AJCON GLOBAL

Date: July 24, 2020

To,

The Manager
Department of Corporate Services (DCS)
BSE Ltd.
P.J. Towers, 1st Floor
Dalal Street,
Mumbai-400001.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: Scrip Code: 511692.
Sub: News paper Advertisement for Board Meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 30, 2020.

Pursuant to the Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, enclosed herewith the copy of newspapers in which advertisement of Board Meeting Notice published.

Please take the same on record.

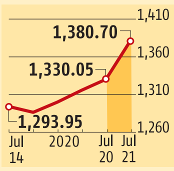
Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,

For Ajcon Global Services Ltd.

Ankit Ajmera
(Executive Director)
Encl. : As above

STOCKS
IN THE NEWS

ACC

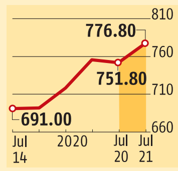


Operating Ebitda margin expansion of 156 basis points at 20.8%

₹1,380.70 CLOSE

▲ 3.81% UP*

SBI Cards and Payment Services

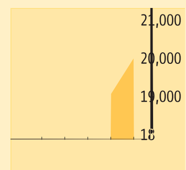


GNPA improves by 133bps to 1.35% in Q1FY21 from 2.68% for Q1FY20

₹776.80 CLOSE

▲3.33% UP*

Eicher Motors



Top gainer among S&P BSE auto index stocks

* OVER PREVIOUS CLOSE

OMCs invite start-ups to deliver diesel at doorstep

SHINE JACOB
New Delhi, 21 July

In what might be the Uber-Ola moment for fuel retail in India, oil marketing companies (OMCs) are planning to rope in start-ups or FuelEnts (fuel entrepreneurs) for doorstep delivery of high-speed diesel (HSD) through mobile petrol pumps. This move is expected to help garner around ₹9,000 crore of investments, according to industry experts.

The OMCs — Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation — have invited expressions of interest (EoIs) from start-ups that wish to be enrolled as FuelEnts. The firms that were already in the sector as partners of OMCs will now become official resellers after turning FuelEnts.

The major players already running home delivery of diesel include FuelBuddy, Repos Energy, Pepfuels, MyPetrolPump, and Humsafar. A source said around ₹2,000 crore of revenue is up for grabs for interested players in the next 12-18 months.

Calling for EoIs on July 15, IOC said the aim was to register start-ups to set up the door-to-door delivery of diesel as a business proposition. "To improve last-mile delivery, the government is promoting less capital petrol pumps, that can be operated with a small investment of ₹20-30 lakh. We expect at least 30,000 entrepreneurs to get registered as FuelEnts, that may see investments to the tune of ₹9,000 crore. We have a presence in 130 cities and plan to expand with this move," said Chetan Walunj, CEO, Repos Energy, which is a start-up backed by Ratan Tata.

The total diesel consumption in India in 2019-20 was 82.6 million tonne (mt), down by 1 per cent from 83.5 mt in 2018-19. The FuelEnts will be able to substitute the supply location or retail outlet if the dealer gives a consent letter and has loading facility for the mobile dispensers at the retail outlet, according to Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) regulations, the EOI document said.

> **Home delivery of diesel may help bring in investments of ₹9,000 cr, say experts**

"This is going to be the Uber-Ola moment in fuel retail. It will open up at least 30 per cent of the overall diesel market for start-ups. Moreover, the demand for diesel is going to increase in the coming years and, hence, this will be a game changer," said Adnan Kidwai, co-founder of FuelBuddy.

Localised lockdowns swell the carts of online grocers

SAMREEN AHMAD
Bengaluru, 21 July

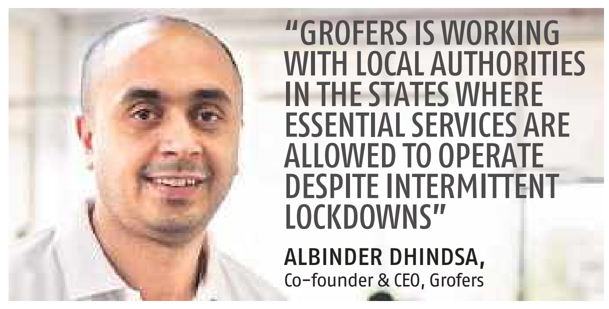
As a wave of local lockdowns and restrictions grip several states in the country, online grocers are seeing an uptick in the number of orders per day, with people avoiding markets and *mandi*s.

During the initial phases of the nationwide lockdown, there were several restrictions that the delivery executives faced leading to breakdown of the home delivery mechanism.

However, in the localised lockdowns, which have been in force in several states and cities, the delivery mechanism has been quite smooth. According to experts, while there has been a general shift in buying groceries online, local lockdowns have accelerated that even more.

For online grocers BigBasket, Bengaluru, being the biggest city in terms of revenue contribution, has seen a spike in orders during the lockdown. Currently, the company is doing close to 40,000 orders a day in the city. The base is constantly increasing though not as fast as it happened in April and May when people were seen indulging in panic buying.

"We are facing challenges when it comes to delivering in the containment zones but because of the support from local authorities and commitment from our delivery executives, we have been able to deliver even in the containment zones," said a company spokesperson.



Bengaluru currently has over 5,500 containment zones and the lockdown is likely to end on Wednesday. States such as Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have also implemented lockdowns in several pockets.

According to Grofers co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Albinder Dhindsa, his company is working with local authorities in the states where essential services are allowed to operate despite intermittent lockdowns.

Categories such as fruits and vegetables are seeing traction in revenue contributions for online grocery players during the second phase of lockdowns. For Alibaba-backed BigBasket, fruits and vegetables, which contributed 16-18 per cent of monthly revenue during pre-Covid times, have risen to 20 per cent of the revenue. "We have seen a positive trend towards the meat category as well. So, we are expanding and strengthening the offers across all cities," the company said.

As compared to pre-Covid times, Milkbasket is also seeing higher sales in the fruits and vegetables and staples section. "Consumers are paying extra attention to hygiene. Hence, it has a direct impact on floor cleaners, toilet cleaners, detergents as well as soaps and sanitizers," said Anant Goel, co-founder and CEO, Milkbasket. The Gurugram-based firm is now fulfilling 60,000 orders per day, compared to 50,000-55,000 per day earlier.

According to e-commerce experts, home deliveries are running smoothly during intermittent lockdowns, as there is structured demand from customers. "Earlier, there was a lot of panic-buying among customers, but now they know that groceries will be delivered to them either online or offline," said Satish Meena, senior forecast analyst at Forrester Research.

For Walmart-owned Flipkart, consumers' focus on grocery and other essential products continues to see an uptake, with the average order size in the category seeing decent growth. "Some of the products that have seen continual demand include hand sanitizers, ice tea, instant drink mix, ready baking mixes, syrups, digestives, dry fruits, baking ingredients, juices and snacks along with cleaning essentials, among others," said a Flipkart spokesperson.

"The potential danger of a crowded market during the current pandemic, for both shoppers and workers, and the fragility of the food supply, have people frantically looking for reliable, low-contact or no-contact groceries. Farms and small businesses are rising to the occasion, adopting more direct distribution models for local foods in a time of crisis," said Somdutta Singh, founder and CEO of e-commerce management firm Assiduus Global.

Passenger vehicle sales dip 38% in June: Fada

Passenger vehicle retail sales fell 38.34 per cent in June to 126,417 units as compared to the same month last year as Covid-19 continued to impact the sentiment of buyers, automobile dealers' body FADA said on Tuesday.

According to Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), which collected vehicle registration data from 1,230 out of the 1,440 regional transport offices, passenger vehicle sales stood at 205,011 units in June 2019.

Two-wheeler sales declined 40.92 per cent to 790,118 units last month, as compared with 13,37,462 units in June 2019.

Commercial vehicle sales plunged 83.83 per cent to 10,509 units as against 64,976 units in the year-ago period.

Three-wheeler sales fell 75.43 per cent to 11,993 units last month as compared with 48,804 units in June 2019. Total sales across categories slipped 42 per cent to 984,395 units in June as against 1,697,166 units in the year-ago period. FADA President Ashish Harsharaj Kale said the overall weak economic sentiment and rising number of Covid patients have impacted consumer confidence, especially in bigger cities. PTI

Why don't PSBs invoke personal guarantees? SC poser to Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 21 July

The Supreme Court has asked the Finance Ministry to respond to a representation seeking disciplinary action against public sector banks (PSBs) for not invoking personal guarantees of promoters and directors of firms defaulting in repayment of huge loans.

The plea claimed around ₹1,900 crore are lost every day due to PSBs not invoking personal guarantees of big corporate loan defaulters.

In an order on Monday, a Bench comprising Justices R F Nariman and Navin Sinha took note of the submissions of senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra and asked him to approach the Ministry of Finance within two weeks with the representation on the issue and the government will have to reply in four weeks thereafter.

"We are of the view that at page ...of the Writ Petition it has been made clear that the Ministry of Finance itself has, by a Circular, directed personal guarantees issued by promoters/managerial personnel to be invoked.

"According to the petitioners, despite this Circular, Public Sector Undertakings continue not to invoke such guarantees resulting in huge loss not only to the public exchequer but also to the common man," the top court said in its order.

The plea, filed by one Saurabh Jain, has sought "to initiate disciplinary proceedings against PSU Banks which have not invoked the personal guarantees of promoters, directors, or managerial personnel in accordance with the circular...".

Mishra, during the hearing, has submitted that the statistics show there was a loss of approximately ₹1.85 trillion in a financial year to the PSBs while they shy away from invoking personal guarantees of the biggest corporate defaulters.

Moratorium or not: Bankers' dilemma

HAMSINI KARTHIK
Mumbai, 21 July

The banking sector is divided on extending the moratorium on loan repayments yet again.

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar has dismissed the need for further relaxation on repayments, with initial estimates — pertaining to the impact on banks' asset quality in FY21 — causing much worry. Krishnan Sitaraman, senior director (financial sector ratings and structured finance ratings) at CRISIL, however, has said that slippages could increase by 250-300 bps in FY21, without any relaxation.

On similar lines, Prakash Agarwal, director and head (financial institutions) at India Ratings, said slippages could rise to even 5.5 per cent, reiterating that banks could be bracing for a tough year in the absence of any regulatory intervention.

HDFC Bank, Federal Bank, and Bandhan Bank have all raised their contingency provisioning towards likely loan losses due to the pandemic, indicating that the amount set aside earlier could be insufficient.

Many of the top banks have either raised or are in the process of raising capital to hedge against a potential spike in bad loans. This indicates that the picture on asset quality is yet to be clec-0.07(al,) T in the₹124.8(v)Dt0(of ta)24.8(he n9.7(e-070.013 Tc0.27201 Tw-1(the s)-5.ted that op9.8isitio)-9.5(en. This e w)-0.0189 Tc-0.0163 TwT2(c

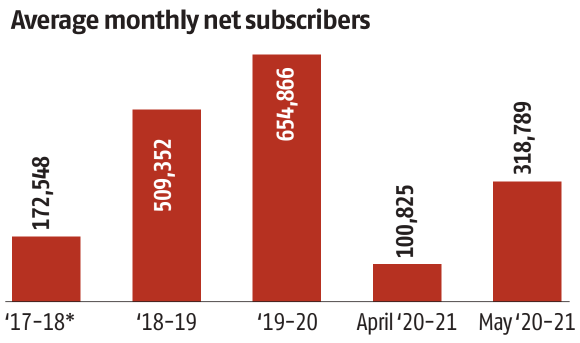
FORMALISATION OF ECONOMY PICKING UP

ILLUSTRATION BY AJAY MOHANTY

A look at the net subscriber base of the employee provident fund (EPF) in May indicates that formalisation of the economy is picking up pace. The net subscriber base of EPF, broad indicator of formalisation of the economy, stood at 318,789 in May, three times the number in April. The May number was also more than the average monthly numbers in 2017-18, when the data started to be compiled from September that year. However, there is a long way to go before it comes to the level of average numbers of 2018-19 and 2019-20.

INDIVJAL DHASMANA

Average monthly net subscribers



* (from September)

Source: EPFO

SBI Life pre-tax profit up 2.6% to ~387 crore

SBI Life Insurance has reported a 2.6 per cent rise in profit before tax to ₹387.68 crore in the first quarter of this financial year, while its net profit grew 5 per cent to ₹390 crore in the same period last year. While the new business premium of the insurer fell 3 per cent to ₹3,060 crore in the June quarter, its gross written premium rose 14 per cent to ₹7,640 crore, against ₹6,690 crore in the same period a year ago.

The value of new business was down 29 per cent year on year to ₹240 crore. The new business margin of the insurer stood at 18.7 per cent in Q1FY21, against 17.9 per cent in the same period a year ago, up 80 basis points.

BS REPORTER

HDFC Life's pre-tax profit rises 2.8%

Private insurer HDFC Life has reported a 2.8 per cent jump in pre-tax profit to ₹450.65 crore in the first quarter of this financial year (Q1FY21), against ₹437.97 crore in the year-ago period. Net profit of the insurer rose 6 per cent to ₹451 crore in the same period versus ₹425 crore a year ago.

While the new business premium of the insurer declined 33 per cent year on year to 2,623 crore in Q1FY21, the renewal premium grew 24 per cent to ₹3,239 crore. It takes the total premium earned by the insurer in the last quarter to ₹5,863 crore, down 10 per cent over ₹6,536 crore in Q1FY20.

BS REPORTER

ICICI Prudential Life's PBT rises 8.4% to ~311 cr

Private sector insurer ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has reported an 8.36 per cent rise in pre-tax profit at ₹311 crore in Q1FY21, against ₹287 crore in the year-ago quarter, due to growth in renewal premiums and cost-cutting measures.

The net profit grew 1 per cent to ₹288 crore, versus ₹285 crore on account of higher effective tax. The company's new business premium fell 32.6 per cent year on year to ₹1,499 crore in Q1FY21, against ₹2,226 crore in the same period last year.

Value of new business was down 35 per cent to ₹201 crore in the first quarter this financial year to ₹309 crore.

BS REPORTER

Construction workers to soon get migration certificates

SOMESH JHA
New Delhi, 21 July

The central government has proposed issuing migration certificates to construction workers so that they continue to receive benefits of various welfare schemes even after they migrate to another state for work.

This comes after the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted gaps in government database, which, along with other issues, was the reason many construction workers didn't get adequate welfare benefits.

The Centre has set an ambitious target for the states to double the number of registered construction workers in the country within the next three months for receiving welfare benefits, after noting that the workforce had to live in "pathetic conditions" during the pandemic.

"At present there is no dynamic all-India portal and every state has its individual database which may or may not be able to transfer his or her data from other database," according to the 'mission-mode project for building and other construction workers advisory guidelines' framed by the Union labour and employment ministry. The Centre has sent the guidelines to the states earlier this month.

Under the proposed system, workers will be registered online through their mobile number. After this, a 'migration certificate' will automatically be issued to all such workers instantly. Once the worker migrates to some other state, the data will be uploaded on a national portal and a new registration number will be given by the state where the worker is going to work.

Further, the Centre has told the states to frame a scheme for providing subsistence allowance to all construction workers in times of pandemic and natural calamities.

The fact that only 18 million out of the 50 million construction workers in India could get financial assistance through direct benefit transfer during the ongoing pandemic prompted the Centre to devise a cohesive strategy to expand the coverage within the next three months.

"It (the exclusion of construction workers) was mainly due to

WELFARE SCHEMES TO BE PROVIDED TO CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

- Health insurance under the PM Jan Arogya Bima Yojana
- Life and disability cover through PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana/PM Suraksha Bima Yojana
- Life-long pension through Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana
- Subsistence allowance to deal with, during natural calamities or a pandemic

OTHER STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN 3 MONTHS

- Registration of over **15 million** left-out construction workers
- Renewal of registration of **9 million** workers
- Portability of registration through migration certificates

non-availability of Aadhaar and bank details of individual workers. A handful of states could not disburse a single rupee due to absence of any such records of bank details and non-digitisation of data," the document read.

The government has set a five-fold objective for the mission-mode project to cover all construction workers, along with utilising the welfare funds in an effective manner. This includes a social security umbrella, which would have subsistence allowance, and creating a database.

"It is suggested that they may be provided with the subsistence allowance during such crisis, periods of unemployment, loss of work owing to natural calamities. A scheme, if not already in place, may be approved and operationalised by the (welfare) boards," the guidelines said.

The project envisages registration of construction workers through special drives, including door-to-door campaigns, and self-registration through an online portal. The Centre has advised states to not ask for any documents from the workers, other than their Aadhaar and bank account details and to ensure the verification process is taken up remotely, instead of asking workers to report to government offices physically.

Of the 50 million construction workers, 34.8 million were registered to receive benefits under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act of 1996. However, the registration of only about 25.7 million workers was up-to-date as the registration could not be renewed on time.

The government has now mooted that the process of renewal be moved online or through "hassle-free telephonic access".

Under the BoCW Act, states levy cess on construction work (1 per cent of the construction cost of building or project) which is used to pass on the benefits of welfare schemes to the workers. In all, states had collected ₹61,049 crore till May 2020, of which over 60 per cent — ₹38,000 crore — is still unutilised.

"The problems of the migrant construction workers during the Covid-19 pandemic brought to the fore the attention of all concerned authorities, especially about the pathetic conditions in which the construction workers have lived and compelled to come on to the streets as the required assistance were not forthcoming timely," the guidelines read.

It added that the lacunae and the shortcomings in the delivery mechanism and lapses on the part of the agencies were identified as the chief reasons "for partial failure of delivery system".

CARE Ratings
Professional Risk Opinion

CARE Ratings Limited

(CIN:L67190MH1993PLC071691)

Regd. Office: 4th Floor, Godrej Coliseum, Somaiya Hospital Road, Off Eastern Express Highway, Sion (East), Mumbai 400022.

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Monday, August 10, 2020,** inter-alia, (a) To consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the first quarter ended June 30, 2020. (b) To consider declaration of Interim Dividend, if any.

The Notice is also available on the Stock Exchanges website, **www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com** and Company's website **www.careratings.com**

For **CARE Ratings Limited**
Sd/-
Navin Kumar Jain
Company Secretary

Place: Mumbai

LAURUS Labs
Knowledge . Innovation . Excellence

Laurus Labs Limited

Registered Office: Plot No.21, Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City, Parawada, Visakhapatnam – 531021, Andhra Pradesh
Corporate Office: 2nd Floor, Serene Chambers, Road No.7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad – 500 034, Telangana
Phone: +91 40 3980 4333; Fax: +91 40 3980 4320
Email:secretarial@lauruslabs.com;Website:www.lauruslabs.com
CIN: L24239AP2005PLC047518

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2020, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30, 2020.

Further the Notice is also available on the website of the Company at www.lauruslabs.com.

By Order of the Board
For Laurus Labs Limited
Sd/- G. Venkateswar Reddy
Company Secretary

Place: Hyderabad
Date: July 21, 2020

apcotex industries limited

apcotex

Regd. Office:
Plot No.3/1, MIDC Industrial Area, Taloja - 410 208, Dist. Raigad, Maharashtra Tel.: 2740 3500 Fax: 2741 2052
www.apcotex.com Email: redressal@apcotex.com
CIN: L99999MH1986PLC039199

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with regulation 47 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the company is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, the 30th July 2020** inter-alia to consider and approve the audited financial results for the quarter ended 30th June 2020.

The information contained in this notice is also available on the company's website www.apcotex.com and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

By order of the Board
For **Apcotex Industries Limited**
Sd/-
Anand V. Kumashi

Place: Navi Mumbai

Jagran

JAGRAN PRAKASHAN LIMITED

CIN-L22219UP1975PLC004147
Registered Office: Jagran Building, 2, Sarvodaya Nagar, Kanpur-208005
Tel: +91 512 2216161, Fax: +91 512 2298040
Website: www.jplcorp.in, E-mail: investor@jagran.com

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 and other applicable regulations of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended from time to time, notice is hereby given that the Meeting of the Board of Directors of **Jagran Prakashan Limited** is scheduled to be held on **Friday, July 31, 2020** to, *inter-alia*, consider and approve the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended **June 30, 2020.**

The information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's corporate website www.jplcorp.in, on the website of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com) and BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).

Pursuant to Code of Conduct to Regulate, Monitor and Report Trading by Designated Persons and Immediate Relatives as per Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015, as amended from time to time, **the Trading Window has been closed from July 01, 2020 till the conclusion of 48 hours from the conclusion of the Board Meeting to be held on Friday, July 31, 2020.**

For Jagran Prakashan Limited
Sd/-
(Amit Jaiswal)

Birth pangs of virtual courts

Litigants will gain in the long run as digital justice will be faster and cheaper

OUT OF COURT

M J ANTONY

On an average day set for hearing new cases, the Supreme Court used to hear more than 800 cases in 16 court rooms. That was till the lockdown was imposed unexpectedly in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. Now only some five virtual courts are sitting, and they take up a hundred urgent matters. The situation is similar in other courts.

While the health and education sectors have been frantically trying to meet the situation brought about by the coronavirus with some success, the policymakers in top judiciary were groping in the dark for four months now, including a laid-back vacation in between. The virtual court (VC) system functioning at present has been found to be deeply flawed and is assailed by the legal profession, represented by the Bar Council of India and several Bar associations. They have alleged that it is crippled by technical glitches, is opaque, violates the principles of open court and "basic structure", favours the rich and tech-savvy like firms and tends to bring in inequalities in the profession. It has impoverished many lawyers who are given doles by some Bar associations. Some are reportedly leaving legal hubs and migrating to their native places and even changing profession.

Justice D Y Chandrachud of the SC, who is piloting the digitalisation, has dissuaded people from the idea that VC hearings are "some sort of a panacea". He admitted that "we had to resort to VC hearings because Covid-19 descended without warning and we had no other choice". The SC has issued guidelines on virtual hearing. They involve simplifying the filing procedure, among other steps. They would take quite some time.

With 35 million cases pending in various courts, 65,000 in the Supreme Court itself, urgent steps should have been taken long ago. But the development was halting in the last decade. Videoconferencing in criminal courts started around 2003 and only in 2014 it became more prevalent, that too in prominent cases. The courts should now urgently set up special e-benches which should dispose of old cases where the issues might have lost relevance and parties might have given up hope. In a 2017 judgment, the SC itself had suggested this.

Litigants should welcome digital justice, despite the birth pangs. VCs are here to stay whether or not coronavirus succumbs to our prayers of various kinds. They will permanently change the judicial system. For one thing, they will eliminate long-winded arguments by arguing counsels who earn lakhs of rupees per hour. Virtual hearing and streaming it to public will force lawyers to be less verbose and theatrical. Judgments are likely to be shorter. The new paperless system will eliminate cumbersome procedures, and would protect forests as 11 billion sheets per year are reportedly used in court proceedings. The system will be cheaper, faster and more democratic, as all parties and even judges will be equal before technology. Litigants need not go to crowded courts or tribunals situated far away.

Governments will also gain as there would be no need to set up new benches of High Courts or the Supreme Court under political pressure. Artificial intelligence (AI) might reduce the need for appointment of more judges (another vexing issue) as AI might do some of their job better, without fear or favour.

It is the subordinate courts and tribunals, which presently lack basic facilities like stable tables and chairs, that will find difficulty in adapting to the brave new world. They have to deal with original documents, scores of witnesses and accused persons kept in jails. Video proceedings might make it difficult for the judges to read the minds of witnesses who are not physically present. Lawyers will find it hard to sense the thoughts of judges and spin their arguments accordingly. Their cross-examination will be devoid of sound and fury, whose exaggerated versions are found in the last part of thriller movies and novels.

Amid the turmoil caused by the future crashing through the roof, the filing of new cases has fallen in recent months. But they will bounce back in all courts when the virus emergency is over. Litigants are either waiting for return of normalcy or abandoning their rights. Those who lost faith in the system meanwhile will try to settle issues out of court or in the streets. Police justice will rise. Bounced cheques might float like autumn leaves and debt recovery will be outsourced to 56-inch re-possessors. If the route to VC and artificial intelligence is not cleared urgently, we might expect dark industries growing green shoots.

CHINESE WHISPERS

Income source unmasked

The Lucknow Police have procured 50,000 masks from the state rural development department for distribution among those found in public places without wearing one. This will serve two purposes. The department will have an additional income and people who refuse to wear them will be covered up. Not that these masks are free. While offenders are liable to pay ₹500 as penalty for not wearing masks, they are also supposed to buy two masks for ₹10 on the spot. Lucknow Police Commissioner Sujeet Pandey is at the forefront of the "masking" drive by conducting surprise checks at important intersections in the city and even pulling up policemen if they are found to be lax in following safety protocols.

Eggs in different baskets

After the defection of Jyotiraditya Scindia and his loyal MLAs in March, two more Congress legislators left the party in the last two weeks. First, Bada Malehara MLA Pradyumna Singh Lodhi and then Sumitra Devi Kasdekar from the Nepanagar seat quit the party and joined the ruling BJP. Lodhi was made chairman of the MP Civil Supplies Corporation with cabinet rank the day he joined the BJP. Like Lodhi, Kasdekar has not ascribed any reason for her resignation, but those in the know say the ruling party is wooing a clutch of Congress MLAs because it wants to reduce its dependence on Scindia's supporters. That's because, they say, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was under pressure from team Scindia while allotting ministerial berths and departments. With these two resignations, 26 seats have fallen vacant for by-election.

A princely tale

They are known as the "babalog" of the Congress. The latest speculation in political circles is that the "babalog", or princelings, born to leading politicians, could join forces to negotiate collectively and get a better bargain from either their parent party or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). According to sources, there is already pressure on rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot from the legislators who have supported him to negotiate with the BJP. These legislators do not see much hope in Pilot launching a party. But there are others who believe the younger generation in the Congress should form a breakaway group that could help get them a better bargain. The Congress's Uttar Pradesh leader Jitin Prasada, Maharashtra's Milind Deora, and a couple of others are being spoken of as possible leaders of this breakaway group. Tripura's Pradyot Deb Barman, who had quit the party last year, could be a welcome addition.

New orphan on the block

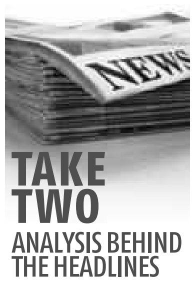
A difficult child from the word go, neither parent wants to take Air Asia India's full charge now that the pandemic has weakened it beyond recovery

ANJULI BHARGAVA

As Covid-19 tightens its grip on the world's aviation industry, fault lines are beginning to appear. In India, many players are in the throes of chaos and pain but at least one partnership — Air Asia India — that was fraying even before the pandemic now finds itself at breaking point.

In the last few weeks, conflicting news reports have appeared across media on how the Tatas want to sell their stake and exit, followed closely by reports that the Malaysian partner Air Asia Berhard wants to bow out.

The truth of the matter is that Air Asia India today is a failure — although neither side is openly acknowledging the fact — and is a bit like an unwanted child, with neither parent keen to take full responsibility. In 2014, Air Asia Berhard chairman Tony Fernandes might have sold a dream to then Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata but over six years, the dream has effectively unravelled.



More recently, this newspaper carried a report claiming a valuation of ₹550 crore for Air Asia Berhard's 49 per cent stake, a figure almost everyone in the industry laughed off. Most argued that they would pay nothing — not even ₹2, as Ajay Singh famously did for Kalanithi Maran's stake in SpiceJet back in 2014 — because the joint venture has accumulated losses, many liabilities and requires large doses of capital injection to stay relevant. All this when aviation is at one of its lowest points in history and airline economics is likely to be grimmer than ever. "If someone is willing to pay Fernandes ₹550 crore for his 49 per cent in today's scenario, he should simply grab it," said one industry player. He says finding adoptive parents for this child in today's environment seems close to impossible and he wouldn't take it on even if it were handed to him free on a platter.

A point worth reflecting is why Air Asia Berhard — with its wealth of experience and expertise — failed to replicate its success in Malaysia and Thailand, in India. Barring these two countries, none of Air Asia India's forays in the region can be called unequivocal successes.

One, comparisons with Malaysia don't hold much water since that was home territory for Fernandes and he was able to manage government policy and the environment — a bit like Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal in India — to his advantage, besides being an early entrant. When Air Asia Berhard got going, serious competition was virtually non-existent in Malaysia and Fernandes, who famously bought the loss-making airline from its Malaysian owner for a token one ringitt in 2001, was able to offer a new product at the right price point to capture a chunk of the market. It was young and nimble. Moreover, Malaysian Airlines — the national carrier — was beset with all the usual problems flag carriers suffer and far stodgier and relatively unsteady. "It was a bit like Jet Airways taking on Indian Airlines in the early days," says an industry analyst.

In Thailand, a very early entry (2004) was one of the major factors that helped Air Asia succeed. It was able to quickly occupy an empty space (the country's first low-cost airline) and a strong partner (then prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra) helped. Competition was virtually non-existent with only state owned Thai Airways and a very small, boutique although well-managed Bangkok Airways in the fray. Thai Air Asia was able to find its niche, and is now one of the dominant players in the country. It has contributed significantly to its parent's profitability over the years.

But in Indonesia (where Lion Air is the largest player) and in Philippines (CEBU Pacific is dominant), Air Asia Berhard remains relatively insignificant. Lion Air, in fact, has taken on Air Asia Berhard in its home country with its subsidiary Malindo and more recently in Thailand with Thai Lion. In Indonesia, Air Asia Indonesia is in a position similar to what Air Asia India is to IndiGo in India — more an annoying fly to swat at than something to take notice of.

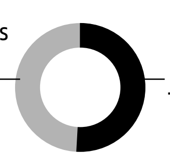
Similar attempts to replicate its success in Malaysia and Thailand in China and Japan have not worked either for a variety of reasons. "Other than its own home base, it's only Thailand where it had a first mover advantage that Air Asia Berhard has been successful. In all other markets, its performance has been lackluster," says an industry source familiar with the region.

In India too, Air Asia India entered in 2014 when competition was already intense and the opportunity to manage the environment limited despite a powerful partner. This combined with a series of poor decisions, from choice of CEOs to routes that failed to deliver, landed the airline in the abyss it finds itself today. Controversies also dogged the venture from the word go.

Aviation industry analysts and observers are divided on how this unhappy saga will play out but almost everyone is convinced that we are seeing the beginning of the end. Tony Fernandes and Ratan Tata are faced with the sad prospect of watching their joint dream unravel.

AIR ASIA INDIA: VITAL STATISTICS

Promoters



First flight: **June 2014**

Destination **21**

Current fleet size: **30 A320s** (plus 3 A320 Neos expected)

Market share **6.8%**

Total staff:	Accumulated losses:	Share capital:	Current liabilities exceed current assets:
3,100 approx. with 370 captains and co-pilots	**₹1,284 crore** for year ended 2018-19	**₹534 crore** for year ended 2018-19	**₹962 crore** for year ended 2018-19

Source: Company

INSIGHT

OBC sub-categorisation is caught up in bad politics

Anyone interested in social policy should demand that the Justice Rohini Commission findings be released as soon as the coronavirus pandemic subsides

YOGENDRA YADAV

Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) is a good idea caught up in bad politics. For the longest time, it was blocked by vested interests. Then it found endorsement due to external calculus of electoral politics. Now it is being deferred, once again, to suit the electoral calendar. Or, perhaps, something even more diabolic. It is time to push for an early, transparent and fair implementation of the OBC sub-categorisation.

On June 24, the Narendra Modi government extended by six months the term for the Justice Rohini Commission, which is meant to inquire whether and how the 27 per cent OBC quota in central government jobs and educational institutions should be subdivided.

It was the ninth extension of this five-member commission. When it was constituted in October 2017, the commission was meant to give its recommendations within 12 weeks, perhaps in time for Karnataka elections. The Modi government was in a great haste then. Apparently, the commission was ready to submit its recommendations, some of which had even been leaked in the media, way back in 2018 itself. Since then, the government has found one pretext after another to ensure that the bombshell that it wanted to lob does not land in its lap. Clearly, the commission is happy to play along, ready to invent arduous routes and accept new tasks, to justify its continuation.

A good idea

The problem is not that the Justice Rohini Commission is unable to come to any clear conclusion. The commission must have been given a political brief when it was set up: its job was to split the OBC quota. At any rate, the case for dividing up OBC reservation into sub-quotas is pretty straight-forward. What is called the OBC is not a social community. It is a rather ungainly legal-administrative nomenclature that puts together a wide range of disparate social groups and communities, with the sole qualification of being socially and educationally "backward" compared to the "upper" castes.

The 3,500-odd castes and subcastes listed in the central list of OBCs include at least five very different kinds of social groups. First of all, there are powerful landowning farming communities like Jats, Yadavs, Kurmis in the Hindi heartland, Vokkaligas in Karnataka, and Kunbis in Maharashtra. The second group comprises a large number of numerically small peasant and allied communities such as fishworkers and herdsmen who have little or no land holdings. The third group includes artisanal communities like weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters and those engaged in handicrafts. Then there are the traditional "service" communities — barbers, washermen, entertainers, and so on. The fifth and residual category includes nomadic communities or groups traditionally engaged in socially stigmatised occupations like begging, stealing or crime.

The case for sub-categorisation follows from this bewildering diversity. An ocean like this cannot possibly comprise social groups of similar levels of "backwardness". The official OBC list includes groups that are only a couple of steps behind the upper castes, and also castes and communities that are worse off than some Dalit communities. Clubbing them all together in a single basket, as the Mandal Commission did, was bound to set up an unfair race within.

Little wonder that after three decades of the implementation of the Mandal Commission's report, we find that a disproportionately large share of jobs have gone to a very small number of communities, largely from the first category mentioned above. The Justice Rohini Commission seems to have found some facts and figures that validate this widespread impression.

Sub-categorisation is a simple way of addressing this inequality within the OBCs. The overall 27 per cent quota can be split into two or three sub-quotas and the OBC list accordingly split into those many parts. Those castes that have taken disproportionate advantage so far could be clubbed together and given a sub-quota as per their population share. This would ensure that the most backward communities would have a sub-quota of their own and won't be required to compete in an unfair race.

Simply put, the reason that the OBCs deserve reservation is also why the most backward among the OBCs deserve a sub-quota. I have been arguing for this for more than a decade. The Supreme Court had explicitly endorsed this idea in the famous Indra Sawhney judgment (paras 801-3, 859-5), which is the binding wisdom on this matter. At least nine states are already using sub-quotas for the OBCs in government jobs, etc.

Bad politics

The problem is political. Ideally, this sub-quota should have been introduced in 1990 with the implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. The Commission's report had a note of dissent that recommended splitting the OBC quota. But the dominant landowning communities, the driving force behind the pro-Mandal movement, did not allow any sub-quota because it would have hurt them. The UPA government extended OBC reservation to educational institutions, but continued to dodge this difficult question. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took it up because its vote bank was outside the powerful landed communities. It needed to court the most backward within the OBCs. Hence the BJP's alacrity in considering sub-quotas within the OBCs and also the Scheduled Castes (SC).

The difficulty now is that the BJP has discovered that it does enjoy substantial support among the dominant farming communities as well. So, it does not want to do anything to annoy them. Hence the decision not to use the sub-quota card before the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The same consideration appears to weigh with the government now, before the Bihar Assembly election scheduled later this year. The Modi government seems to be keeping both options open: defer the quota till an opportune moment or just put it in a permanent freeze. We should not be surprised if the commission wants to wait for the data of Census 2021 to finalise its report. That would be a pity.

Way forward

Anyone interested in social policy should demand that the Justice Rohini Commission findings be released as soon as the coronavirus pandemic subsides. The real debate should not be about whether there should be a sub-quota or not. The serious issue is how to carve out the sub-lists and assign them appropriate quota.

The courts have repeatedly said that such a classification cannot be arbitrary. It should be based on credible evidence, something the Justice Rohini Commission appears to be engaged with. There is also the more difficult task of determining the population share of each caste group in the absence of a caste census. It would be appropriate to do this classification at the state level because the socio-educational condition of the same caste varies from state to state. All this requires an informed public debate.

But perhaps the Modi government is waiting to use this announcement as a political *brahmastra*, in case the current trend of its loss of popularity continues and it faces a legitimacy crisis. Is this the social upheaval that could distract India from the death of democracy? That is a diabolical thought. But you have to be politically naïve not to entertain it.

(In special arrangement with ThePrint)

The author is the national president of Swaraj India. Views are personal

LETTERS

Intelligent spending

This refers to the editorial 'Managing public debt' (July 21). Macroeconomics deals with the creation of wealth and growth indices, while microeconomics, guided by government policies after analysis of the needs of stakeholders, helps in understanding and designing how the wealth can be spent.

Covid-19 has helped us realise that we lag in the application of microeconomics, which incurs infectious expenditure and debt. The unique problem amid Covid-19 is that every sector has been eroded of wealth and the ability to create it. Nations need massive deficit financing and more importantly its judicious allocation for optimum benefit with job creation at the core.

Yesterday (Monday), 27 European nations concluded their discussions on extra budgetary provisions for post-pandemic economic recovery. For every member nation, the allocation has been split into loans and grants. Amounts misspent would be deemed as loans and would incur penalties. Our central and state governments can emulate this.

R Narayanan Navi Mumbai

Win-win situation

The proposal of the government to reduce the adjusted gross revenue on wireline broadband from 2.5 per cent to 1 per cent is a pleasant surprise for telcos that are saddled with huge dues. This move is aimed at giving a boost to wireline telephone and broadband. The wireline telephone, which lost its way amid the exponential growth of mobile phones, is currently languishing at just 2 per cent of overall customer base. This needs to change.

Work from home getting wider acceptance amid Covid-19 could be the right catalyst for increasing the wireline broadband penetration. The telcos must seize the opportunity. It's a win-win situation for everyone — the telcos, government and consumers. For the telcos, it would increase their top line by increased data consumption; government would reap dividends higher goods and services tax collection and consumer could enjoy the boundless virtual world.

Sanjeev Kumar Singh Jabalpur

Letters can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to: The Editor, Business Standard, Nehru House, 4 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110 002 Fax: (011) 23720201 · E-mail: letters@bsmail.in

All letters must have a postal address and telephone number

HAMBONE

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Ground realities

Problems along the LAC demand transparency

It is now becoming clear that the pullback of Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh is more complex than the robust official narrative suggests. Recent media reports from a variety of sources have all pointed to the same fact: That Chinese intrusions are deeper and cover a broader set of points on the map than has been officially admitted, and that the so-called "buffer zone" between troops of both countries encompasses, in fact, a significant portion of Indian territory. As late as July 18 — almost two weeks after de-escalation talks began between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi — *The Hindu* reported that a second assessment by security agencies revealed that Chinese troops were yet to fully move out of a key patrolling point that is about 1.5 km inside Indian territory. Despite Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's muscular statement that "not one inch of our land can be taken by any power in the world", Chinese troops still occupy an area along the north bank of Pangong Lake and it goes five to eight km beyond what Beijing claimed during its 1960 boundary talks with India. There have been reports of Chinese intrusion 15 km into the Depsang plains. Given that 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives in brutal combat, defending these same areas in June, it is vital for the government to come clean on the full extent of the problem it faces along the LAC.

Those tragic and wholly avoidable deaths make it imperative for the defence establishment to launch a proper enquiry into how the intrusions were allowed to happen along an area that falls squarely on the Indian side of the LAC — and, more to the point, why it took over a month for the infiltration to be detected. Poor intelligence has been a repeated failing of the Indian military — from Kargil in 1999 through Pathankot and Uri (both 2016) to Pulwama in 2019 — resulting in casualties. Unless this basic flaw is addressed on an urgent footing, India is likely to see history repeating itself as an escalating tragedy. China's well-armed incursions along the LAC are just one facet of the threat along the northern borders. There is also growing concern, expressed by serving and former generals, of a China-Pakistan pincer in Ladakh, which China had refrained from during the 1965 and 1971 wars, when Cold War calculations counted for something.

The second lesson must, therefore, be that defence capital budgets have to be boosted immediately and for some years to come. Right now, India spends no more than 25 per cent of its defence budget on capital expenditure — less than Pakistan's 37 per cent and considerably lower than China's 41 per cent. Most of the defence budget is absorbed by salaries and pensions, which the one-rank one-pension scheme has bulked up. India will need to find resources for improving defence capabilities. That apart, long-term requirements tend to be unaligned to priorities or budgetary realities and requisitioned on an ad hoc basis. Banning Chinese imports and investment and stirring anti-Chinese sentiment cannot make up for underspending and poor planning, now that it is evident that the country's security environment has taken a turn for the worse.

A multilateral solution

Create joint norms on digital taxation with other jurisdictions

Speaking recently at a meeting of G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman raised the vexed issue of cross-border digital taxation, and said that a "consensus-based solution should be simple, inclusive, and based on a robust economic assessment". The finance minister was right to bring up the problem at this venue, since the question of taxing cross-border digital services is one that the G-20 (together with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD) has sought to address for some time now. Indeed, Ms Sitharaman's words directly echoed the work programme on digital taxation produced by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, or BEPS. India has of course introduced since April 1 a 2 per cent "equalisation tax" on non-resident e-commerce companies, which has proved to be controversial. This adds to a previous 6 per cent tax on revenue earned by non-resident companies from advertising. The government must now work harder to demonstrate that its decisions on taxing cross-border digital services are within the mainstream of policy reactions globally.

The reason for this effort is the need to repair the economic relations with the US in such a way that it aids India's recovery from the effects of the pandemic and the pre-existing investment and demand slowdown. This particular issue should not be seen as a specific irritant in India-US relations. The US has launched a "Super 301" enquiry — an investigation under Section 301 of the 1974 US Trade Act — into digital services taxes in its trading partners, to "investigate and respond to a foreign country's action which may be unfair or discriminatory and negatively affect US commerce". The Indian government's argument is that the equalisation tax is not discriminatory, in that it is levied on all non-resident e-commerce companies. However, the government must also accept that questions can legitimately be asked about whether the levy favours domestic competitors over non-resident companies. Further, the levy itself has several inconsistent facets, which needs to be addressed. For example, if particular goods from a foreign country are not subject to tax in India, then why should a digital transaction for these goods be subject to the new tax? The rules also cover all transactions with an "Indian" IP address, even if between two non-residents.

India is not the only country to seek to fairly tax the big transnational digital services companies. Eight large economies in the European Union, as well as Britain, Mexico, and Tunisia, have introduced digital services taxes of some kind, according to a recent report of KPMG. Others, such as Australia, have extended goods and services tax to imported digital services or introduced taxes targeted at multinationals. The Indian solution is far from the best of the various ones on offer. But as the BEPS project itself argues, some form of digital tax can work at best as an interim solution till international tax treaties reflect the changed digital economy. India's commitment to multilateralism over unilateralism means that the government must seek out its counterparts with similar concerns about digital services taxes, and produce the inclusive and simple principles that can underlie these treaties. It will then have something to take to the US, as part of a coalition of concerned countries.

ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

The Congress has lost the plot

After two successive general election defeats, the party has now relapsed further into chaos

DOUBLE TAKE

VIR SANGHVI

Within the top echelons of the Congress, a siege mentality has set in. The party feels it is under attack from the government and its agencies, from Hindu fundamentalists, from what it sees as fascist elements, and from the money power that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has deployed.

All this may well be true. But the Congress sometimes forgets that there is one other constituency that is fast turning against it. And while it may be able to fight off attacks from the BJP and its associates, this is a constituency that it cannot afford to lose.

A large number of educated Indians, who might be described — for want of a better term — as secular liberals, are growing increasingly disillusioned with the Congress and are reluctantly coming around to the view that the party is unable (or even unwilling) to effectively oppose the BJP.

These are people who subscribe to what the Congress party says are its core values. They are perturbed by the unchallenged exercise of power by the Modi government, concerned about the spread of majoritarianism, dismayed by the alienation of minorities, worried about the threats to freedom of speech, and fearful that the basic character of the Indian nation may change beyond recognition if this government gets its way.

These are the same people who watched horrified as the United Progressive Alliance-II (UPA-II) hurtled from scam to scam while Manmohan Singh sleepwalked through the last two years of his prime ministership creating the leadership vacuum that Narendra Modi rushed in to fill. Later, they watched appalled as such measures as demonetisation wrecked the India growth story and they wondered if we were getting the worst of all possible worlds: A ruthless exercise of untrammelled government power but without any increase in efficiency of delivery or prosperity.

This constituency looked to the Congress to effectively oppose the regime. It was disappointed when the party did nothing and then blundered blindly into another electoral debacle. They waited, after that defeat, for the Congress to recognise where it had failed, to correct its mistakes, and to become an effective opposition again.

Instead the Congress party has lost itself in issues of personality and power. Rahul Gandhi announced, after the election results, that he would step down as Congress president. This should have been the cue for a larger renewal. But that never happened: The party has just drifted along, rudderless, with no new internal elections being called and no significant introspection. It is not clear what Mr Gandhi's status is now, but mysteriously he appears to still call the shots and is still the face of the Congress's opposition to the Modi government despite having resigned as president.

Even as the central leadership in Delhi coasts along, personal battles have erupted in the states. The significance of Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sachin Pilot's revolts is that neither was framed in terms of ideology. Mr Scindia did not leave because he had differences over policies; he had not suddenly become a believer in Hindutva. He left because he felt he was being mistreated by Kamal Nath. Similarly, Mr Pilot has rebelled because he feels he is being sidelined and humiliated by Ashok Gehlot.

Like nearly everything else in the party these days, the current mess is not about ideas. It is about power and personal ambition. Early in his tenure as general secretary during UPA-I, Mr Gandhi spoke about the need to move away from dynasty and instituted a system of internal elections.

That spirit is now missing. There is very little talk of internal democracy now. Instead, the talk is of a bunch of entitled dynasts acting as though they have a right to rule. Whether it is Mr Gandhi's position at the head of the party or the complaints about not getting top posts made by Mr Scindia or Mr Pilot, all of this is essentially about entitlement and personal advancement.

As for the Congress's core values, its mission to fight for an idea of India, how seriously can one take this when so many members of what used to be called Rahul's team are either negotiating with or have already joined the BJP? To be able to join or conspire with this extreme version of the BJP, the defecting dynasts could never ever have believed in any secular, liberal vision of India.

Even after last year's electoral humiliation, many of the Congress supporters believed that the party could recover. It is unusual for any party to win a third general election, so there is the distinct possibility that anti-incumbency may fell the BJP in 2024. But that hope is now fading. Even if the BJP loses, it seems unlikely that the Congress will win. And so the disillusionment and anger among Congress supporters are growing.

There is increasingly a sense that the new generation of Congressmen are stubborn, spoilt children who insist on having everything their way — or they stamp their feet and walk away. Even Mr Gandhi is viewed as part of this trend. His post-defeat resignation is being seen as no more than a hissy fit. Otherwise, why is he still around? How can a party president resign and then never leave?

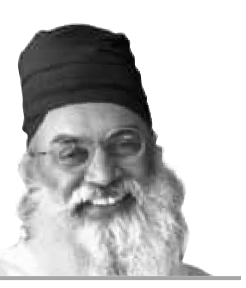
The vacuum that the Congress party is creating will be filled in all the states when it has no strong regional leadership. In Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has annexed the Congress vote. In Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena is moving to occupy the anti-BJP space. In Andhra, the YSR Congress is the only Congress that matters. In Bengal, Mamata Banerjee has already made the Indian National Congress irrelevant.

Strangely, the Congress seems to have learned nothing from its defeats. At a time when its supporters worry that the idea of India is under attack, the party is still preoccupied with its own battles. It seems set to go into the future— and the next general election—with exactly the same leader and the same chaotic style that led it to two of the worst defeats in its history.

And that, as they say, is the classic definition of insanity: To do exactly the same thing again and again and still expect a different result.

The writer is a journalist and TV presenter

Are sovereign gold bonds a good idea?



GURBACHAN SINGH

Common sense suggests that the demand for an asset should be high when its price is low, and vice versa. However, in practice, the demand for an asset is quite often high when its price is rising. And, the demand tends to be low when the price is low and falling. This appears to be true also for sovereign gold bonds (SGBs). These are denominated in terms of gold. The demand for SGBs is high now when the price of gold is high and rising. Earlier, when the price of gold was low, the demand for SGBs was low.

Though SGBs were launched in November 2015, almost 35 per cent of the amount mobilised is in the current financial year. And, gold price, as of July 17, has shot up 39 per cent over the last year.

Historically, the price of gold has increased over time in the long run. However, only a relatively small part of this is real appreciation; a good part is due to the general inflation. A study for the long period, from 1836 to 2011, shows that gold's average annual real appreciation rate is 1.1 per cent (Robert Barro and Sanjay Misra, *Economic Journal*, 2015). Historically, periods of high real appreciation have been followed more or less by periods of low real appreciation.

It is clear now that, *ceteris paribus*, more SGBs will get sold at a time when the real price of gold is high than at a time when its real price is low. Also, given that SGBs are, for all practical purposes, redeemable after eight years only, if the current real price is high, then the real appreciation till the time of redemption is likely to be low. More generally, it is likely that more SGBs will be ready for redemption in future at a time when the real price will be low than at a time when the real price will be high. An interesting conclusion follows now.

The Government of India may be — inadvertently — running a profitable "business" here — selling high and buying (or redeeming) low in real terms. This has a corollary. The investors could be entering now into a deal that may not be adequately rewarding.

It is true that SGBs can be good not just for the government but also for the economy. Investors invest in gold-denominated bonds and not physical gold. So, there is no need for the country to spend on gold imports. While this is true, it is still the case that effectively SGBs may not be good for investors.

All this is not to say that the SGBs are always bad for investors. In fact, they can be a good investment when the real price of gold is low relative to its plausible long-term trend. That is when the real appreciation till the time of redemption is likely to be good. So, SGBs can be a good investment. But not many investors invest when assets are available at relatively low prices!

What we need are instruments that are not just in the of interest society and government but also in the interest of investors, and that is indeed possible.

The SGBs are typically marketed by distributors as instruments that are better than physical gold. This is true but somewhat misleading. This is because the choice is not just between physical gold and SGBs; it can be more general. There are, in this context, other assets like bank deposits, units issued by mutual funds, real estate investment trusts (REITs), international funds, and so on. Some of these can be, at this juncture, probabilistically speaking, better investments for a period of eight years despite the 2.5 per cent interest, some tax benefits, and the denomination in terms of gold in case of SGBs.

The main issue is the future price of gold. It is true that if one senses that going forward the market for gold is likely to be weak, then the SGBs can be sold in the market before the redemption date. So, there is an exit route. But that is available in practice only if volumes traded are decent. Even more important, the difficulty is that if one has to keep making sense of which way the gold market will go, then the SGBs will fall in the category of speculation and not investment.

It does help to diversify. However, the ideal time for that was when the gold price was low. Finally, isn't gold and accordingly an investment in the SGBs a safe haven? Well, not quite. The price matters. If one buys a "safe" asset at a high real price and then one has to possibly sell or redeem at a time when the real price is low, then the so-called safety is itself questionable.

The writer is visiting faculty, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi

Mahabharata deconstructed

PANDEMIC PERUSING

RITA BHANDARI SAMBRANI

Thanks to the ennui caused by endless television reruns of B R Chopra's *Mahabharat* (1988) and its later clones with their tawdry settings and costumes, overacting to the hilt, with sham Sanskrit-studded stilted dialogues, I found great joy in rediscovering a prize jewel in my library, Dr Iravati Karve's magisterial essays on the epic titled *Yuganta*. I reread it slowly, savouring every nuance the learned social anthropologist brings out as a priceless nugget from her careful reading of the original text. That this should happen in 2020, the 50th anniversary of her death, is an apt coincidence.

Dr Karve was born in 1905 in what was then Burma (hence her first name), earned her master's degree in sociology from Bombay University in 1928 and a PhD in anthropology from Berlin two years later. She was a daughter-in-law of the great pioneer of women's education and widow remarriage Maharshi D K Karve. She helped run Maharshi Karve's women's university before joining that renowned institution of cultural scholarship, the Deccan College of Pune.

I first learnt of Dr Karve and *Yuganta* in the United States in 1968-69. Its Marathi version won the Sahitya Akademi award for the best Marathi book of 1967. It was then serialised in a Marathi literary magazine, now defunct, called rather inappropriately *Satyakatha* (True Stories). Shreekant, my husband, would read out from his subscription copy the Karve essay sentence by sentence and translate it into English. I found it engrossing.

But like most people, I can truly enjoy a literary work only through reading and the only language I read is English. We returned to India in 1971, a year after Dr Karve's death. But she had published *Yuganta* in English before then, because many of her acquaintances did not know Marathi. She says that the English version is not a translation but a rewrite. And she being truly bilingual, nothing is lost in this transition. She writes lucidly, in a contemporary manner, despite the burden of tradition her theme carries. Her scholarship is wide-ranging, encompassing classic Greek and Latin texts as well as the Jaina manuscripts.

Dr Karve claims not to be a Sanskrit scholar. She read the Mahabharata because she liked it; can there ever be a better reason to do so? She read the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute's critical edition, based on the earliest manuscripts from the seventh and the eighth century. Many later interpolations are omitted in this edition, but Dr Karve thinks that even this is not the original one, because there are internal discrepancies. She had hoped that someday the original core of *Jaya* (victory), a history (*itihasa*), could be retrieved.

She first wrote an essay on the Kaurava matriarch Gandhari, because she found her fascinating. Dr Karve's purpose in writing it was to communicate her feelings. When a reader asked "Who in the world was Gandhari?" she was dismayed and briefly considered abandoning writing, but luckily for us, continued her series over the next five years.

Stripping the epic of much embellishment through its careful reading, Dr Karve comes to the conclusion that, above all, the Mahabharata is a story of stoic people, not superhuman beings

Dr Karve believes the Mahabharata to be the history of events that took place ca 1,000 BC, in the northern plains around present-day Delhi, culminating in a great fratricidal battle between cousins. It is the history of the pastoralist Aryans invading a new land and clearing it for cultivation, after vanquishing indigenous people, but in the process assimilating them through intermarriages and adopting some rituals and mores. The caste system was just emerging, Brahmins and Kshatriyas being the elite, with interchangeable roles. Their illegitimate progeny, the *sutas*, played supporting roles.

Stripping the epic of much embellishment through its careful reading, Dr Karve comes to the conclusion that, above all, it is a story of stoic people, not superhuman beings. They held certain values dear, but could not always adhere to them. The Bard says that the fault lies not in the stars but in the people themselves but Dr Karve believes that fate and character both affected the Mahabharata personalities. Bhishma, Kunti, Yudhisthira, Arjuna, Draupadi, all have character flaws. Some, notably Karna, aspire to nobility, but due to their fatal flaws cannot adhere to the code of gallantry and chivalry in moments of crises. Krishna Vasudeva is no *avatara* to Dr Karve but a most sagacious person; his eternal friendship of Arjuna is the luminous centrepiece of the narrative. But he, too, must suffer his ordained fate of being betrayed by his own warring kinsfolk.

"Men, women, kings, beggars and even gods cannot be liberated from the course of fate. They all have to see sorrow, hardship and ruin along with happiness, well-being and success…. Each had to behave as was expected of a person in that position and each strove hard to attain values implicit in that situation," Dr Karve observes.

She believes that the later literature might have beauty and charm, but none has the sharpness of the Mahabharata or anything that provokes thought. She is especially severe on the *bhakti* cults and their romanticisation.

Dr Karve had probably not even heard of Jacques Derida, the patron saint of modern deconstructionism, because his first works appeared just before she died. But *Yuganta* is the deconstructionist classic of all times.

Pandemic Perusing is an occasional column about books and reading by our writers and reviewers

Business Standard
MUMBAI | WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY 2020

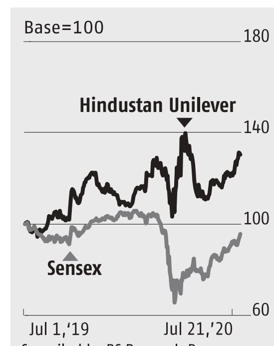
The Smart Investor

WWW.SMARTINVESTOR.IN FOR INFORMED DECISION MAKING

THE COMPASS

HUL's Q1 strengthens case for earnings upgrade

Synergy benefits from GSK Consumer merger, VWash buy give leg up to firm's portfolio



Compiled by BS Research Bureau

SHREEPAD S AUTE

Hindustan Unilever's (HUL's) numbers in the first quarter of the financial year 2020-21 (Q1FY21), reported after market hours on Tuesday, beat Street estimates on the volume and operating profit fronts, and also indicated potential for earnings upgrades. This should lift sentiment for the stock, which is up 26 per cent from its March lows.

Strong support from its resilient portfolio and improved cost efficiency, along with synergy benefits from the merger of GSK Consumer, bode well for HUL.

Although the Q1 numbers are not strictly comparable because GSK Consumer's merger came into effect from April 1, HUL's top line grew by 4.2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to ₹10,406 crore, beating expectations of ₹9,880 crore. The growth was driven by health, hygiene and nutrition products, which accounted for 80 per cent of overall business and grew by 6 per cent in volume terms.

However, a sharp drop in other discretionary and out-of-home consumption products (20 per cent of revenues), which also impacted overall product mix, led to an 8 per cent fall in the underlying volumes. Yet, overall volume performance was better than analysts' expectations of an 11-13 per cent volume decline. HUL said, its underlying volume growth reflects the impact of product mix and actual volume growth.

Kausthubh Pawaskar, analyst at Sharekhan, says, "Besides better-than-expected performance in Q1, HUL's resilient portfolio, which has large revenue share, would continue to see good growth going ahead supported by distribution synergies from GSK Consumer merger." We believe there would be upward revision in HUL's earnings estimates," he added.

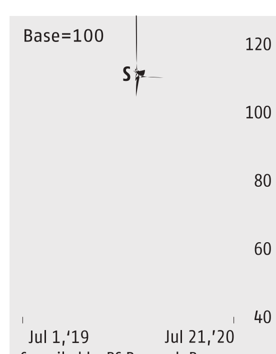
The GSK Consumer merger and VWash acquisition have strengthened HUL's portfolio. The company is also enhancing them with new launches — Horlicks with added Zinc is an example.

Better revenue performance coupled with cost synergies from GSK Consumer merger and lower advertising spends (393 basis point down as a percentage of operating income) supported HUL's operating performance. Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) of ₹2,644 crore, which was flat YoY, was ahead of the ₹2,577 crore estimated by analysts. Its pre-tax profit before exceptional items declined by 1.1 per cent YoY to ₹2,529 crore, slightly lower than the estimate of ₹2,574 crore. HUL reported an exceptional cost of ₹118 crore related to merger and business integration in Q1.

While Q1 beat estimates and there is scope of earnings upgrade, the road ahead will still be bumpy. The unprecedented situation and localised lockdowns in many parts of the country could have some impact, which the management also alluded to. Thus, how the company manages its overall supply and distribution chain will be crucial.

Cost-control measures cement ACC's Q2 showing

Valuation of 7.6x its CY21 EV/Ebitda and EV/tonne of $79 appears attractive



Compiled by BS Research Bureau

UJJVAL JAUHARI

ACC's performance in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 (Q2) bore the brunt of the lockdown as cement volumes declined. ACC's accounting year is January-December. However, good realisations and cost-control measures lifted its operational performance.

While cement demand was significantly impacted in the peak months of April and May, some recovery was seen in June. Yet, ACC's sales volumes declined 34 per cent year-on-year (YoY) and 27 per cent sequentially to 4.8 million tonne (mt) in Q2. However, it was in line with estimates of brokerages such as Emkay Global.

Cement realisations held the fort. Aided by production and pricing discipline among industry players, the all-India average cement price per 50-kg bag was up 7.6 per cent sequentially and 2 per cent YoY to ₹335 - 340.

Thus, ACC's reported cement realisations stood at ₹5,144 per tonne according to analysts, up 9.4 per cent sequentially but marginally lower by 1.3 per cent YoY.

Lower prices of inputs such as coal and pet coke led to a fall in fuel and freight expenses, the two biggest cost components. Operating cost per tonne, thus, contracted by 7.5 per cent YoY and 2.7 per cent sequentially to ₹4,326, as employee costs and other expenditure, too, fell.

With firm realisations and lower cost, Ebitda per tonne, according to analysts, was at ₹915, better than ₹741 in the March 2020 quarter, but a shade lower than ₹922 in the year-ago period.

Volumes were in line with estimates, while cost controls surprised positively, said Kunal Shah of YES Securities,

Ebitda (excluding other operating income) at ₹444 crore, down by a third YoY, was ahead of a consensus estimate of ₹363 crore.

Pre-tax profit at ₹399.81 crore was in line with expectations of ₹396 crore, whereas net profit of ₹268 crore, down 41 per cent YoY and 16 per cent sequentially beat estimates of ₹244 crore.

After the results, Emkay Global raised its CY20, CY21, and CY22 Ebitda estimate by 51, 32, and 25 per cent, respectively, considering higher cement prices, cost-saving initiatives, and improved demand scenario. YES Securities, too, has raised its Ebitda estimates by 29.3 per cent and 6.1 per cent for CY20 & CY21, respectively.

Valuations, too, appear attractive at 7.6x its CY21 enterprise value (EV)/Ebitda and an EV/tonne of $79, say analysts.

ACC's stock jumped 4 per cent on Tuesday after the firm reported its strong performance. However, its sustainability is crucial. Binod Modi at Reliance Securities maintains his positive stance, but says weak volume scenario remains a near-to-medium term overhang on the sector.

Bajaj Finance disappoints in Q1; all eyes on collections

Higher provisioning in line with priority to mitigate balance-sheet risk

SHREEPAD S AUTE & SUBRATA KUMAR PANDA
Mumbai, 21 July

The top line of Bajaj Finance in the June 2020 quarter (Q1) was better than Street estimates, but the lender lagged on the profit front because of Covid-19-led increase in credit cost.

The consumer finance major reported a 12.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in consolidated net interest income to ₹4,152 crore, beating consensus estimate of ₹3,638 crore. But, a three-fold rise in bad loan provisioning saw profit before tax fall 29.3 per cent YoY to ₹1,310 crore, 35 per cent lower than the expectation of ₹2,019 crore.

The company made additional provisioning of ₹1,450 crore in Q1, taking the contingent credit loss provision due to Covid to ₹2,350 crore or 10.8 per cent of the moratorium book. Total provisions, along with that for Covid, rose to ₹2,973 crore at the end of June (13.7 per cent of moratorium book) as against ₹1,870 crore at the end of April.

Its moratorium book came down to ₹21,705 crore — 15.7 per cent of the assets under management (AUM) at the end of Q1 — from ₹38,599 crore (27.1 per cent of AUM) at the end of April because of improved collections. The improvement in moratorium was across segments.

Higher provisioning and moderate growth of 7 per cent YoY in AUM were in line with the company's priority to mitigate balance-sheet risk, including efficient liability management.

Shweta Daptardar, analyst at Prabhudas Lilladher, says: "Bajaj Finance's Q1 provides comfort on the collection front and provision for moratorium book. Though there will be some delinquencies due to Covid-19 in FY21, the impact shall be limited."

A major chunk (around 70 per cent) of consumer B2C and mortgages, which together account for over 50 per cent of AUM, saw no bounce history in recent times. "This is very positive," opines Daptardar, who also foresees a 15-16 per cent upside in the stock.

After the resumption of activities in May, the bounce rate and collection efficiency of all 1.7 million newly disbursed loans are in line or marginally better than pre-Covid-19 loans and, if this trend continues, the company expects to focus on growth in the second half of FY21. Thus, how the collection trend pans out in Q2 will be crucial.

Q2 will also be crucial in terms of delinquencies. Deepak Kumar, analyst at Narnolia Financial Advisors, says, "There is no clarity on the overdue status of the moratorium book." Therefore, Q2 results will give some idea whether the current Covid-19 provisioning is sufficient, he adds.

The three-month moratorium period for the March dues ended in June and slippages, if any, would be reflected in September.

Currently, 85 per cent of the lender's business is functional. It estimates AUM growth of 10-12 per cent in FY21, assuming no further lockdown. According to its estimates, more than 75 cities in which it operates will show return to pre-Covid volumes by October, a further 40-75 cities by November, another 10-40 cities by January 2021 and the top 10 cities by March next year.

It has also increased FY21 credit cost expectations from April due to extended disruptions, and reversed interest income of ₹220 crore related to moratorium account. Analysts consider this as a prudent step.

In the first quarter, gross NPAs fell by 210 basis points sequentially to 1.4 per cent because of an 86 per cent fall in slippages.

The lender said it has acquired 0.53 million new customers in Q1, taking its total consumer base to 42.95 million, up 16 per cent YoY. Its capital adequacy ratio at the end of Q1FY21 stood at 26.4 per cent, with tier 1 capital at 22 per cent.

On the whole, how Q2 pans out would be crucial for the stock, which shed 4.3 per cent after results on Tuesday. Part of the fall, however, can be attributed to profit-booking as the stock had risen 45 per cent from its lows in March.

There is no harm in booking some profit

Many feel that the rally is on its last legs, and provides an opportunity to stock investors

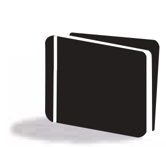
JOYDEEP GHOSH

For investment advisor Arun Kejriwal, the reason is clear for booking profit: "This rally can last a day or seven days or more, but we will see a sharp correction sooner than later. The initial earnings numbers comprise a clutch of companies which were more or less not impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic very badly. The numbers of brick-and-mortar companies will hurt. So, this euphoria in the markets can last only for some more time."

According to Kejriwal, if there is money to be made during such times, investors should do so now.

The Sensex is already up over 48 per cent since its March 23 intra-day low, and it is just short of its all-time high. That is, the index is just 10.6 per cent short of the closing all-time high of 41,952 points on January 14, 2020, and 11.5 per cent short of the intra-day all-time high of 42,273 points on January 20, 2020.

In just six months, indices have hit a new high, fallen sharply and risen again significantly. And those who entered the market during March might already be sitting on good money. And a lot of stocks would have hit their all-time highs, giving an opportunity for investors to make good profits. In July itself, 16 stocks have hit their all-time highs (see table) in the NSE 200.



"Some high net worth individuals have already been using this opportunity to sell stocks because the continuing rise in the number of Covid-19 cases with little visibility, in terms of flattening the curve or any cure, means that the market will correct in the days to come," says another fund manager.

Investors who have made a lump sum investment in schemes have also seized the opportunity to exit because of the sudden turnaround, say industry players. Many would also want to sit on cash because going forward, there could be good opportunities to enter whenever there is a correction.

However, experts say there is a worrying trend that a lot of retail investors have moved from mutual funds to stocks, which is reflected in the sharp rise in the number of Demat accounts since April and a fall in the collections of mutual fund schemes. Clearly, with more time in their hands, many have started dabbling in the markets. Many, it seems, are getting into penny stocks — stocks that are priced as low as ₹1 or even less — to make a quick buck.

"Investors are buying these stocks in bulk, leading to a sharp rise/fall in them. The problem with such deals is that when the going is good, it is easy money but if things go bad, investors might lose entire capital. So, investors are better off avoiding them. And if they have already bought some of these stocks, exit while the going is still good," adds the fund manager.

As far as mutual fund investments go, stick around if you are putting money through regular systematic investment plans. You can reduce investments if unsure about the market conditions or facing a financial crunch. But such times may actually give good returns if you are able to continue with investments.

punjab national bank
Together for the better

CIRCLE OFFICE - RECOVERY DEPARTMENT
Maker Tower, F - Wing, 7th Floor, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai - 400005.
Tel. No.: 022-22163458, 22182423
Email: comumcityrecovery@pnb.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Lot No.	Name of the Branch / Name of the Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner"s Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on 30.06.2020 C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical / Constructive	A) Reserve Price B) EMD (Last Date of deposit of EMD) C) Bid Increase Amount	Date / Time of E-Auction / Date and Time of Inspection	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1)	A) Punjab National Bank, BO: ARMB, Mumbai City, Maharashtra. Mr. Rohit Mahadik (Manager)	Bungalow No. 06, Shree Balaji Bungalow Complex S. No. 351, Hissa No.1 to 8, 9/2, 10 to 12	A) 10.10.2017 B) Rs. 157.00 Lakh + Future Interest since date of NPA	A) Rs. 135.00 Lakh B) EMD of Rs. 13.50 Lakh to be deposited	A) 10.08.2020 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM	Nil

Lot No.	Name of the Branch / Name of the Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner"s Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on 30.06.2020 C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical / Constructive	A) Reserve Price B) EMD (Last Date of deposit of EMD) C) Bid Increase Amount	Date / Time of E-Auction / Date and Time of Inspection	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
17)	A) Punjab National Bank, BO: ARMB, Mumbai City, Maharashtra. Mr. Rohit Mahadik (Manager) Phone- 7620325801 EMAIL- bo6041@pnb.co.in B) M/s. Prince Pipe Industries	Flat No. 304, Al-Amin Apartment, Bhiwandi	A) 24.01.2014 B) Rs. 233.00 Lakh + Future Interest since date of NPA C) 30.04.2014 D) Symbolic	A) Rs. 17.00 Lakh B) EMD of Rs. 1.70 Lakh to be deposited by 20.08.2020 C) Rs. 20,000/- (Bid Increase Amount)	A) 25.08.2020 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM B) 17.08.2020 11.00 AM to 5 PM	Nil
18)	A) Punjab National Bank, BO: ARMB, Mumbai City, Maharashtra. Mr. Rohit Mahadik (Manager) Phone- 7620325801 EMAIL- bo6041@pnb.co.in B) M/s. Ravindra Subbayya Gambhir	Flat No. 102, 1st Floor, Labh Smruti Co-operative Housing Soc Ltd., Opp BMC Market, Plot No. 48-C, Baptista Road, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400056.	A) 10.10.2017 B) Rs. 124.00 Lakh + Future Interest since date of NPA C) 11.12.2017 D) Symbolic	A) Rs. 122.00 Lakh B) EMD of Rs. 12.00 Lakh to be deposited by 20.08.2020 C) Rs. 50,000/- (Bid Increase Amount)	A) 25.08.2020 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM B) 17.08.2020 11.00 AM to 5 PM	Nil
19)	A) Punjab National Bank, BO: ARMB, Mumbai City, Maharashtra.	Shop No. 20, 1st Floor, Building Name "Raghuleela Megamall Kandivali (W)	A) 17.02.2017 B) Rs. 2909.00 Lakh + Future Interest	A) Rs. 14.00 Lakh B) EMD of Rs. 1.40	A) 25.08.2020 12:00 Noon to	Nil

OLYMPIC MANAGEMENT & FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

Regd. Office: 42, Gopal Bhavan,
199 Princess Street, Mumbai – 400 002
CIN : L65990MH1984PLC033825
E-mail: info@corporatementors.in

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, 30 July 2020, at 04.30 p.m. at the registered office of the company inter alia to consider and take on record audited financial results for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2020.

The said intimation is also available on the Company's website at www.corporatementors.in and may also be available on the stock exchange website at www.bseindia.com.

Members who have not updated their KYC are requested to do so at their earliest.

For **OLYMPIC MANAGEMENT & FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD**
Sd/-
Authorised Signatory

Place : Mumbai
Dated : 23.07.2020

Trio Mercantile and Trading Ltd

Regd. Office: 613/B, Mangal Aaarambh,
Near MC Donalds, Kora Kendra Road,
Borivali West , Mumbai - 400092
CIN: L51909MH2002PLC136975

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday , 30th July, 2020 inter alia to consider and to take on record the audited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended on 31st March , 2020.

Further the Company confirms that as per the Company's internal code for prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing in the securities of the Company is closed for the Company's Directors /officers and designated employees of the Company from 1st day of April, 2020 till 1st day of August, 2020.

For **Trio Mercantile and Trading Ltd**
Sd/-
Megha Trivedi
Company Secretary

Place : Mumbai
Date : 23rd July, 2020

निओजेम इंडिया लिमिटेड

सीआयएन: एल३६९११एमएच१९९१पीएलसी०६३३५७

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मे. श्री हरी केमिकल्स एक्सपोर्ट लिमिटेड

नोंदणीकृत कार्यालय: ए/८, एमआयडीसी इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया, महाड, जिल्हा रायगड. (महाराष्ट्र)
CIN:L99999MH1987PLC044942 **दूर.क्र.:**०२१४५-२३३४९२
ई-मेल:shreeharichem@gmail.com **वेबसाईट:**www.shreeharichemicals.in

३१ मार्च, २०२० रोजी संपलेल्या तिमाही व वर्षाकरिता लेखापरिक्षीत वित्तीय निष्कर्षाचा अहवाल

(रु.लाखात) (ईपीएस व्यतिरिक्त)

तपशील	संपलेली तिमाही			संपलेले वर्ष	
	३१.०३.२०२० लेखापरिक्षित	३१.१२.२०१९ अलेखापरिक्षित	३१.०३.२०१९ लेखापरिक्षित	३१.०३.२०२० लेखापरिक्षित	३१.०३.२०१९ लेखापरिक्षित
कार्यचलनातून एकूण उत्पन्न (निव्वळ)	२२१७.६४	१६५४.४६	६०९.९६	५७१०.०३	५०५२.१३
साधारण प्रक्रियेतून निव्वळ नफा/(तोटा) (कर, अपवादात्मक व विशेष साधारण बाबपुर्व)	४२०.९४	-१६६.०२	-२६८.२४	-१९३.४५	-४२१.४२
कर व कालावधीकरिता निव्वळ नफा/(तोटा) (विशेष साधारण बाबनंतर)	४२०.९४	-१६६.०२	-२६८.२४	-१९३.४५	-४२१.४२
करानंतर कालावधीकरिता निव्वळ नफा/(तोटा) [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUND

JM FINANCIAL

NOTICE-CUM-ADDENDUM

NOTICE-CUM-ADDENDUM TO THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SAI), SCHEME INFORMATION DOCUMENT (SID) AND KEY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (KIM) OF THE SCHEMES OF JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUND ("THE FUND").

I. CESSATION OF THE TERM OF MR. V. P. SINGH AS INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR OF JM FINANCIAL ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED.

Pursuant to the requirements of SEBI Circular SEBI/HO/IMD/DF2/CIR/P/2017/125 dated November 30, 2017 read with SEBI Circular SEBI/HO/IMD/DF2/CIR/P/2018/19 dated February 07, 2018, Mr. V. P. Singh ceases to be an Independent Director on the Board of JM Financial Asset Management Limited w.e.f. July 22, 2020 ("Effective date").

Consequent to the above, all details pertaining to Mr. V. P. Singh as appearing in the paragraph "Details of AMC Directors" in the Statement of Additional Information (SAI) of JM Financial Mutual Fund stand deleted from Effective date.

II. CHANGE IN ADDRESS OF OFFICIAL POINTS OF ACCEPTANCE

Investors are requested to take note that the following Official Points of Acceptance (PoA) of the Schemes of JM Financial Mutual Fund managed by M/s. KFin Technologies Private Limited has been functioning from new address as under:

Trivandrum	June 29, 2020	2nd Floor, Akshaya Towers, Above Jet Ariways, Sasthamangalam, Trivandrum - 695 010 Tel : 0471 - 2725728	Marvel Tower, 1st Floor, Ura-42 (Uppalam Road Residence Association), Statue, Trivandrum - 695001. Tel: 0471 - 2725728

This notice cum addendum forms an integral part of SID, KIM and SAI of the Schemes of the Fund, as amended from time to time. All the other terms and conditions of SID, KIM and SAI of the Schemes of the Fund will remain unchanged.

Authorised Signatory
JM Financial Asset Management Limited
(Investment Manager to JM Financial Mutual Fund)

Place : Mumbai
Date : July 23, 2020

For further details, please contact :
JM Financial Asset Management Limited
(Formerly known as JM Financial Asset Management Private Ltd.),
Registered Office: 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400025.
Corporate Office: Office B, 8th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025.
Corporate Identity Number: U65991MH1994PLC078879. • Tel. No.: (022) 6198 7777
• Fax No.: (022) 6198 7704. • E-mail: investor@jmfl.com • Website : www.jmfinancialmf.com

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

REF No. 10/2020-21