

FINANCE MINISTRY PRIORITIES

Freeing up resources for infra push, capital infusion in financial sector

Key challenge for the ministry will be to push economic activity to arrest fledgling GDP growth

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

WITH A new Finance Minister set to take charge, the immediate task for the North Block team would be the challenge of pushing economic activity.

This comes amidst expectations of a sub-7 per cent growth rate in the fourth quarter GDP numbers to be released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Friday — the first data set the new government would be faced with after taking office.

The immediate challenge would be to find resources for investments in infrastructure, injection of fresh capital in banks and providing support to liquidity-starved Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in the upcoming Budget.

The Union Finance Ministry has started discussions on the Budget and a key theme is creating fiscal space for capital investment of around Rs 25 lakh crore annually in the infrastructure sector. There is also acknowledgment in the government that the NBFC crisis needs immediate attention, as the worsening liquidity scenario in the sector has meant many of

NBFC CRISIS NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

NBFC CRISIS needs immediate attention, as the worsening liquidity scenario in the sector has meant many of these firms virtually stopping disbursement of fresh loans

NEW INDUSTRIAL policy with focus on tech, MSMEs is learnt to be in the works

DIRECT TAX targets in the Budget may be lowered since there was a significant shortfall in the mop-up for financial year 2018-19

TIGHT FISCAL situation may make the government bank on the Reserve Bank of India

these companies virtually stopping disbursement of fresh loans. The government is also learnt to be working on a new industrial policy with specific focus on technology and the MSMEs sector.

On the taxation front, with another two-month extension to task force formed to draft a new direct tax law and review the Income-tax Act till July 31, major direct tax reforms are unlikely this year, though some minor relief on the rates front is not ruled out. Budget targets

for direct tax, however, may be lowered since there was a significant shortfall in the mop-up for 2018-19, sources said. For Goods and Services Tax (GST), though, the Budget target is unlikely to be tweaked even though it is being seen as a challenging target to meet.

As per the interim Budget presented in February for 2019-20, direct tax revenues are estimated to grow 15 per cent to Rs 13.80 lakh crore, while indirect taxes are estimated to rise 11.8 per cent to Rs

11.66 lakh crore.

With its tight fiscal situation, the government may have to bank on the Reserve Bank of India. The central bank is also expected to address the liquidity issue when it meets for its second bi-monthly monetary policy review on June 6.

Though the RBI has not shown keenness for a special liquidity window for NBFCs, there is possibility of more liquidity boosting measures and a possible easing of the stance, the last such space to act ahead of vagaries of the monsoons and its consequent impact on inflation.

After the IL&FS group started defaulting on its aggregate debt of over Rs 90,000 crore since last September, financial sector entities including NBFCs, mutual funds, corporate-focused lenders have faced liquidity challenges. The situation only worsened over the last month as rating agencies started downgrading debt papers issued by NBFCs, thereby weakening their ability to raise funds to do business. These issues will need attention of both the government and the RBI.

A committee headed by for-

mer RBI Governor Bimal Jalan, on the issue of determining appropriate capital reserves for the RBI, is likely to submit its report soon.

In a report in April, Bank of America Merrill Lynch estimated the Jalan committee is likely to identify an excess buffer of up to Rs 3 lakh crore. This includes the excess capital in contingency reserves and also revaluation reserves, it said, pegging the RBI's excess capital at Rs 1-3 lakh crore. If the panel suggests transferring of past excess reserves, this could provide a booster dose of funds that can be used to capitalise banks. The panel is meeting on June 13 to discuss its report.

Stating that he is looking forward to quick action on policies from the new Council of Ministers, CII President Vikram Kirloskar said, "With proactive initiatives from the Government, the reforms pace will remain strong and pave the way for faster growth". He further said that the economy is well set to pick up the pace of growth in the current year, with expectations of revival in rural demand, higher exports, and continued infrastructure expenditure.



Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani (left) with Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani (centre) and Chief Minister of Jharkhand Raghubar Das at the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Cabinet of Ministers in New Delhi on Thursday. Express Photo

ROAD AHEAD FOR THE COMMERCE MINISTRY

Boosting exports, resolving trade issues key focus areas

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

THE COMMERCE ministry has its work cut out in the coming months, with issues such as a subdued outlook by the World Trade Organization (WTO) on global trade, a widened trade deficit and a multitude of challenges on the bilateral and multilateral fronts confronting the new Narendra Modi government.

A downward slide in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows and flagging merchandise exports are other areas of concern.

Over the last five years, the previous NDA government focused on increasing exports, including through identifying newer markets it could tap.

By the end of the 2018-19 financial year, the Commerce Ministry announced that the country had achieved a record high of around \$331.02 billion in merchandise exports. Yet, it reportedly missed its own internal goal of crossing \$350 billion.

The country also experienced a high trade deficit for merchandise goods at \$176.42 billion and an overall trade deficit of \$95.85 billion for that period. India had also taken measures to improve its ease of doing business ranking, managing to secure 77th position towards the end of last year, up from over 140 in 2015. It further tried to encourage foreign investment through schemes like 'Make in India' and by relaxing rules for

India has been facing 'enormous' pressure from the Trump administration, which had raised tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from the country last year

FDI in several sectors.

Yet, recent government data shows that FDI fell for the first time in six years, dropping around 1 per cent to \$44.4 billion in 2018-19. The telecom sector, due to its stressed financial condition, and pharmaceuticals sector, due to uncertainty in regulations, took the biggest hits.

The government has reportedly begun work on boosting exports as part of its 100-day agenda, considering measures like a new major export promotion scheme and pushing exports through e-commerce. India exported products valued at \$1.2 billion through e-commerce in the last financial year and there is "tremendous scope" of increasing and diversifying exports through this mode, according to a presentation by the ministry earlier this week.

Yet, the ministry should think further ahead, according to trade expert Biswajit Dhar, professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

"The need for the government is to actively engage with the industry, and actually on the sectors where they feel there is export potential," he told *The Indian Express*. "I'm a little more surprised than worried, because we're still thinking short-term, whereas the need of the hour is to think longer term," he added.

For instance, India has been facing "enormous" pressure from the Trump administration, which had raised tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from the country last year. India's retaliatory tariffs on 29 goods, including almonds, has been deferred several times over the last year.

In March, the US also announced its intentions to withdraw India's benefits under a preferential trade scheme, the Generalised System of Preferences, which would impact around 1,900 products exported from the country.

India's trade deficit with China, another major trading partner, still remains high at over \$50 billion. This has reportedly spurred recommendations in a commerce ministry strategy paper to push exports, cut import dependence and attract foreign firms looking to shift base from China. However, areas like India's focus on its agricultural sector, including in negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and in ongoing WTO disputes over its support to sugar cane producers, require a stronger focus as well, he added.

MINISTRIES OF COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Data protection law and telecom sector stress to take centre stage

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

DIGITAL INDIA was one of the flagship schemes of the National Democratic Alliance-government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and while the administration met its target of laying down optic fibre cables in 1 lakh villages across India, bringing internet connectivity to these villages remains a target for the new government.

Further, for the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology — which was split from the Ministry of Communications in 2016 — the

The government is expected to continue its push towards data localisation even under the new regime

most important focus area will remain passage of the data protection law, which has been in the works for over a year now.

Officials in the IT ministry said that the government wanted to hold the widest consultations possible before instating the data protection law, which will be a first of its kind in the country.

One official said, however,

that the government is expected to continue its push towards data localisation even under the new regime.

For the Telecom Ministry, the industry expects the government to provide relief in taxation to uplift the financially stressed sector, which saw foreign direct investment during 2018-19 falling to \$2.67 billion from \$6.21 billion a year ago. The stressed financial condition of the sector has been a drag on revenues of the exchequer with lukewarm participation in the last spectrum sale back in 2016 as well as falling inflows from licence fee and spectrum usage charges, which are functions of operators' revenues.

SEEN & HEARD



Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata and Chairman N Chandrasekaran at the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Cabinet. Express Photo

THE FIRST ROW

Seated in the first row were RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani, Tata Sons chairman emeritus Ratan Tata and chairman N Chandrasekaran, among others. Mukesh Ambani came with wife Neeta and youngest son Anant. Tata and Chandrasekaran were among those who arrived early at the venue and were seen engaged in discussions as the other guests arrived.

THE CORPORATE PRESENCE

Other major corporates present were LN Mittal of ArcelorMittal, Gautam Adani of Adani Group, Prashant Ruia director Essar Group and Vedanta Resources chairman Anil Agarwal. Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy, Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra, Bharti Group's Rakesh Bharti Mittal and Rajan Bharti Mittal were also present at the event.

FINANCIAL SECTOR

While Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das attended the swearing ceremony, Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg was also present. HDFC Ltd chairman Deepak Parekh and Paytm Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma were also present.

The Action Plan

As the new government gets down to business, it is expected to take steps to promote investment & announce ways to strengthen financial sector. Aviation, telecom, pharma are other areas that will attract government's attention



TAXATION

14.9% growth in tax revenue estimated for 2019-20

KEY CHALLENGES: The projected growth in revenue would be an uphill task given the shortfall in tax mop-up, both for direct and indirect tax, during 2018-19 and amid signs of an economic slowdown

ROAD AHEAD: Focus on compliance & simplification of processes for GST regime and a review of the direct tax law for which a panel has been formed and is expected to submit report by July 31



BANKING SECTOR

₹2 lakh crore

In the last five years, the government focused on injecting capital of more than Rs 2 lakh crore in public sector banks and improving governance structures at public sector banks

KEY CHALLENGES: Liquidity issues of NBFCs and still fragile condition of public sector banks

ROAD AHEAD: Government to push mergers in the banking space to create strong and large banks



AVIATION

100 airports

The number of airports covered by the Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme

KEY CHALLENGES: The government in its first term could not disinvest its stake in Air India, which is likely to be one of the priority areas of the new administration

ROAD AHEAD: The Centre's focus is expected to be on protecting a booming market from imploding by addressing infra constraints and reducing financial uncertainty based on fuel costs



TELECOM

5G adoption

Sale of the spectrum will be watched out for

KEY CHALLENGES: The sector's stressed financial condition has been a drag on Centre's revenue with lukewarm participation in the last spectrum sale as well as falling inflows from licence fee and spectrum usage charges

ROAD AHEAD: Government is expected to push for a quicker 5G adoption even as industry expects taxation relief to uplift the sector



FPI

₹411,306 crore

The FPI inflow into Indian equities and debt between April 2014 and March 2019

KEY CHALLENGES: While FPIs would be keenly watching the government's reform initiatives and the growth trajectory over the next couple of years, factors such as a rise in crude prices can play a significant role in determining fund inflow

ROAD AHEAD: While the Centre will have to follow fiscal discipline & keep fiscal deficit under check, earnings growth of India Inc and private investment revival will help in building confidence



LABOUR

44

Central labour laws into four labour codes

KEY CHALLENGES: Amalgamation of multiple labour laws into four labour codes: industrial relations, wages, social security and welfare, and occupational safety, health and working conditions will be the first set of challenge for the government to undertake labour reforms

ROAD AHEAD: Along with legislative reforms, generation of good quality employment paying decent wages would be crucial especially in absence of a strong economic growth



PHARMA

Over 65%

cut in maximum retail prices of stents, knee implants

KEY CHALLENGES: Issues with quality of medicines and devices made in India, high treatment costs, "irrational" and "unsafe" combination drugs and dependence on China for key ingredients to make medicines

ROAD AHEAD: Government plans to cap retailer margins of medicines, regulate medical devices, scrutinise combination drugs approved and promotion of domestic manufacturing of key medicine ingredients



TRADE & EXPORTS

\$331 billion

Merchandise exports in FY19

KEY CHALLENGES: Boosting merchandise exports, which fell short of \$350 billion FY19 target; reducing high trade deficit; resolving trade issues with the US; reducing dependence on China and mitigating risks from disputes over agricultural goods at WTO

ROAD AHEAD: New major export promotion scheme, attracting more FDI, providing credit access to exporters and growing exports through e-commerce potential priorities

MINISTRIES OF CIVIL AVIATION, ROAD TRANSPORT

Infra strategy: Airports development, land acquisition for highways

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

AT THE heart of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) election promise of attracting Rs 1 lakh crore investment in infrastructure, lie three key sectors of roads, railways and aviation.

These sectors assumed significance under the first term of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government but the second administration under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has several focus areas in

these sectors. These include disinvestment of Air India and Pawan Hans, development of airports, land acquisition for national highway projects, electrification of railway tracks, and the bullet train project.

In its manifesto ahead of the 2019 general elections, the BJP said its government would launch a massive 'Rural Road Upgradation Programme' to connect centres of education, healthcare centres, and markets with hinterlands to promote rural growth.

In the next five years, the

AIMS TO CONSTRUCT 60,000 KM OF HIGHWAYS

■ The government aims to construct 60,000 km of national highways, while doubling the length of these roads by 2022

■ It is also expected to focus on expediting some of its

flagship road projects such as Bharatmala and Sagarmala

■ The govt had expressed its firm intention to conduct disinvestment of Air India which is under a debt of more than Rs 50,000 crore

government aims to construct 60,000 km of national highways, while doubling the length of these roads by 2022.

However, it remains to be seen how the government works its way around the land acquisition problem due to which a num-



Fraud office asks RBI to probe its NBFC wing for ignoring adverse audit

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN & GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, MAY 30

THE SERIOUS Fraud Investigation Office (SFO) has recommended that the Reserve Bank of India probe officials in the department supervising non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for not having acted against IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN), despite an RBI inspection finding major discrepancies in its books as early as 2014, sources told *The Indian Express*. The SFO recommendation has been sent to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the RBI for appropriate action.

Almost five years ago, the RBI had, in its annual audit, found that IFIN was borrowing to fund its group companies. The audit also found instances of ever-greening of loans, but the Department of Non-Banking Supervision did not take any action such as cancellation of the NBFC licence of the company, the sources said.

“When the RBI audit detected the lapses in 2014, IL&FS liabilities were around Rs 32,000 crore. However, with the RBI not taking any action, total liabilities skyrocketed nearly three times to Rs 94,000 crore and the group started defaulting on repayments in four years,” said a source involved in the investigation. When contacted, the RBI spokesperson did not comment on the issue. IFIN is yet to respond to queries sent by *The Indian Express*.

The SFO recommendation for a probe at RBI follows former IFIN managing director and CEO Ramesh Bawa’s response to the agency that RBI had given IFIN a clean chit every year. This, he is learnt to have said, did not raise any alarm about alleged malprac-

Sources said the audit found instances of ever-greening of loans by IFIN, but RBI’s Department of Non-Banking Supervision did not take any action

tice in the company. Bawa was arrested by SFO on April 13 this year.

Bawa was arrested for allegedly abusing his powers in IFIN through his fraudulent conduct and in granting loans to entities which were not creditworthy and caused wrongful loss to the company and its creditors.

In the charge sheet filed Thursday, SFO has framed charges against 30 officials of IFIN and the company’s old board, including independent directors, under section 447 of the Companies Act. At least two independent directors of IFIN knew about the discrepancies in the firm’s books, but did not raise any questions with the management, it said. The two independent directors sat on three whistleblower complaints received by the board highlighting the malpractices at IFIN, said the SFO charge sheet.

The frauds office has also recommended prosecution of the auditor firms of IFIN — Deloitte Haskins, BSR Co and a few smaller auditors — that audited the company’s books. The SFO probe has found these firms to be deficient in the audit year after year.

Earlier, in a show-cause notice issued to 14 former directors of the IL&FS board, including former chairman Ravi Parthasarathy and former vice chairman Hari Sankaran, the new management

of IL&FS had charged them with “facilitating money laundering”, sanctioning loans without any security and “conspiracy and getting unlawful gains”. The crisis at IL&FS was triggered following a delayed repayment of Rs 450 crore in inter-corporate deposits by IL&FS Transportation Networks to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in July 2018.

Subsequently, rating agencies downgraded its debt papers/credit facilities citing weak financials. In September last, the IL&FS group defaulted on a Rs 1,000-crore term loan owed to SIDBI. Following the defaults, rating agencies Icr, Ind-Ra and Care abruptly downgraded IL&FS and its subsidiary from high investment grade (AA plus and A1 plus) to junk status, indicating actual or imminent default.

The SFO is also probing at least four credit rating agencies for their role in rating the debt instruments of IFIN that raised about Rs 12,000 crore from the market. Officials of these agencies — Care Ratings Ltd, Icr, India Ratings and Research Pvt Ltd (Ind-Ra) and Brickwork Ratings India Pvt Ltd — were summoned and questioned by SFO in the last one month over their role in rating the debt papers of IFIN between 2014 and 2018.

On November 1, 2018, the new board of IL&FS led by Uday Kotak, cautioned that the Rs 53,000-crore exposure of banks to IL&FS is “critical to financial stability”, as its share in the total exposure of the banks to the NBFC sector is about 16 per cent.

In its report on the state of affairs at IL&FS, the company’s new board warned that the “future impact of more defaults in the group, if not addressed in an orderly manner, may be catastrophic for financial stability.”

Tata Steel’s takeover of Bhushan Energy gets NCLT nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

THE NATIONAL Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Thursday approved the resolution plan of Tata Steel to acquire debt-ridden Bhushan Energy Ltd for around Rs 800 crore. The principal bench of NCLT Delhi also rejected objections from Bhushan Energy’s former promoter Neeraj Singal opposing Tata Steel’s bid.

Under the resolution plan, Tata Steel will offer an upfront payment of Rs 730 crore. It would also pay Rs 50 crore additionally to operational creditors of the company.

REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Govt to release withheld Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2017-18

Compiled by NSSO, Centre had not released the report, terming it a draft report

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

THE GOVERNMENT will release the findings of the withheld Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2017-18 along with releasing the GDP data for January-March and provisional estimates for 2018-19 on Friday.

The National Sample Survey Office’s (NSSO) job survey for 2017-18 had shown a surge in the unemployment rate to over 6 per cent, a 45-year high, but the report was not released by the government, which termed it as a draft report.

This would be the first comprehensive report on the country’s employment situation in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government and it captures the impact of demonetisation on the economy.

Data from the NSSO’s Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18, reviewed by *The Indian Express*, had also shown India’s

‘Restructuring to strengthen national statistical system’

New Delhi: The government, in a release issued on Thursday, said the internal restructuring of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is to “strengthen the national statistical system while maintaining its autonomy”.

The various divisions in MoSPI will continue to perform their functions as before.

It also stated that the role and status of NSC will be unaltered and it will continue to

provide “strategic direction and leadership” to the national statistical system in MoSPI, line ministries and state governments.

In an order dated May 23, the government had cleared merger of CSO and NSSO into a single body, National Statistical Office (NSO), while the earlier 2005 resolution had proposed NSO with two wings, CSO and NSSO, which would act according to the policies laid down by NSC. **ENS**

male workforce was shrinking, with 28.6 crore employed males.

This has been the first instance of a drop in the male workforce that steadily swelled from 21.9 crore in 1993-94 to 30.4 crore in 2011-12 when the last

NSSO survey was conducted.

The withholding of the jobs report had come to the forefront in January when the acting chairman of National Statistical Commission (NSC), P C Mohanan, a career statistician,

RBI announces sale of sovereign gold bonds

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 30

The Reserve Bank of India Thursday announced the issue of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs), on behalf of Government of India every month, from June 2019 to September 2019.

“The bonds will be restricted for sale to resident individuals, HUFs, trusts, universities and charitable Institutions,” the RBI said in a notification Thursday. “The bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram. The tenor of the bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option after 5th year to be exercised on the interest payment dates. Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold,” it said.

SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold and investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.

“The quantity of gold for which the investor pays is protected, since he receives the ongoing market price at the time of redemption/ premature redemption. The SGB offers a superior alternative to holding gold in physical form. The risks and costs of storage are eliminated. Investors are assured of the market value of gold at the time of maturity and periodical interest. SGB is free from issues like making charges and purity in the case of gold in jewellery form. The bonds

SGBs TO BE SOLD EVERY MONTH

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■ SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold, and are substitutes for holding physical gold and investors have to pay the issue price in cash

are held in the books of the RBI or in demat form eliminating risk of loss of scrip etc,” the RBI stated.

The bonds bear interest at the rate of 2.50 per cent (fixed rate) per annum on the amount of initial investment. Interest will be credited semi-annually to the bank account of the investor and the last interest will be payable on maturity along with the principal.

According to the RBI, the maximum limit of subscription will be 4 kg for individual, 4 kg for HUF and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March) notified by the Centre from time to time. Bonds can be used as collateral for loans.

The loan-to-value (LTV) ratio is to be set equal to ordinary gold loan mandated by the RBI from time to time.

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 30

THE BENCHMARK Sensex on Thursday soared 330 points and the Nifty gained 85 points as the market started betting on the reform process and policy initiatives by the NDA government in its new term and May F&O expiry on a positive note.

After a positive opening, the 30-share Sensex soared to a high of 39,911.92 during the day and finally closed at 39,831.97, up 329.92 points or 0.84 per cent — its life-time closing high. The broader Nifty too started on a high and went on to hit a high of 11,968.55 before settling the day at 11,945.90, rising 84.80 points or 0.71 per cent — a record closing level for the index. Sectorally, BSE power, utilities, telecom, energy, finance and banking indices ended with up to 1.58 per cent gains. Metal and realty indices were among losers. The broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices followed benchmarks to settle up to 0.40 per cent higher.

Vinod Nair, head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said, “The market is building hope for new measures and spending in the final budget amid expectation of a growth agenda by the government. Investors’ confidence are up despite high valuation as liquidity issue will ease with a cut in interest rate in the monetary policy while higher foreign inflows will push the market to higher level.”

Analysts said that sentiment was driven by renewed hopes

The rupee, meanwhile, fell marginally by 4 paise to close at 69.87 against the US currency, extending its decline for a third straight day

from the new government as investors have been keenly awaiting the swearing-in ceremony of Narendra Modi and his cabinet ministers and allocation of key portfolios. Asian bourses ended on a mixed note, while Europe was trading in the green in opening deals.

The rupee on Thursday fell marginally by 4 paise to close at 69.87 against the US currency, extending its decline for a third straight day, due to a stronger dollar and investors awaiting the allocation of key portfolios in the newly elected government. Foreign fund inflows, strong gains in equities and easing crude oil prices helped the local currency contain losses.

“Indian indices ended May F&O expiry on a positive note as PM Narendra Modi is set to unveil list of Cabinet ministers. Near-term events to be closely tracked are India’s Q4 FY19 GDP rate, infrastructure output for April, foreign exchange reserves data, auto sales data for the month of May to be released on June 1, followed by RBI monetary Policy on June 6,” said Hemang Jani, head-Advisory, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

BRIEFLY

IDBI Bank trims Q4 net loss to ₹4,918 crore

Mumbai: IDBI Bank on Thursday posted a net loss of Rs 4,918 crore for the March quarter on the back of high provisions. However, the net loss of the bank narrowed from Rs 5,663 crore in the same quarter last year. The bank’s pre-provisioning operating profit dropped 41 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to Rs 1,396 crore led by the rise in employees cost and a 57 per cent y-o-y drop in the other income. **ENS**

FY20 GDP growth forecast at 7.1%: Ficci

New Delhi: The country’s median GDP is forecast at 7.1 per cent for FY20 and 7.2 per cent for FY 21, according to industry body Ficci’s economic outlook survey. Ficci said survey has put forth an annual median GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 at 7.1, and the median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activities has been put at 3 per cent for 2019-20.

Not in a position to okay FY19 results: Jet

New Delhi: Shuttered for more than a month, Jet Airways Thursday said it is not in a position to consider audited financial results for 2018-19 due to ongoing process for management change and resignations of key managerial personnel.

Airtel ARPU grows 6.5% in Jan-Mar 2019

New Delhi: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel Thursday said its average revenue per user rose by 6.5 per cent to Rs 123 in the January-March quarter which is still not at “sustainable” level for the sector. The company had ARPU of Rs 116 in the same period a year ago.

Interconnection level: Trai begins review

New Delhi: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Thursday initiated a review of interconnection level for fixed line networks. Releasing a consultation paper on ‘review of the regulatory framework for Interconnection’, the telecom regulator said interconnection is the lifeline of telecom services. **PTI**

Trump says US doing well in trade talks with China

Washington: US President Donald Trump said on Thursday the United States was doing well in trade talks with China and that Beijing wanted to make a deal with Washington.

“China would love to make a deal with us. We had a deal and they broke the deal. I think if they had it to do again they wouldn’t have done what they did,” Trump told reporters as he left the White House to deliver a commencement speech at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado. **REUTERS**

UK court asks for confirmation of prison cell for Nirav Modi in India

ADITIKHANNA
LONDON, MAY 30

NIRAV MODI, wanted in fraud and money laundering charges amounting to nearly \$2 billion, was on Thursday remanded till June 27 by a UK court, which directed the Indian government to confirm within 14 days which prison he is to be held in if he were to be extradited.

Modi was produced in the dock at Westminster Magistrates’ Court before Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot for his first case management hearing Thursday. The 48-year-old, wanted in

India to face charges of fraud and money laundering amounting to nearly \$2 billion in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) case, took notes as the judge fixed his next remand hearing via videolink for June 27 and set a 14-day deadline for the Indian authorities to confirm the prison plans in India.

“There is no reason why it should not be answered within 14 days,” Judge Arbuthnot said, adding that Arthur Road Jail would be the “obvious candidate”.

Arbuthnot, who ordered the extradition of liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya in December 2018, had sought a video of the exact cell in which Mallya was to be held. She

therefore indicated that if Modi was to be held within the same premises, the court would most likely not have any objections.

Modi’s barrister, Clare Montgomery, agreed that unless it was the same cell, she would be seeking a court-appointed independent prison visit to ensure that any holding cell in India met with human rights guidelines. No further details or timelines were set for the extradition trial at the first case management hearing on Thursday as Montgomery told the court that the defence team was yet to receive the opening position statement on the case to start building on its arguments. **PTI**

Drop in output, prices pulls ONGC Q4 down 31%

New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) Thursday posted a 31 per cent drop in its March quarter net profit as it faced a double whammy of a drop in production and fall in prices.

Net profit in January-March at Rs 4,045 crore was 31.6 per cent lower than the Rs 5,915 crore posted in the year-ago period, the firm said. While oil production fell 5 per cent to 4.8 million tonne, the price it realised for every barrel of crude oil sold was 3.6 per cent lower at \$61.93. **PTI**

US first quarter growth revised down to 3.1%

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, MAY 30

US ECONOMIC growth accelerated in the first quarter, the government confirmed on Thursday, but there are signs that the temporary boost from exports and inventory accumulation is already fading, with production at factories slowing.

Gross domestic product increased at a 3.1 per cent annualized rate, the government said in its second reading of first-quarter GDP. That was slightly down from the 3.2 per cent pace esti-

mated last month. The economy grew at a 2.2 per cent pace in the October-December period.

While the government trimmed its initial estimate for inventory investment, export growth was raised. These two volatile components were the key drivers of the rise in GDP in the first quarter.

There was a small upward revision to consumer spending on equipment actually contracted in the last quarter, while the housing market was weaker than initially thought.


**GUJARAT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (GIDB)**

6th Floor, Block No.18, Udyog Bhawan, Sector-11, Gandhinagar, Gujarat - 382017.
Phone : 91-079 23222701/4, Fax : 91-079 23222481, Website : www.gidb.org

TENDER NOTICE

Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB) is pleased to invite reputed consulting firms engaged in the field of Infrastructure Project development since last minimum ten years for participating in the Bidding Process for the "Selection of Consultant for Program Management Consultancy Services for Development of Priority Infrastructure Projects for PPP Mode in Gujarat". The Request for Qualification (RFQ) cum Request for Proposal (RFP) Document is available on <https://gidb.nprocure.com> and www.gidb.org.

Chief Executive Officer

**NMDC Limited**
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Donimalai Complex, Donimalai Township, Sandur Taluq, Ballari Dist., Karnataka - 583118.

1ST CORRIGENDUM

Name of work : "Conveyor Belt Joint (Hot & Cold) Vulcanizing work at OCSL Plant DIOM for two years and extendable by one more year with mutual consent"

Tender Enquiry No. DNM/PLM/Belt Joint/OTE/2019-20, Date : 25-04-2019.

Description	As Per OTE	Amended as
Last date and time of Sale / downloading & Submission of Tender document	Upto 15.00 hours on 14-05-2019	Upto 15.00 hours on 21-06-2019
Time and date for Opening of Part-I tender	At 15.30 hours on 14-05-2019	At 15.30 hours on 21-06-2019

Other terms / conditions / clauses etc of tender document will remain unchanged. The details of tender document may please visit the website of Tender icon of www.nmdc.co.in or/and www.eprocure.com

For and behalf of NMDC Limited,
Date : 31-05-2019 Jt. General Manager (Mech.) Plant/DIOM.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT)
Project Management Unit
Sustainable Coastal Protection & Management Investment Program
Old Port Office Building, Bunder, Mangalore 575001
Phone:0824-2441382/2441392, email:adbpmu@gmail.com
Date: 30.05.2019

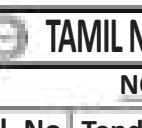
Re-Tender Notification

The Project Director, Project Management Unit, Sustainable Coastal Protection & Management Investment Program, Karnataka invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for "Community Sub-Project 2 - Dune Construction and Plantation works in Dhareshwara, Kadle-Birkodi and Gangekolli, Uttara Kannada District". (IFB No: PMU/IFB/TR-2/CP3-01(B)/2019-20/123 dated 30th May 2019).

Competitive Bidding (NCB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single stage - Two envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document available at the above address and on project website www.scpmpik.org.

Last Date for submission of Bids : 04.07.2019 15:00 hours

DIPR/MNG/MCA/095/19-20 dt. 30.5.19 **Sd/- Project Director**

**TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)

Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	SE/P&A/NCTPS	01	1

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app, www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tneb

DIPR/1754/TENDER/2019


**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PUNE**
(An Institute of National Importance, established by MHRD, Govt. of India)
A/P Sudumbre, Talegaon- Chakan Road, Tal: Maval, District: Pune 412109

TENDERS / NOTIFICATION

No: IIITP/Tenders/2019-201574 Date: May 30th, 2019

Indian Institute of Information Technology Pune (IIITP) invites sealed tenders from qualified bidders/suppliers for: (i) Supply of Apple iMac Desktop and MacBook Laptops, (ii) Supply of Laptops and Desktops (iii) Transportation Service for Office materials (iv) Purchase of Van for Ambulance (v) Providing Security Services. IIIT Pune invites application for Walk-in interviews for various vacant posts (Teaching / Non-Teaching). Technical specifications and details of tenders/notification can be downloaded from Institute's website www.iiitp.ac.in.

Director

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
SOUTHERN CIRCLE, RURAL WORKS, SUNABEDA
E-Procurement Notice

email-serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

No: 30-O Date:

1	Name of the work	: Construction of Roads under UPANTA (01 Nos) Construction of Bridge under BRIDGE (01 Nos)
3	Class of contractor	: "B" & "A" Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority
4	Estimated Cost	: Varies from Rs. 174.55 Lakhs to Rs. 240.26 Lakhs (Approximately)
5	Details projects as per Annexure attached	:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender		
		From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works, Southern Circle, Sunabeda	SERWSCSBD-Online - 01/ 2019-20	04.06.2019 at 11.00 A.M.	18.06.2019 up to 5.00 P.M.	17.06.2019 up to 2.00 P.M.	19.06.2019 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

6. Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in
7. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web sites.

25045/11/0001/1920 **Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle RW: Sunabeda.**