Inadequate Fibre Investment US Probe of Huawei in **Advanced Stage: Report** AROUND THE WORLD ►► 15

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Lack of Sixth Bowling Option Hampering India SPORTS: THE GREAT GAMES >> 16



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Jio results: Understanding its market share and monetisation momentum Yes, the US yield curve has inverted. But that doesn't mean it is staring at a recession

The charm and the economics of casual mobile games

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Samara-Amazon's More Buy Gets CCI OK



Commission of India has approved the Samara Capital-Amazon joint bid to acquire

Aditya Birla Group's supermarket chain, More. However, two senior industry executives said the CCI approval means the watchdog has done due diligence only from the point of impact on competition. They said the onus will be now on Witzig to ensure the deal is in compliance with the revised ecommerce FDI norms. reports Writankar Mukherjee. >> 5

GROUP LOWERING DEPENDENCE ON REFINING AND PETROCHEM

RIL First Indian Co to Post ₹10k-cr Quarterly Profit

Robust show by consumer businesses makes up for weaker refining margins and lower oil & gas output

Our Bureau

BRANDS & COMPANIES ▶> 5

New Delhi: Strong growth in petroche- marks a big stride away from the conglomicals, telecom and retail helped Reliance Industries become the first Indian company to report a quarterly net profit higher than ₹10,000 crore, as robust performance of consumer-facing businesses more than made up for weaker refining margins and contracting oil & gas pro- the share of consumer businesses is duction.

December quarter rose 8.8% to a record ₹10,251 crore. Revenue rose 56 % to ₹171,336 crore. Standalone net profit, which comes mainly from petrochemicals and refi-banisaid.

Jio Profit Jumps 65%

jump in net profit. The telco is

demerging fibre and tower businesses, >> 9

Jio reported its fifth straight profit-

able quarter, with 65% on-year

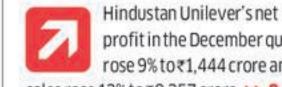
to ₹831 crore in Q3

ning, rose 5.6% to₹8,928 crore. Aguarter of its consolidated revenue came from consumer businesses, which merate's traditional heavy dependence on refining and petrochemicals for its

"In our new-age consumer businesses, we maintained robust growth momentum across Retail and Jio platforms and steadily increasing its contribution to

Consolidated net profit for the Octoberthe overall profitability of the company ... I am confident, Reliance is well-positioned for the future and for the next cycle of growth," chairman Mukesh Am-

HUL Q3 Net Profit Up 9% at ₹1,444 crore



profit in the December quarter rose 9% to ₹1,444 crore and sales rose 12% to₹9,357 crore. >> 9

(r Crore)

Prime Numbers FY19 FY18 10,251 9,420 **Net Profit** 1,71,336 1,09,905 Revenue 1,11,138 75,865 Refining Revenue 5,055 Refining EBI 6,165 Refining \$8.8 \$11.6 Margin Petrochem 46,246 33,726 Revenue Petrochem EBIT 8,221 18,798 1,512 487 12,303 8,136 Jio Revenue Jio EBIT 2,362 1,440

As much as a quarter of RIL's consolidated revenue came from consumer businesses

Inside story

Niti Aayog for Replacing All Farm Subsidies with Income Transfer Plan

Niti Aayog has suggested that all subsidies for agriculture, including fertiliser, electricity, crop insurance, irrigation and interest subvention be replaced with income transfer. Economy & Companies ▶▶ 8

Self-censorship: Netflix, Hotstar, Jio Sign Code While Amazon Refrains

Netflix, Hotstar, Jio, Voot, Zee5, Arre, SonyLIV, ALT Balaji and Eros Now signed a self-censorship code that prohibits the over-the-top (OTT) online video platforms from showing certain kinds of content and sets up a redressal mechanism for customer complaints.

Disruption: Startups & Tech >> 6

Aurobindo Acquires 7 Oncology Drugs from Spectrum for \$300m

Aurobindo Pharma on Thursday said it has acquired seven marketed oncology injectable products from Spectrum Pharmaceuticals Inc for about \$300 million.

Economy & Companies ▶▶ 8

Market Tracker

| | LAST | % CHANGE |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Nifty | 10,905.20 | 0.14 |
| Sensex | 36,374.08 | 0.15 |
| BSE Midcap | 15,142.33 | -0.30 |
| BSE Smallcap | 14,611.52 | -0.33 |
| Re/US \$ | 71.04 | 0.28 |
| Gold Std* | 32,800.00 | 0 |
| Silver (₹/kg) | 40,200.00 | 0.50 |
| Brent (\$) | 59.63 | -1.54 |
| *(₹/10gm) | Compiled by ETIG Database | |

Will it be right for the BJP to pick populism over fiscal prudence in election year?

TODAY'S QUESTION Is the Indian tax regime too harsh on multinational companies? www.economictimes.com

Goyal Hits Back with New Flight Plan

Jet promoter offers to infuse ₹700 cr and pledge all shares, but his stake should be at least 25%

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Jet Airways promoter Naresh Goyal has countered partner Etihad Airways' proposal to increase stake in the airline with an offer to invest ₹700 crore. He also proposed to pledge his entire shareholding with lenders while seeking to maintain at least a 25% stake, resisting pressure to reduce his 25%," Goyal said in a letter to Kumar.

Goyal's offer comes two days after Eti-

had said it may consider increasing stake in Jet if certain conditions are met, while asserting it would not pay more than ₹150 per share for additional stake. The demands, made in a letter by Etihad CEO Tony Douglas to lenders, did not go down well with them. Speaking to ET on the sidelines of a conference in Mumbai, State Bank of India chairman Rajnish Kumar said "nobody dictates terms to lenders".

Jet shares, which slipped 8% on Wednesday after Etihad's offer, recovered partly on Thursday gaining 5% to ₹284.80. "I am committed to an infusion of funds to the extent of ₹700 crore and pledging all my shares, provided my shareholding post such infusion is at least



LOSSES FORCE CHANGE IN STRATEGY

IndiGo Stalls Long-Haul Plan



IndiGo has for stalled plans to fly to western destinations such as London following its recent losses, reports Anirban Chowdhury. >> 5

CBDT Breather Soon on Past Angel **Tax Demands**

Officials not to press for payment until case is decided at the first stage of appeal

> Deepshikha.Sikarwar @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In what will come as a relief for startups that have already been sent assessment orders and firm tax demands under the so-called 'angel tax,' the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) will soon issue a circular directing field officials not to press for payment until the case has been decided at the first stage of appeal.

In cases where notices have been issued, no action will be taken, allowing investors to approach CBDT and get relief under the new, simplified scheme announced on Wednesday. "The board will soon issue a

circular in line with the new scheme notified by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)," a top CBDT official told ET. Tax officers will be directed to give relief to startups and angel investors in line with the new scheme for all past cases where notices have been issued, the official said.

Additionally, all the cases will be decided on a fast-track basis. Assessment was carried out in the case of 117 startups for assessment year 2016-17 and tax de-

mands were raised only for 19 of them. These cases will benefit from the decision.

DIPP notified a new scheme on Wednesday for startups and investors that fund them to shield them from the angel tax. This doesn't provide any relief in cases where assessment orders have been issued.

The CBDT circular will provide relief even in these cases by not pressing for payment of tax until appeals are decided.

The scheme provides a simpler mechanism for startups to claim exemption even for past investments, including those incorporated before April 2016,

the cutoff date for incentives under the star-For the tuppolicy annoassessment unced by the goyear 2016-17 vernment. tax demands were raised ked tax officials

in 2017 and 2018 startups not to push for payment or use strong measures to recover angel tax from startups. However, this had litt-

CBDT had as-

le impact, according to experts. The upcoming CBDT clarification will address concerns regarding past investments where angel tax assessments are already underway. Startups and investors need to make an application via DIPP along with documents. CBDT will then issue a certificate of exemption within 45 days of the application. The application will no longer be required to be cleared by the inter-

ministerial committee.

CASE LINKED TO NON-DEDUCTION OF TDS

Oyo Slapped with I-T Notices



Oyo Hotels & Homes has been sent tax notices for furnishing inaccurate particulars of income for assessment year 2016-17, reports Anumeha Chaturvedi. >> 5

SoftBank to Pick up 42% in FirstCry for \$400 m

Money likely to come in tranches and is linked to performance milestones; promoters to retain 12-14%

Biswarup Gooptu & Arijit Barman

New Delhi & Mumbai: SoftBank is set to invest \$400 million for an over 40% stake in BrainBees Solutions, which owns and operates omni-channel baby and mother care product retailer FirstCry, according to three people aware of the development. The Tokyo-headquartered investment

giant, which has been scouting for fresh investments in Asia's third-largest economy following its \$4-billion exit from months, sources said.

and is likely to close by the month-end," The money is expected to come in tran-negotiations.

Growing up

SoftBank's investment in FirstCry is set to be its first in 2019, and follows the \$1-b funding round it led in Oyo

Deal will value FirstCry at \$600-700 m. with SoftBank picking up more than 40% stake

FirstCry likely to grow both online and offline channels & establish strategic partnerships with large foreign brands

Morgan Stanley acted as the financial adviser to the deal

ches, linked to financial and business performance milestones, the person added. Morgan Stanley has acted as the financial adviser to the deal.

As per the terms of the deal, SoftBank is Flipkart last year, has been in talks with likely to pick up an estimated 42% stake the FirstCry leadership for a few inthe eight-year-old Pune-based venture, valuing it at \$600-700 million. FirstCry's "The deal was signed earlier this week founders — Supam Maheshwari and Amitava Saha — will retain 12-14% equione of the sources cited above told ET. ty, according to the people aware of the

PETROCHEMICALS UNIT AT MUNDRA

Adani Group, BASF Plan ₹14K-cr Plant



Global chemicals giant BASF and the Adani Group plan to set up a ₹14,000crore petrochemicals plant at Mundra that will be powered with renewable energy to produce chemicals that are currently imported. >> 5

Why Money Loves Running Long Distance

Mumbai Marathon will see finance highfliers in action, who find the race a great stress-buster

Shailesh Menon & Arijit Barman

Mumbai: When the Mumbai Marathon begins Sunday, you will see, among other things, plenty of money running those 26.2 miles. Or moneymen and moneywomen, actually. Little noticed in India's

growing love for this test of body and mind is the fact that big guns of high finance are among marathon's most ardent devotees.

They are hotshots at mutual funds. private equity, asset management and broking, some are CFOs across corporate India.

Rashesh Shah of Edelweiss, Bhargav

Dasgupta of ICICI Lombard, Gagan

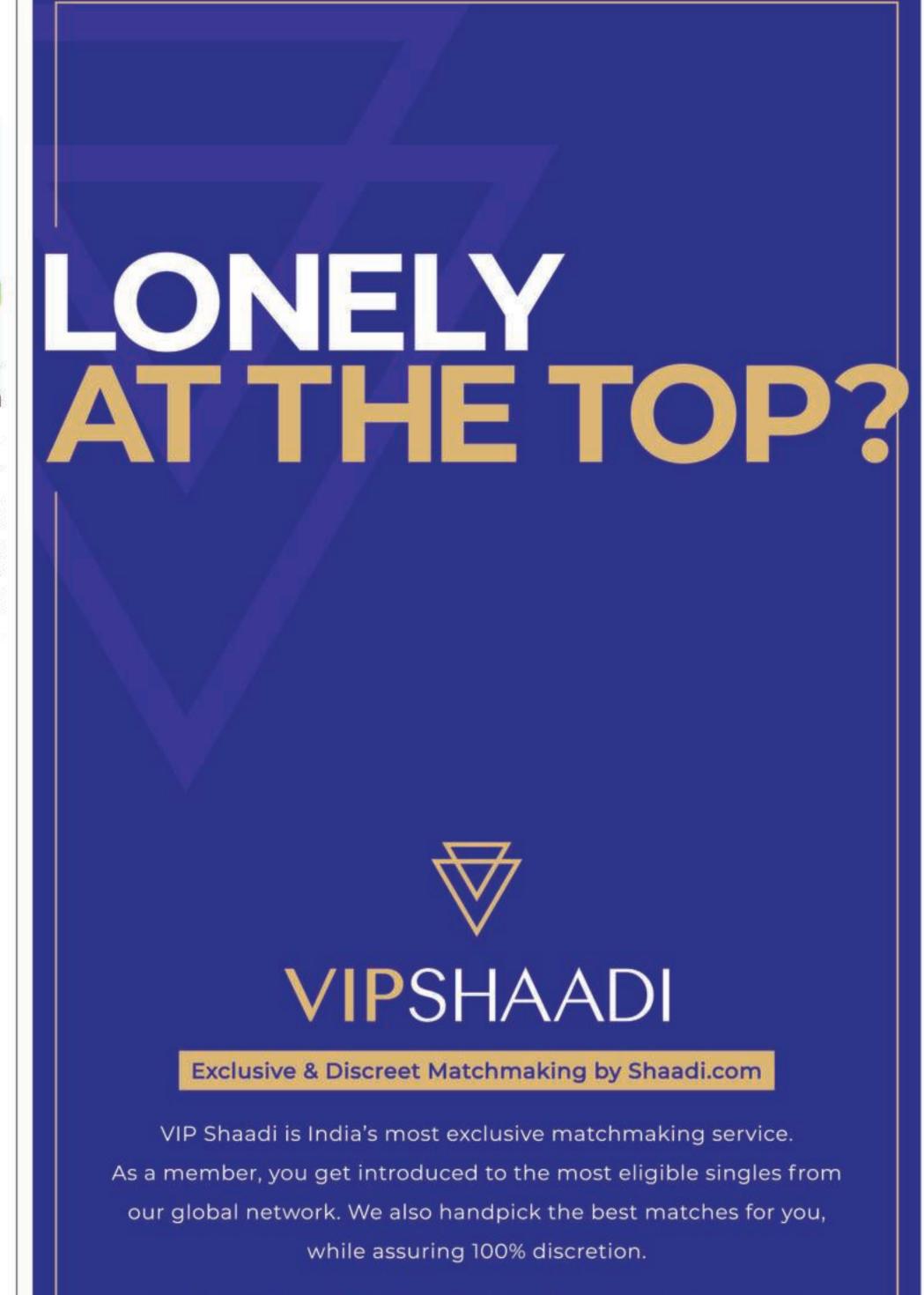
Banga of Indiabulls, V Vaidyanathan of Capital First, Anand Radhakrishnan, chief investment officer. Franklin Templeton — that's just a

notable few in a long list of finance professionals who seriously train for the toughest race of all.

A tennis elbow six years ago forced Shah to take to running. He says his first response to running a marathon was that it was "boring", but it's a "hobby now". KVS Manian, 57, president (corporate and investment bank) at Kotak Mahindra Bank, started running seven years ago primarily for fitness. Today, he says, running is "religion".

Finance highfliers make sure they have the time for marathon training. "You've to make time for it, despite your hectic schedule," says Sheran Mehra of DBS Bank. She has run four out of six world major marathons.

Like Manian and Shah, some other finance types caught the marathon bug in their 40s and 50s. Alok Agarwal, CFO of Reliance, started in his 50s. All finance professionals who run say marathon has been a gamechanger for them.



To get invited, give us a missed call on 9692 111 111. —