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DRIVING  
SAFETY  
THROUGH  
INNOVATION

# ASK AUTOMOTIVE LIMITED



(Please scan this QR Code to view the RHP)

Our Company was incorporated on January 18, 1988 as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, with the name "ASK Automotive Private Limited", pursuant to a certificate of incorporation granted by the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana ("RoC"). Upon the conversion of our Company into a public limited company, pursuant to resolutions passed by our Board of Directors on December 7, 2022 and our Shareholders on December 7, 2022 the name of our Company was changed to "ASK Automotive Limited" and a fresh certificate of incorporation dated January 6, 2023 was issued by the RoC. For details of changes in our name and the registered office of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters - Brief history of our Company" and "History and Certain Corporate Matters - Changes in the Registered Office" on page 249 of the red herring prospectus dated October 30, 2023 ("RHP" or "Red Herring Prospectus").

Registered Office: Flat No. 104, 929/1, Naiwala, Faiz Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110 005, Delhi, India;

Corporate Office: Plot No. 13, 14, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurugram 122 050, Haryana, India;

Contact Person: Rajani Sharma, Vice President (Legal), Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Tel: +91 124 439 6907, E-mail: compliance@askbrake.com; Website: www.askbrake.com; Corporate Identity Number: U34300DL1988PLC030342

## OUR PROMOTERS: KULDIP SINGH RATHEE AND VIJAY RATHEE

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO 29,571,390 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF ASK AUTOMOTIVE LIMITED ("OUR COMPANY") OR THE "ISSUER" FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [•] PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 ("OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [•] MILLION, COMPRISING AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 20,699,973 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [•] MILLION BY KULDIP SINGH RATHEE AND UP TO 8,871,417 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [•] MILLION BY VIJAY RATHEE ("PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDERS") (THE "OFFER FOR SALE" OR THE "OFFER"). THE OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [•]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

### DETAILS OF THE SELLING SHAREHOLDERS, OFFER FOR SALE AND WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION

NAME OF SELLING SHAREHOLDER	TYPE	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFERED SHARES	AGGREGATE PROCEEDS FROM OFFERED SHARES	WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE (₹)
Kuldip Singh Rathee	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 20,699,973 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 2 each	Up to ₹ [•] million	0.02
Vijay Rathee	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 8,871,417 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 2 each	Up to ₹ [•] million	0.02

ASK Automotive Limited specializes in advanced braking systems, aluminium lightweighting precision solutions, wheel assembly for 2W OEMs, and safety control cables, serving both the automotive (including 2 wheelers, 3 wheelers, passenger and commercial vehicles) and non-automotive sectors (like ATVs, power tools, and outdoor equipment).

PRICE BAND: ₹268 TO ₹282 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹2 EACH.

THE FLOOR PRICE IS 134 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 141 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.  
THE PRICE TO EARNING RATIO BASED ON DILUTED EPS FOR FISCAL 2023 AT THE FLOOR PRICE IS 43.37 TIMES AND AT THE CAP PRICE IS 45.63 TIMES.

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 53 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 53 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

The Offer is being made pursuant to Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations.

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

IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION, POTENTIAL INVESTORS MUST ONLY RELY ON THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE RED HERRING PROSPECTUS AND THE TERMS OF THE OFFER, INCLUDING THE RISKS INVOLVED AND NOT RELY ON ANY OTHER EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFER AVAILABLE IN ANY MANNER.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to their resolution dated November 1, 2023, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" section of the RHP vis-à-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition of primary and secondary transaction(s) disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" section on page 119 of the RHP and provided below in the advertisement.

### RISKS TO INVESTORS

1. **Dependence on Indian Two-Wheeler ("2W") Automotive Sector:** Our business primarily serves the 2W OEMs and the independent aftermarket for 2W in India, making us heavily reliant on the 2W automotive sector. The 2W automotive sector contributed 88.30%, 91.48%, 90.65%, 89.92% and 92.39% to our total revenue from operations for the three months ended June 30, 2023, June 30, 2022 and Fiscal 2023, 2022 and 2021 respectively.

2. **Customer Concentration:** We are dependent on our top three customers who contribute more than 50.00% of our revenue from operations with our single largest customer contributing approximately 30.00% or more of our revenue from operations in each of the last three Fiscals and in the three months ended June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022.

3. **Dependence on Aluminium as Raw Material:** The majority of the raw material that we consume comprises Aluminium which is a commodity and is subject to fluctuation in commodity prices. The cost incurred towards Aluminium consumption, in the stated periods, is set out below:

Particulars	For the three months ended June 30, 2023		For the three months ended June 30, 2022		Fiscal 2023		Fiscal 2022		Fiscal 2021	
	Amount (₹ million)	% of cost of material consumed	Amount (₹ million)	% of cost of material consumed	Amount (₹ million)	% of cost of material consumed	Amount (₹ million)	% of cost of material consumed	Amount (₹ million)	% of cost of material consumed
Aluminium cost	2,127.17	45.66%	2,076.14	46.15%	7,681.26	42.71%	5,913.78	42.13%	3,833.68	37.75%

4. **Geographic Concentration of Manufacturing Facilities in Haryana:** Nine out of our sixteen manufacturing units are located in Haryana, with a majority of our brake shoe products and pressure die casting processes and all of disc brake pads and safety control cables being manufactured at our facilities in Haryana. In addition, our Joint Venture also operates one manufacturing facility in Haryana.

5. **Losses incurred by our Joint Venture, ASK Fras-Le Friction Private Limited in the past:** Our Joint Venture AFFPL, in which we hold 49% of the paid-up share capital, has incurred losses in each of the last three Fiscals and has recently turned profitable in the three months ended June 30, 2023. The net worth of AFFPL has substantially eroded and AFFPL's current liabilities exceeded its current assets by ₹237.79 million, ₹330.30 million, ₹294.69 million, ₹282.57 million and ₹127.21 million as at June 30, 2023, June 30, 2022, March 31, 2023, March 31, 2022 and March 31, 2021, respectively. We have provided in the past and may be required to continue to provide financial support to AFFPL by way of equity infusion, loans and a corporate guarantee to carry out its operations.

6. **Negative Net Worth Subsidiary:** As of June 30, 2023, the net worth of our wholly owned Subsidiary, ASK Automobiles Private Limited was ₹(53.76) million, as it is in its initial phase of operations, having been incorporated in Fiscal 2022. We have invested ₹7.50 million in our Subsidiary in Fiscal 2022, provided a letter of continued financial support in its favour in Fiscal 2023 and also extended corporate guarantees to enable it to meet its funding requirements.

7. **Past Association of our Promoters with a Suspended/Voluntarily Delisted Company:** Our Promoters and current Directors, Kuldip Singh Rathee and Vijay Rathee, were promoters and directors of Som Datt Finance Corporation Limited ("Som Datt"), Som Datt's equity shares were suspended from trading by the Calcutta Stock Exchange ("CSE") between March 21, 2014 to August 18, 2021 due to certain non-compliances with the listing agreement. Post revocation of suspension, Som Datt applied for voluntary delisting before CSE and its equity shares were subsequently voluntarily delisted from the CSE on December 20, 2021.

8. **Evolving Electric Vehicle ("EV") Market:** We have a short operating history of three years in the EV Two-Wheeler ("2W") industry, which is continuously evolving. The EV sector contribution to the total revenue from operations was 4.55%, 1.55%, 2.03%, 0.56%, and 0.00% for the three-month periods ended June 30, 2023, and June 30, 2022, and Fiscal 2023, Fiscal 2022 and Fiscal 2021, respectively. There can be no assurance that our limited experience will result in sale of products at a comparable scale in the future, as the market for EVs is relatively new, rapidly evolving, and is characterized by rapidly changing technologies, price competition, additional competitors, evolving government regulation and industry standards, and frequent new vehicle announcements.

9. **Changing Regulatory Framework:** Changes in government, regulations, schemes and plans, could lead to new compliance requirements that are uncertain such as initiatives introduced in the past like the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020, the FAME India Scheme, and the draft National Auto Policy, all aimed at advancing India's automotive sector. The enforcement of Bharat Stage VI ("BS-VI Standards") emission standards since April 1, 2020 has imposed stricter norms on OEM customers. These regulatory changes could increase our operational costs and demand significant management resources. Non-compliance may adversely affect our business operations and future prospects.

10. **Competition:** Competition in the two-wheeler industry has intensified across all categories over the past few years due to capacity additions, expansion of dealer network, and model launches at competitive price points. We compete with different companies under each of our business categories. Our key competitors include Endurance Technologies Limited, Uno Minda Limited, Suprajit Engineering Limited and Bharat Forge Limited, details of which are set out below: (₹ in million, unless mentioned otherwise)

Particulars	As at and for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2023				
	ASK Automotive Limited	Endurance Technologies Limited	Uno Minda Limited	Suprajit Engineering Limited	Bharat Forge Limited
Revenue from Operations	25,551.67	88,040.46	112,364.90	27,523.55	129,102.59
EBITDA	2,475.45	10,816.93	12,908.70	3,512.66	19,403.80
EBITDA Margin (%)	9.65%	12.22%	11.44%	12.59%	14.83%
Profit after tax for the period/year ("PAT")	1,229.53	4,795.75	7,002.30	1,521.09	5,083.87
PAT Margin (%)	4.79%	5.42%	6.20%	5.45%	3.89%
Return on average equity (RoAE) (%)	19.27%	13.92%	18.99%	14.54%	6.56%
Return on Average Capital Employed (RoACE) (%)	22.06%	14.61%	17.91%	18.74%	12.75%

11. **Lease of Land:** Our Registered Office and the land on which nine out of our 16 manufacturing facilities are located are leased. Out of such nine facilities, three facilities are located on land leased from Industrial Development Corporations with lease tenure ranging up to 99 years, two facilities are located on land leased from related parties and four on land leased from third parties with lease tenure ranging from three to five years. Our lease arrangements for two of our plants, ASK-14 and ASK-16, are due for renewal over the next one year. There is no assurance that we will be able to renew our leases on commercially acceptable terms or at all.

12. **Offer for Sale:** Given that the Offer comprises an Offer for Sale by the Selling Shareholders, our Company will not receive any part of the proceeds of the Offer.

13. The details of Price/Earnings Ratio, Enterprise Value/EBITDA Ratio, Earnings per share (Diluted), and Net Asset Value per Share as on and for the year ended March 31, 2023 are as follows:

Name of the company	P/E	EV/ EBITDA Ratio	EPS (Diluted) (₹)	Net Asset Value per Equity Share (₹)
ASK Automotive Limited	45.63 <sup>a</sup>	23.74 <sup>a</sup>	6.18	32.66
Listed peers <sup>b</sup>				
Endurance Technologies Limited	46.36	21.00	34.09	313.67
Uno Minda Limited	52.59	27.52	11.37	72.53

Name of the company	P/E	EV/ EBITDA Ratio	EPS (Diluted) (₹)	Net Asset Value per Equity Share (₹)
Suprajit Engineering Limited	35.49	17.18	10.98	88.48
Bharat Forge Limited	98.86	30.45	11.35	144.02

<sup>a</sup> All the financial information for listed industry peers is on a consolidated basis and is sourced from the financial information of such listed industry peer as at and for the year ended March 31, 2023 available on the website of the stock exchanges. | <sup>b</sup> Computed based on the upper end of the Price Band.

14. Average cost of acquisition of equity shares for the Promoter Selling Shareholders is ₹ 0.02 per equity share and offer price at upper end of the price band is ₹ 282 per equity share.

15. Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Fiscals 2023, 2022 & 2021 is 16.75%. The Return on Net Worth for the three months ended June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022 are 5.13% and 3.45% respectively.

16. Details of weighted average cost of acquisition of all Equity Shares transacted in the last three years, 18 months and one year preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus

Period	Weighted average cost of acquisition (in ₹)	Cap Price is 'X' times the weighted average cost of acquisition	Range of acquisition price: lowest price - highest price (in ₹)
Last one year	0.00	N.A.	0-240
Last 18 months	0.00	N.A.	0-240
Last three years	0.00	N.A.	0-240

<sup>a</sup> Represents cost of Equity Shares issued/transferred pursuant to bonus issue/gift which are issued/acquired at nil consideration

17. Details of price at which equity shares were acquired by our Promoters (who are also the Promoter Selling Shareholders) and members of the Promoter Group in the last three years preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus:

Name	Face value (in ₹)	Date of acquisition	Number of Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 2 each	Acquisition price per Equity Share (in ₹)
<b>Promoters*</b>				
Kuldip Singh Rathee	2	August 23, 2023	18,528,012	Nil <sup>(1)</sup>
Kuldip Singh Rathee	2	March 30, 2021	65,841,300	Nil <sup>(2)</sup>
Vijay Rathee	2	August 23, 2023	14,130,011	Nil <sup>(3)</sup>
Vijay Rathee	2	March 30, 2021	47,757,150	Nil <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Promoter Group</b>				
Aman Rathee	2	March 30, 2021	17,842,500	Nil <sup>(2)</sup>
Prashant Rathee	2	March 30, 2021	21,141,000	Nil <sup>(2)</sup>
Sarla Chahal	2	November 22, 2022	1	240.00
Kanika Rathee	2	November 22, 2022	1	240.00
Vijeta Rathee	2	November 22, 2022	1	240.00

<sup>a</sup> Also the Promoter Selling Shareholders. | <sup>(1)</sup> Transfer from Prashant Rathee to Kuldip Singh Rathee pursuant to a gift deed dated August 23, 2023. <sup>(2)</sup> Represents cost of Equity Shares issued pursuant to a bonus issue which are issued at nil consideration.

<sup>(3)</sup> Transfer from Aman Rathee to Vijay Rathee pursuant to a gift deed dated August 23, 2023.

18. Weighted average cost of acquisition, floor price and cap price

Past Transactions	Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition per Equity Share (in ₹)	Floor price: ₹ 268	Cap Price: ₹ 282
Weighted average cost of acquisition (WACA) for primary issuances for the last 18 months	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Weighted average cost of acquisition (WACA) for secondary issuances for the last 18 months	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Since there were no primary or secondary transactions of equity shares of our Company during the 18 months preceding the date of filing of the Red Herring Prospectus which were equivalent to or more than 5% of the fully diluted paid up share capital of our Company, the information has been disclosed for price per share of our Company based on the last five primary or secondary transactions where our Promoters/members of our Promoter Group or Shareholder(s) having the right to nominate director(s) on the Board of our Company, are a party to the transaction, during the three years prior to the date of filing of the Red Herring Prospectus irrespective of the size of the transaction, is as below:

(a) WACA of Equity Shares based on primary issuances undertaken during the three immediately preceding years	Nil	N.A.	N.A.
(b) WACA of Equity Shares based on secondary transactions undertaken during the three immediately preceding years	0.00 <sup>a</sup>	N.A.	N.A.

<sup>a</sup> Negligible

19. Pursuant to gift deeds (i) dated August 23, 2023 by Prashant Rathee in favour of Kuldip Singh Rathee and (ii) dated August 23, 2023 by Aman Rathee in favour of Vijay Rathee, the following transfers of Equity Shares were undertaken by the members of our Promoter Group, Prashant Rathee and Aman Rathee, to our Promoters, Kuldip Singh Rathee and Vijay Rathee:

S. No.	Date of transaction/ transfer	Name of the Transferor	Name of Transferee	Nature of Transfer	Number of Equity Shares	Percentage of pre-Offer share capital of the Company	Transfer price (in ₹)
1.	August 23, 2023	Prashant Rathee	Kuldip Singh Rathee	Gift	18,528,012	9.39%	Nil
2.	August 23, 2023	Aman Rathee	Vijay Rathee	Gift	14,130,011	7.16%	Nil

For further details, please refer to "Capital Structure - Build-up of our Promoters' shareholding in our Company" on page 106 of the RHP.

20. The 4 BRLMs associated with the issue have handled 88 public issues in the past three financial years, out of which 28 issues closed below the issue price on listing date:

Name of the BRLMs	Total Public Issues	Issues Closed below the issue price on listing date
JM Financial Limited	5	-
Axis Capital Limited	6	2
ICICI Securities Limited	8	1
IIFL Securities Limited	14	6
Common issues handled by the BRLMs	55	19
Total	88	28

## BID/OFFER PERIOD

BID/OFFER OPENS TODAY

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON: THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2023\*

\*UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5.00 pm on the Bid/ Offer Closing Date.

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

**ASBA<sup>#</sup>****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.****UPI-Now available in ASBA for all individual investors applying in public issues where the application amount is up to ₹500,000, applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, CDPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Bidders and Non-Institutional Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and read with press release dated September 17, 2021.**

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors. UPI may be availed by UPI Bidders. 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 450 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?do=RecognisedFpi=yes&intmid=35](http://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?do=RecognisedFpi=yes&intmid=35) and <https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?do=RecognisedFpi=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](http://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. Axis Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited have been appointed as the Sponsor Banks for the Issue, in accordance with the requirements of SEBI circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For issue 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](mailto:ipo.upi@npci.org.in).

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period shall be extended for at least three additional Working Days 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 and the Promoter Selling Shareholders, may in consultation with the BRLMs, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, 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 press release and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Members of the Syndicate and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, 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 Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") (the "QIB Portion"), provided that our Company and the Promoter Selling Shareholders, 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 and the Promoter Selling Shareholders, 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, not less than 15% of the 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 ₹ 200,000 and up to ₹ 1,000,000 and two-thirds of the Non-Institutional Category shall be available for allocation to Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 1,000,000 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 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) in which the Bid Amount will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs") or the Sponsor Banks, as the case may be. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 450 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for RIBs bidding through the 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 available 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 RIBs bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised 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, September 17, 2021 and March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

**CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS:** For information on the main objects of the Company, please see the section "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 249 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of the Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, please see the section titled "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 482 of the RHP.

**LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY:** Limited by shares.

**AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE:** As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of the Company is ₹450,000,000 divided into 225,000,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the Company is ₹394,285,200 divided into 197,142,600 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each. For details, please see the section titled "Capital Structure" beginning on page 100 of the RHP.

**NAMES OF SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM:** The initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association are Kuldeep Singh Rathore, Ajay Kumar Gupta and Sushil Kumar Singhal who subscribed to 1 equity share each, bearing face value of ₹100. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company, please see the section entitled "Capital Structure" beginning on page 100 of the RHP.

**LISTING:** The Equity Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus 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 September 11, 2023. For the purposes of the Offer, NSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange. A signed copy of the Red Herring Prospectus and the Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with Section 26(4) of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the Red Herring Prospectus up to the Bid/Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" beginning on page 482 of the RHP.

**DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF THE 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 or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 426 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

**DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE (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 429 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

**DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE:** It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 429 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

**GENERAL RISKS:** 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 offered in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"), nor does the SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 33 of the RHP.

## BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

## REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

## COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

					Rajani Sharma Vice President (Legal), Company Secretary and Compliance Officer Tel: +91 124 439 6907, E-mail: <a href="mailto:compliance@askbrake.com">compliance@askbrake.com</a> ;
<b>JM Financial Limited</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Chenergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India Tel.: +91 22 6630 3030 E-mail: <a href="mailto:askauto.ip@jmf.com">askauto.ip@jmf.com</a> Investor grievance E-mail: <a href="mailto:grievance.ibd@jmf.com">grievance.ibd@jmf.com</a> Contact person: Prachee Dhuri Website: <a href="http://www.jmf.com">www.jmf.com</a> SEBI Registration: INM000010361	<b>Axis Capital Limited</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Axis House, C-2 Wadia International Centre Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai 400 025 Maharashtra, India Tel: + 91 22 4325 2183 E-mail: <a href="mailto:askauto.ip@axiscap.in">askauto.ip@axiscap.in</a> Investor grievance E-mail: <a href="mailto:complaints@axiscap.in">complaints@axiscap.in</a> Contact Person: Simran Gadh/Pavan Naik Website: <a href="http://www.axiscapital.co.in">www.axiscapital.co.in</a> SEBI Registration: INM000012029	<b>ICICI Securities Limited</b> ICICI Venture House, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India Tel.: +91 22 6807 7100 E-mail: <a href="mailto:askauto.ip@icicisecurities.com">askauto.ip@icicisecurities.com</a> Investor grievance e-mail: <a href="mailto:customer-care@icicisecurities.com">customer-care@icicisecurities.com</a> Contact person: Ashik Joisar/Harsh Thakkar Website: <a href="http://www.icicisecurities.com">www.icicisecurities.com</a> SEBI Registration: INM000011179	<b>IIFL Securities Limited</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> Floor, One Lotha Place, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai 400 013 Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 4646 4728 E-mail: <a href="mailto:askauto.ip@iiflcap.com">askauto.ip@iiflcap.com</a> Investor grievance E-mail: <a href="mailto:ig.ib@iiflcap.com">ig.ib@iiflcap.com</a> Contact person: Pawan Jain/Pinkesh Soni Website: <a href="http://www.iiflcap.com">www.iiflcap.com</a> SEBI Registration: INM000010940	<b>Link Intime India Private Limited</b> C-101, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 247 Park L.B.S. Marg, Vikhroli West Mumbai 400 083, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 810 811 4949 E-mail: <a href="mailto:askauto.ip@linkintime.co.in">askauto.ip@linkintime.co.in</a> Investor Grievance E-mail: <a href="mailto:askauto.ip@linkintime.co.in">askauto.ip@linkintime.co.in</a> Contact Person: Shanti Gopalakrishnan Website: <a href="http://www.linkintime.co.in">www.linkintime.co.in</a> SEBI Registration No: INR000004058	

**Availability of the RHP:** Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the "Risk Factors" beginning on page 33 of the RHP, before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP shall be available on website of SEBI at [www.sebi.gov.in](http://www.sebi.gov.in) and is available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e., JM Financial Limited at [www.jmf.com](http://www.jmf.com), Axis Capital Limited at [www.axiscapital.co.in](http://www.axiscapital.co.in), ICICI Securities Limited at [www.icicisecurities.com](http://www.icicisecurities.com), IIFL Securities Limited at [www.iiflcap.com](http://www.iiflcap.com) respectively and on the websites of BSE and NSE at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), respectively.

**Availability of the Abridged Prospectus:** A copy of the abridged prospectus is available on the website of the Company, the BRLMs and the Registrar to the offer at [www.askbrake.com](http://www.askbrake.com), [www.jmf.com](http://www.jmf.com), [www.axiscapital.co.in](http://www.axiscapital.co.in), [www.icicisecurities.com](http://www.icicisecurities.com), [www.iiflcap.com](http://www.iiflcap.com) and [www.linkintime.co.in](http://www.linkintime.co.in)

**Availability of Bid-cum-Application Forms:** Bid-cum-Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of the Company ASK AUTOMOTIVE LIMITED, Tel: +91 124 439 6907 the BRLMs: JM Financial Limited, Tel: +91 22 6630 3030, Axis Capital Limited, Tel: +91 22 4325 2183, ICICI Securities Limited, Tel: +91 22 6807 7100, IIFL Securities Limited, Tel: +91 22 4646 4728 and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. ASBA Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

**Sub-syndicate members:** Almondz Global Securities Ltd, Amrapal Capital & Finance Services Limited, Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd., Anand Share Consultancy, ANS Pvt Limited, Ashwani Dandia & Co., Axis Securities Limited, Bajaj Financial Securities Ltd., Centrum Broking Ltd., Centrum Wealth Management Ltd., Choice Equity Broking Private Limited, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Pvt Limited, DB(International) Stock Brokers Ltd., Edelweiss Broking Ltd., Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Ltd., G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited, Globe Capital Markets Ltd., HDFC Securities Ltd., IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Ltd., IIFL Securities Limited, Jhaveri Securities, JM Financial Services Limited, Jobanputra Fiscal Services Pvt. Ltd., Kalpataru Multiplier Limited, Keynote Capitals Limited, KJMC Capital Market Services Limited, Kotak Securities Limited,

Lakshminshree Investment & Securities Pvt Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Inventure Growth & Securities Ltd., Marwadi Shares & Finance, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Edelweiss Broking Limited), Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited, Prabhudas Liladhar Pvt Ltd., Pravin Rattal Share and Stock Brokers Ltd., Religare Broking Ltd., RR Equity Brokers Pvt. Ltd., SBICAP Securities Ltd., Sharekhan Ltd., SMC Global Securities Limited, Systematix Shares and Stocks (India) Limited, Tradebulls Securities (P) Ltd., YES Securities Ltd.

**Syndicate member:** JM Financial Services Limited.

**Bankers to the Offer/Escrow Collection Bank and Refund Bank/Public Offer Account Bank:** Axis Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited

**Sponsor Banks:** Axis Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited

**UPI:** UPI Bidders can also bid through UPI Mechanism.

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

Place: Delhi

Date: November 6, 2023

For ASK AUTOMOTIVE LIMITED

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Sd/-

Rajani Sharma

Vice President (Legal), Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

ASK AUTOMOTIVE LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and 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, SEBI and the Stock Exchanges. The RHP shall be available on the website of the Company at [www.askbrake.com](http://www.askbrake.com), the website of the SEBI at [www.sebi.gov.in](http://www.sebi.gov.in), the websites of the Stock Exchanges, i.e., the BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., JM Financial Limited, Axis Capital Limited, ICICI Securities Limited and IIFL Securities Limited at [www.jmf.com](http://www.jmf.com), [www.axiscapital.co.in](http://www.axiscapital.co.in), [www.icicisecurities.com](http://www.icicisecurities.com) and [www.iiflcap.com](http://www.iiflcap.com), respectively. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section entitled "Risk Factors" of the RHP on page 33. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP for any investment decision and instead should place reliance only on the RHP.

The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act") or any other applicable law of the United States and, unless so registered, 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 state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold (a) in the United States only to "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act) pursuant to Rule 144A of the U.S. Securities Act or another available exemption from the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act, and (b) in "offshore transactions" as defined in, and in reliance on, Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offer and sales are made.

AIdactors

# India's largest manufacturer of brake-shoe and advanced braking systems\* for two-wheelers with approx. 50%<sup>#</sup> market share.



Advanced Braking Systems



Aluminium Lightweighting Precision Solutions



Safety Control Cables

- Market Leader:** ASK Automotive has a market share of approximately 50%<sup>#</sup> in the brake-shoe and advanced braking systems segment for two-wheelers in India, which is the world's largest two-wheeler market. (Source: CRISIL Report).
- Innovation:** Technology & Innovation-driven manufacturing process with an extensive suite of systems and solutions for EV & ICE sector.
- Extensive Product Portfolio:** Comprehensive suite of Powertrain agnostic offerings, including Advanced Braking Systems, Aluminium Lightweight Precision Solutions, and Safety Control Cables backed by in-house R&D, Technology, Design and Engineering capabilities.
- Long-standing Relationships with OEMs:** The long-standing customer relationships with top two-wheeler Indian OEM<sup>#</sup> (more than 16 years), Two-wheeler EV OEMs and global players in automotive and non-automotive sector.
- Manufacturing Capabilities:** Operates 16 strategically located manufacturing facilities, majority of which are in close proximity to OEM's across five states in India, including one new manufacturing facility in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan.



DRIVING  
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THROUGH  
INNOVATION

## ASK Automotive Limited

[www.askbrake.com](http://www.askbrake.com)

\*In Fiscal 2023 in terms of production volume for Original Equipment Manufacturer and the Branded Independent Aftermarket\*\* on a combined basis. (Source: CRISIL Report). | \*The advanced braking systems for two-wheeler segment includes brake panel assembly, brake-shoe, Disc Brake Pad (DBP) and mission case. | \*\*Branded Aftermarket includes Original Equipment Spares (OES) and branded components sold in the aftermarket. Unbranded and imported components are not included. | \*Top 6 two-wheeler OEMs in India as of June 30, 2023.

ASK Automotive Ltd, is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP dated October 30, 2023 with the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi, Delhi ("RoC"). The RHP shall be available on the website of the Company at [www.askbrake.com](http://www.askbrake.com), inspection-material-document1, the website of the SEBI at [www.sebi.gov.in](http://www.sebi.gov.in), websites of the book running lead managers JM Financial Limited at [www.jmf.com](http://www.jmf.com), AxisCapital.Limited at [www.axiscapital.co.in](http://www.axiscapital.co.in), ICICI Securities Limited at [www.icicisecurities.com](http://www.icicisecurities.com), IIFL Securities Limited at [www.iiflcap.com](http://www.iiflcap.com) and websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE and NSE at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), respectively, Potential Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk. For details, potential investors should refer to the RHP which has been filed with the RoC, including the section titled "Risk Factors". Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with the SEBI in making any investment decision. The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("U.S. Securities Act"), or any state law of the United States and, unless so registered, 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 state securities laws. Accordingly, such Equity Shares are being offered and sold, outside of the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur; There will be no offering of the Equity Shares in the United States.

AIdactors





**IN FOCUS**

	LATEST	CHANGE
Nifty 50	19411.75	+181.15
P/E Ratio (Sensex)	23.00	+0.55
US Dollar (in ₹)	83.22	-0.06
Gold Std 10 gm (in ₹)	60808.00	-22
Silver 1 kg (in ₹)	72037.00	+1266

**POWER UP.**  
Power Minister RK Singh directs all States and Union Territories to run their generating units at full capacity **p11**



**UNDER PRESSURE.**  
Though loan growth of NBFCs is expected to remain strong, margin and quality concerns persist **p4**

**QUICKLY.**

**ON THE SLOW LANE**  
FADA worried over high inventory levels of PVs



**New Delhi:** This year's festival season saw a significant 18 per cent y-o-y surge in retail auto sales, surpassing the 2017 Navratri high, said the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association. But the association cautioned that passenger vehicle inventory has been rising and is at a high of 63-66 days. **p2**

**FESTIVAL BOOST**  
E-way bill generation hits record 10.03 crore in Oct

**New Delhi:** E-way bill generation in October crossed the 10-crore mark for the first time since its introduction, on increased goods movement due to festival demand. GSTN data showed that 10.03 crore e-way bills were generated, surpassing the previous high of 9.34 crore in August. **p3**

Today's issue carries a 16-page Tabloid **MAKE IN KERALA** (A Space marketing Initiative)

## 'We're building up for next level of growth'

**SPREADING WINGS.** IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers' strategy includes fleet and route expansion, broadening ancillary services, VC unit

**Forum Gandhi**  
Aneesh Phadnis  
New Delhi/ Mumbai



Pieter Elbers, CEO, IndiGo

A year on as the CEO of IndiGo, Pieter Elbers has embarked on a multi-pronged strategy to establish the airline as a global carrier including by international expansion, fleet scale up, broadening ancillary services portfolio, introducing a loyalty programme, and growing its venture capital unit.

"India is moving to become the third largest economy. The ambition clearly is to build up India as a global aviation powerhouse. The fact that there's consolidation going on in the industry, with IndiGo on the one hand and the Air India Group on the other means that India is moving forward. Last August, I shared a strategy for IndiGo centred around three pillars — reassure, develop and create. I am pleased with the progress made so far," Elbers told *businessline* in an interview.

**HITS MILESTONES**  
Elbers took on the role of CEO at IndiGo in September last

year, and the airline set the ambitious goal of doubling its size by the end of the decade. Post Covid, IndiGo achieved several milestones, including regaining its leadership in on-time performance, achieving profitability for four consecutive quarters, expanding its domestic and international route network, and upgrading its IT infrastructure.

**BUILDING ON INFRA**  
Elbers emphasised the importance of the 'create' pillar in IndiGo's strategy for the year ahead. This includes plans to expand its venture capital arm and invest in the development of its leasing unit in GIFT City. "Both the GIFT City arm and the venture capital firm are

parts of building the foundations for what IndiGo wants to be in five years from now. If we want to double our capacity, we need to have more than just double the amount of aircraft. We need to have an ecosystem and infrastructure in place and we are actually building that," he said.

**MORE DESTINATIONS**  
Elbers highlighted that IndiGo is making a steady progress on the operational front as well. The airline expanded its destination count from 100 to over 115, with plans to add three more, including Bali, Medina, and Ayodhya. It currently serves 85 domestic and 32 international destinations. Additionally, IndiGo has entered into codeshare agreements with eight international airlines, including British Airways, Qantas, and Turkish Airlines, expanding its global reach.

With an order book of 970 aircraft, the airline is adding a plane every week and plans to continue doing so. To mitigate supply-chain constraints, it is also exploring wet-lease options.

**Interview p2**

## Extension of free ration scheme to cost govt more; ₹40,000 cr extra in FY24

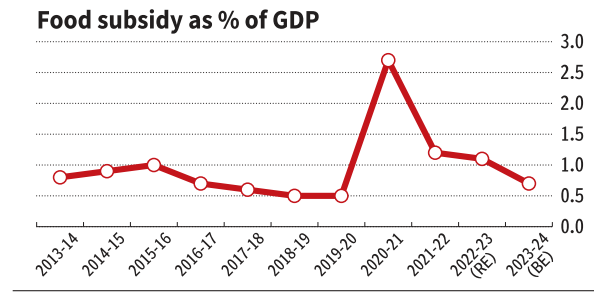
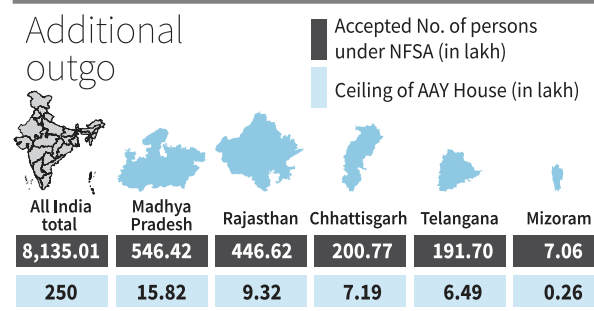
**Shishir Sinha**  
New Delhi

Distribution of free foodgrains for five more years is likely to cost an additional ₹40,000 crore in the current fiscal, economists have estimated. However, government sources do not see any impact. The free foodgrain scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), was to end on December 31, 2023. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced at an election rally on Saturday that the government will extend the scheme for 80 crore poor people for five more years.

The government had allocated ₹1.97-lakh crore for food subsidy for FY24 of which it has spent over ₹95,000 crore, or 48 per cent, in the April-September first half.

With the scheme extended, the government may need more money this fiscal (from January 1 to March 31, 2024).

"Our current year estimate is below ₹40,000 crore," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist with ICRA. This estimate was supported by other economists that *businessline* spoke with. Research agency Nomura, in a report authored by Aurodeep Nandi and Sonal



Source: Parliament Question; Budget Documents; MoSPI; PRS

Varma, said while the near-term macro implications should be muted, the higher revenue expenditure, including on rural employment guarantees, could impact the government's FY24 fiscal deficit target of 5.9 per cent of GDP.

"Over the medium term, the government is likely to forego revenues from its subsidised food sales (0.05 per cent of GDP on an annualised

basis). As procurement costs increase, the food subsidy bill will also increase over time. Importantly, while the need for subsidised grains for lower income households is undeniable, there are risks with announcing free schemes that lead to competitive populism," the report said.

The Centre is already facing challenges in the form of higher fertilizer subsidy outgo (over ₹22,000 crore approved

for nutrient-based subsidies). This coincides with non-tax revenues, especially from disinvestment, being much lower than the budget estimate.

**SOME POSITIVES**  
Some economists take a contrarian view, and believe the impact will not be negative. MK Agrawal, Professor, Department of Economics, Lucknow University, said: "This policy initiative aims at reducing the pressure on the exchequer caused by parking surplus foodgrains which often rot in government storage. It ensures food and nutritional security in tune with the SDG goals and generates surplus in low-income households for creating new and sustainable sources of economic growth. It possibly saves social security expenditures elsewhere."

Manisha Malhotra, Economics Professor at Banaras Hindu University, said, "This will have a positive impact of reducing the cost of fertilizers for farmers which facilitates optimal use and higher crop yields that boosts agricultural productivity. This helps us retain our self sufficiency in agricultural production and enables free distribution of foodgrains to the marginalised sections."

**STRONG ROOTS** **DIVERSE OFFERINGS**

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LIC/AR/20-21/17/ENG

IRDAI Regn No.: 512
**Zindagi ke saath bhi, Zindagi ke baad bhi.**



QUICKLY.

**Euler Motors raises ₹120 cr in Series C round**



**Bengaluru:** EV-maker Euler Motors has raised ₹120 crore in the ongoing series C extension round from British International Investment. According to the company, the capital raised in this round will be strategically deployed to drive its pan-India expansion initiatives of entering 40 cities by the end of FY24. **OUR BUREAU**

**L&T bags contract to build Bhogapuram int'l airport**

**Hyderabad:** L&T Construction has secured a project from GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd for the engineering, procurement and construction of the greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport at Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh. The project will initially be developed to handle 6 MPA (million passengers per annum) capacity, which will be further enhanced to 12 MPA. **OUR BUREAU**

**Divis Laboratories Q2 net down 29% at ₹348 crore**



**Hyderabad:** Divis Laboratories' net profit declined 29 per cent at ₹348 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year ended September 30, 2023, against ₹493 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Total revenue, however, grew 3 per cent at ₹1,909 crore, compared to ₹1,855 crore in the year-ago period. **OUR BUREAU**

# 'IndiGo well-positioned to deal with supply-chain challenges'

**FLIGHT PLAN.** Our biggest priority is building our base to get one aircraft every week, says the airline's chief executive officer Pieter Elbers

bl.interview

**Aneesh Phadnis  
Forum Gandhi  
New Delhi, Mumbai**

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers has steered the airline to four consecutive quarters of profit, including the first profitable second quarter in five years. The airline's on-time performance has improved, it is stitching new partnerships with airlines, and is designing a loyalty programme. But an issue with powder metal in the geared turbofan engines powering its Airbus A320Neo aircraft threatens to slow the growth of India's largest airline. But Elbers tells *businessline* that he remains confident of overcoming the crisis. Excerpts:

**IndiGo's load factors have been lower than competition? Is this because of the fuel surcharge?**

It is too early to come to a full evaluation on the fuel surcharge. There's obviously a mixture of some very established routes, but we've added many more new routes. We have really expanded our network.

We do have a lot of Airbus A321 aircraft that have more seats available and, as such, that leads to potentially slightly lower load factor.

**How are you mitigating the supply chain disruption?**

Our long-term aspiration is to double our size in a decade. None of the recent announcements have made any change in the ambition. We have an aircraft being delivered almost every week. We have taken a lot of mitigating measures; the two wide body planes, which we are operating; the wet leases; and other lease extensions that we've done.

And all that has really

helped us to live up to our capacity guidance. IndiGo is very well-positioned to deal with issues, global supply chain challenges.

**Will fares continue to be elevated?**

The fuel surcharge was linked to global rising fuel prices. We cannot predict on that front, given all the geopolitical developments going on. Airfares are also a function of demand and supply. We have seen them fluctuating, depending on the demand. Seasonally, it will continue to fluctuate around Diwali and Christmas. They will go down in the lower season, that's the trend globally.

**Any guidance on induction of Airbus A321XLR aircraft?**

We maintain our range for the end of FY24 or early FY25. For now, our largest priority is building our base to get one aircraft every week. Post that,



We added three ATRs in the previous quarter, and we will continue to do so. Hyderabad is our largest base for ATRs, but we have been adding ATRs not only for Udaan routes, but also for smaller ones

**PIETER ELBERS  
IndiGo CEO**



we will prepare to build our network on the XLRs. Currently we have 115 destinations, and we will take it to 118.

We have added routes like Mumbai-Nairobi and Mumbai-Jakarta. I think where the XLR will also help is that Mumbai-Nairobi could be supplemented by

Delhi-Nairobi, and Mumbai-Jakarta could be supplemented with another route. XLRs will give us an opportunity to build on some of the stations we have opened today, but serve them from different Indian mega cities.

**Has the company made any decision on the**

**business class product on XLRs?**

The answer still remains that we do not have a decision on it yet

**Are you also looking at inducting more pre-owned ATRs for regional routes?**

We added three ATRs in the previous quarter, and we will continue to do so. Hyderabad is our largest base for ATRs, but we have been adding ATRs not only for Udaan routes, but also smaller routes as well.

For example, Delhi-Dharamshala. Getting new ATRs into our fleet is a part of that mitigation plan.

**The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has said that airlines are making it difficult for customers to have free seats during Web check-in**

I would prefer to keep discussions between

ourselves and the government private.

Having said that, there is a bit of differentiation between what is the actual practice and what we are communicating [to customers].

We continuously monitor and review what is the best way. We are in the process of reviewing and evaluating that. We are sharing it with the government and addressing the questions.

**What about the order for wide-body planes? Are you planning to order more planes?**

We keep all options open for the future. We have the world's largest portfolio of fleet order - 970 planes on order.

What is important for us is that aircraft from our initial order (470) will be delivered by the end of the decade, and that has made us confident to say that we will double our size by the end of the decade.

# Passenger vehicle inventory levels surge to 63-66 days; FADA worried

**S Ronendra Singh  
New Delhi**

This year's festival season marked a milestone, with retail automobile sales soaring 18 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), surpassing the previous high during Navratri in 2017 across segments, said the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Monday. However, it warned at the same time that inventory is at the highest level for passenger vehicles (PVs) at the moment.

"The PV segment is navigating a tricky phase. Festival days might spike bookings, yet the shadow of year-end discounts looms over immediate sales. High inventory

levels in PVs, at a critical 63-66 days range, demand urgent attention from original equipment manufacturers," said Manish Raj Singhania, President, FADA, while sharing the monthly retail sales numbers.

**DEALER DISTRESS**

He said if Diwali sales fail to rise to the occasion, the weight of unsold stock could lead to significant dealer distress. Voicing FADA's concerns for potential industry-wide repercussions, he said "immediate and decisive action" is imperative to countering the risk of a financial squeeze as the year closes.

"The near-term outlook for the auto sector is a blend of highs and lows, as it ap-

## All-India vehicle retail sales

Category	Oct-23	Oct-22	YoY %
Passenger vehicle	3,53,990	3,58,884	-1.36
Two wheeler	15,07,756	17,25,043	-12.6
Three wheeler	1,04,711	71,903	45.63
Commercial vehicle	88,699	80,446	10.26
Tractor	62,440	58,823	6.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,17,596</b>	<b>22,95,099</b>	<b>-7.73</b>

Source: FADA

proaches year-end, but festivities, along with harvest season (especially paddy), are expected to boost two-wheeler (2W) sales, with optimism fuelled by new schemes and a push towards electrification, despite supply concerns," he said.

Commercial vehicles (CVs) are looking at a strong November, with festival and

construction activities enhancing demand, alongside anticipated financial schemes, said Singhania.

Talking about October sales, he said the PV segment navigated a complex landscape, marked by both enthusiasm and caution. During Navratri, despite regional variability, the industry witnessed a surge in

bookings, buoyed by the introduction of compelling new models, particularly sports utility vehicles (SUVs) and the availability of attractive consumer offers.

During Navratri, except for tractors, which saw an 8 per cent decline, all categories exhibited commendable growth.

Two-wheelers, three-wheelers (3W), commercial vehicles (CVs), and PVs experienced an increase of 22 per cent, 43 per cent, 9 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively.

"However, the impact of local elections and market saturation meant that the festival spirit didn't translate uniformly into sales across all regions. Throughout the

month, the anticipation for Diwali in November and the launch of new models generated a steady demand.

"The period overall saw a resilient PV market, supported by a stronger product line-up unlike last year, when stock availability was a major issue," said Singhania.

**PV SALES FALL**

In October, the PV retail sales declined 1.36 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to 3,53,990 units, compared to 3,58,884 units in the corresponding month last year. Two-wheeler sales also declined 12.60 per cent y-o-y to 15,07,756 units during the month, against 17,25,043 units in October 2022. However, 3W sales grew 45.63 per

cent y-o-y to 1,04,711 units last month, against 71,903 units in the same month the previous year.

CV sales also grew 10.26 per cent y-o-y to 88,699 units in October, compared to 80,446 units in the corresponding month last year.

**TRACTOR SALES**

Tractor sales also grew by 6.15 per cent y-o-y to 62,440 units, compared to 58,823 units in October 2022, said the report.

But due to the decline in sale of 2W and PVs, the total sales across all categories declined 7.73 per cent y-o-y to 21,17,596 units during the month, compared with 22,95,099 units in October 2022.

# Byju's to close \$400-m deal to sell learning app Epic in next 10 days

**Jyoti Banthia  
Bengaluru**

Troubled edtech major Byju's will close the sale of its US-based children's digital reading platform Epic in the next 10 days for \$400 million, according to sources. The edtech major is considering this sale to alleviate its financial challenges.

The company is in advanced talks with US-based private equity fund Joffre Capital for the sale, according to news reports. Other bidders, including Duolingo Inc, have also expressed interest in buying the firm, the reports added.

The potential sale of Epic could provide Byju's with the funds to pay the \$1.2-billion term loan. In September this year, after months of negotiations with lenders, Byju's proposed to repay the entire \$1.2-billion loan within six months, with an initial payment of \$300 million within three months. Recently, the edtech firm has



**LAST-DITCH EFFORT.** The company is in advanced talks with US-based private equity fund Joffre Capital for the sale

put two of its assets - Epic and Great Learning - on the chopping block to generate about \$750 million-\$800 million, as the company looks to repay the \$1.2 billion loan, reported *businessline*. Byju's acquired Epic, the US-based kids learning company in 2021 for \$500 million.

**'DISTRESS SALE'**

"It is coming at a time when the company is in financial doldrums. This is a distress sale, and the buyer will also try and

squeeze the best deal possible if at all the deal takes place," said Shriram Subramanian, Founder of InGovern, a corporate governance advisory firm.

The firm is also in talks with Ranjan Pai to raise funds for repaying the debt, along with interest, to Davidson Kempner, a US-based investment firm that committed about \$250 million in structured instruments linked to future cash flows from Byju's largest asset, Aakash Educational Services.

# Import duty on cars may be cut; govt to set rates by year-end

**S Ronendra Singh  
New Delhi**

The government is likely to announce the quantum of import duty to be levied on cars by the end of this year, starting with the UK, to coincide with the free trade agreement (FTA), and eventually help US-based Tesla bring its electric cars to India at an affordable price.

The reduction in duties could be as much as 70-80 per cent from the current rates, said sources. At present, completely built unit (CBUs) cars, whose value is more than \$40,000 or petrol engine >3,000 CC/ diesel engine >2,500 CC, attract import duties of 100 per cent.

CBUs, whose value is less than \$40,000 and petrol engine <3,000 CC/ diesel engine <2,500 CC, attract 70 per cent import duty. Sources told *businessline*

that the first country to benefit will be the UK, as the FTA will be signed soon, and that is why UK-based companies such as Aston Martin have re-entered the Indian market recently; luxury brand Lotus will enter the India market with its EVs this week.

Other than those, Jaguar Land Rover and Mini (BMW) will also benefit from the move.

"If the reduction in import duties happens, then it will not only happen for electric vehicles (EVs), but also for internal combustion engine (ICE) cars as well...it will start with the UK, and gradually move to the US and European cars," said one of the sources requesting anonymity.

**MARKET SIZE**

The sources said that since the market size of both luxury cars and EVs is very limited right now, they



**GOING ELECTRIC.** The move will help Tesla bring its electric cars to India at an affordable price

could be brought via import route for the next two years or so to grow the market first; most of the luxury cars, especially Europeans ones, plan to launch EVs only from 2030 onwards.

They also said that such a step will lead to more competition in the domestic market and bring down the cost of high-end

global cars into India faster, such as Hyundai or Kia Motors," said another source in the know.

"Very recently in Australia and New Zealand, the same thing [FTA] came into effect. It is really helping to reduce the burden on our clients. But let's see if that works out...we will be happy if that happens," Gregory Adams, Regional President - Asia, Aston Martin, had told *businessline*.

According to Santosh Iyer, Managing Director and CEO, Mercedes-Benz India, whatever the policy is, it should be a level-playing field for everyone.

"We have to wait for the policy to come out as everything else is on speculation right now...but hopefully it is a level-playing field for everyone...we always welcome any reduction of duties, but considering the challenges we don't see that happening," said Iyer.

# JSW Steel may not surrender thermal coal mine; to put up gasification plant

**Suresh P Iyengar  
Mumbai**

The Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel is exploring other options, rather than surrendering its thermal coal mine to the government, by putting up a gasification plant. The company had earlier written to the government to give back the lease of the mine as it was uneconomical to operate the same.

However, the company now plans to put up a plant to turn the coal to gaseous state for use in the blast furnace at its steel plant.

Jayant Acharya, Joint Managing Director, JSW Steel, told *businessline* that the company is looking at options and technologies to convert the coal into syngas.

Syngas gas, or syngas,



can be used for production instead of coal. It is another technology which is available, but the company is exploring various options, and will decide on whether to surrender the mine or use the gasified coal, he added.

The process of gasification turns coal into very hot syngas, which is composed of carbon monoxide, hydrogen and carbon dioxide, and small amounts of other gases and particles. The syngas is then cooled and cleaned to remove

the other gases and particles, leaving only carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrogen.

The carbon monoxide is then converted into hydrogen and carbon dioxide, by mixing it with steam. The syngas then consists mostly of hydrogen and carbon dioxide.

Once transported, syngas is separated into streams of hydrogen and carbon dioxide. The hydrogen, once cleaned, is ready for use in blast furnace and the carbon dioxide is captured separately.

**CHALLENGES**

There were certain problems in making the coal mine operational because there was a river flowing through it and a railway line cutting across the asset. The railway line could not be shifted because there is a forest area around it.

# Cipla to transfer generics unit to wholly-owned subsidiary

**Our Bureau  
Mumbai**

Drug-maker Cipla will transfer its generics business as a going concern on a slump sale basis to Cipla Pharma and Life Sciences Ltd (CPLS), its wholly owned subsidiary, for ₹350 crore, subject to approvals.

Cipla's board of directors has approved the transfer; however, the business transfer agreement is yet to be executed, as the transaction is subject to approval from the CPLS board as well, the company told the stock exchanges.

The transfer is set to be completed on December 31, 2023, or any date mutually agreed between them, it added. The development comes even as Cipla promoters are said to be looking to sell their



stake in the company. The company has dismissed reports of a possible stake sale as speculation, though the latest internal streamlining of businesses has sparked interest again.

The company has, however, not indicated any such intent in this announcement. It has said there will be no change in its shareholding pattern after the generics business sale.

**RATIONALE**

Giving the rationale behind the move, Cipla said the gen-

eric market was expected to grow at a fast pace, and it was one of the largest players in the generics business. The move was being undertaken "to provide agility, singular focus and faster decision making", it added.

"The transaction will help in capitalising on this high growth potential business by increasing investments in new launches, deepening penetration in Tier 2-6 towns/cities, and improving patient access through high quality Generic medicines," said the company.

The generics business, at ₹1,445 crore, accounts for about 9.95 per cent of Cipla's turnover at ₹14,519 crore. CPLS was incorporated in August 2008. No details were available on the number of people who may also be transferred to this company once the transaction is cleared.

# Wabag Q2 consolidated PAT up 29% at ₹60 crore

**Our Bureau  
Chennai**

Va Tech Wabag Ltd (Wabag), a leading player in the water technology space, has reported a 29 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) at ₹60.2 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, when compared to a PAT of ₹46.7 crore in the year-ago quarter amid a drop in revenue.

Profit before exceptional items and tax stood at ₹82.9 crore, against ₹80.3 crore. Consolidated revenue from operations was lower at ₹665 crore in the September 2023 quarter, compared to ₹750.4 crore in the September 2022 quarter.

Standalone PAT grew to ₹54.1 crore against ₹34 crore in the year-ago period. Revenues stood at ₹604.1

crore, against ₹573 crore. "We continued to deliver profitable growth this quarter as well with our persistent focus on industrial, international, and multilateral funded projects. Technology focus and cash accretive projects have been reaping the desired benefits and we have been consistently improving our operating margins through execution efficiencies," said Rajiv Mittal, CMD, VA Tech Wabag Ltd.

**businessline.**

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QUICKLY.

**NMDC arm Legacy Iron to mine gold in Australia**



State-owned iron ore miner NMDC Ltd's subsidiary Legacy Iron Ore Ltd is set to mine gold in Western Australia, the government said in a statement on Sunday. NMDC will commence its mining operation at the Mount Celia gold project located in Western Australia, the government said, adding it will be first gold mine in its extensive portfolio. REUTERS

**Deputy MDs for Nabard, Sidbi appointed**

**New Delhi:** The government on Monday appointed two Deputy Managing Directors (DMDs) for National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) and one for Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The Department of Financial Services said the Centre has appointed Goverdhan Singh Rawat and Ajay Kumar Sood as DMDs of Nabard. These officers are serving as Chief General Managers at Nabard. In another notification, DFS said the Centre has appointed Prakash Kumar, serving as CGM, as DMD of Sidbi. PTI

# 'Continue momentum on policy guidance in G20 declaration'

**GROWTH PUSH.** India's G20 Presidency provides clear policy direction to address needs of majority of the global population, says Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

**Shishir Sinha**  
New Delhi

As India's one-year Presidency of G20 (now G21) comes to end this month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman called for continuation of momentum on policy guidance in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD).

India is holding a virtual G20 meeting later this month to take stock of action on NDLD. This will be the last meeting under India's Presidency before Brazil takes over from December 1.

**ADDRESSES CHALLENGES**  
"Not only should we engage with G20 partners to take forward the outcomes, but we should also explore how best we can integrate these outcomes into India's domestic policy-making process so that we can lead by example," Sitharaman said in her inaugural address at the seminar on 'Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth' organised by the Ministries of Finance, Labour and the Commerce Department.



**TAKING STOCK.** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressing a seminar in New Delhi, on Monday PTI

Sitharaman added that India's G20 Presidency has provided a clear policy direction for addressing the needs of the majority of the global population whose voices are often unheard in multilateral forums. "As I reflect on the last one year, I believe we have delivered a G20 Presidency that has provided clear policy directions for addressing the needs of the majority of the global population whose voices are often unheard in global multilateral forums," she said.

The G20 NDLD, unanimously agreed to by all G20

countries, addresses some of the pressing challenges confronting the global economy and also provides policy guidance for a future built on people-focused principles and trust-based partnerships, Sitharaman said.

The Minister further said since the pandemic, the global economy has been grappling with multiple crises, adversely affecting global growth.

While the recovery is underway, it remains slow and uneven. The current pace of global growth remains quite weak, well below the 3.8 per

cent average in the two decades before the pandemic and looking ahead over the medium term, growth prospects have weakened further.

She also noted that policy coordination, both global as well as domestic, is critical to ensure that growth comes back on track and remains strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive.

**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

To this effect, she said the NDLD underscores the urgency of implementing well-calibrated macroeconomic and structural policies to bolster equitable growth and enhance macroeconomic and financial stability.

Sitharaman emphasised that concerted efforts were taken during India's G20 Presidency to mainstream the concerns and aspirations of the Global South; to explore how technology can be leveraged for the benefit of development for all; and to develop solutions for enabling multilateral institutions to become more effective in addressing the complex development financing landscape of the 21st century.

# E-way bill generation surges to all-time high of 10.03 cr in Oct

**Shishir Sinha**  
New Delhi

E-way bill generation in October has crossed 10 crore for the first time since its introduction. This could be a reflection of the festive demand which necessitated goods to be transported in large quantity.

Data from GSTN showed e-way bill generation touched 10.03 crore, surpassing the previous high of 9.34 crore in August, this year.

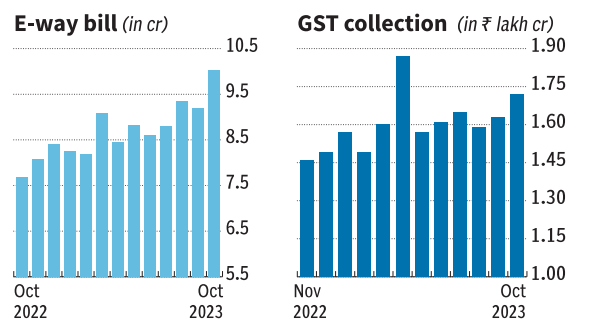
Experts feel that apart from festive demand, higher compliance also contributed to high e-way bill generation. This will have some impact on GST collection for November. It is possible that the movement of goods might have occurred in the same month of consumption or even a month before that, which is why e-way bill generation may have an impact on collection spreading over two months.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**

Tanushree Roy, Director (Indirect Tax) with Nangia Andersen India, said: "An all-time high e-way bill generation is indicative of increased economic activity. At the same time, the increase can be attributed to the ongoing festive and upcoming marriage season which is further expected to fuel consumer demand."

An e-way bill is an electronic document generated on a portal, evidencing the movement of goods and indicating whether tax has been paid. As per Rule 138 of the CGST Rules, 2017, every registered person, who causes the movement of goods (which may not necessarily be on account of supply) of consignment value of more than ₹50,000 is required to generate an e-way bill. This is required for movements between the two States and within a State. However, a State or UT, with legislature, can decide the threshold for the value of goods to be applicable for movement within its

**Festival cheer**



Source: GSTN, Finance Ministry

boundary. Gunjan Prabhakaran, Partner (Indirect Tax) with BDO India, said increase in e-way bill generation is because of the festive season purchases and replenishment of stocks by brands in the supply chain to meet the anticipated demand for the Diwali season.

**BETTER COMPLIANCE**

"Also, increased scrutiny by revenue authorities and better compliance at an assessee-end are some of the reasons for increase in e-way bill generation," she said.

Echoing the sentiment, Vivek Baj, Partner with Economic Laws Practice, said while the primary reason in the surge appears to be higher volume of movement of goods, it is also a testament towards tighter anti-evasion methods adopted by GST mobile squad authorities stationed across India to ensure absolute compliance of law.

The increasing number of these bills could have an impact on revenue collection, as evidence indicates that higher generation of e-way bills would lead to higher tax collection.

# SAIL eyes \$200-m investments to ramp up capacities in Mozambique

**Abhishek Law**  
New Delhi

Steel Authority of India Ltd along with its other partners in International Coal Ventures Ltd is eyeing an investment of \$150-200 million as a capacity ramp-up is planned across coal mines in Mozambique, Africa. The move is also aimed at de-risking coking coal supplies from global price and supply volatilities.

Expansion plans include doubling of capacity at Benga mines to 4 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), prospecting across other mines, and creation of evacuation facilities including ramping railway network. The detailed project report is currently under preparation.

**THREE CONCESSIONS**

Apart from SAIL, other CPSEs in ICVL include RINL and NMDC. The three conces-

sions with the JV are Benga, Zambeze and Tete East in Mozambique.

According to Amarendu Prakash, Chairman and Managing Director, SAIL, doubling of capacity at Benga is likely while techno-feasibility studies for Zambeze are on.

Benga is the only operational mine and initial reports with the Steel Ministry mention the throughput capacity of the washery there at 5.3 mtpa with 35 per cent yield of

13.5 per cent ash coking coal, 10 per cent yield of 28 per cent ash thermal coal.

Total saleable coal is around 2 mtpa, from the Mozambique mine, of which coking coal mined is for captive consumption of the three CPSEs, while thermal coal is sold in the open market. "Right now, we are looking at de-risking the geographical distribution of coking coal sourcing. As part of that, ramping up capacities at the Mozambique mines are be-

ing considered," Prakash told *businessline* on the sidelines of a coking coal summit organised by the Indian Steel Association. "The capex, which we are anticipating to the tune of \$150-200 million and once the DPR is done time frames will be clear," he added. SAIL is also on course to increase sourcing of Russian coking coal. At present there are four shipments, each containing 75,000 tonnes of coking coal that come in every quarter.

# India-UK FTA: Differences on 5 chapters yet to be ironed out

**Amiti Sen**  
New Delhi



The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, which missed an earlier deadline of Diwali 2022, are likely to continue well past this year's festivities as five chapters of a total of 26, covering sensitive areas such as intellectual property rights, rules of origin, financial services, work visas and tariff cuts on key items, are yet to be ironed out, sources have said.

"Despite best efforts made by negotiators from both countries to conclude the FTA negotiations by October-end, tricky issues are continuing to hold up the pact. A total of 21 chapters of a total of 26 chapters have been agreed to till date. There are hopes that progress in the other chapters would be made by November-end, but the situation is tough," a person close to the development told *businessline*.

The two countries are optimistic about bilateral trade doubling to \$100 billion by 2030 if the FTA is implemented soon. Officials from both sides had indicated last month that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Rishi Sunak may take some political calls on the tough areas that negotiators were finding difficult to deal with. "At that time Sunak had plans of visiting India (in October-end), though it was not announced officially, and negoti-

ators were burning the midnight oil to try and close the gaps. However, Sunak's visit did not materialise and neither did all the knotty areas in the talks get straightened out," the source said.

**ELECTION MODE**

The negotiating teams from the two countries will stay engaged through November to see if they could manage a breakthrough by the month-end. "It is important to advance the India-UK FTA negotiations before the Christmas break because the new year will bring in uncertainties as both countries are expected to get into the election mode," the source said.

Difficult areas in the negotiations include rules of origin

(ROO) that prescribe the minimum processing which needs to happen in an FTA partner country for a good to qualify for duty cuts. India has apprehensions that liberal ROO may lead to items from EU countries, including automobiles, processed food and engineering goods, getting exported to India at preferential duties couched as UK products. The UK, which has supply chains integrated with the EU, wants liberal rules.

In the area of IPR, the UK wants India to take on commitments beyond the WTO's TRIPS agreement to tighten its laws in favour of patent holders. India, however, is resisting the move as it wants to protect its generic industry and consumers and is against evergreening of patents.

**ON CRITICAL PRODUCTS**

Final duty cuts on critical products such as Scotch Whisky and automobiles, including the scheduling of the cuts, also have been difficult to agree to, the source added.

With inputs from Prabhudatta Mishra

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### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

(in INR' 000)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Half year ended		Year ended
		Sep 30, 2023 (Unaudited)	Jun 30, 2023 (Unaudited)	Sep 30, 2022 (Unaudited)	Sep 30, 2023 (Unaudited)	Sep 30, 2022 (Unaudited)	March 31, 2023 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations	3,37,907	2,61,119	1,84,180	5,99,026	3,58,355	8,17,709
2	Net profit for the period (before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	1,02,673	85,888	82,207	1,88,561	1,58,317	3,20,929
3	Net profit for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	1,02,673	85,888	82,207	1,88,561	1,58,317	3,20,929
4	Net profit for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	76,710	63,768	61,618	1,40,478	1,18,419	2,37,845
5	Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit / (loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	76,710	63,768	61,563	1,40,478	1,18,309	2,36,869
6	Paid up equity share capital	14,62,847	14,62,847	14,62,847	14,62,847	14,62,847	14,62,847
7	Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)	18,98,756	18,22,046	16,39,719	18,98,756	16,39,719	17,58,278
8	Share Premium account	19,34,680	19,34,680	19,34,680	19,34,680	19,34,680	19,34,680
9	Net worth	52,93,263	52,16,513	50,34,476	52,93,263	50,34,476	51,53,625
10	Paid up debt capital/outstanding debt	1,16,34,695	90,63,693	56,74,955	1,16,34,695	56,74,955	68,88,387
11	Outstanding redeemable preference shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	2.20	1.74	1.13	2.20	1.13	1.34
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -						
	1. Basic:	0.52	0.44	0.42	0.96	0.81	1.63
	2. Diluted:	0.52	0.44	0.42	0.96	0.81	1.63
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Notes:**

- The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on November 03, 2023. The statutory auditors of the company have carried out limited review of the aforesaid results.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited financial results for the quarter ended September 2023, filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter ended September 2023 financial results are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange i.e. www.nseindia.com and on the website of the Company i.e. www.hsbc.co.in/hifs/.
- For the other line items referred in regulation 52 (4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange and can be accessed on www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the website of the Company at www.hsbc.co.in/hifs/.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of  
**HSBC InvestDirect Financial Services (India) Limited**

Place : Mumbai  
Date : November 03, 2023



Sd/-  
**Berlin Varghese**  
Managing Director  
(DIN 10059070)

**Bokaro Power Supply Co. (P) Ltd.**  
(A Joint Venture of SAIL & DVC)  
Hall No. : M-01, Old Administrative Building  
Ispat Bhavan, Bokaro Steel City-827001 (Jharkhand)  
CIN No. : U40900DL2001PTC112074

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Ref. No. : BPSCL/MM/23-24/EOI-001/2457 Date : 06.11.2023  
BPSCL invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Bidders, for lifting of Ash from BPSCL's Ash Ponds for utilization in avenues as identified in extant MOEF&CC Notification, on "free of cost" and "on first come first served basis" (Total Quantity of Pond Ash offered for lifting under this EOI : 30,00,000 MT).  
EOI document is to be downloaded from Website : www.bpscl.com only.  
Last date of submission of EOI : 05.12.2023 (12.00 Noon).  
For any further query, please contact on 8986874191 or email us on purchase@bpscl.com  
For and on behalf of BPSCL  
(A. K. Das)  
CGM (MM)



## QUICKLY.

Razorpay elevates  
Rahul Kothari as COO

**Bengaluru:** Fintech platform Razorpay has elevated Rahul Kothari as Chief Operating Officer for its India and Malaysia businesses. This elevation comes at a time when Razorpay has begun expanding its footprint globally. Earlier, he was the chief business officer, where he was responsible for executing strategies for business development. **OUR BUREAU**

Centre extends term of  
BoM and CBoI Chiefs

**Mumbai:** BoM, in a regulatory filing, said that the Centre has extended the term of office of AS Rajeev, MD and CEO of the Bank, till May 31, 2024, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. In a regulatory filing, the CBoI said the DFS, MoF, has extended the term of office of Matam Venkata Rao, MD and CEO of the Bank, until July 31, 2025, or until further orders. **OUR BUREAU**

# NBFCs post healthy loan growth, but margin, quality concerns linger

**POSITIVE OUTLOOK.** Loan growth is expected to remain strong, supported by festival season-led spending

Anshika Kayastha  
Mumbai

Despite posting healthy loan growth across sectors, concerns regarding margin pressure and portfolio quality continued to weigh on the Q2 FY24 earnings of diversified NBFCs.

Most retail-focused NBFCs saw credit growth being driven by both secured loans, such as automobile, housing, and small business loans, and unsecured and personal loans during the quarter.

Housing loan growth was largely led by the premium and luxury housing segments and self-construction. Vehicle finance witnessed a slower quarter due to monsoons and floods, which also impacted collections. Gold loan growth was muted to steady due to weak demand and intensifying competition in the segment, especially from players such as IIFL Finance and Bajaj Fin-



**UNDER PRESSURE.** Higher cost of funds, provisions and operating expenses take a toll on net interest margins

ance, Motilal Oswal Securities said in a note.

## DROPPING IN

Lenders such as Aditya Birla Capital, Mahindra Finance, and LIC Housing Finance posted a sharp drop in their net interest margins (NIM) due to the higher cost of funds. Further, the higher AUM growth was partially offset by higher provisions and operating expenses on the back of more

technological investments and employee hiring and retention.

"Credit costs shot up on a high base because of monsoon-related slippage. We are cutting FY24E and FY25E EPS by 25 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively, building in a lower NIM and a sharp hike in credit costs," Nuvama Institutional Equities said on Mahindra Finance.

The credit exposure of

banks to NBFCs stood at ₹14.2-lakh crore (pre-HDFC merger number) in September 2023, a 26.3 per cent y-o-y increase. The proportion of NBFC loans to banks' total credit rose to 9.4 per cent from 8.9 per cent a year ago.

These NBFCs expect margins to start normalising in the coming quarters, led by sustained repricing of the fixed rate portfolio, especially vehicle finance, and an increase in the share of higher-yielding unsecured loans amid steady cost of funds. However, Bajaj Finance guided a further 25-30 bps compression in margins over FY24.

Several NBFCs reported higher provisions and credit costs, reflecting some pockets of stress in small-ticket or digital loans. Loan write-offs and provisions, prudent or otherwise, were elevated for lenders such as Shriram Finance, Mahindra Finance, Aditya Birla Capital, and Cholamandalam Finance.

Overall asset quality improved for most diversified NBFCs, but Bajaj Finance and Cholamandalam Finance highlighted trends of higher delinquencies across incremental small-ticket unsecured loans, largely being distributed through fintech partnerships. Most NBFCs said they have cut exposure to riskier borrowers, tightened underwriting standards, and are becoming more proactive in recoveries, especially for digital loan collections, while continuously monitoring these portfolios.

Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finance, CanFin Homes, and Poonawalla Fincorp are brokerages' top picks from the sector. Loan growth is expected to remain strong for most lenders, supported by festival season-led spending, with lenders such as Mahindra Finance and Capri Global already posting record overall and car loan disbursements in October, respectively.

## 'Crude oil at \$110 could prompt RBI to hike rates'

Bloomberg



Morgan Stanley estimates a sustained oil price of \$110 a barrel could undermine India's economic stability, likely forcing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to resume hiking interest rates. India is one of the most exposed economies in Asia to rising crude prices.

A \$10 increase in oil prices boosts inflation by 50 basis points and contributes to a 30 basis-point widening in the current account balance, Morgan Stanley's economists estimate. Oil above \$110 a barrel would be destabilising for the country's economy, the investment bank said.

The RBI has kept its policy rate unchanged four times now, but has struck a relatively hawkish tone while inflation remains above the 4 per cent midpoint of its target band. The RBI's forecasts are based on a crude oil price of \$85 a barrel in the second half of the current fiscal year, which ends in March 2024.

Morgan Stanley also made several other comments about India's economy in its report: Data shows foreign direct investment declined to \$33 billion in the second quarter of this year from \$70 billion in the second quarter of 2021. However, India's share of global FDI flows increased to 4.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year from 2.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2017.

## KEY RISK

In the upcoming elections, the key risk for financial markets is the emergence of a weak coalition government, "which could result into a pivot back toward redistributive policies at the expense of the focus on boosting capital expenditure and implementing supply-side reforms."

## NPS assets soar 25% to ₹10.23-lakh crore

KR Srivats  
New Delhi

Aided by a strong show by the non-government sector, the National Pension System's (NPS) assets under management (AUM), including the corpus on the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), grew 25 per cent y-o-y to touch ₹10.23 lakh crore as of October 28, official PFRDA data showed.

On October 29, last year, the NPS assets under management stood at ₹8.17 lakh crore.

However, the overall growth tempo in AUM as of October 28 slowed a bit when compared to the 27 per cent y-o-y growth recorded as of October 3, when

overall AUM stood at ₹10.21-lakh crore. The total number of NPS and APY subscribers as of October 28 stood at 6.81 crore, up 17 per cent over 5.82 crore subscribers as of October 27 last year.

The overall AUM of NPS and APY crossed the ₹10-lakh crore milestone on August 25 this year. In March of this year, NPS AUM stood at ₹8.98 lakh crore. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is confident that NPS assets will touch ₹11-12-lakh crore by the end of March 2024.

## SUBSCRIBER BASE

The all-citizens model as of October 28 this year saw a robust 23.28 per cent jump in sub-

scriber base at 31.36 lakh and a 31.31 per cent jump in AUM at ₹48,412 crore.

On the other hand, the corporate NPS subscription grew 16.59 per cent to 18.55 lakh subscribers (15.91 lakh as of October 29 last year), and AUM was up 33.25 per cent to ₹1,39,336 crore from ₹1,04,565 crore, the data showed. While the NPS assets of Central Government employees grew 21 per cent to ₹2.88-lakh crore (₹2.38-lakh crore), the State governments' employee NPS assets stood at ₹5.11-lakh crore, up 25.24 per cent over ₹4.08-lakh crore as of October 29 last year. The number of NPS subscribers from the govern-

ment sector (centre and states put together) stood at 88 lakh. NPS AUM had doubled to ₹10-lakh crore from ₹5-lakh crore in a span of just 2 years and ten months.

NPS took six years and six months to reach the milestone of ₹1 lakh crore AUM after its implementation in 2009. It then took 4 years and 11 months to further increase AUM to ₹5 lakh crore.

PFRDA this fiscal year expects at least 13 lakh new subscribers from both corporate and all citizen categories.

In the first seven months of this fiscal, as many as 3.52 lakh subscribers (net) have been added in aggregate to both corporate and all citizen categories, PFRDA data showed.

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## Sundaram Finance posts 20% rise in Q2 net

Our Bureau  
Chennai

Sundaram Finance on Monday reported a 20 per cent increase in its standalone profit after tax (PAT) at ₹366 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, compared with a PAT of ₹304 crore in the year-ago quarter, aided by double-digit growth in interest income and disbursements.

The Chennai-headquartered NBFC's interest income grew by 30 per cent to ₹1,098 crore in the September 2023 quarter compared with ₹842 crore in the year-ago quarter, while total income stood at ₹1,378 crore when compared with ₹1,052 crore.

Total expenses were higher by 38 per cent at ₹902 crore as against ₹653 crore.

Its disbursements grew 35 per cent to ₹6,941 crore in Q2 of this fiscal compared with ₹5,139 crore in the year-ago quarter, according to a statement.

For the half-year ended September 30, 2023, the NBFC's PAT grew 22 per cent to ₹648 crore compared with ₹529 crore in H1 of FY23. Disbursements rose 34 per cent to ₹13,430 crore.

"Team Sundaram has delivered a strong first half year of FY24," said Harsha Vijji, Executive Vice Chairman.

As of September 30, 2023, the assets under management grew 25 per cent to ₹40,106 crore as against ₹31,980 crore



Harsha Vijji, Executive Vice Chairman, Sundaram Finance

in the year-ago period.

The gross and net NPA stood at 2.89 per cent and 2.06 per cent respectively, against 4.29 per cent and 2.97 per cent in the year-ago quarter.

"Prospects for the second half are promising, but geopolitical uncertainty, global macro volatility, and the im-

plications of domestic challenges of continued inflation, inconsistent monsoons, and upcoming elections remain key monitorables. We will focus on extending our market share across all asset classes and geographies," said Rajiv Lochan, Managing Director.

Its group company, Royal Sundaram, reported a PAT of ₹145 crore for H1FY24 as against a profit of ₹1 crore in H1FY23. Profit after tax during H1FY24 includes a net gain of ₹37 crore on the fair value of equity investments as against a net loss on the fair value of equity investments of ₹62 crore accounted in H1FY23. Its gross written premium (GWP) grew 11 per cent to ₹1,818 crore compared with ₹1,645 crore a year ago.

## Stage set for rollout of legally mandated accounting standards for LLPs

KR Srivats  
New Delhi

The CA institute has released an exposure draft for the proposed accounting standards on limited liability partnerships (LLPs).

Public comments on the draft have to be submitted by November 27, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has said.

The idea is to recommend a dedicated set of accounting standards for LLPs that would be notified by the Centre in consultation with the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), sources familiar with the developments said.

The objective is to specify the mandatory accounting standards for LLPs in line with the LLP Act 2008.

Currently, the LLP Act 2008 prescribes that the Centre, in consultation with NFRA, would specify the accounting standards for LLPs as recommended by the ICAI.

Till date, the Centre has not legally mandated or specified the accounting standards that need to be adhered to by LLPs.

The latest ICAI's move comes at the behest of the gov-



**VIEWS SOUGHT.** Public comments on the exposure draft have to be submitted by November 27, the ICAI has said.

ernment, which has been taking several measures to tighten the regulatory framework around LLPs.

It also comes on the heels of the CA institute issuing a recommendation format for presentation of financial statements by such structures.

## SUPERVISION ENHANCED

The government recently enhanced its supervision over LLPs, requiring them to become more transparent and declare the "beneficial interest" holders, if any, on the contributions of their partners.

Over the last few years, there has been increased preference to set up LLPs due to several advantages including

lower compliance for such structures. LLP formation has boomed because company disclosures have become more stringent and moreover CARO (Auditor report order) is not applicable to LLPs, implying lesser questioning from auditors, said experts.

Between April 2022 till September 2023, about 64,000 LLPs have been incorporated in the country.

Currently, there is no legal requirement that LLPs need to adhere to certain accounting standards. So far accounting standards have been prescribed by the government only under the Companies Act 2013. Auditors while signing financial statements of LLPs were hitherto required by the

CA Institute to ensure conformity with the accounting standards specified under the Companies Act.

Commenting on the ICAI move, Amarjit Chopra, former ICAI President, told *businessline* that ICAI is looking at LLPs as separate category of semi-corporates and wants to tighten the norms applicable to them.

## WHAT IS AN LLP?

Put simply, an LLP is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership.

The LLP is a separate legal entity and is liable to the full extent of its assets but liability of the partners is limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP.

Further, no partner is liable on account of the independent or unauthorised actions of other partners, thus individual partners are shielded from joint liability created by another partner's wrongful business decisions or misconduct.

The LLP can continue its existence irrespective of changes in partners. It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.

## SBI changes tack to increase current a/c deposits

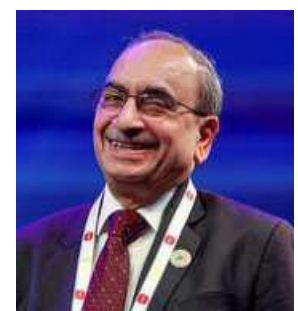
K Ram Kumar  
Mumbai

The State Bank of India has changed its tack for increasing current account deposits as the Centre's adoption of the "just-in-Time" procedure for the release of funds has reduced float for banks.

India's largest bank has stepped up the opening of current accounts (CAs) for mid-range segment and high-value customers, newly incorporated companies, and start-ups and started transaction banking hubs to grow current accounts and make up for the reduced float.

A CA deposit is opened by businesses and enterprises for multiple payments, receipts, and other transactions. This deposit does not earn any interest. It comes with an overdraft facility.

Float is generated for banks when there is a time difference in processing and crediting payments to customer accounts. So, due to the time elapse before customers' withdraw money, a float is created, and banks



Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman, SBI

can use the same.

Attributing the decline in current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in overall deposits to a behavioural shift, Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman, SBI, emphasised that during inflationary times there is a tendency for people to look at products that offer returns that beat the inflation rate.

## CASA DEPOSITS FALL

SBI's CASA deposits declined to 41.88 per cent of domestic deposits (amounting to ₹45,03,340 crore) as of September 2023. CASA deposits constituted 44.63 per cent (of domestic deposits aggregating

₹40,28,012 crore) as of September 2022. So, in the context of the decline in CASA, SBI is trying to increase its current account as compared to its savings account (SA), he said.

As of September 2023, SBI's CA and SA deposits grew by 8.77 per cent and 4.34 per cent, respectively, year-on-year (yoy). CA and SA accounted for 5.62 per cent and 36.26 per cent, respectively, of domestic deposits.

"There is a remarkable change in the composition of CA. Earlier, we used to have CAs only for government entities. About a year ago, there was a change in the business practices of the government.

"Now they are going to have JIT (Just-In-Time) funding. This has almost dried up the potential for CASA (via this route). So, about six months ago, we started our transaction banking hub," Khara said.

SBI has already opened these hubs at about 34 locations across the country.

"And that is one of the reasons why we are witnessing this kind of CA growth. And I am quite hopeful that

our focused efforts in this direction will yield much better results," the SBI chief said.

Banking expert V Viswanathan said due to the development of different payment systems like the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS), National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), cheque truncation followed now for clearing settlements, the float funds as well as the float time available in the banking system have come down over the years.

The Finance Ministry's Department of Expenditure has told all ministries and departments that the principles of 'just in time release' should be applied for releases in respect of all payments to the extent possible and to bring about more efficiency in cash management at both the Centre and State-levels.

This is also aimed at better monitoring the availability and utilisation of funds released to the States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and reducing float.

SOBHA LIMITED						
CIN: L45201KA1995PLC018475 Regd. Office: 'SOBHA', Sarjapur - Marathahalli Outer Ring Road (ORR), Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur Post, Bangalore - 560 103 Ph: +91-80-49320000 email: investors@sobha.com website: www.sobha.com						
Extract of the consolidated unaudited financial results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2023						
(₹. in Million)						
Particulars	3 months ended 30.09.2023 [Unaudited]	Preceding 3 months ended 30.06.2023 [Unaudited]	Corresponding 3 months ended 30.09.2022 [Unaudited]	Year to date figures for current period ended 30.09.2023 [Unaudited]	Year to date figures for previous period ended 30.09.2022 [Unaudited]	Previous year ended 31.03.2023 [Audited]
Total income from operations	7,736.40	9,392.44	6,905.84	17,128.84	12,642.89	34,024.33
Profit before tax	246.69	172.87	343.48	419.56	428.88	1,449.75
Profit after tax	149.46	120.54	191.50	270.00	238.54	1,042.05
Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	131.01	123.23	158.89	254.24	213.80	1,002.12
Paid-up Equity Share Capital	948.46	948.46	948.46	948.46	948.46	948.46
Other equity	-	-	-	-	-	23,998.25
Earnings per Share (of ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) Basic and diluted EPS	1.58	1.27	2.03	2.85	2.51	10.99
Notes:						
(1) The key data of standalone financial results is as under:						
(₹. in Million)						
Particulars	3 months ended 30.09.2023 [Unaudited]	Preceding 3 months ended 30.06.2023 [Unaudited]	Corresponding 3 months ended 30.09.2022 [Unaudited]	Year to date figures for current period ended 30.09.2023 [Unaudited]	Year to date figures for previous period ended 30.09.2022 [Unaudited]	Previous year ended 31.03.2023 [Audited]
Total income	7,788.83	9,228.88	6,694.80	17,017.71	12,542.87	34,258.65
Profit before tax	228.72	121.69	248.98	350.41	268.04	1,317.10
Profit after tax	147.86	80.23	137.40	228.09	145.36	952.89
Total comprehensive income	129.41	82.92	104.79	212.33	120.62	912.96
(2) The consolidated unaudited financial results of Sobha Limited (the Holding Company) and its subsidiaries (the Holding Company, along with its subsidiaries referred to as the Group) and its associate and joint venture for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles laid down in the applicable Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 (The Act) read with relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. These consolidated unaudited financial results have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 06 November 2023.						
(3) The Statutory auditors of the Holding Company have carried out a limited review as required under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 of the above consolidated unaudited financial results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2023 and have issued an unmodified review report.						
(4) The aforesaid consolidated unaudited financial results are available on the Holding Company's website www.sobha.com and on the website of BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and The National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com).						
(5) Previous period's / year's figures have been regrouped or reclassified wherever necessary to conform with the current period figures. The impact of such reclassification / regrouping is not material to the consolidated financial results.						
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Sobha Limited						
Bengaluru, India 06 November 2023						Jagadish Nangineni Managing Director DIN: 01871780



# Hits and misses of Chhattisgarh government

**HAZY PICTURE.** The economy has been fairly well managed with fiscal deficit and borrowings under control, but rosy GDP and tax revenue forecasts hide stress

**DEEP DIVE.**

Nimisha S Pradeep  
Chennai

In the last five years, the Chhattisgarh government has rolled out a slew of welfare measures from farm loan waivers to health insurance to unemployment allowance and numerous developmental projects. As the State gears up for a high-octane Assembly election on November 7 and 17, *businessline* analyses Bhupesh Baghel-led government's performance.

A close look at the economy shows that it has been fairly well managed with fiscal deficit and borrowings under control. But the projected numbers on GDP growth and own tax revenue collections for the current fiscal year are too optimistic and could be hiding stress,

caused by political giveaways. There has been improvement in the last five years in social parameters such as people living in pucca houses and access to tap water. But the State is still below par on many health and education parameters. According to experts, the large tribal population has also not seen a material change in this period.

**DEFICIT MASKED?**

The contribution of the services sector to Chhattisgarh's economy is relatively low compared with States such as Maharashtra or Karnataka, at 36 per cent. With agriculture and manufacturing dominating with 32 per cent share, the State has typically clocked a more sedate nominal growth, under 10 per cent in the pre-Covid period. The recovery from the impact of Covid, along with high inflation may have helped



**NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT.** At 36 per cent, the contribution of the services sector to Chhattisgarh's economy is relatively low compared with States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka.

take the growth to 14 per cent in FY22 and FY23. The growth projection for FY24, however, looks optimistic at 11.2 per cent, given the lower inflation and slowing manufacturing and services growth this fiscal year. Moreover, the nominal growth projected by the centre is just 10.5 per cent. The higher growth projection could be masking the actual deficit.

The State's tax revenue growth for FY23 and FY24 at 21.1 per cent and 15.9 per cent, respectively, also looks too good to be believed. State GST, which accounts for 37 per cent of the State's tax revenue, is estimated to grow 19 per cent this fiscal year, which is well beyond the 11 per cent growth in overall GST collections seen so far in 2023-24.

The State is also expected to collect 23 per cent more by way of taxes and duties on electricity this year, which will put too much pressure on consumers, besides being inflationary.

**CAPEX IMPROVEMENT**

Of the net expenditure of ₹1,21,495 crore budgeted for 2023-24, 84 per cent is allocated to revenue expenditure, amounting to ₹1,02,501 crore. According to PRS the state has a large portion of committed expenditure, "This comprises spending on salaries (28 per cent of revenue receipts), pension (7 per cent) and interest payments (7 per cent)."

The government of Chhattisgarh has, however, been

steadily increasing its capital expenditure since 2019-20. In FY20, the government reduced its capex by 3.78 per cent to compensate for the farm loan waivers. But in FY23, capex saw a huge rise of 62 per cent. In FY24, the government has budgeted a capex outlay of ₹18,660 crore, which is a 9.3 per cent increase from a high base.

**FISCAL CONCERNS**

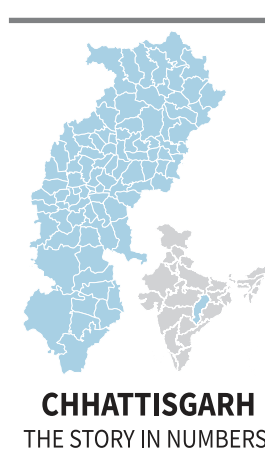
While the fiscal deficit ballooned in the Covid period, it was brought under the FRBM limit by FY23. The fiscal deficit for 2022-23 is estimated to be 3.2 per cent of GDP and 3 per cent in 2023-24.

But these numbers are predicated on optimistic nominal growth and strong own tax revenue collections. Given the expenditure planned on pre-poll giveaways, the fiscal deficit for FY24 is likely to expand. The government has however kept its borrowing under check with the projected borrowing for 2023-24, of ₹19,042 crore, lower than the debt level in FY20.

**EDUCATIONAL TRENDS**

According to a report from UDISE+, the gross enrolment ratio (GER) at the elementary school level (total enrolment in classes 1 to 8 as a percentage of the population in the corresponding age group) has reduced slightly from 96.3 in 2018-19 to 95.9 in 2021-22. This could be due to the disruption caused by the pandemic. The GER for the country is 100.1.

The positive is that the



**The fiscal deficit is estimated at 3 per cent of GDP in FY24.** Given the expenditure planned on pre-poll giveaways, this is likely to expand

dropout rate in primary classes (proportion of students enrolled in classes 1-5 at a given school year who are no longer enrolled in the following school year) has reduced from 3.4 per cent in 2018-19 to 0.8 per cent in 2021-22. These could be due to the Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools programme launched in November 2020 and the Mahatari Dular Yojana in May 2021. These schemes have brought about improvement in the quality of education but there are issues in implementation.

**HOUSING PROGRESS**

As per the NFHS data, the percentage of people living in pucca houses has improved from 36 per cent in 2015-16 to 43 per cent in 2019-21. However, this is relatively lesser than India's average of 60 per cent.

Another basic requirement is access to tap water. According to the data from

the Jal Jeevan Mission website, access to tap water has increased from 6.40 per cent in 2019 to 66.04 per cent in 2023. On this parameter too, the State is below India's average at 70.15.

**HEALTHCARE INSIGHTS**

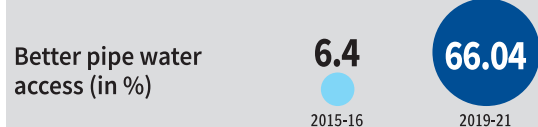
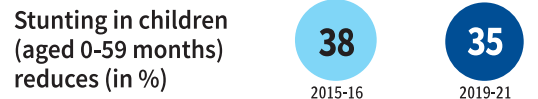
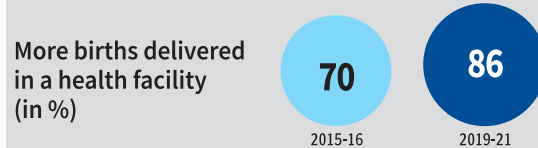
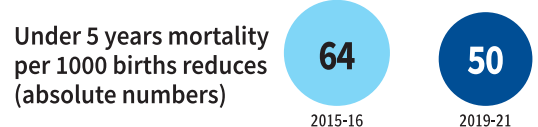
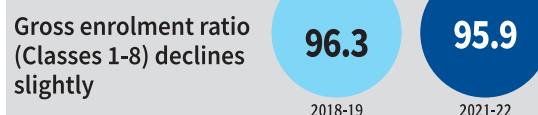
In terms of institutional deliveries, Chhattisgarh has kept up with India's average. 86 per cent of the births happened in a health facility in 2019-21 as compared with 89 per cent in all over India.

The under-five mortality rate in Chhattisgarh has reduced significantly from 64 (per 1,000 live births) in 2015-16 to 50 in 2021-22. But this is higher than India's USMR of 41.9.

Stunting in children under 5 years of age in Chhattisgarh is at 35 per cent, slightly less than India's average of 36 per cent.

Nishant John, a health worker in Bastar district in Chhattisgarh, said that the facilities in the government

Social scorecard: Improvement on many counts



Source: UDISE+, NFHS-4, NFHS-5, JIM Dashboard

hospitals in the district should improve. "Jagdalpur, the district headquarters, has only private hospitals. There are some Community Health Centres (CHC) but for any major treatment, one has to go to Raipur or Visakhapatnam," said Nishant. He also pointed out the staff shortage in the CHCs.

Neeraj Mishra, a political commentator based in Raipur, said that the Baghel government had good intentions but half-heartedly executed the policies. "This government has consistently given money to the farmers and have supported them in procurement but have not done enough in terms of building the infrastructure to store grains and keep up with the increased production," said Mishra.

Mishra pointed out that the same is the case in the health sector. "They are giving insurance to BPL families but are not building more government hospitals. There

is a flood of private hospitals in the State. This has increased the costs for the common man. The government has good intentions but there is a lack of wholesome policy," he said.

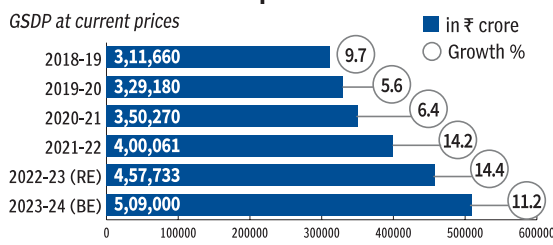
**TRIBAL LEADERSHIP**

Chhattisgarh has a significant population of tribal people but there is a lack of representation among the community. "Both the Congress and BJP are trying to suppress them. Unless tribal leaders come to the fore, their issues won't be addressed," said Mishra.

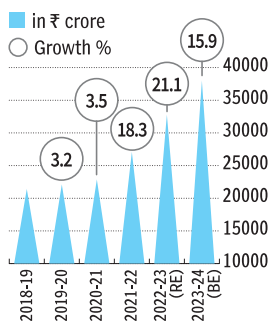
Mishra believes that the State is going to witness a tight contest between the Congress and the BJP. "Congress is going to get a majority but the gap between the two parties is going to be negligible. Chhattisgarh has a history of low-margin elections. 2018 was an aberration. This time, it will come back to a low-margin election," added Mishra.

**Fiscal scorecard: A mixed bag**

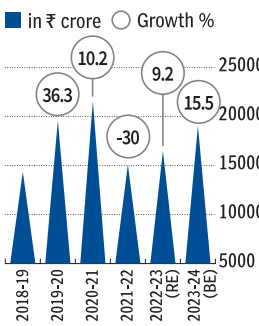
**Growth numbers too optimistic**



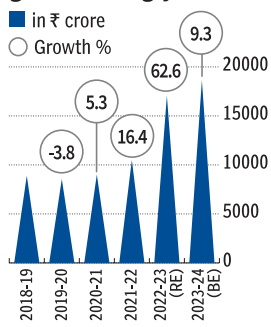
**State's own tax revenue unrealistic**



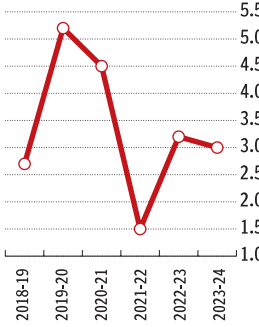
**Gross borrowings reined in**



**Capital expenditure grows strongly**



**Fiscal deficit as % of GDP under control**



Source: PRS Budget Estimates, CAG Accounts at Glance


**Mother Dairy to set up new plant in Maharashtra**

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani  
New Delhi

Mother Dairy is looking at setting up a new plant in Maharashtra with an investment of about ₹500 crore for milk and value-added dairy products. The company said this is part of its broader investment plan of about ₹700 crore over the next few years. Mother Dairy, which is among the leading dairy players in the country, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board. Besides milk and milk-based products, it is also known for its edible oil brand Dhara while it sells fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen vegetables and snacks, pulses and concentrates among others under the brand Safal.

Manish Bandlish, MD, Mother Dairy told *businessline*, "We have recently got a nod from our board for investments of about ₹700 crore which will be made over the next few years." The company will be investing strongly in growing its manufacturing footprint. "We are in the advanced stages of land procurement to set up a new plant in Nagpur. We will be making investments of about ₹500 crore in setting up this plant. This will become a hub for us to serve Western and Southern regions," he added.

The new plant is expected to further increase the company's capacity space by 15-20 per cent. "In the food processing segment, we are also looking at setting up a new plant in Karnataka," Bandlish added. In FY 23, Mother Dairy's revenue grew by about 17 per cent to ₹14,500 crore.



## SUNDARAM FINANCE

Enduring values. New age thinking.

**STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30.09.2023**

(₹ in crores)

Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
	Quarter Ended 30.09.2023	Quarter Ended 30.06.2023	Quarter Ended 30.09.2022	Half Year Ended 30.09.2023	Half Year Ended 30.09.2022	Year Ended 31.03.2023	Quarter Ended 30.09.2023	Quarter Ended 30.06.2023	Quarter Ended 30.09.2022	Half Year Ended 30.09.2023	Half Year Ended 30.09.2022	Year Ended 31.03.2023
Total income from Operations (net)	1375.13	1187.36	1048.23	2562.49	1983.25	4046.17	1708.13	1581.72	1336.74	3289.85	2582.72	5475.86
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	475.85	365.33	399.12	841.18	695.88	1419.96	470.57	429.91	400.23	900.48	752.83	1710.97
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	475.85	365.33	399.12	841.18	695.88	1419.96	470.57	429.91	400.23	900.48	752.83	1710.97
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	366.38	281.28	303.53	647.66	529.26	1088.31	434.82	429.31	331.57	864.13	608.70	1499.56
Owners of the Company	366.38	281.28	303.53	647.66	529.26	1088.31	365.42	375.24	306.13	740.66	551.79	1317.81
Non-controlling Interest							69.40	54.07	25.44	123.47	56.91	181.75
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	365.70	280.30	303.48	646.00	531.89	1085.92	608.23	571.39	464.74	1179.62	746.74	1772.89
Owners of the Company	365.70	280.30	303.48	646.00	531.89	1085.92	403.68	422.59	341.82	826.27	536.55	1337.56
Non-controlling Interest							204.55	148.80	122.92	353.35	210.19	435.33
Paid up Equity Share Capital	111.10	111.10	111.10	111.10	111.10	111.10	110.21	110.21	110.20	110.21	110.20	110.20
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	8108.12	7907.58	7204.14	8108.12	7204.14	7626.30	10463.71	10223.11	9129.54	10463.71	9129.54	9799.65
Securities Premium Account	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Net worth	8219.22	8018.68	7315.24	8219.22	7315.24	7737.40	10573.92	10333.32	9239.74	10573.92	9239.74	9909.85
Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	37931.48	34281.81	28290.05	37931.48	28290.05	32815.35	49009.35	45106.27	37436.51	49009.35	37436.51	42774.67
Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Debt Equity Ratio	4.61	4.28	3.87	4.61	3.87	4.24	4.63	4.37	4.05	4.63	4.05	4.32
Earnings Per Share (Basic & Diluted) (Face Value of ₹10/- each) (not annualised for Quarters) (on PAT)	32.97	25.32	27.32	58.29	47.64	97.95	33.16	34.05	27.78	67.21	50.07	119.59
Capital Redemption Reserve	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Debt Redemption Reserve	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly / year ended 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 / year ended Financial Results is available on the National Stock Exchange website (URL: www.nseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.sundaramfinance.in).
- The above financial results for the quarter ended 30th Sep 2023 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held in Chennai on 3rd and 6th November 2023.
- Previous period's / year's figures have been regrouped wherever necessary to conform to current period's / year's classification.
- The Joint Statutory Auditors have carried out a Limited Review of the financial results for the quarter & half year ended 30th September 2023.

By Order of the Board  
RAJIV C LOCHAN  
Managing Director

**Sundaram Finance Limited**  
CIN:L65191TN1954PLC002429  
Regd. Office: 21, Patulos Road, Chennai 600 002. Tel: 044 2852 1181, Fax: 044 2858 6641  
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www.sundaramfinance.in



businessline.

TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 7, 2023

## Nutrition first

PMGKAY in its current form is a blunt instrument

**A**fter haranguing Opposition-ruled States for distributing freebies to citizens and indulging in populism at the cost of the fisc, the NDA government at the Centre seems to be falling prey to the same malaise. The Prime Minister's announcement that Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (which was introduced as a Covid safety net and has been on extensions since), will become a fixed feature for the next five years, smacks of populism too.



The scheme, which has subsumed National Food Security Act and Antyodaya Anna Yojana commitments, envisages the distribution of five kilograms of cereals (mainly rice and wheat) per month to over 81 crore beneficiaries, free of cost. FCI (Food Corporation of India) foots the bill for procuring foodgrains from farmers at Minimum Support Prices (MSPs), storing the produce and relaying it to public distribution outlets across the country. This scheme entailed an outlay of about ₹2-lakh crore in 2023, but this can rise if FCI costs trend higher. The cost of this scheme per se is not the problem. With the Union Budget currently at over ₹45-lakh crore, India can afford to fund schemes that address nutritional needs of the poor. But the PMGKAY in its current form cannot achieve this objective.

The first question is if 81 crore Indians, which is roughly 58 per cent of the population, are so poor as to require government support to buy staples. Think-tanks have shown that India has made significant strides in mitigating extreme poverty. NITI Aayog's recent report on multi-dimensional poverty estimated that the proportion of multi-dimensionally poor (those deprived of multiple amenities ranging from nutrition to banking access) was 14.9 per cent of the population in 2019-21. This report also estimated that 31.5 per cent of Indians were nutritionally deprived. Redrawing PMGKAY to supply free rations only to the most deserving sections of the population can trim leakages and subsidies. Two, nutritional deficiency and not hunger is the main problem confronting India's masses, so it is time the policy focus changed to address this. To improve nutritional outcomes, the PDS needs to diversify beyond cereals to proteins in the form of pulses and millets apart from edible oils, which are household essentials. Eventually, community kitchens that provide balanced, cooked meals to the targeted population at subsidised prices may work even better.

The PMGKAY is as much a safety net for farmers as it is for consumers. Prodigious central procurement of paddy and wheat at fixed prices ensures that the MSP for these cereals holds sway in the markets. But with procurement efforts concentrated on two staples, only select farmers in some States get to benefit. Cutting back on procurement of cereals and increasing purchases of other crops may not be a politically easy shift. But it can send the right signals on crop diversification while creating a more functional PDS.

POCKET

RAVIKANTH

LINE&  
LENGTH.

TCA SRINIVASA RAGHAVAN

**N**arendra Modi has been the Prime Minister since 2014. How has the economy performed since then and how does this compare with the UPA years of 2004-14?

The usual way of making the comparison is to trot out all the numbers. Savings, investment, fiscal balance, current account balance, forex reserves, poverty ratios, inflation, unemployment etc all get some attention. But this method, while necessary, is not sufficient.

To see why we have to go back to what the BJP had promised in 2014. The core promise was that it would ensure that the private sector would lead the Indian economy the way it does in all other successful economies from Australia in the east to the US in the west.

How potent this message was came home to me and my then colleague Vinay Kamath in April 2013. We had gone all over India meeting the owners — not CEOs — of large business houses. Without exception they said they would vote for the BJP as they saw a real opportunity for growth if it came to power. A few said they were old Congress supporters, going back to the 1930s, but were now fed up with it.

This turnabout was very strange because since 2004 it was the UPA that had given them huge freedom, which some of them had misused. The previous nine years had, in fact, been wonderful for the private sector — despite the CPI (M) which was supporting the Congress but was not a member of the government or the UPA, and was trying to block everything.

The animal spirits that Manmohan Singh spoke about in his 1992 reform budget were on full display in those years. Yet, here were top businessmen saying they wanted the BJP to form the government in 2014. That's how powerful the BJP's message and its messenger were.

But what's happened since then is the exact opposite. It's the public sector that's leading the economy and it's the private sector that's making up the rear, a reluctant participant.

Thus, in 2012, private investment had reached a peak of 27 per cent of GDP. Currently, it's around 18 per cent, maybe less. This despite all the tax incentives and import protection that's been extended. This is not quite what the BJP had promised.

There are a whole bunch of economic and non-economic reasons that are customarily trotted out for this by critics and defenders of the government.



REUTERS

The private sector:  
BJP's most striking failure

Political success without economic success helps the party but not the economy

All of them have some substance.

However, the fact remains: the private sector has pretty much withdrawn from the game. Its absolute investment numbers may look good but as a proportion of GDP it's quite a disaster story.

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED

Where keeping the main promise is concerned, the contrast with the Congress story of the 1970s is stark. During 1969-71 it promised socialism, which meant an increasing role for public investment and a decreasing role for the private sector. Over the next decade, it delivered on that, even if not

**Despite all the tax breaks and protectionism, private investment is still languishing at 18 per cent of GDP. This is not quite what the BJP had promised.**

via investment then certainly by sweeping nationalisation. That's the key point: it delivered on a policy. The BJP hasn't. Instead, for political reasons, it has resorted to massive welfarism, or expenditure. There's absolutely nothing wrong with this because it ameliorates the lives of people.

The problem is that it leaves them where they are. It's like giving a blanket to someone who is sleeping on the pavement. The guy blesses you and wants food as well.

The Indian economy's tragedy is that regardless of whether it was the Congress's brand of socialism — industrial investment, permanent jobs with pensions — or whether it's the BJP brand of 'achhe din', productivity hasn't improved except in areas that have escaped political attention.

You may well ask: does welfarism come at the cost of the private sector? The UPA showed that it doesn't. MNREGA was a consequence of that conviction.

The BJP also seems to think so except that the private sector isn't cooperating.

This is the mystery that the BJP has to solve. It will have to do a lot of introspection to figure out why.

## DIFFERENT APPROACHES

I have one explanation. The difference between it and the Congress, right from the start in the early 1950s, was the respective approaches to economics and politics. Until the 1970s the Congress focused on the economy while the BJP focused on politics.

The Congress shifted focus to politics in 1969. The BJP has never once shifted its focus from politics. But while the pursuit of power was at the national level till 2014, it's at every municipal level now. That's not good.

Its economics used to be non-existent earlier and is now largely managerial but not intellectually sophisticated. It's this that the party has to fix now.

Just as it has a clear socio-cultural worldview, it must develop an economic one too that is consistent with 21st century realities. Political success without economic success helps the party but not the economy.

## It's time Byju's got its act together

The edtech firm's delayed results announcements have raised governance concerns. An IPO would help tone up its systems

Mohan R Lavi

**T**he financial results of Byju's for the year ended March 2022 were probably awaited with as much anticipation as the annual Union Budgets. When Byju's released its results for the year ending March 31, 2021 about a year ago, they had stated that the revenue was readjusted since the auditors did not agree with the method of revenue recognition followed by the company.

Much has happened at Byju's since the 2021 results were announced. Some investors have left the Board, the auditors resigned and a CFO joined and left the company in a matter of months. Byju's had to renegotiate the terms and conditions of a loan with an US institution. The company appointed a new firm as auditors, got a new CFO and formed an Advisory Council to assist the company in navigating through uncharted waters.

For the year ended March 2023, Byju's only announced a summary of their financials. Excluding all acquisitions, the core business of Think & Learn, has reported substantial growth, with total income surging to ₹3,569 crore from

₹1,552 crore in the previous year, marking a robust 2.3x increase.

The EBITDA loss for the core business decreased from ₹2,406 crore to ₹2,253 crore year-on-year (YoY), coupled with an improved margin from -155 per cent to -63 per cent from FY21 to FY22. These numbers were the standalone financials and did not include the results of the many acquisitions that Byju's made over the years.

Not all the acquisitions have gone according to plan — the consolidated numbers could possibly include some impairment losses. Considering the amount of publicity the company has received over the last couple of years, Byju's would do well to announce their consolidated financial results.

They would do even better if they make public the main contents of the report of the auditors. The auditors for the year ended March 31, 2021 had some comments to make on revenue recognition and internal controls. Making public the main contents of the report of the new audit firm would clear the air on whether those comments still remain or have been rectified.

The management of Byju's have also stated that the audited results for the



**TOP PRIORITY.** Need for transparency

REUTERS

year ended March 31, 2023 would be announced in due course of time.

## IPO PLANS?

Not being a public company, Byju's are not duty-bound to put out their results and audit reports in the public domain. It is possible that they are doing so to negate some of the negative publicity that they have encountered over the years.

Negative publicity impacts valuations adversely, which in turn impacts the returns to investors. It is apparent that the days of dizzying valuations and dazzling non-revenue metrics (such as

the number of hours students engaged on the platform) are long gone. Further investment rounds would be harder to get.

It is being reported that Byju's wants to take one of the companies it acquired — Aakash Education Services — public in 2024. It is possible that valuations for this IPO would be reasonable since the Aakash acquisition was probably the only one that was a win-win for both the parties — the acquirer profited generously from the transaction and Byju's got much-needed cash flows.

Byju's could use the time till the proposed IPO to get used to the culture of a public company — announcing the consolidated results on time every quarter, having an independent audit committee and enforcing robust corporate governance practices.

The bourses in India have never really discouraged companies that have a history of losses but with a reasonable management and tolerable corporate governance policies from being listed. There is no reason to believe that their treatment of Byju's would be any different provided they step up their game.

The writer is a chartered accountant

© **LETTERS TO EDITOR** Send your letters by email to [bleditor@thehindu.co.in](mailto:bleditor@thehindu.co.in) or by post to 'Letters to the Editor', The Hindu Business Line, Kasturi Buildings, 859-860, Anna Salai, Chennai 600002.

## A tragic conflict

This refers to the Editorial "Horror show" (November 6). Israel-Palestine conflict is mired in history of bloody conflicts between Jews and Arabs. With big powers using it as a pawn in their rivalry the UN has been unable to find an objective solution to the complex war. The role of Hamas has aggravated the crisis. Both sides are killing innocent people without any qualms. The distant hope is that these nations agree to find a mutually acceptable solution under the guidance of a group of nations.

YG Chouksey

Pune

## Farm issues to the fore

This is with reference to the article

'Farm issues take centre stage in four poll bound States' (November 6). Announcing farm loan waivers before elections has become a routine act. But this is hardly a solution. What is needed is all round rural development with focus on infrastructure. Loan waivers also put pressure on the banking system. In India, we need more banks which will lend to poor farmers and small entrepreneurs who now largely rely on local moneylenders. Thirdly, Banks are custodians of public money and that should be used prudently. Also loan waivers do not reach the needy and get cornered by farmers who have the ability to repay the loans. Hence loan waiver is no solution to farm distress. Let

prudence prevail over political gimmicks.

Veena Shenoy

Thane

## Start-up shake-up

With reference to "Start-ups must create real value" (November 6), in spite of the guidance and support provided by incubators, accelerators and government agencies, majority of the first-generation entrepreneurs lack the business acumen and are under the perceived notion that the moment the innovated product is launched and a patent is registered investors would flock to them with funds. Not much thought goes into commercializing, marketing and sourcing and retaining the

much-needed talent pool, besides ensuring compliances and governance standards for a sustainable business. Some tech start-ups even resort to raising overseas debt funding without proper due diligence of credit risk involved and making mindless acquisitions. The present funding winter from PE and VC industry in start-ups has created a resource crunch and a good number have shut their business, fired skilled personnel and restricted their operations for the sake of sustainability. However, the scenario is cyclical and entities should not deviate from the fundamentals of business for sustainable growth.

Sitaram Popuri

Bengaluru

## Back to brick-and-mortar

It refers to the article "Why are e-comm models going brick and mortar?". When online business started, a lot of us had this apprehension that this will kill the age old brick and mortar business model. But now things have taken a complete turn. One of the main reasons behind these e-commerce firms going back to brick and mortar models could be that consumers want to have touch and feel about the product they wish to buy and use. This also means that there is enough space for both to grow in India's huge market. It is all about customer satisfaction and providing her all the options.

Bal Govind

Noida



## Karnataka's industrial push

The State has rolled out innovative initiatives

MB Patil

Karnataka is no stranger to innovation. The State has topped India's Innovation Index for three consecutive years, in turn, propelling the country's surge through the rankings on the Global Innovation Index (GII). Karnataka's contribution cannot be overstated in vaulting India to the 40th rank on GI in 2023 from the 81st position in 2015.

The State is a trailblazer in the transformation of India's technological makeup. From creating a dedicated industrial development policy, and growth of the IT/BT sector, to nurturing start-ups and encouraging the 'electric vehicle' sector, it has led by example in building a business-conducive environment. The Bengaluru Tech Summit, launched in 1998, was the first of its kind that accelerated the State capital's transformation into Asia's Silicon Valley.

Continuing to devise innovative strategies, the Karnataka government has initiated several pioneering measures to sustain industrial growth. These include the recently concluded first-of-its-kind delegation visit from the Department of Industries to the US. During the course of the trip, the delegation met representatives of technology, semiconductor, electric vehicles, aerospace and healthcare giants in the US, apprising them of investment opportunities in Karnataka.

### REINVENTED AVATAR

The Strategic Investment Committee under the ambit of the Invest Karnataka Forum (IKF) is another example of out-of-the-box thinking on the part of the government, as it looks to enhance the State's reputation as an investment hub. In its reinvented avatar, IKF will gain from the participation of stalwarts across the industrial sector, including core manufacturing businesses.

From head honchos of some of the world's largest conglomerates to new-age entrepreneurs, the forum is reflective of the holistic approach the State is eager to adopt to attract investment.

With its eyes set on its apex position in the pioneering technology sector in Asia, the government has a plan that ensures Karnataka stays ahead of others in core manufacturing.

Over the last five years, Karnataka's industrial sector CAGR stood at 6.1 per cent, hinting at growth prospects in this



SOPS. To boost production

segment. To address this, the government has constituted a nine-sector vision group — textiles, pharmaceuticals, defence, machine tools, ESDM, automotive/electrical vehicles, core manufacturing, emerging technologies, Industry 5.0, and green energy — to drive pan-sector development.

In this regard, companies of various sectors including technology, energy and electronics have signed MoUs pledging investment of close to ₹60,000 crore. These initiatives hold the potential to generate 30,000 jobs in Karnataka. These vision groups will also be responsible for taking forward the 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative to exploit promising opportunities in other districts of Karnataka.

Bengaluru Urban accounts for more than a third of the State's GDP (35.6 per cent) followed by Dakshina Kannada (5.7 per cent) and Belagavi (4.2 per cent). The vision groups will look to narrow this economic gulf between Urban Bengaluru and the rest of Karnataka going ahead.

For this, Yadgir and Raichuru districts have been chosen to attract investment in pharmaceutical and textile industries respectively, while the twin cities of Hubballi-Dharwad have been identified for FMCG, consumer electronics, and electronic equipment manufacturing clusters. Belagavi, a hub for forging and auto components manufacturing could attract overseas investments.

These sectors being employee-intensive can also lead to the government achieving its target of job creation. For this, the government is working with the Karnataka Skill Development Council to upskill youngsters across the State. With these initiatives, Karnataka is moving towards promising sustained industrial growth fuelled by inclusive investment.

The writer is Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, Government of Karnataka



PARTHAPRATIM PAL  
PARTHA RAY

It appears not all is well in the Chinese economy. Of late, it is suffering from multiple headwinds. First, the Chinese construction sector, which has been one of its prime drivers of demand, is showing signs of significant slowdown since 2021. The extent of the slowdown is manifested by the debt servicing problems faced by large Chinese real estate developers. Two years ago, the Chinese company Evergrande, faced difficulties servicing its external debt. Since then, Evergrande has become the world's most indebted property developer. Recently, it came to light that China's biggest private sector developer 'Country Garden' is also facing problems in servicing its offshore bonds. In fact, over the last two years, more than half of China's top 50 developers have gone into default.

Second, the situation is possibly more complicated because many of these real estate companies may have substantial domestic obligations within China's domestic financial system. A large-scale problem with servicing debt is likely to have a cascading effect on the Chinese financial sector and its macroeconomy. Such an abrupt slowing down of the real estate sector indicates a lack of income growth and poor consumer sentiment in the Chinese domestic market. It also points towards a significant slowing down of the Chinese economy.

Third, the other primary growth driver of China is its exports. It is also a key player in the global value chains (GVC). However, recent data coming out of China suggests that exports from China are slowing down at a rapid rate. China's exports have experienced a steady decline every month (on a year-on-year basis) since May 2023. Poor global demand is the likely reason for this export contraction. Also, it may be an early sign that as some companies are relocating out of China, its GVC-related exports are slowing down.

**With the size of China's economy at \$17,700 billion, a 5 per cent growth implies that the Chinese economy is adding \$885 billion to its GDP in 2023.**

# Is IMF too optimistic about China's growth?

**REALITY CHECK.** A real GDP growth of 5% forecast for 2023 doesn't seem realistic as the country's realty sector is in dire straits, exports are slowing, and demand is shrinking



ECONOMY. Facing a perfect storm

Along with these major headwinds, China faces several constraints, including a rapidly ageing population, mounting debts, and withdrawal and pause in foreign investments. On top of these, there is persistent Chinese tension with the Western world. These are well summarised by the Chinese premier when he says, "We stand against unilateral sanctions, economic coercion, decoupling, and supply chain disruption".

The slowing down of domestic and external demand is manifested in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of China. Amidst a global problem of high and persistent inflation, the Chinese economy shows signs of very low and sometimes negative CPI inflation. Very low inflation or negative inflation

### IMF's growth projections for China (%)

Time of projection	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Apr-20	6.1	1.2	9.2		
Jun-20	6.1	1	8.2		
Oct-20	6.1	1.9	8.2		
Jan-21	6	2.3	8.1	5.6	
Mar-21		2.3	8.4	5.6	
Jul-21	6	2.3	8.1	5.7	
Oct-21		2.3	8	5.6	
Jan-22		2.3	8.1	4.8	5.2
Apr-22			8.1	4.4	5.1
Jul-22		2.2	8.1	3.3	4.6
Oct-22			8.1	3.2	4.4
Jan-23			8.4	3	5.2
Apr-23				3	5.2
Jul-23				3	5.2
Oct-23				3	5

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, various press releases

(deflation) could be indicative of the demand constraints in an economy. Such a scenario becomes alarming for an economy as producers typically respond to such a scenario by cutting down production and laying off workers, which, in turn, exacerbates the demand problem even more. Though policymakers in China are trying to address this issue through expansionary monetary and fiscal policy measures, analysts suggest that China's price situation will likely remain subdued as the domestic demand-supply imbalance will likely continue.

Against such a grim backdrop, the IMF's *World Economic Outlook* of October 2023 has forecasted that China's economic growth will be 5 per cent in 2023, a 0.2 percentage point

downgrade from its previous estimate released in July 2023. Is the IMF being too optimistic for China?

### NOT A LOW GROWTH RATE

To put this number in perspective, with inflation near zero, the 5 per cent real GDP growth rate could translate itself into a 5 per cent nominal GDP growth rate in China for 2023. With the size of China's economy at \$17,700 billion (current prices, nominal GDP), a 5 per cent growth implies that the Chinese economy is adding \$885 billion to its GDP in 2023. Consider that India, with its nominal GDP of \$3,730 billion will have to have a nominal growth rate of 23.7 per cent to achieve a similar amount of addition to its GDP. In other words, for an economy as big as China, a 5 per cent growth rate is not a low growth rate.

Therefore, the question is whether other data from China supports this projected growth rate by the IMF. We tracked the IMF projections on China since April 2020 (see Table). It appears that compared to its July 2022 projections, the IMF has actually upgraded its forecast growth rate for China. However, the current round of problems with real estate companies, the sequential slowing down of China's exports and the CPI deflation numbers are visible since early 2023. These numbers indicate that China is suffering from severe demand compression both domestically and from the external markets.

These developments do not seem to have impacted the IMF forecast of the growth rate of China by much. It is difficult to imagine that a country of China's size, will be able to manage a 5 per cent real GDP growth rate when it is facing almost a perfect storm in its economy. Is the IMF being too optimistic? Or, does the IMF know something which we don't?

Pal is Professor of Economics at IIM Calcutta, and Ray is Director, National Institute of Bank Management, Pune. Views are personal

## Why businesses are embracing electric mobility

Ramesh Dorairajan

In today's rapidly changing business landscape, sustainability has emerged as a defining force, driving enterprises to rethink their strategies and practices. Among the multifaceted approaches available to reduce their environmental footprint, one stands out prominently: the adoption of electric mobility for corporate fleets.

Globally, governments are enforcing emissions controls, especially in transportation and industry, and installing urban air quality monitors. Businesses are embracing sustainability as climate change and resource scarcity loom. Electric mobility, which produces zero emissions, can help reduce vehicle-generated pollution.

Widespread EV adoption could cut 8.4 million tonnes of CO2 by 2030 and 49.5 million tonnes by 2050. Embracing electric mobility is a wise business move, meeting regulations and promoting a cleaner environment.

Electric mobility isn't just about reducing carbon emissions — it's a responsible way for companies to care for the environment and build their reputation. When companies show a

real commitment to being green and innovative, it helps create a positive perception, which doesn't stop with external stakeholders; it also boosts employee morale and engagement. Companies are increasingly adopting electric mobility as a part of their sustainability strategy — promoting a greener ecosystem and environmental responsibility.

### ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Electric mobility also fosters energy independence. Utilising locally generated renewable energy or domestically produced electricity reduces reliance on imported oil, bolstering self-sufficiency and lowering exposure to international energy market volatility. These benefits make electric fleets an appealing choice for businesses seeking efficient transportation while reducing energy-related risks.

Electric mobility is emerging as a popular solution particularly in India, with projections suggesting that this sector could amass an impressive revenue of \$860 billion by 2030. The adoption of electric vehicles will play a pivotal role in curbing pollution and driving the popularity of shared commuting methods like carpooling,



MAIN DRIVER. Cost savings

primarily due to cost savings.

Increasingly, people concerned about the environment favour shared transportation for affordability and addressing urban issues like pollution, limited parking, and traffic jams. The future of transportation relies on electric and shared mobility for a greener, more sustainable world, driven by ambitious goals and innovative business models.

Even though an EV commands a higher upfront price than an ICE vehicle, its overall cost of ownership offers long-term savings over an ICE vehicle due to factors like stable electricity prices and fewer maintenance expenses. Petrol and diesel powered cars can have a significant share of their annual costs

on fluids and filters, which are not the case in EVs — making them more affordable for daily commuting and beneficial for fleet operators.

India, the world's fourth-largest car market, is currently at an adoption rate of 1 per cent for EVs. To boost this, the government has reduced GST on EVs from 12 per cent to 5 per cent, allowed income tax deductions for EV loans, provided consumer incentives, and offered production-linked incentives for local battery cell manufacturing. These measures aim to make EVs more affordable, stimulate domestic production, and support a cleaner, sustainable transportation future in India.

India's booming economy has led to a 55 per cent increase in CO2 emissions in the past decade, and is expected to rise 50 per cent more by 2040. Embracing the shift to electric mobility brings about cost savings, energy security, a better brand image and future proofing for regulatory compliance. These benefits position businesses for long-term success in a world increasingly committed to sustainability.

The writer is Vice President - Network Management & EV Sales, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd

## businessline.

### TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY.

November 7, 2003

#### Steel price rise: Govt won't step in

The Union Government has said that it would not intervene to check the rising steel prices as they are "market driven". "But I have appealed to major steel producers to act rationally and keep in mind the interests of the consumers while increasing prices," Mr BK Tripathi, Minister for Steel, told newsmen.

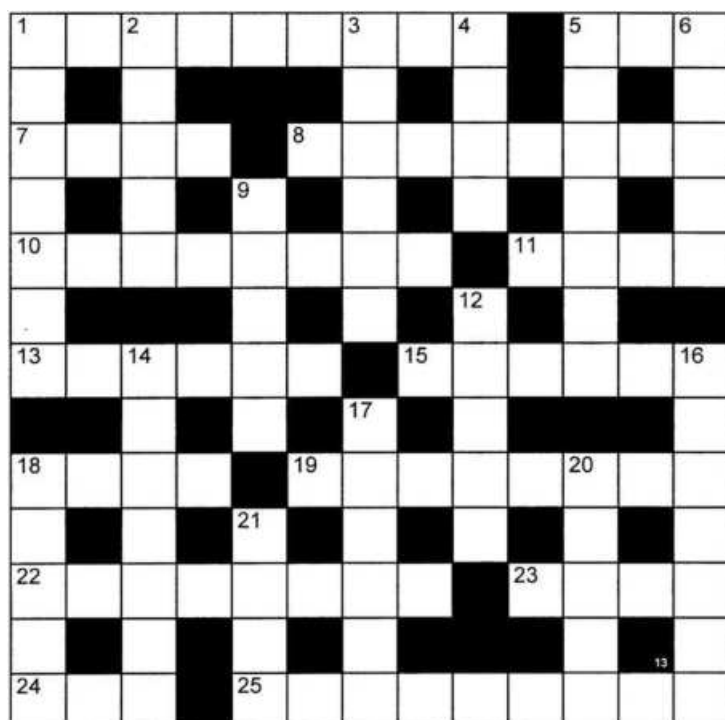
#### SEZs exempted from ESI, EPF payments

The Government has extended a major sop to units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by exempting them from payment of statutory dues like contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) for five years. The first State that could enjoy the concessions is Gujarat, where the Positra SEZ promoted by Sea King Infrastructure Ltd is coming up.

#### Marlboro comes to India

Philip Morris has announced the launch of its well-known 'Marlboro' brand of cigarettes in India. Marlboro cigarettes are, however, to be distributed in India without the direct involvement of Godfrey Phillips India (GPI), a company in which an affiliate of Switzerland-based Philip Morris International (PMI) currently holds a 35.9 per cent stake.

## BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 2307



### EASY

#### ACROSS

- Perfume (9)
- A rocky height (3)
- Taverns (4)
- A pedestrian walk-over (8)
- Manufacturer of playthings (8)
- A conspiracy (4)
- Devils (6)
- Abrupt, all at once (6)
- In short, an instruction not to (4)
- Righteous prig (8)
- Extent of reporting on (8)
- To start from sleep (4)
- Masculine address (3)
- All-in fighters (9)

#### DOWN

- Coquetted (7)
- Pester somebody (5)
- Tended the sick (6)
- Irish (4)
- Gave a run of bird-song (7)
- The Conservative side (5)
- Knowing, shrewd (5)
- Wall-painting (5)
- A white fur (7)
- Talks idly (7)
- Cross-piece on a rope (6)
- Shortens dog's tail (5)
- Angry (5)
- Expand (4)

### NOT SO EASY

#### ACROSS

- Pleasant smell produced by student fund-raising event in Gaul (9)
- Moorland height spelling the reverse of decay (3)
- In two directions there are hostellers (4)
- Going over the road, mixing gin (8)
- He may be one of the top manufacturers (8)
- A scheme devised for a bit of land (4)
- Devils show the way of working in thieves' kitchens (6)
- All at once nudes are shown playing around beginning of December (6)
- Instruction not to put something on on time (4)
- One sticking to ethical rules of the viva voce in obscurity (8)
- Extent it is dealt with when finished in prison (8)
- Will come to life at the funeral party (4)
- Knightly address shared by schoolmaster (3)
- Those who keep throwing in their bouts (9)

#### DOWN

- Was playful in an amorous way (7)
- Any inclusion of negative will rattle one (5)
- Tended to make us rend it anyhow (6)
- Irish seer turns to it (4)
- Turned tiller to starboard finally as one sang (7)
- Offside but, when considered separately, correct (5)
- Is knowing one is able to go to New York (5)
- Picture doesn't get hung, it already being on the wall (5)
- Fur of vermin one made up (7)
- Idly talks about art and gets sent about it (7)
- A fastener got up for broken leg (6)
- As one puts into port, stops it from one's wages (5)
- Angry with one, scold the rest (5)
- What can a farmer do but get bigger? (4)

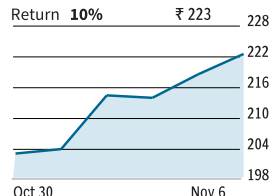
### SOLUTION: BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 2306

- ACROSS 1. Seldom 4. Specks 9. Resolve 10. Extra 11. Nail 12. Fuss 13. Rod 15. Goth 16. Coop 19. Lot 21. Bolt 22. Iris 24. Napoo 25. Vertigo 26. Expend 27. Weighs  
DOWN 1. Spring-balance 2. Lasting 3. Oils 5. Peep-show 6. Cater 7. Snap decisions 8. Demur 14. Stubborn 17. Parting 18. Glove 20. Top up 23. Free



QUICKLY.

Parag Milk Foods surges on BCG partnership



**Mumbai:** Shares of Parag Milk Foods jumped 5 per cent to ₹230.50 on the BSE on Monday after partnership with Boston Consulting Group. The tie-up was aimed at cost-effective practices across the organisation. The stock, however, closed at ₹223.75, up 1.94 per cent. OUR BUREAU

Bharat Forge shares up 4.4% post Q2 earnings

**New Delhi:** Shares of auto components major Bharat Forge Ltd on Monday climbed nearly 5 per cent after the company reported a 51.78 per cent jump in consolidated net profit in the second quarter ended September 30. The stock jumped 4.40 per cent to settle at ₹1,075.95 on the BSE. 711

US stocks inch higher at open on rate-cut hopes



Wall Street's main indices edged higher at open on hopes that the US Fed was done with its monetary tightening, while investors geared up for commentary by a slew of policymakers later in the week. The Dow rose 31.29 points at the open to 34,092.61. The S&P 500 opened higher by 5.93 points at 4,364.27 and the Nasdaq 35.80 points at 13,514.08. REUTERS

# Market surges 1% on positive global cues

**FEEL-GOOD FACTORS.** Softening US yield, decent Q2 earnings, hopes of Diwali-led demand boost sentiment

**Ashley Coutinho**  
Mumbai

Domestic equities rose for the third straight session on Monday amid positive global cues aided by a recovery in global bond markets and hopes that interest rates were near their peak. The Sensex surged 594 points or 0.92 per cent at 64,958 on Monday, while the Nifty settled at 19,411, up 0.94 per cent.

Nifty has gained 3 per cent from its bottom made near the 18840 zones last week on the back of positive global cues and healthy quarterly results.

**NOTABLE GAINERS**  
Divis Labs was the top Nifty50 stock, with gains of 4.7 per cent. Other top gainers include Hero Motocorp (2.5 per cent), Eicher Motors

(2.4 per cent), L&T (2.2 per cent) and Axis Bank (2.1 per cent). The majority of the sectors ended in green on Monday, with Oil & Gas, Realty, Metals and Pharma the among top gainers. Cement stocks saw some action after companies reported strong Q2 earnings.

Global ratings agency Fitch raised India's medium-term potential GDP growth estimates by 70 basis points from 5.5 per cent to 6.2 per cent.

"Optimism continued as soft US payroll data and expectations of moderation in monetary tightening by the Fed supported sentiment. Since most of the headwinds are global in nature, investor sentiment has shifted to domestic-oriented businesses, where festive demand is healthy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.



**MARKET MOORINGS.** The BSE Sensex surged 594 points or 0.92 per cent at 64,958 on Monday on the back of positive global cues and healthy quarterly results

The Federal Reserve's rating-setting group agreed to hold key federal funds rate in a target range between 5.25-5.5 per cent last week. 10-year US treasury yields eased to 4.6 per cent, after climbing to 16-year highs recently.

broader market with niche segments in stronger momentum," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

**POSITIVE OUTLOOK**  
According to Nair, the spread of earnings in Q2 has been decent and brings more attention to capital goods, financials, and auto stocks. He

expects the momentum to continue in the second half of the fiscal, with tailwinds on margins likely to moderate due to the recent uptick in commodity prices.

Asian shares advanced Monday, led by South Korea's Kospi which gained 5.7 per cent after the country re-imposed a ban on short selling. European stocks were struggling for direction on Monday morning as investors chose to keep their powder dry following some strong gains last week.

"The immediate resistance of 18250 has been taken out sharply on the upside on Monday and the market is now advancing towards the next overhead resistance of around 19550-19600 levels in the short term. Immediate support is placed at 19320 levels," said Nagaraj Shetti, Technical Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

## Zerodha users hit by glitch; resolved, says brokerage

**Our Bureau**  
Bangalore

Brokerage platform Zerodha on Monday said that it has resolved the technical issue relating to orderbook, positions, holdings and funds page on its trading platform after many users reported the glitch.

Earlier in the day, Zerodha faced a technical glitch related to order placement, with aggrieved users taking to X and complaining of being unable to see executed orders on the brokers' trading platform.

The Bengaluru-based platform informed its clients that the issue has been resolved, adding that as a "precautionary measure", affected clients can only exit positions.

Trading activity remains unaffected for the rest of users, Zerodha said. "Due to a technical issue,

some of our users faced issues viewing the orderbook, positions, holdings and funds page.

This issue is now resolved. As a precautionary measure, affected clients can only exit positions. Trading activity remains unaffected for the rest of our users," added the company.

**ORDER PLACEMENT**  
Zerodha users faced a technical glitch related to order placement, not being able to see executed orders, among other problems, on the trading platform Kite.

"Due to an intermittent issue, some of our users are unable to see executed orders in the orderbook," Zerodha had said in its statement.

However, the executed orders are updated on the positions page. The holdings and funds page is also not loading, the firm added.

# Zomato m-cap tops ₹1-lakh crore as stock hits 52-week high

**KS Badri Narayanan**  
Chennai

Shares of Zomato Ltd hit a year-high on Monday after the online food delivery platform came out with strong Q2 results that beat Street's expectations. Most analysts while reiterating their stance, hiked the target price too, as the company performed well on most metrics and outlook remains robust.

Besides, buying by foreign portfolio investors also turned the sentiment positive for the caterer, said analysts.

After hitting a high of ₹123.90, the Zomato stock closed at ₹123.30, up 5.93 per cent over the previous

day's close on the BSE. The stock more than doubled year-to-date. At the start of the year, Zomato shares were ruling at ₹60. The stock closed with a market capitalisation of ₹1.06-lakh crore.

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities, said: "Zomato's remarkable 6 per cent gain and its achievement of a market capitalisation exceeding ₹1-lakh crore are standout moments." The company hit the capital market in 2021 at an issue price of ₹76. After hitting an all-time high of ₹158 in December 2021, the stock has been on a downward hill to hit an all-time low of in July 2022.

Emkay Global Reserach

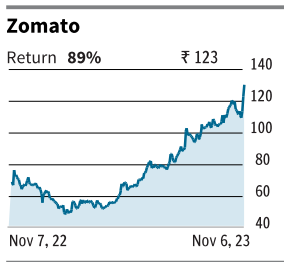
said Zomato has delivered yet another impressive performance, with strong growth across segments. "Food Delivery growth was solid for the second consecutive quarter, aided by demand uptick, strong execution, and growing adoption of the Gold program, which led to higher order volumes," it said, while reiterating its Buy recommendation with a higher price target of ₹140.

Zomato on Friday reported a consolidated profit after tax of ₹36 crore for the second quarter ended September 2023 as against a loss of ₹251 crore reported during the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Revenues improved to ₹2,848 crore

Strong appetite

	Call	Target (₹)
Emkay Global	Buy	140 (120)
Motilal Oswal	Buy	135 (110)
JM Financial	Buy	155 (115)
Elara Securities	Buy	150 (140)
CLSA	Buy	168 (120)
Jefferies	Buy	165 (130)
HSBC	Buy	140 (120)
Citi	Buy	145 (115)
Morgan Stanley Ow*	125 (115)	
JP Morgan	Ow*	150 (100)

Note: Figures in parenthesis denote previous target prices. \*Ow: Overweight



Motilal Oswal Financial. Zomato should deliver a revenue CAGR of 32/116 per cent in food delivery/quick commerce verticals over FY23-25, helping it grow its consolidated adj. revenue by 53 per cent, over the same period.

**BLINKIT DELIVERS**  
Zomato's sequential gross order value (GOV) expan-

sion in food delivery as well as Blinkit businesses in Q2-FY24 surprised JM Financial positively.

"Another positive surprise was the near-doubling of the company's Gold membership program from 2 million to 3.8 million, in a matter of just one quarter, amidst muted growth trends in the underlying industry and intensified competitive intensity," it added.

Zomato also reported FCF (free cash flow) for the first time. FCF in H1-FY24 was at ₹221 crore, led by better profitability. "We believe Zomato's clout in the food business (duopoly nature) and scalability prospects in Blinkit may drive share price performance," said Elara Securities.

The stock turned institutional investors favourite during the previous quarter.

**FPIS, MFS HIKE STAKE**  
Foreign portfolio investors, mutual funds, insurance and alternate investment funds increased their holding in Zomato. FPIS stake increased to 38.33 per cent from 34.03 per cent in June quarter.

MFS holding stood at 10.75 per cent (8.48 per cent), AIFs (0.93 per cent (0.75 per cent) and insurance companies 1.55 per cent (0.85 per cent).

However, retail investors stake reduced marginally to 5.80 per cent from 5.87 per cent and high net worth individuals to 1.45 per cent (1.53 per cent).

## Cello World gains 22% on first day of trading



**MAKING A MARK.** Gaurav Rathod, Director, Cello Group, at a listing ceremony on the NSE on Monday. The stock closed at ₹791.70 against the IPO price of ₹648

**Our Bureau**  
Chennai

Shares of Cello World on Monday made a strong listing at the bourses by gaining 28 per cent. As against the issue price of ₹648, shares of the company closed at ₹791.90 on the BSE and at ₹791.70 on the NSE, making a gain of 22.20 per cent over the issue price.

Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth, Swastika Investment Ltd, said that despite the premium valuation, the IPO received a positive response from investors.

"This is likely due to the company's strong brand recognition, diversified product portfolio, and pan-India presence," she added.

The company came out with an IPO for ₹1,900 crore that saw a strong response from all category of investors, especially QIBs, as the offer was subscribed 38.90 times.

As the entire issue was an offer-for-sale, the funds raised will not go to the company.

As a part of IPO, the company had garnered ₹567 crore from anchor investors.

## Pharma firm Accent Microcell plans SME IPO

**Our Bureau**  
Chennai

Ahmedabad-based pharma company Accent Microcell on Monday filed draft red herring prospectus with NSE Emerge for an initial public offering.

The issue size is an entire fresh issue of 56 lakh shares of face value of ₹10 each.

Proceeds from the issue will be used to invest in setting up a new plant at Navagam Kheda in Gujarat. The company plans to invest ₹48.39 crore in the current financial year and ₹6 crore in FY2025 towards the establishment of Unit-III. It already operates two plants with a total installed capacity of 8,000 tonnes per annum.

Accent Microcell manufactures Microcrystalline Cellulose, which is widely used as a texturiser, anticaking agent, binder, lubricant, bulking agent, and diluent with an extensive range of applications in pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, food, cosmetic and other industries.

## BROKER'S CALL.

### BNP Paribas

**TATA MOTORS (BUY)**  
Target: ₹785  
CMP: ₹645.95

Tata Motor's EBITDA margin expansion continued to beat consensus. Strong margin beat in the domestic businesses, JLR's margin guidance upgrade and confident commentary on margin strength in PV, EV and CV businesses give us confidence about our above-consensus margin outlook.

While JLR's order book is normalising, variable marketing expenses (VME) remain much below historical levels, suggesting that the demand environment is still healthy. JLR revenue (GBP6.86b; +30 per cent y-o-y) was slightly below our GBP6.95b estimate. EBITDA margin (14.9 per cent, -138bp q-o-q) was below BNP estimates (16.9 per cent) on higher material costs and reversal of inventories benefits. Global CV revenue grew by 22 per cent y-o-y. EBITDA margin of 11.5 per cent (+82bp q-o-q) beat BNPPE. confident of maintaining double-digit margin on regaining SCV market share.

Tata Motors is confident of gaining market share in H2-FY24 due to the recent new launches (PVs and EVs) and a refocus on SCVs (CV). New launches: Curvv (2024) and Sierra (2025). Avinya would be based on JLR's EMA platform. We see solid margin execution driving consensus earnings estimate upgrades.

### LKP Securities

**CANARA BANK (BUY)**  
Target: ₹506  
CMP: ₹384.25

The Canara Bank has been reporting consistent growth in net profit since previous thirteen quarters. In Q2-FY24, the profitability increased by 42 per cent YoY and 2 per cent sequentially on the back of lower provisioning expenses. A bulky provision (₹5,400 crore) made in Q4-FY20 (three years ago), continued to safeguard the balance sheet from delinquencies.

On asset quality front, the GNPA/NNPA ratio (4.76/1.41 per cent) improved by 39bps and 16bps respectively on the back of stable slippages of ₹2,900 crore. The slippages ratio (calculated) marginally down at 137bps annualised v/s 163bps in the previous quarter. The cumulative SMA1/2 book also stable at 11bps/48bps of loan book. On the business front, the bank has reported healthy net credit growth of 13.2 per cent YoY and 4.3 per cent sequentially.

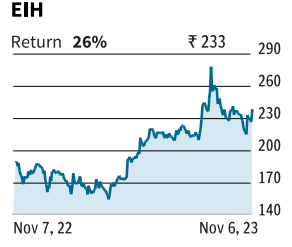
The bank's recoveries are in line with the guidance and expect the credit cost to be below 2 per cent for FY24. Furthermore, the NIMs flat sequentially to 3.02 per cent. We believe the bank is growing the balance sheet with well-adjusted margins and it is expected to bode well in near term. We believe the bank has recovered well and expected to witness gradual improvement in profitability with FY25E ROA/ROE of 1.1/17.2 per cent.

businessline is not responsible for the recommendations sourced from third party brokerages. Reports may be sent to: [blmarketwatch@gmail.com](mailto:blmarketwatch@gmail.com)

## TODAY'S PICK.

### EIH (₹233.8): BUY

**Gurumurthy K**  
bl, research bureau



Traders with a short-term perspective can buy the stock of EIH at current levels. The outlook is bullish. The 5 per cent rise on Monday indicates the beginning of a new leg of rally in the stock. Immediate support is at ₹228. Below that the region between ₹225 and ₹220 is a strong support from where the stock has risen well on Monday. Cluster of moving averages are poised in this region.

EIH share price can rise to ₹275 over the next three-four weeks. Short-term traders can go long now. Accumulate on dips at ₹229 and at ₹226. Keep

the stop-loss at ₹218. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹238 when the price touches ₹243. Revise the stop-loss further up to ₹248 when EIH share price moves up to ₹253. Exit the long positions at ₹260.

Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis. There is risk of loss in trading.

## Day trading guide

19484 » Nifty 50 Futures

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
19450	19380	19530	19580	Go long on dips at 19460. Stop-loss can be kept at 19420

₹1494 » HDFC Bank

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
1480	1460	1515	1530	Go long now and at 1485. Keep the stop-loss at 1475

₹1404 » Infosys

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
1385	1360	1420	1440	Wait for dips. Go long at 1390 with a stop-loss at 1375

₹435 » ITC

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
432	428	437	441	Go long only above 437. Stop-loss can be kept at 436

₹193 » ONGC

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
191	188	196	199	Go long now and at 192. Stop-loss can be placed at 190

₹2339 » Reliance Ind.

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
2320	2300	2350	2385	Go long only above 2350. Keep the stop-loss at 2340

₹574 » SBI

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
572	568	576	579	Go short only below 572. Stop-loss can be placed at 574

₹3385 » TCS

S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT
3365	3345	3395	3415	Go long on a break above 3395. Keep the stop-loss at 3380

S1, S2: Support 1 & 2; R1, R2: Resistance 1 & 2.

## Nifty 50 Movers

Close(₹)	Pts	PE	W%N	
ICI Bank	945.45	18.60	15.85	7.78
HDFC Bank	1494.50	18.39	20.57	13.17
L&T	2975.45	17.69	28.93	4.22
Reliance Ind	2339.00	14.88	20.48	3.29
Axis Bank	1009.40	12.99	23.52	3.29
Infosys	1403.30	11.59	23.41	5.88
Bajaj Finance	7562.05	9.15	34.93	2.37
TCS	3380.25	6.85	27.60	4.07
Asian Paints	3029.30	5.29	56.28	1.60
Bharti Airtel	939.20	4.86	50.36	2.78
Divis Lab	3506.70	4.53	63.01	0.52
ITC	435.35	4.24	26.51	4.53
PowerGrid Corp	208.20	3.95	12.73	1.11
M&M	1488.30	3.94	14.58	1.56
Tata Steel	119.40	3.86	0.00	1.13
Bajaj Finserv	1564.40	3.49	17.70	1.00
UltraTech Cement	8640.95	3.12	43.74	1.17
Indusind Bank	1470.25	2.98	13.71	1.13
ONGC	193.30	2.93	5.85	0.89
Eicher Motors	3510.95	2.59	29.83	0.56
Coal India	316.55	2.37	7.16	0.85
NestleIndia	24289.55	2.36	78.82	1.02
Kotak Bank	1740.20	2.33	20.14	3.01
Hero Motocorp	3166.90	2.30	19.54	0.48
Brimania Ind	4623.00	2.29	43.99	0.64
Hindalco	481.95	2.25	12.84	0.84
Sun Pharma	1150.00	2.19	32.26	1.46
Dr Reddys Lab	5338.10	2.08	17.49	0.76
Grasim Ind	1918.70	1.89	11.59	0.83
JSW Steel	754.00	1.88	19.58	0.82
NTPC	235.85	1.62	11.81	1.32
Adani Ports	802.50	1.29	27.37	0.75
Tech Mahindra	1142.15	1.29	30.79	0.84
Adani Enter	2246.00	1.22	101.17	0.87
BPL	366.25	1.03	2.89	0.41
Bajaj Auto	548.85	0.98	22.36	0.72
HCL Tech	1289.70	0.83	22.37	1.58
TataConsumerProduct	918.65	0.68	62.96	0.65
UPL	554.70	0.50	18.51	0.33
Wipro	384.65	0.35	17.15	0.64
LTMIndtree Ltd.	5149.65	0.31	34.40	0.55
Apollo Hosp	700.35	0.27	106.90	0.61
Maurti Suzuki	10284.85	0.26	27.37	1.61
SBI Life	1331.85	0.26	72.37	0.70
HDFC Life	621.80	-0.07	90.77	0.78
Cipl				



QUICKLY.

Just 4% of top firms meet UN climate guidelines



London: Net Zero Tracker, a data consortium including Oxford University said, Just 4 per cent of Forbes 2000 companies meet the criteria of UN's 'Race to Zero' campaign by 1) covering all emissions, 2) starting to cut them immediately, and 3) including an annual progress update on interim and longer term targets. The pace of change among governments and corporates is set to form a central part of the COP28 climate talks in Dubai in late November. REUTERS

Emirates to convert jets to transport cargo

Emirates which aims to double freight capacity, says some of its more than 100 Boeing 777 passenger planes could be converted for cargo. Adding that the company can get almost another 10 years of service after the switch. FedEx, followed by Emirates and Qatar Airways are the top three cargo carriers by International capacity. BLOOMBERG

# American Tower takes \$322-m impairment charge for India unit

**DISTRESS SIGNAL.** Troubles for India business largely due of non-payment of vendor dues by Voda-Idea

Our Bureau  
Mumbai

American Tower Corp (ATC) has informed the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that it has taken a \$322-million (about ₹2,677 crore) goodwill impairment charge for its India unit in the quarter ended September 2023, amid continuing business challenges in the country.

A goodwill impairment charge refers to assets whose value drops or is lost completely, rendering them completely worthless.

**FAIR VALUE**  
Since the fair value of ATC's India unit has dropped below its carrying amount in the September quarter, the Boston-based telecom tower company said in a recent global SEC filing, "The company performed an interim quantitative goodwill impairment test as of September 30, 2023, using information



**WEIGHING HEAVY.** In February 2023, Vi had allotted OGDs worth ₹1,600 crore to ATC Telecom against its dues (ISTOCKPHOTO)

obtained from third parties to compare the fair value of the India reporting unit to its carrying amount of the company's India reporting unit exceeded its estimated fair value... As a result, the company recorded a goodwill impairment charge of \$322 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023," ATC said in its US Security Exchange filing, dated October 26.

The troubles for ATC's India operations are largely

a result of non-payment of vendor dues by Vodafone Idea, which continues to struggle to raise funds to pay off dues to its network partners, including Indus Towers and Nokia.

**OGD ALLOCATIONS**

Back in February 2023, loss-making Vi had allotted OGDs worth ₹1,600 crore to ATC Telecom Infrastructure against its dues.

Vi is estimated to owe ATC around ₹2,000 crore. Earlier in August, Vodafone

Idea announced the extension of the redemption period of its optionally convertible debentures (OCD), allotted to ATC, by one year.

**SEC FILING**

ATC said in the SEC filing that the company had concluded that "a triggering event occurred as of September 30, 2023," with respect to its India reporting unit primarily due to indications of value received from third parties in connection with ATC's review of various strategic alternatives for its India operations, including the potential sale of equity interests in its India operations.

**OTHER DISCLOSURES**

Among other India-related disclosures in its latest SEC filing, ATC said the carrying value of its tenant-related intangibles in India was \$0.4 billion as of September 30, 2023, which represented 3 per cent of its consolidated balance of \$12.2 billion.

# With unclear monetisable use cases, funds dry up for 5G start-ups

A yushi Kar  
Mumbai



Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio are expected to invest upwards of \$30 billion to deepen the 5G network infrastructure (REUTERS)

Even as Indian telcos complete the nationwide rollout of 5G network, investments for 5G start-ups has shrunk dramatically to \$134.1 million in 2023 compared to \$639 million last year. This is according to data shared by Bengaluru-based start-up data platform Tracxn.

Indian telcos Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio are expected to invest upwards of \$30 billion to deepen the 5G network infrastructure. However, unlike the 4G wave, this has not attracted a wave of investments into the Indian start-up ecosystem exploring a myriad of use cases for 5G.

Indian start-ups for 5G are working with a smaller kitty of funds. Tracxn provided fundraising data for 5G-related start-ups in the domain of IoT, edge computing, gaming and enterprise applications, which will fundraise \$134.1 million in 2023, a number which has in fact shrunk from the last year at around \$639 million.

**VC FIRMS WARY**

As monetisable use cases for 5G continue to remain unex-

ploration here. One major reason why we have less innovation in this sector is that 5G connectivity is still restricted or focused in the metros only. Tier 2/3 towns will take another five or six years to see 5G connectivity in those cities as users don't see any need plus for service providers there is hardly any incentive."

**EXPERT'S TAKE**

The funding problem for telecom related start-ups is largely restricted to 5G-based start-ups. Tracxn also shared that funding for Indian start-ups in the telecom hardware space increased from \$690 million in 2022 to \$2.4 billion in 2023. However, converse trends were seen for use cases. Faisal Kawoosa, Chief Analyst and Tech Arc, added that it is not just the amount of funds needed to develop use cases that has caused VC firms to balk at providing funding; but the quality of the 5G network itself.

"Even though telcos claim that they have nearly completed nationwide rollout of 5G network, the network continues to be patchy and cannot be used. Thus most private investors will not trust 5G tech to really take off in the near term," he added.

# 'This year will be one of recovery and turnaround for Piramal Pharma'

PT Jyothi Datta  
Mumbai



Nandini Piramal, Chairperson, Piramal Pharma

As the contract development and manufacturing (CDM) space becomes more crowded and competitive, Piramal Pharma Chairperson Nandini Piramal believes sustainability, besides quality manufacturing and compliance, will be the differentiator.

"It (CDM space) was always competitive; ultimately, focus on quality matters," says Piramal, adding that in the last six months, five of their sites had undergone USFDA (United States Food and Drug Administration) inspections.

"Big clients care about sustainability. It used to be...safety and compliance. But now they ask what are you doing for reduction in carbon emission..." Piramal told *businessline*, adding that the company has signed up to achieving science-based targets on this front.

It's been a virtual bap-

seeing the current year as one of recovery," she said, as the company works on reducing its debt and supporting production with hiring.

Illustrating that the global business mood had changed, she said, business travel really started around late 2022 because of Covid-19.

Pointing out that audits gave quality-caring business customers greater confidence, she said, "we had 160 customer audits last year, and 40 regulator audits — so we had 200 audits across 17 sites."

And yet, it's not the "boom time" of the past, she says.

On the recent re-calibration of the business, she explained, "Innovation was happening in emerging biotech, rather than big pharma," and the CDM focus was on patented products and bio-pharma. Over the last two years, funding for bio-pharma had gone down, cash with people was less and companies with good products

were funded or bought-out, she explained. As a result, some of their clients were bought out, which resulted in the rebalance of their business between bio pharma and big pharma.

**FOCUS AREAS**

Dismissing talks of interest in fellow-drugmaker Cipla, where promoters were reportedly looking to sell their stake, Piramal said, the focus in the year ahead would be on bringing down debt, growing organically and operational improvement.

Net debt as on September 30, 2023 stood at ₹3,823 crore. The company's recent quarterly performance was balanced across its three business segments — CDM, complex hospital generics, and consumer healthcare.

Piramal Pharma had posted an 11 per cent growth in its revenue from operation at ₹1,911 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2023. It posted a ₹5-crore profit after tax in the quarter.

# Emami Q2 net dips a tad as rural demand slows

Mithun Das Gupta  
Kolkata

Q2 performance			
(₹ crore)	Q2 FY24	Q2 FY23	% change
Revenue from operations	864.9	813.8	6.28
Profit after tax	180.0	180.1	-0.08

Source: Company

FMCG major Emami on Monday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹179.99 crore for the second quarter this fiscal, registering a decline of 0.07 per cent year-on-year.

The company's net profit for the second quarter last fiscal stood at ₹180.13 crore.

Revenue from operations of the company rose 6.28 per cent y-o-y to ₹864.47 crore for the period under review from ₹813.75 crore for the same period last fiscal, the company said in a stock exchange filing.

**CHALLENGES**

The company, in a release, said it demonstrated "remarkable resilience" in the second quarter and half-year ended on September 30, 2023, overcoming challenges such as poor monsoons, food inflation, and subdued demand in rural markets.

"The domestic business witnessed a commendable 4 per cent growth with a volume growth of 2 per cent, driven by channels catering to urban markets such as Modern Trade and E-commerce. The International business also expanded by an impressive 12 per cent during the quarter, delivering a

constant currency growth of 16 per cent, primarily attributed to robust performances in the SAARC and MENAP regions," it said.

In the first half of FY24, the company achieved a 7 per cent growth in revenues and expanded gross margins by 290 basis points, which led to a 15 per cent surge in Ebitda, with margins reaching 25.1 per cent. Ebitda margin expanding by 180 basis points during the period.

Harsha V Agarwal, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Emami Ltd, said, "In this dynamic and challenging environment, our results exemplify our dedication to growth and innovation, marked by a good increase in both volumes and revenues. Strong performance by both Modern Trade and e-commerce has led to a decent revenue growth of 6 per cent and an impressive constant currency growth of 16 per cent in our international business during this quarter."

# 'Indian OTT audience base at 48.11 crore'

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani  
New Delhi



Indian OTT audience universe is now pegged at 48.11 crore representing 34 per cent penetration in the market, as per a report released by media consulting firm Ormax Media.

The report also indicated that the growth of the OTT audience base is past the peak it witnessed in 2020-2022.

Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru are the top three cities in terms of paid subscriptions, with more than six Million active paid subscriptions each, it added.

The report defines an OTT audience as someone who has watched at least one online video (free or paid) in the last one month.

Keerat Grewal, Head of Business Development (Streaming, TV & Brands), Ormax Media, said: "The latest edition of our annual report reveals that after the upsurge in the Indian OTT market during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, the growth has settled down at more moderate levels. The Indian OTT audience base grew 20 per cent from 2021 to 2022, but has grown only 13.5 per cent over the last one year, highlighting that

The report also revealed that there are currently 10.18 crore active paid (B2C) OTT subscriptions in India

the category is now past the peak growth phase it witnessed in the two preceding years."

The report also revealed that there are currently 101.8 Million active paid (B2C) OTT subscriptions in India, across 36.4 Million SVOD (B2C) audiences.

This indicates an average of 2.8 subscriptions per paying audience member.

B2C subscriptions refer to subscribers who have taken a membership directly with the OTT platform, in contrast with B2B subscriptions, which are via telecom packs offered by various operators.

Gujarat State Petronet Limited						
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Regd Office : GSPC Bhavan, Sector-11, Gandhinagar-382 010 Tel: +91-79-66701001 Fax: +91-79-23236477						
Website: www.gujpetronet.com Email: investors.gspc@gspc.in						
EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023						
(Rs. in Lakhs)						
Sr. No	Particulars	Standalone Results			Consolidated Results	
		Quarter ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	Half Year ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	Half Year ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)
1	Total Income from Operations(net)	79,562.80	1,25,483.80	53,838.10	4,45,593.62	8,74,680.64
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	62,784.75	93,447.46	38,767.90	77,922.79	1,37,491.60
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items and Share of profit/(loss) of joint venture and associates accounted for using the equity method (net of tax))	62,784.75	93,447.46	38,767.90	78,914.28	1,37,477.42
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax and Exceptional items	53,202.07	76,131.39	31,421.51	59,040.12	1,02,442.64
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	53,132.58	76,008.64	31,256.25	59,159.00	1,02,582.09
6	Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 10/- each)	56,421.14	56,421.14	56,421.14	56,421.14	56,421.14
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in Balance Sheet)	-	-	-	-	-
8	Earnings per share (EPS) for the Period					
	a) Basic EPS (Rs.)	9.43	13.49	5.57	8.06	14.00
	b) Diluted EPS (Rs.) (face value of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised for the quarter and half year)	9.43	13.49	5.57	8.06	14.00

Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly 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 Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and Company's website (www.gujpetronet.com) 2. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in its meeting held on 06th November, 2023. 3. The above results are in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with the relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India. Accordingly, previous period's figures have been reclassified/regrouped/restated, wherever necessary.

For and on behalf of Gujarat State Petronet Limited  
Milind Torawane, IAS  
Joint Managing Director

Place: Gandhinagar  
Date: 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

K.P.R. MILL LIMITED							
CIN : L17111TZ2003PLC010518							
Registered Office : No.9 Gokul Building, I Floor, A.K.S.Nagar, Thadagam Road, Coimbatore - 641 001.							
Email : corporate@kprmill.com Web : www.kprmilllimited.com Phone : 0422-2207777 Fax : 0422-2207778							
STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER / HALF YEAR ENDED 30 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023							
(₹ in Lakhs)							
Sl.No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Half Year Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	
1	<b>Total Income from operations</b>	<b>1,53,304</b>	<b>1,61,599</b>	<b>1,24,051</b>	<b>3,14,903</b>	<b>2,84,548</b>	<b>6,24,820</b>
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	25,602	27,045	26,726	52,647	59,009	1,08,416
3	Net Profit for the period before tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	25,602	27,045	26,726	52,647	59,009	1,08,416
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	20,184	20,284	20,329	40,468	42,998	81,410
5	<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]</b>	<b>20,184</b>	<b>20,284</b>	<b>20,329</b>	<b>40,468</b>	<b>42,998</b>	<b>81,410</b>
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of ₹1 each)	3,418	3,418	3,418	3,418	3,418	3,418
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance sheet of the previous year.						3,67,251
8	Earnings Per Share ( of ₹ 1/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) Basic and Diluted Earnings per share (in ₹) (Not annualised for quarters)	<b>5.90</b>	<b>5.93</b>	<b>5.95</b>	<b>11.84</b>	<b>12.57</b>	<b>23.81</b>

Note :  
1) Standalone Results (₹ in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Half Year Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	
1	<b>(a) Revenue from operations</b>	<b>98,202</b>	<b>1,03,663</b>	<b>1,11,066</b>	<b>2,01,865</b>	<b>2,42,367</b>	<b>4,73,955</b>
	(b) Other income	6,399	3,174	2,512	9,573	6,818	13,012
	<b>Total Income from operations</b>	<b>1,04,601</b>	<b>1,06,837</b>	<b>1,13,578</b>	<b>2,11,438</b>	<b>2,49,185</b>	<b>4,86,967</b>
2	Profit before tax	<b>19,279</b>	<b>13,242</b>	<b>26,127</b>	<b>32,521</b>	<b>56,217</b>	<b>82,475</b>
3	Total comprehensive income (After tax)	<b>15,643</b>	<b>10,102</b>	<b>20,310</b>	<b>25,745</b>	<b>42,715</b>	<b>63,504</b>

2) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. BSE: http://www.bseindia.com, NSE: http://www.nseindia.com, Company's website: https://kprmilllimited.com/file/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/3RDBMOUTCOME.pdf

3) The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee on 06.11.2023 and taken on record and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 06.11.2023. The above results have been subjected to Limited review by the statutory auditors of the Company. The report of statutory auditors is unqualified.

For K.P.R.MILL LIMITED  
P.Nataraj  
Managing Director  
DIN : 00229137

Coimbatore  
06.11.2023



## QUICKLY.

**Coromandel International arm funds XMachines**

**Hyderabad:** XMachines, an agricultural robotics start-up, has secured seed funding from Dare Ventures, the venture capital arm of Coromandel International. The start-up has not disclosed the size of the funds that they raised in the seed round. The start-up develops AI-based robots to solve some of the problems faced by farmers. **OUR BUREAU**

**Copper hits one-month high ahead of China data**

**London:** Copper prices climbed on Monday to one-month highs as a softer dollar and China committing to boost its imports spurred fund buying ahead of key Chinese economic data. Benchmark copper on the LME was up 0.8 per cent at \$8,243 a tonne at 1057 GMT, having touched its highest since October 2 at \$8,260. **REUTERS**

**Soybean futures rise on Brazilian weather**

**Hamburg:** Chicago soybean futures hit their highest level in some eight weeks on Monday as adverse weather threatened crops in Brazil and expected demand for US supplies also underpinned. Additional support came from a weaker dollar which makes US supplies cheaper in world markets. Chicago Board of Trade most-active soybeans rose 1 per cent to \$13.65-1/2 a bushel. **REUTERS**

# Global cotton output may drop 4.7%

**ALTERNATIVE CHOICES.** May not affect textiles industry that is shifting to synthetic, blended fibres**Subramani Ra Mancombu**  
Chennai

Global cotton production will likely be 5 million bales (217.7 kg) lower this season (October 2023-September 2024) as the output in China, the US, Australia and India has been affected.

Though cotton prices are likely to decline in the current quarter, they are projected to increase in 2024, at least from the second quarter, industry experts and analysts have said.

However, the lower cotton production is unlikely to affect the textiles industry as it is moving towards alternatives such as synthetic and blended fibres. "We expect global (cotton) output to reach 112.1 million bales in the 2023-24 season, down from an estimated production of 117.6 million bales in the 2022-23 season, representing a year-on-year decline of 4.7 per cent. Our view of a downturn in the global production outlook is driven by an expected 12.1 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) decline in Mainland China and the US, where a sharp decline in the planting area and adverse weather conditions have

**HEADED FOR RECOVERY.** Though cotton prices are likely to decline in the current quarter, they are projected to increase in 2024, at least from the second quarter, experts said **REUTERS**

weighed on production estimates," said research agency BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions.

**BRAZIL TO OFFSET**

Additionally, it estimated a 12.1 per cent slide in Australian output and a 1.9 per cent contraction in Indian production this season. But Brazilian output will partially offset declines elsewhere, with our forecasts indicating a 21.6 per cent y-o-y increase.

"The global market will face a supply shortage this year. But demand is slack as the US, Europe and other developed nations are going through financial

problems. People there are not spending much on clothing," said Rajkot-based cotton, yarn and cotton waste trader Anand Popat. "Production in India is lower at 295 lakh bales (170 kg each). But carryover stocks of 25-30 lakh bales last season should help overcome any shortage. Cotton consumption is also slack as mills are shifting to polyester blends," said Ramanuj Das Boob, a sourcing agent for multinationals based in Raichur, Karnataka.

"The textiles industry is clearly moving towards synthetic and blended fibres, both

at home and abroad. This move is picking up speed with higher prices of cotton and artificial fibres such as man-made fibres and cellulosic fibres taking up more space in the market," said Prabhu Dhamodharan, Convenor, Indian Textpreneurs Federation (ITF).

**TECH ADVANCEMENT**

The "accelerated shift" will keep a check on cotton prices. "The recent advancement in technology is making synthetic fibres more functional, which makes them strong competitors to cotton," he said. Despite the lower production, BMI has lowered its average price forecast for 2023 to 84 US cents a pound from 86.5 cents, which is marginally above the year-to-date average of 83.8 cents. "Looking ahead to 2024, we maintain our average annual price forecast at 88 cents, representing a year-on-year increase of 4.1 per cent (mainly due to short supplies)," the research agency said.

Adding further support to global prices, it expects global consumption to reach 116.4 million bales in 2023-24, representing a y-o-y growth of 5 per cent and, crucially, leading

to a global production balance deficit.

**CURRENT PRICES**

Currently, cotton prices on InterContinental Exchange, New York, are quoted at 81.74 cents (₹53,800 a candy of 356 kg) for delivery in March 2024 — the lowest in over three months. In India, benchmark Shankar-6 cotton is quoted at ₹57,050 a candy in Rajkot.

"Kapas (unprocessed cotton) prices in the domestic market are quoted at ₹7,200-300 a quintal, while cottonseed prices are ruling at ₹3,200-300 a quintal," said Das Boob. If seed prices drop further, then the Centre could consider minimum support price (MSP) purchases.

The MSP for cotton this year has been fixed at ₹6,620 for medium staple variety. Arrivals are likely to pick up after Diwali and will be steady for two months after that. "We expect cotton prices to rule around ₹57,000-59,000 a candy, though heavy arrivals and slack demand could put pressure on the rates," the Raichur-based sourcing agent.

Though the crop is lower, the quality of arrivals is excellent, Das Boob said.

## Fresh low-pressure area around Lakshadweep in next 2 days, says IMD

**Vinson Kurian**  
Thiruvananthapuram

A fresh low-pressure area alert has been declared over the South-East and adjoining East-Central Arabian Sea (around Lakshadweep Islands) over the next two days, with a preparatory cyclonic circulation moving across South Tamil Nadu and Kerala and undergoing intensification as it tracks further along a familiar West-North-West route.

On Monday, a rain-driving trough ran down in anticipation from South-East Arabian Sea and adjoining Lakshadweep area to West-Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Andhra Pradesh coast, bringing parts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and adjoining Andhra Pradesh under its influence, IMD said in an evening update.

**WIDESPREAD RAIN**

The twin systems will bring light to moderate to fairly widespread over the South Peninsula during the next 4-5 days, the IMD said in a short-term outlook. Isolated heavy rainfall is likely over over Rayalaseema and Coastal

Karnataka on Tuesday; over Kerala-Mahe from Tuesday to Thursday; and over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal as well as over South Interior Karnataka during Tuesday to Wednesday.

Light to moderate to scattered to fairly widespread rainfall is likely over the Andaman & Nicobar Islands during next seven days indicating how upstream Bay of Bengal would stay active. Meanwhile, to the farther North-North-West, a western disturbance as a trough runs roughly across Iran. It may move East across Afghanistan and Pakistan before entering North-West India but would have started to affect the hills of North-West India (Western Himalayas) from Tuesday night itself.

It could trigger light rainfall or snowfall at isolated places likely over Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad from Tuesday to Friday and over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand from Wednesday to Saturday. Light to moderate to isolated scattered rain is likely over Konkan, Goa and Madhya Maharashtra for the next five days.

## Maharashtra farmers body to set up onion markets in key cities

**Radheshyam Jadhav**  
Pune

The Maharashtra State Onion Producer Farmer Organisation is launching onion markets in key cities like Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur to counter the alleged "exploitation" of farmers at agricultural produce marketing committee (APMC) yards and enable direct sales of onions to consumers. Bharat Dighole, President of the organisation, said these markets would commence operations after Diwali and would be under the organisation's control. He said

farmers have the freedom to sell their produce anywhere in the State, thus obviating the need for government permission to establish these markets. He underscored that farmers grow onions for consumers, not APMCs, and they will determine the produce's price, minimising the role of intermediaries between farmers and consumers.

State onion growers have resolved not to bring their produce to the APMCs and private mandis. Instead, they will exclusively sell their onions in their own markets, with APMC traders, retail

traders, and exporters having the option to purchase the produce from these farmers' markets.

The first market will come up in Pune and farmers are holding meetings to discuss the details of establishing a chain of markets across the State.

**ROOT OF THE ISSUE**

Over the past two years, onion farmers in the State have expressed their dissatisfaction with the functioning of APMCs, including Lasalgaon, recognised as Asia's largest onion market. Farmers have

**TAKING THE LEAD.** The first market will come up in Pune

alleged that Lasalgaon APMC has done little to improve returns for farmers and establish a benchmark for en-

hanced prices in the regional commodity market. Founded on April 1, 1947, Lasalgaon APMC handles substantial

trade volumes, ranging from 15,000 to 30,000 tonnes of onions.

Traders in Lasalgaon say India's daily demand for onions falls within the range of 50,000 to 60,000 tonnes, with the crop's pricing being contingent upon its arrival in the market. In contrast, farmers dispute this claim, contending that traders wield significant influence over market prices by manipulating the supply of onion stocks. The Lasalgaon market stands as the central onion trading hub in India, and local farmers assert that around 125 primary

traders from 25 families hold trading licenses and maintain a firm grip on the market. Farmers claim that the APMC refrains from issuing new licenses without the consent of these established traders.

A study conducted by the Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre at the Institute for Social and Economic Change in Bengaluru had earlier revealed that a select group of influential traders, boasting extensive networks, played a substantial role in hoarding onions and artificially driving up prices.

## Faced with glut, lower prices, Bengal potato growers export to Bangladesh

**Mithun Dasgupta**  
Kolkata

Facing a supply glut and lower prices in markets, potato growers from West Bengal have started exporting the tuber to neighbouring Bangladesh. "It is getting difficult to sell the potato stock that the State currently has. Farmers are not getting the prices they want due to over-supply. So, some big farmers have started exporting to Bangladesh," Kamal Dey, member of the State agriculture marketing task force, told *businessline*.

At Sealdah's Koley market in Kolkata, wholesale prices of the Jyoti potato variety hover around ₹15-16 per kg, which is lower than that quoted in the same period last year. The State government has control over market prices of the widely used Jyoti variety, which is also a high-yielding variety of the tuber.



Potatoes from Ranchi have already arrived in the West Bengal markets, and supplies from Punjab are likely to arrive from early December.

**OLD STOCKS**

Moreover, Bengal's early varieties of potato like Pukhraj, are expected to hit the markets from the third week of December. "After the arrival of fresh produce, people do not want to buy old stocks. That is why potatoes are being exported to Bangladesh for a few days. Without exports, growers with old stock, would face a difficult

situation," Dey said, adding last year West Bengal had exported a very small quantity to the neighbouring country.

During 2022-23, potato was cultivated in around 4.60 lakh hectares in West Bengal, the country's second largest potato-growing State, and total production was around 100 lakh tonnes, which was higher than that in 2021-22. "The current prices are significantly lower than that of the last year. It is difficult to predict whether prices would remain in this range. Potato arrivals from Uttar Pradesh can change many things," said Patit Paban De, a member of the West Bengal Cold Storage Association. Full scale sowing of potatoes starts from mid-November in Bengal, while the crop is harvested the following January. For 2023-24, full scale sowing is expected to commence during the same period given favourable weather conditions prevail.

## Zinc futures: Traders can consider long positions

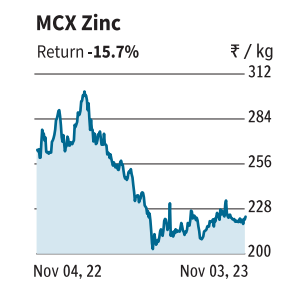
**Akhil Nallamuthu**  
bl. research bureau

Zinc futures — November expiry — on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) broke out of the ₹219-230 range last week by closing at ₹223.6 on Friday. This has increased the odds of prices going up further.

**COMMODITY CALL.**

According to the daily chart, the nearest resistance is ₹230. Just above this is another hurdle at ₹234. Hence, the price band of ₹230-234 can block the bulls from lifting zinc futures beyond these levels. Resistance above ₹234 is at ₹240.

But if the contract falls from the current level, it



could find support at ₹223. The 20-day moving average support lies at ₹221. Support below ₹221 is at ₹219. That said, the likelihood of the contract falling below ₹221 this week is low.

Broadly, the inclination will be bullish for zinc futures and so traders can consider long positions.

**TRADE STRATEGY**

Buy zinc futures at the current level of ₹224. Target and stop-loss can be at ₹230 and ₹221 respectively.

## Price relief: Centre starts sale of 'Bharat Atta' at ₹27.50/kg

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

The Centre on Monday launched the pan-India sale of wheat flour (*atta*) to be sold at ₹275 per bag (10 kg) under the 'Bharat Atta' brand amid rising prices of flour. The decision comes after it sold over 3 million tonnes (mt) of wheat to processing units since June to provide relief to consumers from the high prices of *atta*.

Bharat Atta will be sold by co-operatives NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar through their 2,000-odd outlets spread across the country and 800 mobile vans, the Food Ministry said in a statement. Currently *atta* across the country is available between ₹30/kg (in Punjab) and ₹54/kg (in Tamil Nadu), according to Consumer Affairs Ministry data. In February 2023 when prices soared to a peak, the government had a

Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal distributing a sack of Bharat Atta on Monday **KAMAL NARANG**

done a pilot sale of 18,000 tonnes of Bharat Atta at ₹29.50 per kg through these cooperatives in a few outlets.

**FIAT TO COOPERATIVES**

The government on Monday said up to 2.5 mt of wheat from the buffer stock could be released in the open market, if needed, over and above 10.15 mt earmarked under the open market sale scheme until March

31, 2024, including 3 mt already sold to processors through weekly auction since June.

After flagging off 100 mobile vans in Delhi, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal said, "Now that we have tested and been successful, we decided to do a formal launch so that consumers everywhere in the country can get *atta* at ₹27.50 per kg." He hoped that there would be a better off-take this time as the product would be available in more outlets.

The minister said about 0.25 mt of wheat has been allocated from the FCI at ₹2,150/quintal to NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar with a direction to process it to wheat flour and sell at ₹27.50 per kg under the brand Bharat Atta. Along with *atta*, the mobile vans and outlets of these three agencies will sell 'Bharat' *chana dal* at ₹60 per kg and onion at ₹25 per kg, Singh said.

## SEA, Brazilian body to co-operate for supply of soya oil to India

**Our Bureau**  
Mangaluru

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) and the Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries (ABIOVE) have signed an MoU for close co-operation in soybean oil supply to India.

BV Mehta, Executive Director of SEA, said both the associations have agreed to organise periodic meetings between importers from India and exporters from Brazil, involving ABIOVE and SEA as moderators from their respective sides.

He said the agreement helps enable a common forum to facilitate the joint interaction of both institutions under the governmental spheres of both countries and to promote public-private partnerships of mutual interest to-

wards economic integration between the two countries in the oilseeds sectors, through the reduction of bilateral and multilateral trade barriers on oilseeds, oilseed products and edible oils.

Both associations have agreed to exchange periodic newsletters, articles, and relevant information from both sides, to help the associations stay as informed as possible about production numbers, capacity and opportunities that can be communicated to their respective associates and members.

He said the MoU aims at promoting the exchange of technology for the production of oilseed planting material to increase agricultural productivity and to encourage technical and scientific co-operation in the area of oil-meals and vegetable edible oils in the best interest of both institutions.

## Centre to promote exports of processed food products for better price realisation

**Prabhudatta Mishra**  
New Delhi

The government will continue promoting the export of processed food products in place of raw agriculture commodities, said Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal while highlighting that the share of processed foods in the agri export basket has increased to 27 per cent from 14 per cent in the past decade.

After visiting stalls at the ongoing World Food India 2023 exhibition in Delhi, Barthal said that over 1,000 buyers from abroad have come from 80 countries, including about 135 from the Middle East, at the invitation of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Authority



Sunil Barthal, Commerce Secretary

(MPEDA), Spice Board, Tea Board and Coffee Board.

He said the priority will always be for the government to ensure sufficient availability for the 1.4 billion people of the country, and only the surplus has to be exported. Since the better price realisation comes from processed foods, the government would like exporters to process those raw products in the country and ship them

after converting them to value-added products as per global demand.

**MOU WITH LULU**

APEDA on Friday, signed an MoU with LuLu Hypermarket to work agri products in the global market. The MoU, aimed at boosting exports of agricultural products to the Gulf Cooperation Countries, was signed between APEDA Chairman, Abhishek Dev and Chairman-cum-Managing Director of LuLu Group, Mr Yusuf Ali MA at the World Food India 2023. The LuLu Group International (LLC) has its presence across the GCC, Egypt, India and the Far East with 247 stores in operation and 24 shopping malls.

As per the MoU document, LLC will actively promote and showcase a wide range of products in APEDA basket of agricultural and processed

food products in its retail outlets. A dedicated shelf space will be allocated within LuLu stores to display Apeda's products prominently and to enhance their visibility. Besides, APEDA and LLC will also engage with consumers through joint interactive events, sampling/tasting campaigns, season specific campaigns for fruits and vegetables and the promotion of products arising from Himalayan/North Eastern States, organic products, according to a statement by Commerce Ministry released Monday.

APEDA also facilitated signing of MoUs of Marketing Boards of Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Meghalaya as well as Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology with LuLu group aimed at boosting exports potential from Himalayan and North Eastern States, it said.

## Coonoor auctions: Erbil Expo boosts CTC leaf exports

**V Sajeew Kumar**  
Kochi

Tea exporters in Coonoor are pinning hopes on getting orders for more shipments, thanks to a strong demand from Iraqi buyers after Erbil Expo was held in that country two weeks ago.

Dipak Shah, president of South India Tea Exporters Association told *businessline* that there has been considerable interest shown by Iraqi buyers for larger grades of CTC leaf in which its prices went up by ₹15 per kg over a period of three weeks. Coonoor is the main market for these particular grades and Iraq is the only country buying the grades in large quantities, he said.

The emerging situation, according to Shah, would be a relief to the tea exporting community in South India. It would generate more business,

especially when there has been a subdued overseas demand for the brew due to the ongoing West Asian crisis. However, he went on to add that the overseas markets are very volatile in the changing situations and the buyer community is wary of taking orders for large quantities. Meanwhile, in Coonoor tea auctions, 81 per cent of the leaf offerings was sold of the offered quantity of 14,43,640 kg. The dust market also witnessed good selling at 80 per cent out of the offered quantity of 4,24,461 kg in sale 44.

Global Tea Auctioneers said better medium sorts in CTC leaf were dearer by ₹1 to 2 and more at times in line with quality. But high-priced and better liquoring sorts were generally easier and, occasionally some quality lots sold dearer by ₹4 to 5 and more at times. The brokens were occasionally dearer by ₹1 to 2 and more at times.



# Centre directs States to run power plants at full capacity as demand peaks

**NEED OF THE HOUR.** If States fail to do it, we won't be able to supplement from the central pool: Power Minister

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

The Union Power Minister R K Singh on Monday directed all the States and Union Territories to run their power plants at full capacity in a bid to meet the rising power demand, which grew in between August and October at 20 per cent on an annual basis.

Addressing the two-day national conference of Power and New and Renewable Energy Ministers of States and Union Territories in the national capital, Singh said that higher power demand reflects in the growth in India's economy.

"Also, we met peak demand of 2.41 lakh megawatt (MW) recently while peak demand was 1.9 lakh MW in 2017-18. If the peak demand grows even higher, we may



**IT'S HIGH TIME.** Power Minister RK Singh said that the Centre met peak demand of 2.41 lakh MW recently but if the demand grows higher, it may not be able to meet demand. **BJOY GHOSH**

not be able to meet it. This is one challenge we need to address," he added.

Singh further said, "We observe that some States do not run their power plants at peak capacity and instead seek power from the Centre's pool. If some State

is not running their plants at peak demand, we will not be able to supplement from the central pool. We have to focus on making sure that all our plants run and all our plants run at full capacity."

Singh said that even as Coal India (CIL) has in-

creased the production of the dry fuel, the requirement has increased in line with the rising power consumption. The daily shortage of coal has hit 2.5 lakh tonnes.

## COAL SHORTAGE

The Union Ministry has already directed all the power Gencos to import coal now at 6 per cent against 4 per cent earlier.

The Minister stressed that available coal will have to be distributed equitably among States, depending on the requirements.

Singh said that till the time renewable energy is available round-the-clock (RTC), the country will have to depend on coal-fired thermal capacity.

## THERMAL CAPACITY

Singh said that in FY24 around 10 gigawatts (GW)

of thermal capacity is expected to be added.

The Minister during the meeting with the States also emphasised that more coal-fired power capacity will be required to meet the country's growing demand.

"Earlier, around 25,000 MW was under construction, mostly in the public sector. But this was not sufficient; so, we started work on adding 25,000 MW, but we need to start work on an additional 30,000 MW. I.e., we need about 80,000 MW of thermal capacity under construction. All this capacity addition is being done through the public sector, private sector investment has not started coming, but I am quite certain that private sector investments will come, as we have made the system viable and the sector gives returns," the Minister said.

# Power prices surged 68% on IEX in Oct on rising offtake

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

The Day Ahead Market (DAM) prices on the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) rose by 68 per cent y-o-y to ₹6.25 per unit in October amid by higher demand. This surge in prices on the IEX was also due to a lower base price from the same month last year, the power exchange

said. This upsurge in demand prompted Discoms to actively purchase power on the exchange to meet the increased demand, thereby leading to a significant increase in trade volumes on IEX, it added.

According to data published by Grid India, in October 2023, the country's energy consumption reached 139 billion units,

marking a substantial 22 per cent year-on-year increase due to a surge in electricity demand owing to an increase in electricity consumption, below-average rainfall in October, and a lower base from the same month last year.

The DAM volume increased to 4,742 million units (MU) in October 2023 from 4,379 MU in October 2022, growing 8.3 per cent y-o-y. The

Real-Time Electricity Market (RTM) volume increased by 6.1 per cent Y-o-Y to 2,402 MU. The RTM segment enables distribution utilities and industries with greater flexibility and efficient optimisation of portfolios by balancing their power demand-supply on a real-time basis.

Day Ahead Contingency and Term-Ahead Market (TAM), consisting

of contingency, daily and weekly and monthly contracts up to 3 months, traded 1,911 MU during October, higher by 20.7 per cent on a y-o-y basis.

The Green Day-Ahead Market (G-DAM) achieved 180.80 MU volume during October 2023 with a weighted average price of ₹6.37 per unit. The segment saw 194 market participants during the month.

# Opposition MPs submit dissent on criminal justice reform Bills

**Dalip Singh**  
New Delhi

Opposition members have submitted dissent notes on a draft accepted by Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Monday on the three Bills it was examining, that seeks to bring fundamental reform in the criminal justice system.



Hindi speaking people, sources pointed out.

Of the five of alterations suggested by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, sources said, is to reinstate the adultery law, struck down by Supreme Court in September of 2018 in a landmark judgement, with additional gender-neutral provision to it. It is also believed to have proposed criminalising non-consensual sex between men, women or transperson.

The panel is taking a more stringent view of deaths caused by negligence to fix accountability, a long held criticism that the current statute is too lenient, they informed. As per section 304A of the IPC, the maximum punishment is for two years, or with fine or both and now the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita proposes to increase it up to 7 to 8 years.

The committee has also proposed a reduction in sentence for those convicted for obstructing public servants from discharging their duties. The IPC's Section 353 provides for a maximum of two years of imprisonment but the committee is exploring option of reducing it to a year. The move is to avoid abuse of such laws against protesters, with many members holding common view that protesters should be dealt with more humanely.

Earlier also the Standing Committee had postponed the date of acceptance of the draft report from October 27 to November 6 on the requests of Opposition members, like Chidambaram and TMC's Derek O'Brien, that proceedings should be dealt with more humanely.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary and some other Opposition members have, however, submitted their individual replies to the panel, suggesting changes to the three Bills -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam -- which seek to amend Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Act (CrPc), and Evidence Act.

Committee's suggestions In the draft accepted, the committee is learnt to have stuck to the Hindi names given to the three Bills, setting aside recommendations from the non-NDA members such as DMK's Dayanidhi Maran to have English versions too for better understanding by non-

# MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

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Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31.12.2022 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 31.03.2023 and MSGB, SME Savarna & EMI due up to 30.09.2023 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned from 21.11.2023 to 23.11.2023 from 10 am.

**Auction Date: 21.11.2023 - BINDUPUR:** F2187, F2403, F3023, F3215, F3281, F3286, F3335, F4656, F6601, F6634, F6757, F677, F678, F6806, F6889, F6901, F6914, F6955, F6967, F6971, F7003, F7000, F7020, F7026, F7035, F7037, F7057, F7070, F7073, F7081, F7116, F7130, F7140, F7143, F7183, F7205, F7221, F7242, F7243, F7260, F7261, F7263, F7269, F7334, F7346, F7348, F7349, F7353, F7403, F7414, F7416, F7417, F7432, F7465, F7475, F7478, F7480, F7486, F7508, F7519, F7520, F7524, F7525, F7528, F7541, F7552, F7564, F7568, F7572, F7582, F7583, F7589, F7604, F7620, F7627, F7632, F7637, F7646, F7659, F7686, F7685, F7673, F7679, F7681, F7682, F7690, F7698, F7704, F7706, F7707, F7710, F7714, F7745, F7747, F7750, F7753, F7757, F7761, F7765, F7768, F7770, F7775, F7777, F7782, F7909, F7913, F7923, F7925, F7933, F7937, F8001, F8086, F8114, F8119, F8127, F8139, F8144, F8175, F8179, F8181, F8182, F8183, F8184, F8185, F8186, F8187, F8188, F8189, F8190, F8191, F8192, F8193, F8194, F8195, F8196, F8197, F8198, 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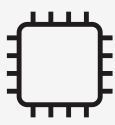


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