

नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः ।
न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः ॥



~ Endless Inspiration. Matchless legacy ~

Hon'ble Saharasri Ji (1948 – 2023)

Sahara India Pariwar expresses its collective sense of grief at the loss of its beloved Chief Guardian, Hon'ble 'Sahasri' Ji, who left for his heavenly abode on 14th November, 2023.

The strength of his character, the influence of his personality and the power of his presence have all left a lasting memory. As he passes from the turmoil of life to eternal tranquillity, he leaves behind a legacy that remains as a profound and precious imprint in the hearts of billions to whom his life brought hope and encouragement.

The man who enlightened us to the supremacy of human emotions over business interests, will continue to guide us, inspire us to new frontiers, for he exemplified human spirit in its true essence – unconquerable and supremely courageous.



WhatsApp number : +91 98399 90501 | Email Id : contact@sahara.in

By FY25, NPAs of banks will drop to 3.5%, NIM to 2.9%: S&P Global

KEY DRIVERS. Healthy corporate balance sheets, tighter underwriting standards to bring down NPAs, says report

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

Indian banks' weak loans (non-performing assets) are projected to drop to 4.5 per cent at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 and to 3.5 per cent at the end of fiscal year 2024-25, said S&P Global on Thursday. It does not expect interest rates to rise much in the near future.

"We project the banking sector's weak loans to decline to 3-3.5 per cent of gross loans by March 31, 2025, on the back of a structural improvement, including healthy corporate balance sheets, tighter underwriting standards, and improved risk-management practices," said S&P Global Ratings in its report on Global Banks' Country-By-Country Outlook 2024 titled 'Forewarned is Forearmed.'

The report assumes that slower global growth and external demand will weigh on economic activity and could fuel further inflation. However, "given that India is domestically oriented, we expect economic growth to be less affected," it said. Fur-

TAKEAWAYS

- S&P Global expects the interest rates in India to remain stable, as the economy is domestically oriented and less affected by global slowdown and external demand
- Small and mid-size enterprises and low-income households are vulnerable to rising interest rates and high inflation
- The report forecasts that the loan growth will be in line with nominal GDP, but the retail loan segment will grow faster than the corporate loan segment
- S&P also warns of the risk of unsecured personal loans, which have grown rapidly and could contribute to incremental NPAs



ther, it forecast that credit cost will normalise to 1.2 per cent for the next couple of years. After raising the policy repo rate by 2.5 per cent, the RBI Governor-led Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has hit the pause button in four successive reviews and is expected to continue the same when it meets next month.

S&P Global also does not expect interest rates to go up further in the near term. "The small and mid-size enterprise sector and low-income households are vulnerable to rising interest rates and high inflation. But we be-

lieve interest rates in India are unlikely to rise materially. This should limit the risk for the banking industry," it said.

PERSONAL LOANS

Meanwhile, the report echoed the sentiments of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, when he cautioned against the risk of 'very high growth' in personal loans and urged lenders to strengthen their internal surveillance mechanisms and address the build-up of risks.

"Unsecured personal loans have grown rapidly and

could contribute to incremental NPLs. We believe underwriting standards for retail loans generally remain healthy and the overall level of delinquencies remains within acceptable limits for this product category," S&P Global said.

The agency expects loan growth in the next few years to be in line with nominal GDP, with retail loan growth exceeding corporate loan growth. Corporate borrowing is gaining momentum, but the uncertain environment may delay capital expenditure-related growth. Deposits may find it hard to

keep pace, thus weakening credit-to-deposit ratios. "Despite this, banks' funding profiles should remain sound, supported by a strong deposit franchise. Lagged repricing of deposits, rising competition for deposits, and a shift from low-yielding CASA (current account savings account) to higher interest-bearing term deposits will squeeze NIMs (net interest margins) to 3 per cent in fiscal 2024 and 2.9 per cent in fiscal 2025.

The report noted that the system's return-on-average assets was adequate at 1.1 per cent, but polarisation would persist. The State Bank of India and the leading private-sector banks have largely addressed their asset-quality challenges.

Many public sector banks still carry a relatively high volume of weak assets, which will result in higher credit losses and hit profitability; their performance lags that of the industry. Similarly, "we expect a mixed-bag performance for finance companies (fincos). The asset quality of these fincos is often weaker than that of major private sector banks", it said.

CAPITAL CHOKES



GASPING FOR BREATH. Air quality in Delhi continued to hover in the 'severe' category on Thursday, with the Air Quality Index crossing 400 in several places, according to data by the Central Pollution Control Board. The Delhi government, on Thursday, set up a six-member special task force to ensure strict implementation of measures outlined in the Centre's Graded Response Action Plan, in the capital, said Environment Minister Gopal Rai SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Crude oil extends slide after US inventories swell to 3-month high

Bloomberg

Oil fell as an increase in US inventories added to market sentiment over weaker demand and steady supplies.

West Texas Intermediate held near \$76 a barrel after losing 2 per cent in the previous session, while global benchmark Brent traded around \$81. US Energy Information Administration data on Wednesday confirmed that crude stockpiles rose to the highest level since August, including a build at the key hub in Cushing, Oklahoma.

"The EIA report set in motion a resumption of the weakness that has troubled the market recently as fundamentals have started to loosen up," said Ole Hansen, head of commodities strategy at Saxo Bank A/S.

CONFLICTING SIGNALS

Crude trading has been buffeted by conflicting signals, with prices sinking to a three-month low last week before staging a modest recovery. The International Energy Agency said on Tuesday that production growth means markets won't be as tight as



LOGGED. US Energy Information Administration data show that crude stockpiles rose to the highest level since August REUTERS

had been expected this quarter. And while OPEC on Monday highlighted robust demand trends, traders expect the group's biggest producer, Saudi Arabia, to prolong a supply cut.

The US data showed some ambiguity, with a drawdown in product inventories signalling stronger demand for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, which would also boost crude consumption. In addition, implied gasoline consumption rose, although it remains below the five-year seasonal average.

Still, signs of softness are evident along the oil futures curve. The spread between WTI's two nearest contracts

has flipped back to contango — where near-term prices are below longer-dated ones — and the second-third month differential has followed suit in another indication that conditions are loosening.

Meanwhile, President Joe Biden's energy security adviser, Amos Hochstein, said the US will enforce sanctions on more than 1 million barrels a day of oil exports from Iran amid the conflict in the Middle East.

A resurgence in flows from Venezuela after the easing of US curbs could help offset any supply losses, with Vitol Group hiring a supertanker to load oil from the Latin American nation.

NewsClick case: US millionaire Neville Roy Singham gets ED summons over money-laundering charges

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to American millionaire Neville Roy Singham, who is based in China, seeking his presence for questioning in the NewsClick terror case.

Singham was made an accused in the NewsClick case initially lodged by the CBI, and the ED took over to probe the money laundering aspect of the charges that the media outlet received illegal funding from abroad, including from an American millionaire, to

peddle China's paid narrative here. Singham, however, has denied charges that he was funding to propagate Chinese propaganda, as was also levelled in a report by *The New York Times* earlier.

The government action against the news portal has also come under criticism from Opposition parties and journalists' associations, which have dubbed it an assault on freedom of the press.

FOREIGN FUNDS

Sources stated that the ED has issued the summons through the Ministry of External Affairs after an earlier



Neville Roy Singham

effort to get him to face proceedings here was reportedly blocked by China.

The news portal NewsClick

is facing investigations by the ED, the CBI, and the Delhi Police Special Cell.

Since last month, the Delhi Police's Special Cell, which is probing the terror aspect of the case under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), has arrested Prabir Purkayastha, the editor-in-chief of the NewsClick, along with the head of human resources, Amit Chakravarty, after carrying out coordinated raids at approximately 100 locations across the country. The duo are in judicial custody for a month from November 2. In its FIR, the Delhi Police's Special Cell al-

leged that People's Dispatch Portal, owned and maintained by PPK NewsClick Studio Private Ltd, was used for knowingly peddling false narratives through paid news in lieu of crores of rupees they got via illegally routed foreign funds as part of a larger conspiracy.

According to Delhi Police, dubiously wired foreign funds that ran into crores were to realise a larger conspiracy to disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, cause disaffection, and threaten the unity, integrity, and security of India.

'Rich nations may have met \$100 b climate goal last year'

Reuters
Brussels

Developed nations may have achieved their overdue promise of \$100 billion to help poorer countries cope with climate change in 2022, the OECD said on Thursday, an estimate that may muster some political goodwill on the eve of the COP28 climate summit.

In 2009, developed countries promised that from 2020 they would transfer \$100 billion a year to poorer nations hit by worsening climate change-fuelled disasters. Rich countries had previously signalled the target would not be met until 2023.

The goal is politically symbolic and failure to meet it has stoked mistrust in past climate

talks, hampering other deals to tackle climate change as poorer nations argue the world's economic powers are leaving them in the lurch.

The data come two weeks ahead of the United Nations' COP28 climate summit, which starts in Dubai on November 30.

SORE POINT

Finance is a sore point in UN climate talks, as developing economies say they cannot adapt to extreme weather or invest in cleaner energy without more support from the rich nations whose historical fossil fuel burning caused climate change.

"Based on preliminary and as yet unverified data, the goal looks likely to have already been met as of 2022," said



The data comes two weeks ahead of the United Nations' COP28 climate summit

Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The \$100 billion is far below poor nations' actual climate investment needs, which by 2025 could total \$1 trillion per year, the OECD said.

"The delivery of the \$100 billion is vitally important," said Tina Stege, climate envoy

for the Marshall Islands, a nation vulnerable to rising sea levels.

"From building sea walls to installing renewables, to helping people rebuild their lives and livelihoods if they're forced to move — all of these things cost money," she said.

The OECD confirmed the target was not met in 2021. That year, wealthy nations provided \$89.6 billion, an 8 per cent increase from 2020 levels.

Most of the 2021 money — \$73 billion — was public finance and, of this, more than two thirds was loans.

The OECD warned, however, that this funding has so far failed to mobilise substantial private capital, which is needed to cover the climate investment gap.

'To face climate impacts, world may need \$172 billion more than earlier estimates'

Bloomberg

The UN Environment Programme recently published its annual Adaptation Gap Report, examining how much funding the world's developing countries will need to withstand the impacts of climate change.

The report provides a complex but constructive understanding of the investment required

ADAPTATION FINANCE

There is not one assessment in fact, there are two, and they have significantly different figures. The first is the "modelled" cost of adaptation,

which is based on an "analysis of the adaptation needed to reduce incremental climate risks, relative to a reference period, without consideration of how this is financed." UNEP gives this cost investment requirement as \$215 billion dollars per year this decade.

The second is the "country adaptation finance needs," which refer to the "financial resources required by countries from international and domestic sources" to implement national adaptation plans. This reflects countries' own assessment of what adaptation programs might cost. UNEP says this figure is nearly double the modelled cost, at

\$387 billion per year this decade. Both modelled costs and finance needs indicate East Asia will require around 40 per cent, of all adaptation investment dollars between 2020 and 2030. Yet, this varies greatly from the adaptation finance flows today, sub-Saharan Africa currently receives the largest share (around 30 per cent) of this investment.

Richer countries' requirements are relatively low when viewed as a share of their absolute income levels — only 0.7 per cent of GDP for lower-middle income and 0.5 per cent of GDP for upper-middle income countries. Low-income countries, despite their

absolutely smaller needs, have a much higher adaptation investment burden as a percentage of GDP at 3.5 per cent. That makes international support for such efforts all the more important.

The second point is adaptation investment will be required continuously for the foreseeable future. Even if we do reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the impacts of still-high atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels will be with us for decades. That means we need to be prepared to invest not just in the adaptation requirements that are evident, but also those that we will discover in coming years.

Israel targets Hamas tunnels with attack dogs, 'sponge' bombs

Bloomberg

With Israel's war on Hamas advancing to the heart of Gaza's main city in a little under six weeks, the army is looking to minimise the risk of confronting another challenge: infiltrating the group's vast, secret network of tunnels.

Anxious to limit losses among its soldiers, Israel's military has deployed a complex array of technologies to probe and attempt to destroy the underground complexes — and eventually the Hamas leadership — including around Al Shifa hospital.

From the air, surveillance drones seek to detect the hidden structures, while warplanes are equipped with bunker-buster bombs designed to penetrate hardened structures to reach deep below the ground.

On the ground, bulldozers clear areas suspected to be

above the subterranean network while attack dogs, unmanned vehicles and robots are used to help explore the underground terrain.

THE ARSENAL

Also in the military's arsenal is a new weapon: a chemical grenade that doesn't contain explosives but rapidly expands and solidifies foam to seal off entrances, known as a "sponge bomb".

The hi-tech tactics aims to avoid the risk of sending soldiers into Hamas's several hundred kilometers of tunnels, where Israel believes highly-armed militants are protecting themselves from the ongoing Gaza assault.

The military is instead prioritising the blocking and damaging of the network — which may not be enough to root out the group and help Israel achieve its ultimate aim: ensuring Hamas's destruction.



ON TARGET. Smoke rises after an Israeli strike on the Gaza Strip on Thursday AP

Hamas is considered a terrorist group by the US and European Union.

HIGHLY DANGEROUS

Israel's Defence Ministry has approached numerous companies for help in the mission, including non-defence startups like Asterra, an Israeli firm whose software detects

underground water leaks using satellite imagery. Hamas has for years made use of tunnels under the densely-populated coastal strip to conceal weapons, command facilities and fighters. Israel has specially trained combat engineers but entering the subterranean labyrinth is still highly dangerous because of booby-

traps and the defenders' superior knowledge of the area.

"There's no need to go into any tunnel if we don't have a real reason to do it," said Itamar Yaar, a former deputy head of Israel's National Security Council.

"The best solution is try to collapse these tunnels — to disconnect different under-

ground sites." But without deploying ground forces, it is hard to verify the extent of damage inflicted by bombing, according to Daphné Richemond-Barak, an expert on underground warfare at Reichman University in Tel Aviv.

That risks the hostilities dragging on for months. Thousands of people have already been reported killed in Gaza, mainly in Israeli airstrikes since the October 7 attack by Hamas on Israel that killed some 1,200 people.

The tunnels could also be re-purposed for a long-term insurgency after the war ends, Richemond-Barak warned.

"They need to destroy the whole tunnel system. It's very important," said Richemond-Barak. "As the difficulty becomes more apparent and as the pressure mounts to put an end to this operation, I worry that the job is going to be left half done."

Crew health in focus as Air India pilot dies on duty

Our Bureau
Mumbai

A 37-year-old Air India pilot died on duty at the Delhi airport's Terminal 3 on Thursday.

This is the second on-duty death involving an Indian pilot in three months, and raises concerns about crew fatigue.

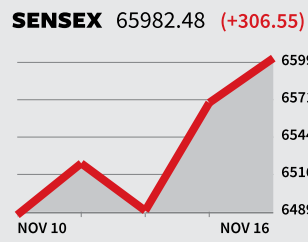
An airline official, however, said the Thursday incident was not fatigue-related. The Air India pilot was under training, and there was no report of any underlying medical condition in his previous health assessments.

According to an official, the Air India pilot was transitioning from the Airbus A320 to the Boeing 777 fleet. "He was at the airport on Thursday morning as part of his training, which included

an aircraft visit. He felt uneasy and was taken to Medanta Hospital's facility within the airport, but didn't survive," said the official.

In August, an IndiGo pilot collapsed to death at Nagpur Airport, minutes before operating a flight. Globally, August had seen three other incidents of pilots suffering cardiac arrests or deaths. Also, in August, an Indian-origin pilot travelling as a passenger died on a Qatar Airways flight from Delhi to Doha.

"Another young Indian pilot passed away today due to a suspected cardiac event on the ground. If this doesn't convince DGCA, the Civil Aviation Ministry, and airlines of the urgent need to reduce stress, fatigue, and anxiety among pilots, nothing else will," said Shakti Lumba, former V-P of operations at IndiGo, on X.



IN FOCUS

	LATEST	CHANGE
Nifty 50	19765.20	+89.75
P/E Ratio (Sensex)	23.30	+0.03
US Dollar (in ₹)	83.23	+0.09
Gold Std 10 gm (in ₹)	60263.00	-112
Silver 1 kg (in ₹)	72855.00	+635



STRONG GROUND.
Shares of top listed realtors have surged 50-80% in the last 12 months on the back of robust sales and jump in profits **p8**

DRY WEATHER.
Over 26% of India is reeling under drought with Oct turning out to be the warmest on record **p10**

QUICKLY.

INVENTORY PUSH
PC shipments hit a record high in third quarter of 2023



Mumbai: Personal Computer shipments in India hit a record 4.5 million units in Q3 of calendar 2023, according to a report by International Data Corp. The surge was led by brands ramping up supplies following an import ban and in anticipation of festival season sales. **p3**

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The second quarter is also likely to see robust economic growth. However, there are a few headwinds there, including consumption patterns and erratic monsoons, **Aurodeep Nandi**, Indian economist and Vice president at Nomura, tells *businessline's* **Hamsini Karthik**.
<https://tinyurl.com/SoE-Banking>



Also available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts

RBI ups by 25 bps risk weights on unsecured bank, NBFC loans

TIGHTER NORMS. Will push up lenders' capital requirement, make borrowing costlier

Our Bureau
Mumbai

In response to the unprecedented growth in unsecured retail loans and the consequent concerns over rising systemic risks, the Reserve Bank of India has increased the risk weights on unsecured consumer loans, including credit cards, by 25 basis points (bps) for banks and NBFCs.

Accordingly, outstanding and new consumer credit exposure of commercial banks and retail loans of NBFCs, excluding housing, education and vehicle loans, and loans secured by gold and jewellery, will now attract risk weights of 125 per cent against the current 100 per cent, with immediate effect. For NBFCs, microfinance and SHG (self-help group) loans will be excluded from the higher risk weights, the central bank said.

Krishnan Sitaraman, Senior Director and Chief Ratings Officer, Crisil Ratings, said: "We've seen unsecured retail growth being relatively higher. One of the ways to stabilise or calibrate growth is to require lenders to provide higher cap-



SAFER ZONE. This hike excludes housing loans, education loans, vehicle loans and loans secured by gold and jewellery

ital for those loans which is a proactive step to enhance guardrails and strengthen internal resilience. Thus, in case there is an increase in NPAs going forward, lenders are better cushioned from a balance-sheet perspective..."

Further, the RBI hiked the risk weights on credit card receivables by 25 bps. Presently, a risk weight of 125 per cent is applicable on credit card receivables for commercial banks, and of 100 per cent for NBFCs.

The RBI moves are "expected to result in higher capital requirements for lenders and, hence, an increase in lending rate for borrowers. Increase in

risk weights for consumer credit is targeted at NBFCs in the personal and consumption loan segments for augmenting their capital buffers," said Karthik Srinivasan, Senior Vice-President & Group Head - Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA.

BANKS' NBFC EXPOSURE
Banks will also have to set aside a 25 percentage point higher risk weight for loans to NBFCs, excluding core investment companies. However, this will only be applicable if the current risk weight, ascertained per the external credit rating assigned to the NBFC, falls below 100 per cent. Loans

to HFCs (housing finance companies) and those eligible for classification as priority sector will be excluded.

"... Today, if a bank is lending to an AAA-rated NBFC, the risk weight is 20 per cent, which means that a ₹100-crore loan is risk weighted as ₹20 crore for capital computation. Henceforth, it will have to be treated as ₹45 crore because the effective risk weight will be 45 per cent," Crisil's Sitaraman said.

Currently, the risk weight for lending to 'AAA'-rated NBFCs is 20 per cent, for 'AA'-rated is 30 per cent and for 'A'-rated NBFCs is 50 per cent. In addition, all top-up loans extended by banks and NBFCs against movable assets will need to be treated as 'unsecured loans' for credit appraisal, prudential limits and exposure purposes.

The RBI directed lenders to review and establish board-approved limits for sectoral exposure in consumer credit. These limits must be strictly adhered to and monitored by the Risk Management Committee, with a deadline for implementation set for February 29, 2024.

UCO Bank a/cs get wrong credits of ₹820 crore; ₹649 cr recovered

Mithun Dasgupta
Kolkata



The bank clarified that these erroneous credits happened due to an internal technical issue, and there was no issue with the IMPS platform

Some UCO Bank account holders received a total of ₹820 crore in "erroneous credits" via the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), the PSU bank said on Thursday. The bank said it blocked the accounts and was able to recover around ₹649 crore, which is about 79 per cent of the total 'erroneous credits'.

The Kolkata-based lender said that certain transactions initiated by account holders of other banks had resulted in credit to its account holders without actual receipt of money from these banks between November 10 and 13.

The bank has referred the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

'INTERNAL TECH ISSUE'
As a precautionary measure, UCO Bank has taken the IMPS channel offline. The bank clarified that the credits happened due to an internal technical issue, and there was no issue with the IMPS platform.

"We further inform that by taking proactive steps, the bank blocked the recipients' accounts and has been able

to retain and recover around ₹649 crore out of ₹820 crore, which is about 79 per cent of the amount," it said in a stock exchange filing on Thursday.

RECOVERY UNDERWAY
The bank has also initiated action to recover the balance ₹171 crore. The matter has also been reported to the law-enforcing agencies for action.

"A total of ₹820 crore was credited to our account holders, but the amount was not debited in the remitters' accounts. As the amount was not debited, our bank did not get the money. So, our team quickly swung into action and blocked the recipients' accounts, and reversed these transactions. As the money did not flow to the bank, our customers were not actually entitled," UCO Bank MD

and CEO Ashwani Kumar told *businessline*. "Certain customers have used the money also. We have reached out to them and told them that the money had been erroneously credited to their accounts. We have urged them to re-pay. Yesterday (Wednesday), around ₹9 crore was recovered from these customers," Kumar said.

He said UCO Bank has reached out to other banks from where the credits originated. Kumar said it also did not look like hacking, adding, "but you never know what the exact issue was."

After the root-cause analysis of the incident and rectification, the bank would restore the IMPS service after getting clearances from all agencies. "It might take three-four days," Kumar added.

Subrata Roy's death not to halt probe against Sahara Group, says SEBI chief

Ashley Coutinho
Mumbai



Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson, SEBI

SEBI will continue to probe the Sahara matter even after the death of the Group's founder, Subrata Roy, said Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Thursday.

Roy died earlier this week after a prolonged illness.

Buch said the regulator's actions were dependent on the directions of the Supreme Court-appointed committee, and refunds were being given to those coming forward with proof of investment.

SEBI's 2022-23 annual report said it had issued ₹138 crore in refunds over 11 years to investors of two Sahara Group firms.

Speaking to media on the sidelines of an FICCI event, Buch said the regulator was in the process of back-testing data for formulating regulations on the total expense ratio for mutual funds.

"Because many of the funds are listed, in the first round of discussion, we couldn't co-create the regulations with the industry. Multiple rounds of back-test-

ing and consultations are underway again," said Buch.

EASIER DELISTING
She said SEBI was looking to ease norms for delisting and trading plans, and the same may be taken up in the next board meeting or the one after that.

In its consultation paper in August, SEBI proposed to allow firms to make delisting offers at fixed prices and allow acquirers to make counter offers at lower thresholds.

Present norms mandate all delisting offers to go through a reverse book-building mechanism.

A company insider wanting to buy or sell shares of the company is required to submit a trading plan to the company's board six months in advance and stick to the

plan no matter what. The regulator had improved its rate of processing applications for different market participants and reduced the registration pendency in the last few months.

Buch said the regulator remained committed to relying on data to formulate regulations, even if it led to delays in bringing out a particular regulation. "We have stepped up the level of consultation because the market today is very complex," said Buch.

Buch cited examples like the Industry Standards for implementing regulations, which reflect a collaborative approach between regulators and market participants. She alluded to the Industry Standards Forum becoming a formal part of the regulatory architecture.

Key telecom regulations remain on hold with TRAI headless for 3 months now

Ayushi Kar
Mumbai



OUT OF ORDER.

The regulator is holding up recommendations on crucial issues such as the assignment method for satellite spectrum and regulation for OTT communication

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) remaining without a Chair for some 90 days now is holding up recommendations on crucial issues such as the assignment method for satellite spectrum and regulation for OTT communication.

Sources aware of the appointment process told *businessline* that the term of former TRAI chair, PD Vaghela, was supposed to be renewed, but he decided to not continue in the post at the eleventh hour.

Since then, it appears that the government has been hunting for a replacement.

A 1988-batch IAS officer S Aparna had been a serious contender for the post.

However, the Centre decided against appointing her.

PRIVATE EXECUTIVE
It was reported in June that the Centre is open to appointing a private sector executive to be TRAI top post.

To that end, sources told *businessline* that an executive from the Tata Group was being evaluated.

Possible Tata candidates

include TCS COO N Ganapathy Subramaniam, who is heading TCS' contract with BSNL; Rakesh Mehrotra, former regulator head for Tata Teleservices; and Praveen Sharma, VP and Head, India Regulatory Affairs at Tata Communications.

Another industry insider told *businessline* that the reason for looking at a Tata candidate is the Group's recent success in securing

several government contracts, particularly their ongoing project to implement BSNL's 4G and 5G network.

TRAI is sitting on recommendations for some of the most crucial issues for the industry.

Sources at the TRAI told *businessline* that the regulator has prepared recommendations on the issue of allotting spectrum through auction or administrative assignment, however those remain unpublished.

Similarly, recommendations that are crucial for the OTT sector are also pending - wherein telcos and internet companies are debating on the issue of setting up a network fee for internet companies.

Without a TRAI chair, the regulator is unlikely to come out with recommendations on these matters.

NIRMAL BANG
a relationship beyond broking

We Offer

360° Solutions

Disclaimer: **NIRMAL BANG SECURITIES PVT LTD.** Investment in Securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing. Please read the Do's and Don'ts prescribed by the Commodity Exchange before trading. We do not offer PMS Service for the Commodity segment. Opening of account will not guarantee allotment of shares in IPO. Investors are requested to do their own due diligence before investing in any IPO. The securities quoted are exemplary and are not recommendatory. BSE (Member ID- 498): INB011072759, INF011072759, Exchange Registered Member in CDS; NSE MEMEBR ID- 09391; INB230939139, INF230939139, INE230939139; MSEI Member ID-1067; INB260939138, INF260939138, INE260939139; Single Registration No. IN2000202536, PMS Registration No: INP000002981; Research Analyst Registration No: INH000001766; NSDL/ CDSL: IN-DP-CDSL 37-99; Exchange Member ID: MCX - 56460, NCDEX - 1268, ICEX - 2073. Regd. Office: B-2, 301/302, 3rd Floor, Marathon Innova, Off Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai - 400013. Tel: 62738000/01, Fax: 62738010 | **NIRMAL BANG NIVESHALAYA PVT LTD.** ARN - 111233, Mutual Fund Distributor, Mutual Fund Investments are subject to market risks. Please read the offer documents carefully before investing. Regd. Office: B - 201, Khandelwal House, Poddar Road, Near Poddar Park, Malad (East), Mumbai - 400097. | **NIRMAL BANG INSURANCE BROKING PVT LTD.** IRDAI Registration No: 795 and Registration Code For the Insurance Broker: IRDAI/DB889/2021. Insurance is the subject matter of the solicitation. For more details on policy terms, conditions, exclusions, limitations, please refer/read policy brochure carefully before concluding sale.

For free account opening, call on +91 022 62738000 | www.nirmalbang.com

QUICKLY.

AstraZeneca Pharma India to sell Bengaluru plant



New Delhi: AstraZeneca Pharma India plans to sell its production facility in Bengaluru as part of a strategic review of global manufacturing and supply network by its parent, according to a regulatory filing.

PickMyWork sees 48% rise in gig workers' income

Bengaluru: PickMyWork, a gig platform, announced a 48 per cent increase in overall income of its gig workforce during this year's festival season. The platform witnessed a 160 per cent surge in the number of partners enjoying higher monthly earnings. It is dedicated to empowering female partners, with a 105 per cent growth in the number of active partners on the platform in a year.

JSW Infra wins bid to develop Keni Port for ₹4,119 crore

MARITIME BOOST. The greenfield Karnataka facility will have initial capacity of 30 mtpa

Our Bureau
Mumbai

JSW Infrastructure has won the bid to develop Keni Port in Karnataka with a projected investment of ₹4,119 crore.

It has also received a letter of award from the Karnataka Maritime Board for the project.

The initial capacity of the all-weather, deep-water greenfield port is 30 million tonne per annum (mtpa), the company said in a release.

During the pre-bid stage, there were four companies that had shown interest - JSW Infrastructure, Adani Ports, Navayuga Engineering and Vishwa Samudra.

The port at Keni is located between the two major ports of Mormugao in the North and New Mangalore Port in the South.

The hinterland provides cargo of coal and coke that

We will start working to develop the Keni Port as an integral part of the State's maritime infrastructure and trade gateway

ARUN MAHESHWARI
Joint MD and CEO,
JSW Infrastructure



AT A GLANCE

- The port at Keni is located between Mormugao in the North and New Mangalore Port in the South
- The hinterland provides cargo of coal and coke that are used for steel, cement and power plants
- Rail connectivity to the port will be on the southern side; will be connected with the existing Konkan line

are used for steel, cement and power plants. Rail connectivity to the port will be on the southern side and will be connected with the exist-

ing Konkan line. The proposed rail connection will have a length of 8 km. "Karnataka is targeting an impressive industrial

growth and there has been an increased emphasis on the expansion and growth in maritime infrastructure in the region," said Arun Maheshwari, Joint MD and CEO of JSW Infrastructure.

"Once concession agreement is signed we will start working to develop the Keni Port as an integral part of the State's maritime infrastructure and trade gateway," he said.

CARGO POTENTIAL

Karnataka's hinterland has a cargo potential of 44 mt that is expected to rise to 117 mt by 2035, providing ample opportunities for more ports and port infrastructure to come up.

JSW Infrastructure, which recently listed on the bourses, currently operates nine port concessions with a total installed cargo handling capacity of 153 mt, which it plans to increase to 300 mt by 2030.

Rajasthan shows improvement in social metrics, but at a cost

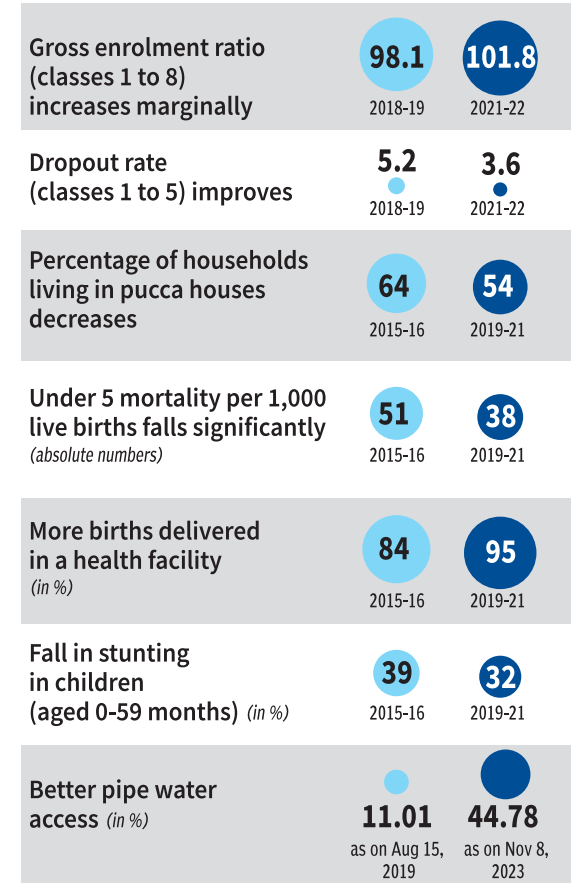
Radheshyam Jadhav
Nimisha S Pradeep
Pune/Chennai

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of Rajasthan has garnered accolades from certain social activists for introducing a ground-breaking Minimum Income Guarantee and Pension scheme. This initiative ensures 125 days of work through the rural or urban employment guarantee and provides a minimum social security pension of ₹1,000 per month. However, this is just one among several social sector schemes implemented by the Rajasthan government, contributing to an increased burden on the State's finances.

DATA FOCUS.

Unsurprisingly, there has been a significant increase in the expenditure on social and economic services by the Rajasthan government over the years. The allocation for social services rose from ₹60,495 crore in 2017-18 to ₹96,119 crore in 2021-22, making it one of the prominent expenditure in the State budget.

Social scorecard



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

'Right pricing will be key to premiumisation of products'

Mithun Dasgupta
Kolkata

Shree Cement plans to increase the contribution of premium products to its total sales gradually by focussing on the "right pricing". The cement maker expects the share of premium products in its total trade sales to rise to 12 per cent in the next six months from 9.5 per cent in the second quarter this fiscal. Sale of premium products stood at 7.5 per cent of trade sales in the second quarter last fiscal.

"Regarding premiumisation, our focus is on the right pricing. The volumes will come later. But if the prices are diluted to get the volume much faster, then you win the sprint race but lose the marathon. So our volumes will grow very gradually, but our prices in premiumisation are at the level at which we

If the prices are diluted to get the volume much faster, then you win the sprint race but lose the marathon.

HM BANGUR
Chairman, Shree Cement



wanted. EBITDA is better," Shree Cement Chairman, HM Bangur, said during the company's second quarter earnings conference call.

Q2 PERFORMANCE

Led by a strong performance on volumes, the company's net revenue rose 21 per cent year-on-year to ₹4,585 crore for the second quarter this fiscal (₹3,781 crore). Total sale volume increased 10 per cent y-o-y to 8.20 million

tonnes (mt) during the period under review (7.46 mt). EBITDA was up 66 per cent y-o-y to ₹870 crore (₹523 crore).

"Premiumisation for the sake of premiumisation by investing more, giving a higher cost material with lower realisation, lower EBITDA is not the idea. So we are focusing on the right pricing," Bangur pointed out. The company's capacity utilisation improved to 71 per

cent for Q2FY24 (65 per cent). "In Q2FY24, cement volume for our coverage universe grew 14 per cent, driven by better demand from both trade and non-trade segments and we expect volume growth of 14 per cent for our coverage universe in FY24," Axis Securities said in its report.

Currently, cement prices are trending higher by 3-5 per cent. "Price hikes were taken in September and October, with slight roll-back in some regions," Axis Securities said, adding that sustainability of cement prices is crucial for better profitability as fuel prices were up 25-30 per cent from their recent lows.

FUTURE PLANS

Shree Cement plans to increase its production capacity to 56 mt by the end of the current financial year from 46.40 mt last year.

"The company is on track

to attain a capacity of 80 mt by March 2028, achieving a CAGR of 12 per cent capacity in the next five years. It has decided to merge its two cement subsidiaries with itself for better synergies, simplicity, and compliance," Bangur said.

The company board has approved merger of Shree Cement East and Shree Cement North, the two wholly-owned subsidiaries, into Shree Cement, subject to applicable regulatory requirements and approvals by the National Company Law Tribunals.

The company's board has also approved setting up of a brownfield cement grinding capacity of 3.40 mt per annum capacity at its existing facilities at Baloda Bazar district of Chhattisgarh with an estimated capex of about ₹ 550 crore. This project is expected to be completed by September 2025.

HEALTHY INDICATORS

Due to the implementation of the State's initiatives, health indicators in the region demonstrate positive trends. The neonatal mortality rate (NNMR) per 1,000 live-births has decreased to 20.2 (NFHS-5, 2020-21) from 29.8 (NFHS-4, 2015-16). Similarly, the infant mortality rate has seen a decline from 41.3 to 30.3 during this period. Institutional births have witnessed a notable increase, rising from 84 per cent to 94.9 per cent. Full immunisation coverage for children aged between 12 and 23 months has risen from 54.8 per cent to 80.4 per cent. Furthermore, the maternal mortality rate (MMR) per lakh live-births has decreased to 113 in 2018-20 from 141 in 2017-19, according to the sample registration system.

The Free Textbook Distribution Scheme by the State government is providing free textbooks to the students studying regularly in classes 1st to 8th in all government schools. The enrolment of students in the government primary schools has gone up from 41.70 lakh in 2018-19 to 46.57 lakh in

2021-22. However, the number of teachers in government primary schools has come down from 1.45 lakh in 2018-19 to 1.44 lakh in 2021-22. The enrolment of students in government upper-primary schools has also gone up from 21.20 lakh in 2018-19 to 25.22 lakh in 2021-22. The enrolment of students has gone up in secondary and senior secondary government schools as well.

Rajasthan, being the largest State of the country in terms of area, has meagre water resources. Interrupted rainfall, depleting water level and a huge livestock has made the task of providing potable water even more challenging. The government data shows that out of 1,21,979 habitations, 53,172 habitations are fully covered; 58,379 habitations are partially covered with availability of safe drinking water.

Around 68.9 per cent of houses in urban Rajasthan are in 'good' condition as compared with 68.4 per cent at all-India Level. About 29.3 per cent have been classified under 'livable' condition.

SUSTAINING SCHEMES

"The increase in school enrolment can be attributed to

the provision of free uniforms, books and meals. The right to health has had a positive impact, with more people opting for government hospitals for treatment, reflecting a growing trust in these institutions. The government's overall performance in social security is commendable, particularly in areas such as women empowerment and reducing child mortality rates, showcasing progress in various social indicators," said Professor Rashmi Jain at the Department of Sociology, University of Rajasthan.

She added that the reliance on freebies poses a significant financial burden on the government's treasury. "It is doubtful whether societal progress can be sustained solely through the provision of free benefits. Furthermore, the numbers may not always accurately reflect the ground reality. Despite the opening of numerous colleges, many are understaffed, highlighting challenges in implementation. The government faces the formidable task of sustaining existing schemes and fulfilling new promises amidst the financial strain on the treasury," she said.

TVS Motor in pact with Emil Frey to sell in Europe

Our Bureau
Chennai

Leading two- and three-wheeler maker TVS Motor Company has announced an agreement with Zurich-based Emil Frey, a 100-year-old enterprise that is among the largest automobile importers and retailers in Europe, for import and distribution of the Chennai-headquartered company's advanced two-wheelers in key European markets.

Consequently, Emil Frey Group entities will take charge of the distribution of TVS products in selected countries, through its sales, marketing and service networks, according to a statement. Emil Frey will distribute TVS Motor's scooters



FORGING TIES. Lorenz Frey-Hilti (left), Director, Emil Frey Group, and Sudarshan Venu, MD, TVS Motor Company

such as Jupiter 125, NTorq, motorcycles such as Raider, Ronin, Apache RR 310, and TVS Apache RTR 310, and

electric two-wheelers - iQube S and TVS X. "This strategic alliance is a crucial step in our global ex-

pansion strategy. Europe will be a key market for us, and through this partnership, we aim to bring our cutting-edge products closer to European customers," Sudarshan Venu, Managing Director, TVS Motor Company, said.

SELECT EU MARKETS

The two companies plan to use their collaborative efforts to enter into distribution arrangements for select EU markets, prioritising countries with strong two-wheeler demand coupled with existing Emil Frey infrastructure and resources.

France will be the first country for the launch, where an entire suite of TVS Motor products will be made available starting January 2024.

Vedanta arm sets up new unit in Saudi Arabia for copper biz

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

Vedanta's arm Malco Energy has set up a new unit in Saudi Arabia for copper business at an investment of 1,00,000 Saudi riyals (₹22.19 lakh).

"Malco Energy Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, has incorporated a new wholly-owned subsidiary in the name of Vedanta Copper International VCI Company Limited," Vedanta said in a filing to the BSE. The new company has been incorporated to explore growth opportunities in new geographies.

Hero MotoCorp festival sales top a record 14 lakh units

S Ronendra Singh
New Delhi

The country's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, Hero MotoCorp said it recorded its highest-ever festive sales, clocking more than 14 lakh units in retail sales during the 32-day festive period, between the first day of the Navratras and Bhai Dooj.

Riding on robust demand

across rural markets as well as steady retail off-take in key urban centres, the company has registered 19 per cent growth over the previous year, and surpassed its previous highest retail of 12.7 lakh units recorded in the 2019 festive period, the company said in a statement. "Our strong portfolio of brands, distribution scale and new launches have helped drive growth across geographies. The festive season is a clear testimony that rural is coming back to growth, which augurs well for the country, in general, and the two-wheeler industry in particular," said Niranjn Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Hero MotoCorp.

HERO 'GIFT'

Adding cheer to the festive

Our strong portfolio of brands, distribution scale and new launches have helped drive growth across geographies

NIRANJAN GUPTA
CEO, Hero MotoCorp



season, Hero MotoCorp rolled out the second edition of Hero GIFT - the Grand Indian Festival of Trust, its leading programme targeted specifically for the festive period - encompassing new model refreshes, eye-catching col-

our schemes, exciting benefits and attractive finance schemes for customers.

As part of the mega campaign - with Iss Tyohar, Nayi Raftaar as its theme - customers can avail of a range of motorcycles and scooters, with attractive fin-

ance schemes and low interest rates that have enabled customers to bring home Hero products, the company said.

"The record retail number was achieved due to strong customer traction across markets, with double-digit growth in the Central, North, South and East zones.

"Robust customer demand in the rural markets, in addition to positive sentiment in key urban centres, drove the record retail sales. With this, our post-festive channel inventory has dropped to its lowest level in more than three years. This has set us on a steady growth path for the rest of the fiscal year," Ranjiv Singh, Chief Business Officer - India Business Unit, Hero MotoCorp, said.

GSH India to hire 800 people by 2024

G Balachandrar
Chennai

GSH India (Pvt) Ltd, which offers facilities management and mechanical maintenance services, plans to hire about 800 people in 2024 in line with its growth plans in India.

The company, the Indian arm of US-headquartered global facilities management company GSH Group, currently employs about 4,500 people in India and expects to grow in the range of 20-30 per cent going forward, supported by expanded clientele and entry into more locations.

STRONG RECOVERY

GSH India has seen a strong recovery in its business in the post-Covid period, supported by the trend of returning to work (full-time) from the office. It hopes to end this calen-



Mark Thomas, CEO, GSH Group

dar year with a strong growth of about 25 per cent.

"We grew substantially until 2019, all organic growth. But during the Covid years, we've seen many factories closing for a period of time, which led to stagnation in the marketplace in India for the last two or three years. However, in 2023, we've seen an explosion in new opportunities and new bids, and we've re-

started our growth again this year. We expect more business wins in the coming years," Mark Thomas, CEO, GSH Group, a family-owned business house, told businessline.

The current calendar year proved to be a successful year in the post-Covid era, as it has bagged some new and larger clients. "I would probably expect 25 per cent organic growth this year with new business wins," said Thomas.

KEY DIFFERENTIATOR
For some clients, based on its research it has suggested mixing of biomass with coal to run the boilers, thereby enabling savings. Energy management solutions are one of its key differentiators.

Meanwhile, GSH's Indian operations have also started contributing to the group's innovative platforms.

businessline.
Disclaimer: Readers are requested to verify & make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printers, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PC shipments surge to record 4.5 million units in July-Sept

INVENTORY PUSH. Brands boost supplies in anticipation of festival season sales

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Personal computer (PC) shipments surged to a record 4.5 million units during the July-September quarter of 2023 in India, recording a 14 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) increase, according to a report by International Data Corp (IDC).

The unexpected rise in shipments in an otherwise flat market was driven by brands boosting supplies as a result of the Centre's brief import ban as well as in anticipation of festival season sales.

Desktops saw a significant increase of 19.3 per cent, while notebooks rose 13.1 per cent.

"The consumer segment saw strong traction in 3Q23 after a challenging four quarters. In August, the Government of India declared a mandatory requirement of import licences for PCs from October 30. Though this decision was later put on hold, vendors shipped significant channel inventory to avoid any risks of supply shortages or price hikes, not to mention ensuring sufficient supplies for festival season sales," said Bharath Shenoy, Senior Research Analyst, IDC India.

EDUCATION SECTOR

Government contracts, especially the education sector, experienced a notable growth of 117.5 per cent due to the Gujarat education project. E-commerce platforms also showed a resurgence, with a 26.4 per cent increase in the online retail channel, reversing a trend of declines from the past year.

"In the past few months, the PC market has seen a substantial push in the consumer segment and to some extent in the SME segment as well. The vendors are now focused on increasing their local assembly mix as government and education projects are expected to prefer locally assembled devices. While this might give a further boost to the government and education segments, a dearth of enterprise orders is a matter of concern as the enterprise segment is expected to decline by over 20 per cent on-year in 2023," said Navkendar Singh, Associate Vice President, Devices Research, IDC India.

HP dominated the market, seizing a 29.4 per cent share, with leadership positions in both commercial (34.3 per



ON REVIVAL PATH. The consumer segment saw strong traction in the third quarter after four challenging quarters REUTERS

cent) and consumer (25.9 per cent) segments.

Lenovo is second in market share, with a share of 17 per cent as its ship-

ments fell 8.8 per cent year on year.

Dell Technologies followed at the third place with a 14.6 per cent market share, growing 3.8 per cent year on year.

MDI GURGAON Management Development Institute

(Ranked among top B-Schools in India by NIRF and other surveys)

Admission notification for two-year full time PGDM Programmes (2024-2026 Batch)

50 years' legacy of MDI Gurgaon is a testament of its position among the top B-schools in India and its continuous quest for excellence. The institute offers and invites applications for the following two-year full time AICTE approved programs:

1. Post-Graduate Diploma in Management-PGDM
2. Post-Graduate Diploma in Management (Human Resource Management)-PGDM-HRM
3. Post-Graduate Diploma in Management (International Business)-PGDM-IB
4. Post-Graduate Diploma in Management (Business Analytics)-PGDM-Business Analytics.

Accreditations: AACSB, AMBA, ISO 9001

MDI MURSHIDABAD Management Development Institute

MDI established its second campus in Murshidabad, West Bengal in 2014. MDI Gurgaon being the mentor institution is providing support to Murshidabad campus in terms of intellectual capital, teaching processes and academic rigour. Placement for all the batches have been phenomenal. MDI Murshidabad offers AICTE approved two-year full time Programme:

1. Post-Graduate Diploma in Management-PGDM

CRISIL

National A++ and WB-A++

For the above programmes, the joint application form link is available on our MDI Gurgaon website www.mdi.ac.in | Last date to apply: Friday, November 24, 2023 UPTO 5.00 pm

Admissions through:
CAT-2023 for Indian citizens, GMAT for NRI at MDI Gurgaon AND
CAT-2023 for Indian citizens, GMAT for PIO/Foreign Nationals at MDI Murshidabad

For any further details about the admissions process, please contact:
Management Development Institute

MDI Gurgaon
Phone (+91 124) 4560000, 4560555, 4560666
E.mail: admissions@mdi.ac.in
Website: www.mdi.ac.in

MDI Murshidabad
Phone 08348021165
E.mail: admissions@mdim.ac.in
Website: www.mdim.ac.in

Our Institutes use the CAT score for short-listing/selecting the candidates for our above PGDM Programmes. IIMs have no role either in the selection process or in the conduct of the Programmes

Jaquar
WATER HEATERS

*For a good bath experience,
get water heaters only from the
Bath Expert*

*Trust the bath experts
for the right
capacity suggestion
and be assured of a
good bathing experience.*

THE BATH EXPERT
Electric & Heat Pump Water Heaters

1-5000 Litres | 7 Year Warranty (On tank) | Free Installation (In select cities)
Purchase Assistance- 1800-120-332222 (toll free) | jaquar.com

INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED

A Government of India Enterprise

PROVIDING INVESTMENTS THAT HELP ACHIEVE INDIA'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

ATMANIRBHARTA. GREEN ENERGY. NET ZERO EMISSION.

नई ऊर्जा नई सोच

Established and trusted brand with 36 years of experience
CAGR of 30% in gross loan portfolio & 58% in Profit After Tax during FY21 to FY23 | Highest Credit Rating of 'AAA/Stable'

Comprehensive suite of financial products and services across:

Traditional Technologies > Solar > Energy Efficiency & Conservation > Hydro
> Biomass & Cogeneration > Wind > Waste To Energy > Transmission > Ethanol

Emerging Technologies > Battery Storage System > Fuel Cells > Pumped Storage Hydro
> Green Hydrogen > RE Component Manufacturing > Electric Vehicle & Charging Infra

Registered Office: India Habitat Centre, East Court, Core 4A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003, India | 011- 24682206- 19 | www.ireda.in | Follow us on:

INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed a draft red herring prospectus dated September 7, 2023 with SEBI (the "DRHP") and a red herring prospectus dated November 11, 2023 ("RHP") with the RoC. The RHP is made available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the website of the BRLMs i.e., IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited at www.idbicapital.com, BOB Capital Markets Limited at www.bobcaps.in and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com, the website of the NSE at www.nseindia.com and the website of the BSE at www.bseindia.com and the website of the Company at www.ireda.in. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risks, please see the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 35 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP for making any investment decision, but can only rely on the information included in the RHP. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act") or any U.S. federal, state or other securities laws. The Equity Shares may not be transferred or resold except as permitted under the U.S. Securities Act, the applicable state securities laws and any applicable non-U.S. securities laws, pursuant to registration or exemption therefrom. The Company will not be registered as an investment company under the U.S. Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "Investment Company Act") and accordingly is not subject to the protections of the Investment Company Act. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold (a) to persons in the United States and to U.S. Persons who are both, (i) "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act and referred to in this Red Herring Prospectus as "U.S. QIBs"), and (ii) Qualified Purchasers ("QPs"), as defined in Section 2(a)(51) of the Investment Company Act (persons who are both a U.S. QIB and a QP are referred to as "Entitled QPs"), pursuant to Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act and in accordance with Section 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act, and (b) to persons who are not U.S. Persons outside the United States, pursuant to Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales are made. There will be no public offering of the Equity Shares in the United States.

SCHOLARS PLANT
THE SEEDS OF A VISION,
AND THE FUTURE REAPS
THE HARVEST.



ADITYA VIKRAM BIRLA
14.11.1943 - 01.10.1995

THE 24TH ADITYA BIRLA SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

The Aditya Birla Scholarships Programme is a tribute to the enduring legacy of our legendary leader Mr. Aditya Vikram Birla, an icon well ahead of his time. His unwavering commitment to values, and humanitarianism is his legacy. As one of the driving forces behind propelling India onto the global stage, he earned profound respect and admiration worldwide as a visionary, whose views and ideas remain as relevant today as they were in the 20th century.

Instituted in 1999, the Aditya Birla Scholarships programme endeavours to nurture tomorrow's leaders today. Up until now, 731 outstanding students have been named Aditya Birla Scholars. This programme extends to students from the management, law and engineering streams. The top 20 students from each of these premier institutes viz. IIMs; XLRI Jamshedpur; National Law University, Delhi; NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad; National Law School of India University, Bengaluru; National Law University, Jodhpur; Gujarat National Law University; The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata and IITs, BITS Pilani; were evaluated. The evaluation led to the shortlisting of 112 candidates from 389 applicants. Of these, 47 aspirants have been named "The Aditya Birla Scholars", by an eminent jury. Unsurprisingly 53% of girls constitute this cohort.

ADITYA BIRLA SCHOLARS: CLASS OF 2023-24 MANAGEMENT

IIM Ahmedabad Aditi Vikas Shashwat Sahoo	IIM Calcutta Santanu Goswami Vinay Mehta	IIM Lucknow Harsh Misra Manasi Parakh	XLRI Jamshedpur Nandagopal V
IIM Bangalore Anurag Bhatkar Lakshita Sethi	IIM Indore Parshva Dugad	IIM Shillong Kashish Sharma Saagarika Panyam Sampada Dubey	IIM Kozhikode Aishwarya Ramesh Shivapriya Roy Vipul Jain

OUR DISTINGUISHED PANEL OF JUDGES:

Management Stream: Mr. Noshir Kaka (Senior Partner, McKinsey) • Mr. Raj Chengappa (Group Editorial Director-Publishing, India Today Group) • Mr. Sanjay Murdeshwar (Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Novartis India Limited)

Law Stream: Retd. Justice Ms. Gita Mittal (Former Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, Former Acting Chief Justice and Judge, High Court of Delhi) • Retd. Justice Shahrukh Kathawalla (Former Justice, High Court of Bombay) • Ms. Zia J. Mody (Co-Founder & Managing Partner, AZB & Partners) • Mr. Prashant Sarin (Senior Partner, Bain & Company India Pvt Ltd.)

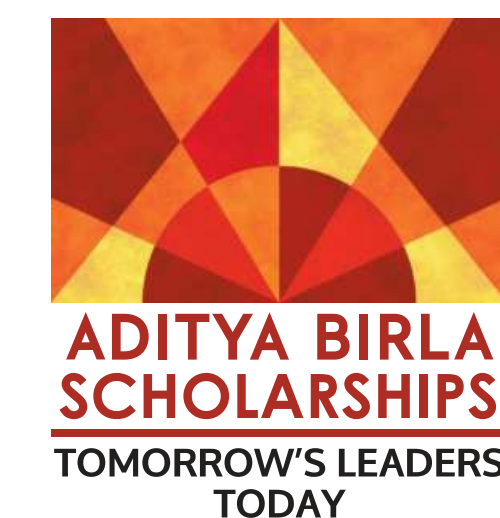
Engineering Stream: Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty (Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy & Chairman Atomic Energy Commission) • Dr. Arnab Bhattacharya (Director, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education) • Dr. Ashish Lele (Director, CSIR- National Chemical Laboratory)

LAW

Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar Aadhya Rajesh Aparna Vats Apurva Thakur	National Law School of India University, Bengaluru Arpanjot Kaur Ayesha Khan Navya Nair Piyush Gupta Shubham Thakare	National Law University, Jodhpur Anirudh Krishnan Nitin Kishore Suhana	NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad Aditya Priyadarshi Devika Veerkar Nida Mohammed
		National Law University (NLU), Delhi Arshiya Gupta	

ENGINEERING

IIT Bombay Aditi Singh Malay Kedla	IIT Guwahati Aadit Siroya Narmada Pinjala Paltempati Sharvani	IIT Roorkee Lavanya Singhal
IIT Delhi Priyanshi Gupta Rishabh Narayanan	IIT Kanpur Aritra Ambudh Dutta Jaskaran Singh Sanjna S	IIT Kharagpur Arka Ghosh Himadri Mondal
BITS Pilani Hamsini G		IIT Madras Shivanshu Kumar Yoogi Kovendhan



Due for change

A tweak to IBC's waterfall mechanism will help

The September 2022 'Rainbow papers' judgment (State Tax Officer vs Rainbow Papers Limited) of the Supreme Court is back in the news because a petition seeking a review of the order has recently been dismissed. The Rainbow Papers ruling has raised doubts over the priority to be accorded to dues owed to government entities — in other words, on where they should lie in the pecking order or 'waterfall mechanism' spelt out under Section 53 of the IBC — in the event of resolution or liquidation.



The Rainbow Papers ruling creates scope for pushing government dues up the 'waterfall' from the fifth place to second place, on a par with secured creditors; this is because the apex court ruled that VAT payable by the entity provided the government with a charge on its assets. The question is whether the government (Centre and States) can be assigned the status of a secured creditor in all cases. This is an important issue, and the stakes are high for all claimants. With even secured creditors (in second place) taking steep haircuts in most cases, it is apparent that the waterfall system will have much less left for those in fifth place or below when the government works its way up the order. The Centre, going by a paper put by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs this January on proposed changes in the IBC, is wary of government dues going up the ladder. It would ramp up the cost of resolution and act as a deterrent to investors.

The IBC has arguably been conceived with a view to promoting smooth resolution of debt through private initiative. The Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (PVVNL) v/s Raman Ispat ruling of the SC in July 2023 does refer to the downplaying of crown debts as a feature of the IBC law. Its view on the status of government dues would seem to differ from the Rainbow Papers ruling. While noting that electricity dues cannot qualify as a secure charge on the company's assets (unlike taxes in the Rainbow Papers), it has also observed that the IBC waterfall mechanism should ideally prevail over any statute that governs dues to State agencies. In its view, Section 53 of the IBC quite deliberately places Central and State government dues in fifth place, after meeting resolution costs, dues to workmen and "secured creditors", dues to other employees and financial unsecured creditors. The petition seeking a review of Rainbow Papers referred to the PVVNL ruling to make out a case. But the apex court dismissed the petition, saying that the PVVNL ruling cannot be construed as going against Rainbow Papers.

The MCA suggests a way out of this mire by amending the IBC law. It suggests that all unsecured creditors other than employees — financial creditors, operational creditors and government — should be treated equally under Section 53. 'Secured' claims by government can be restricted to 'transactions' involving specific agreements, without a statute coming into play. These changes brook no delay.

FROM THE VIEWROOM.

Afghan refugees, a grim tale

Achuth Vinay

After the Pakistan administration launched a nationwide deportation drive against around 1.7 million undocumented Afghan refugees, thousands of Afghans have begun leaving the country since the beginning of the month. As on November 6, as many as 1,70,000 Afghans have been repatriated, according to official figures. The Pakistan government had given the unregistered foreign nationals, primarily Afghans, a deadline to leave the country by November 1 or face detention and deportation. Pakistan later extended the legal residence of the refugees until the end of 2023 but said it would not stop deporting the Afghans it says are "undocumented".

The mass migration of Afghans into Pakistan began in the late 1970s with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. In the latest episode of mass exodus, an estimated 6 lakh Afghans took refuge in the neighbouring nation in 2021 after the Taliban recaptured power in the country.

Pakistan has blamed the illegal immigrants for rising crime and terror attacks in the country. The failure of the Taliban administration to rein in its offshoot Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has irked the Pakistan administration and the growing tensions between the two countries over recognising the Durand Line too are being seen as reasons for Pakistan to expel Afghan immigrants. Amidst the economic mess that Pakistan finds itself in, Afghans have been accused of 'stealing' the jobs of the locals.

Despite warnings from the UN that forcibly deporting Afghans from Pakistan could lead to severe human rights violations including the separation of families and deportation of minors, Pakistan has maintained that it has to prioritise the security and economic situation in the country.

The Afghan refugees, are staring down an uncertain future returning to a homeland that they have never set foot in. The refugee influx is bound to worsen the situation in a country that is grappling with economic turmoil.



BARENDRA KUMAR BHOI

Leaders of several Opposition-ruled States — Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh — have announced that they would revert to the old pension system (OPS). As a part of fiscal prudence, the OPS was replaced by the National Pension System (NPS) for all Central Government employees in 2004. All State governments, except West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, implemented the NPS for State government employees during 2003-13 (see Table).

The pension reform was inevitable for several reasons. First, the OPS is a defined benefit (DB) scheme where a retired employee is entitled to receive a guaranteed pension, roughly equal to half of his last salary, which is paid from the current revenues of the government(s). As the OPS is unfunded (pay-as-you-go), pension expenditure is typically a burden on the exchequer.

Second, the pension burden would increase exponentially as the average global life expectancy, according to the United Nations, is projected to rise from 72.9 years in 2022 to 77.2 years by 2050. Moreover, the share of the global population aged 65 years or above is expected to increase from 10 per cent to 16 per cent during the same period. As the OPS is unsustainable, several countries have shifted from defined benefit (unfunded) pension schemes to defined contribution (funded) pension schemes.

Third, as State governments' committed expenditure under OPS would surge, discretionary expenditures, particularly capital expenditure, would shrink given their commitment to the FRBM Act.

Fourth, the intergeneration equity would be impaired as current taxpayers would continue to pay the OPS retirees on a perpetual basis.

Fifth, the social security argument in favour of OPS is weak as retired government employees constitute hardly 3.5 per cent of the workforce and they are relatively better off compared to the vulnerable section of the workforce engaged in the unorganised sector for whom social security is paramount.

Sixth, if the pension is a differed wage, it should ideally form a corpus outside the Budget under defined contribution by the employer and employees. This would grow during the tenure of the

Don't revert to old pension system

UNSUSTAINABLE. Fiscally, it would be disastrous for States. The huge pension outgo will choke productive capex



Adoption of NPS by State governments

Year of adoption	Name of the State (Date of Adoption)
2003	Himachal Pradesh (May 15, 2003)
2004	Punjab (Jan 1, 2004); Rajasthan (Jan 1, 2004); Andhra Pradesh (Sept 1, 2004); Chhattisgarh (Nov 1, 2004); Jharkhand (Dec 1, 2004)
2005	Madhya Pradesh (Jan 1, 2005); Manipur (Jan 1, 2005); Odisha (Feb 1, 2005); Assam (Feb 1, 2005); Gujarat (April 1, 2005); Uttar Pradesh (April 1, 2005); Goa (Aug 5, 2005); Bihar (Sept 1, 2005); Uttarakhand (Oct 1, 2005); Maharashtra (Nov 1, 2005)
2006	Haryana (Jan 1, 2006); Karnataka (April 1, 2006); Sikkim (April 1, 2006)
2008	Arunachal Pradesh (Jan 1, 2008)
2010	Jammu & Kashmir (Jan 1, 2010); Nagaland (Jan 1, 2010); Meghalaya (April 1, 2010); Mizoram (Sept 1, 2010)
2013	Kerala (April 1, 2013)

Source: National Pension System Trust

service and pension can be given to the retirees from the corpus fund without undue burden on the Budget. The NPS is essentially based on this principle.

Initially, the contribution of the employer was 10 per cent of the basic salary and DA with matching contributions by the employees. Since April 1, 2019, the Central Government's contribution to the pension fund under NPS was enhanced to 14 per cent without a corresponding increase in employees' contribution. Although State governments have accepted the enhanced contribution, implementation is pending in most States.

FISCAL PRUDENCE

The NPS is essentially a defined contribution pension scheme where the burden of pension is prudently shared between the employer and employees during the period of service without any guaranteed benefit after retirement. Nevertheless, retirees are entitled to pension benefits based on the growth of the pension fund. They can also

withdraw a lumpsum at the time of retirement, similar to the commutation benefit under the OPS. The balance amount is converted into an annuity for pension purposes by a third party.

There is a lot of uncertainties about the size of retirement benefit under NPS as State government guarantee is no longer available. The retirement benefit may be elastic based on economic cycles. Moreover, the investment risk of the pension fund shall be borne by the employees. These concerns need to be addressed through market-driven solutions.

Globally, pension funds are offering multiple products based on the requirements of retirees. In India too,

Intergeneration equity would be impaired as current taxpayers would continue to pay the old pension system retirees on a perpetual basis.

several pension products are available with a separate regulator for pension funds. There can be several hybrid-type pension schemes, which can combine both defined contribution and defined benefit — consisting of a minimum guaranteed pension and a variable component based on return. Similarly, pension products based on the pooling of retirees under collective defined contribution (CDC) can resolve the longevity risk.

As of now, both OPS and NPS are operating in India. Most of the NPS members are still in service. During the next 10-15 years, while retirees under OPS would gradually dwindle the retirees under NPS would increase. While the pension liability of the government(s) under OPS would diminish their contribution under NPS would increase.

According to a recent study by RBI, States' contribution to NPS may rise from the current level of about 0.1 per cent of GDP to 0.2 per cent by 2039. On the contrary, if all States revert to the OPS, they can save the employer's contribution for a short while, but the pension liability under OPS would surpass the savings they make by 2040. Thereafter, States' pension liability would grow phenomenally and "the fiscal cost of OPS could be as high as 4.5 times that of NPS with additional burden reaching 0.9 per cent of GDP annually by 2060".

In absolute terms, States' pension outgo would increase from ₹4 trillion in 2022-23 to more than ₹18 trillion beyond 2050, which is unsustainable. Therefore, States reverting to OPS is certainly a step backwards — a recipe for fiscal disaster in the medium term.

The writer is currently RBI Chair Professor at Utkal University and former Principal Adviser and Head of the Monetary Policy Department, RBI. Views are personal

Time to secure renewable energy supply chains

This requires global cooperation in mining, manufacturing and tech, as also involving think tanks for providing reliable data

Rishabh Jain
Karthik Ganesan

With rising oil prices and countries struggling to meet their net-zero targets in a multipolar world (at war), there are two phrases making their place into every international summit — critical minerals and renewable energy supply chains.

A recent study by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) for the G20 Energy Transition Working Group revealed a concerning concentration of over 80 per cent of solar module, wind turbine gensets, and lithium-ion battery manufacturing in just three countries. This skewed distribution has led to significant import dependence on a handful of suppliers, which particularly affects middle-income nations.

The rising demand for clean technologies has spurred global mining of critical minerals, with current production levels for minerals like cobalt, copper, and nickel already surpassing two per cent of current global reserves. This indicates that these resources may be depleted in less than 50 years if new reserves or substitutes aren't discovered. Additionally, these supply chains are



CRITICAL MINERALS. Intensive mining

intricate and susceptible to disruptions from force majeure events or the geopolitical tumult that is currently playing out. This requires international cooperation that trumps protectionist measures.

POLICY COHERENCE

First, global policy coherence is required to address the limitations in the supply chains. Establishing a mature and robust mining and manufacturing supply chain is a time-intensive process, spanning over a decade. Each stage — from mineral exploration to manufacturing of products — demands significant effort and sustained financial support to achieve competitive scales. The Mineral Security Partnership, the EU Critical Minerals Club, the Indo-Pacific

Economic Framework for Prosperity and the Quad agreement of Clean Energy Supply Chain Principles are some initiatives that a group of governments are undertaking to solve supply chain challenges.

In parallel, there are domestic initiatives like the US' Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the EU Critical Raw Minerals Act and India's Production-Linked Incentive scheme, which may slow down the global effort to diversify production.

It's impractical to attempt to localise the entire value chain within one country or region. Instead, countries should collaborate based on their strengths and tackle vulnerabilities and solve for choke-points in the supply chain.

Second, foster institutional collaborations and increase funding for technology co-development and deployment. Government-backed technology development funds, managed with academia and industry, can drive innovation in improving material use efficiency.

Currently, renewable energy technology patents and consequently processing and manufacturing capabilities are limited to a few countries like the US, Japan, Korea, China and those in the European Union. Their prevalent business models, policy

landscape and climatic conditions may not align with those of emerging economies. In such a scenario, there is a need for, jointly funding the co-development of next generation technologies for exploration, mining, processing, manufacturing and mineral recovery.

Finally, non-state actors like multilateral institutions, think tanks and academic institutions will have to play a strategic and proactive role by identifying contentious issues, creating new avenues in track 2-type dialogues and providing timely inputs to policymakers in national and international forums. They can help facilitate the sharing of reliable manufacturing and trade data for clean energy technologies in a transparent manner. More importantly, they can play a critical role in establishing draft standards and a rules-based architecture to govern the use and deployment of emerging technologies and energy sources.

The onus is on the world's major economies to collectively steer the course towards a secure, resilient and a reliable supply chain of critical minerals and clean technologies.

Jain is Senior Programme Lead, and Ganesan is Fellow and Director, Research and Coordination, at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water

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

Trade woes

India's trade deficit hit a record high in October, with the country's exported goods worth \$33.57 billion and imported goods worth over \$65 billion. While both import and export growth rates have either been negative or muted, October saw a massive divergence between the two trend lines, with the country's trade deficit at a monthly level having grown to \$31.5 billion this month.

Though it is a monthly spike, a high trade deficit deserves monitoring. Given the fact that the trade deficit weakens the strength of domestic currency, its impact on the growth trajectory cannot be overlooked.

M Jeyaram
Sholavandan (Tamil Nadu)

Women and credit

With reference to the 'Microfinance industry added as many as 80 lakh women clients in FY23' (November 16). The growing microcredit delivery to women by RBI-regulated entities is facilitating women to become self-reliant. As credit is an indispensable input, it is imperative to understand the various aspects to avoid its misuse and prevent women from getting dis-empowered.

So it is essential to eliminate financial ignorance prevailing among the marginalised and nudge them to learn about new techno-economic activities to optimise the benefits and enable them to support society in nation-building. Microcredit lenders have a greater

responsibility to ensure visibility in the utilisation of funds so disbursed, besides continuing actions to escalate the level of financial literacy. Empowerment of women is a sine qua non to create a robust human capital and for that microfinance must flow uninterrupted.

VSK Pillai
Vazhappally (Kerala)

Tax boost

It is good to see that the direct tax collections so far in this year is robust and a growth of net tax collection at about 21 per cent augurs well for government's finances. The reasons primarily are increased income of individuals and corporates. Other important

reason may be improved compliance by individuals. The enhanced controls by income tax department and effective collection and tracking of income as well as investment has resulted in improved compliance. The increased number of returns filed, even though many were with nil taxable income, is a result of such effective tracking.

Kasiraman R
Chennai

Training teachers

With reference to report 'Invest \$1 billion every year to train teachers: Narayana Murthy' (November 16). One of the reasons for the pathetic condition of the Indian Education system is the lack of committed teachers.

A teacher imbibes values and other

good qualities in children. We should develop an education system where leadership qualities, entrepreneurship, and rational thinking should be encouraged at the school level. Teachers shape our future leaders and citizens and hence teachers who are well-trained with high integrity and commitment should be appointed.

To encourage more people to take up teaching, we should set up institutes on the lines of IIMs where committed youngsters should be trained to take up teaching jobs. Finally, it is the duty of the parents to hold their children's teachers in high esteem, so that the child develops a bonding with the teachers.

Veena Sheny
Thane

Organic cooperation

New multi-State entity can boost organic exports

Hema Yadav
Sangeeta Shroff

National Cooperatives Organic Ltd (NCOL), a national multi state cooperative society, was established to make India a global leader in organic products. NCOL will act as an umbrella organisation by managing the entire supply chain of organic products through aggregation, branding and marketing the products of various cooperatives.

India has the highest number of organic farmers in the world at 44.3 lakh with 59.1 lakh ha under organic and natural farming.

The burgeoning middle class with higher disposable incomes, rapid urbanisation and an awareness for safe and quality food are factors driving domestic organic food consumption. The market size of organic food was worth about ₹22 billion in FY21, which is likely to touch about ₹64 billion by FY25.

International trade in organic foods is also rapidly increasing and many retail chains and supermarkets in advanced countries as well as in India have special shelf space for the organic category. India produced about 2.9 million tonne of organic produce which included both edible and non edible produce like cotton.

India's strength lies in collectivisation of farmers into cooperative societies and producer companies, which have a federated structure that enable the farmers to access agri inputs, aggregate the produce and take advantage of post-harvest management practices and supply chains to connect the market. The success of Amul in export of milk products is a beacon to the potential of exports in the cooperative sector. Amul milk is exported to Bhutan, the US and Singapore.

Central Areca nut and Cocoa Marketing and Co-operative Society (CAMPCO), a multi state cooperative society in Karnataka, procures areca nuts and cocoa grown by member cultivators. The cooperative has been processing, promoting and marketing the areca nuts and cocoa beans domestically and also has international buyers from China and Africa.

Sikkim has taken a lead in becoming fully organic. The Sikkim State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd (SIMFED) is an apex marketing federation for undertaking bulk marketing of agricultural and



ORGANIC PRODUCE. Huge potential PERIASAMY M

horticulture produce through a network of 40,000 farmers of various cooperative societies. The Federation facilitates the farmers to comply with the norms and reach out to consumers through multipurpose cooperative societies and consumer cooperatives.

THE CHALLENGES

The potential for organic produce is immense, especially in nutraceutical and health care sector which use spices as major ingredients. The scope for exporting ginger, turmeric, large sized cardamom is huge. Organic turmeric is produced in Sikkim and Tamil Nadu but farmers are unable to realise a premium price for their produce because of high post harvest losses and lack of organised markets that are suitably designed to handle organic produce.

A similar picture arises for other spices, medicinal plants, fruits, black rice, etc. which suffer from lack of marketing channel, certification, packaging, branding, transportation and adherence to sanitary and phytosanitary protocols, resulting in rejection of consignments.

NCOL's primary task is to link primary cooperative societies and producer organisations by enabling registration. There will also be a need to undertake market research on products which have potential, identify markets, understand the right product mix, create clusters and provide incentives to cooperatives.

A well-defined market entry strategy for organic products will also require product compliances and standardisation to be adopted by the growers, processors and traders. Training, market information system and technology enablement will unleash the potential of organic produce cooperative marketing societies.

Yadav is Director, and Shroff is Professor, VAMNICOM, Pune



DP SRIVASTAVA

The impact of the Hamas-Israel conflict on oil and gas prices has remained limited so far. After a brief spurt when the price of the Indian crude oil basket rose by 9.5 per cent, it settled down to \$87.23 per barrel close to the level (\$85.66 per barrel) before the October 7 Hamas attack. The war is confined to the area away from the oil-bearing region of the Middle East. This could however change if there is a wider conflagration.

A major factor that has helped keep the oil price hike in check is the Saudi-Iran rapprochement. Without this, the geopolitical tensions would have affected shipping in the Gulf. A second important development was the statement of Hasan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah chief. He stated that the Hamas terror strike was 'the result of a 100 per cent Palestinian decision.' He distanced both Iran and his own organisation from Hamas's actions. This has reduced the danger of Iran being drawn into the conflict.

The OPEC reduced production by 2 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2022, and an additional 1.3 million bpd in 2023. This coupled with an increase in oil demand by 2.4 million bpd in 2023 has kept the crude oil prices high. In the past, shale oil would have flooded in to take advantage of the market segment vacated by OPEC+. This year according to OPEC, the number of rigs has dropped by 143 by October as compared to last year. This suggests a slowdown in shale oil production.

LNG PRICE SPIKE

There has been a sharp increase in LNG prices since the Hamas-Israel conflict broke out. The Asian LNG spot prices (Japan-Korea marker) went up by 32 per cent from \$14.07 per MMBTU on the eve of the Hamas-Israel conflict to \$18.59 per MMBTU on October 23. LNG prices are also affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The EU has diversified from Russian piped gas to LNG supply from the US and other sources. The US exports now account for 50 per cent of the EU's LNG imports. Though the LNG prices have come down since last year, they remain nearly double the pre-Ukraine war

Hamas-Israel conflict and climate change

GEOPOLITICAL SCENE. The Saudi-Iran rapprochement has kept oil prices under check. But going ahead gas prices can come under pressure



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

levels. As the EU seems to have decided to reduce its dependence on Russian piped gas, there is going to be long-term pressure on LNG supplies and prices. India needs to explore the option of bringing piped gas from the Middle East.

While global warming is supposed to slow down investment in fossil fuel extraction, major producers do not want to leave their resources below ground while the age of oil draws to a close. Hence, the attempt to boost the extraction of oil and gas as fast as possible.

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that "Governments are

literally doubling down on fossil fuel production; that spells double trouble for people and planet". A *Wall Street Journal* article points out that UAE, the host of COP28, plans to boost its oil production from 4 million bpd now to 5 million bpd by 2027. The US oil production is expected to remain high at 19 million to 21 million bpd between 2024 and 2050. Its gas production will increase continually to reach 1.2 trillion cubic meters in 2050.

The UN Production Gap Report 2023 includes India in the list of top 20 fossil fuel producer countries. While India indeed ranks second in coal production behind China, in terms of consumption it is far behind. China has a 50.5 per cent share of the world's coal consumption, while India's share is 11.3.

The UN report ignores the historical responsibility of developed countries and China who have exhausted 80 per cent of the global carbon budget. They also continue to eat into the meagre carbon space remaining at a much faster

pace since their per capita consumption is higher. The report is right in concluding that the climate goals of major economies are not aligned with their fossil fuel policies. But there has to be more equitable burden sharing.

The pressure is building up to accept the peaking of emissions. The emissions of the EU and the US have already 'peaked'; China will 'peak' in 2030. India will not be able to remain an outlier indefinitely. Capping of emissions before diversification to clean energy sources will seriously impair our development trajectory.

The 'peaking' levels are arbitrarily chosen. India needs to build up generating assets quickly before her emissions are capped. This can only be done on the basis of technologies that are commercially feasible now. The time for a decision is now.

The writer is a former Ambassador and has served on the Board of Directors of GAIL and was a senior Advisor to OVL

The writer is a former Ambassador and has served on the Board of Directors of GAIL and was a senior Advisor to OVL

The writer is a former Ambassador and has served on the Board of Directors of GAIL and was a senior Advisor to OVL

The writer is a former Ambassador and has served on the Board of Directors of GAIL and was a senior Advisor to OVL

businessline.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY.

November 17, 2003

Pension funds: Private sector to play key role

The management of pension funds after the ongoing pension reforms would be a predominantly a private sector show. Though the government has finally decided against placing a cap on the overall number of pension fund managers (PFM) in the new regime, it has stood firm that it will allow only a solitary public sector entity to participate in the market.

Telecom majors may oppose single licence for long distance

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) issuance of a consultation paper on unified licence for long distance services with basic and cellular services is likely to invite opposition from many of the bigger telecom players like Reliance Bharti and Tata group. According to industry sources, in the event of a unified licence for the entire telecom sector, the integrated operators will be the end-losers, since they have already paid huge amounts as licence fee for long-distance operations.

Shell, Total sign Saudi gas deal

Oil majors, Royal Dutch/Shell and Total have signed a landmark deal to find and pump gas in Saudi Arabia, becoming the first western companies in decades to win rights to the Gulf state's huge energy reserves.

DPDP vs GDPR – a comparative snapshot

Goldie Dhama
Dhruv Kaushal

Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 (DPDP) is India's flagship personal data protection legislation, that is widely expected to impact India in the same manner that was seen when the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was legislated in 2016.

There are several corporates and organisations which have headquarters in the European Union and subsidiaries/joint ventures in India. One aspect which they need to evaluate is whether the current processes and systems are enough to comply with DPDP or if they need to undertake additional safeguards to comply with it. In this context, it is critical to analyse certain areas, where the DPDP introduces stricter compliance requirements, as compared to the GDPR.

Category of personal data — The DPDP does not provide a special category of data, or distinguish between personal data and sensitive personal data, unlike the GDPR and even DPDP's predecessor — the SPDI Rules, 2011 (under the Information Technology Act). This means that same measures of security are required for every category of data irrespective of whether it has personal information

(such as names, addresses etc.) and/or sensitive personal information (such as passwords, biometrics, financial data etc.)

Processor's role and penalties: Under GDPR, a processor is responsible for their actions, i.e. should any action by the processor result in breach of personal data, such processor is held liable and subject to monetary penalties. However, under DPDP, only the data fiduciary is liable to the regulator (Data Protection Board), and any bilateral claims between the data fiduciary and data processor, are to be addressed under the data processing contractual agreement. This implies, that the data fiduciary's compliance burden and liability for fines is higher compared to the data processor under the DPDP. Consequently, the data fiduciary will need to ensure that the contractual terms safeguard the fiduciary, in the event of failure or lapse at the processor's end.

Data Transfer: Under GDPR, data transfer outside Europe can be completed based on EU Adequacy Decision, Binding Corporate Rules, or Standard Contractual Clauses. Under DPDP, cross border transfer is permitted except where it is to a country which is restricted, or the entity is regulated by any sectoral laws which restricts data transfer. This



MOVING IN. Think before you leap

means, entities will need to evaluate sectoral laws impacting the business and standard contractual clauses is not a base for data transfer overseas

Child data: Under GDPR, a child is defined as individuals between 13-16 years of age. However, under DPDP, an individual below the age of 18 years is defined as a child. DPDP prescribes higher degree of compliances to be undertaken and data fiduciaries are prohibited from processing child data for behavioral monitoring/targeted advertising, and not undertake processing which may cause detrimental effect to the child's well-being. Further, when processing child data, data fiduciaries need to seek verifiable guardian/parental consent.

Breach notification period: GDPR requires that the relevant businesses notify data breach without undue delay, and in no case later than 72 hours after becoming aware of the data

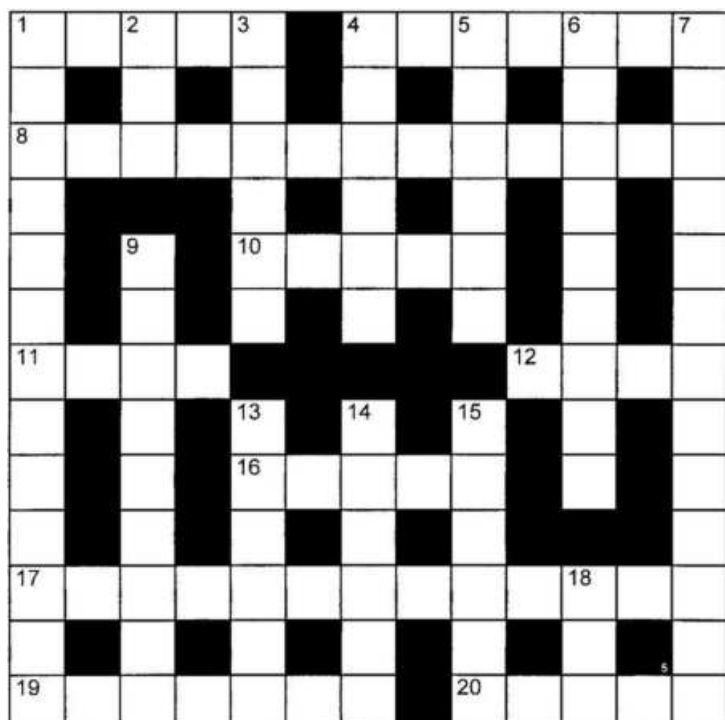
breach. Section 70B96 of the Information Technology Act mandates that information security incidents have to be reported within six hours of the entity noticing such incident or being informed of the incident. One will need to wait for the rules to see if they prescribe different timeline

Penalties: Depending on the nature of breach, GDPR prescribes penalty slabs, i.e., €10-20 million or 2-4 per cent of a company's turnover, whichever is higher. DPDP has provided for maximum penalty amount for each breach under the law. These slabs are the maximum amounts and depending on factors such as the nature, gravity and duration of the breach, nature of personal data affected, whether actions were taken to mitigate the impact of the breach etc., the penalty amounts can be lower than the maximum prescribed.

When implemented along with rules, the DPDP is expected to trigger significant changes in existing privacy practices adopted by businesses operating in India. Given the differences between GDPR and DPDP, entities which are GDPR compliant, need to evaluate their policies, processes and systems to comply with provisions of the DPDP.

Dhama is Partner and Kaushal is Manager, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP

BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 2314



EASY

ACROSS

- Unspoken, silent (5)
- Senior member of an inn of court (7)
- With over-devotion to bodily wants (13)
- Result, come after (5)
- A military force (4)
- Small case for sewing articles (4)
- Abnormally fat (5)
- Writing of something in another key (13)
- Form of church service (7)
- Trifled, sported (5)

DOWN

- Highly excitable (13)
- Feline (3)
- Called, styled (6)
- Brazen (6)
- Fixed, pinned down (6)
- African tribesman; barbarian (9)
- Repaired and made as new (as engine) (13)
- Fighting man (9)
- Water diviner (6)
- Power, faculty of recalling (6)
- Paint carefully, make a likeness (6)
- Clinging creeper (3)

NOT SO EASY

ACROSS

- In discretion, one has an unspoken sort of agreement (5)
- One on form as a senior member of an inn of court (7)
- I claim attire's wrong : not enough spirituality (13)
- It will follow the use 'en' is put to (5)
- Mary played around with the host (4)
- Case for sewing-things in home tuition (4)
- Is too big to be in 'er stockings! (5)
- What port is nation's to be in change of order? (13)
- Form of service US soldier is truly upset by (7)
- Do yet be put out by the way one played with it (5)

DOWN

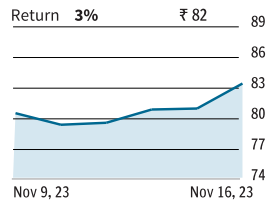
- Sort of paint, in the mind, what a prima donna may be (13)
- Northeast trading boat that purrs along? (3)
- Designated metre Donne first used (6)
- Harsh-sounding way to get money at start of year (6)
- Are pinned down, like toes? (6)
- African tribesman, when very warm, has tent to put up (9)
- In reed, state is seen to have been repaired and refitted (13)
- One in action a tomb can't be made for (9)
- The rods we supply he can use to divine (6)
- It could be more my computer store (6)
- Show how dip, etc, can be upset (6)
- After four, yew starts as an evergreen (3)

SOLUTION: BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 2313

ACROSS 1. Paris 4. Rossini 8. Inventory 9. Ida 10. Omneity 12. Slur 14. Heretic 17. Hail 18. Dockers 20. Cup 21. Pari passu 23. Lies low 24. Emery
DOWN 1. Philosophical 2. Ravine 3. Sentinel 4. Roo 5. Says 6. Icicle 7. In a brown study 11. Yield 13. Disciple 15. Simple 16. Lessee 19. Opal 22. Raw

QUICKLY.

Elpro Intl buys shares of Jyothy Labs, Nestle



Chennai: Elpro International in a notice to the stock exchanges that it has acquired 78,560 shares of Jyothy Labs Ltd and 1,234 shares of Nestle India from open market for investment purposes. Shares of Elpro International closed 2.94 per cent higher at ₹82.72 on the BSE. OUR BUREAU

Gandhar Oil Refinery IPO to open on Nov 22

New Delhi: Gandhar Oil Refinery (India) Ltd is set to open its initial public offering on November 22. The three-day Initial Public Offering (IPO) will conclude on November 24 and the anchor book of the offer will open for a day on November 21, according to the Red Herring Prospectus. The IPO consists of fresh as well as offer-for-sale. ■■

US stocks rally takes a breather, Cisco drops



Wall Street's main indexes drifted lower on Thursday, weighed down by a drop in shares of Cisco and Walmart following underwhelming forecasts. Shares of Cisco Systems shed 11.5 per cent as the communications and networking firm cut its full-year revenue and profit forecasts on slowing demand for its networking equipment. REUTERS

Realty stocks hit the roof on robust demand

ON STRONG FOUNDATION. BSE Realty Index jumps 53.66% y-o-y, outperforming BSE Sensex's 6.79 per cent

Isha Rautela
Bengaluru

With realty being in a sweet spot, shares of top listed real estate companies have surged by anywhere between 50 and 80 per cent in the past 12 months on the back of robust property sales and sharp rise in net profits, helping the BSE Realty index outshine the broader benchmark Sensex.

Investors have aggressively bought shares of property companies as the upswing in the Indian real estate market continues post Covid. The BSE Realty Index grew by 53.66 per cent in the last one year, outperforming the BSE Sensex, which grew by 6.79 per cent y-o-y. Developers anticipate robust demand for the next two to three years, helping listed real estate firms sustain the re-rating in the

equity market. This is in contrast to previous periods (post-2014) when there was a supply glut, which put a lid of property prices as demand failed to keep pace.

Vimal Nadar, Senior Director, Research, Colliers India, states, "The growth is attributed to prevailing market sentiment, supported by upbeat homebuyer attitudes, stable disposable income, appropriate pricing, and favourable long-term interest rates, showcasing a new upcycle in the sector."

In fact, Anuj Puri, Chairman, Anarock Group, sees the listed developers leading the wave and experiencing significant growth in new supply each quarter. Echoing a similar thought Venkat K Narayana, CEO, Prestige Group in a recent interaction with *businessline* agreed that it is the beginning of a new upturn cycle in the real estate market.

Skyscrapers

Companies	BSE close (₹)	52-week high (₹)	y-o-y (gain) (%)
DLF	630.00	633.40	56.42
Godrej Properties	1,852.45	1,879.00	43.62
Prestige Estates	910.50	925.00	92.96
Macrotech Developers	869.00	879.90	71.15
Oberoi Realty	1,333.60	1,344.20	50.15
Brigade Enterprises	714.00	749.85	48.99
Phoenix Mills	2,218.95	2,366.40	50.51

For instance, DLF, Prestige Estates, Godrej Properties, Oberoi Realty, and more have reported a remarkable improvement in Q2 financial performance, with the 7 biggest players (in terms of Mcap) showing a 119.74 per cent y-o-y increase in consolidated net profits. Further, the quarter also holds the record for the highest sales for many companies.

Interestingly, according to Puri, since new supply in the

mid and premium segments has been dominated by large and listed developers, buyer demand has also seen an uptick with the preferences for more branded products. "This has led to considerable improvements in these developers' stocks," he added.

DEMAND DRIVERS

Additionally, there are two new demand drivers at play: the return of long-term investors to the housing market

and the arrival of millennials as convinced home buyers. "Notably, fence-sitters and investors also saw this as an opportune moment to invest in residential real estate, be it for self-use or for pure-play investment purposes," Nadar said.

Further, even the leading financial services companies maintain a positive outlook towards the sector at large. According to Motilal Oswal Financial Services, despite the recent run-up in real estate stock prices, "we remain positive about select companies, which can continue to report 15-20 per cent growth, driven by their ability to sign new projects through their strong cash generation potential."

Prior to this, 2014 was considered to be the peak year for the sector. Data from Anarock Research showed that in the last decade, 2014 (all four

quarters collectively) was the peak year, which saw the highest yearly sales of approximately 3.43 lakh units across the top 7 cities. "In contrast, the first nine months of 2023 alone saw total sales of more than 3.49 lakh units across the top 7 cities, already more than the previous peak year of 2014," noted Puri.

According to Vivek Rathi, National Director Research, Knight Frank India, the new upcycle in the Indian real estate sector, particularly the housing segment, began in 2020 as the pandemic experience accentuated the sense of home ownership among people. "The September quarter has been declared as the best sales quarter for many listed and unlisted players, with an expectation of the December quarter which is likely to record an even higher level of market activity," he added.

Markets rally for 2nd day; IT stocks lead gainers

Press Trust of India

Equity benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher for a second straight day on Thursday following gains in IT, tech and consumer durable shares amid a mixed trend in global equities. Softer-than-expected US inflation data and easing bond yields have also brought optimism in equity markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 306.55 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 65,982.48. The Nifty gained 89.75 points or 0.46 per cent to 19,765.20.

"The market is sensing that export-based sectors like IT and pharma could be future winners. While cut in inflation will also benefit domestic placed staples and consumer sector," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

IREDA issue opens on Nov 21 at ₹30-32

Our Bureau
New Delhi

State-run Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) said on Thursday that it has fixed a price band of ₹30-32 per share for its initial public offer (IPO), which will open on Tuesday (November 21) next week.

IREDA, a mini-ratna under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), is a systemically important non-deposit-taking non-banking finance firm (NBFCND-SI) with the status of an infrastructure finance company (IFC).

The IPO will close on November 23.



FUND RAISING. Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA, addressing media on Thursday at Mumbai. This is the first IPO by a government-run company, since LIC hit the market in May last year.

Investors can bid for a minimum of 460 shares, IREDA Chairman and Managing Director, Pradip Kumar Das, said in a press conference.

This is the first IPO by a

government-run company, since LIC's mega issue hit the market in May last year.

The offer comprises fresh issue of up to 40.31 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 26.87 crore shares (worth

₹860 crore) by the Union Government. The IPO size is around ₹2,150 crore.

IREDA has reserved half of the shares in the public issue for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB), 35 per cent for retail investors and 15 per cent for Non Institutional Investors (NII).

IDBI Capital Markets & Securities, BOB Capital Markets, and SBI Capital Markets are the book-running lead managers and Link Intime India is the registrar to the offer.

The proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for augmenting its capital base to meet its future capital requirements and onward lending.

Tata Tech IPO price set at ₹475-500

Our Bureau
Mumbai

The Initial Public Offering of Tata Technologies is set at a price band of ₹475-500 a share. The IPO opens on November 22 and close on November 24. The issue size is ₹3,042.50 crore at the upper end of the price band.

The IPO from the Tata group stable, coming after a gap of nearly two decade, will be entirely through an offer for sale. The offer consists of the sale of up to 4.6275 crore shares by Tata Motors Ltd, 97.17 lakh shares by Alpha TC Holdings Pte. Ltd and 48.58 lakh shares by Tata Capital Growth Fund I.

The IPO will also have a re-

servation of 60.85 lakh shares to existing Tata Motors shareholders while employee reservation portion will be up to 20.28 lakh shares.

"India will be the innovation and global hub for the manufacturing segment. We provide engineering and digital solutions to global manufacturing clients as the company covers the entire automotive chain along with aerospace and heavy machinery," said CEO, Warren Harris.

'EXCITING VERTICAL'

Acquired by the Tata Group in 1996, the company which was incorporated as Core Software Systems Pvt Ltd in 1994 specialises in product development for Original Equip-

ment Manufacturers (OEM) and new energy vehicle companies.

About 88 per cent of the company's revenue comes from the automotive segment which has seen a 41 per cent compounded annual growth between 2021 and 2023. Further, the company plans to leverage its automotive expertise to expand its presence in the Aerospace and Transport and Construction Heavy Machinery (TCHM) segments. "Aerospace is an exciting vertical as the number of aircraft is expected to double in size from the present 22,000. Much of that demand will come from India," added Harris. After the announcement of the IPO, Tata Motors shares hit a high of ₹680.30

BROKER'S CALL.

Keynote Capital

MCX (REDUCE)
Target: ₹2,757
CMP: ₹2,965.80
In Q2-FY24, Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) delivered revenue growth of 29.6 per cent on a y-o-y basis on the back of improving ADT of Options contracts, which increased by 173.6 per cent on a y-o-y basis. MCX has finally transitioned to a new platform from October 16, 2023. However, operating margins were adversely affected during the quarter due to two factors. Firstly, MCX extended its software contract with 63 Moons until December 2023 at ₹1250 million per quarter. Additionally, there was a SGF contribution of ₹11.40 crore during the quarter, resulting in negative operating margins of (-) 17.4 per cent. We expect MCX to report negative operating margins in Q3-FY24 due to contract with 63 moons technologies is valid till December 31, 2023. MCX has effectively addressed a significant concern by successfully launching the CDP platform. MCX is now at a pivot point where it gaining massive traction in options contracts, rapidly expanding product offering, regulatory tailwind, and margin expansion expected from CDP platform. While the positives have largely been factored in, the stock is reasonably valued at this point.

Emkay Global

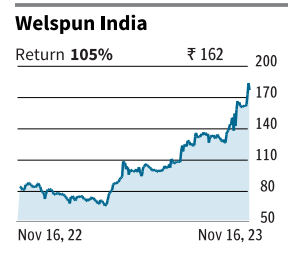
FIRSTSOURCE SOLUTIONS (BUY)
Target: ₹190
CMP: ₹165.75
We hosted Firstsource Solution's CEO Ritesh Idnani and its senior management team, for NDR in Mumbai. Key takeaways: Idnani gave details about his growth strategy encompassing the 'One Firstsource' framework that focuses on 7 strategic initiatives, including simplification of organisational structure — North America divided into 3 industry units of BFS, Healthcare, and CMT & others; Europe to remain a geographical business unit. The framework also aligns FSOL's services portfolio into 5 capability areas — collections, customer experience, consulting, trust & safety, and data & analytics. The management believes steadfast execution per the framework will drive top-quartile revenue growth, with margin improvement. CEO plans sharing specific growth aspirations by end-FY24. The management remains confident about achieving 0-2 per cent growth in FY24 and operating at 11-11.5 per cent EBITM. Overall, BPO market size is \$300 billion, of which Customer Experience (CX) comprises 25-30 per cent. FSOL derives about 53 per cent of revenue from CX. Only around 27 per cent of the CX market is outsourced, thus offering a huge opportunity. We maintain Buy, with TP of ₹190, at 18x its Sep-25 EPS

TODAY'S PICK.

Welspun India (₹162.70): BUY

Gurumurthy K
bl, research bureau

The short-term outlook for Welspun India is bullish. The stock fell over 3 per cent on Thursday. But that has not changed the structure and the trend on the charts. The recent fall could just be a short-lived correction. Immediate support is at ₹158. Below that ₹151-150 is the next strong support. We can expect the stock to reverse higher again either from ₹158 itself or from near ₹151-150. That will take Welspun India share price up to ₹192 over the next one month. Short-term traders can buy the stock now. Accumulate on dips at ₹159 and



₹154. Keep the stop-loss at ₹147. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹166 as soon as the stock moves up to ₹171. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹175 when the price touches ₹181. Exit the long positions at ₹190.

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

Day trading guide

19835 » Nifty 50 Futures					
S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT	
19790	19720	19880	19945	Go long only above 19880. Stop-loss can be kept at 19860	
₹1508 » HDFC Bank					
S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT	
1495	1475	1520	1550	Wait for dips. Go long at 1500. Keep the stop-loss at 1485	
₹1444 » Infosys					
S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT	
1420	1395	1455	1485	Go long only above 1455. Keep the stop-loss at 1445	
₹439 » ITC					
S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT	
437	434	443	446	Go long now and at 438. Stop-loss can be kept at 436	
₹202 » ONGC					
S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT	
200	197	204	207	Wait for dips. Go long at 201. Keep the stop-loss at 199	
₹2363 » Reliance Ind.					
S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT	
2350	2325	2375	2400	Go long on dips at 2355. Keep a tight stop-loss at 2340	
₹584 » SBI					
S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT	
582	579	589	592	Go short below 582. Stop-loss can be placed at 583	
₹3498 » TCS					
S1	S2	R1	R2	COMMENT	
3470	3430	3535	3575	Wait for dips. Go long at 3475. Keep the stop-loss at 3460	

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

'We believe the majority of rate hikes is behind us'

bl.interview

KS Badri Narayanan
Chennai

Bain Capital-backed 360 ONE Asset Management has received an overwhelming response to its private credit fund. In an interview with *businessline*, Aakash Desai, CIO & Head, Private Credit at 360 ONE Asset, throws some light on the industry.

Recently, 360 ONE Asset Management raised over ₹2,000 crore for its fourth private credit fund. What are the investments made, asset base and investor profile?

This fund, which raised over ₹2,130 crore, is the firm's largest credit fund to date, and is more than twice the size of its earlier funds. The fund was launched with a target corpus of ₹1,500 crore, with a green-shoe option. Investor interest in the private credit space and 360 ONE Asset's track record have helped garner 1.5 times the originally envisaged corpus.

Corporate treasuries, family offices, high net worth individuals (HNIs), and domestic financial institutions participated in the fund.

The fund is sector-agnostic with an underlying investment philosophy focused on providing flexible and secure credit solutions to clients. The fund has deployed a significant amount across diversified sectors and has a robust pipeline for further investment.

What are private credit funds and what kind of financing do they provide?

Private credit is an asset class that provides flexible non-dilutive capital solutions to clients. These are typically for acquisition financing, growth capital, private equity exits or consolidation, among others. From an investor perspective, the private credit asset class provides access to bespoke, secured, fixed income

investment products. They are structured as close-ended credit-focused alternate investment funds that can offer reasonable returns to achieve significant alpha over conventional debt products.

Private credit has emerged as a new investment category offering investors, particularly high net worth investors, access to diversified, fixed-income portfolios managed by investment professionals.

Private credit funds can be largely categorised as: High-grade credit (invest in AAA/AA-rated large companies considered relatively safe and generate benchmark yields); performing private credit that provides flexible non-dilutive capital to mid-market companies, large conglomerates and diversified industrial houses.

These are bespoke transactions that require in-depth and detailed credit and structuring expertise to generate healthy returns in the 13-15 per cent range; and distressed credit exposure (high-risk high-reward, where the company is in financial distress with a potential for turnaround and given the risks involved, the returns may be commensurately higher).

Private credit funds largely cater to the latter two categories. These funds might also decide to lend for certain use cases beyond traditional lending backed by assets, including financing for M&As, PE exits, special situation funding and capital expenditure.

How is the private credit



Alternate investment market has \$103 billion in assets under management

AAKASH DESAI
CIO & Head, Private Credit at 360 ONE Asset

fund industry in India shaping up?

The alternate investment market in India has witnessed significant inflows in the last few years. The industry has doubled in size in just two years, recording assets under management of \$103 billion as of June 2023.

Within alternates, we see stellar growth in private credit, which accounted for a 17 per cent alternate asset market in 2022, compared with less than 2 per cent in 2005. Private credit is a structural long-term opportunity in India, currently a \$96-billion market estimated to grow at about 12 per cent.

How will the current geopolitical tensions impact Indian markets?

The current geopolitical situation will clearly impact global commodity cycles and overall liquidity. So, from a specific company lens, one could end up seeing some impact on the commodity industry or export-oriented companies, and firms with a significant amount of offshore borrowings.

From a domestic market standpoint, we are closely monitoring the data print coming out and believe the RBI, after six consecutive rate hikes since 2022, has paused any further rate increase.

The RBI will adopt a wait-and-watch approach, awaiting clarity on oil prices and the US Fed rate trajectory. We believe that the majority of the rate hike is behind us and we should see rates stabilise over the medium term. This would be a good time to invest in fixed-income securities and lock in higher yields.

Nifty 50 Movers

Close(T)	Pts	PE	52W High
Infosys	1444.90	27.99	24.10
TCS	3497.85	21.85	28.56
Bajaj Finance	7362.45	8.40	34.01
HCL Tech	1311.05	8.30	23.94
HDFC Bank	1508.35	6.76	20.76
NTPC	252.35	5.47	12.64
M&M	1569.50	5.17	16.05
Tech Mahindra	1207.20	4.76	32.54
Bajaj Finserv	1620.65	4.15	18.34
Titan	3335.95	3.80	89.18
Tata Motors	680.40	3.55	16.63
Dr Reddys Lab	5544.25	3.45	18.16
Reliance Ind	2360.70	3.28	20.67
Hero MotoCorp	3280.05	3.03	20.24
Apollo Hosp	5338.75	2.61	105.13
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5519.50	2.46	36.87
Sun Pharma	1189.55	2.13	33.36
ONGC	201.80	2.04	4.95
Wipro	397.10	1.75	17.70
Asian Paints	3130.30	1.45	58.16
BPLCL	398.65	1.33	3.14
Tata Steel	124.70	1.20	0.00
Kotak Bank	1772.85	1.12	20.52
Hind Unilever	2491.20	0.98	56.85
Mauriti Suzuki	10484.50	0.86	27.90
Industrial Bank	1498.65	0.70	13.87
Adani Ports	813.60	0.52	27.64
Bajaj Auto	5550.90	0.37	22.96
Divis Lab	3548.25	0.33	70.73
SBI Life	1359.95	0.29	73.90
UltraTech Cement	8775.95	0.21	44.42
State Bank	584.65	-0.04	7.41
Grasim Ind	1942.60	-0.11	11.21
UPL	560.85	-0.11	18.72
Britannia Ind	4702.10	-0.23	44.73
Bharat Airtel	949.55	-0.26	30.92
HDFC Life	624.95	-0.29	32.76
Eicher Motors	3836.75	-0.36	29.33
Hindalco	504.30	-0.37	13.45
NestleIndia	24082.90	-0.74	78.15
JSW Steel	769.15	-0.78	19.98
Cipla	1234.80	-0.83	28.62
TataConsumerProduct	920.05	-1.31	63.05
Adani Enter	2205.90	-1.47	99.36
Coal India	345.80	-2.49	7.61
PowerGrid Corp	207.20	-3.06	12.56
L&T	3051.15	-3.80	29.66
ITC	428.65	-4.56	26.42
ICI Bank	936.00	-8.14	15.69
Axis Bank	1026.35	-9.48	23.92

QUICKLY.

Dalian iron ore falls as China steps in to tame rates

Singapore: Dalian iron ore futures fell on Thursday, as Chinese authorities intervened to control soaring prices and weak property data fuelled concerns about demand from the key steel-consuming sector. The most-traded January iron ore on China's DCE closed 1.5 per cent lower at 956 yuan (\$131.77) per tonne, after rising 1 per cent in the previous session. REUTERS

Palm oil closes down tracking Chicago soya oil

Jakarta: Malaysian palm oil futures closed lower on Thursday, tracking a decline in soybean prices on the Chicago Board of Trade, while profit-taking also weighed. The benchmark palm oil contract for February delivery on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange fell 18 ringgit to 4,000 ringgit a tonne on the closing. REUTERS

LME zinc stocks almost double after big inflows

London: Inventories of zinc in warehouses approved by the London Metal Exchange (LME) have nearly doubled owing to large arrivals after months of dwindling stocks, LME data showed on Thursday. Stocks of the metal mainly used for galvanising steel jumped 96 per cent to 1,33,200 tonnes after inflows of 65,725 tonnes into storage facilities in Singapore and Malaysia. REUTERS

FCI rice purchase down 4% till Nov 15

TRAILING BEHIND. Procurement picked up last fortnight as Centre bought 161.3 lakh tonnes**Prabhudatta Mishra**
New Delhi

Rice procurement by the Food Corporation of India for the government's buffer-stocks has declined 4.4 per cent year-on-year to 161.3 lakh tonnes (lt) as of November 15 since the marketing season began on October 1. It was 9 per cent lower at the end of October than the year-ago period, indicating higher purchases made in the past fortnight as the gap has been reduced.

Procurement was 168.75 lt as of November 15, 2022. In the first fortnight of this month, as much as 57.77 lt of rice have been purchased for the Central Pool against 54.62 lt in the year-ago period.

PURCHASE TARGET
The government has set a target to purchase 521.27 lt of rice from kharif-grown crop in the 2023-24 season (October-September). The Agriculture Ministry has estimated the kharif rice production to

Rice procurement* (lakh tonnes)	2023-24	2022-23	% change
Haryana	38.91	38.93	-0.1
Punjab	108.7	113.70	-4.4
UP	1.57	2.39	-34.3
Tamil Nadu	3.63	5.74	-36.8
Uttarakhand	2.98	4.15	-28.2
Chhattisgarh	2.65	3.56	-25.6
Telangana	2.26	0.04	5,550.0
All India	161.3	168.75	-4.4

*Between October 1 and November 15

fall by 4 per cent to 106.31 million tonnes (mt) in the current kharif season from 110.51 mt year-ago.

"Though purchases have increased in the last fortnight, the overall quantity is still less by about 10 lt in absolute terms compared with the 2021 kharif season. While there was a deficient monsoon last year in key growing States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the driest August in 2023 affected paddy crop in most of the States. There is also delayed arrival in many parts where re-sowing was done," an official source said.

Though Punjab's contribution to the Central Pool stock was down by 13 per cent in the first month, the purchases have reached 108.7 lt as of November 15, down by 4.4 per cent from 113.70 lt. The government has set a target to buy 122 lt of rice from Punjab by the end of November. Earlier this week, the State government reopened nearly 300 purchase centres amid protest by farmers.

Due to re-sowing in some districts following heavy rainfall and lodging, paddy arrival started late as harvest got delayed. Initially, the govern-

ment thought that lower output and better prices drove farmers to sell outside the government system, but later it realised the problem and has now allowed procurement at 285 centres, officials said. "If required, the Centre will be approached to extend the paddy procurement period beyond November 30," an official source in the State said.

HARYANA MISSES MARK?
In Haryana, the rice procurement got completed on November 15 and so far 38.91 lt of the cereal has been purchased, which is a tad lower from 38.93 lt year-ago. The State had set a target to buy 40 lt this year for the Central pool. There could be some upward adjustment of 1-2 lt in rice procurement when data in Haryana are collated as last year too the purchases finally showed at 39.77 lt, sources said.

The official purchase in Uttar Pradesh has been recorded at 1.57 lt, down by 34 per cent from 2.39 lt year-ago. So far,

the procurement is on the expected line as the production in the State is also estimated to drop from the normal level in the 2023-24 kharif season.

Rice procurement in Tamil Nadu has reached 3.63 lt, which is 37 per cent lower from 5.74 lt in the year-ago period. Procurement in Telangana has also started and it showed 2.26 lt of rice has been purchased by the government, up from only about 4,000 tonnes year-ago.

Chhattisgarh has also started procurement and initial data for past 15 days show that rice purchases were 2.65 lt against 3.56 lt year-ago. There may be some slowdown in procurement until the formation of next government in the State since both Congress and BJP have promised to raise minimum support price (MSP) of paddy to ₹3,100-3,200/quintal.

In June, the Centre announced a 7 per cent hike in MSP of paddy to ₹2,183 per quintal (common variety) and ₹2,203 per quintal 'A' grade.

Storage level continues to be below 70% of capacity

Our Bureau
Chennai

The storage level in the major 150 reservoirs in the country continued to be below 70 per cent of the total live capacity this week, though there was a slight improvement in the level from a week ago. It is, however, lower than last year and the past 10 years' average.

Also, the storage was below normal in 13 States compared with 14 a week ago as the situation improved in Himachal Pradesh. In the northern State, the level was 1 per cent above normal compared with 3 per cent be-

low usual last week. According to the weekly bulletin of the Central Water Commission (CWC), the storage in the major reservoirs as of November 16 was 122.645 billion cubic metres (BCM) or 69 per cent. Last week, the level was 124.124 BCM.

The water level is lower since the country has been going through an indifferent weather pattern since June this year. August and October have proved to be months when rains were at record lows.

LIKELY TO IMPROVE
The low storage level is worrisome, though the situation will likely improve as the

southern peninsular region has begun receiving good rains under the influence of the North-East monsoon.

With a cyclone forming over the Bay of Bengal on Thursday, States such as Odisha, Bengal, Bihar, the north-eastern parts, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh are likely to receive precipitation which will help improve the soil moisture and water level aiding rabi season.

While the storage level remained unchanged in the southern region at 44 per cent of the capacity, it declined in the remaining four regions.

In the southern region,

the storage was 23.617 BCM (23.56 BCM last week) against the capacity of 53.334 BCM. Of the 42 reservoirs in the region, the level was lower than 40 per cent in 13 and between 40 per cent to 50 per cent in six.

In the northern region, the level was 14.51 BCM (14.754 BCM) or 74 per cent of the capacity with none of the 10 reservoirs having storage below 50 per cent of the capacity.

In the eastern region, the storage was 14.665 BCM (14.754 BCM) or 71.78 per cent of the capacity as the level was below 40 per cent in one and between 40 per cent and 50 per cent in three.

In the western region, reservoirs were filled to 31.237 BCM (31.719 BCM) or 84 per cent of the capacity. Of the 49 reservoirs in the region, the level was below 50 per cent in three.

In the central region, the storage was 38.616 BCM (39.182 BCM) or 80 per cent of the capacity with the level in 8 of the 26 reservoirs below 40 per cent.

Among the States, Tamil Nadu reservoirs had storage that was 41 per cent below normal, while it was 51 per cent lower than usual in Andhra. In Karnataka, it was 38 per cent lower and in Uttar Pradesh, the level was 32 per cent below normal.

Pepper output may rebound in 2023-24 season

Vishwanath Kulkarni
V Sajeew Kumar
Bengaluru/Kochi

India's pepper production will likely rebound in the 2023-24 crop year on the weather helping better crop setting in several areas of the largest producing State of Karnataka and new areas coming into production in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The pepper community comprising stakeholders such as growers and the trade expect the crop to be higher this year.

Kishor Shamji of the Indian Pepper and Spice Trade Association (IPSTA) said the pepper community comprising farmers, dealers etc has estimated a production of 70,000 tonnes with some new areas coming up in Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, and Namakkal, Gudalur, Yercaud, Kodaikanal, Kollu Hills in Tamil Nadu where pepper planting has been aggressive.

Pepper stats

Year	Area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
2022-23*	2,78,050	64,000
2021-22	2,83,962	70,000
2020-21	3,09,335	65,000
2019-20	2,59,148	61,000
2018-19	2,44,209	48,000

*Provisional figures Source: Spices Board

As per the Spices Board provisional data, pepper production stood at 64,000 tonnes during 2022-23, lower than the previous year's 70,000 tonnes.

UP 25% IN KARNATAKA
In Karnataka, the largest producing State, the crop setting looks good this year in some parts of the key producing districts of Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru. "The crop looks better this year as the crop setting has been better for us. We are expecting a 25-30 per cent more production," said Shamveel, a large grower

in the higher elevations near Madikeri, Kodagu.

The auction prices for garbled pepper, which made a recovery since July 2023 have marginally eased to around ₹605 levels. The farm gate prices are 8-10 per cent lower, said Mahesh Shashidhar, former chairman of Karnataka Planters Association. Karnataka saw a 20 per cent jump in pepper output during 2022-23 to 36,000 tonnes over 30,000 tonnes a year ago.

Vishwanath KK, convener of the Pepper Growers' Consortium said it seems a normal year for pepper crop this year and prices should hold.

CORRECTION SETS IN
Rising pepper imports are reported to have led to subdued upcountry demand after the conclusion of festival season in the upcountry markets, impacting the prices which are now ruling at ₹595 per kg for ungarbled varieties.

IPSTA's Shamji said a correction has started in prices, witnessing a drop of ₹22 per kg in the past month. Shamji attributed this mainly to imports from Vietnam and Sri Lanka to most of the consuming markets which are getting the imported pepper at ₹575 including GST whereas the domestic landing prices come to around ₹625 with transportation cost and GST. Climate change also had an impact on domestic production, he said.

There are also reports that large quantities of Vietnam bolder berries imported at Mundra Port are also available in the domestic market at ₹600 per kg. While the Vietnam import figures during October are not available, export figures from that country show India is the third largest importer of pepper after the US and China, Shamji said, adding that Sri Lankan imports have come down as their stocks are limited due to season end.

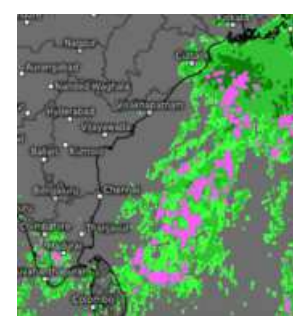
Bay bristling with fresh cyclone threat

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

The Bay of Bengal is suddenly bristling with the prospect of another cyclone going away from the Indian coast and headed towards Bangladesh within a month after very severe cyclone *Hamoon* made a destructive landfall near Chittagong on October 25.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the brewing successor may not ratchet up to anywhere near *Hamoon's* strength but will likely end up as a minimal cyclone. On Thursday, it said a deep depression over West-Central Bay located 420 km East of Visakhapatnam, 270 km South-South-East of Paradip and 410 km South of Digha continued to develop traction.

The deep depression will likely continue to move North-North-East (away from



STORM BREWING. The deep depression will likely intensify further into a cyclone and cross the Bangladesh by the early hours of Friday

Indian coast) and intensify further into a cyclone and cross the Bangladesh coast between Mongla and Khepupara with wind speeds of 60-70 km/hr gusting to 80 km/hr by the early hours of Friday.

This would be the third cyclone of the North-East monsoon season this year after concurrent extremely severe cyclone *Tej* in the Arabian Sea

and *Hamoon* in the Bay.

The brewing cyclone has left behind an upper air circulation over the South-West Bay and adjoining Sri Lanka and sending out a trough to itself.

RAIN FOR TAMIL NADU

Short to medium-term outlook suggests the waxing and waning trough sustaining easterly to north-easterly winds along the Tamil Nadu coast for the next four to five days. Light to moderate rain is likely at some places over the Tamil Nadu coast with isolated heavy rainfall on Friday and Saturday.

Along its track, it would bring untimely light to moderate rainfall at many places over the coastal districts of West Bengal on Thursday and Friday with isolated heavy rainfall over coastal districts of North Odisha on Thursday-

Light to moderate rain is likely at many places over Nagaland, Kanpur, Mizoram and Tripura with isolated heavy rainfall from Thursday to Saturday and very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Mizoram and Tripura on Friday. Light to moderate rainfall is likely at many places over South Assam and East Meghalaya also with isolated heavy rainfall on Friday and Saturday.

Some global models indicate once the cyclone blows over the Bangladesh coast on Friday, fresh rain may break out over the Indian side over Central India from November 25 with focus over West Madhya Pradesh, West Maharashtra and adjoining West Coast. This could likely result from an interaction of an incoming western disturbance digging deep over North-West India and the North Arabian Sea with the easterlies to north-easterlies from the Bay.

ISO pegs 2022-23 global sugar output higher at 178.79 mt

Our Bureau
Chennai

The International Sugar Organisation (ISO) has estimated the world sugar production higher in the 2022-23 season at 179.89 million tonnes (mt) even as it has projected a lower import demand and export availability.

ISO's output projection is 0.87 per cent higher against 178.33 mt in 2021-22. Consumption for the 2022-23 season has been pegged at 180.22 mt compared with 178.02 mt, an increase of 1.24 per cent. As a result, there will likely be a 0.34 mt deficit compared with 0.31 mt surplus in 2021-22.

However, sugar trade sees this as an improvement. This is despite end stocks being forecast 0.4 per cent lower at 100.67 mt compared with 100.71 mt a year ago.

On the other hand, import



Raw sugar prices touched a 12-year high on November 9 surging past 28 US cents per pound

demand has been projected lower at 65.01 mt against 66.07 mt, while export demand has been pegged lower at 64.76 mt compared with 65.7 mt in 2021-22.

'PRICES WILL CALM'
"The improvement in the global sugar stock situation, as indicated by the International Sugar Organisation in its recent report, will calm international sugar prices, which have

been on the boil recently," said Uppal Shah, Co-founder and CEO, AgriMandi.Live Research

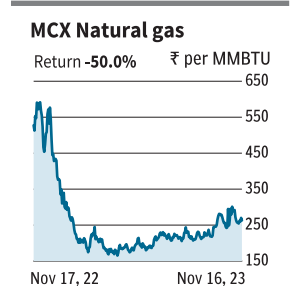
Raw sugar prices touched a 12-year high on November 9 surging past 28 US cents per pound in the international market. Prices have eased a tad currently following the ISO estimate to 27.20 cents. "We see sugar production improving in Brazil which will help cater to the world sugar demand, as India is not in the global market. The government will continue the current restrictions on exports to meet domestic consumption demand and ethanol commitments," Shah said. Going forward, crude oil prices will likely play an important role as it will determine Brazil's production ratio between sugar and ethanol. "In the short term, I feel international prices will soften a bit," he said.

Go long in natural gas in 3 tranches, exit at ₹285

Gurumurthy K
bl. research bureau

Natural gas prices have been under pressure since the beginning of the week. The natural gas futures contract on the MCX reached a high of ₹304 per mmbtu in the last week of October and has declined from there. The contract had tumbled about 18 per cent from that high to make a low ₹250 earlier this week. It is currently trading at ₹263 per mmbtu.

The immediate outlook is mixed. There is room for the contract to fall further. However, strong support is there to limit the downside. The levels of ₹240 and ₹230 are important supports. We can expect the natural gas futures contract to reverse higher anywhere from the ₹240-230 region. Such a reversal will potentially take the contract up to ₹300-305



again. The view will go wrong only if the contract declines below ₹230. In that case, a fall to ₹220-210 and even lower levels can be seen. Traders can wait for dips.

Go long in three tranches at ₹242, ₹238 and at ₹234. So, the average entry level will be at ₹238. Keep the stop-loss at ₹224. Trail the stop-loss up to ₹248 as soon as the contract moves up to ₹256. Move the stop-loss further up to ₹264 when the price touches ₹272. Exit the long positions at ₹285.

CNH in pact with ICAR Institute to develop apple harvesting technology

Our Bureau
Bengaluru

Farm equipment maker CNH Industrial has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (ICAR-CITH), Srinagar, to collaborate on fruit harvesting technology in India.

The partnership will focus on enhancing the mechanisation of fruit harvesting, specifically apples, integrating cutting-edge techniques.

It will also foster the development of innovative solutions tailored to India's unique agricultural challenges, CNH said in a statement.

"This strategic partnership seeks to pioneer groundbreaking innovation

The partnership will focus on enhancing the mechanisation of fruit harvesting, specifically apples, integrating cutting-edge techniques.

within horticulture. Together with ICAR - CITH, we look forward to combining our knowledge and expertise to deliver a step change in agricultural efficiency and productivity, benefiting the farmers and the wider agriculture community," said Garv Modwel, Group Leader, Advanced Technology and Innovation, CNH India Technology Center.

As per the MoU, CNH will oversee the design and

development process of harvesting. The company will supply prototypes for field tests and make improvements based on the trial outcomes.

RESHAPING THE FUTURE

M.K Verma, Director, ICAR - CITH Srinagar, said, "We look forward to collaborating with CNH to bring technological advancement to the Indian horticultural sector. The project offers an opportunity for our experts to apply their experience and understanding in developing solutions that will help reshape the future of fruit harvesting in India."

ICAR-CITH will support image collection, logistics and operational aspects. The institute will analyze field test data such as picking efficiency, post-harvest losses, and the impact on fruit quality.

QUICKLY.

Navy launches 'Amini' shallow water craft



New Delhi: 'Amini', an Arnala class of ship for Indian Navy, was launched on Thursday at L&T Shipbuilding's facility in Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu. The 4th Shallow Water Craft project was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. It is designed to undertake anti-submarine operations, low intensity maritime operations, and mine laying operations. **OUR BUREAU**

'Railways to launch 3,000 new trains in 5 years'

New Delhi: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said he is working on a plan to introduce 3,000 new trains in the next four-five years to raise the railways' passenger capacity from 800 crore to present to 1,000 crore. Vaishnaw also said that decreasing travel time is another target of his Ministry. **PH**

SAIL moves to renew leases of 9 mines; 2 cleared

MATTER OF CONCERN. Though this will not impact operations of the steel giant directly, continuity of these leases is vital for the PSU to ramp up capacities

Abhishek Law
New Delhi

The leases of 13 out of the 19 non-operating (mostly iron-ore) mines of the Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) have lapsed. The CPSE has begun work on renewing leases and restarting operations at nine of these mines, of which seven are stuck at various levels across three States.

Operations at one mine in Odisha began earlier this year and clearance for operationalising one Chhattisgarh mine was received earlier in October, as per an internal note of the Steel Ministry, accessed by *businessline*.

According to the note, there are four mines in Jharkhand, two in Odisha and one in Tamil Nadu that are awaiting clearances including environmental impact assessment report, wildlife management plans, diversion or conversion of forest land for mining, and lease surrender clause.

As of now, there is no direct impact on the operations of



AT CROSSROADS. Four mines in Jharkhand, two in Odisha and one in Tamil Nadu are awaiting clearances across categories like environmental impact assessment report, wildlife management plans, diversion or conversion of forest land for mining and lease surrender clause. **BISWARANJAN ROUT**

SAIL, but continuity of these mining leases is important as SAIL looks to ramp-up capacities.

"Out of 19 non-operational mines of SAIL, leases of 13 lapsed in March 2022. However, no notification has been issued by the Ministry of Mines in this regard till now. Matter regarding order for

extending the period of starting mining operations by SAIL on a case-to-case basis in relaxation of provisions are pending with the Ministry of Mines.

JHARKHAND MINES

"As advised by the Ministry of Mines, the Steel Ministry directed SAIL to pursue the mat-

ter with the State governments," the note reads.

In Jharkhand, the four mines that are awaiting clearance include Kiriburu-Megathaburu, Jhillingbura-1, Jhillingbura-2 and Topailore.

Officials aware of the discussions said, in case of operating the Kiriburu - Megathaburu mine (Lease I, II and

III), a meeting between SAIL officials with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Nodal) and Head of Forest Force, Ranchi, took place in September-end where discussions took place on the land-use plans, surrender plans, etc. Presently, the proposal to re-start operations is being examined by the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Jharkhand regarding compliance of Wild Life Management Plan. Post consideration, it will be forwarded to the environment department for grant of further clearances.

In case of Jhillingbura-1, SAIL roped in IIT-Kharagpur to prepare a report on dealing with concerns such as water conservation, minimising soil erosion, construction of check dams, stabilisation of overburden dumps, etc. The final draft study report was submitted in June and again in August. SAIL officials met the District Forest Officer, Saranda, in September, and post consideration at various levels will be taken ahead.

In Jhillingbura-2, remedification of mining plans

are being carried out and expedited; while for Topailore mines, an additional document dealing with "Justification for Grant of Mining Lease for Topailore Lease" is being worked-on that details the rationale behind asking for extension of the lease.

During a meeting between Union Steel Secretary and Chief Secretary, Jharkhand, it was said the hearing procedure was completed across three of the mines. SAIL also requested expediting the process of hearing on lapsing of mining leases which will help in pending extension of the lease.

OTHER STATES

In Odisha's ML-139 mine, concerns have been raised over the in-volatile nature of the land which has led to the project being pushed back. Apparently, a supplementary lease renewal was carried out twice since there was a delay in receiving necessary clearances. For the ML-227 mine in the State, work is being carried on securing approvals for the mining plans. Additional queries have been raised and

responses are being drafted. For Tamil Nadu's GO No. 853 mines, these were transferred to SAIL Refractory Company Ltd (SRCL) from Burn Standard last year. And currently, SRCL is integrating results of the public hearing minutes into the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment report. The report apparently is in the final stages of preparation and once the environment clearance is obtained, it will be taken up "for further consideration".

GO-AHEAD RECEIVED

In the case of Kalwar-Nagur in Chhattisgarh, the lease deed was granted (renewed) and registered in July. Registration of the mine was done in September, and an "enter upon permission order" was granted in October. Work orders for the mines have been issued.

The Bolani mine in Odisha, which covers 6.9 sq miles, was operationalised in March and an inaugural shipment of 1,136 tonnes of Manganese was sent to Rourkela Steel Plant in August.

'Thiruvananthapuram is poised to be a premier start-up destination'

Hari Priya Sureban
Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram will be developed into a major digital hub and a premier destination for start-ups by stepping up efforts to create a future with innovation and entrepreneurship as the key drivers, said Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala.

Vijayan was speaking at the inaugural function of Huddle Global 2023, a start-up conclave hosted by Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) at Adimalathura in Thiruvananthapuram. Kerala already stands as a pioneer in India's vibrant start-up ecosystem that has been consistently ranked at the top for the last three years due to the State government's pro-active initiatives, he noted.

STATE'S INITIATIVES

The State government's initiatives, including Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres (IEDC) for colleges, Young Entrepreneurship Programme (YIP), incubation and acceleration programmes and corporate innovation efforts have collectively helped Kerala's



HUGE POTENTIAL. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan speaking at the Huddle Global 2023, a start-up conclave hosted by Kerala Start-up Mission in Thiruvananthapuram

start-up ecosystem to flourish and grow, the CM said.

Taking forward the efforts to convert the State capital into a digital hub, work has already begun for establishing an "Emerging Technology Start-up Hub" in the city. Vijayan said, Through initiatives like Start-up Infinity, the State has created collaborative projects that bring together local entrepreneurs, business leaders and pravasi Malayalis as an inclusive approach that not only fosters innovation but also welcomes participation of global Malayali community in nurturing start-ups and entrepreneurship and innovation to thrive limitlessly."

The KSUM exchanged memoranda of understand-

ing (MoUs) with Belgium and Australia to set up its Start-up Infinity Centres in the two countries, opening up opportunities for enterprises from Kerala's ecosystem to scale up operations and expand market.

The pact with Belgium will facilitate Kerala start-ups to collaborate with the European tech hub in areas like digital technology and life sciences to scale up their product range and expand market. The agreement with Australia will facilitate Kerala start-ups to leverage the technological and R&D ecosystem of Australia in wide range of areas.

The reporter is in Thiruvananthapuram at the invitation of Kerala Start-up Mission, Government of Kerala

50 HNIs investing \$1 m each can create a corpus for Kerala start-ups: Tharoor

Hari Priya Sureban
Thiruvananthapuram

Shashi Tharoor, Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram, has mooted that 50 high net worth individuals (HNIs) invest \$1 million each to create a corpus for Kerala's start-up ecosystem.

Tharoor was speaking at the inaugural of Huddle Global 2023, a start-up conclave hosted by Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) at Adimalathura in Thiruvananthapuram. He noted that one of the significant hindrances in the spurt of start-ups across India is access to resources and know-how.

TVM'S PROMINENCE

"When a group of individuals conceive an idea, eventually while forming a core of an enterprise, securing access to funding is often a challenge. I suggest 50 HNIs from Kerala or with an interest in Kerala put aside just \$1 million each to create investment corpus for Kerala's start-ups. We (govt) will take this forward and with this, one may gain far more than the invested amount," Tharoor said.

Underscoring the prominence of Kerala's capital city Thiruvananthapuram, he noted that the city is the hub of the future and has always been at the forefront as it has India's first tech park back in 1991. "We are all taken by the popular perceptions of places like Gurgaon and Mumbai but the truth is we have been developing and growing here. Thiruvananthapuram is back with vengeance and this is our coming of age party. We will again be pioneers," Tharoor said.

India's start-up ecosystem has been brimming with innovation, and now has multiple prominent hubs like Bengaluru - the Silicon Valley of India and the Powai Valley in Mumbai. From Oyo to Ola, Indian start-ups are paving their way and have the potential to go global, the Minister said.

Huddle Global 2023, is a three-day event organised by Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, at Adimalathura near Vizhinjam. It has a convergence of around 15,000 delegates from within the country and abroad.

The reporter is in Thiruvananthapuram at the invitation of Kerala Start-up Mission, Government of Kerala

Collaborate for peace, security: Rajnath Singh at ASEAN defence meet

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday called for collaboration among ASEAN and Plus countries for peace and security of the region.

Rajnath Singh's assertion at 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting -Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Jakarta comes at a time when the 18 regional members grouping is divided over China's position on the South China Sea bringing insecurity in the region. ASEAN member states are; Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, and its eight dialogue partners (Plus countries) are India, US, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

INDIA'S COMMITMENT

In his address, the Defence Minister affirmed the ASEAN centrality and appreciated its role in promoting dialogue and consensus in the region. He also reiterated India's commitment to freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce in



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

the international waters in accordance with international laws, including United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982.

Highlighting that conflicts extract a terrible toll in terms of human lives and livelihoods destroyed, disturb the stability at regional as well as global level and have adverse implications for food security, energy security, etc, Rajnath Singh reiterated India's commitment to work with ASEAN and Plus countries to ensure peace, prosperity and security, which is an apt theme for this year's ADMM-Plus, the MoD stated.

Meanwhile, India's proposal to co-chair the EWG on Counter-Terrorism was endorsed by ADMM-Plus as terrorism remains a serious concern in the region.

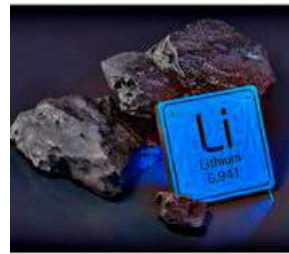
Altmin, YLB to set up pilot project for making lithium-ion batteries in Bolivia

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Altmin on Thursday said that it has signed an agreement with Bolivian state company Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos (YLB) to set up a pilot plant for active materials to manufacture lithium-ion batteries in the South American country.

"YLB, the national strategic public company for Bolivian lithium deposits, and Altmin have officially signed a strategic agreement to advance partnership for Lithium, C-LFP technology. The agreement outlines collaboration on the development of raw materials supply chain and production of cathode active materials (CAMs) for lithium-ion batteries, aligning with the bilateral industrialisation efforts of this vital resource," the Hyderabad-based battery active materials manufacturer said.

The collaboration, which is the first of its kind where the South American nation enters into the advancement of indigenous Li-Ion battery manufacturing, is poised to impact the entire supply chain positively. Furthermore, the collaboration will cater to the global energy transition while addressing lithium require-



ments for Altmin's India operations, it added.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The partnership entails sharing of scientific technology knowledge for manufacturing battery-active materials, through the establishment of a pilot plant in La Palca, Potosi using Altmin's patented C-LFP technology and sharing of lithium carbonate supplies produced by YLB, Altmin said.

This partnership aims to enhance research, development, and piloting activities for Lithium and establish a bilateral raw materials supply chain, it added.

between the two countries in the critical minerals sector, fostering collaboration and innovation," Altmin Founder and MD Mourya Sunkavalli said.

Speaking to *businessline*, Sunkavalli said, "Establishing a partnership with Bolivia and setting up a production line there will benefit India by securing a stable supply of lithium carbonate, as Bolivia is the largest producer of this resource."

MAKE IN BOLIVIA

With a population of only 11-12 million in a country one-fourth the size of India, Bolivia focuses on Make in Bolivia. Meanwhile, India can also tap into the production of value-added minerals like LFP, supporting the Indian ecosystem, he added.

"In today's world, where countries like China have been acquiring mineral assets and securing supply chains and establishing dominance over raw material supplies, it is necessary and important for India to forge partnerships with countries such as Bolivia to secure and stabilise the supply chain for the new energy market. This will not only make India self-reliant, but will support industrialisation in these countries," he emphasised.

Appeal in Qatar death row case underway: India

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

India on Thursday said the appeal process against the death sentence handed down to eight former Indian Navy personnel by a Qatari court is under process and it was hopeful of a positive outcome from it.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India is engaged with the Qatari authorities on the matter and that the government will continue to extend all legal and consular assistance to the Indian nationals.

The eight Indians were given death sentences by Qatar's Court of First Instance on October 26. India described the ruling as "deeply" shocking and vowed to explore all legal options in the case. Days later, an appeal was filed against the death sentence.

"The appeal process is underway and we would hope for a positive outcome," Bagchi said, replying to a question on the matter at his weekly media briefing. "I would again urge everyone not to engage in speculation considering the sensitive nature of the case," he said.

The judgement in the entire process has been made confidential by the Qatari side.

ReNew commissions first inter-State transmission project in Karnataka

Our Bureau
New Delhi

ReNew said on Thursday that it has commissioned its first inter-State transmission project, the Koppal Transmission Scheme, which will help in the transmission of 1,500 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy in the Koppal area of Karnataka.

The Koppal Transmission Scheme was awarded in FY22 and covers the construction of a new 400/220 kV sub-station at Koppal along with 276 circuit km of 400 kV D/C quad moose transmission line with the extension of the 400 kV GIS Bays at the PG-CIL Narendra (New) substation, the NASDAQ-listed firm said.

Following the commissioning of the 1,500 MW Koppal Transmission Scheme, the remaining transmission for 3,500 MW is expected to be completed by June 2024, it added.

After the announcement, an agreement was signed on Wednesday on the second joint investment in the transmission sector with Norfund, the Norwegian government's investment fund for developing countries and KLP, Nor-

businesses. Thomson Skariah, Founder-CEO of Placeorder.com, said ONDC brings out many possibilities for entrepreneurs and it also offers multiple service providers.

Observing that ONDC opens humongous opportunities, Dilip Vamanan, co-founder of Sellerapp, said ONDC will have a direct impact on any kind of digital transactions in the next 36 months.

ONDC, which is akin to a Unified Payments Interface (UPI), goes beyond the current platform-centric digital commerce model, and sellers/vendors find it a perfect platform to feature their products that can be sold through several e-commerce platforms across the country.

Earlier, in a panel session on 'Building from Kerala for the World,' IBS Software Services Founding Chairman VK Mathews said the State has to focus on improving infrastructure, digitally-enabled milieu and launch government-owned and private-operated initiatives.

John Kuriakose, Founder, DentCare, said budding entrepreneurs must have the an earnest passion towards their ventures and face challenges with a presence of mind.



T Koshy, CEO, ONDC

way's largest pension company, through their joint company KNI India AS.

NORFUND

Norfund's share is from Norway's newly established Climate Investment Fund, managed by Norfund.

This marks Norfund's and the Climate Investment Fund's ongoing support in the transmission sector, helping to accelerate the transition to renewable energy, ReNew said.

The investment by Norfund and KLP in ReNew's transmission projects is in line with ReNew's farm-down strategy, enabling it to add further capacity, it added.

**TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 9820350726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in**

businessline

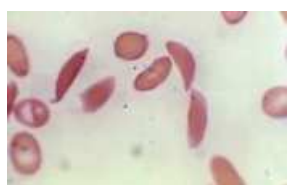
QUICKLY.

TikTok, Meta challenge Europe's new digital laws



London: TikTok and Facebook-owner Meta are filing legal challenges against new European Union rules designed to counter the dominance of digital giants and make online competition fairer by giving consumers more choice. TikTok said in a blog post Thursday that it's appealing being classified as an online gatekeeper by the Digital Markets Act, arguing that it's playing the role of a new competitor in social media that is taking on entrenched players. Meta said it disagrees with the bloc's decision to include its Marketplace and Messenger as gateway services under the new rules. **AP**

UK approves gene therapy for sickle cell disease



London: Britain's medicines regulator has authorised the world's first gene therapy treatment for sickle cell disease, in a move that could offer relief to thousands of people with the crippling disease in the UK. In a statement on Thursday, the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency said it approved Casgevy, the first medicine licensed using the gene editing tool CRISPR, which won its makers a Nobel prize in 2020. The agency approved the treatment for patients with sickle cell disease and thalassemia who are 12 years old and over. **AP**

Will not fight cold or hot war: Xi

NO DISPUTES. Won't challenge US, and Washington should not bet against Beijing, Chinese President to Biden

Bloomberg

President Xi Jinping said China wants to be friends with the US and said his nation won't fight a war with anyone, one of his clearest remarks yet proclaiming a desire for peaceful ties between the world's two largest economies.

In a speech to business executives in San Francisco shortly after meeting US President Joe Biden on Wednesday, Xi said China "never bets against the United States", and "has no intention to challenge the United States or to unsettle it".

"Whatever stage of development it may reach, China will never pursue hegemony or expansion, and will never impose its will on others," said Xi. "China does not seek spheres of influence,



FOR A BETTER WORLD. President Joe Biden meets with China's President President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperative conference in California. **AP/PTI**

and will not fight a cold war or a hot war with anyone." The comments came hours after the two leaders emerged from their first meeting together in a year, where they hashed out a handful of deals to try to address the fentanyl crisis, restore high-level military communications, and open

a dialogue over artificial intelligence. Biden had earlier hailed the talks as "some of the most constructive and productive discussions we've had".

In his speech, Xi sought to address broader concerns in the US that China posed a threat to American dominance around the globe, both

economically and militarily. Tensions over Taiwan and the South China Sea have escalated in recent years, raising the risk that tensions over tariffs and export controls would lead to a direct conflict.

Xi stressed the similarities between Americans and Chinese, recalling his time in Iowa nearly four decades ago — long before he ascended to the presidency and became China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong. Xi also indicated that China will once again send pandas to American zoos, resuming a "panda diplomacy" program symbolic of stable relations that appeared to be ending this year.

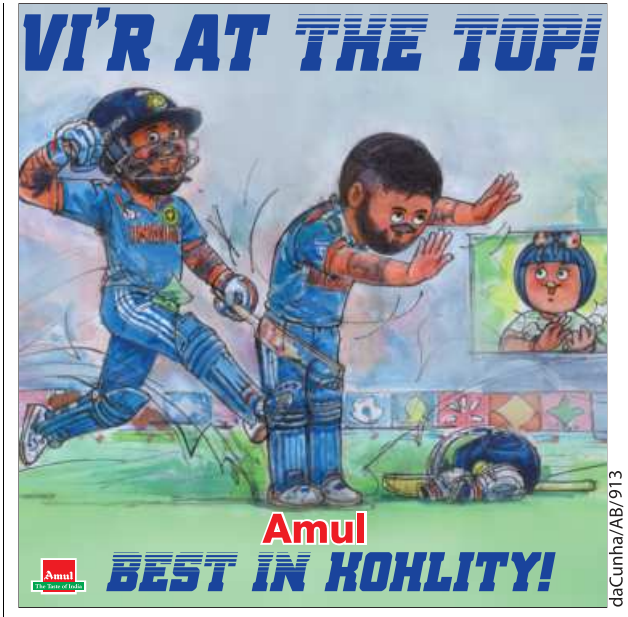
"We'll be glad to see a confident, open, ever-growing and prosperous US," said Xi. "Likewise, the United States should not bet

against China, or interfere in China's internal affairs. We should instead welcome a peaceful, stable and prosperous China."

INVESTORS SCEPTICAL Those in the room with Xi on Wednesday largely took his remarks to mean that the business environment may improve.

"What I think President Xi did in this speech is attempt to reach out to US businesses and say we are prepared to be constructive," said Stephen Orlins, the president of the National Committee on US-China Relations, which co-hosted the dinner.

He said that the remarks seemed like a recognition by Chinese leadership that a drop in foreign direct investment in the country "is partly based on Chinese policies".



China housing gloom worsens as prices fall the most in 8 years

Bloomberg

China home prices fell the most in eight years in October, potentially worsening buyer sentiment and putting pressure on the government to do more to revive the property market.

New home prices in 70 cities, excluding state-subsidised housing, declined 0.38 per cent last month from September, when they dropped 0.3 per cent National Bureau of Statistics figures showed Thursday. The decrease was the steepest since February 2015.

The drop adds to evidence of a persistent housing downturn after official figures this week showed a contraction in sales and property investment deepened. Fresh stimulus measures rolled out at major cities since August have done little to turn around the sector, which is dragging on China's economic recovery.

A brief housing market rebound earlier this year after



China's post-Covid reopening "turned out to be short-lived", said Chen Wenjing, associate research director at China Index Holdings. "Homebuyers are deterred by squeezed incomes and the uncertain property market outlook."

Prices slid 0.58 per cent in the secondary market, the biggest drop since October 2014, the figures showed.

In the latest move to support the real estate sector, Beijing is planning to provide at least 1 trillion yuan (\$138 billion) of low-cost financing to urban village renovation and affordable housing programs.

ASCI proposes norms to check greenwashing of ads

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
New Delhi

To ensure that advertisers' green claims are true and evidence-based, the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has proposed guidelines that aim to bring transparency and accountability in environmental claims-based advertising.

These guidelines also aim to check greenwashing. The draft guidelines focus on various green claims, including positive impact on environment, carbon offset, and biodegradable claims.

The self-regulatory industry body has released draft guidelines for public consultation till December 31. The draft guidelines state

that absolute claims such as 'environment friendly', 'eco-friendly' 'sustainable', and 'planet friendly' must be supported by a "high level of substantiation". In addition, advertisers must also specify whether the environmental claim refers to the entire product, packaging or service.

In the case of carbon offset claims, the draft guidelines stated that advertisers must disclose if the reduction in emission will occur only in two years or over a longer time period. Also, ads cannot make carbon offset-related claims that represent an emission reduction that is required by law.

It also stated that green claims must be based on the "full life cycle" of the advert-

ised product or service. "Claims that are based on only part of an advertised product or service's life cycle must not mislead consumers about the total environmental impact of the product or service," the draft added.

Manisha Kapoor, CEO and Secretary-General, ASCI, said: "These draft guidelines on environmental/green claims are a crucial step to ensure that consumers who wish to support green brands have the correct information to make informed decisions."

"These guidelines set a standard for advertisers, and aim to foster a culture of transparency and authenticity in advertising in the best interest of consumers."

The draft guidelines also

stressed that brands cannot mislead consumers about the environmental benefits by highlighting the absence of a damaging ingredient if it is not usually found in competing products.

"Certifications and Seals of Approval should make clear which attributes of the product or service have been evaluated by the certifier, and the basis of such certification provided. Certifications and seals used in an advertisement should be from a nationally or internationally recognised certifying authority," the draft guidelines added.

FALSE CLAIMS

Visual elements in an ad should not give a false impression about the product/

service being advertised. Also, advertisers should refrain from making aspirational claims of their future environmental objectives, unless they have developed actionable plans, the ASCI's draft guidelines added.

For claims pertaining to the product being compostable, biodegradable, recyclable, non-toxic, free-of, advertisers should qualify the aspects to which such claims are being attributed.

They should be backed by "reliable scientific evidence" to indicate if the product will break down within a reasonably short period of time after disposal, and whether it is free of elements that can lead to environmental hazards, the draft guidelines added.

Viacom18 to stream Pokemon shows, movies on JioCinema

Our Bureau
Mumbai

After establishing a strong presence in the streaming sports segment, Viacom18 is now making a determined foray into the realm of children's entertainment. The company has secured a deal to bring Pokemon's shows and movies to JioCinema, marking the commencement of the 'Pokemania Festival'.

This collaboration entails the streaming of over 1,000 episodes and 21 movies from the popular Japanese anime series, with a promise of unveiling a new season every Thursday.

Pokemon, owned by Nintendo, is an expansive media franchise catering to children, and encompasses video games, animated series, films, and a trading card game.

While the financial details of this partnership remain un-



disclosed, it positions the entertainment and media arm of Reliance Industries to compete with industry giants such as Disney Kids and Netflix in the children's entertainment segment, across online streaming platforms and television.

This strategic move comes amid reports of Reliance Industries being in discussions with Walt Disney & Co for the potential acquisition of its India business, which includes the OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar and a film studio.

Children's entertainment represents the third key focus

area for RIL after general entertainment and sports. A recent report by PwC projects significant growth in the Indian OTT market, estimating a revenue surge to \$3.5 billion by 2027, with an annual growth rate of 14.3 per cent, outpacing the global rate of 8.4 per cent.

PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the Pokemon partnership, Viacom18 has extended collaborations with both local and global studios such as Cartoon Network Studios, Dreamworks, EOne, and Animaccord.

This move enables Viacom18 to offer over 3,000 hours of diverse content in the kids' entertainment genre. The company has announced the creation of a dedicated 'Kids and Family' hub featuring a collection of more than 100 top-tier toon franchises, over 300 movies and series and games.

Domestic air traffic rises 3% in October

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Domestic air traffic rose by over 3 per cent in October on a month-on-month basis with the onset of the festival season. Domestic carriers flew 12.6 million passengers in October, around 4 lakh extra passengers, compared to September. However, average passenger load factor dropped to 86.3 per cent in October, from 87.2 per cent in September.

Air India saw market share gains in October as it added flights. It registered a market share of 10.5 per cent, entering into double-digit territory for first time after several months. SpiceJet, too, saw an increase in share as it inducted leased planes, but had lowest on-time performance (58.1 per cent) at four metro airports.

IndiGo topped punctuality charts, registering an on-time performance of 88.5 per cent.

Airbus wins Emirates' \$6-b order for 15 A350-900s

Reuters
Dubai

Airbus won a consolation order for 15 more A350-900 jets from Emirates on Thursday after a public row between the West Asian airline giant and engine-maker Rolls-Royce prevented a deal for a larger model at the Dubai Airshow.

Emirates Chairman and CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said the long-haul jets will "add to our fleet mix, and we are pleased to announce additional orders for this aircraft type".

ENGINE ROW

Industry sources described the \$6-billion deal as a compromise after Emirates publicly criticised the performance and cost of Rolls-Royce engines for the A350-1000 over the amount of downtime needed in harsh Gulf conditions. Sheikh Ahmed said Emirates will "work closely



MORE THE MERRIER. Emirates has already ordered 50 A350-900s, which are scheduled to arrive from August next year

with Airbus and Rolls-Royce to ensure our aircraft deliver the best possible operating efficiency and flying experience for our customers".

Emirates is, by far, the biggest user of the Airbus A380 after investing heavily in the world's largest airliner, and is now planning the fleet needed to keep its Dubai super-hub at the centre of the

aviation map beyond the 2030s. The carrier opened this week's air show with a \$52-billion order for 90 more Boeing 777X airplanes, saying the US planemaker appeared to be getting a grip on regulatory and other problems surrounding its arrival after five years of delays. But Emirates Airline President Tim Clark refused to place a large order

for Airbus' broadly similar A350-1000 and sharply criticised Rolls-Royce over engine durability in the region's hot and sandy conditions. Rolls-Royce acknowledged its engine for the A350-1000 would need more servicing than Emirates would like, but denied Clark's suggestion that the engine was defective.

PREVIOUS ORDER

Emirates has already ordered 50 A350-900s, which are scheduled to arrive from August next year.

Delegates said earlier a top-up order for the same model would be seen as a consolation prize for Airbus after Boeing won the majority of deals, but leave questions over its ability to compete with Boeing's 777X in the busy Gulf wide-body market.

Investors are expected to quiz Rolls-Royce about the durability and pricing of its engines at a November 28 investor day.

URBAN ENVIRO WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
CIN : U90000MH2011PLC218213

Address: 26, Matey Square, BPCL Petrol Pump Gopal Nagar Road, Nagpur 440022
Email: info@urbanenviro.in ; **Phone No:** 071 22996029 ; **website:** http://urbanenviroindia.com/

Extracts of un-audited financial results for the half year ended 30th September, 2023
(₹ in Cr.)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Half year ended		Year ended
		30.09.2023	30.09.2022	31.03.2023
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1.	Total income from operations	46.52	15.33	39.37
2.	Net profit/(loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	5.33	0.63	2.98
3.	Net profit/(loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	5.33	0.63	2.98
4.	Net profit/(loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	4.00	0.30	2.15
5.	Total comprehensive income for the period [comprising profit/(loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	4.00	0.30	2.15
6.	Equity share capital (Face value of Rs.10 each)	4.33	0.01	3.41
7.	Previous period's figures have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever necessary to make them comparable.			
	Basic	9.24	0.70	4.98
	Diluted	9.24	0.70	4.98

Notes:

- The above results, reviewed by the Audit Committee, have been approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 10th November, 2023 and have been reviewed by Statutory Auditors of the company. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles of Accounting Standards prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules issued there under and the other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results for the half year ended 30th September, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. Financial results in detailed format are available on the websites of Stock Exchange (www.nseindia.com) and on the Company's website (http://urbanenviroindia.com/).
- The Board has declared Interim dividend of Rs. 0.50 per Equity shares for the financial year 2023-2024.
- Previous period's figures have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever necessary to make them comparable.

For Urban Enviro Waste Management Limited
Kamlesh Sharma
Chairman - cum - Managing Director
DIN : 01845899

Place : Nagpur
Date : 14.11.2023

For BSE/NSE live quotes, scan QR code or click the link <https://bit.ly/2psksc>

Company	Prev	Close	Open	High	Low	Qty	52WH	52WL	PE	BSE CI
NupurRecycle	93.45	91.55	94.70	94.70	91.55	53.59	159.05	86.05	-	-
NURCCA	361.50	365.70	365.00	377.00	360.75	33.93	74.05	385.10	-	-
Nuvama	178.50	178.50	177.00	177.00	177.00	32.11	178.50	374.10	-	-
NuvocoVistas	347.10	353.05	347.00	356.40	343.45	351.44	488.50	288.00	-	-

Company	Prev	Close	Open	High	Low	Qty	52WH	52WL	PE	BSE CI
Oberoi	1302.70	1333.25	1310.00	1344.60	1293.25	1496.24	1344.00	790.00	-	171333.60
OdishaCemc [2]	2122.20	2161.10	2139.00	2167.00	209.39	3424.00	1643.81	211.21	56.11	31.20
Oil India	313.50	322.80	313.50	323.93	313.50	191.54	339.45	193.55	5.32	3299.90
Oil Mills	117.50	120.00	117.50	127.00	117.50	121.11	117.50	374.10	-	-
Omax Auto	58.25	58.00	58.00	57.25	57.25	58.00	47.65	58.18	-	-
Omaxe	78.25	76.65	78.25	76.65	76.65	94.40	42.39	76.84	-	-
OMDC [1]	7031.15	6974.85	7122.00	7165.70	6950.00	28.34	7091.50	2295.00	-	-6974.80
OnodaCem [1]	40.25	40.25	40.25	40.25	40.25	40.25	40.25	40.25	-	-
OnlifeCap [2]	16.20	16.10	16.25	16.10	16.10	22.55	18.97	16.20	-	-
ONGC [5]	199.50	201.00	202.50	203.40	201.00	201.00	18629.24	203.50	13.95	6.10
OnodaSteel	559.50	560.30	560.00	565.25	558.5	28.68	662.70	67.60	47	560.05
OpusIndra	31.38	31.00	31.40	31.75	30.85	196.23	31.20	160.45	87	31.00
OracleSrvr [2]	4051.43	4139.00	4052.40	4150.00	4015.20	81.37	4528.95	2995.60	-	20438.40
Orchem	53.80	53.80	53.80	53.80	53.80	201.85	53.80	184.85	-	-
OrchidPharma	43.89	53.60	54.00	55.00	52.50	34.17	50.50	265.00	-	-
Orient Enter [2]	34.20	33.25	34.20	34.00	33.25	36.50	33.25	34.20	-	-
Orient Bell	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	-	-
Orient Cement [1]	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	-	-
OrientCEC [2]	62.05	62.45	62.60	64.00	61.55	97.87	64.00	61.55	-	-
Orient Infra [1]	110.40	110.40	110.40	110.40	110.40	110.40	110.40	110.40	-	-
Orient Hills [1]	105.40	107.95	105.95	108.80	104.75	101.80	101.80	62.90	33	101.63
Orient Paper [1]	43.45	43.20	43.65	43.75	43.10	829.38	43.75	34.35	9	43.18
Orient Polym	48.65	51.30	52.30	53.90	50.90	9.86	50.30	295.55	-	-
OrientSec [2]	78.90	78.90	78.90	78.90	78.90	78.90	78.90	78.90	-	-
Oriental	21.65	21.60	21.80	21.75	21.50	146.87	21.90	207.70	-	-
OrientalBengCar	61.35	60.25	61.25	61.50	60.00	37.09	106.95	45.00	-	-
OrientalCem	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	-	-
OSIA HYPER RET	55.40	55.90	56.00	57.75	55.10	61.62	58.50	29.45	-	-
OswalAgro	34.25	34.05	34.55	34.75	33.60	166.52	34.20	23.55	-	-
OswalGreenTec	25.80	25.85	25.50	26.60	25.50	398.73	33.50	16.80	-	-

Company	Prev	Close	Open	High	Low	Qty	52WH	52WL	PE	BSE CI
PGHealth	5111.60	5180.00	5100.00	5157.55	5099.95	3.73	5050.00	3870.10	-	-
P&S BK	42.05	41.95	42.05	42.00	41.75	1461.84	42.05	41.95	-	-
Paigang	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	-	-
PaisaloDigit [1]	80.80	82.20	80.80	82.70	80.40	1257.62	86.75	42.01	27	82.20
Pakka	243.25	239.80	243.25	243.25	236.00	153.66	316.40	117.40	-	-
PalaSushr	142.15	135.05	141.95	141.95	135.05	23.12	164.04	37.00	63	135.00
Panacea	312.20	309.90	315.00	316.00	309.90	73.75	314.45	268.05	14	310.40
Pan.Petro [2]	156.05	154.75	156.75	157.10	153.95	72.56	183.95	107.15	-	-
Pan.Petro [1]	156.05	154.75	156.75	157.10	153.95	72.56	183.95	107.15	-	-
ParagMilks	221.35	217.20	223.20	223.20	217.20	36.08	233.00	68.00	30	218.40
ParasDe&Spc	171.25	174.60	172.75	173.60	171.25	122.94	174.60	145.55	-	-
ParasDeSpc [2]	171.25	174.60	172.75	173.60	171.25	122.94	174.60	145.55	-	-
ParasDeSpc [1]	171.25	174.60	172.75	173.60	171.25	122.94	174.60	145.55	-	-
PasupatiCar	37.40	37.40	37.40	37.40	37.40	37.40	37.40	37.40	-	-
PATANJ FOODS	1449.00	1443.55	1454.85	1456.20	1426.00	165.21	1479.80	853.50	-	-
Patel Eng [1]	47.00	46.75	47.25	47.80	46.00	1988.44	47.11	13.10	18	46.78
Patel Tech	47.00	46.75	47.25	47.80	46.00	1988.44	47.11	13.10	18	46.78
PC Jewell	28.65	28.75	28.65	28.75	28.55	2100.95	28.35	21.40	-	-
PCBIL	633.85	222.25	214.80	223.75	214.50	6561.90	223.75	108.70	-	-
PCBIL [2]	633.85	222.25	214.80	223.75	214.50	6561.90	223.75	108.70	-	-
PCBIL [1]	633.85	222.25	214.80	223.75	214.50	6561.90	223.75	108.70	-	-
Pearl Polym	27.75	29.70	27.75	31.40	27.70	55.96	38.00	17.05	-	-
Peninsula [2]	44.10	42.15	43.95	44.90	41.26	91.31	42.15	44.10	-	-
Penar Ind [5]	102.95	114.15	104.50	114.95	102.55	6568.21	123.80	50.00	31	114.00
Pentagon	197.85	197.45	198.80	198.50	196.88	27.25	198.80	197.45	-	-
Pentron	197.85	197.45	198.80	198.50	196.88	27.25	198.80	197.45	-	-
PE	11.90	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	6093.00	31.00	95.44	8	31.00
PEFC	22.10	22.61	22.61	22.75	22.09	167.25	22.76	95.90	117	22.00
PGH	181.80	181.45	182.50	184.00	180.00	4.89	184.60	181.00	-	-
PGH [2]	181.80	181.45	182.50	184.00	180.00	4.89	184.60	181.00	-	-
PGH [1]	181.80	181.45	182.50	184.00	180.00	4.89	184.60	181.00	-	-
PhoenixMil [2]	222.85	221.60	224.25	225.00	222.00	538.96	226.00	136.45	-	-
PhoenixMil [1]	222.85	221.60	224.25	225.00	222.00	538.96	226.00	136.45	-	-
Phosphates	371.80	368.80	371.00	372.50	367.00	249.15	370.00	376.80	-	-
PII Italica [1]	11.00	9.90	10.00	11.00	9.85	36.00	11.00	5.95	9.89	9.90
Piaggio	22.80	22.80	22.80	22.80	22.80	22.80	22.80	22.80	-	-
PiramalPharm	112.85	116.85	118.20	120.65	115.00	4757.81	118.40	63.10	-	-
PiramalEnt	96.80	96.60	96.60	97.95	95.90	60.95	114.00	630.20	-	-
PiramalEnt [2]	96.80	96.60	96.60	97.95	95.90	60.95	114.00	630.20	-	-
PiramalEnt [1]	96.80	96.60	96.60	97.95	95.90	60.95	114.00	630.20	-	-
PiTech [5]	128.05	127.20	127.35	131.00	126.65	22.22	126.65	127.20	-	-
PiTech [2]	128.05	127.20	127.35	131.00	126.65	22.22	126.65	127.20	-	-
PiTech [1]	128.05	127.20	127.35	131.00	126.65	22.22	126.65	127.20	-	-
Plastibliss [1]	30.95	29.95	30.25	30.90	29.55	56.08	32.25	139.00	26	29.55
PLAZA WIRING	115.90	110.10	112.00	114.00	110.10	97.71	113.50	75.70	-	-
PLAZA WIRING [2]	115.90	110.10	112.00	114.00	110.10	97.71	113.50	75.70	-	-
PLAZA WIRING [1]	115.90	110.10	112.00	114.00	110.10	97.71	113.50	75.70	-	-
PNB Housing	77.90	77.60	79.50	80.00	77.10	31.70	80.30	64.66	16	77.35
PNB Infratec [2]	131.85	131.60	131.90	132.00	131.35	35.67	132.00	131.60	-	-
PNB Infratec [1]	131.85	131.60	131.90	132.00	131.35	35.67	132.00	131.60	-	-
PNM Medis [1]	148.05	151.40	149.15	152.00	145.00	113.46	157.35	82.90	65	151.40
Polyplex	51.05	52.685	51.38	52.825	51.38	52.685	52.685	2500.00	-	-
Polyplex [2]	51.05	52.685	51.38	52.825	51.38	52.685	52.685	2500.00	-	-
Polyplex [1]	51.05	52.685	51.38	52.825	51.38	52.685	52.685	2500.00	-	-
PrairieFarm	104.95	104.80	105.25	106.00	104.00	43.13	104.95	101.00	-	-
Praxair	43.55	43.35	43.55	43.90	43.20	23.31	43.20	262.10	-	-
Ponnie Sug	42.80	42.30	42.70	42.90	42.00	25.78	58.10	283.05	-	-
Ponnie Sug [2]	42.80	42.30	42.70	42.90	42.00	25.78	58.10	283.05	-	-
Ponnie Sug [1]	42.80	42.30	42.70	42.90	42.00	25.78	58.10	283.05	-	-
PowerGrid [2]	51.25	50.60	50.75	50.85	50.25	21.50	51.34	30.13	-	-
PowerGrid [1]	51.25	50.60	50.75	50.85	50.25	21.50	51.34	30.13	-	-
PrakashPipes	41.65	40.40	41.90	42.25	40					