India's growth

SHOBHANA SUBRAMANIAN Good liquidity fix from FM, helping MSMEs critical; but discom bailout sans reforms worrying

MARKETS, P10 **HIGHER PROVISIONS**

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q4 profit drops 10%, tightens lending norms

INTERNATIONAL, P8

FED WARNING

US economy may face extended period of weak growth: Powell



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FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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STIMULUS OF ₹20 LAKH CRORE

Spurring credit flows central to first tranche

New Delhi, May 13

AS EVEN THE unconventional liquidity steps taken by the RBI over the past few weeks haven't declogged the credit pipeline much, the government is seeking to use a good part of its extra fiscal firepower gathered via a strenuous debt route to ease the flow of liquidity across the key economic agents.

The most vulnerable in the pandemic-hit economy namely MSMEs, weaker NBFCs and HFCs, MFIs, real estate firms, electricity discoms, LLPs, professionals lacking fixed income, government contractors and low-earning workers in the unorganised sector could see moderate to meaningful impact on their hard-hit finances, thanks to the slew of steps announced by finance minister Sitharaman on Nirmala Wednesday.

The additional fiscal support ingrained in the latest steps are much smaller than the nearly ₹6 lakh crore that

Modes of financing the ₹20-lakh-

crore package will be clearer only

after the government announces

the relief measures in four-five

rounds in the coming days, finance

minister Nirmala Sitharaman said

in a press conference on Wednesday.

■On financing the ₹20-lakh-crore

MSMEs, NBFCs get support, budgetary outflows seen minimal, scope for spending rejig, fiscal room for balance package may necessitate RBI support

the credit and other facilities aimed at leaving more cash with businesses and individuals like EPF/TDS/TCS reliefs, quicker refunds and payment of various dues to businesses, add up to. A fair amount of fiscal maneuvering room – read expenditure rejig - is available with the government. There is however, not much extra fiscal space with it, given that the ₹4.2 lakh crore additional market borrowings unveiled for FY21 will roughly be equal to the likely revenue shortfall in the year.

Any real enhancement of the fiscal component of the package might necessitate additional debt creation for the Centre or the RBI stepping in to monetise part of the debt.

Including the latest tranche

package

Many loan borrowers want disbursement after lockdown: FM

May be this is the question I should

answer after I finish all my

announcements in the various

tranches. But the government

has also given a slightly-altered

borrowing schedule (its gross

market borrowing plan has been

raised to ₹12 lakh crore, against the

budgeted ₹7.8 lakh crore), so

and the ₹1.7 lakh crore PM Garib Kalyan package announced immediately after the nationwide lockdown, the government has already unveiled support to the economy to the tune of ₹7.5 lakh crore. If the nearly ₹4.5 lakh crore of liquidity boost by the RBI is added, the support becomes ₹12 lakh crore, leaving room for another ₹8 lakh

crore aid.

When asked about the size of fiscal component of the stimulus and how this will be financed, the minister said these would be clear, "after I finish all my announcements in the various tranches". Given that the government has altered the borrowing schedule, she said, "it is clearly one of the ways in which we are also expecting to finance the package".

MSMEs, which have 30% share in the economic value created and a far larger share in job creation, were the most addressed lot, as the minister came out with the first set of details of the grandiose '₹20lakh-crore economic package' announced by the Prime Minister on Tuesday.

viding 100% credit guarantee cover, a special ₹3,00,000 crore window of 'collateral-free automatic loans'will be available to MSMEs struggling to restart business. The emergency credit line, most of which anyway would have been there in normal course, will have interest capped, and be open till

Continued on

October 2020.

Page 11

With the government pro-

Hand-holding in need

- **Collateral-free loans** of ₹30k cr; 45 lakh units to gain, to save jobs
- ■₹20,000-cr subordinate **debt for** stressed units; cash outgo for govt ₹4,000 cr: Two lakh such units to benefit
- ₹50,000-cr equity infusion via 'fund of funds', with govt aid of ₹10,000 cr: To help stronger MSMEs expand

■ Global tenders in govt

purchases up to ₹200 cr

disallowed; Units not to

face unfair competition

- from foreign firms ■ Receivables from
- govt and CPSEs to be cleared in 45 days: To ease cash crunch



■ ₹30,000 cr **liquidity scheme** for NBFCs/HFCs/MFIs: To offer liquidity support and **boost market** confidence

■ ₹45,000-cr partial **credit guarantee** scheme 2.0, govt to bear first 20% loss: To ease cash flow for low-rated NBFCs

■ PFC/ REC to give tresh loans of ₹90k cr to **stressed** entities, under govt guarantee; state-run gencos to give **rebate to discoms** for end-consumer benefit

■ Rates of TDS and TCS cut by 25% in rest of FY21 for non-salaried: ₹50k cr with taxpayers during the period

■ To clear refunds to **charitable trusts** & LLPs, etc: To improve their cash flow

■ Vivad se Vishwas Scheme with all benefits extended to Dec 31:

Temporary cash boost for those

opting for it

- EPF payment by govt for certain small firms for three more months till August: ₹2,500 crore liquidity relief.
- EPF contribution cut to **20% from 24%**, now for 3 months — ₹6,750 crore liquidity in the hands of employers and employees

FE BUREAU

The package is predicated to make the Indian economy selfreliant by leveraging our inherent strengths...it would give a boost to Make in India.

JSW GROUP The package will bring much-needed relief to several stressed sectors & industries.

I am hopeful there is a

stimulus created

-SAJJAN JINDAL,

CHAIRMAN,

to propel demand. **—VENU**

SRINIVASAN CHAIRMAN, TVS MOTOR

The steps for MSMEs through guarantees, equity infusion and debt support will incentivise lending to MSMEs and provide crucial support to stressed entities. -RAJNISH KUMAR,

QuickPicks

Edited excerpts:

PM-Cares: ₹2k cr for ventilators, ₹1k cr for migrant workers' care

THE PM-CARES Fund Trust on Wednesday

decided to allocate ₹3,100 crore for fight against

Covid-19, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement, reports PTI. Out of the ₹3,100 crore, nearly ₹2,000 crore will be earmarked for the purchase of ventilators and ₹1,000 crore for the care of migrant labourers, it said. Another ₹100 crore will be given to support coronavirus vaccine development, the statement said. The trust formed on March 27 is headed by the Prime Minister. The other ex-officio members of the

finance minister. RBI extends interest subsidy scheme for exporters till Mar 2021

trust are the defence minister, the home minister and the

THE RESERVE Bank of India on Wednesday said a scheme providing interest subsidy for post- and pre-shipment export credit has been extended by a year till March 31, 2021, a move which would provide relief to exporters, reports **PTI**. Exporters get the subsidy under the 'Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre- and

post-shipment Rupee Export Credit'. The scheme ended on March 31 this year. "...Government of India has approved the extension of Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre and post shipment Rupee export credit, with same scope and coverage, for one more year ie up to March 31, 2021," the RBI said in a notification. The extension shall take effect from April ${ t 1}$ 2020 and end on March 31, 2021.

Special Feature

How work from home will change Indian IT workplace



Tech majors such as Infosys and CapGemini are keen on making work from home seamless, engaging and developing trust between their employees in a remote working environment ■eFE, P9

UNCERTAINTY

package.

Maruti Q4 net falls 28.1%, unsure on demand revival

that is one of the ways in which

we are expecting to finance the

we are going to finance it will be

probably more appropriately

answered once we finish

announcing all the tranches.

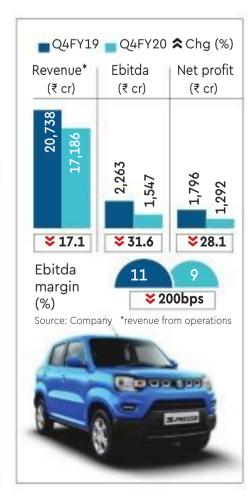
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Other details of how exactly

FE BUREAU Mumbai, May 13

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST passenger vehicle manufacturer, Maruti Suzuki India, which has just started production at one of its plants, is not sure by when the demand for cars would see a recovery.

Chairman RC Bhargava said on Wednesday that it would be difficult to predict the recovery timeline as it would take 6-8 months to understand when the recovery would happen. "There are so many uncertain-



ties at the moment that no point speculating by when we will get back to normal to pre-2019-2020 volumes and these relate both on the production side, on the supply side, on demand side, financing, affordability, the whole number of factors will go into it....car sales cannot happen in big numbers if the GDP is down to 1 or 2%," Bhargava said. He also refused to give an outlook for the current financial year stating too many uncertainties to predict.

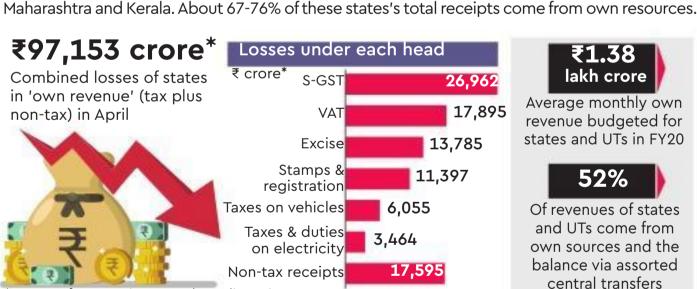
The company on Wednesday reported a 28.1% year-onyear decline in its net profit at ₹1,292 crore in the January-March quarter due to lower sales volume and higher sales promotion expenses. Despite the fall, Maruti's profit was in line with estimates as the effect of lower sales was partially offset by lower operating expenses, cost reduction efforts and reduction in corporate tax rate. The carmaker reported lower than estimated sales, which declined by 17.1% y-o-y to ₹17,186 crore. It missed estimates on the Ebitda and margin front. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation fell a sharp 31.6% y-o-y to ₹1,547 crore and margin fell 200 bps to 9% during the quarter.

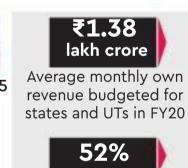
Continued on Page 11

Lockdown blow

21 states saw ₹97k-cr 'own revenue' loss in April

The big decline in own revenue hit all states, but the hardest hit were states with lesser dependence on transfers from the Centre, like Gujarat, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka,





Of revenues of states and UTs come from own sources and the balance via assorted central transfers

Paramilitary canteens to sell only

local products from June 1: Shah

COVID CASES

How a Chennai market led to spike across Tamil Nadu



say they spent ₹4,000 each on the bicycles, and have been on the road since May 6

UNION HOME MINISTER

Amit Shah on Wednesday

announced that all canteens of

the Central Armed Police

Forces (CAPFs) like the CRPF

and the BSF will sell only

indigenous products from

June 1 to 50 lakh family mem-

bers of about 10 lakh person-

DEATHS SO FAR 3,746 NEW CASE

ARUN JANARDHANAN Chennai, May 13

TOWARDS THE END of April, the owner of a hairdressing salon near Koyambedu market — a wholesale vegetable and fruit market in Chennai — was among the first Covid-19 positive cases in the area. Since then, over 3,000 cases have been reported from the market. In fact, most recent cases in Tamil Nadu are now being traced to Koyambedu market. Till Tuesday, the state's total case count was 8,718, of which 4,084 were linked to arrivals from other countries and states, and another 1,365 were linked to the

nel, reports PTI. **COVID-19 UPDATE** 78,014

Hindi, Shah said the decision has been taken by the home ministry after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to opt for local products and being self-reliant.

In a series of tweets in

Shah also appealed to the people to make maximum use of the products made in the country and encourage others to do the same. "The ministry of home affairs has decided that all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) canteens will now sell only indigenous products," he said.

Continued on Page 11

FOURTH ATTEMPT

CHAIRMAN, SBI

Jet Airways' RP seeks fresh EoIs for defunct airline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, May 13

JET AIRWAYS' INSOLVENCY resolution professional on Wednesday invited fresh expressions of interest (EoIs) for the grounded airline. This is the fourth time that EoIs have been invited for Jet Airways, which

was shuttered last year. The interested parties can submit EoI by May 28, while the final list of eligible prospective resolution applicants (PRAs) will be given to the lenders' committee on June 10, as per the EoI document.

"A process to invite resolution was initiated on July 20, 2019. However, based on a decision taken by the committee of creditors (CoC), a fourth round for inviting EoI for submission of resolution plan has been ini-

tiated," said the document. The decision for issuing fresh EoI was taken during the CoC meeting held recently.

It said a PRA can be strategic investors (SIs) and/or financial

investors (FIs). "The EoI and all its contents will be evaluated by the resolu-

tion professional (RP), on behalf of the CoC of the corporate debtor (Jet Airways) to determine our eligibility to submit a resolution plan," the document stated.

Continued on Page 11



A RED initiative appears

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RESTARTING OPS

Hero MotoCorp to open plants in a month

New Delhi, May 13

ANURAG KOTOKY

HERO MOTOCORP, THE world's largest maker of motorcycles and scooters, expects all of its factories to reopen within a month, as manufacturing activity gradually picks up in India after Prime Minister Narendra Modi

a nationwide lockdown.

The company has already opened half of its six facilities in

eased some restrictions during

India, chairman and managing director Pawan Munjal said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. It opened another factory in Colombia and has started dispatching vehicles to countries like Ecuador and "The pandemic chose a very

Bangladesh, Munjal said.

bad timing. Our industry, the automotive industry, was already going at a very slow pace for the last two years," Munjal said. "Having said that, we are already seeing some sparks of light."

Continued on Page 11

Tablighi Jamaat congregation. **Continued on Page 11**



LIQUIDITY BOOST

Narendra Modi @narendramodi The steps announced will boost liquidity, empower the entrepreneurs and strengthen their competitive spirit.



Industry is pegging a big hope on fiscal relief to the second-largest employment generating sector. Liquidity infusion will be imperative to turn around the real estate sector. NIRANJAN HIRANANDANI, FOUNDER & MD,



HIRANANDANI GROUP

Strong set of fiscal measures will particularly help MSME sector and smaller NBFCs that were asking for this... We still need to bring back migrant workers to get MSMEs restarted

SANJIV BAJAJ, CHAIRMAN & MD, **BAJAJ FINSERV**



FM injects vaccines with with stimulus measures, replacing Corona with karo na. The nationalistic pride is instilled via AtmaNirbharBharat Abhiyan

HARSH GOENKA, CHAIRMAN, **RPG GROUP**



The FM has responded with profound measures to boost liquidity and enable MSMEs to take centre stage in making India self reliant.

SHYAMAL MUKHERJEE, CHAIRMAN, PWC INDIA



liquidity infusion into discoms will breathe fresh life into power sector and protect distribution companies from going bankrupt SUMANT SINHA, RENEW POWER

MSMEs

Govt to tweak MSME tag, sharply up investment limits

Investment limits to be raised by 5 times; various benefits announced based on the new criteria

FE BUREAU New Delhi, May 13

THE GOVERNMENT ON Wednesday decided to tweak the definition of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) on the basis of both investment and turnover, and raise the investment limits by five times, as it announced various benefits that will be based on the new criteria.

Elevated investment limits will enable MSMEs to scale up, without bothering about the loss of assorted government benefits if they grew in size, in sync with the idea mooted in the Economic Survey for FY19 that had argued against incentivising "dwarfs". The Centre also proposed to end any distinction between manufacturing and services MSMEs.

Until now, the MSME definition was based on just their investments in plants and machinery. However, accord**MSME** definition

	(Based only on investments)	(Investment)	Turnover	O B
Micro	<₹25 lakh	<₹1 cr	<₹5 cr	0
Small	₹25 lakh-<₹5 cr	<₹10 cr	<₹50 cr	
Medium	₹5 cr-₹10 cr	<₹20 cr	<₹100 cr	00
*For manu	ufacturing only; n	ew criteria san	ne for both r	manufacturing

and services units

investment does not exceed ₹1 crore and annual turnover limit is ₹5 crore, while a small enterprise is one where the investment is between ₹5 crore and ₹10 crore and a turnover limit of ₹50 crore. A medium enterprise is one that has an investment of between ₹10 crore and ₹20 crore and a turnover limit of ₹100 crore. The annual turnover limit for a medium enterprise has been drastically cut from ₹250 crore, which was proposed in the MSME Amendment Bill, 2018, purportedly to ensure that large traders don't make it to the MSME category.

ing to the new definition, a

micro unit is one where the

the government's attempt to change the MSME definition through the MSME Amendment Bill, 2018, basing it only

on turnover and junking the investment-led criterion, was resisted by small manufacturers, who feared traders would then corner official benefits that were earlier meant for them. The government will now have to bring in a revised Bill to amend the MSME Act 2006 for this purpose.

The MSME status brings

businesses certain assorted benefits — including mandatory 25% official procurement and loans under the priority sector lending scheme apart from periodic government and regulatory relief. Promoters of MSMEs who are not wilful defaulters can bid for their stressed assets under the insolvency law, while The latest move came after those of large companies can't. Given that the Covid-19 crisis will continue to weigh on the economy for a long

period, an appropriate defini-

tion of MSMEs will be key to assured benefits to them.

According to the extant definition, a micro unit is one where the investment does not exceed ₹25 lakh, while a small enterprise is one where the investment is between ₹25 lakh and ₹5 crore and a medium one has an investment of between ₹5 crore and ₹10 crore. In case of services, a micro enterprise must invest up to ₹10 lakh in equipment.A small enterprise will have to invest between ₹10 lakh and ₹2 crore, while those investing from ₹2 crore to ₹5 crore will qualify as medium services

In its FY19 annual report, made up for 29% of GDP.

Highlighting policy anomaly that helps create "dwarfs", the Economic Survey for FY19 had suggested that the government set a sunset clause of less than 10 years for all size-based incentives.

"Job creation in India, however, suffers from policies that foster dwarfs i.e. small firms that never grow, instead of infant firms that have the potential to grow and become giants rapidly," it said.

enterprise.

the MSME ministry said these businesses had created 11.10 crore jobs in FY16. They also

Discoms receive ₹90,000-crore

Govt offers credit guarantee on ₹3-lakh-crore loans

FE BUREAU New Delhi, May 13

THE GOVERNMENT WILL offer full guarantee to banks to provide ₹3 lakh crore as automatic collateral-free loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) whose accounts are still standard, as it intends to bring cash-starved small businesses back from the brink of collapse in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak. As many as 45 lakh units can resume business activity and safeguard jobs.

Announcing six steps to support the MSMEs, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday the Centre will also facilitate an equity infusion of ₹50,000 crore into these businesses that are viable and need some handholding.A fund of funds with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore will be created for this purpose.

Similarly, the government will provide a separate scheme for stressed MSMEs, which will benefit 2 lakh of them. It will



provide ₹4,000 crore as its share to set up a credit guarantee trust, which will then give its guarantee to banks. A total

subordinated debt of ₹20,000 crore could be extend under this to such stressed busi-

Reduction in TDS and TCS to ensure ₹50,000-cr liquidity

FE BUREAU New Delhi, May 13

AS MUCH AS ₹50,000 crore of liquid cash would be available to taxpayers after the government announced a 25% cut in the rate of tax deducted/collected at source (TDS/TCS). However, the measure is not applicable to salaried taxpayers, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

"Payment for contract, professional fees, interest, rent, dividend, commission, brokerage, etc shall be eligible for this reduced rate of TDS. This reduction shall be applicable for the remaining part of the FY 2020-21 i.e. from May 14 to March 31, 2021,"the finance ministry presentation said.

The government uses withholding tax like TDS/TCS to ensure regular flow of tax revenue to its coffers. TDS is the second-largest component of total direct tax collection after advance tax, and accounted for nearly 38% of FY19 collections.

A taxpayer is required to deduct 1% or 2% of total payment as TDS to a contractor for services rendered with rates contingent on certain factors. Similarly, the e-commerce platforms are mandated to collect a 1%TCS from vendors selling on their platforms.

In other direct tax-related measures, the finance minister said all pending refunds to charitable trusts and non-corporate businesses and professions including proprietorship, partnership, limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and co-operatives would be issued

immediately. "The reduction in the rate for withholding taxes and TCS is indeed welcome. It will provide additional liquidity in the hands of individuals and will therefore spur demand. While this reduction by 25% of the current rate

ATA GLANCE

- TDS/TCS cut not for salaried taxpayer; to be effective till March 31, 2021
- Pending IT refunds to non-corporate entities to be cleared immediately
- version of Vivad se Vishwas valid till December 31 ■ Time-limit for

■ Concessional

assessment extended; IT returns/tax audit due date pushed is welcome, there is a need to

issue expeditiously lower rate

certificates where applied for by

the taxpayers," Dinesh Kanabar,

CEO, Dhruva Advisors, said. Further, the validity of the concessional version of the dispute resolution-cum amnesty scheme (Vivad Se Vishwas) for income tax matters, announced in the Budget, has been further extended by three months to December, 31 this year. The scheme is meant for 4.83 lakh cases for which appeals are pending at various

levels. Tax arrears to the tune of

about ₹9.32 lakh crore are

locked up in these appeals as on

November 31, 2019. Additionally, assessments of income-tax returns which were to be time-barred in September 30 this year would now be valid till December 31, and those getting barred on March 31, 2021 will be extended to September 30, 2021, the finance minister said. Incometax department is time-bound to initiate assessments under various sections and can't undertake the exercise after the

lifeline to fight Covid-19 crisis **FE BUREAU** New Delhi, May 13

THE GOVERNMENT HAS announced a fresh loan of ₹90,000 crore through PFC-REC to salvage the state-run power distribution companies (discom), which, in turn, also reduces receivables of electricity generation companies. The loans to be given against state guarantees for exclusive purpose of discharging liabilities of discoms to power generators, the government said.

Also, central governmentowned power producing companies such as NTPC will give rebate to discoms, which the latter will pass on to its industrial consumers.

Sources said finer modalities of disbursing the loans are currently being worked out, but sector-specific lenders REC and PFC are likely to lend the money at a spread of 150

6-mth extension

contracts

pandemic.

on central project

THE GOVERNMENT HAS pro-

vided an extension of six

55,000 40,000 25,000 10,000 March 2020 March 2018

bps from the competitive rates they will raise the capital.

Rising over-dues

70,000

(from discoms to gencos), ₹ crore

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said these loans will be linked to discoms implementing reforms such as digital payments for consumers, liquidation of outstanding dues of the state governments and formulating a plan to reduce financial and operational losses.

"Appropriate structuring for bond issuance against guarantee will be critical to

raise funds in the current tight liquidity situation," Vivek Sharma, senior director at CRISIL Infrastructure Advisory, noted.

Discoms' dues to power

80,454

producers stood at ₹90,577 crore at the end of March 2020, up 41% from a year earlier. About 88% of these (₹80,454 crore) were "overdues" with payment default of 60 days or more. Though discoms' dues have been rising relentlessly (see chart), the sit-

industrial power demand and logistical constraints in revenue collection due to the lockdown. Since about 70% of revenue of the discoms comes from industrial and commercial customers, lower usage by these categories means additional pressure on these already distressed entities. "According to estimates,

uation has become direr due to

discoms are running a cash deficit of almost ₹300 crore per day due to Covid-related demand destruction," Debasish Mishra, leader, energy resources and industrials at Deloitte in India, said.

Welcoming the liquidity package, Ashok Khurana, director-general, Association of Power Producers, said, "This will help generators clear their bank dues and purchase coal to supply power and would ensure continuity of uninterrupted power supply."

tender for govt procurement of up to ₹200 cr **FE BUREAU**

New Delhi, May 13

No global

IN A BID to promote domestic manufacturing in micro, small and medium enterprises, the Centre has decided that no global tender will be floated by the government or its agencies for procurement of goods and services if the value is less than ₹200 crore. However, its impact on the SME sector will be assessed after detailed

guidelines are released.

"Unless the finer details of the announcement are out, it is very difficult to analyse its impact. Because, there could be multiple items in one tender to increase the value above ₹200 crore to fit the criteria for a global tender," said Anil Bhardwaj, secretary general of Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises. Currently there is no financial limit fixed to float a global tender.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday announced: "Indian MSMEs and other companies have often faced unfair competition from foreign countries. Therefore global tenders will be disallowed in government procurement up to Rs 200 crore. The necessary amendments of General Financial Rules will also be done."

This will be a step towards self-reliant India and will also support the 'Make in India' initiative, she said, but did not

reserved 25% for the MSME sector in all its purchases, including through the Govern-

Low-rated NBFCs get breather in partial credit guarantee scheme

Mumbai/New Delhi, May 13

months on all contracts offered by central agencies, including railways, NHAI and CPWD, providing relief to contractors as work has been stalled due to the Covid-19 Besides, to ease liquidity

tees to the extent of the work completed. Cash flow and liquidity issues have also been addressed by providing bank guarantees for the percentage of work completed, Nangia Andersen director Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said, as he

hailed the move.

constraints, these agencies will

partially release bank guaran-

FE BUREAU

THE GOVERNMENT ON Wednesday announced the much-awaited partial credit

guarantee scheme worth ₹45,000 crore for low-rated non-banking finance companies (NFBCs), housing finance companies (HFCs) and microfinance institutions (MFIs) that were starved of cash due to credit risk aversion by investors in the wake of Covid-19 crisis.

Under this scheme, the existing partial credit guarantee scheme (PCGS) will be extended to cover borrowings, such as primary issuance of bonds/commercial papers of such firms, wherein the first

government. The government said AA-rated papers and below, including unrated papers, will be eligible for investment. The finance minister also

20% of loss will be borne by the

announced a special liquidity scheme worth ₹30,000 crore that will lead to fund infusion into investment grade debt papers of these firms. Under this scheme, investment will be made in both primary and secondary market transactions in investment grade debt papers. Securities will be fully guaranteed by the government. For implementation of this scheme, experts believe that the government is likely to form a special purpose vehicle (SPV) which will infuse funds

into these papers. Ananth Narayan, profes-

sor-finance at SPJIMR, said more needs to be done for stressed entities in these sectors. "The government could form an SPV which will raise ₹30,000 crore to invest in investment grade papers of NBFCs/MFIs/HFCs...Another scheme where the government has announced a partial credit guarantee will see a total liquidity of ₹45,000 crore to AA-rated and below papers of which the government will provide a partial credit guarantee of 20% or ₹9,000 crore. While this is welcome liquidity, solutions for stressed NBFC/HFC/MFI assets may also be needed," Narayan said.

explain how it would benefit the MSMEs in particular. "Unless there is more than 25% reservation for SMEs in this process, it will not be helping the sector," said Chandrakant Salunkhe, president of Mumbai-based SME Chamber of India. The government has

ment e-Marketplace portal.

RERAs can accord 6-month extension for completion, execution of projects

mandatory period expires.

FE BUREAU MUMBAI, MAY 13

FINANCE MINISTER NIR-MALA Sitharaman said on Wednesday that real estate regulatory authorities (RERA) of different states and the Union Territories can give suo motu extension of six months for execution and completion of realty projects, registered on or after March 25, 2020.

Sitharaman said COVID-19 be treated as a force majeure



fore to that extent authorities can be flexible about the execution of the contract signed. The urban development industry shall issue advisory to the states and to the UTs in this regard. "This way the people who had got into the contract and got fixed because of the corona virus will not suffer. These measures we think will de-stress developers and real estate industry which is already in difficulty, and will benefit with new timelines."

EPF contribution cut, take-home pay to rise **FE BUREAU** The lowering of the rate

New Delhi, May 13

FACING FUND CRUNCH, both employers and their

employees stand to get a ₹9,250-crore liquidity support over three months as the government on Wednesday reduced their statutory monthly rate of contribution towards the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) to 10% of an employees' basic wage and dearness allowance, from 12% each now, and extended the period of waiv-

ing off the contribution till the wage month of August for entities having less than 100 employees.

"It is necessary to provide more take-home salary to employees and also to give relief to employers in payment of provident fund dues. Therefore, statutory PF contribution of both employers and the employees will be reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for next three months," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said

Amount of benefit (₹ crore) Reducing monthly contribution to 10% 6,750 from 12% for three months

Government to bear burden of employees and employers 2,500 contribution towards EPF for entities having less than 100 people for three more months

on Wednesday.

statutory contribution will provide ₹6,750-crore liquidity relief both to the employers and the employees over three months. As per government's esti-

mate, all 6.5 lakh establishments and their 4.3 crore employees, now covered under EPFO, will benefit. However, government-

owned entities and their employees, both at the Centre and the states, will continue to pay 12% each towards the provident fund.

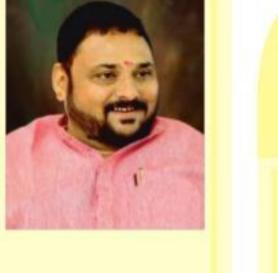
financiale

FINANCIAL EXPRESS



STAY HOME, STAY SAFE

Stay Home Work From Home Work In Home Workout In Home Stay Fit Practice Personal Hygine Stay Safe Keep Social Distancing But Keep yourself Socially Connected



MR. RAJENDRA PATIL YADRAVKAR

Gear Up yourself for Future World....

Minister of State for Public Health & Family Welfare, Medical Education, Food & Drug Administration, Textile, Culture Affairs Government of Maharashtra

Unprecedented times and unprecedented challenges call for unprecedented resolve. Dig deeper and we all have it in us to overcome. Every difficulty has a seed of opportunity in it. Stay home, work from home and stay safe!

MR. MADHAVRAO GHATGE

Chirman & Managing Director Shree Gurudatt Sugars Ltd. Takaliwadi, Tal. Shirol, Dist. Kolhapur. Maharashtra State, India.

Coronavirus epidemic ... First of all I should take precautions of myself than my family, society, city,nation so on and so forth...Stay aware of the latest information on the



COVID-19 outbreak, follow instruction given by Govt.

- 1. Wash your hands frequently with sanitizer.
- 2. Maintain social distancing. 3. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- 4.Stay Home stay Fit.

MR. P. N. PATIL (SADOLIKAR)

MLA: Karvir Vidhan Sabha, Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Chairman: Shr Bhogawati Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Shahunagar, Parite, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.



THANK YOU! -

" We express our gratitude to the Corona Warriors who have directly or indirectly helped in this pandemic"



Specially Thanks







Medical Staff Pharmacist Police



Media







Government Staff

Bank Staff

Grocery Stores

Stay Home, Stay safe, Maintain Social Distancing & Use Mask.





ताप, खोकला, सर्दीसाठी



शिंकताना रुमालाचा



वारंवार हात साबणाने ध्वा.



आपल्या घरीच रहा बाहेर पडु नका.





होम क्वारनटाईनचा







We will need to change our lifestyles and habits to adjust to the new norms of physical distancing, respiratory etiquettes, frequent hand washing and mask usage in our homes, in work space and in public. That to a large extent can still slow down the infection

spread as and when the

lockdown opens"

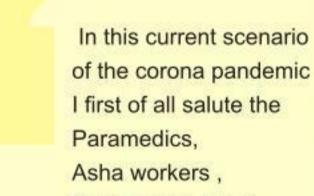


Chairman: Shree Chhatrapati Shahu Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Kagal. Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

In normal times We care very much about our family, even extended family Today's situation calls for more responsibility towards our beloved, neighbors, city and towards our beloved country. By strictly following social distancing, mask, hand washing. Corona will die it's own death.

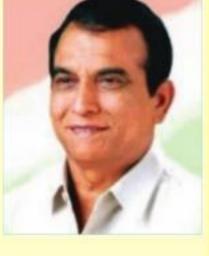


Chairman: Shree Datta Shetkari Sahkari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Po. Dattanagar 416 120 Tal: Shirol Dist: Kolhapur, Maharashtra



Police Patil, Talati, Aanganwadi sevika and the police department for

their sincere efforts to keep us all safe



MR. MAHADEVRAO MAHADIK

Ex MLA, Director : Shree Chhatrapati Rajaram Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Kasaba Bawada, Kolhapur., Maharashtra.



श्री भोगावती सहकारी साखर कारखाना लि., शाहूनगर (परिते), ता. करवीर, जि. कोल्हापूर



शरद सहकारी साखर कारखाना लि.

शामराव पाटील(यड्रावकर) नगर, नरंदे-४१६११०, ता. हातकणंगले, जि. कोल्हापूर, महाराष्ट्र

श्री छत्रपती शाहू सहकारी

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श्री दत्त शेतकरी सहकारी साखर कारखाना लि.,शिरोळ

पोस्ट दत्तनगर ४१६ १२०, ता. शिरोळ, जिल्हा कोल्हापूर फोन (०२३२२) २३६५५१ (६ लाईन्स) फॅक्स (०२३२२) २३६६०० E-mail : klp.dattsssk@gmail.com



श्री छत्रपती राजाराम सहकारी साखर कारखाना लि. कसबा बावडा, ता. करवीर, जि. कोल्हापूर, महाराष्ट्र













Minalles THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020



GST ON VEHICLES

RC Bhargava, chairman, Maruti Suzuki

At the moment, as we stand today, at least for the next month or two the production volume of all automobile makers is going to be very low. At this point, a GST cut won't make sense

Quick View



IndoSpace Core raises ₹1,000 crore from HSBC

INDOSPACE CORE, which owns industrial and logistics parks across major cities in the country, on Wednesday said it has raised ₹1,000 crore from HSBC to fund its existing green projects. IndoSpace Core has about 13 million square feet land across 14 industrial and logistics parks in Pune, Chennai, Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR. The company said it has closed ₹1,000 crore green loan facility provided by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC). "Proceeds from the debut green loan will be used towards the financing or refinancing of certified green projects. The green buildings have also achieved EDGE green building certification developed by the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group," it said.

REC raises \$500 m by issuing overseas bonds

STATE-OWNED REC on Wednesday said it has raised \$500 million (around ₹3,773 crore) through issuance of overseas bonds. This is the first ever overseas bond issue by an Indian company since the Covid-19 crisis, according to deal advisors.

Cos on-board MyShield app to safeguard employees

As factories, offices and workplaces brace to reopen after lock-down, close to 90 companies including Welspun, BSNL, Onida, Essar and Bharat Dynamics have on-boarded social distancing app'MyShield'to keep their employees safe. The app uses a BLEbased 1+ metre safety circle to ensure social distancing through mobile phones.

NMDC reduces iron ore prices by ₹400 per tonne

MDC HAS reduced the prices of iron ore both Lumps and Fines by ₹400 per tonne and DRCLO (DR Calibrated Lump Ore) by ₹470 per tonne, the miner said on Wednesday. Earlier, on April 4, NMDC had reduced the price of iron ore by ₹500 per tonne and DRCLO by ₹580, a company release said.

Tradologie launches eight product segments

TRADOLOGIE ON Wednesday launched eight product segments in agri and industrial goods trade. It will now offer raw cotton, meat and vegetables in the agri commodities segment, along with launching services for the industrial commodities segment by introducing hand tools, fasteners, power transmission products, etc.

ITC expands dairy portfolio with packaged lassi

AMID THE lockdown over Covid-19, diversified conglomerate ITC launched its Aashirvad Svasti Lassi, expanding its diary portfolio as originally scheduled. This is the fourth product the brand has launched within two years of operations, the first three being Aashirvad milk, curd and cheese. Despite hiccups in supply chain management, ITC has been consistent in keeping intact supplies of its staple food brands like Aashirvad Aata and its branded packaged food business has not slipped in its growth even during the lock down period.

Coir Board introduces cot for Covid-specific applications

THE COIR Board on Wednesday said that it has introduced a cot made of coirwood for Covid-specific applications. The cot can be assembled in one minute, without any nails, and can be dismantled. It weighs approximately 28 kg and comes at a factory cost of ₹2,800. The state-run organisation has also launched a low-cost, durable, lightweight and disposable mattresses using coir and EPE foam.

financialexo.

MEDICINE SUPPLY

Gilead signs licensing pact with 5 generic firms for Remdesivir

FE BUREAU Hyderabad, May 13

US DRUG MANUFACTURER Gilead Sciences has signed non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreements with five generic pharmaceutical companies in India and Pakistan to manufacture and distribute the investigational medicine, Remdesivir, to 127 countries. The manufacturers are Cipla, Ferozsons Laboratories, Hetero Labs, Jubilant Life Sciences and Mylan. Most low-income and lower-middle income as well as several upper-middle and high-income countries face significant obstacles to make quality healthcare accessible to all.

Under the licensing agreements, the companies have a right to receive a technology transfer of the Gilead manufacturing process for Remdesivir to enable them to scale up production more quickly. "The licensees also set their own prices for the generic product they produce. The licences are royalty-free until the World Health Organization declares the end of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern regarding Covid-19 or until a pharmaceutical product other than Remdesivir or a vaccine is approved to treat or prevent

MAX FINANCIAL SERVICES (MFSL) on

Wednesday said it has settled a tax dispute

involving over ₹123 crore under the gov-

ernment's 'Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas'

become the first large company in the pri-

vate sector to settle a tax dispute under the

The company claimed that it has



The 5 manufacturers are Cipla, Ferozsons Laboratories, Hetero Labs, **Jubilant Life Sciences and Mylan**

Covid-19, whichever is earlier," a company statement said.

The move follows the release of preliminary trial results, which indicated Remdesivir can successfully treat serious cases of Covid-19. The disclosure prompted the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to quickly authorise its emergency use for hospitals. For the moment, Gilead plans to eventually donate 1.5 million doses, which could cover between 1,40,000 and 280,000 patients, depending on dosing. However, it is unclear the extent to which Remdesivir may become a standard of care, since

full study results have not yet been released.

Gilead decided to build a consortium of manufacturing partners to maximise global supply. Producing the drug requires scarce raw materials, with their own lengthy production time, and specialised manufacturing capabilities, with limited global capacity. Any disruption to the supply chain impacting these scarce raw materials and other manufacturing inputs could reduce the amount of Remdesivir produced and increase the production time.

The Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) will facilitate broader use of Remdesivir to treat hospitalised patients with severe symptoms of Covid-19. The EUA is based on available data from two global clinical trials — US National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases' placebocontrolled Phase-III study in patients with moderate to severe symptoms of Covid-19, and Gilead's global Phase-III study evaluating Remdesivir in patients with severe disease. Multiple additional clinical trials are being conducted to generate more data on the safety and efficacy of Remdesivir as a potential treatment for Covid-19. It continues to be an investigational drug that has not been approved by the FDA.

US wants Novelis to divest automotive body sheet biz in N America

LALIT K JHA Washington, May 13

THE US DEPARTMENT of Justice is proposing a federal court to order Hindalco-owned American company Novelis to divest Aleris Corporation's entire aluminium automotive body sheet operations in North America to satisfy competitive concerns.

Atlanta-headquartered Novelis offers flat-rolled aluminum products in three segments: Automotive, beverage can and specialty products. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, its revenues were approximately \$12.3 billion.

Novelis is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hindalco Industries, an Indian company headquartered in Mumbai.

Prior to its acquisition by Novelis, Aleris was a Delaware corporation headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. Aleris offers flat-rolled aluminum products to the automotive, aerospace, building and construction industries among others.

"Today's proposed divestiture preserves competition in the market for aluminum automotive body sheet and protects automakers and American consumers by requiring the full divestiture of Aleris' North American aluminum automotive body sheet operations," Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division said on Tuesday.

In 2018, Aleris' revenues were approximately \$3.4 billion.

The settlement was finalized with the The proposed final judgment follows the US' March 9 arbitration win. Jalandhar jurisdiction of I-T earlier this

Prior to filing its civil antitrust lawsuit to block the merger, the department's Antitrust Division reached an agreement with Novelis and Aleris to refer the matter to binding arbitration if Novelis and Aleris were unable to resolve the US' competitive concern with the transaction.

Under the arbitration terms, Novelis



In 2018, Aleris' revenues were approximately \$3.4 billion

agreed to divest Aleris' aluminum automotive body sheet operations in North America if the US prevailed in the arbi-

The arbitrator ruled in favour of the

automotive body sheet constitutes a relevant antitrust product market. On Tuesday, the department filed a proposed final judgment that, if approved by the court, would fully

United States, holding that aluminum

resolve the competitive harm alleged in the lawsuit. Aditya Birla Group flagship Hindalco cemented its position as the world's

largest producer of value-added alu minium products with the completion of the \$2.8 billion acquisition of Aleris by its wholly-owned US subsidiary Novelis Inc last month. The acquisition of the US-based

rolled products major Aleris Corporation positions Hindalco as one of the world's largest aluminium companies, with a global footprint spanning 49 manufacturing facilities in North America, Europe and Asia, the group said in a statement in April.

scheme. MFSL settled a long-pending income Tata Motors resumes ops at two plants, working on

starting rest in next few days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, May 13

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13

scheme.

TATA MOTORS ON Wednesday said it has commenced operations at its Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) and Sanand (Gujarat) facilities after getting approvals from relevant government authorities. The other plants in Lucknow (Uttar

Pradesh), Dharwad (Karnataka), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) and Pune (Maharashtra) are in final stage of readiness and expect to begin production over the next few days, Tata Motors said in a statement.

The commencement of operations follows receipt of all necessary approvals from relevant government authorities, it added.

"Our utmost priority is the safety and wellbeing of our employees, customers and ecosystem partners. Therefore, we restart operations with limited, essential staff in each plant, adhering to all mandated safety norms while efficiently meeting operational requirements," Tata Motors CEO and MD Guenter Butschek

The support and cooperation extended by local authorities, state and central government, union partners and dedicated workforce have been instrumental for a smooth restart, he added.

"We will scale operations in a graded

manner as the entire enabling ecosystem of suppliers, vendors, dealers and customers comes up to speed," Butschek said. The company is cautiously optimistic

demand, he added. Nearly 200 dealerships and 300 workshops for passenger vehicles and over 400 sales outlets and 885 workshops for commercial vehicles have begun operations

and staying agile to cater to an evolving

Vivad Se Vishwas scheme tax case under the dispute resolution

Max Financial Services settles ₹123-cr tax dispute

The dispute was settled under the

government's Direct Tax

scheme Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas, 2020, recently launched by the government, the company said in a release.

"MFS has paid ₹123.78 crore for settling the litigation involving capital gains from the stake sale of its erstwhile telecom

Ashok Leyland

FE BUREAU

Chennai, May 13

restarts production

THE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE (CV)

industry expects to stand to gain

with the announcement of ₹20 lakh

crore reforms-cum-stimulus pack-

age as announced by the PM, said

Vipin Sondhi, managing director &

CEO, Ashok Leyland. Announcing

the commencement of production

at the company's plants across the

country on Wednesday, Sondhi said

the announcement of reforms-cum-

stimulus to the tune of 10% of GDP

had the potential to be sustainably

beneficial to all sectors of the econ-

with a new set of standard operating pro-

the mandatory safety norms and aggres-

sively adopting digital tools, it added.

cedure (SOPs), the auto major said.

it added. The government had announced the

Vivad se Vishwas scheme in the union budget for 2020-21. Under the scheme, taxpayers whose tax demands are locked in dispute in multiple forums can pay due taxes by June 30, 2020 and get a complete waiver of interest and penalty.

ioint venture Hutchison Max Telecom

month and due taxes have been remitted,

GCPL Q4 net profit slips 75% to ₹230 crore on Covid-19 impact

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, May 13

FMCG MAJOR GODREJ Consumer Products (GCPL) on Wednesday reported an over 75% drop in its consolidated net profit at ₹229.90 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2020, hit by disruptions in sales amid the Covid-19 outbreak.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹935.24 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, GCPL said in a BSE filing.

Its net sales were down 12.22% to ₹2,132.69 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹2,429.68 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

GCPL's total expenses were at ₹1,791.93 crore as against ₹1,974.73 crore, down 9.25%. Commenting on the results, GCPL executive chairperson Nisaba Godrej said: "This quarter was an unprecedented period due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe, impacting all the geographies of our operations."

GCPL's India revenue rose 17.85% to ₹1,113.94 crore during the January-March period from ₹1,356.09 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

"The spread of the virus and the eventual lockdown in many geographies of our oper-

later part of March 2020, significantly impacting our sales performance in the quarter. This resulted in a weak performance in our India business, although we have continued to gain market shares across categories," said Nisaba. According to the company, its India busi-

ations resulted in virtually no sales in the

ness sales declined 18% year-on-year, led by 15% year-on-year decline in volume.

However, its revenue from Indonesian market moved up 8.94% to ₹449.36 crore as compared to ₹412.47 crore in the yearago period."In our international businesses Indonesia continued its strong growth momentum with mid-single digit profitable constant currency sales growth in spite of the COVID-19 crisis, driven by a consistent performance across categories and several go-to-market initiatives," she said.

SirionLabs raises \$44 million in Series C funding

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, May 13

SIRIONLABS, AN AI-POWERED contract lifecycle management (CLM) platform, on Wednesday said it has raised \$44 million (over ₹331 crore) in Series C funding led by Tiger Global and Avatar Growth Capital.

The latest round brings SirionLabs' total capital raised to \$66 million till date. The earlier rounds were led by Sequoia Capital India, a statement said.

"The new funding will be utilised to enhance engineering capabilities at our Gurgaon centre and our newly established AI laboratory in Seattle. We are also using the capital to ramp up SirionLabs' global sales and marketing capabilities, as well as to expand our technology and go to market partnerships,"SirionLabs co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer Ajay Agarwal said. Headquartered in Gurugram, SirionLabs' diverse team consists of over 500 employees working across India, the US, the UK, Canada, the Netherlands, Denmark and Singapore. Its R&D centres are located in Delhi and Seattle.

Airtel Africa Q4 profit dips 13%; says mid-term opportunity unchanged

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13

AIRTEL AFRICA ON Wednesday posted a 13% drop in net profit for the March quarter at \$77 million (nearly ₹581 crore) and said it would be difficult to precisely forecast the impact of Covid-19 on customers and business, since the spread of coronavirus in The company used the lockdown time Africa has lagged the rest of the world. to design newways of working, respecting

The company, in a statement, however emphasised that it is entering "this period of increased volatility" on a strong financial

opportunities across its footprint has not is due to currency movements with referchanged, as markets will continue to benefit from strong population growth and need for increased connectivity and financial inclusion.

Airtel Africa's net profit for the justended quarter came in at \$77 million, 12.8% lower compared to the year-ago period when seen on reported currency basis and 6.2% lower in constant currency

The difference between reported cur-

a beta licence in February 2018 for launch-

ing a "dedicated application" for UPI trans-

footing and its view on the medium-term rency and constant currency growth rates ence to the US dollar rate.

Profit attributable to parent company

shareholders stood at \$65 million (over ₹489 crore), almost 22% lower than the year-ago period. The revenue for the March quarter

which included income from voice, data, mobile money, and other revenue was 15.1% higher (almost 18% higher in constant currency terms) year-on-year at \$899 million (over ₹6,700 crore).

SC seeks replies from finmin, NPCI, RBI on WhatsApp's payments system

INDU BHAN New Delhi, May 13

AGREEING TO HEAR a PIL seeking a ban on WhatsApp's payments system in India, the Supreme Court on Wednesday sought response from the finance ministry, National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), the RBI and others as to why the instant messaging service should not be punished for breaches and flagrant violations of regulatory norms and also asked to comply with all regulations before the final launch of its payment getaway.

A bench led by Chief Justice SA Bobde issued notice to WhatsApp, its parent Facebook, the RBI, NPCI, ICICI Bank and the ministries of finance, electronics & information, law & justice and home affairs.

However, the apex court said that the

pendency of the PIL will not come in the way of the RBI granting approval to WhatsApp over its payments system, called WhatsApp Pay. "It is made clear that there will be no stay of the proceedings with respect to the application of Whats App by the Government, which shall be processed in accordance with law," the SC said in its brief order. It also tagged the PIL filed by Good

Governance Chambers (GGC), a think tank, with another pending plea that raises the issue of WhatsApp's compliance with data localisation norms and data encryption.

Senior counsel Kapil Sibal, appearing for WhatsApp, also undertook that the Facebook-owned messaging application will "not go ahead with the payments' scheme without complying with all the



The Facebook-owned messaging appli-

cation is reportedly launching its payments option in partnership with three private banks in India soon.

Raising security and privacy issues, the petition by GGC said WhatsApp was given

However, instead of developing a sep-

arate and "dedicated application", WhatsApp embedded in its messaging service the UPI transactions features. This, the plea states, is "blatant and wilful violation" of mandatory guidelines and regulatory norms that form the very fundamentals of the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) system, thus posing a serious threat to the monetary policy of the country.

Moreover, the combining of two services on the same app involves several complications wherein sensitive data of the user is put to high risk, it argued.

"Despite claiming to have a secured and safe technology Interface and infrastructure, WhatSApp has been known to users and subsequently even failed to assume accountability and responsibility for the same," the PIL stated, adding that alleged violations by WhatsApp, with its reach of over 400 million active users in India, could pose a threat to security and privacy of crores of users.

have paid to secure sensitive data of its

Besides, GGC argued that WhatsApp has violated various other regulatory norms governing securing of user financial data, data localisation, two-factor authentication, processes, system for lodging complaints and de-registration of a UPI linked account.

Seeking a ban on WhatsApp Pay, senior counsel Krishnan Venugopal, appearing for GGC, argued that the instant messaging app should be punished for "breaches and non-compliance".





BHARTI AXA GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

IRDAI REGISTRATION NUMBER 139 DATED JUNE 27, 2008. CIN: U66030KA2007PLC043362.

suraksha ka/ naya nazariya

Particulars	As at	As at
	March 31, 2020	March 31, 2019
SOURCES OF FUNDS	(Rs. in lakhs)	(Rs. in lakhs)
Share Capital	200,598	162,145
Reserves and Surplus	17,202	17,202
Fair Value Change - Shareholder Funds	(7)	(48)
Fair Value Change - Policyholder Funds	(41)	(292)
Borrowings	25,500	22,000
Total	243,252	201,007
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Investments - Shareholders Fund	67,190	55,234
Investments - Policyholders Fund	409,336	333,191
Loans	-	-
Fixed Assets	1,853	1,998
Current Assets Cash and Bank Balances	24,488	11,495
Advances And Other Assets	77,464	61,524
Sub Total (A)	101,952	73,019
Current Liabilities	394,929	313,457
Provisions	93,776	76,243
Sub Total (B)	488,705	389,700
Net Current Assets (C) = (A - B)	(386,753)	(316,681)
Miscellaneous Expenditure	-	_
(to the extent not written off or adjusted)		
Debit Balance in Profit and Loss Account	151,628	127,264
Total	243,252	201,007

	REVE	NUE ACCOL	INT (FORM NL-	-1A-B-RA)				(Rs. in lakhs
Particulars	2	Year Ended	March 31, 2020		Year Ended March 31, 2019			
	Fire	Marine	Miscellaneous	Total	Fire	Marine	Miscellaneous	Total
Premiums earned-(Net)	2,865	5,320	174,781	182,966	1,843	2,665	135,390	139,898
Profit/(Loss) on sale/redemption of Investments (Net)	123	76	5,022	5,221	30	15	1,464	1,509
Amortisation of Discount/(Premium)	(9)	(5)	(357)	(371)	1	1	69	71
Interest, Dividend & Rent-Gross (Net of depreciation on investment property)	670	413	27,347	28,430	471	228	22,788	23,487
Others:- Investment Income from Terrorism Pool	145	-	29	174	178	-	42	220
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	40	40	3	4	172	179
Contribution from Shareholders Funds under EOM Rules, 2016	-	393	21,340	21,733	-	240	12,974	13,214
Total (A)	3,794	6,196	228,202	238,192	2,526	3,153	172,899	178,578
Claims incurred (Net)	2,155	6,176	134,979	143,310	1,216	2,082	104,371	107,669
Commission	(1,295)	573	11,521	10,799	(546)	442	5,449	5,345
Operating Expenses related to Insurance Business	1,991	1,881	69,746	73,618	1,144	1,112	49,958	52,214
Premium Deficiency Others:-	(289)	148	-	(141)	65	-	-	65
Terrorism Pool Expenses	51	-	10	61	41	-	10	51
Contribution to Solatium Fund	-	-	62	62	-	-	47	47
Total (B)	2,613	8,778	216,318	227,709	1,920	3,636	159,835	165,391
On exacting Profit I/I each $I(C) = I(A)$ $I(D)$	4 404	(0.F04)	44.004	40.404	COC	(400)	40.004	40 407
Operating Profit / (Loss) (C) = (A) - (B)	1,181	(2,581)	11,884	10,484	606	(483)	13,064	13,187
Appropriations				83				
Transfer to Shareholders' Account	1,181	(2,581)	11,884	10,484	606	(483)	13,064	13,187
Transfer to catastrophe Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Other Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (D)	1,181	(2,581)	11,884	10,484	606	(483)	13,064	13,187

Particulars	Year Ended March 31, 2020	Year Ended March 31, 2019
	(Rs. in lakhs)	(Rs. in lakhs)
PERATING PROFIT / (LOSS)		
a) Fire Insurance	1,181	606
o) Marine Insurance	(2,581)	(483)
c) Miscellaneous Insurance	11,884	13,064
ICOME FROM INVESTMENTS		
a) Interest, Dividends and Rent-Gross (Net of depreciation on investment	property) 4,667	3,878
Profit / (Loss) on sales / redemption of Investments (Net)	857	312
) Amortisation of Discount / (Premium)	(61)	12
ther Income	-	-
otal (A)	15,946	17,389
	10,010	,,,,,,
Provisions (Other than taxation)	45 700	4.050
a) For diminution in the value of investments	15,700	1,350
o) For doubtful debts c) Others	315 -	387 -
ther Expenses		
a) Expenses other than those related to the insurance business	15	16
) Bad debts written off Others	-	-
- Managerial Remuneration	191	104
- Interest on Debentures	2,316	1,976
- Debenture related Expenses	17	['] 19
- Investment related expenses debited to Shareholders Account	23	18
- Contribution from Shareholders Funds under EOM Rules, 2016	21,732	13,214
otal (B)	40,309	17,084
rofit / (Loss) before tax	(24,363)	305
rovision for Taxation	· · · · ·	
- Current Tax	-	
- Deferred Tax	_	
rofit / (Loss) after tax	(24,363)	305
ppropriations		
) Interim dividends paid during the period	-	
) Proposed final dividend	-	-
) Dividend distribution on tax	-	-
I) Transfer to reserve / other accounts	-	-
) Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	•
alance of Profit/(Loss) brought forward from last year	(127,265)	(127,569)
alance carried to Balance Sheet	(151,628)	(127,264)

Sr. No.	ANALYTICAL RATIO (FOR	M NL-30A)	Year Ended March 31, 2020	Year Ended March 31, 2019
1	Gross Direct Premium Growth Ra	ate (%)	38.80%	28.77%
2	Gross Direct Premium to Net Wor	rth Ratio (times)	4.74	4.34
3	Growth rate of Net Worth (%)		27.06%	0.59%
4	Net Retention Ratio (%)		63.47%	66.36%
5	Net Commission Ratio (%)		5.39%	3.52%
6	Expense of Management to Gross (%)	s Direct Premium Ratio	31.00%	25.06%
7	Expense of Management to Net V (%)	Vritten Premium Ratio	48.49%	37.32%
8	Net Incurred Claims to Net Earne	d Premium (%)	78.33%	76.96%
9	Combined Ratio (%)		120.45%	106.21%
10	Technical Reserves to net premiu	ım ratio (times)	1.67	2.04
11	Underwriting balance ratio (times	s)	(0.24)	(0.09)
12	Operating profit ratio (%)		(6.18%)	10.19%
13	Liquid Assets to Liabilities ratio (times)	0.26	0.24
14	Net earnings ratio (%)		(12.16%)	0.20%
15	Return on net worth ratio (%)		(36.82%)	0.58%
16	Available Solvency Margin (ASM) Margin (RSM) ratio (times)	to Required Solvency	1.63	1.76
17	NPA ratio (%) Gross NPA ratio Net NPA ratio		5.79% 2.30%	1.73% 1.39%
18	Debt Equity ratio (times)		0.39	0.42
19	Debt service coverage ratio (time	s)	(0.11)	0.87
20	Interest service coverage ratio (til	mes)	(0.11)	0.87
21	Asset cover availability *Unsecured Debentures		NA*	NA

1. The results for the year ended March 31, 2020 which have been subjected to audit by the Statutory Auditors were reviewed by the Audit Committee of Board and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on May 13, 2020, in terms of circular on Proparation of Financial statements dated October 5, 2012 & subsequent corrigendum thereon dated July 3, 2013 (except for ratios at Sr. no. 18-21 in Form NL-30A). 3. During the year ended March 31, 2020, the company has insued 38,45,35,894 equity shares of Rs. 10 each to Bhart General Ventures Private Limited and 18,84,22,588 equity shares to Societe Beaujon respectively. 4. A. During the year ended March 31, 2020, the Company has raised Rs. 3,500 lakins through an a raise of Say, 13,000 report of private placement basis listed at National Stock Exchange of India. 5. Cendel trating for Non-Convertible Debentures is Non-Convertible Debentures is Non-Convertible Debentures is Non-Convertible Debentures is Non-Convertible Debentures of Non-Convertible Debentures is Non-Convertible Debentures of Non-Convertible Debentures as on March 31, 2020. (a) The Company has Investment of face value Rs. 9,000 lakins in Secured Non-Convertible Debentures as on March 31, 2020. (b) The Company has Investment of face value Rs. 9,000 lakins in Secured Non-Conver impairment charges, cancellation reserves, actuarial losses on our retirement benefit plans and discount rate assumptions. The Company will continue to closely monitor any material changes to future economic conditions. Other than these adjustments, the company believes that there is no significant impact on the Financial Results for the year ended March 31, 2020. **12.** As per IRDAl circulars reference number: IRDAl/HLT/ CIR/MISC/091 /04/2020 and IRDAl/NL/CIR/MOT/ 090 /04/2020 dated 16 April 2020, relaxations has been allowed to insure continuity of the insurance cover from the date on which the policy falls due for renewal. Premiums for Health insurance & Motor Third Party policies which were due for renewal from March 25, 2020 to March 31, 2020 and have been regrouped wherever necessary for better presentation.

Place: **Mumbai** Date: **May 13, 2020**

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MR. RAKESH BHARTI MITTAL (CHAIRMAN)













THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020



A SELF-RELIANT INDIA Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Five pillars of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'—economy, infrastructure, system, demography and demand. This does not mean that India needs to become isolationist but become more self reliant

SHOBHANA SUBRAMANIAN

shobhana.subramanian @expressindia.com



Good liquidity-fix, wait for reforms

Helping MSMEs critical, but without collateral, chances of default higher; cash-for-discoms without reforms worrying

F MSMEs AND NBFCs are relieved liquidity is on the way, middle-class households must be sorely disappointed the FM didn't give them any tax breaks. The big gainers from Nirmala Sitharaman's announcements on Wednesday, though, are the errant state discoms who are being bailed out with taxpayer money for the nth time and that too without any commitment to reform. The fiscal impact of the first round of measures of the ₹20 lakh crore financial package is very, very modest; much of the roughly ₹6 lakh crore or so of stimulus, would be in the nature of bank credit, though, of course, backed by a sovereign guarantee.

It is likely Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will come up some more schemes à la LTROs and TLTROs—to channel the ₹8 lakh crore of surplus cash that banks are sitting on into specific sectors as it has already been doing. That's not bad thinking since the fiscal deficit for FY21 is already nudging 5.5%, and even otherwise, the government cannot be the risk-taker for the corporate sector.

To be fair to the FM, though, the largesse to the discoms apart, Sitharaman has nicely balanced empathy with prudence. The chunky ₹3 lakh crore of emergency funding for viable MSMEs, with a 100% backing from the sovereign on the principal and interest, and 12 months of moratorium on repayments, was the need of the hour. To be sure, a big chunk of these loans may never be repaid and, at some point, the government will need to capitalise the banks—the fiscal costs will be felt in that year—but there is a strong case for attempting to keep these 45 lakh units solvent and saving close to 2 million livelihoods.

More pertinently, the disbursements can be sped up since banks are already lending to MSMEs on an automated portal with sanctions approved within the hour. The subordinate debt corpus of ₹20,000 crore—to be 'facilitated by government'—is a lot trickier and less likely to take off because this comes with only a partial guarantee; the idea of giving promoters loans to capitalise their busi-

nesses is never a good one, but these are very difficult times. Even with assistance in e-marketing and an advantage while bidding for tenders of up to ₹200 crore, MSMEs are not going to find it easy.

Which is why it is hard to see the fund-offunds plan, with its ambitious ₹50,000 crore pie-in-the-sky target to fund equity capital infusion in MSMES, take off. If the government is going to provide the initial corpus ₹10,000 crore, that is taxpayer money unlikely to be recovered. There is no doubt whatsoever that the bulk of small units in the country have been badly bruised—first by demonetisation, then by GST and, now, by Covid-19, and it is quite possible the government views this as an investment in a very big vote bank. But, it may not be easy to prudently invest more than ₹2,000-3000 crore, which is also not to be sneezed at.

A critical part of the PM's plan was a slew of reforms. We haven't seen that so far as the FM was addressing liquidity concerns. Hopefully, India's 1991-moment won't be frittered away

In today's environment, any liquidity is welcome, especially since banks have been completely risk-averse. Given how they have been reluctant to lend to the weaker NBFCs and MFIs, the 20% partial guarantee scheme, for a targeted amount of ₹45,000 crore, might be slow to take off, unless RBI offers some kind of forbearance. The funds are intended to be invested in various products— NCDs and Commercial Paper—and banks might not be willing to take on the risk. The FM must be congratulated for limiting the guarantee because, with a risk level of 80%, lenders will be forced to exercise greater discretion; again, if banks are not confident of lending, they should be coerced into doing so.

On the other hand, there is a corpus of ₹30,000 crore, which is fully-backed by government guarantees. This is earmarked for investments in primary and secondary market transactions in investment-grade paper of NBFCs, HFCs and MFIs. Critically, banks are likely to be asked to buy paper—not just of very high quality—but even those that just about make investment grade. This is the government's gift to the NBFC, MFI and HFC space, at one level clearly creating a moral hazard.

The bigger moral hazard, of course, is the one created by the big ₹90,000 crore loans for discoms that will be bailed out by the already over-leveraged REC and PFC. Although it would give gencos and IPPs liquidity, this is regressive because the liability shifts from the discoms to PFC and REC; in UDAY, the banks took the risks. The loans will be backed by state governments, but how strong these guarantees are, and whether they will be honoured, is a serious question given many of them are in a precarious position financially. State governments must reform their respective SEBs and discoms. Unfortunately though, in the interim, both PFC and REC are likely to become even more leveraged and their stressed balance sheets will compel them to cough up higher rates in the bond markets. At some point, the government will need to capitalise them.

Those wondering about the prime minister's talk of reforms, to make India selfreliant and give the Make-in-India plan a boost—or what is being called the 1991 moment—must wait for the next round of announcements in the areas of land, labour and law. Wednesday's chapter dealt with the immediate liquidity needs.

ThinkGRANULAR

India has done well on reducing under-5 mortality; now to work on eliminating local disparities

RAPID FALL in under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) is clearly one of Indian health policy's major wins in recent times. A Lancet study shows that the country's U5MR declined by as much as 49% between 2000 and 2017. The researchers, however, note that this progress is not uniform. For instance, there is a variation of 5.7 times between states, and of around 10.5 times between the 723 districts in 2017. They also note that this progress may still not be sufficient to meet the various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Health Policy 2025 targets. The variations across states show that a 'one size fits all'policy will not work. In order to achieve the targets, states need to design their own interventions tailored to their needs, with support from the Centre.

The main factor behind under-5 mortality is child and maternal malnutrition accounting for around 68.2% of under-5 deaths and 83% of neonatal deaths in India in 2017. The other reasons for under-5 deaths are lack of access to drinking water and sanitation (10.8%) and air pollution (8.8%). The pandemic compounds the risks of malnutrition, if the government doesn't provide support to the most vulnerable sections of the population. As per the Global Nutrition Report 2020, one in every nine people in the world is hungry; India is among the 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025, with a huge stunting burden. As per a 2019 Lancet study, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam have the highest malnutrition levels in the country. They lose more than 60,000 disability adjusted life-years (DALYs) per 100,000 due to child and maternal malnutrition, while the second set of poor performers—Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Nagaland and Tripura—have DALYs between 50,000 and 59,999. Some solutions suggested by the researchers on the U5MR trends in India include microplanning based on real data of deaths and their causes. Also, quality care, knowledge transfer to frontline health workers, etc, remain important for beating child mortality.

LABOUR LOST

BECAUSE OF THE VIRUS, SOME AUTARKY VIS-À-VIS THE EXTERNAL WORLD IS INEVITABLE; WITHIN THE COUNTRY, GROWTH GAINS ARE ABOUT INTEGRATION, IN BOTH PRODUCT AND FACTOR MARKETS

Robinson Crusoe's skills

BIBEK

DEBROY

MAGES HAVE SURFACED of celebrities cutting the hair of their near and dear ones. This is also a metaphor for lockdown. Some have opted not to snip their locks and describe themselves as sporting hair like Robinson Crusoe's. The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, published in 1719, doesn't tell us what Robinson Crusoe's hair looked like, unlike Man Friday's. But, it stands to reason it must have been long, which is the reason Carol Frost wrote a poem titled, *Robinson Crusoe's* Hair. "He could feel the hair multiply, and it came in silvered and very curly, almost as the hair of coconuts". For Covid-19, we might find reading Daniel Defoe's A Jour*nal of the Plague Year* (published 1722) more engaging. For instance, "We had no such thing as printed newspapers in those days to spread rumours and reports of things, and to improve them by the invention of men, as I have lived to see practised since". Or, "This hurry, I say, continued some weeks, that is to say, all the month of May and June, and the more because it was rumoured that an order of the Government was to be issued out to place turnpikes and barriers on the road to prevent people travelling, and that the towns on the road would not suffer people from London to pass for fear of bringing the infection along with them". Various versions of lockdown find a resonance.

But Robinson Crusoe and The Swiss Family Robinson (published 1812) are also a metaphor for something else, that of self-reliance, which is why economists coined the expression, Robinson Crusoe economy. Force of circumstance might have forced Robinson Crusoe to make a chair and table and sundry objects. For Johann David Wyss, self-reliance was a conscious motif-making of candles, api-

Views are personal culture, animal husbandry, fishing and so on. Most of us don't want to be marooned on a deserted island. Sooner or later, we crave civilisation and wish to be rescued by a passing ship in the night. (All the Robinsons didn't leave on that ship). Doubling up as a barber, or being shipwrecked, are romantic interludes. Once calamity has passed, how many people would want to remain as parttime barbers? If they wanted to, would that be efficient and contribute to overall welfare, even if they were fairly skilled as barbers? Romanticism, protectionism and mercantilism notwithstanding, selfreliance is not a sensible idea. For some, it

may be a moral ideal, as individuals. But

growth, productivity and employment

are about society's economic goals, not

morality. Thanks to Adam Smith and

David Ricardo, we have imbibed lessons

of specialisation and comparative

advantage, or think we have.

Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM

Of course, in Wealth of Nations (1776), Adam Smith didn't mention barbers. His focus was manufacture, not services. The celebrated example was of that of nails. "A common smith, who, though accustomed to handle the hammer, has never been used to make nails, if upon some particular occasion he is obliged to attempt it, will scarce, I am assured, be able to make above two or three hundred nails in a day, and

those too very bad ones. A smith who

has been accustomed to make nails, but whose sole or principal business has not been that of a nailer, can seldom with his utmost diligence make more than eight hundred or a thousand nails in a day". If you are not even a common smith, how many nails will you produce a day? David Ricardo mentioned neither bar-

bers nor nails. His focus was also primary and secondary sectors, not the tertiary.

Splicing Census 2011. NSSO and Economic Survey, we have a rough handle on the number of internal migrants. The focus of discourse is usually inter-state, with sources in UP, Bihar, MP, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand. J&K and West Bengal, headed for destinations in Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh

and Kerala. With intra-state added to inter-state, a ballpark figure is 140 million, or thereabouts. Not all migrants work, but a significant number do. Everyone possesses skills. Use of expressions like unskilled or semi-skilled means those skills aren't valued sufficiently highly by the market. But regardless,

those migrants possess absolute, and certainly comparative advantage, in some occupations. Supplanting migrants, even if that were possible, leads to efficiency losses. Often, migrants were in unorganised sectors. When in the organised sector, they lacked formal contracts. In a segmented labour market, reforms are about reducing rigidity in the organised but also about enhanced and enforced protection in the unorganised. The two should converge.

Because of the virulent virus, some degree of autarky vis-à-vis the external world is inevitable. Those borders don't disappear. However, within the country, growth gains have been about integration, not just in product

markets but also in factor markets. Factor markets primarily mean In a segmented land and labour. There labour market, has been a discussion reforms are about about getting migrants reducing rigidity in safely back to homethe organised but states. The focus of discussion should now shift to getting migrants enhanced and safely back to destination states. Some may protection in the never return, at least immediately. unorganised. The

also about

enforced

two should

converge

If migrants don't return, much of manufacturing will collapse. Many urban services will collapse. It is all very well to cut your hair once, but try some plumbing

work. Try making a chair or table. Try building your house. In the late 18th and early 19th century, people probably possessed a broader set of skills. Specialisation was less. Today, few of us are like Alexander Selkirk. We won't survive. We need that rescuing ship.

How to avoid a W-shaped recession

Policymakers everywhere should remember a simple rule of thumb: to avoid a W-shaped recession, let "W" stand for premature "withdrawal" of publichealth or economic-stimulus measures

THOSE WHO CANNOT remember the past are condemned to repeat it", George Santayana famously quipped in 1905. It is a phrase that has been repeated for over a century, but rarely heeded. As Covid-19 decimates the global economy, our understanding of history could be the difference between a V- or U-shaped recession and a Wshaped one, in which incipient recov-

ery is followed by successive relapses. As recently as March, V-shaped recoveries in individual economies seemed plausible. Once infections and deaths had peaked and begun to decline, the logic went, people would eagerly return to work. Economic activity might even get an extra boost, as consumers released pent-up demand.

This is in line with the pattern of recovery from natural disasters, such as earthquakes and hurricanes, as well as the epidemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome in 2003. Though output in China-the outbreak's epicentre-did suffer as a result of SARS, it recovered so fast that annual GDP was hardly affected.

Today, China reports that industrial production rebounded in March from its plunge in February. But, overall, it seems clear that forecasts of a Vshaped global recovery from Covid-19 are too optimistic.

Policymakers may, however, be able to engineer a U-shaped recovery. In such a scenario, certain segments of the economywould be reopened, with employees separated physically and, if possible, temporally (in shifts). This would keep the economy going until the health crisis is under control, at which point all sectors could be restarted and a full economic recovery could begin.

This scenario would require countries to ensure frequent, free testing on a massive scale. That is technically feasible, at least in high-income countries, though governance failures in many-such as the UK and the US-have impeded its implementation. If effective tests for antibodies are developed, and the relationship between antibodies and immunity to Covid-19 is confirmed, a return of economic activity would be all the more achievable. Contact tracing-which has helped to limit the spread of the virus in

parts of Asia, such as Singapore and South Korea-should also be considered.

Of course, a cure or vaccine would be a game-changer. But even in the bestcase scenario, testing and approving any breakthrough could take a year and a half. If economic activity remained severely depressed for that long would, the status of the current recession would be confirmed as by far the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

But, there is an even more devastating scenario: a prolonged W-shaped recovery, caused by political leaders' failure to heed the lessons of history. Two policy mistakes-echoing those made in the interwar period-seem particularly likely.

The first mistake-toward which many leaders, beginning with the US president Donald Trump, have already shown a dangerous predilection-would be to declare "victory" over the virus prematurely, abandon public-health interventions, and allow a second wave of infections to take hold. That is what happened during the so-called Spanish flu pandemic a century ago. The first wave hit the US in early 1918. The second wave, in September 1918, was far deadlier. The third wave persisted into 1920.

In 1918, like today, cities instituted social-distancing measures, including school closures, prohibitions on public gatherings, and face-mask requirements. But delayed action was common, and few maintained the interventions for long. A 2007 study from the National Academy of Sciences found that US cities' success in reducing the number of deaths "was often very limited because of interventions being introduced too late and lifted too early".

In fact, nobody upheld the publichealth interventions as long as they should have. San Francisco reduced mortality by at least 25%-the highest rate among US cities. But, rather than reinforcing its commitment to its interventions, this success led the city to cancel its restrictions in November; a second, much deadlier wave of infections followed in December and January. Had San Francisco sustained its social-distancing rules for longer, the National Academy of Sciences estimates, it could have cut the



Professor, Capital Formation and Growth, Harvard University. Views are personal

death toll by 95%. Political leaders might also aban-

don economic stimulus too soon-the second mistake that could lead to a Wshaped recession. The events of 1936-37 in the US show just how devastating this decision can be. In 1936, satisfied with progress in

recovering from the depression that had begun seven years earlier, president Franklin D Roosevelt's administration curbed federal spending and raised taxes. At the same time, the US Federal Reserve tightened monetary policy, doubling bank reserve requirements and sterilising gold inflows. By 1937, the US economy had relapsed into a severe recession, which lasted through 1938.

US policymakers made a similar blunder after the 2008 global financial crisis. President Barack Obama's fiscal stimulus programme, enacted in February 2009, together with the Fed's monetary expansion, halted the economy's free fall. The recovery began in June of that year. But in 2011, after Republicans took control of the US Congress, the fiscal stimulus was prematurely ended, impeding the recovery considerably.

There is good reason to worry that US policymakers will make a similar mistake today. While unprecedented bipartisan fiscal and monetary measures are helping, the job is far from finished. If Trump loses the White House in the November election, but Republicans remain in control of the Senate, they may suddenly rediscover the evils of debt and once again demand policies that are effectively pro-cyclical. After all, America's debt-to-GDP ratio will climb above 100% by the end of the fiscal year, according to new CBO forecasts.(It doesn't help to have entered 2020 already saddled with a \$1 trillion budget deficita reflection of awful fiscal policy at a cyclical peak).

Policymakers everywhere should remember a simple rule of thumb: to avoidaW-shaped recession, let"W" stand for premature "withdrawal" of publichealth or economic-stimulus measures. As previous crises have shown, such proposals should be avoided like the plague. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On online learning The coronavirus pandemic disrupted

the routine school life of millions of children and deprived them the joy of learning at school. Surely, the global pandemic response must have made a profound impact on the children's psyche at an impressionable age. Since the closure of their schools, children have been unable to share time and space with their peers and playmates. This must be influencing how they are growing up. They usually get bored with staying indoors pretty quickly; still they seem to show enough resilience to cope with being confined to home. In the wake of the indefinite closure of schools-an inevitable consequence of the Covid-19 outbreak and resultant lockdownonline learning has come into voque. It is a self-evident truth that online learning, touted as the "new normal", cannot substitute or supplant the face-to-face learning in a school environment. Children need classrooms for intellectual nourishment and training to be good citizens, and playgrounds for physical and mental health. They also need extra-curricular activities for unlocking their creativity and allround development. The educational apps simply cannot provide them. Recreation of the school environment at home is easier said than done. An imitation does not match the original. Illusion is not reality. A virtual classroom is like a virtual swimming pool. Online learning or remote learning is debilitated by the lack of real-life interaction between students and their teachers. It has little scope for character building and bringing students to a desirable standard of behaviour. Online learners run the risk of straying into undesirable and harmful Internet platforms. Given the digital divide online education for all is just not feasible. Universal education is what we need and not an elitist venture to produce a cognitive super-class. Education should not become the preserve of privileged classes. In the postpandemic period when schools reopen, opportunities must be created for the enrolment of those children who were denied education in the pre-pandemic period too. — G David Milton, Maruthancode

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financiale

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

LOCKDOWN HAS pushed the Indian economy into a temporary depression that is unprecedented in its magnitude. It is very likely that, in the last month, GDP has been somewhere between 30% and 60% below that of the same month last year. Since we usually worry about GDP growth (an increase) being as low as 4%, a decrease of 30-60% gives some idea of the scale of the calamity. If the lockdown lasts only a few weeks, and GDP bounces back to normal soon after, we will probably endure no more than a slightly negative growth this yearsomething not seen in India for 40 years, but perhaps bearable.

Unfortunately, as long as the spread of the disease is not controlled, there is a threat of new complete or partial lockdowns in response. This uncertainty can prolong the output decline, and make it last for months, even years. To understand why, we need to recall that the economy is not just a number of disconnected cells that add up to a total, so that if you lock down one cell, you lose only the output from that cell. No, the economy is like the human body, with a circulatory system through which blood brings oxygen and nutrients to every cell, and takes away wastes. If you block off one city or one state, the entire circulation of goods and services is affected. Every factory sources its inputs from some other factories, and sells its output somewhere else. Lock down one of them, and the entire network is stressed. Lock down many, and the network simply freezes up. Just like the body can survive without oxygen for short periods of time, the economy can survive a lockdown of a short duration. But, exceed those limits, and the result is disaster in either case. Developed economies can survive closures for much longer because most of their output and employment is formal, they have vastly better social security systems to pump money to workers and the unemployed, and they have much better-developed financial systems to pump credit to firms that need it. It is a foolish fantasy to imagine that we can do the same.

Therefore, we must have no more lockdowns, partial lockdowns, or even the threat of a possible lockdown. A partial lockdown, in any case, is worse for disease control than a full lockdown for the simple reason that if only half the shops—or buses, or railways—are open, then they will each be twice as crowded, and infection will spread faster. Even the possibility of a future lockdown can easily prevent firms from re-opening, and migrant workers from returning to their workplaces. Re-opening means that large costs have to be incurred, and if the expected sales—in the case of workers, wages-don't materialise, then those costs will become losses. Similarly, if credit is needed to re-open, or to keep running, then lenders will be reluctant to risk their money in an enterprise that may fail when the next lockdown comes along.

How can we control the disease with lockdowns taken off the table? Some simple low-cost measures, like requiring mask use in all public places, will help. But, this is unlikely to be enough. The best possible strategy is to find and isolate the small fraction of infected people while letting everyone else go about their business.

The way things have been done so far, when you are quarantined, unless it is home quarantine, you will be made to stay in an uncomfortable place with other infected people. And, even at home, you will lose your earnings while quarantined, and if you are not lucky, you will lose your job altogether. Treatment is confined to overcrowded public hospitals, except for the minority rich enough to pay for private treat-

HE UNION POWER MIN-

ISTRY (MoP) has sought com-

ments on a draft of the Elec-

tricity (Amendment) Bill 2020

from various stakeholders. In

2018 too, MoP had brought an Electricity

Amendment Bill, which reached the Stand-

ing Committee on Power. But, due to resis-

tance by employee unions of power utili-

ties and lack of unanimity among other

stakeholders on segregation of carrier and

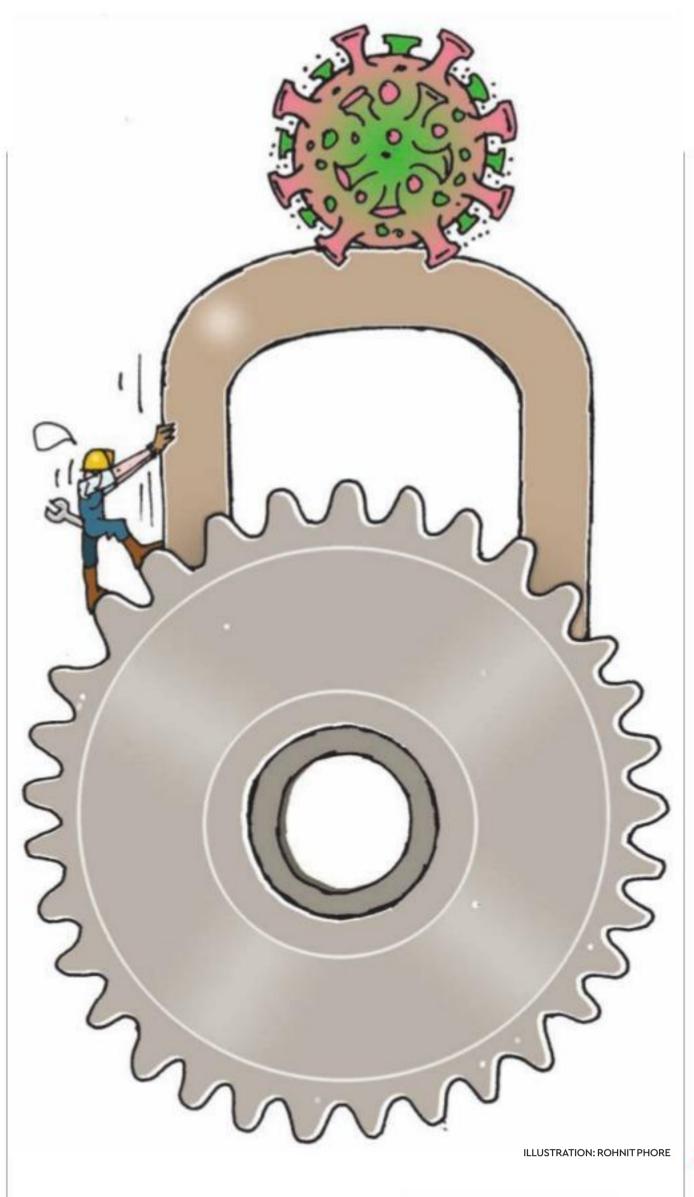
ulatory mechanism, the constitution of

commissions and appointment of chair-

man and members, provide for necessary

This time, MoPaims to set right the reg-

content business, that Bill lapsed.





PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Escaping the economic dangers of Covid-19

Any further lockdown risks incurring a loss of over 10% of GDP without stemming the spread of Covid-19. The ideal strategy is to find and isolate the small fraction of infected people through incentivised testing, while allowing business as usual to resume

ment. No wonder, then, that so many people are trying to escape quarantine, making it very difficult to find and quarantine the infected.

But, what if people were willing to be found? Then, the task facing the health authorities becomes very easy. The ones who have symptoms will simply step forward to be tested. This is how the developed countries have taken care of this problem. They have done it by minimising non-home quarantine, paying generous amounts of money to people if they are quarantined, and free hospital treatment for the seriously ill. We have to do the same. Everyone who is home-quarantined should be paid five hundred rupees a day to make up for the loss of earnings, and everyone who is quarantined away from home twice as much. The government should take over every hotel in the country (they are all empty and losing money) and pay them off-season rates to have quarantined people stay comfortably in decent surroundings. Firms that attempt to dismiss employees who were quarantined have to be fined heavily. Finally, enough kits have to be produced to test the people who will step forward to be tested. The government has to pay for all the testing and treatment, whether by private or public labs or hospitals.

All this could cost real money—maybe ₹1-2 lakh crore over the coming year—although, if done quickly and determinedly, the infection will be controlled, and the expenditure will be much less than that. There will be some corruption as well. But, the alternative will very likely be failure to find enough of the infected people, another surge of infections, another set of lockdowns, a collapse of incomes—so that even if a lockdown is lifted, people don't have the money to buy goods—more firms going bankrupt, and the vicious Keynesian spiral leading to the loss of maybe 10-

Developed economies can survive closures for much longer because most of their output and employment is formal & they have vastly better social security systems to pump money to workers

20% of GDP—about ₹20-40 lakh crore. That big a hit to GDP would mean that government revenue would collapse, making it difficult for the government to provide the help a bleeding economy would need. Further, the damage to the economy will be perpetuated to the next year, and the infection won't be controlled. The meltdown would be so complete as to be unimaginable today.

The voluntary and targeted approach outlined above will work better if there is good information on where there are active infections. Testing people for the purpose of quarantine and treatment is not very effective in this case since it will miss everyone with mild or no symptoms. Testing a random sample of people (about 1,000 would be enough for reasonable accuracy) in each district every week, with PCR tests that catch active infections, will give up-to-date information about the percentage of infected persons, even those who are asymptomatic. By pooling samples, just 50-100 test kits would usually be enough per district per week. This will allow planning to rush testing equipment, medical staff, and supplies to areas where infection prevalence is high, so as to deal with the expected surge in cases, and avoid the economic disruption caused by the panic that nasty surprises bring. If the disease is kept under control with this strategy, historians may look back on 2020 as just a blip in our story of progress.

For the health of privacy



Govt must take responsibility for protection of personal information collected and used by Aarogya Setu

HERE IS A controversy over the deployment and use of Aarogya Setu app released by the Centre for contact tracing and tracking of Covid-19 infected individuals. Similar to the TraceTogether and Stop-Covid apps deployed by Singapore and France respectively, Aarogya Setu is of immense use to both users and health authorities in containing the spread of the virus. But, does it have any serious privacy implications?

The app has over 90 million downloads; it is user-friendly, and provides information regarding those who have self-evaluated themselves and/or have tested Covid positive in and around one's location. The terms of use clearly state what information is collected, including the device information of contacts near the BlueTooth (BT) range (~2-10 metres), how it is stored, and how it is communicated to the government server for contact tracing if and when a user tests positive for Covid. The privacy policy also states that the personal information is secured using Digital Identifier (DID), which is generated using one's registration information—and hence in pseudo-anonymised form—both in transit and storage.

There are a couple of causes of concern. First, is the security of the exchange of contact information when devices are in BT range. During the exchange, the communication between the devices may be hacked, leading to false information and alerts. Realising this, BlueTrace, the BT protocol based in the reference protocol OpenTrace, has been modified to generate dynamic and temporary DIDs every 15 minutes instead of the static DIDs used in Aarogya Setu. BlueTrace is available on GitHub, and should be incorporated in Aarogya Setu to prevent man-in-the-middle and other related security attacks.

Second, is the continuous collection of GPS location information of the mobile device. The privacy policy states that this information will be sent to the server in encrypted form when the device user tests positive for the disease, or shows to be high-risk in self-assessment. Further, this information is used by authorities to map out possible infection clusters and mobilise testing accordingly. Neither Trace Together nor Stop-Covid use GPS due to users' sheer weariness about location tracking. There is also fear of geo-tracking information stored in government servers being hacked or decrypted since it is only pseudo-anonymised, and of individuals possibly being re-identified. Moreover, there is uncertainty about the movements of individuals potentially being used for purposes other than those intended. Though the policy clearly specifies "purpose limitation", it doesn't satisfy the "data minimisation" principle as set out in many privacy regulations, including EU-GDPR. Location information at the time of registration is important to trace the individual's primary location in case of outbreak, but continuous tracking can be avoided by having "human-in-the-loop" instead of relying only on algorithms to trace the travel of infected individuals. For example, in Singapore, when an individual is tested positive, healthcare and other workers conduct extensive interviews with them to obtain their travel history. The government would do well to create nationwide Covid call centres to build human-in-theloop to assist Aarogya Setu users.

As an alternative to GPS tracking, the Centre can request the location data of infected individuals from telcos under existing provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act and IT Intermediary Guidelines. This can be made available from telcos' network Operational Support Systems databases, using International Mobile Subscriber ID, in a pseudo-anonymised form. While making such requests, the Centre should keep the individual in the loop, maintaining transparency. Along with reducing fears of surveillance, this might increase the uptake of the app, which still hasn't touched a quarter of India's approximately 500 million smartphone users.

Third, is what the privacy scholar Daniel Solove of George Washington University Law School calls "decisional interference"—the government's incursion into the data subject's personal decisions. By mandating Aarogya Setu for all forms of travel, the government is seen as intruding into the privacy of individuals. The PM's assertions on the app helps individuals, society, and the nation must be backed up by the app's terms of use and privacy policy, too. The Centre should revise the "limitations of liability" clause and take responsibility for protection of personal information collected and used by the app. More so, when the app is being mandated much like Aadhaar!

Keeping the privacy skeptics aside, Aarogya Setu is a great initiative that shall set the standards for all SAARC countries in this time of crisis, sans the limitations mentioned above.

OFF BASE

Balance of power

The draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 fails to consider fundamental changes in the distribution segment

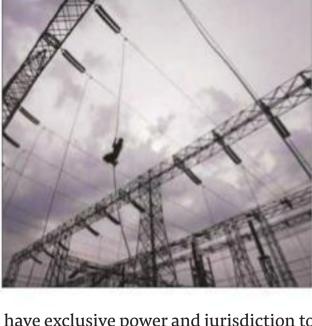


Former director (Finance), UPPCL. Views are personal

purchase of hydro and other renewable the subsidy being transferred to the benefienergy sources, and ensure that no power is scheduled unless the payment security ciary's account through DBT. At present, in a mechanism is in place. Electricity is a conlarge state like Uttar Pradesh, with a sizeable current subject as per the Seventh Schedule rural and agricultural consumers, the disof our Constitution. But, the present draft coms get around ₹10,000 crore as subsidy may create a feeling amongst states that the from the state government to help them meet payment obligations. Despite the sub-Centre is trying to usurp their powers. sidy to rural consumers, collection efficiency MoP appears not to have consulted the states while drafting the proposed amendin rural areas is low, and likely to fall even furments, some of which are likely to create a ther if the full rate is charged. Further, if consumers get the subsidy as cash transfers, major financial problem for state discoms. For instance, the proposal that the retail tarthey could utilise it for purposes other than iff determination for discoms under Section payment of electricity bills. The discom's 62 shall be done without taking into account monthly revenue, therefore, is likely to fall, the amount of subsidy a state provides for making the situation worse for already ailing discoms. Before framing any such legiscertain class of consumers means all con-

The draft Bill also proposes to formalise the June 2019 MoP order that SLDCs and NLDCs will not schedule any power of generators whose payment security mechanism is not in place. Presently, a number of generators have not been provided with the contracted payment security mechanism since discoms lack the monthly revenue to open LCs and escrows in favour of all generators. And, generators will now be estopped from seeking legal remedy in case of non-payment of dues. The proposed amendment, thus, won't fructify unless discoms can breakeven at least on cash basis.

Anew section, 109A, has been proposed to constitute an Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority (ECEA), which shall



have exclusive power and jurisdiction to adjudicate on performance of obligations under a contract related to sale, purchase, or transmission of electricity, except matters related to regulation or determination of tariff, or any dispute involving tariff. This will significantly take away the right of the SERCs and CERC to adjudicate on disputes under Section 86(1)(f) and 79(1)(f) of the Electricity Act 2003. This new provision, if intended to establish an instrumentality for quick resolution of disputes, should allow ECEA to resolve even tariff-related disputes. Else, it is more worthwhile to induct a legal member in the state commissions.

Aproposed amendment to Section 63 of the Act says that if a commission fails to

adopt the tariff within 60 days, it will be deemed to have been adopted. In fact, if transparency and compliance with the government's bidding guidelines is established, the commissions virtually have no role to play in adoption of tariff under Section 63. The 60 days' period may further curb the efforts of the commissions in interfering with stray cases of cartelisation. It would have been better to propose that SERCs, in appropriate situation, may extend the time for adoption of tariff under Section 63. If the adoption of tariff is only a formality, the purchase of power through bidding route may be left to the generator and the licencee.

Procurement of hydro power is being prioritised through amendment in Section 86(1). The proposal is to make it mandatory for discoms to procure the specified percentage of hydro power, as is being done for solar, wind, etc, with non-fulfillment inviting penalty. With discoms paying stranded capacity charges to coal-based power plants, this will cause a double jeopardy. Addition of renewable power to the kitty has impacted the schedule of thermal power plants, especially during winters and monsoon. Procuring hydro power in the earmarked quantum would increase discoms' financial burden.

If we wanted hydro power to meet a specified percentage of demand, we should have planned cautiously. After the passing of Electricity Act 2003, we delicensed generation, and the private and public sectors joined the

bandwagon for capacity addition, particularly coal-based. Today, there is large un-requisitioned capacity and many projects without PPAs. Demand has not been increasing as expected, and many power projects have become NPAs. This is not the right time to ask the distribution sector to procure a specified share of power from hydro projects at

the cost of surplus thermal capacity. Many changes have been proposed in the regulatory regime, but little has been said of making the distribution segment finan cially sustainable. While the 2018 draft amendments spoke of multiple licencees to make distribution competitive, there is now talk of sub-licencee and franchisee. The distribution sector, the most important part of the value chain, is under severe financial stress—we need a National Electricity Dis tribution Plan (NEDP), like the National Elec tricity Plan, to find a holistic solution for its problems. In UP, after the SAUBHAGYA scheme, the number of rural consumers has surged, and discoms' present logistics can not ensure efficient metering, billing, and collection. Responsibility of states in meet ing the universal service obligation of electricity supply must be shared. We have to plan for decentralised generation and distribution. PSUs like NTPC and PGCIL, along with other large private sector generators. need to participate in distribution to do this. The NEDP, if ever conceived, can lay down the modalities in this regard.

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sumers are to be billed at cost of service, with

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lation, consent of states is a must.

International THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020



HYBRID WARFARE

Angela Merkel, German chancellor

There is a hybrid warfare strategy by Russia that we can't ignore that includes cyber, disorientation, fact manipulation. Of course it hinders a trustworthy cooperation. Still, I will work for a good relationship with Russia...

PANDEMIC FALLOUT

'Global trade seen falling by more than a quarter in Q2'

There were falls of a similar magnitude in 2009 during the global financial crisis, although decline was not as steep as in 2020, says UN agency

REUTERS Brussels/London, May 13

WORLD TRADE IN goods is set to slump at a rate not seen since the global financial crisis in 2009, with estimates becoming increasingly gloomy over the past weeks, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said on Wednesday.

Merchandise trade is seen down 3.0% in the first quarter from the final three months of 2019 and by a further 26.9% in the second quarter, UNCTAD said. Year-onyear, these figures would be falls of 3.3% and 29.0% respectively.

"There were falls of a similar magnitude in 2009 during the global financial crisis, although the decline was not as steep as in 2020. At that time, global trade rebounded just as quickly, in line with global economic recovery," said UNCTAD's chief of statistics Steve MacFeely.

"At this moment, the shape of the recovery is still not clear, it will depend on how fast the economies return to positive growth and their demand for traded goods increases once again," he continued.

UNCTAD said its view of the first quarter had steadily worsened since March 24, when it predicted modest growth of trade in value terms of about 1%.

UK in recession

Quick

 $\sqrt{10}$

US: Chinese hackers

eyeing virus research

steal valuable research on coronavirus

HACKERS WORKING FOR the

Chinese government are trying to

vaccines and treatments from U.S.

research organisations, the FBI and

Security warned Wednesday. "China's

efforts to target these sectors pose a

significant threat to our nation's

response to Covid-19," they said.

GOOGLE FACES A data-protection

activist Max Schrems amid concerns it

unlawfully monitors users and passes

on the "tracking ID" to advertisers.

Schrems's campaign group Noyb on

Austrian data protection authority,

accusing Google of tracking users of

Android phones through a unique ID.

WHO expert: Long way to

expert, Dr Mike Ryan, cautioned on

Wednesday the world had a "long,

pandemic under control, despite

tentative steps in many countries to

go in Covid-19 fight

THE WHO'S TOP emergencies

long way to go" to bring the

begin restarting normal life.

Wednesday filed a complaint with the

complaint from Austrian privacy

Google faces privacy

complaint in EU

health care, pharmaceutical and

the Department of Homeland

England tentatively began easing its coronavirus lockdown on Wednesday, with some people who cannot do their jobs at

MAPPING THE VIRUS

Global cases pass 4.2 million

Deaths exceed 293,000

Recoveries

1,477,645

■ US to get Sanofi Covid vaccine first: CEO ■ Bolsonaro contends with crisis as Brazil's death

■ New normal for US economy looks awful, long and perilous

■ Wuhan to test all residents after handful of new

■ Experts want to know why the virus hasn't killed more Russians

■ US, Canada may extend border controls

The head of the OECD said it's the right thing to "throw the rule book out" and spend to fight the coronavirus pandemic, but warned that the massive government outlays will have

Plans to get people back to work may put about 2.7 million young and middle-aged U.K. adults at higher risk of dying from Covid-19 because of common chronic conditions, according to a study

The Dutch government said it will scrap the 21% value-added tax currently applied on all types of mouth masks from May 25 until at least Sept. 1. A measure will make wearing a non-medical mask mandatory in public transport in the country from June 1 as the government cautiously eases restrictions

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government and US President Donald Trump's administration are now in talks to keep restrictions in place until June 21, the Globe and Mail reported on Wednesday, citing unidentified sources familiar with the discussions

home urged to return to work, as stark economic data showed the disastrous impact of the pandemic.

The worst-hit country in Europe with more than 40,000 deaths from Covid-19, including 275 health and care workers, according to official data, Britain has been in lockdown since March 23.

The government is loosening restrictions only gradually, for fear of triggering a second peak of infections. As of Wednes-

FROM FRANCE TO Australia to North

Dakota, government apps designed to

help authorities track and slow the spread

of Covid-19 are struggling to accomplish

their goals because of restrictions on data

collection built into smartphones by Apple

with few options but to use a system

designed by Apple and Google themselves.

The tech companies say their tools pre-

serve privacy and work seamlessly on

tures lock authorities out of collecting

information they can use to track the

broader spread of virus, spot larger pat-

tion that you've been in contact with

someone that was positive, but it doesn't

do anything for the health department

and its contact-tracing efforts," said Vern

Dosch, a former technologist who is help-

ing run contact tracing efforts for the state

framework Exposure Notification, signal-

ing that it doesn't do true contact tracing,

the process of tracking a virus from person

to person. Instead, it lets individual smart-

phones keep track of which other handsets

they've come close to by using Bluetooth

wireless signals. If a person notifies the net-

work they have tested positive for Covid-

19, everyone they could have infected is

The system does this matching anony-

issued a warning, if they've opted in.

Apple and Google even renamed their

"The exposure app gives you an indica-

terns and plan reopenings.

of North Dakota.

Here's the rub: Those same privacy fea-

devices used by some 3 billion people.

That's leaving public health officials

BLOOMBERG

and Google.

May 13

day morning, people in manufacturing and certain other sectors were being asked to return to work if they could. Answering questions in parliament, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said it was "very notable" that in some countries where relaxations had been introduced, there were signs that the rate of contagion was rising again. "That is a very clear warning to us not

Austria won't open its border with Italy yet

and will keep travel restrictions for France and

Spain in place because new infections in those

Kurz said. "In Italy the situation is problematic,

the new infections are still very high, similarly

Vienna will hand out 50-euro (\$54) vouchers to

every family in the Austrian capital to spend in

local restaurants and cafes after they reopen on

Democrat who faces municipal elections Oct.

22, announced the 40 million-euro measure via

Friday. Mayor Michael Ludwig, a Social

Twitter on Wednesday

Apple, Google rules put virus

tracking apps in privacy bind

to France and Spain," Kurz told journalists

countries are still high, Chancellor Sebastian

to proceed too fast or too recklessly,"

LOCKED OUT

■ Governments' own systems

Notification project limits data

■ The system does this matching

rather than in a central database

■ The tech companies say their

tools preserve privacy and are

used by some 3 billion people

mously on each device, rather than in a

central database that governments could

use to track the disease more broadly— a

feature the companies say is more secure

and helps quell user concerns about who

refusing to ease restrictions in their mobile

software that are blocking governments

from building their own centralised, less

At the same time, the companies are

sees their sensitive health data.

private apps for contact tracing.

anonymously on each device,

encounter mobile-software

obstacles in contact tracing

■ Tech giants' Exposure

sharing with governments

Powell warns of sustained recession from pandemic

ASSOCIATED PRESS Washington, May 13

FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR Jerome Powell warned Wednesday of the threat of a prolonged recession resulting from the viral outbreak and urged Congress and the White House to act further to prevent long-lasting economic damage.

The Fed and Congress have taken farreaching steps to try to counter what is likely to be a severe downturn resulting from the widespread shutdown of the US economy. But Powell cautioned that widespread bankruptcies among small businesses and extended unemployment for many people remain a serious risk.

"We ought to do what we can to avoid these outcomes," Powell said.

Additional rescue aid from government spending or tax policies, though costly, would be "worth it if it helps avoid long-term economic damage and leaves us with a stronger recovery," he said.

Powell spoke a day after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, proposed a \$3 trillion aid package that would direct money to small businesses, state and local governments and other beleaguered institutions. This money would come on top of roughly \$3 trillion in earlier financial assistance that the government has provided. The Fed itself has also intervened by slashing interest rates to near zero and creating numerous emergency lending programs.

Yet Trump administration officials

The scope and speed of this downturn are without modern precedent, significantly worse than any recession since World War II. Additional fiscal support could be costly, but worth it if it helps avoid long-term economic damage

— JEROME POWELL, FED CHIEF

have said they want to see how previous aid packages affect the economy. And Republican leaders in Congress have expressed skepticism about allowing significant more spending right now.

"Deeper and longer recessions can leave behind lasting damage to the productive capacity of the economy," the chairman warned in his prepared remarks.

US has the first right to order corona vaccine, says Sanofi CEO

BLOOMBERG May 13

AMERICANS WILL LIKELY get Sanofi's Covid-19 vaccine before the rest of the world if the French pharmaceutical giant can successfully deliver one. That's because the US was first in line

to fund Sanofi's vaccine research, CEO Paul Hudson said in an interview with Bloomberg News. He warned that Europe risks falling behind unless it steps up efforts to seek protection against a pandemic that's killed more than 290,000 people worldwide. "The US government has the right to the

largest pre-order because it's invested in taking the risk," Hudson said. The US, which expanded a vaccine partnership with the company in February, expects "that if we've helped you manufacture the doses at risk, we expect to get the doses first."

Sanofi is one of the biggest players among the dozens of companies seeking a vaccine, which is needed to reboot economies after a lockdown-induced plunge in output. It has partnered with UK rival GlaxoSmithKline on the project supported by the US and says it could make 600 million doses annually — a capacity that Hudson said he aims to double.

"I've been campaigning in Europe to say the US will get vaccines first," Hudson said via a video link from his home in Paris.

Sony reports 57% drop in Q4 profit, declines to provide outlook for FY21

REUTERS Tokyo, May 13

JAPAN'S SONY ON Wednesday reported a 57% drop in fourth-quarter operating profit and refrained from providing an outlook for the current year. But the company said current calcula-

tions showed that profit was likely to drop

"at least about 30%" to its lowest in four years as the company anticipates a hit to demand for its TVs, cameras and smartphone image sensors from the outbreak. The electronics and entertainment firm posted an operating profit of 35.45 billion yen (\$331 million) for the January-March

quarter, versus 82.73 billion yen a year prior, as the coronavirus hit demand for its smartphone image sensors, cameras and TVs. One bright spot for Sonywas its gaming business, which reported a narrower-thanexpected profit decline for the year that

ended in March. The business had a positive impact of 2.8 billion yen from the coro-



Sony's gaming business had a positive impact of 2.8 billion yen from the coronavirus outbreak, as consumers locked down at home looked for entertainment

navirus outbreak, as consumers locked down at home looked for entertainment and downloaded more gaming software.

Tencent's game sales surge, help beat estimates

TENCENT REVENUE BEAT expectations after Covid-19 lockdowns propelled gaming sales to their fastest pace of growth since 2017, helping offset shrinking ad budgets and a record Chinese economic contraction.

The WeChat operator's revenue rose 26% to 108.1 billion yuan (\$15.2 billion) after online gaming sales leapt 31% during the coronavirus-stricken March quarter.

Shares in major shareholder Naspers and the entity that holds its internet assets, Prosus, rose to a **—BLOOMBERG** record.

Nissan said to plan \$2.8 billion in cost cuts, book charges

BLOOMBERG May 13

NISSAN IS PLANNING to cut about 300 billion ven (\$2.8 billion) in annual fixed costs and book restructuring charges as the coronavirus pandemic further depresses the carmaker's sales, a person with knowledge of the measures said.

Those initiatives are likely part of a three-year plan that will be unveiled along with financial results on May 28, calling for Nissan to take more drastic measures to turn the manufacturer around, said the person, asking not to be identified because the information isn't public.

The Yokohama-based company will phase out the Datsun brand and shut down a production line.

Deutsche Bank resumes job cuts as bosses forgo salary **BLOOMBERG**

May 13

DEUTSCHE BANK ABRUPTLY ended a hiatus on staff dismissals, becoming the first major bank to say it will resume job cuts after the coronavirus outbreak put the plans on hold.

"We decided to further accelerate our cost reduction program," chief executive officer Christian Sewing said in remarks prepared for the lender's annual general meeting next week. "It's precisely because the transformation is essential for the future of our bank and we bear responsibility for a sustainable business model that we will, unfortunately, have to resume these personal discussions."

Global banks put staff firings on hold as the outbreak spread in March to avoid adding to employee hardship. Deutsche Bank's cuts are a key plank of its restructuring efforts, which include as many as



CEO Christian Sewing

18,000 jobs — or 20% of its workforce and a narrowing of the bank's international ambitions unveiled by the CEO last year.

Investment banks such as Morgan Stanley, Citigroup and HSBC have pledged to hold off on dismissals during the pandemic this year, reassuring employees about their income and health insurance as the economy reels from the spread of the deadly virus.

SELECTIONS FROM

The Economist

EMERGING MARKETS HAVE long resented quantitative easing (QE). When America's Federal Reserve began its third round of asset purchases in 2012, Guido Mantega, then Brazil's finance minister, accused it of starting a "currency war". In 2013 Raghuram Rajan, then the chief economic adviser to India's government, expressed his displeasure in the manner of Winston Churchill: "Never in the field of economic policy has so much been spent, with so little evidence, by so few."

In response to the covid-19 pandemic, much is being spent again. But not by so few. The central banks of America, the euro area, Britain and Japan are set to buy \$6trn-worth

of assets between them this year, according to Fitch, a rating agency, three times what they bought in 2013, the previous peak. And emerging markets are no longer grumbling on the sidelines. Monetary authorities in Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Hungary, Indonesia, Poland, Romania, South Africa and Turkey have prepared or begun purchases of bonds of various kinds. Still more are contemplating it. Even in Brazil, congress has passed what it calls the "war budget" law, amending the constitution to give the central bank more freedom to buy government bonds and other assets during

The scale of emerging-market purchases is small so far in comparison with the Churchillian appetites of central banks in the rich world. Bank Indonesia, which already owns about 15% of tradable government bonds, may end up adding significantly to its holdings. The National Bank of Poland could end up owning bonds worth about 8.7% of gdp, according to ubs, a bank,

FINANCE & ECONOMICS GETTING ON BOARD **Emerging markets**

launch QE, too

Unconventional monetary policy is not just for the rich world

if it buys all of the additional debt required to finance the country's stimulus plan. But no other central bank is poised to buy bonds worth more than 5% of gdp, ubs calculates. By comparison, the Federal Reserve already held Treasuries equivalent to about 10% of gdp at the start of 2020, and is expected to roughly double that percentage over the course of the year.

Critics nonetheless worry that ge is both more dangerous and less necessary in

emerging markets than it is elsewhere. It imperils the hard-won independence of monetary authorities that have struggled in the past to keep their distance from bigspending politicians. Brazil's constitutional limits on the central bank, for example, reflect its history of hyperinflation, when governments resorted to the printing press to finance their populism. And although inflation is now firmly under control in most big emerging markets (exceptions include Argentina, Nigeria and Turkey), many of these countries still worry that monetary indiscipline can lead to destabilising runs on their currency.

QE is also, surely, less needed in the emerging world. In Chile and Peru benchmark interest rates are already about as low as they can go. But in most of their peers, central banks still have room to ease monetary policy by conventional means. In Indonesia and South Africa, for instance, the policy interest rate is still over 4%.

Why then are central banks pressing ahead? They believe their bond purchases serve a distinct purpose. They are neither an unconventional way to lower borrowing costs nor an illicit one to finance the government. The aim instead is to stabilise financial markets.

In Brazil the president of the central bank says its bond purchases will resemble foreign-exchange intervention. It will not try to peg bond yields any more than it pegs the real. But it will try to smooth out jumps. The

South African Reserve Bank says that its purchases are not meant "to stimulate demand", but to ensure a "smoothly functioning market".

In some quarters QE is still a tainted term, associated either with mercantilism, as a weapon in a currency war, or monetary adventurism. But the stigma is fading. Indeed some central banks now say they are doing qe even when they aren't.

The Bank of Korea, for example, has resolved to buy unlimited amounts of bonds from financial institutions that promise to repurchase them after three months. These "repo" operations amount to collateralised loans, not outright purchases. Few economists would describe them as qe. But far from resisting the term, the Bank of Korea has embraced it ("It wouldn't be wrong to say we began quantitative easing," noted one official). Never in the field of central banking have so many worried so little about buying

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SOUND STRATEGY

Sangita Reddy, president, Ficci

The only way to ensure sustainability of businesses post-lockdown and safeguard the economy is by neutralising the Covid impact and supporting businesses that have the potential to bounce back.

WORK FROM HOME DYNAMICS

How WFH will change the Indian IT workplace

Tech majors are keen on making work from home seamless, engaging and developing trust between their employees in a remote working environment

SRINATH SRINIVASAN

THE EXPECTATION FROM IT companies to make the process of remote working seamless is more than ever today. In a recent interview,IT industry veteran and former CFO of Infosys, Mohandas Pai commended the IT industry for enabling 90% of its workforce towork from home (WFH) in a short span of time. He went on to say that around 30% of IT employees may work from home in rotation even after the lockdown is lifted.

Similarly, Rajesh Gopinathan, CEO of TCS, during the company's recent quarterly earnings call put forth a bold plan of having a secure borderless workspaces model, wherein 75% of the workforce can work remotely and the remaining at office spaces.

As lockdown restrictions are relaxed in some geographies, Richard Lobo, executive vice-president, Head HR, Infosys, says, "We have started enabling about 5% of our



We have started enabling about 5% of our employees to return to work, where the local conditions are suitable. We will probably scale this to about 10-15% for the next month.

- RICHARD LOBO, **EVP, HEAD HR, INFOSYS**

conditions are suitable. We will probably scale this to 10-15% for the next month or so and then decide based on the situation."

Tech Mahindra's chief people officer, Harshvendra Soin, says that there is a high likelihood that 25-30% of the company's workforce may continue to work from home till the end of the ongoing fiscal year and employees to return to work, where the local expects that the future will be a mix of 'phys-



ical'and'remote'working.

These tech majors hint at what roles could come into remote working routine. Lobo says that for now all the roles except the ones that require high level of network bandwidth access or are in environments that need extra security protocols will continue to work from home. He is confident

tenance of thousands of hi-tech home offices in future.

The case is similar with IT majors that are not homegrown. "Those employees who are working on critical projects or who are unable to work from home due to certain client security guidelines will be part of the first phase to return to office and all other



Those employees who are working on critical projects or who are unable to work from home due to certain client security guidelines will be part of the first phase to return to office.

- PALLAVI TYAGI, CHRO, INDIA, CAPGEMINI

Pallavi Tyagi, CHRO, India, Capgemini. Currently, less than 10% of its workforce across India is in office. Tyagi believes that this will go up to 25-30% in the coming weeks depending on government guidelines.

Ajay Shah, head of recruitment services, TeamLease Services – a HR consultancy and recruitment firm, points out some specific that this will lead to the creation and main-roles will continue to work from home, says roles that will continue to work from home. hastened the process.

"Software development, implementation and design teams may be retained fully or partially from home for future and only departments that include support functions and client facing roles will be operating largely from office."

As of now, all the employers are keen on making work from home seamless, engaging and developing trust between their employees in a remote working environment. Apart from providing them with popular collaborative and productivity tools like Mircosoft Teams, Zoom, Slack, etc., the companies have put their proprietary platforms and products to use.

For instance, Lobo says, "we have two useful platforms—an employee collaboration and services platform, InfyMe, and learning and communication platform, Lex. These are modular and mobile first in design and rapidly scalable as well as accessible anytime, anywhere. We have enabled remote joining for all new hires through our onboarding portal Launchpad."

Similarly, Mindtree makes use of its digital learning platform, Yorbit, to enable its employees to upskill and Tech Mahindra uses Daily Work Management tracker to monitor employee productivity while Capgemini uses its AI learning platform Next to push structured learning to its employees which will help them in their projects.

Work from home is not a new concept to the companies, but Covid-19 has certainly

Tech



Tech platform to fight **Covid pandemic**

IN AN EFFORT to further the use of technology in India's fight against Covid-19, IT industry forum Nasscom has announced the successful delivery of an end-to-end Covid platform to the government of Telangana. Developed by Nasscom's Task Force, the platform brings together solutions from multiple technology leaders and delivers more than 100 dashboards, across 30-plus government and public datasets, with hundreds of thousands of data points. The platform, with its technology led models, will assist the government in sustainable industry recovery and will help them in taking informed decisions in managing lockdown and phased release across the state.

Telangana IT minister KT Rama Rao said, "It's wonderful to see how tech industry is joining hands with a common goal to innovate for the war on Covid-19. India has the capacity to quickly develop tech solutions for post-lockdown world." As a part of the platform, Nasscom Taskforce has developed a Covid-19 India Vulnerability Map, which will provide real-time streaming of data about the pandemic, across regions and states in the country. The platform will source data from public sources that includes select social channels, websites, blogs, forums and public data sets to create actionable reporting dashboards.

'Gupshup'wins \$100,000 **Grand Challenge**

GUPSHUP, A SMART messaging platform, has won the \$100,000 Grand Challenge for building a payments solution for feature phones in India. The challenge was launched in November 2019 by CIIE.CO, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). The challenge ran through November 2019-April 2020 calling upon innovators to submit solutions toward a payments system for feature phone users in India. This would potentially help half a billion people to transact

securely via their feature phones. The solution by Gupshup uses APIs or Encrypted SMS to enable UPI payments through BillPay SMS, QR Code, or contacts. The solution by first runner-up 'Minkville' operates via a missed callbased payment solution by the name of mSikkay. The second runner up 'ToneTag' has developed a sound-wave communication technology platform enabling payments on any device.

financialexp

HUAWEI Y9s

Gen Y will love this mobile phone

Huawei's new mid-range device comes with high-end features at an attractive price

SUDHIR CHOWDHARY

COVID-19 HAS IMPACTED our lives in ways many of us couldn't have imagined. It has changed the way we interact with our friends and family and the way we work. The humble mobile phone has become man's new best friend—at least for Generation Y. Even for others, it has emerged as a strategic device for work and entertainment. Contemplating to pick up a new mobile? Take my word, the Huawei Y9s can be a worthy option. This mid-range phone is priced at ₹19,990.

Company officials reckon that Huawei Y9s is for the generation Y which likes everything on-the-go. Powered by EMUI 9.1 OS, the 4000 mAh battery enabled Y9s runs throughout the day even with active and long duration social media browsing and mobile gaming activities. It comes with a remarkable 6.59-inch Ultra FullView Display, providing users with rich and bright colour schemes. With 16.7 million colours packed display, it exhibits vivid colours and sharpness. Plus, with a screen-tobody ratio of 91% both the top and bottom bezels of the display are thin, especially the bottom bezel, which is nearly



unnoticeable. The best part: for a comfortable viewing experience that is not strenuous to the eyes, users can activate the phone's Eye Comfort mode, offering a blue light filtering function for soothing viewing experience.

Huawei is known for its prowess in the camera department; the Y9s is laced with the ultra-clear 48MP camera to capture stunning shots, along with 8MP Ultra Wide Angle camera and a 2MP depth camera.

The ultra-clear 48MP main camera will capture fine details with crystal clarity in daily situations. The 16MP front camera automatically pops up for selfies and retracts when done, utilising the full display to

> cool and fun way. The Night Mode feature allows users to capture beautiful low light shots of the night-time. The upgraded AI beauty algorithm can retouch portraits and focus more on the face to get perfect selfies even in low light. In comparison to competition housing a 48MP main camera, the Y9s not only captures finer and detailed images, but also

capture portraits in a

offers a very good Handheld Night Mode owing to Huawei's powerful AI capabilities.

In terms of build quality, the Y9s uses a glass body and a side-mounted fingerprint sensor. Together with the 3D Arc designed middle frames, it creates a natural and seamless transition from the back to front, which presents a high-end unibody design and gives users a comfortable grip. The device is available in two stylish colours: Midnight Black and Breathing Crystal.

Inside, there's an improved Kirin 710F octa-core chipset that provides powerful on-the-go gaming and an enhanced live stream viewing experience. The Y9s is available with 6GB of RAM with 128GB storage, expandable via SD card to 512GB. The 6GB RAM effi-

ciently ensures smooth operation even

with multiple apps running.

Unlocking the phone in 0.3 seconds is a reality with the advanced sidemounted fingerprint sensor. An integration of the power button and a fingerprint sensor, it only takes one second to awake the voice assistant by long-pressing the button and three seconds press to power off the device.

Equipped with a 4000mAh powerful battery, the Y9s can support continuous calling for 40 hours, music playback for 80 hours and video playback for 9 hours. In other words, focusing on daily tasks without the worries of power bank has just become easier.

Overall, the Y9s provides a simple interactive design and intelligent functions for easy use, like AI communication, wireless printing, phone clone, HUAWEI Share, etc. The phone will learn to understand and support more efficiency in everyday tasks. Its smart antenna technology applied to full scenes ensures the signal stays strong for gaming and video playback. This midrange phone will be available on Amazon from next week onwards.

Estimated street price: ₹19,990

FEDERATED LEARNING

Al to speed brain tumour diagnosis

Penn Medicine, Intel developing new AI approach to detecting brain tumours

FE BUREAU

INTEL LABS AND the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn Medicine) are co-developing a technology to enable a federation of 29 international healthcare and research institutions led by Penn Medicine to train artificial intelligence (AI) models that identify brain tumours using a privacy-preserving technique called federated learning.

How it works: Penn Medicine and 29 healthcare and research institutions from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzer land and India will use federated learning which is a distributed machine learning approach that enables organisations to col-



laborate on deep learning projects without sharing patient data. Penn Medicine and Intel Labs were the first to publish a paper on federated learning in the medical imaging domain, particularly demonstrating that the federated learning method could train a model to over 99% of the accuracy of a model trained in the traditional, non-private method. The new work will leverage Intel software and hardware to implement federated learning such that it offers privacy protection to both the model and the data.

Why it matters: According to the American Brain Tumour Association (ABTA) nearly 80,000 people will be diagnosed with a brain tumour this year, with more than 4,600 being children. In order to train and build a model to detect a brain tumour that could aid in early detection and better outcomes, researchers need access to large amounts of relevant medical data. However, it is essential that the data remain private and protected, which is where federated learning with Intel technology comes in.

What's next: In 2020, Penn and the 29 international healthcare and research institutions will use Intel's federated learning hardware and software to produce a new state-of-the-art AI model that is trained on the largest brain tumor dataset to date - all without sensitive patient data leaving the individual collaborators. The subset of col laborating institutions expected to participate in initiating the first phase of this federation includes the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Vanderbilt University, Queen's University, Technical University of Munich, University of Bern, King's College London and Tata Memorial Hospital.

IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH

Alexa, I want to learn English

Pearson India launches MyPedia Alexa skill to help enhance English vocabulary, listening and comprehension

SUDHIR CHOWDHARY

AMAZON ALEXA HAS become the new destination to learn English, literally. Early this week, digital learning firm Pearson India introduced an interactive skill on Amazon Alexa for students and learners of all age groups to learn English. The Pearson MyPedia skill offers a collection of engaging stories coupled with fun facts, trivia, quizzes and rewards. The interactive format of the skill can help improve English vocabulary, listening, speaking, comprehension,

and storytelling. To get started say "Alexa, open MyPedia", or simply "Alexa, I want to learn English".

The MyPedia skill is designed to enhance the interest of students in the English language. The stories used in the skill can inspire them to be authors and be imaginative while writing in English. The skill's simple voice interface can enable students to learn in an interactive manner, at their own pace. The MyPedia skill can be accessed on all Amazon Echo smart speakers, Echo Show smart displays, as well as the Alexa app for smartphones.

In the current lockdown situation, as students spend more time at home, the MyPedia Alexa skill can help them make the most of this unique learning environment. It provides a holistic approach for students to build their language skills from home, for greater goals outside academic achievements.

"Our teams are constantly working



to add new features and experiences so that the Alexa voice service is more relevant and useful for users. The combination of interactive learning and the simplicity of voice interactions with Alexa will make this (Pearson MyPedia skill) a fun experience for users of all age groups," said Puneesh Kumar, country manager for Alexa Experiences and Devices, Amazon India.

MyPedia Reader is a story book, a guide and a game book for learners to enable them to be more imaginative

while writing their stories in the English language. It shares rich and diverse stories by students stemming from their own experiences, issues and aspirations. The stories are selected by celebrated authors and educationists which are narrated through students' viewpoint and perspective. It will prompt the students to 'think critically' and 'write creatively'.

The story book is also available in Amazon Kindle store which you can purchase and read at your own leisure.

arkats THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020



TREAD WITH CAUTION

Rashesh Shah, Edelweiss Group chairman

We are amidst a disruption that is similar to 1991, maybe even bigger. Striking the right balance between re-starting the economy and maintaining social discipline will be key to determining the path we take.

POST-COVID WORLD **Money Matters**

1.42%

5.799

May 13

0.06%

75.46

Inverted scale May 13

0.26%

1.0878

G-SEC

6.132

Apr 28

₹/\$

Benchmark yield falls on hopes RBI will step in to

support debt market

Rupee appreciates

against dollar on

fiscal stimulus

76.19

£/\$

Euro loses ground

against dollar

Apr 28

Quick

PFS to bear impact

NON-BANKING FINANCIAL COMP-

ANY PFS will bear an impact of ₹260

40% of its borrowers have asked for

moratorium, Pawan Singh, MD and

CEO, said. "The company's lending

business is not impacted to a large

extent due to the lockdown but some

marginal cash issues are coming up

during this period," Singh said. The

company's exposure to these 40%

added. "There is not any serious issue

as of now which is affecting us. With

regard to moratorium, roughly about

₹4,000 crore is the exposure on the

crore. It does not mean we have to

make this much crore of provision,

'Nearly half of consumers

NEARLY HALF OF Indian consumers

are more worried about frauds while

making digital transactions amid the

consumers are now exercising more

various digital modes, according to a

study conducted by YouGov and ACI

consumers (47%) are more concerned

than when the novel coronavirus first

Worldwid. "Almost half of Indian

about digital payments fraud now

emerged," the study said.

caution while making payments using

coronavirus crisis. About 28% of

worried about frauds in

but we have added one additional

quarter, including principal and

interest for the repayment."

digital transactions'

books and the impact is only of ₹260

borrowers is of ₹4,000 crore, he

crore on regular repayments as nearly

of ₹260 cr as 40%

avail moratorium

Kotak Mahindra Bank tightens lending norms

Q4 net falls 10% y-o-y to ₹1,267 crore as lender sets aside ₹650 crore as **Covid provisioning**

FE BUREAU Mumbai, May 13

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK (KMB) said on Wednesday that it had tightened lending norms and turned cautious about who it would lend to in the post-Covid world, while reiterating concerns around unsecured retail credit. The bank's net profit for the quarter ended March fell 10% year-on-year (y-o-y) to ₹1,267 crore as it set aside ₹650

Q4FY19	Q4FY20	Chg (%)	Q3FY20	Chg (%)
7,672.6	8,294.07	8.1	8,077.0	2.7
3,036.0	3560	17.3	3,430.0	3.8
1,281.7	1,489.39	16.2	1,341.4	11.0
4.46	4.72	26 bps	4.69	3 bps
171.3	1,047.47	511.6	444.0	135.9
1,407.8	1,266.6	-10.0	1,595.9	-20.6
2.14	2.25	11 bps	2.46	≫ 21 bps
0.75	0.71	¥ 4 bps	0.89	¥ 18 bps
	7,672.6 3,036.0 1,281.7 4.46 171.3 1,407.8 2.14	7,672.6 8,294.07 3,036.0 3560 1,281.7 1,489.39 4.46 4.72 171.3 1,047.47 1,407.8 1,266.6 2.14 2.25	7,672.6 8,294.07 8.1 3,036.0 3560 17.3 1,281.7 1,489.39 16.2 4.46 4.72 26 bps 171.3 1,047.47 511.6 1,407.8 1,266.6 -10.0 2.14 2.25 11 bps	7,672.6 8,294.07 8.1 8,077.0 3,036.0 3560 17.3 3,430.0 1,281.7 1,489.39 16.2 1,341.4 4.46 4.72 26 bps 4.69 171.3 1,047.47 511.6 444.0 1,407.8 1,266.6 -10.0 1,595.9 2.14 2.25 11 bps 2.46

crore as Covid-related provisioning.

Uday Kotak, executive vice chairman and managing director, KMB, said the bank feels the need to maintain a strong

deposit franchise and strengthen its balance sheet. "In the post-Covid era, the unsecured retail lending is also going to go through tough times," Kotak said, adding

that the bank had three focus areas while making lending decisions. "We have to be very clear about right sectors to which we lend. Whenever we look at specific businesses or companies in the sector, we are focused on what is the level of fixed operating cost of that company...Third, (we look at) what is the level of leverage that business is carrying," Kotak said.

The bank has taken provisions such that the total provisions taken up to March 31, 2020, cover its entire net non-performing assets (NPAs) book. "Therefore, we start April 1,2020, on a clean slate in terms of a balance sheet from the point of view of all provisioning which we felt was necessary and actually more than the net NPA figure itself," Kotak said.

KMB has seen 26% of its customers by

the retail applicants outnumber corporate applicants by far, Kotak said. Net interest income (NII) increased 17% y-oy to ₹3,560 crore and net interest margin (NIM) increased 3 bps sequentially to 4.72%. Advances grew 7% y-o-y to ₹2.2 lakh crore and total deposits rose 20% yo-y to ₹2.58 lakh crore. Current account savings account (CASA) deposits comprised 56.2% of total deposits as on March 31, 2020.

value avail the loan moratorium so far and

Gross NPAs stood at 2.25% of gross advances, down from 2.46% on December 31,2019. The net NPA ratio stood at 0.71%, down from 0.89% on December 31, 2019.

KMB's shares closed at ₹1,189 on Wednesday on the BSE, up 2.57% from their previous close.

Markets rally on govt's fiscal stimulus boost

FE BUREAU Mumbai, May 13

BUCKINGTHE GLOBAL trend, Indian equities rallied on Wednesday, following the announcement of the ₹20-lakh-crore fiscal stimulus package. The benchmark Sensex was up 637.49 points or 2.03% to close at 32,008.61.The broader Nifty 50 was up 187 points or 2.03% to close at 9,383.55.

The benchmarks lost some of their gains after the first hour of the trading session. According to market experts, the equity markets could witness some correction on Thursday. UR Bhat, director, Dalton Capital Advisors (India), said the measures such as the ₹3 lakh crore of fully guaranteed loans, as also some equity support for MSMEs, partial credit guarantee for NBFCs, as also liquidity support, among other measures, are well targeted. "Since the measures were largely directed towards MSMEs who are mostly suppliers to the larger companies and they are themselves largely unlisted, the market could see some correction on Thursday. However, there are a lot more measures to come and hence, the market could keep the hopes alive," said Bhat.

Banking and financial stocks were among the top ten gainers on the Nifty on Wednesday. The Nifty Bank gained 4.09% during the day's trading session and Nifty PSU Bank was up 6.1%. The biggest gainers on Nifty Bank were Bandhan Bank, IDFC First Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Axis Bank up 8.5%, 8.17%, 8.16%, 7.3% and 7%, respectively.

Siddhartha Khemka, head, retail research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "Markets would now await the details of the balance package which would be announced over the next few days. The important thing to look out will be whether the package is able to revive the demand and any structural reforms are announced."

According to the provisional data on the exchanges, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold equities worth \$37.7 million whereas, domestic institutional investors

	Intra-day, May 13
41.87	
	32,008.61
www	a della con
n	Close
ty 17.75	Intra-day, May 13
	19,634.95
	Angel

bought equities worth \$30.8 million. The F&O segment volumes on the NSE stood at ₹11.8 lakh crore against the six-month average of ₹14.21 lakh crore. Cash market volumes were ₹57,532.9 crore against the six-month average of ₹40,898 crore.

The biggest gainers on the Niftywere Zee Entertainment, Axis Bank, Ultratech Cement, L&T, as well as Adani Ports and SEZ, up 7.7%, 7%, 6.4%, 6.28% and 5.9%. On the other hand, the biggest losers were Nestle India, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Bharti Airtel, Britannia Industries and TCS down 5.2%, 2.16%, 1.04%, 0.78% and 0.26%, respectively. Broader indices outperformed the benchmarks with Nifty Midcap and Nifty Smallcap up by 2.29% and 2.50% respectively.Sectorally, Nifty PSU Bank emerged as the biggest gainer followed by Nifty Bank, Nifty Private Bank, Nifty Realty and Nifty Financial Services. The only sectoral losers were Nifty Pharma and Nifty FMCG.

Indian equities continue to trade at 30% premium over other EM peers

URVASHI VALECHA Mumbai, May 13

DESPITE THE SHARP correction in March and economic uncertainties from lockdown, Indian equities continue to trade at a 30% premium over other emerging markets (EMs). Even as Indian markets have continued to maintain a sizable premium over other EMs, experts are of the view that the premium may come down in the near-term.

Indian equities have historically commanded a premium of 40% over other EMs, but the extent of it reduced after a global sell-off, which started towards the end of February due to Covid-19. However, in April, stock markets witnessed a pull back rally on the basis of upward movement of certain heavyweight stocks such as RIL, HDFC Bank and Infosys. Both the benchmarks — Sensex and Nifty — have gained 23% since their March 23 lows.

While the equity markets have recovered, it might come down again in the near term. The economic pain caused by the lockdown and the forecasts of bleak growth suggest that there would be a decline in the Indian equity markets. Piyush Garg, chief investment officer, ICICI Securities, said, "Premium of the Indian market is one aspect of the equity market. If the domestic



economygoing ahead does not do verywell then the premium is likely to come down as we may see a number of domestic issues propup in the next six months."

It is noteworthy that the Nifty and Sensex currently trade at a one-year forward PE of 15.64 times and 16.42 times, marginally higher than the historical ten-year average PE of 15.52 times and 15.79 times. The only other EM which has a higher one-year forward PE than Nifty is Taiwan's Taiex which trades at a one-year forward PE of 15.82

times. Even though the premium may come down, it is unlikely that it would fall below other EMs. Rusmik Oza, executive V-P, head of fundamental research, Kotak Securities, said, "It is not possible for India's premium to go below other EMs for a long time since it is better placed on most parameters. If one considers the MSCI EM index, nearly a third of it comprises of China. Historically, China has traded at a one-year forward PE of 10 times due to the opacity in financials." China's Shanghai Composite currently trades at a forward PE of 11.11 times and its ten-year historical average PE is 11.07 times.

The premium of the Indian market had

earlier declined because of the panic selling by foreign exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which led to an exodus of foreign flows. FPIs pulled out \$8.3 billion in March and \$30.5 million in April from the Indian equity markets, impacting Nifty and Sensex valuations. Sachin Shah, fund manager, Emkay Investment Managers, said, "It cannot be ruled out that the premium of the Indian markets may decrease going ahead, but the fundamental factors of the market will not change, and even if the premium decreases, it will be a blip and not an entire structural change." EMs such as Hong Kong, South Korea, Indonesia and Brazil are trading at a one-year forward PE of 10.5-12.7 times.

Rupee rises 5 paise to 75.46 against dollar Research- Currency Rahul Gupta said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 13

THE RUPEE APPRECIATED 5 paise to 75.46 against the US dollar on Wednesday as fiscal stimulus by the government bolstered investor sentiment. Forex traders said the ₹20-lakh-crore economic stimulus package enthused investors.

However, risk sentiments are negative and investor sentiments remain fragile over coronavirus concerns, they added.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the

rupee opened on a strong note at 75.31 but lost most of its gains in day trade. The local currency settled at 75.46 against the US dollar, registering a rise of 5 paise over its previous close. During the trading session rupee witnessed an intra-day high of 75.30 and a low of 75.50.

"The surprise move of fiscal stimulus by the government had a positive impact on the rupee. However, globally, risk sentiments are negative and we have no clarity over the government expenditure plan," Emkay Global Financial Services head of

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading

Brent crude futures fell 1.07% to \$29.66 per barrel.

0.03% down at 99.90.

The Financial Benchmark India (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 75.7944 and for rupee/euro at 81.9560. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 93.4024 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 70.52.

Sebi discusses fundraising, disclosure issues with corps

FE BUREAU

New Delhi, May 13

THE SEBI ON Wednesday said it was reaching out to market participants to discuss issues relating to raising capital, corporate debt market, and disclosures, among others. It said in a statement that chairman Ajay Tyagi along with senior Sebi officials attended a conference call with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci). Sangita Reddy and Sunil Sanghai were among the demic. This is being done to understand on various issues.

representatives of Ficci.

"Several issues concerning the industry in the light of the lockdown due to Covid-19 were discussed in the meeting including issues relating to raising of capital, corporate debt market, disclosures, etc.," said Sebi in its statement.

The markets regulator earlier had a conference call with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The market regulator has been holding discussions with various stakeholders amid the Covid-19 pan-

the various issues that the market stakeholders are concerned with in wake of the Covid-19 lockdown. The conference call with Ficci and CII was a part of a series of meetings by the chairman of Sebi.

In its statement, Sebi said the markets regulator had been responding to market developments through appropriate measures in consultation with various stakeholders. The chairman added that Sebi was also in regular touch with the government, Reserve Bank of India and other regulators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, May 13

GOLD EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS have been gaining traction from investors and have attracted ₹731 crore in April amid increased risk-aversion as the coronavirus pandemic severely hit equity investments and the global economy. The category has been one of the better performing asset classes over the past year. Since August 2019, Gold exchange-traded fund (ETF) segment has witnessed a net inflow of ₹2,414 crore.

According to the latest data available with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), a net sum of ₹731 crore was pumped into gold-linked ETFs in April ₹compared to an outflow of ₹195 crore in March. The category had seen a staggering investment of ₹1,483 crore in February and ₹202 crore in January.

Prior to that, the safe-haven asset saw an infusion of ₹27 crore in December and ₹7.68 crore in November.

However, it had seen a net pull-out of ₹31.45 crore in October.

■ INTERVIEW: UDAY KOTAK, executive vice-chairman and MD, Kotak Mahindra Bank

'Stimulus, lockdown exit plan will help assess full Covid impact'

A full assessment of Covid's impact on Kotak Mahindra Bank's loan book will only be possible after clarity on government fund flows to various sectors, executive vice-chairman and managing director **Uday Kotak** *told reporters. Job losses may* put pressure in the unsecured retail segment, he added. Edited excerpts:

What kind of stress tests have you carried out in order to assess the full impact of Covid?

We have divided it into two sets — up to March 31 and after March 31. If you look at the Covid provisioning plus standard asset provisioning plus the other provisioning which we have for stressed sectors, the total provisioning other than the direct NPA provisioning we carry takes care of the net NPAs fully. That means that if you take our gross NPA or the provisioning which we have done towards specific accounts which gives you net NPA — 0.71% — and then you look at our standard provisioning plus Covid provisioning and others which are independent of direct provisioning, the total provisioning is more than the total net NPA. Therefore, we start April 1, 2020, with a

financialexp.epa



clean slate in terms of the balance sheet from the point of view of all provisioning which we felt was necessary and actually more than the net NPA figure itself. Now, the next question is how does the current year look? We are in a completely uncharted territory. We can discuss and come out with any number and with reference to different sectors. While we have done work in different sectors, a lot will also depend on how the opening up of the lockdown happens, how the stimulus is given, which sectors are going to get it, an appropriate time for a real stress test will be once you have a better handle on how the flow of funds from the government to the system will happen.

Your advances have grown 7% y-o-y in Q4 and the credit card portfolio has degrown sequentially. Are you going slow on unsecured retail lending?

We had become conservative, even cautious, on advances well before the event. Therefore, our growth in advances by design was more calibrated than the Street in general. I have believed that retail unsecured is where at some point of time pressure is going to come. Therefore, our portfolios on unsecured consumer retail have actually been far more conservative than our earlier perspective. The post-Covid era helps us reduce the impact of the potential burden which may come out of stress, particularly in unsecured retail which is pretty sensitive to the lockdown and the slowdown in the economy. So, we will wait for the stimulus.

Is there a ballpark credit growth figure you are looking at for this financial year? At this point, we are waiting to see how

the economy shapes up. We have received verywide estimates by expert economists on growth for the current year. We deliberate every single day on how we can navigate and what are the opportunities we could take. We are of the view that we will be going out there and supporting the economy, provided we get the right comfort on the risks we take.

Are there any sectors where you do not plan to lend or where you would de-grow your book?

If you see the way we have constructed our book, you would see that we have gone cautious for some time now on unsecured consumer lending. That's something we will be cautious about because we just want to make sure that the consumer is well-protected. Just as a small businessman is getting into trouble, so also if many companies start retrenching people, which is not something you can assume won't happen, but should that happen, even unsecured lending to salaried customers will come under pressure. I would like to see the consumer side getting more comfortable and then we would be ready to take calls.

Then of course, sectors more directly affected by Covid will also be watched, be it tourism, hospitality or retail malls. But, we will have an open mind and be ready to change our view, should the facts change.

ANALYST CORNER

Maintain 'buy' on Sterlite with target price of ₹126

Gold ETFs attract ₹731 cr in Apr

EDELWEISS SECURITIES

STERLITE TECHNOLOGIES' Q4FY20 revenue dipped 35% y-o-y (Street estimate: 30% decline) as lockdown hit the supply chain. Despite a strong data volume growth, network expansion by telcos was limited as the buffer capacity catering to increased demand and lockdown is creating logistical issues in network upgradation. Consequently, we expect latent demand in H2FY21/FY22 and current 60-65% business run-rate to impact FY21 revenue. We also expect the government to hold back spending on broadband infrastructure projects, which will dent the services business. Considering these, we are revising down FY21/22E revenue and PAT 11.9%/9.1% and 19.0%/9.4%, respectively. That said, given Sterlite's robust returns profile and attractive valuation (7.5x FY22E EPS), retain 'buy' with TP of ₹126 as we rollover to Q4FY22E.

Sterlite's revenue declined 35% y-o-y with ₹170 crore (14.7% of revenue) impact attributed to lockdown. Revenue dip and higher services business contribution (~60% of revenue) resulted in 150bps q-o-q plunge in Ebitda margin (18.6%). The company is taking steps to reduce fixed costs, interest burden and is deferring capex to maintain profitability. It has ₹10,000 crore order book, of which ₹4.000 crore is to be executed in FY21, which will ensure revenue growth

We believe current debt level (1.8x TTM Ebitda) is manageable considering the company has managed to generate ₹100 crore FCF in FY20 despite ₹420 crore capex for capacity expansion. We do expect higher working capital investments in the current situation, but with ₹480 crore cash on books there will be no stress to fund them. We do believe the current revenue weakness is purely due to logistical challenges and there is strong demand for Sterlite's products.

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Clear picture of GST mop-up in April to come by June-end

Taxpayers with turnover up to ₹5 crore have got more time due to lockdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, May 13

FINANCE SECRETARY AJAY Bhushan Pandey on Wednesday said the clear picture regarding GST collections for April would emerge only by June 30 — the deadline by which businesses with up to ₹5 crore turnover can file returns without any late fee and interest.

The government had in March extended the deadline to file GST returns for taxpayers with turnover of over ₹5 crore by 15 days till May 5 from the due date of April 20 without payment of any late fee and interest. However, a reduced rate of 9% interest will be

levied if the return is filed after May 5 till June 30.

For taxpayers with turnover up to ₹5 crore, there would be no interest and late fee would be waived if filed within the stipulated deadline set in June.

Conventionally, the government releases GST revenue mop up numbers on the basis of collections in a particular month. Hence, the collection in April was due to be released on

To a query on why the April GST number has not been released, Pandey said, "You know that the GST filing dates

has been extended. If it will be extended, we have said that returns can be filed till June, people who have turnover of more than ₹5 crore they also got more time."

"So after giving these extensions, a clear picture about the revenue collection we will get only by June 30. That's why we have not yet released the figure. People who are able to file returns have paid GST and rest have time till June 30. It is only after June 30 that we will have a clear idea of the revenue collected," he said.

In the 2019-20 fiscal, the Covid-19 crisis.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection remained above the key ₹1 lakh crore-mark for seven months out of 12. The collection stood at ₹97,597 crore in March.

The real impact of the coronavirus lockdown on GST revenue will be reflected in the revenue collections of May (for business activity in April) as the country was in complete lockdown last month with only essential services permitted. Experts said the GST mop

up in May would mainly come from sectors like telecom, FMCG, food processing and pharma. Pandey, who is also the rev-

enue secretary, further said

about ₹11,000 crore GST refunds have been issued during April. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had launched a Special Refund

Drive in April to clear pending GST and drawback refunds to help businesses tide over the liquidity crunch amid the

orange zones to give relief to MFIs PRESS TRUST OF INDIA THE REVIVAL OF economic

Icra: Economic activity revival in green,

Mumbai, May 13

activities in green and orange zones will provide relief to microfinance institutions (MFIs) and they can see a faster turnaround, according to a report by Icra.

The report said that MFIs with a higher share of portfolio in the green and orange zones are likely to witness relatively lower delinquencies than the industry average. The findings are based on

analyses of 30 MFIs and small finance banks (SFBs). The rating agency studied their portfolio breakup across zones and the likely impact on the credit costs going forward.

In terms of portfolio distribution of the sample set, around 69% of it falls in green and orange zone.

"Of the sample, most of the entities have more than 50% of their portfolio in the green and orange zones. In these areas, the turnaround is expected to be faster and collections higher than the red zone, thereby providing some relief to MFIs," the rating agency said.

The ministry of health and family welfare, government of



manufacturing plant in Noida, Uttar Pradesh REUTERS

India (GoI), has classified the country into three zones, namely green, orange and red (along with containment zones within districts), to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Varying levels of economic activities have been allowed across the zones.

The areas in green zone have maximum easing of restrictions and are able to start economic activity gradually. It is followed by orange zone and red zone.

Around 56% of the country's districts fall under green and orange zones, with the balance 44% in red zone.

The report said that in green and orange zones, the overall credit costs/eventual loss may be curtailed, provided MFIs are able to maintain a better connect with the customers.

"Once the lockdown is eased, the collection efficiency of MFIs would be a function of both the borrowers' cash flows as well as the MFIs'ability to reestablish a connect with the borrowers," Icra vice-president (financial sector ratings) Sachin Sachdeva said.

Assuming a 150-250 basis point (bps) increase in credit costs in green and orange zones, and double of that in red zone, the overall credit cost (including write-offs) for MFIs is expected to increase by 3.5-5% for FY2021 from around 1.7% in April-September FY2020, the rating agency said.

NCLAT cancels summer vacation

Quick

PM CARES: ₹2k cr for ventilators, ₹1k cr for migrants

The PM CARES Fund Trust on Wednesday decided to allocate ₹3,100 crore for fight against Covid-19, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.Out of the ₹3,100 crore, nearly ₹2,000 crore will be earmarked for the purchase of ventilators and ₹1,000 crore for care of migrant labourers. it said.

India up at 74th on WEF's energy transition index

INDIA HAS MOVED up two positions to rank 74th on a global 'Energy Transition Index'with improvements on all key parameters of economic growth, energy security and environmental sustainability, the World Economic Forum (WEF) said on Wednesday.

Kerala slaps 10-35% Covid cess on liquor

FE BUREAU Thiruvananthapuram, May 13

KERALA HAS BECOME the latest state after Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Karnataka to announce a Covid cess on liquor. The Kerala Cabinet, which met on Wednesday, decided to hike liquor prices by 10-35%. The state government will

soon come out with an ordinance on the hike, sources close to the chief minister's office said. Cur-

rently, liquor attracts 100-212% tax in Kerala. The Covid cess of 35% and 10% will be clamped on IMFL and beer, respectively.

The state collected only about ₹200 crore tax revenue in April. It is a measly 6% of the monthly target of ₹3,500 crore.Against S-GST of ₹1,766 crore collected in April 2019, collection in the previous month was just ₹161 crore.

Although liquor sales is often seen as price-inelastic in Kerala, the Bevco chief hesitates to fore-

cast that the price hike would help in pepping up the annual sales revenue this time. "Since Kerala had its own lockdown from March 13, liquor sales were impacted for nearly 90 days. At best, the price hike may help make good the annual turnover to a certain extent," said Sparjan Kumar, MD of Bevco. The staterun Bevco adds a slew of markups, including excise duty, sales

tax, gallonage fees, its profit and

operational costs, before pricing

liquor that is sold from its outlets.

Nirav Modi case: India submits more proof

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA London, May 13

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT on Wednesday submitted further documents as "corroboratory evidence" in its case of fraud and money laundering against fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, who is contesting his extradition to India at an ongoing hearing in a UK court.

Westminster Magistrates'

First tranche of 20 lakh-crore package:

Rising over-dues

85,000

70,000

55,000

40,000

25,000

Spurring credit flows central to stimulus

(from discoms to gencos), ₹ crore

Court District Judge Samuel Goozee expressed concern at the late submission of the documents, said to include largely bank statements relating to the diamond merchant's companies, but allowed the application.

"On balance, I am going to allow the evidence to be introduced but time would have to be allowed for these to be analysed," he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, May 13

THE NATIONAL COMPANY Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has cancelled its summer vacation this year to cover the shortfall in working days due to closure during the lockdown.

The appellate tribunal was supposed to be closed for summer vacations in the month of June this year from 1st till 30th.

However, in a full-court pandemic, the annual vacation meeting held on Wednesday, commencing w.e.f. 1st June, the NCLAT has decided to can-2020 till 30th June, 2020 noticel it and function during the month of June, said a notice issued by the registrar of the appellate tribunal.

"As resolved in the fullcourt meeting of the NCLAT held on 13th May, 2020, it is informed that to make good the shortfall in working days occasioned due to imposition of lockdown on account of outbreak of Covid-19 declared as fied earlier in the calendar 2020, shall stand cancelled and the court shall function during the month of June 2020," said the NCLAT in a circular. Several judicial bodies and quasi-judicial bodies have can-

celled their summer vacations to cover up the lost working days, as they were closed during the lockdown.

From the Front Page

Many loan borrowers want disbursement after lockdown

On requirement of extra borrowing

At the end of four or five announcements (in the next few days), it will be known. The Prime Minister has clearly said what is the total size of the stimulus package.

On likely fiscal deficit in FY21 Wait for the next sets of announcements

liquidity We have announced guar-

On banks willing to increase

antees for loans. That will help banks provide more liquidity. Liquidity support from banks have improved in the past few weeks. They are not hesitant to give loans. So loans have been sanctioned, but most customers have requested banks not to disburse loans until lock-down is lifted. That is the reason why banks were parking excess liquidity with RBI through the reverse reporoute.

On delay in offering relief to MSMEs, others

We had announced measures for MSMEs in July 2019 Budget and then in the February 2020 Budget. Now, we have announced comprehensively covering stressed as well as standard, viable units.

On delay in release of April GST mop-up numbers (Replied by revenue secy)

April GST figures have not been released so far, as returns filing date has been extended till June 30. We will get a clear picture by then as to how much revenue has come and how many have filed returns. In April, ₹11,000 core GST refunds were issued. About 27,000 people have got IGST refunds and 1.39 lakh people have got GST refunds.

On change in MSME definition Intention of definition change is to have more companies remain as micro, small and medium enterprises. This is because under earlier definition, many MSMEs were going

On loss to economy due to

out of this purview.

financialem

lockdown It is difficult to answer speculative questions. We are

responding to the crisis to bring to life a new economy

Hero MotoCorp likely to open factories in a month

WHILE MODI HAS eased some restrictions, India will enter the fourth phase of the lockdown next week and there are no details yet on how that phase could be different from the strict stay-at-home order so far. Indian automobile makers, including Maruti Suzuki India, the nation's top carmaker, had zero local sales last shut and migrant workers went back to their villages.

The virus has fundamentally changed the shop floor, and personal protective equipment will become a necessity now, Munjal said.

"As we go back to work, we're going into a new world, we're leaving behind the old world. The new normal is here to stay," Munjal said. "We will be wearing masks, we will be wearing gloves and some us will be wearing Hazmats. People coming back to the factory are already doing that."

40% of its dealerships reopening announced on Tuesday.

very vast canvas of the economy – various types of people, the workers, the laborers, the industry," Munjal said. "I am very hopeful that from today onward, we are going to hear some really very encouraging announcements from the

and help businesses to revive.

month, as factories remained

Hero, which has seen about

since curbs were eased May 4 and sold 25,000 motorcycles since then, is already seeing encouraging signs of revival, Munjal said. Later on Wednesday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is due to elaborate on a financial stimulus package that Modi "They're trying to cover a

finance minister." Hero, which typically

makes smaller motorcycles compared with those manufactured by the likes of Harley-Davidson and Suzuki Motor, dominates the Indian market with cheaper offering. It has sold more than 90 million scooters and motorcycles around the world so far. The company has become a household name in the South Asian nation by hiring celebrities like golf legend Tiger Woods and Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli as brand ambassadors. Hero shares rose as much as

ALSO, HELPED BY a ₹4,000crore support — possibly from the budget, a ₹20,000crore subordinate debt facility will be extended to the

stressed MSMEs. The minister also announced Rs 50,000-crore equity infusion in promising MSMEs via 'fund of funds', by leveraging a likely budget outlay of Rs 10,000 crore. A revision of the MSME criteria is expected to allow thousands of units to continue to enjoy assorted benefits of the tag, without being mindful of their growing size.

For NBFCs, an extra Rs 75,000 crore being provided in the form of guarantee and partial-credit enhancement for the lower-rated firms, a move that will boost their borrowing capacity. This step won't have any immediate fiscal impact as the cost of such guarantees add to

amount of overall guarantee being limited to first loss of up to 10% of fair value of assets being purchased by banks, or Rs 10,000 crore, whichever is lower --will be extended to cover borrowings such as primary issuance of bonds/commercial papers of such firms. The

borne by the government. For the struggling electricity discoms whose overdues to gencos are now a whopping Rs 80,000 crore, a fresh credit line of Rs 90,000 crore is being given by staterun PFC-REC. While these loans are again are guaranteed by the sovereign, it is not clear whether and how NBFCs and HFCs - with the much the lenders will bor- she said.

first 20% of loss will now be

row for this. The other measures are aimed at helping the contractors, real estate companies and taxpayers.

March 2020

While banks apparently remaining risk-averse and preferring to park their funds with the RBI's reverse repo facility than lend to the needy businesses, the minister said the new guarantees for loans would encourage banks to lend aggressively. "Banks are not hesitant to give loans. Loans have been sanctioned, but most customers have requested banks not to disburse loans till lock-down is lifted. That is the reason why banks were parking excess liquidity with RBI through reverse repo,"

seeking 90 days' extension for the insolvency process after it failed to attract any bidder.

The CoC on February 18, had set a new deadline of March 10 for submission of bids for the grounded airline after South American conglomerate Synergy Group and New Delhi-based Prudent ARC failed to meet the previous deadline. Later, Synergy Group

backed out of the bidding process over slot issues. The March 10 deadline was set after Russia's Far East Asia Development Fund also evinced interest in Jet Airways. The cash-strapped airline, which was grounded in April

2019, owes more than ₹8,000

crore to banks, with public sec-

tor lenders having significant exposure. The NCLT on June 20, 2019, admitted the insolvency petition filed by the lenders' consortium led by State Bank of India against Jet Airways.

Jet Airways has liabilities over ₹26,000 crore, which vendor dues, ₹8,500 crore along with interest owed to the lenders, over ₹3,000 crore in salary dues, and over ₹13,500 crore in accumulated losses over the past few years.

Paramilitary canteens to sell only local products from June 1: Shah

"THIS WILL BE applicable to all CAPF canteens across the country from 1 June 2020. With this, 50 lakh family members of about 10 lakh CAPF personnel will use indigenous products," he added.

The CAPFs - CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG and Assam Rifles — canteens together sell products worth about Rs 2,800 crore annually.

Referring to Modi's appeal on Tuesday, during his address to the nation, to make the country self-reliant and use products made in India, Shah said this will surely pave the way for India to lead the world in future.

"If every Indian pledges to use products made in India (Swadeshi), the country can become self-sufficient in five years,"he said.

Maruti Q4 net falls 28.1%, unsure on demand revival

NET PROFIT FOR the financial year at ₹5,651 crore was lower by 24.7% while net sales declined 13.7% to ₹71,690 crore in FY20 compared with previous year. The company sold a total of 15,63,297 vehicles during the year, lower by 16.1% over the same period previous year. The company sold a total of 3,85,025 vehicles during the fourth quarter, lower by 16% over the same period previous year. In the domestic market, the company sold 3,60,428 vehicles, lower by 16% over the same period previous year. Exports were at 24,597 vehicles, lower by 16.9% over the same period previous year.

Expectedly, the first quarter of the new fiscal will be a washout for the automaker, thanks to the nation-wide lockdown in April and May. Bhargava said the company expected 2,000 dealers to gradually open but it would take a little time and, therefore, the sales volume, demand, the enquiries had to be related to the fact that only a small percentage of dealers would be functioning and others would only function for few days in the week. He added that most of the

market enquiries were coming through the digital route, and the company had actually received a little over 5,000 bookings so far, and 2,300 cars were delivered. Also, about 1,900 workshops were functioning but the loads in these have become very low due the ongoing lockdown."This business will pick up gradually," he While Bhargava said that

the company was not cutting salaries and not laying off people, the added safety protocols would impact the overhead cost of production. However, the company does not intend to pass on this increase to customers as yet. "At the moment the protocols which result in little bit lower productivity and lower output will have an overall impact on increasing overhead cost of production but at least Maruti has no plans of passing this onto the customer at this point of time," he said. The company has earmarked a capital expenditure of Rs 2,900 crore for FY21. The company recommended a dividend of ₹60 per share for financial year 2019-20, lower than the Rs 80 per share for financial year 2018-19. Maruti's shares closed up 1.72% at ₹5,035.25 on the BSE on Wednesday.

How a Chennai market led to Covid spike across Tamil Nadu

THE REMAINING CASES are all being linked to the Koyambedu market cluster. Some regions in Andhra Pradesh which border Tamil

Nadu too have reported cases

linked to Koyambedu, with many migrants who work in the market returning to their home state in the last week of April.

cases on April 30 (mostly linked to the Tablighi cluster), now has over 4,800 cases. A senior public health official said the Koyambedu mar-

way that "not only Chennai but several other districts such as Ariyalur and Perambalur where the case count was in single digits till the last week of April, were also affected".

In the period between April 30 and May 12, Ariyalur district, a rural district south of Chennai, saw a spike from 7 cases to 344 cases; the case count in Perambalur increased from 9 to 192 — all linked to workers returning from Koyambedu.

In the same period, two neighbouring districts of Chennai city region, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur, saw their case count jump from 78 to 391, and 55 to 467 respectively.

Health department officials who are engaged in the massive contact tracing process said most of them were found to have links to Koy ambedu market — vendors drivers, workers and those who used to visit the market on a daily basis for businesses, and their secondary contacts.

"The Chennai Metropolitan Authority Development (CMDA) should have taken measures in March itself. It was too late when they finally decided to evict retail vendors from the market and shifted all fruit and flower vendors to another location. Hundreds of people who suddenly lost their jobs were forced to travel to their homes in different towns and villages. Nobody assumed that hundreds of them would be Covid-19 carriers," said a senior health official.

tracing of 7,500-odd people in different districts including Chennai, and aggressive test ing of all immediate contacts led to a sudden spike in the case count. The daily case count in

Ariyalur, Cuddalore and Per-

ambalur districts was in single

digits till early May; these

He said the massive contact

regions have seen a surge over the past week. In Chennai, the doubling time was down to five days on Monday. Of the 716 new cases reported across the state on

Tuesday, 510 cases were from

Chennai, 36 from Ariyalur and

35 from Chengalpet. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Wednesday said there was no need to panic. Underlining the

Chennai, which had 906 state's low death rate, discharge rate and increased testing, he said the pandemic was under control. Quoting experts, he said the numbers may "go up" further before the ket cluster "exploded" in such a state sees a downward curve.

contingent liabilities. The existing partial credit guarantee scheme, underwhich state-run banks would be able to purchase high-rated pooled assets from financially-sound

7% Wednesday in Mumbai, the highest since Feb. 20. They have fallen almost 11% this year, giving the company a

market value of \$5.8 billion. **—BLOOMBERG** Jet Airways' RP seeks fresh EoIs for defunct airline

THE LAST DATE for submission of a resolution plan by the eligible PRAs for the defunct airlines is July 11, as per the

As per the document the RP —Ashish Chhawchharia, and the CoC reserve the right to withdraw the invitation for EoI and change or vary any part thereof at any stage and also reserve the right to disqualify any potential bidder, without assigning any reason and without incurring any liability, should it be so necessary at any stage.

The minimum net worth for a strategic investor has been kept at ₹500 crore, and

for financial investors at

₹1,000 crore. "In the event the PRA is a consortium, it would be required to have a lead consortium member identified upfront which shall be the entity with the single largest equity participation in the consortium with authority to bind, represent and take decisions on behalf of the consor-

tium," the document read. If the consortium is made up of a mix of strategic investors and financial investors comprising body corporates, FIs/funds/private equity investors/non-banking financial institutions/any such other applicants then either the SI members should meet the eligibility criteria or the FI members should meet the eligibility.

bunal (NCLT) had allowed 90 days' extension for the corporate insolvency resolution process of the airline. This came after the airline's resolution professional had

filed an application in NCLT

In March this year, the

National Company Law Tri-

include over ₹10,000 crore of

Domestic gas output falls 19% in April, crude production down 8%

FE BUREAU New Delhi, May 13

THE DOMESTIC NATURAL gas production fell 18.9% to 2,155 million metric standard

try in the month was also 7.7% lower than the production from a year-ago period. The development coincides with domestic consumption of petroleum products falling cubic metre (MMSCM) in April. 46% y-o-y to 18.3 MT in April, The 2.5 million tonne (MT) of when the lockdown to contain the spread of the coronavirus crude oil produced in the counthe month.

Indigenous crude oil production caters to about only 15% of the country's requirements, while for natural gas, 51% of requirement has to be imported. Domestic natural gas output fell 5.2% y-o-y to

was implemented throughout 31,166 MMSCM in FY20, reversing the growth trend recorded since FY18. Also, the 32.1 MT of crude oil produced in the country in the fiscal was 1.2% lower than the output from a year-ago period.

> Domestic production has been falling with the ageing of existing fields and muted response from the industry to take up new projects, mainly due to lack of adequate incentives. Other reasons for lower output in FY20, as admitted by the government recently to a parliamentary committee, include lack of buyers, inadequate evacuation infrastructure, technical constraints in hostile geograph-

our office by 5.00 PM on 22.05.2020 by e-mail

www.bankofmaharashtra.in subsequently

Date: 14/05/2020

ISSUE" ON PAGE 248.

Place: Pune

ical terrains and protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in upper Assam oilfields. Lack of environmental permissions is also making new drilling difficult. As FE recently reported, the

government has decided to revise the production sharing contracts (PSC) of private oil producers. In this regard, the Union ministry of petroleum and natural gas has formed a committee which would also 'suggest ways of attracting investment in exploration, enhance production and eliminating obstacles'. PSC fields contribute about 26% of the country's crude oil production.

Assistant General Manager,

Marketing & Publicity

(This is a public announcement for information purposes only and not for publication or distribution and is not an Offer Document)

Makes fine living affordable

SPENCER'S RETAIL LIMITED

under the Companies Act, 2013 in Kolkata, West Bengal, India, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated February 8, 2017 issued by the Registrar of Companies, West Bengal at Kolkata ("RoC"). Subsequently, the

name of the Company was changed to its present name, Spencer's Retail Limited, pursuant to the order of the National Company Law Tribunal, Kolkata Bench dated March 28, 2018 approving the Scheme of Arrangement,

and subsequently a fresh certificate of incorporation pursuant to change of name was issued by the RoC on

December 13, 2018. The Company's retail business was earlier undertaken by the erstwhile Spencer's Retail Limited since November 22, 2000, which was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, Pursuant

to the Scheme of Arrangement, the Retail Undertaking 2 of the erstwhile Spencer's Retail Limited, was

demerged into the Company with effect from the appointed date of October 1, 2017 in accordance with

Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. For more information regarding change in name and registered office of the Company and the Scheme of Arrangement, see

Corporate Identity Number: L74999WB2017PLC219355

Registered Office: Duncan House, 31, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata - 700 001; Telephone: +91 33 6625 7600 Corporate Office: RPSG House, 2/4 Judges Court Road, Kolkata 700 027; Telephone: +91 33 2487 1091

Contact Person: Rama Kant, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

E-mail: spencers.secretarial@rpsq.in; Website: www.spencersretail.com

PROMOTERS OF THE COMPANY: SANJIV GOENKA AND

RAINBOW INVESTMENTS LIMITED

ISSUE OF UP TO [•] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹5 EACH OF THE COMPANY

(THE "RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹[•] PER RIGHTS EQUITY

SHARE OF THE COMPANY FOR AN AMOUNT AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 8,000 LAKHS, ON A

RIGHTS BASIS TO THE EXISTING ELIGIBLE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY

IN THE RATIO OF [] RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES FOR EVERY [] FULLY PAID-UP EQUITY

SHARE(S) HELD BY THE EXISTING ELIGIBLE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS ON THE RECORD

DATE, THAT IS ON [•], 2020 (THE "ISSUE"). FOR FURTHER DETAILS, SEE "TERMS OF THE

This public announcement is being made in compliance with the provisions of Regulation 72(2)

of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements)

Regulations, 2018 as amended ("SEBI ICDR Regulations"), to state that Spencer's Retail Limited

is proposing, subject to requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, an issue

of equity shares on rights basis and has on May 12, 2020 filed the Draft Letter of Offer dated

Pursuant to Regulation 72(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, the DLOF filed with SEBI is open

to public, for comments, if any. The DLOF is hosted on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in,

website of recognised stock exchanges where the equity shares are listed i.e. BSE Limited at

www.bseindia.com, the National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com, Calcutta

Stock Exchange Limited at www.cse-india.com and website of the Lead Manager i.e. ICICI Securities

Limited at www.icicisecurities.com. All members of the public are hereby invited to provide their

comments on the DLOF to SEBI with respect to the disclosures made in the DLOF. The public is

requested to send a copy of the comments sent to SEBI, to the Company and to the Lead Manager to the Issue at their respective addresses mentioned herein. All comments must be received by

the Company or by the Lead Manager on or before 5 p.m. on the 21st (twenty first) day from the

This announcement has been prepared for publication in India and may not be released in any

other jurisdiction. Please note that the distribution of the DLOF and the Issue of equity shares on a

rights basis to persons in certain jurisdictions outside India may be restricted by legal requirements

prevailing in those jurisdictions. Accordingly, any person who acquires Rights Entitlements or Rights

Equity Shares will be deemed to have declared, warranted and agreed that at the time of subscribing

for the Rights Equity Shares or the Rights Entitlements, such person is not and will not be in the

United States and/or in other restricted jurisdictions. The Rights Equity Shares of the Company have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended

("Securities Act"), or in any other jurisdiction which have any restrictions in connection with offering,

issuing and allotting Rights Equity Shares within its jurisdiction and/or to its citizens. The offering to

which the DLOF relates is not and under no circumstances is to be construed as, an offering of any

Rights Equity Shares or Rights Entitlements for sale in the United States or any other jurisdiction

other than India or as a solicitation therein of an offer to buy any of the said Rights Equity Shares or

GENERAL RISK: Investment in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and

investors should not invest any funds in the Issue unless they can afford to take the risk of losing

their investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment

decision in the Issue. For taking an investment decision, Investors must rely on their own examination

of the Company and the Issue including the risks involved. The Equity Shares being offered in the

Issue have not been recommended or approved by SEBI nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy

or adequacy of this Draft Letter of Offer. Specific attention of investors is invited to "Risk Factors"

Note: Capitalised terms not defined herein shall have the same meanings ascribed to such

May 12, 2020 ("DLOF") with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI").

'History and Other Corporate Matters" on page 122 of the Draft Letter of Offer.

Head Office: Lokmangal, 1501,

Shivaji Nagar, Pune - 411005

With reference to RFP No. M&P/Printing of Notices for AGM & Annual

Report 2019-20, Printing of Notices for AGM & Annual Report 2019-20

published in newspapers on 13.03.2020 & Corrigendum on 21.03.2020 and

in view of COVID-19 outbreak, the last date for bid submission stands

revised as Friday 22.05.2020. The interested bidders are requested to

submit their technical bids & password protected financial bids in pdf format

on email cmmktg@mahabank.co.in and media@mahabank.co.in.

Acknowledgement of receipt of your bid/application may be obtained from

Note: Password of commercial bids may be sent through email ids

mentioned above on 26.05,2020 (Tuesday) at 12.00 AM. Financial bids of

technically qualified bidders only will be opened at 4.00 PM on the same day

and name of selected bidder will be published on bank's website

urges Centre, states to buy directly from farmers Pune, May 13

NANDA KASABE

THE MAHARASHTRA STATE onion growers' association (MSOGA) has urged the central and state governments to procure onions directly from farmers at ₹2,000 per quintal. The demand has been made as several market committees in the state are still shut and the wholesale prices of onions have dropped to ₹500-600 per quintal. The association has been highlighting the issue on Twitter, according to Bharat Dighole, president, MSOGA.

Around 1,500 farmers have tweeted tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CM Uddhav Thackeray, Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal and Prakash Javadekar. The association reached out to farmers to use Twitter as physical agitation was not possible and is even educated them on

Maha onion growers' body

how to reach out to the government using Twitter.

Dighole said the average price of onion in Maharashtra was at ₹500 per quintal but as most of the market committees of the state are closed due to the coronavirus, the central government should, therefore, buy onion directly from farmers at ₹20 per kg. The cost of production of onions is more than ₹1,000 per quintal and farmers are ending up with losses as they are selling below this price, he said.

Onion auctions at Lasalgaon have come to a halt for an indefinite period following three cases of Covid-19 reported last week. Most other markets in Nashik district are also shut due to their proximity to Malegaon, another Covid-19 hotspot.

The National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has also commenced procurement of onions at prevailing market rates of ₹500 per quintal Nafed is purchasing onions to create a buffer stock for the Centre with target of 50,000 tonne. Out of this, 40,000 tonne will be procured in different markets in Maharashtra and remaining 10,000 tonne from Gujarat. Nafed officials said that that although about 650 tonne has been procured so far, they are facing problems

due to the closure of Lasalgaon. The rates at Lasalgaon and Pimpalgaon are applied by NAFED as standard but since these mandis are closed and the rates of rest of the mandis are lower, farmers are not happy with what we are offering, officials said. Due to lockdown there is a labour issue as well. The agency is waiting for all the mandis to open on a regular basis so that the market rates stabilise and farmer expectations on rates are fulfiled.

'Electricity demand falls 24% in April due to lockdown'

WITH ALMOST NO economic activity taking place in first 20 days of April due to lockdown, and very little operations after that, power demand declined sharply by 24% in the month, Crisil Research said.

The 21-day lockdown to fight spread of coronavirus, which was supposed to end on April 14, was extended till May 3 and later till May 17.

the lockdown in certain nonhotspot zones from April 20, but that did not help in boosting the demand.

According to the rating agency, states with highest industrial activities, especially in the manufacturing sector, including Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Haryana, and Tamil Nadu, witnessed a 30-50% decline in demand in April.

"Electricity demand shrank nearly a quarter in April 2020 as commercial and industrial activity switched off majorly following the nationwide lockdown. The decline in demand by 30-50% in these four states is like experiencing a total blackout every alternate or third day," Crisil

The government relaxed

Karti get SC nod to withdraw ₹10 crore deposited for travelling abroad

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday allowed Congress MP Karti Chidambaram to withdraw ₹10 crore which was deposited with the apex court registry as a condition for allowing him to travel abroad.

The top court had on February 14 allowed Karti, who is facing criminal cases being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI, to travel to the UK and France for attending a tennis tournament subject to the ₹10 crore deposit.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justice L Nageswara Rao took up his application through video conferencing and allowed him to withdraw the amount."We have heard learned counselappearing for both sides. The instant application for withdrawal of the amount in question is allowed," the bench said.

On February 14, the SC while taking note of the previous orders allowing Karti to travel abroad, had allowed him to travel to the UK and France from February 14 to March 1,2020.

On January 17, the top court had allowed the similar application of Karti allowing him to withdraw the ₹20 crore which was deposited with the SC registry as a condition for allowing him to travel abroad. — PTI

Asia's largest timber cluster in Gujarat incurs ₹1,500-cr loss due to coronavirus

FE BUREAU Ahmedabad, May 13

WITH ALMOST 70% timber units shut down, even after the government's nod to run business operations, Asia's largest timber cluster in Gujarat, situated near Kandla port, may take a year to function normally.

The industry, which flourished in the bordering Kutch district, has already incurred loss of ₹1,500 crore since the lockdown was announced first from March 25. According to sources, the ₹10,000-crore industry's loss is constantly increasing in absence of buyers based in states like Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Maharashtra.

Although the government has decided to grant permission to recommence operation of sawing mills and plywood units after the implementation of lockdown 2.0, most of the timber units are still closed as demand has gone down by nearly 80%. Even after the rise in demand in coming days, it would be difficult for the sawing mills as well as plywood manufacturers to start in full swing as

the exodus of migrant labourers has started. There are nearly 2,000 saw mills and more than 100 plywood units in the proximity of Kandla port where 80,000-1,00,000 labourers are

employed directly. Most of

them are migrant workers

from Odisha, Andhra

Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. "In absence of buyers hardly 30% units are functional in Kandla-Gandhidham area that too with limited capacity. For the first 40 days of ongoing lockdown, the owners of timber units somehow persuaded labourers to wait.

"Now, the migrant labourers have become impatient over the prevailing uncertainty over Covid-19 pandemic. Since last 10-12 days, 50% of the labour force went back to their native places and more are in the process to return to their home-states," says Navneet Gajjar, president of Kandla Timber Association (KTA). He adds that looking at the situation, it would take at least a year to bring normalcy in the industry as those labourers who have gone back to their

states wouldn't come in next

4-5 months.

BNP PARIBAS

Investment Manager: BNP Paribas Asset Management India Private Limited (AMC) Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U65991MH2003PTC142972

Registered Office: BNP Paribas House, 1 North Avenue, Maker Maxity, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra - East, Mumbai - 400 051. Website: www.bnpparibasmf.in • Toll Free: 1800 102 2595

NOTICE CUM ADDENDUM NO. 22/2020

Notice cum Addendum to the Scheme Information Document (SID) and Key Information Memorandum (KIM) cum Application Forms for the Schemes of BNP Paribas Mutual Fund ('the Fund'):

Introduction of myTrigger Plan facility under the Schemes of BNP Paribas Mutual Fund:

BNP Paribas Asset Management India Private Limited (AMC) has decided to introduce the facility of myTrigger Plan w.e.f May 14, 2020

This Facility of myTrigger Plan is intended to be a financial planning tool which is being provided to the investors for initiating action based trigger. This Facility enables investors to switch a predetermined amount from a selected Source Scheme to a selected Target Scheme of the Fund whenever there is a fall in the Nifty 50 Index or Nifty Midcap 150 Index or Nifty 200 Index or Nifty 500 Index level by a certain percentage from the previous Business Day's closure.

The features, terms and conditions for availing the myTrigger Plan facility shall be as follows:

1. Trigger events/dates: The Trigger events/dates shall occur when the corresponding index falls (based on Target Scheme selected) by 0.5%, 1%, 1.5%, 2%, 2.5%, 3%, 3.5%, 4%, 4.5% and/or 5% from its previous Business

Under this facility investors have an option to choose only one Target scheme for multiple trigger points available along with specified amount for each Index fall as a trigger. However, at any point in time, only the highest % of fall shall be considered for the purpose of investment under Target Scheme. For eg. If the Investor has opted for index trigger level (fall) of 2%, 3%, and 4% for trigger of ₹ 10,000, ₹ 15,000 and ₹ 20,000 respectively and if that specified index falls by 4% or more, then the highest level of index fall would be considered for investment under the Target Scheme (i.e. 4% and ₹ 20,000 in this example).

2. For the purpose of myTrigger Plan facility following are the eligible Scheme(s):

- a. Eligible Source Scheme(s): BNP Paribas Overnight Fund, BNP Paribas Liquid Fund, BNP Paribas Low Duration Fund and BNP Paribas Arbitrage Fund.
- b. Eligible Target Scheme(s) and their corresponding Index for determining trigger event:

Nifty 50
Nifty 50
Nifty 500
Nifty Midcap 150
Nifty 200

- for Target Scheme BNP Paribas Long Term Equity Fund, Minimum amount shall be ₹ 500 and in multiples of ₹ 500. Maximum trigger amount can be ₹ 1,99,000.
- Minimum Trigger Tenure: An investor will have to provide for a minimum tenure of 1 month for the facility. In case the investor does not specify the tenure or in case of any ambiguity, the myTrigger Plan shall be registered for default tenure of 99 years.
- 5. The minimum Unit holder's account balance or a minimum amount of investment in the Source scheme at the time of enrolment of myTrigger Plan should be ₹ 100,000. If the minimum balance represented by clear units is not available, the application will be liable to be rejected
- 6. An investor has to clearly specify the name & the option of the Source & Target scheme in the enrolment form. If the same is not stated or in case of any ambiguity, the enrolment request shall be liable to rejected In absence of information or in case of any ambiguity, the default option shall be Growth option for Target
- 7. A request for myTrigger Plan facility will be processed as a request for redemption from the Source scheme and subscription into the selected Target scheme(s), at the applicable NAV, subject to load and statutory levy, if any. Load structure of the Source Scheme & Target Schemes shall be applicable to myTrigger Plan
- 8. The trigger amount opted by the investor, is switched every time the trigger event occurs. The switch would continue for the opted period. If the balance amount under selected Source Scheme is less than the fixed amount opted, the entire amount would be switched into the Target Scheme(s) selected by the investor and the facility will get terminated
- 9. In case of minor applicant, the guardian can opt for myTrigger Plan Facility only till the date of minor attaining majority. AMC shall suspend the standing instruction of myTrigger Plan Facility enrollment from the date minor turns major by giving adequate prior notice. Further, once the minor attains majority, the guardian will not be able to undertake any financial and non-financial transactions including fresh registration of myTrigger Plan Facility and the folio shall be frozen for the further operation till the time requisite documents for changing the status from minor to major is submitted to the Fund.
- 10. myTrigger Plan Facility will be automatically terminated if all units are liquidated or withdrawn from the Source Scheme or pledged or upon receipt of intimation of death of unit holder.
- 11. Investors are requested to note that for the trigger to be processed, the trigger date/day should be Business day for both schemes i.e. the Source and the Target Scheme.
- 12. The provision of 'Minimum redemption amount' specified in the SID of Source Scheme and 'Minimum application amount' specified in the SIDs of the Target Schemes will not be applicable for myTrigger Plan Facility.
- 13. myTrigger Plan Enrolment Form complete in all respects shall be registered and activated within 5 business days from date of receipt of such enrolment form (available at www.bnpparibasmf.in) at any of the Official Points of Acceptance of BNP Paribas Mutual Fund. Investors are further to requested to note that the forms for myTrigger Plan Facility can be submitted to the designated email ID (mumbai@bnpparibasmf.in) as per the email facility made available via addendum no. 15/2020 dated March 30, 2020.
- 14. Investors could choose to terminate the myTrigger Plan Facility by submitting a written notice and the same shall be deactivated after 7 business days i.e., termination shall be effected from 8th Business Day of receipt of valid request.
- 15. AMC/Fund reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions of the myTrigger Plan and/ or withdraw the said facility by issuing a suitable notice to this effect.
- II. Change in Exit load structure of BNP Paribas Multicap Fund:

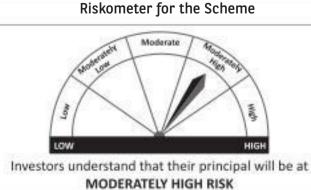
Investors are requested to note that with effect from Monday, May 18, 2020, the load structure for BNP Paribas Multicap Fund shall be as below for prospective investments.

Existing Exit Load If units of the Scheme are redeemed or switched out up to 10% of the units (the limit) within 12

- months from the date of allotment Nil; • If units of the Scheme are redeemed or switched out in excess of the limit within 12 months from
- the date of allotment 1% of the applicable NAV; • If units of Scheme are redeemed or switched out after 12 months from the date of allotment - Nil. No exit load will be charged for Dividend reinvestment
- units. Transaction charges, if applicable, shall be No exit load will be charged on switches between options of the same plan of the Fund.

BNP Paribas Multi Cap Fund (An Open ended Equity Scheme investing across large cap, mid cap, small cap stocks) is suitable for investors

- who are seeking*: • Wealth creation in long term.
- Investments in actively managed portfolio of equity and equity related securities across market capitalization.



Revised Exit Load (w.e.f. May 18, 2020)

- 1% of the applicable NAV;

applicable, shall be deducted.

options of the same plan of the Fund

If units of the Scheme are redeemed or switched

out within 3 months from the date of allotment

If units of Scheme are redeemed or switched out

after 3 months from the date of allotment - Nil.

No exit load will be charged for Dividend

reinvestment units. Transaction charges, if

No exit load will be charged on switches between

Note: This Notice cum addendum forms an integral part of the SID & KIM cum Application Forms of the Fund read with the addenda issued thereunder. All other features and terms and conditions as mentioned in the SID & KIM remain unchanged.

For BNP Paribas Asset Management India Private Limited (Investment Manager to BNP Paribas Mutual Fund)

Jyothi Krishnan

Head of Compliance, Legal & Secretarial

Date: May 13, 2020 Place: Mumbai

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

REGISTRAR TO THE ISSUE LEAD MANAGER TO THE ISSUE



aforementioned date of filing the DLOF with SEBI

ICICI SECURITIES LIMITED ICICI Centre. H.T. Parekh Marg.

Rights Entitlement.

on page 20 of the DLOF.

terms in the DLOF

Churchgate, Mumbai - 400 020 Maharashtra, India Telephone: +91 22 2288 2460 E-mail: srl.rights@icicisecurities.com

Date: May 13, 2020

Place: Kolkata

Website: www.icicisecurities.com Investor grievance e-mail: customercare@icicisecurities.com Contact Person: Sameer Purohit / Arjun A Mehrotra

SEBI Registration No: INM000011179

LINKIntime

C-101, 247 Park, Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Marg. Vikhroli (West), Mumbai - 400 083,

LINK INTIME INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

Maharashtra, India Telephone: +91 22 4918 6200 Facsimile: +91 22 4918 6195 Email: spencersretail.rights@linkintime.co.in Investor grievance e-mail: spencersretail.rights@linkintime.co.in Website: www.linkintime.co.in

Contact Person: Sumeet Deshpande

SEBI Registration No: INR000004058

For SPENCER'S RETAIL LIMITED

Rama Kant Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Disclaimer: "SPENCER'S RETAIL LIMITED" is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals. market conditions and other considerations, to issue Equity Shares on a rights basis and has filed a Draft Letter of Offer with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. The Draft Letter of Offer is available on the website of SEBI, BSE, NSE and CSE at www.sebi.gov.in, www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com, www.cse-india.com and at the website of the Lead Manager at www.icicisecurities.com. Investors should note that investment in securities involves a high degree of risk and are requested

to refer to the DLOF, including the section "Risk Factors" on page 20 of the DLOF. financialem epap.in

WWW.FINANCIALEXPRESS.COM

MAMATA-SPEAK

'Centre's package a big zero, it has nothing for states'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Kolkata, May 13

WEST BENGAL CHIEF minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday slammed the Union government, claiming the special economic package announced by it has nothing of help to states and is "a big zero".

Banerjee alleged that the central government was "misleading the people" during the Covid-19 crisis and was planning to "financially lockout" states. "The special economic package announced by the Union government is nothing but a big zero. It is an eyewash to fool the people. There is nothing for the unorganised sector, public spending and employment generation," she said addressing

a press conference here. She alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman were speaking in different voices over the state of the economy.

The ₹20-lakh crore special economic package was announced by the PM during his address to the nation on Tuesday evening and the initial details of the stimulus were unveiled by Sitharaman on Wednesday.

"Yesterday (Tuesday), when the PM announced the ₹20 lakh crore package, we were hopeful that the interest of

Financial Bid:- 11:00 AM, on 28-05-2020.

for the quarter and the financial year ended 31" March 2020.

No. KIOCL/MTLS/IOF (Off-Shore)/20-21/01

would be published in our website only.

E-mail: bpurchase@kioclltd.com.

Phone:96321 88336, Fax: 080- 25532153

Date:- 14-05-2020

New Delhi

Mangalore, India.

Place: New Delhi

Date: 13th May, 2020

financialexp epa

13* May 2020

Place:- Howrah

states will be looked into, the FRBM limit would be increased. But today (Wednesday), after the Union finance minister made the announcements, it was found that everything that was said yesterday was a bluff," Banerjee said.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief also asked why farmers' loans had not been waived and claimed that the Centre was "misleading and lying" to the people about the package.

People had hoped from the PM's speech on Tuesday that states will get some aid with regard to MSMEs, employment generation, unorganised sector, public spending, additional grants and health infrastructure, Banerjee said.

SUPER SALES INDIA LIMITED Regd. Office: 34-A, Kamaraj Road, Coimbatore - 641018 CIN: L17111TZ1981PLC001109

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 47(1)(a) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, the 25" May, 2020, interalia to consider and to take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the year ended 31" March, 2020, The Details of the Notice are also available in the Company's Website: www.supersales.co.in and Stock Exchange Website: www.bseindia.com

For Super Sales India Limited S.K. Radhakrishnan Coimbatore Company Secretary 14.05.2020

General Manager

For JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd.

Sr. VP & Company Secretary

Date: 14/05/2020

B.K. Daga

Email Id

Mobile No

PASCHIM BANGA GRAMIN BANK

(A GOVT. ENTERPRISE)

HEAD OFFICE: Natabar Paul Rod, Chatterjee Para More, Tikiapara, Howrah- 711101

Phone: (033) 2667-9478 Email: pasc3616@dataone.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Paschim Banga Gramin bank invites E-Tender for Engagement of Contractors for providing Multipurpose Workers for 29 Branches of

PBGB in five districts, viz- Howrah, Hooghly, Birbhum, Purba and

Paschim Bardhamman, for carrying out Miscellaneous Work for 11 Months starting from June, 2020 to April, 2021. For details

visit https://www.pbgbank.com or www.tenderwizard.com/eproc Tender Date:- 14-05-2020. Last Date for querries to be entertained:-

20-05-2020, upto 5:00 P.M. Last Date and time for submission of tender(Technical and Financial):- May, 26th, 2020, 3:00 P.M. Opening date for Technical Bid: 11:00 AM, on 27-05-2020. Opening date for

ik lakshmi 🚳

Regd. Office: Jaykaypuram-307019, District Sirohi (Rajasthan)

CIN: L74999RJ1938PLC019511, Tel: 91-11-30179860, Fax: 91-11-23739475

Email: jklc.investors@jkmail.com | Website: www.jklakshmicement.com

NOTICE

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Wednesday, the

20° May 2020 interalia, to consider and approve Audited Annual Accounts of the Company

The said Notice can be accessed on the website of the Company at www.jklakshmicement.com

and may also be accessed on the Stock Exchanges websites at www.bseindia.com and

के आई ओ सी एल लिमिटेड

KIOCL LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)

CIN-L13100KA1976GO1002974

II BLOCK, KORAMANGALA, BANGALORE 560 034

Web: www.kioclltd.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER WITH SHORT

DUE DATE FOR SUPPLY OF IRON ORE FINES

FROM OFF-SHORE SOURCES.

KIOCL Limited invites sealed quotations from reputed overseas

Mining Companies/Iron Ore Producers/Mine Owners/

Manufacturers/ Iron Ore Suppliers/Traders/ Stockists, for supply of

Iron Ore Fines, for use in its Pellet Plant located in Panambur,

For more details, please visit our above website and Central Public

Procurement Portal http://eprocure.gov.in. Corrigendum, if any,

Last date for submission of Tender is 2 PM (IST) on 03.06.2020

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD. (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Website: www.ircon.org, CIN- L45203DL1976G0I008171 e-Tender Notice

Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only

e-Tender No. IRCON/2069/MCRL/Tender/2020/005, dated 13.5.2020 e-Tenders in two stage bid system are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Providing consultancy service for progress monitoring through Primavera in connection to MCRL Rail Connectivity project at

Angul district in the state of Odisha". Estimated Cost of the work : 12.60 Lakhs Last Date & Time of Bid Submission: 03.06.2020 (15:00 Hrs) For further details visit website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Amendments/

Chief General Manager /Bhubaneswar



Head Office, C-4, G Block, Information Technology Department, Star House-II, 8th Floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051, E-mail: Headoffice.it@bankofindia.co.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) For Empanelment of vendors For Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Computer Systems, Peripherals and system/Off-the-shelf Software under Rate contract for 2020-21

Details available on the Bank's Corporate Website www.bankofindia.co.in under "Tender" section from 06/05/2020. Last Date of Submission -03/06/2020 (till 3.00 pm)

XCHANGING SOLUTIONS LIMITED .

(a DXC Technology Company) CIN: L72200KA2002PLC030072

Registered Office: Kalyani Tech Park - Survey No 1, 6 & 24 Kundanhalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore - 560 066 Karnataka, India Tel: +91-8043640000

Email: compliance@xchanging.com Website: www.xchanging.com NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of Xchanging Solutions Limited is scheduled to be held on Friday, May 22, 2020, inter alia, to consider and approve the financial results of the Company for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2020 and audited financial statement of the Company for the financial year ended March 31, 2020 and to transact other business items as set out in the agenda.

This information is available on the website of the Company http://www.xchanging.com/investor-relations/xsl-content and also on the website of Stock Exchanges www.nseindia.com (National Stock Exchange of India Limited) and www.bseindia.com (BSE Limited), where the shares of the Company are listed. By order of the Board of Xchanging Solutions Limited

Dated: May 14, 2020 Place: Chennai

Aruna Mohandoss (Company Secretary)



YASHO INDUSTRIES LIMITED Office No.101/102 Peninsula Heights, C. D. Barfiwala Marg, Juhu Lane,

Andheri (West), Mumbai-400058, Maharashtra India. Telephone No. +91-22-62510100, Fax: +91-22-62510199 E-mail: info@yashoindustries.com,

Website: www.yashoindustries.com CIN. L74110MH1985PLC037900

NOTICE

Members of the Company are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 20 and Rule 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, (including any statutory modification(s) or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force), and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations) and the relaxations and clarifications issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs ('MCA') vide General Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08th April, 2020 and General Circular No. 17/2020 dated 13th April, 2020 ('MCA Circulars'), in relation passing of ordinary and special resolutions by companies under the Companies Act, 2013 through electronic voting (remote e-voting), the Company has on Wednesday, 13th May, 2020 sent an e-mail of Notice dated 01st May, 2020, to all the members whose name appeared on Register of Members/Record of Depositories received from National Securities Depository Limited/Centre Depository Service (India) Limited (Depositories) as on Friday, 08th May, 2020 (Cut-off date). The Company seeks approval of the shareholders of the Company by remote e-voting, including voting by electronic means, for the following matter:

Item No. Description of the Resolution

To Migrate the Listing/Trading of Equity Shares of the Company from BSE SME Segment to the Main Board of BSE Limited

Members whose names are recorded in the Register of Beneficial owners maintained by the Depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. Friday, 08th May, 2020 will be entitled to cast their votes by remote e-voting. A person who is not a Member on the cut-off date should accordingly treat the Notice as for information purposes only.

Due to country wide lockdown followed by supply chain disruption and labour demobilization, we are unable to send physical postal ballot notice to our Members, hence we urge all of them to use remote e-voting facility and cast their valuable vote. The Company has engaged the services of Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) for the purpose of providing e-voting facility to all its Members. Members are requested to note that the remote e-voting shall commence from Friday, 15th May, 2020 (9:00 AM IST) to Sunday, 14th June, 2020 (5:00 PM IST). The assent or dissent received after such date and time shall be treated as if reply from the Member has not been received. During this period, Members of the Company holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on cut-off date may cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter.

Members whose e-mail addresses are not registered with Registrar & Share Transfer Agent (RTA) and the Depositories, are required to provide their email IDs and other necessary details as per below format to the Company or RTA, on or before 5:00 p.m.

on Thursday, 11th June, 2020 pursuant to which, any Ne-mail ID provided by the Member this Notice and the pro	
Name of First Shareholder	78
Name of Second Shareholder (In case joint shareholder)	8
Permanent Account No. (PAN)	N .
Beneficiary Id/Client Id	
No. Share held	

Note: Kindly provide aforesaid details through email at cs@yashoindustries.com/ Ujata@bigshareonline.com/investor@bigshareonline.com.

In case you have any queries or issues regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at www.evotingindia.com, under help section or write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com.

The Board of Directors has appointed Mr. Dhrumil M Shah (Mem. No. F8021 and C.P. No. 8978), Practicing Company Secretary, as the scrutinizer for conducting the e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

The results of the remote e-voting will be declared on Tuesday, 16th June, 2020 at the registered office of the Company in case normalcy is attained. In case of lockdown, the remote e-voting results and report of the Scrutinizer will be furnished to the BSE Limited and will also be uploaded on the Company's website www.yashoindustries.com.

For Yasho Industries Limited

Date: 14th May, 2020 Place: Mumbai

Parag Vinod Jhaveri **Managing Director** DIN. 01257685

Rs. In Lakhs

HANSDEEP INDUSTRIES & TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

Jt. General Manager I/c (Materials)

CIN:- U74899DL1993PLC054817

Regd. Office: 3, Link House, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002 Standalone & Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the six months and financial year ended 31st March, 2020

CI			STANDALONE					
SI.	Particulars		Company of the compan		Year Ended	Year Ended	Year Ended	
No.		31.03.2020	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2019	
			Aud	ited		Auc	lited	
1	Total Income from Operations	3,162.74	11,601.50	12,875.12	17,665.31	12,875.12	17,665.31	
2	Net Profit for the Period (Before Tax and Exceptional Items)	(23.60)	12.83	(6.76)	(23.70)	(6.76)	(23.70)	
3	Net Profit for the Period before Tax (After Exceptional Items)	(23.60)	12.83	(6.76)	(23.70)	(6.76)	(23.70)	
4	Net Profit for the Period after Tax (After Exceptional Items)	(12.96)	1.53	(10.47)	(52.39)	(10.47)	(52.39)	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(12.96)	1.53	(10.47)	(52.39)	(10.47)	(52.39)	
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	11,605.00	11,605.00	11,605.00	11,605.00	11,605.00	11,605.00	
7	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserve)	373.96	1,228.87	373.96	1,228.87	366.45	1,221.37	
8	Net Worth	11,978.96	12,833.87	11,978.96	12,833.87	11,971.45	12,826.37	
9	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	25,430.04	44,357.60	25,430.04	44,357.60	25,430.04	44,357.60	
10	Debt Equity Ratio	2.12	3.46	2.12	3.46	2.12	3.46	
11	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) Basic: Diluted:	(0.01)	0.01 0.01	(0.01)	(0.05) (0.05)	(0.01)	(0.05)	
12	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.99	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
13	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.99	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	

- 1 The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 13th May, 2020. 2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Half-Yearly and Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing
- Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Half Yearly and Annual Financial Results are available on the websites of Stock 3 For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015,
- the pertinent disclosures have been made to BSE Ltd. and can be accessed on its website at www.bseindia.com.

FOR HANSDEEP INDUSTRIES & TRADING COMPANY LTD. (Bhawna Rustagi)

WTD, CFO and Company Secretary



Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund

Indiabulls Finance Center, Tower 2, 12th and 13th Floor, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone Road (West), Mumbai 400013

ATTENTION REQUIRED

Dear Investors.

In the notice dated April 23, 2020, the unitholders were informed that unitholders whose names appear in the register of unitholders as on close of business hours of April 24, 2020 shall be entitled to vote on the resolution, in connection with the winding up of the following schemes, under regulation 41(1):

- Franklin India Low Duration Fund (No. of Segregated Portfolios 2)
- Franklin India Ultra Short Bond Fund (No. of Segregated Portfolios 1)
- Franklin India Short Term Income Plan (No. of Segregated Portfolios 3)
- Franklin India Credit Risk Fund (No. of Segregated Portfolios 3)
- Franklin India Dynamic Accrual Fund (No. of Segregated Portfolios 3)
- Franklin India Income Opportunities Fund (No. of Segregated Portfolios 2)

In order to record the votes electronically, the Unitholders who have not registered their email id thus far, are required to register their email ids with us at the earliest.

To register your email ID with us:

- 1. Call on our toll-free number 1-800-425-4255 or 1-800-258-4255 from 8 a.m to 9 p.m Monday to Saturday.
- 2. Register by visiting us on: https://www.franklintempletonindia.com/investor/credit-fund-voting-rights and provide your Name, PAN or Folio number.

The notice and other details regarding the electronic voting shall be published shortly.

For Franklin Templeton Trustee Services Private Limited

(Trustee to Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund)

Authorised Signatory

Date: May 13, 2020

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

EXIT OFFER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF RAJPARIS CIVIL CONSTRUCTIONS LIMITED



Rajparis Civil Constructions Limited (CIN: L45201TN1988PLC015289)

Registered Office: 30, Greams Lane, Thousand Lights, Chennai - 600 006, Tel: 044-28290566, Corporate Office: Century Plaza, 7th Floor, E, 560 - 562, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600018 Tel: 044-24330035, Website: www.rajparis.in, Email: keerthana@rajparis.in, Contact Person: Ms. Keerthana M, Company Secretary

This exit offer public announcement ("Exit Offer Public Announcement") is being issued by (1) Mr R Satchidanandam, (2) Mr R Jeya Kumar and (3) Mr K Veluchamy (hereinafter referred to as the "Acquirers") to the remaining Public Shareholders ("Residual Public Shareholders") of Rajparis Civil Constructions Limited (the "Company") in respect of the voluntary delisting of the fully paid up equity shares of the Company with a face value of Rs. 10 each ("Equity Shares") from the Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited ("MSEI"), (hereinafter referred to as the "Stock Exchanges"), pursuant to Regulation 21 and other applicable provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Delisting of Equity Shares) Regulations, 2009 ("SEBI Delisting Regulations") ("Delisting Offer"). This Exit Offer Public Announcement is in continuation to and should be read in conjunction with the public announcement dated February 12, 2020

("Public Announcement") published on February 13, 2020, the letter of offer dated February 15, 2020 ("Letter of Offer"), and the Exit Price public announcement dated March 10, 2020 ("Exit Price Public Announcement"). Capitalised terms used but not defined in this Exit Offer Public Announcement shall have the same meaning assigned to them as in the Public

Announcement, the Letter of Offer, and the Exit Price Public Announcement. 1 INTIMATION OF DATE OF DELISTING

- 1.1 Following the closure of the Delisting Offer and in accordance with the SEBI Delisting Regulations, the Company had applied to the Stock Exchange on March 19, 2020 seeking the final approval for delisting of its Equity Shares from the Stock Exchange.
- MSEI vide its notice number MSE/LIST/9008/2020 dated May 12, 2020 ("MSEI Final Delisting Approval"), has communicated that trading in the Equity Shares of the Company (Scrip Symbol: RAJPARIS) will be discontinued with effect from Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ("MSEI Date of Discontinuance of Trading") and the above referred scrip will be delisted from MSEI records with effect from May 27, 2020 ("MSEI Date of Delisting").
- Pursuant to the MSEI Final Delisting Approval from MSEI Date of Discontinuation.
- OUTSTANDING EQUITY SHARES AFTER DELISTING

In accordance with Regulation 21 of the SEBI Delisting Regulations and as announced earlier in the Exit Price Public Announcement, the Residual Public Shareholders who did not or were not able to participate in the Reverse Book Building Process or who unsuccessfully tendered their Equity Shares in the Reverse Book Building Process and are currently holding Equity Shares will be able to tender their Equity Shares to the Acquirers at Rs.40/- per Equity Share ("Exit Price") for a period of one year from the Date of Delisting i.e. May 27, 2020 to May 26, 2021 ("Exit Window"). The exit letter of offer along with application form ("Exit Letter of Offer") in this regard shall be dispatched by the Acquirers to the Residual Public Shareholders whose names appear in the register of members of the Company as on May 27, 2020. In the event of the Residual Public Shareholders not receiving or misplacing the Exit Letter of Offer, they may obtain a copy of the Exit Letter of Offer by writing to the Registrar to the Delisting Offer, Cameo Corporate Services Limited, at Subramanian Building, No.1, Club House Road, Chennai 600 002, clearly marking the envelope "RAJPARIS" CIVIL CONSTRUCTIONS LIMITED DELISTING - EXIT LETTER OF OFFER". The Residual Public Shareholder may also download the soft copy of the Exit Letter of Offer from the website of the Company www.rajparis.in

Procedure for tendering your Equity Shares under the Exit Offer:

The Residual Public Shareholders holding Equity Shares in dematerialized form, who are desirous of tendering their Equity Shares in the Exit Offer, must transfer their equity shares from their respective depository accounts to the following Escrow Depository Account in off- market mode:

Depository Account Name	RCCL – DELISTING OFFER – DEMAT ESCROW ACCOUNT
Depository Participant	RLP SECURITIES PRIVATE LIMITED
Depository Identification No. (DP ID No.)	12043400
Client Identification No. (Client ID)	00177611
Depository	Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL)
ISIN of RAJPARIS CIVIL CONSTRUCTIONS LIMITED	INE477F01011

Residual Public Shareholders who hold their equity shares through National Security Depository Limited (NSDL) will have to execute inter-depository delivery instructions for the purpose of crediting their equity shares in favour of the aforesaid Escrow Depository Account.

On transferring the shares. Residual Public Shareholders are advised to send a copy of the delivery instruction slip duly acknowledged by the concerned depository together with duly completed, signed "Exit Offer Application Form" and other applicable documents by hand delivery or by registered post or by speed post or by courier (at their own risk) marking the envelope "Rajparis Civil Constructions Limited - Exit Offer" at the address of Registrar as mentioned below.

- PAYMENT OF CONSIDERATION TO THE RESIDUAL PUBLIC SHAREHOLDERS
- Subject to the fulfillment of the terms and conditions mentioned in the Exit Letter of Offer, the Acquirers to make payment on a monthly basis, within 10 working days or the end of the 15th calendar day of the relevant calendar month ("Monthly Payment Cycle"). The first Monthly Payment Cycle shall commence in 10 working days from May 31, 2020. Payments will be made only to those Residual Public Shareholders who have validly tendered their Equity Shares by following the instructions as set out in the Exit Letter of Offer. All queries may be directed to the Registrar to the Delisting Offer or the Manager to the Delisting Offer. The Acquirers reserves the right to make the payment earlier.
- The Acquirer will inform the Residual Public Shareholders by way of a public announcement of any changes to the information set out in the Exit Offer Public Announcement or the Exit Letter of Offer.

If the residual shareholders have any gueries with regard to the Delisting Exit Offer, they should consult the Manager to the Offer or the Registrar to the Offer (details appearing below). All other terms and conditions of the Delisting Offer as set forth in the Public Announcement, the Letter of Offer and the Exit Price Public Announcement remain unchanged

The terms used but not defined in this Public Announcement shall have the same meanings assigned to them in the original PA and the Letter of Offer.

MANAGER TO THE OFFER	REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER:
KARVY INVESTOR SERVICES LIMITED	
Plot No.31, 8th Floor, Karvy Millennium,	CAMEO CAMEO CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
Nanakramguda, Financial District, Gachibowli Hyderabad - 500 032, Telangana, India.	Subramanian Building, No. 1, Club House Road, Chennai – 600 002
Tel.: +91 40-23428774/33216840 to 33216844	Tel: +91-44 - 2846 0390 (5 Lines)
Fax: +91 40-23374714 / 23311968	Fax: +91-44 - 2846 0129
Email: cmg@karvy.com	E-mail: investor@cameoindia.com
Investor Grievances Email: igmbd@karvy.com	Contact Person: Ms. Sreepriya .K
Website: www.karvyinvestmentbanking.com	Website: www.cameoindia.com
Contact Person: M P Naidu / K Sushmitha	SEBI Registration No.: INR000003753
SEBI Registration No.: INM000008365	CIN: U67120TN1998PLC041613

For and on behalf of the Acquirers

R Jeya Kumar

Sd/-K Veluchamy

Date: May 13, 2020 Place: Chennai

R Satchidanandam



FINANCIAL EXPRESS

SLOWLY BUT STEADILY

China strives to make widespread coronavirus testing new normal

The easy access has helped firms, schools and entertainment providers to reopen after testing

BRENDA GOH & MIN ZHANG Shanghai/Beijing, May 13

BEIJING RESIDENT WANG Yukun was happy to comply in April when the construction firm he works for told him he'd need to take a test for the novel coronavirus before he could come back to work, even though he was at low risk of having the disease.

"My company arranged it and covered the test fee. The process was less time-consuming than I imagined," he said, recalling how he got his negative result the next day."I think everyone should be tested as a matter of personal health."

While coronavirus tests can be difficult to obtain in many countries, China is rapidly expanding their availability and affordability, enabling the masses — not just frontline workers, people from hard-hit areas or the sick - to get tested. China is able to produce 5 million test kits a day, the country's industry ministry said last month.

While China has not tallied how many daily tests are being carried out nationally, its capacity is far greater than other countries including the United States, which has conducted around 300,000 tests daily on average in recent days,



according to the non-profit Covid Tracking Project.

Even South Korea and Germany, hailed for tested widely, are currently able to conduct up to 30,000 and 120,000 tests a day, respectively.

Major Chinese cities and provinces have published lists of hundreds of hospitals and clinics now authorised to perform tests and are expanding laboratory capabilities to allow people to obtain their nucleic acid test results in a few hours.

Some local governments have added the tests to basic medical insurance schemes, helping to cover costs which range from 60-270 yuan (\$8.50-\$38).

The easy access has helped firms, schools and entertainment providers to reopen after widespread testing. Hosts of popular Chinese singing competition, Singer 2020, invited 251 audience members to record a live show last month after testing them.

It is also laying the groundwork for mass testing efforts, should the need arise. Wuhan, the epicentre of

China's coronavirus outbreak, plans to conduct nucleic acid testing across the city of 11 million after a cluster of new infections emerged, sources said.

China began pushing for widespread testing in April as concerns about the potential asymptomatic patients spreading the virus rose.

Since April 13, each Chinese province has been required to provide daily reports on their virus testing efforts, and a stringent nationwide regime of screening, testing and quar-

antine has seen case numbers fall sharply since peaking in mid-February.

Even so, China has refrained from making testing mandatory for all people. Daily, country-wide testing data is not published, and the ramp up of testing capability has been uneven.

Hubei, Guangdong, Zhejiang and Heilongjiang, which have a combined population of over 267 million, are together able to conduct at least 321,000 tests a day, according to statements they made in April and May.

Beijing has 67 labs capable of processing 48,000 tests a day. But other less well-off provinces including Yunnan and Guangxi are playing catch-up, opening new labs in recent weeks. —**REUTERS**

UP's outstanding dues to gencos hit ₹32,000 crore due to lockdown

DEEPA JAINANI Lucknow, May 13

EVEN AS THE Centre has announced a fresh ₹90,000crore package by PFC-REC to the state-run power distribution companies, Uttar Pradesh's outstanding dues to electricity generating companies (gencos) have kept on piling.

As on April 2020, the state discoms have accumulated pending bills to the tune of ₹32,000 crore to gencos, as against a total of ₹17,500 crore owed by them in March 2019, reflecting a severe stress in the sector. Of the ₹32,000 crore, state

generating companies' dues stand at ₹9,859 crore, those of IPPs stand at ₹9,700 crore and Central generating companies at ₹6,500 crore. The central transmission owes the discoms ₹1,200 crore while the state transmission owes ₹3,700 crore. Apart from this, the renewable energy producers have pending bills of ₹1,050 crore.

The discoms' over-dues bills that remained unpaid for more than 60 days — have been rising relentlessly. According to sources, among the IPPS, Lalitpur Power Generating Co has the maximum dues, worth ₹3,000 crore, followed by NTPC, at ₹2,900 crore.

The spurt in overdues in April is being seen as a direct outcome of the lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 outbreak, as it has adversely impacted the electricity demand and the revenues and cash collections for the discoms.

"The lockdown has resulted in a massive dip in power demand. Since the maximum demand fall has come from



UP abolishes 7 allowances of state government employees

BARELYA fortnight after the Uttar Pradesh government froze dearness allowance of 16 lakh employees for 18 months and suspended six other allowances for a year, the state has abolished 7 other allowances for its employees, including city compensation allowance and secretarial allowance, which impacts state employees, those of aided education institutes and technical education institutes, urban local bodies, doctors, police personnel, among others. The order was issued by the state finance department here on Tuesday. The city compensation allowance is given to all state employees and teachers posted in cities with a population of one lakh or more. There are 16 lakh state employee-teachers in the state. At present, the state employees are being given city compensation allowance ranging from ₹250 to ₹900 per month, according to the categories of cities. The order states that the decision has been taken to tide over the losses to the government exchequer due to Covid-19 and the ensuing lockdown and to implement various **FE BUREAU** schemes to control its spread.

industrial and commercial establishment, which pay aggravated the payment higher tariffs, the blow has delays to generation compabeen very hard. To add to that is the fact that collections from power sold has not been more than 10-20% as it has been difficult to continue meter reading exercises and collect payments from consumers amid the country-wide lock-

down. These factors have nies," said an official.

At the end of March 2020, overall discoms dues to power producers across India stood at a staggering ₹90,577 crore, up 41% from a year earlier. About 88% of these (₹79,829 crore) were overdues.

UP gives industry status to logistics and warehousing

FE BUREAU Lucknow, May 13

CLOSE ON THE heels of suspending labour reforms and providing ample legroom to existing and new industrial units in the state to help alleviate post Covid-19 distress, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to accord industry status to warehousing and logistics sector, thereby, reducing the cost of setting up of such units. Stating that chief minister

Yogi Adityanath has given his $consent for the {\it new incentive} for$ warehousing and logistics sector, industrial development minister Satish Mahana said that this sectorhad immense potential to create enormous job opportunities that are required to address the unemployment crisis faced by migrants who are forced to return to their home states. "By granting industry status to the sector, the state is on its way to establish itself as a favourable destination for investments in the sector in northern India," the ministersaid, adding that operations of warehousing & logistics sector will now be considered as industrial activities by all state development authorities in the context of land-use.

Infrastructure and industrial development commissioner Alok Tandon said that this will drastically lower the cost of setting up units in Uttar Pradesh "From now on, industrial landuse charges will be applicable to warehousing & logistics sector units and parks in the state. Presently, change of land use is charged at 150% of circle rate from agriculture to commercial land use, which will be only 35% of circle rate as agriculture to industrial land-use change will be applicable," he said.

SpaceX seeks \$656,000 funding from California in midst of Musk's battle

DANA HULL San Francisco, May 13

ELON MUSK'S SPACE Exploration Technologies is seeking almost \$656,000 in new funding from California in the midst of the billionaire's battle over whether Tesla should be reopening its plant in the state.

SpaceX's request for funds to train existing workers and hire new ones will go before the state's Employment Training Panel on May 15, one week after the county that's home to Tesla's factory sought to block the facility from resuming operations. The company sued the next day, and its chief executive officer threatened to move Tesla's headquarters, future programs and potentially its manufacturing out of the state.

Musk, 48, appears to be prevailing in the stand-off. He tweeted on Monday that Tesla was restarting production in spite of Alameda County's order and said that if anyone is arrested, he wanted to be the only one. SpaceX's proposal, which is included in the minutes for the state panel's virtual meeting, is for two projects. The first seeks funding to train roughly 900 existing employees for Starlink, which is in the



first phase of building a spacebased broadband internet service and has launched more

than 240 satellites. "This project has increased the demand for training for SpaceX to ensure that the trainees have the training necessary to execute Starlink," the proposal reads. The company's goal is to provide service to the northern U.S. and Canada this year and expand to global coverage by 2021. The second project calls for SpaceX to hire 300 additional employees to work on

moon, Mars and elsewhere. The Employment Training Panel staff has recommended approval of the proposal, according to the 600-page document.

Starship, the spacecraft Musk

hopes will ferry humans to the

It would be the panel's second grant awarded to the closely held company, after \$177,148 was given in June 2018.

Later this month, SpaceX is slated to ferry American astronauts to the International Space Station for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Tesla has also sought and been awarded funding. In February, the company appeared before the panel and asked for \$380,512 to train workers, including 1,000 new employees. Minutes of the February meeting show that the company was asked several questions by panel members about previous funding and the company's history of layoffs, and no action was taken. The proposal was withdrawn. —BLOOMBERG

Amazon says deliveries returning to normal post coronavirus crush

SPENCER SOPER Seattle, May 13

AMAZON.COM SAYS THE one- and two-day delivery times that shoppers have come to expect should gradually return in coming weeks as the online retailer catches up from a demand surge tied to the coronavirus outbreak.

The company on Sunday lifted restrictions on the amount of inventory its suppliers can send to Amazon warehouses and is shortening delivery times — which had stretched for weeks for some products since the outbreak began — back to days. The shares rose less than 1% in early trading on Wednesday.

Amazon spends months preparing for the surge in consumer demand that usually comes during the holiday season. The Covid-19 outbreak that closed many retail brickand-mortar stores and sent millions of shoppers online created a month's worth of Black Friday spending without warning. Once Amazon fell behind, it took several weeks and hiring 175,000 people to get back on track.

"We removed quantity limits on products our suppliers can send to our fulfillment



centers," Amazon spokeswoman Kristen Kish said in an email. "We continue to adhere to extensive health and safety measures to protect our associates as they pick, pack and ship products to customers, and are improving delivery speeds across our store."

Even with the delays, Amazon saw a major spike in sales tied to the coronavirus outbreak because shoppers had so few choices. Amazon, big box stores, supermarkets and pharmacies were among the few businesses deemed essential and allowed to remain open. But the delays were starting to tarnish Amazon's reputation with its customers and its merchants who supply more than half the goods sold on the site. —BLOOMBERG

CDC doctors stress plans for more flareups of coronavirus in future

ASSOCIATED PRESS Gainesville (US), May 13

ADVICE FROM THE nation's top disease control experts on how to safely reopen businesses and institutions in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic included detailed instructive guidance and some more restrictive measures than the plan released by the White House last month.

The guidance, which was shelved by Trump administration officials, also offered recommendations to help communities decide when to shut facilities down again during future flareups of Covid-19.

The Associated Press obtained a 63-page document that is more detailed than other, previously reported segments of the shelved guidance from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It shows how the thinking of the CDC infection control experts differs from those in the White House managing the pan-

demic response. The White House's "Opening Up America Again" plan that was released April 17 included some of the CDC's approach, but made clear that



draft and not ready for release

the onus for reopening decisions was solely on state governors and local officials.

By contrast, the organisational tool created by the CDC advocates for a coordinated national response to give community leaders step-by-step instructions to "help Americans re-enter civic life," with the idea that there would be resurgences of the virus and lots of customization needed.

The White House said last week that the document was a draft and not ready for release.

It contains the kinds of specifics that officials need to make informed decisions,

some experts said. "The White House is pushing for reopening but the

truth of the matter is the White House has just not had a comprehensive plan where all the pieces fit. They're doing it piecemeal," said Dr Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.

Such detailed advice should have been available much earlier, said Stephen Morse, a Columbia University expert on the spread of diseases.

"Many different places are considering how to safely develop return-to-work procedures. Having more guidance on that earlier on might have been more reassuring to people. And it might have have prevented some cases," Morse said.

Google-Fitbit deal criticised by consumer group over concerns

AOIFE WHITE Brussels, May 13

GOOGLE'S TAKEOVER OF fitness tracker Fitbit could be "a game-changer" for health data that will need close European Union scrutiny, consumer advocates said.

Reviewing how Fitbit's data could add to Google's powerful position in online advertising makes the deal a test case for regulators, said BEUC, which represents consumer associations across Europe. It argues that wearables create a new frontier by tracking users' health and location around the clock.

"The use of data from wearables in tracking Covid-19 infections and providing access to doctors and health information is a timely illustration of this," BEUC said Wednesday. The takeover would place Google "in an unassailable position in digital health and wearables markets."

Google's plan to buy Fitbit is running into a wall of antitrust and privacy concerns in the US, Europe and Australia, where competition officials are increasingly wary of

financiale



how internet giants can exert control over data. The deal advances the plans of Google parent Alphabet to expand in the healthcare sector by adding data from Fitbit's more than 28 million users.

Google declined to comment, but referred to remarks it made in a November 2019 blogpost. It has previously said it plans "to work constructively with regulators to answer their questions" about the deal and won't sell personal information to anyone.

"Fitbit health and wellness data will not be used for Google ads. And we will give Fitbit users the choice to review, move, or delete their data," the company **—BLOOMBERG**

Lessons from porn industry could help Hollywood adapt to Covid-19 **ROLLO ROSS**

Los Angeles, May 13

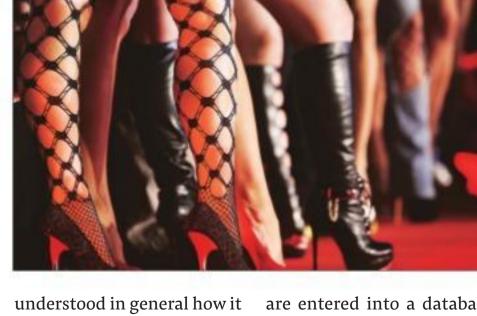
AS HOLLYWOOD TRIES to figure out how to resume production of movies and TV shows in the coronavirus era, one sector may be better prepared than others to deal with the challenges.

The porn industry in Los Angeles came up with its own testing system and database in the 1990s to protect actors during the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Now it is using that system to develop protocols for making adult entertainment during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"When we first starting talking about Covid, we felt very well prepared because we have a whole history of testing within the industry as well as contact tracing and production shut-downs," said Mike Stabile, spokesman for the Free Speech Coalition, a trade association for the US adult entertainment industry.

"This is obviously a different type of virus, this is a different type of threat, but we



would work and what we'd need to do in order to protect ourselves," he said.

The protocols were established in the late 1990s after a porn actor forged an HIV test and infected several others in the industry.

Porn star Sharon Mitchell, who is now a physician, created a system now known as PASS (Performer Availability Scheduling Services), in which porn actors are required to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases every 14 days. The results are entered into a database which informs producers and directors who is clean and available for work.

"All it tells us is a binary. Are you clear to work or are you not clear to work?" Stabile said.

Stabile said the coronavirus, which is more easily transmitted, is a more complex problem but that the porn industry was open to working with mainstream Hollywood studios to share its expertise.

"The challenges for sports, for Hollywood and the porn industry are all different but in

reality, we each have things we can learn from each other." Stabile said.

Hollywood movie studios, television networks and groups representing actors and directors have been brainstorming for weeks on how to re-start production while protecting everyone from actors to makeup artists and camera crews.

Ideas include quarantining all cast and crew for the length of a shoot, medics on sets, temperature tests every 12 hours, and substituting extras and crowd scenes with computer generated imagery, according to leaked documents and industry sources.

Movie and TV production in Europe — including Iceland, Denmark and the Czech Republic, where many Hollywood shows are filmed - is expected to resume before the United States, according to the film commissions in those nations. But questions linger over insurance and how much actors and directors will want to travel when the outbreak has yet to be contained in many countries. —**REUTERS**

after virus recedes: Twitter

Staff can work from home

San Francisco, May 13

BLOOMBERG

TWITTER WILL LET employees work from home permanently even after health authorities allow workers to return to their offices when the danger of the Covid-19 outbreak recedes.

Chief executive officer Jack Dorsey told employees San Francisco-based Twitter was unlikely to open its offices before September, but that even when the companydoes so, most employees can work from wherever they want, according to a blog to be posted on Tuesday. Buzzfeed earlier reported the policy. "If our employees are in a role and situation that enables them to work from home and they want to continue to do so forever, we will make that happen,"Twitter said in the post. "If not, our offices will be their warm and welcoming selves, with some additional precautions, when

The company has more than 35 offices worldwide, including in Paris, New York and Toronto.

we feel it's safe to return."

"We've been very thoughtful in how we've approached this from the time we were one of the

first companies to move to a work-from-home model,"Twitter said in a statement. "We'll continue to be, and we'll continue to put the safety of our people and communities first."

The announcement follows directives from Alphabet's Google and Facebook that their employees should expect to work from home for the rest of the year.

Apple plans to return more staff Apple plans to soon start return-

ing more employees to its major global offices while other tech companies are continuing workfrom-home policies through at least the end of 2020 due to Covid-19. The Cupertino, California-based technology giant plans to bring back employees in phases to its offices, including the main Apple Park campus in Silicon Valley, over a few months, according to people familiar with the plan. The first phase, which includes staff members who can't work remotely or are facing challenges working from home, has already begun in

some regions globally.