library

OUR GUIDING FORCE

Dr. Nand Kishore Garg, M. Sc., LLB
Founder Chairman MATES, Chancellor MAU

WE WELCOME EMINENT FACULTY AT MATES

Prof. (Dr.) J.V. Desai
Alumnus of IIT Bombay, Former Director of Technology Campus, M. S. Ramaiah University of Science and Technology, Bangalore Vice Chancellor, MVN University, Haryana. Acclaimed speaker on NEP - 2020, AI-ML & Cognitive System Engineering. Developed Machine Learning based prediction models in Engineering and Business Analytics.

Prof. (Dr.) S. K. Garg
Former Principal Deen Dayal Upadhyay College (DU) Member, National Knowledge Commission's Working Group on Higher Education. Chairman, Task Force of DBT's Star College Scheme. Vast experience of developing course curricula and academic & examination reforms.

Prof. (Dr.) D. K. Jain
Former Professor Electric Engineering at Deen Bandhu Chhotu Ram University Senior Member IEEE Life Member ISTE and IE (I) Specializes in Power Quality, Renewable Energy integration and smart Grids Published 80 Papers Guided 10 PhDs

OUR PLACEMENT PARTNERS

और सभी न्यूज़ पेपर मैगजीन प्राप्त करने के लिए सर्वप्रथम इस टेलीग्राम ग्रुप को ज्वाइन करें नीचे दिए लकि पर क्लिक करके ज्वाइन टेलीग्राम

And to get all the news paper magazines, first join this Telegram group by clicking on the link given below and join Telegram

https://t.me/Backup_8890050582

HD EDITORIALS

1.The Hindu, 2.Deccan Chronicle, 3.Hans India, 4.Mint,
5.Business Line, 6.Business standard, 7.Hindusthan Times,
8.Economic Times, 9.Times of India, 10.Indian Express,
11.Financial Express, 12.Telangana Today, 13.New Indian
Express, 14.Pioneer, 15.The States Man, 16.The Tribune,
17.Free Press, 18.Avenue Mail, 19.Millenium Post, 20.Morning
India, 21.The Goan, 22.The Skin Times, 23.Western Times,
24.Daily World, 25.Asian Age _ Total papers We will update
in PDF format Every day morning 5.30am Below

Click here Telegram Channel Join

https://t.me/English_Newspaper_Banna