

ICIJ-THE INDIAN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

Mayo Clinic arm entered into JV with GMR, Apollo for Hyderabad hospital

RITU SARIN NEW DELHI, JULY 29

ONE OF the large international corporations which used the Mauritius route to propose a joint venture (JV) in India and maximise tax benefits is Minnesota-based Mayo Clinic and its subsidiary, the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (MFMER).

It was in 2011 that MFMER, described in the data of off-shore specialist firm Conyers Dill & Pearman as a not-for-profit corporation, registered Mayo Clinic GBS Mauritius as well as in the South Asian Region, the Middle East and the Far East.

Once Mayo Mauritius and AMG Healthcare were set up in 2011, the final agreements for proposed Hyderabad hospital took four years to be finalised. But the joint venture had a troubled start. A subsequent MoU (Memorandum of Understanding), signed between the four parties on March 14, 2014, provides a history of the "disputes". The MoU states that it was Mayo which on March 6, 2013 served a "notice of termination" on GMR and Apollo which they refused to accept.

Following this, a meeting was held between the parties on September 20, 2013 in Rochester, Minnesota. It was decided that Mayo Mauritius would transfer its shares in AMG to Apollo and GMR. This share transfer agreement was dated March 14, 2014. Thus, 616,250 shares each were sold by Mayo to GMR and Apollo at the equivalent value of US \$2 each. The "shared vision" that is listed in the March 14, 2014 MoU lists the following:

* To extend Mayo's global outreach and Mayo model of patient/nursing care to India. * To set up a world-class facility that will attract international patients and be competitive with similar facilities in Singapore and Thailand, which are meeting requirements to "target" patients from the US and other developed countries. * A provision of training by Mayo staff to AMG staff in India to the extent permissible by Indian laws. * Meet requirements of Indian patients who travel to the US and other developed countries for specialised, high-end medical care.

Reached for comment, a spokesman for Apollo Hospitals stated in an email reply: "The idea behind the joint venture was to set up a high-end tertiary healthcare facility near the Hyderabad airport. The joint venture company (AGM Healthcare Destination Pvt Ltd) was registered and set up under Indian laws in India. We are unable to comment on Mayo's decisions with regards to their investment. However, things did not take place as per the expectations of the US partner..." Mayo Clinic also responded to "Mauritius Leaks" media partner, *Minnesota Star Tribune's* questions on the proposed Indian hospital projects, stating: "The project that was being explored starting in 2011 was abandoned several years ago and there have been no recent efforts to revive it."

For full report, visit www.indianexpress.com



Plans were shelved at US partner's behest: Apollo

ment holding company for investments engaged in performing feasibility studies for Global Business Solutions investing activities in India as well as in the South Asian Region, the Middle East and the Far East.

Both Mayo Clinic and Apollo Hospital now state that the proposed hospital project failed to take off. It is evident from the Conyers data and structure charts of the Mayo Mauritius plan that investments in India and the holding of equity in Indian entities was a principal objective. Thus, when the Mauritius firm was set up, the business plan stated, "the company will require a tax residency certificate to be issued by the authorities in Mauritius after the incorporation of the company to benefit from the double tax agreement between India and Mauritius".

The proposal drafted by Conyers cleared a three-year "business forecast" for Mayo Mauritius. It was stated that the company would be initially capitalised with \$30,000, and for the next three years will have an infusion of additional paid-in capital of \$250,000, \$500,000 and \$16,000,000. The proposal states, "the company shall raise capital to the value of \$30,000 from its own resources and also any additional paid-in capital will be raised from its own resources".

The investment in an Indian JV was the stated goal for Mayo Clinic at the outset and there is correspondence to show that Conyers had advised the firm on how to approach the investments for obtaining licence from Mauritius Financial Services Commission. They had advised it to include the following in their business plan: "The company (Mayo Mauritius) will act as an invest-

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Panel to look into automated system to tag risky taxpayers

AANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, JULY 29

AN AUTOMATED system of identifying risky entities through risk-based profiling of taxpayers under Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime and changes, if required, in law to include penal provisions for failure to undertake the desired KYC compliance or verification by such entities are being considered by the government. The GST Council has formed a 10-member 'Committee of Officers on Risk-Based Management of Taxpayers under GST regime', which will submit its report within a month.

The officers' committee will study, examine and suggest the modalities for assessing financial credibility of a taxpayer vis-à-vis his/her GST profile and may also suggest various threshold limits for such taxpayers. Also, the officers' committee will suggest reasonable restrictions/interventions to be imposed on taxpayers based on risk parameters to regulate issue of invoices, utilisation of input tax credit, passing of input tax credit, refunds etc.

"...the Committee of Officers on risk-based management of taxpayers under GST regime shall study, examine and suggest measures for implementation of suggested risk-based management on immediate basis and any other measures, mechanism and machinery to check and curb multiple types of frauds," the office memorandum dated July 15 stated. Modalities of KYC verification of a taxpayer through various agencies, parameters for risk-based profiling of a taxpayer so as to identify 'risky' entity in an automated manner will be suggested by the officers committee.

Gujarat's Chief Commissioner of State Tax P D Vaghela, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Principal Commissioner, GST Policy Wing Upendra Gupta have been named the co-conveners of the 10-member officers committee. Other members include officials from Directorate General of Analytics and Risk Management (DGARM),

RISK-BASED PROFILING

Changes, if required, in law to include penal provisions for failure to undertake the desired

KYC compliance or verification are being considered by the government

DG System and Data Management and GST Network (GSTN). GST collections had fallen short of the Budget target by Rs 16 lakh crore and by around Rs 62,000 crore from the revised estimates in the previous financial year, prompting the government to look at various data-analytics based anti-evasion measures to shore up revenues. In his post-Budget interview with *The Indian Express* earlier this month, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey had said that with the Indian economy expected to grow only marginally higher this fiscal, the government will explore anti-evasion measures to increase the efficiency of revenue collections.

"We have estimated 11 per cent as nominal (GDP) growth, and we are saying 14 per cent (growth target for GST revenue). This difference between 11 and 14 per cent will come from increasing our efficiency of collection and

that includes taking anti-evasion measures," Pandey said.

Apart from economic slowdown creating a dent on the growth of GST collections, the government is also grappling with revenue leaks due to multiple fraud cases under the indirect tax regime. A total of 9,385 cases of tax fraud involving amount of Rs 45,682.83 crore has been detected by the tax authorities under the GST regime since its rollout from July 1, 2017, government data showed. Out of this, 1,593 tax fraud cases involving an amount of Rs 6,520.40 crore have been detected in April-June, the first three months of this financial year.

Tax fraud worth Rs 37,946.41 crore was detected in 7,368 cases in 2018-19. Also, in 2018-19, Rs 11,251 crore worth of cases of tax credit availed by issue of fake invoices were detected by the tax authorities and Rs 2,805 crore in April-June of the current fiscal.

In 2018-19, 1,620 cases of fake invoicing were detected involving Rs 11,251.23 crore, and 154 persons were arrested. Between April-June of 2019-20, 666 cases of fake invoicing were detected and the amount involved stood at Rs 2,804.98 crore. A total of 41 persons were arrested.

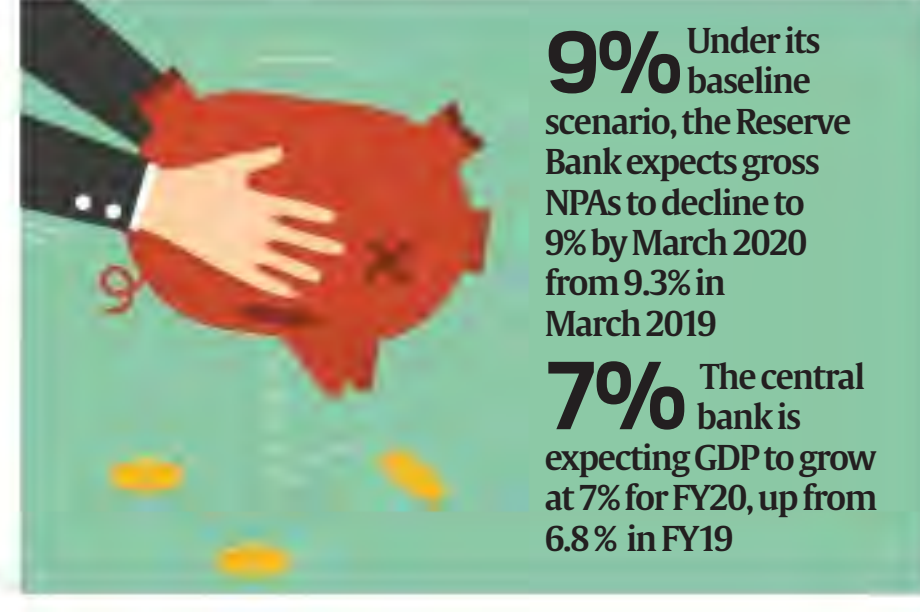
'Slowdown, NBFC crisis pose fresh NPA scare'

Even as more and more crippled banks come out of the dud asset tunnel, the heightening growth slowdown and the lingering crisis at non-banking lenders pose fresh challenges to their asset quality, as per a Moody's report

'WEAKER GROWTH': In the report, which comes months after GDP growth slipped to a five-year low at 5.8% for March quarter, Moody's said it expects growth to be "weaker" in the next 12-18 months, without quantifying its growth expectation

ASSET QUALITY: Banks' operating environment will stay stable, while the slowdown poses challenges to their asset quality, a senior credit analyst at the agency warned

LOAN MESS: Growth moderation in the country



can lead to creation of a fresh bad loan mess in the retail, and small and medium enterprise segments

12% in recent past and is trending under 10% now

SLOWDOWN: There will be a slowdown in fresh bad loans generation in the non-financial sector due to recovery of the corporate sector and also recoveries from legacy problem loans

CAPITAL INFUSIONS by Centre will help state-run banks maintain their capital ratios at current levels

RAISE CAPITAL: Some private banks are in the process of raising new capital from the markets

Centre to SC: Telcos owe over ₹92K cr as licence fees till date

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 29

PRIVATE TELECOM firms like Bharti Airtel, Vodafone and state-owned MTNL and BSNL have pending licence fee outstanding of over Rs 92,000 crore till date, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

In an affidavit filed in the top court, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said that as per calculations, Airtel owes Rs 21,682.13 crore as licence fee to the government.

Dues from Vodafone totalled Rs 19,823.71 crore while Reliance Communications owed a total of Rs 16,456.47 crore, DoT said. BSNL owed Rs 2,098.72 crore while MTNL owed Rs 2,537.48 crore, it said.

The total amount which has to be recovered from all the telecom firms accrues to Rs 92,641 crore as on date, it said.

As per the New Telecom Policy, telecom licensees are required to share a percentage of

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY DoT IN THE TOP COURT

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) said that as per calculations, Airtel owes Rs 21,682.13 crore as licence fee to the government

DUES FROM Vodafone totalled Rs 19,823.71 crore while Reliance Communications owed a total of Rs 16,456.47 crore, DoT said

their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) with the government as annual Licence Fee (LF).

In addition, mobile telephone operators were also required to pay Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) for the use of radio frequency spectrum allotted to them.

Telecom operators had moved the top court against the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal's (TDSAT) order which ruled that certain non-telecom revenues like rent, profit on sale of fixed assets, dividend and treasury income would be counted as adjusted gross revenue (AGR), on which licence fee

would have to be paid to the government.

The TDSAT order had exempted a large number of streams from the definition of AGR, like capital receipts, bad debt, distribution margins to dealers, forex fluctuations, sale of scrap and waiver of late fee.

The telecom tribunal also said revenue from non-core sources such as rent, profit on sale of fixed assets, dividend, interest and miscellaneous income must be included while computing a carrier's AGR, dealing a setback to telecom operators who would have to shell out more towards licence and spectrum usage fees.

FORMER RBI GOVERNOR BIMAL JALAN ON HIGHER TAXES

'In theory if tax rates are high, people look for other countries'

REUTERS NEW DELHI, JULY 29

FORMER RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) Governor Bimal Jalan has warned that the higher income taxes the government introduced in the Budget could lead to a flight of funds from the country.

"In theory if tax rates are very high, obviously people look for other countries, which have lower interest rates, and also exemptions from income tax," said Jalan, who is chairing a central bank panel deciding on how much of the RBI's reserves should be transferred to the government. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget this month, raised taxes on people earning more than Rs 2 crore a year. That included foreign portfolio investors registered as trusts.

Parliament passed the Budget last week.



"I don't think foreign sovereign bonds make us more vulnerable... It has to be long-term borrowing and not short-term borrowing..."

BIMAL JALAN FORMER GOVERNOR, RBI

"The incentive to borrow or invest domestically is certainly impacted by higher taxes. So investors may be sending money overseas, but hopefully it does not lead to round trip-

ping," Jalan told Reuters in an interview, referring to funds exiting only to come back, and evading taxes along the way.

Some economists say that high corporate taxes are one of the reasons for slack private investment that has dragged India's economic growth to a five-year low.

On a much-debated plan to issue overseas sovereign bonds, Jalan said he thought it would be relatively risk-free, provided the government sold securities with 15 years and more to maturity.

"I don't think foreign sovereign bonds make us more vulnerable. Our foreign exchange reserves are good, the current account deficit is low and inflation is low... It has to be long-term borrowing and not short-term borrowing," said Jalan.

The proposal had been criticised by other former RBI Governors Raghuram Rajan and Y Venugopal Reddy.

Trump urges US Fed to do more than a 'small rate cut'

REUTERS WASHINGTON, JULY 29

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Monday urged the Federal Reserve to go beyond making a "small rate cut" this week, raising pressure on the central bank to lower borrowing costs by more than Wall Street expects.

In a series of tweets ahead of the Fed's meeting scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, Trump reiterated his criticism of the US

monetary policymakers, accusing them of acting too cautiously.

"The EU and China will further lower interest rates and pump money into their systems, making it much easier for their manufacturers to sell product. In the meantime, and with very low inflation, our Fed does nothing - and probably will do very little by comparison. Too bad!" he wrote on Twitter. "The Fed has made all of the wrong moves. A small rate cut is not enough, but we will win anyway!" he added.

SBI slashes deposit rates across all maturities by up to 75 bps

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, JULY 29

STATE BANK of India on Monday cut interest rates on deposits across all maturities by up to 75 basis points ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy review next week.

It has slashed the interest rate on 7-45 days deposits by 75 basis points to 5 per cent from 5.75 per cent while for 46 days to 179 days, the rate has come down by 50 basis points to 5.75 per cent from 6.25 per cent. For deposits of 180

days to 210 days, the rate has been cut by 10 basis points and for 211 days to one year, interest rate has come down by 15 basis points to 6.25 per cent. For one year to two years, the rate will be down by 20 basis points to 6.80 per cent. The rate changes will be effective August 1.

As on March 31, 2019, SBI has a deposit base of over Rs 29 lakh crore with CASA (current account and savings account) ratio of 45.74 per cent and advances of over Rs 22 lakh crore. SBI commands around 35 per cent of market share in home

EXPLAINED Lending rate cut by banks still remains slow

AFTER THE RBI slashed the key repo rate by 75 basis points this year, banks are moving slowly to bring down the rates for their customers.

While SBI has taken the lead to slash the deposit rates, other banks are expected to follow suit in the coming days amid expectations of another 25 basis points of repo rate cut next week. However, banks are usually fast in slashing deposit rate while going slow in effecting a cut in lending rates.

loans and auto loans.

The Reserve Bank of India has cut its key repo rate by 75 bps this year but commercial banks have mostly responded with just around 15-20 bps cuts in their key lending rates. SBI did not announce any reduction in lending rates on Monday. The government has already reduced interest rates on small savings schemes such as the National Savings Scheme, Public Provident Fund among others in late June by 10 bps.

Analysts said other banks may follow SBI's lead in cutting deposit rates but the timing and size of the

moves will vary. On July 19, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das discussed the slower transmission of rate reduction and stressed asset resolution with the CEOs of public sector banks and the Chief Executive of Indian Banks Association (IBA).

During the meeting, the issue of less than desired level of transmission of monetary policy rates was discussed with the CEOs of banks. Analysts are expecting another rate cut in the next policy review in August in the wake of the slowdown in growth and low inflation.

Automobile dealers feel squeeze as norms for loans get tightened

PRITISH RAJ
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

COME OCTOBER, some dealers of Hyundai Motor India may need to furnish collateral of anywhere between 25 per cent and 50 per cent of the loan amount taken from State Bank of India, depending upon the lender's internal rating.

However, there are dealers who have already furnished the collateral at the time of renewing their loans or getting them enhanced. An SBI circular dated March 27 noted that dealers would need to provide a minimum 25 per cent or 50 per cent of collateral security based on a rating obtained when the loan was renewed or enhanced or a

In a letter to Hyundai, SBI had communicated it has reduced the credit period from 90 days to 60 days, with a 15-day grace period to pay back a loan

period of six months, whichever was earlier.

The collateral can be an immovable asset, fixed deposits or specified securities. Earlier, lenders rarely asked dealers for any collateral. In a letter to Hyundai, SBI had communicated it has reduced the credit period from 90 days to 60 days, with a 15-

day grace period to pay back the loan. Post the grace period, interest rate will be levied at the rate of 6 per cent compared with the 2 per cent levied earlier.

FE has seen a copy of the circular issued to Hyundai.

The rules relating to dealer financing are understood to have been tightened for dealers of Maruti Suzuki. A senior bank executive said the terms were slightly different for Maruti. Sector experts noted the slowdown in the automobile industry and the closure of some 200 dealers has made lenders understandably cautious.

Emails sent to Hyundai Motor India and Maruti Suzuki did not elicit a response till the time of going to press. **FE**

ED attaches ₹246 crore assets in TN gutkha case

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has attached properties worth over Rs 246 crore in the Tamil Nadu Gutkha scam case. Attached properties include 174 immovable properties situated in Tamil Nadu, Pudukcherry and Andhra Pradesh.

ED claimed their market value to be Rs 243.80 crore. The agency has also attached shares and vehicles worth Rs 2.29 crore belonging to proprietors of Jayam Industries, the company at the heart of the scam.

The ED case is based on an FIR registered by CBI in September last year on orders from the Madras High Court. The CBI had then raided the residential premises of Tamil Nadu Health Minister C Vijayabaskar, Director General of Police T K Rajendran and former Chennai Police Commissioner S George among 35 locations in connection with the case.

The agency had also put under arrest promoters of Jayam Industries, AV Madhavrao and Uma Shankar Gupta, apart from FSSAI official Dr P Senthil Kumar

The agency has also attached shares and vehicles worth Rs 2.29 crore belonging to proprietors of Jayam Industries, the firm at the heart of the scam

and Central Excise Superintendent NK Panda.

Top ministers, police officers and revenue officials are alleged to have taken bribes to allow manufacture and sale of gutkha, which was banned in the state in 2013.

"Investigation under PMLA revealed that accused AV Madhava Rao, PV Srinivasa Rao, Tallam Uma Shankar Gupta and others had associated in illegal manufacture, sale and distribution of Gutkha products in Tamil Nadu had a turnover of Rs 639.40 crore from June 2013 to June 2016 and the ill-gotten money derived out of the criminal activities were invested in moveable and immovable properties in Andhra Pradesh, Pudukcherry and Tamil Nadu. The criminal activity related to the payment of bribes to the Central and State Government Officials as quid pro quo for allowing the illegal business of Gutkha and other tobacco products which are banned in the State of Tamil Nadu," an ED statement said on Monday.

According to ED, investments made by the accused were in land purchased in the name of M/s Gayathri Realtors, M/s Medha Diary Private Limited, M/s Vijayanthi Spinners.

"Three factory premises were also acquired by the accused in the names of relatives/employees during the period to facilitate smooth running of their illegal Gutkha business. Further, out of the profits of Gutkha business, personal investments were made by accused persons by purchase of land in their name and in the name of family members/relatives. Besides, shares were purchased in M/s Goutham Buddha Textile Park, Guntur and vehicles were purchased for the sale and distribution of Gutkha products. The major investments in real estate made by the accused were in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh apart from investments in Salem, Pudukcherry and Chennai," the ED statement said.

REPORT INVOLVES 'COMPLY OR EXPLAIN' APPROACH

Sebi panel proposes code of conduct for proxy advisors

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 29

A WORKING group set up by the Securities and Exchange Board of India has proposed a code of conduct involving a 'comply or explain' approach for proxy advisory firms wherein listed companies aggrieved by the view of such entities can approach the watchdog for redressal.

"The proxy advisor should take appropriate steps to manage, mitigate and/or disclose any potential conflicts of interest resulting from ancillary business activities. Creation of 'Chinese Walls' between proxy firms and their consultancy firms. There should be clear procedures to handle conflicts of interest," the report said. Sebi has sought public comments on the recommendations made in the group's report till August 18.

While noting that no further mandatory regulation is required, the group has recommended amendment to regulations that

COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS SOUGHT

■ Sebi has sought public comments on the recommendations made in the group's report till August 18

■ The group has

recommended amendment to regulations that would allow listed companies, aggrieved by a view of a proxy advisor, to approach Sebi for redressal of their grievances

would allow listed companies, aggrieved by a view of a proxy advisor, to approach Sebi for redressal of their grievances. "Sebi may consider drafting a code of conduct for proxy advisors... on a 'comply or explain' basis," the report said.

Another suggestion is that disclosure of conflict of interest should appear on every specific document where the proxy advisory firms are giving their advice. "A generic disclosure/disclaimer on the proxy advisor's website is inadequate and it should be extended to every place, including news quotes where a proxy advisor makes a

statement. Disclosures should especially address possible areas of potential conflict and also the safeguards that have been put in place," it said.

Besides, the group has suggested that institutional investors like foreign portfolio investors, portfolio managers, alternative investment funds, real estate investment trusts and infrastructure investment trusts could be mandated to ensure that proxy advisory firms employed by them have appropriate capacity and capability to issue proxy advice. The working group on issues related to proxy advisors was set up in

November 2018. Proxy advisor is a person/ firm who provides advice to institutional investors or shareholder of a company to exercise their rights in the company including recommendations on public offer or voting recommendation on agenda items.

The Sebi panel has said all proxy advisors should have a publicly available conflict of interest policy, which will have a clear approach on managing concerns relating to independence that could impact their recommendations provided to clients.

The panel recommended proxy firms have clear separation between the proxy voting advice to shareholders and the advice to listed companies regarding advisory services. Proxy firms need to also outline a policy to determine when not to provide a voting recommendation. The panel has said the board of proxy advisors should be independent of its shareholders, where such a position creates a serious conflict of interest.

BRIEFLY

Welfare board for traders announced

New Delhi: The Commerce and Industry Ministry will set up a 'National Traders Welfare Board' to advise the government to reduce compliance burden and improve availability of funds for traders, according to a notification.

Piyush Goyal cancels his visit to China

Beijing: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, who was due to visit Beijing this week to take part in the 8th round of RCEP Ministerial meeting, has cancelled his trip to participate in the proceedings of the extended Parliament session, officials said. On Thursday, the government decided to extend the Parliament session till August 7 to complete its legislative agenda. The ongoing session was scheduled to end on July 26.

Bigbasket gets ₹100 crore venture debt

New Delhi: Trifecta Capital Monday said it has provided Rs 100 crore in venture debt to SuperMarket Grocery Supplies — which operates online food and grocery portal bigbasket.com.

Vodafone Idea to close m-pesa business

New Delhi: Vodafone Idea Ltd has decided to close m-pesa vertical following closure of Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd, in which it was being merged with, a top official said on Monday.

Honda recalls 5,088 units of various models

New Delhi: Japanese auto major Honda on Monday said it is recalling an additional 5,088 units of its previous generation models of Jazz, City, CR-V, Civic and Accord in India as part of a global exercise to rectify faulty Takata airbags.

RBI slaps ₹26L fine on Hip Bar, Mobikwik

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank has imposed a total penalty of around Rs 26 lakh on two online payment solutions providers One Mobikwik Systems and Hip Bar. One Mobikwik Systems Private Limited has been slapped a fine of Rs 15 lakh while Hip Bar Pvt Ltd faced a fine of Rs 10.85 lakh, according to an RBI release. **PTI**

Govt to sell 4 dated securities worth ₹17,000 cr on Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE GOVERNMENT will auction four dated securities worth Rs 17,000 crore on Friday in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) platform, a move that will suck out liquidity from the financial system.

"Subject to the limit of Rs 17,000 crore, being total notified amount, Government of India will have the option to retain additional subscription up to Rs 1,000 crore each against any one or more of the (four)

Bids for the auction should be submitted in electronic form

security," the RBI said in a statement.

The auction will be price-based using multiple price method.

The RBI said both competitive and non-competitive bids for the auction should be submitted in electronic format on E-Kuber system on August 2, 2019.

Up to 5 per cent of the notified amount of the sale of the stocks will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions.

Pfizer to combine off-patent drug business with Mylan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK, JULY 29

PFIZER ANNOUNCED Monday it will merge its off-patent drug business with generic drugmaker Mylan to create a global leader in low-cost treatment, a business that faces significant political pressure in the US.

The new entity, which will be renamed upon the deal's closure, will have a portfolio that includes impotence drug Viagra, cholesterol pills Lipitor, painkiller Lyrica and the life-saving EpiPen allergy treatment.

The merger comes amid rising competition in generic drugs from companies in India and elsewhere, a segment of pharma that is known for having low barriers to entry and commodity-like products.

Joining forces with Pfizer's off-patent division, called Upjohn, will give Mylan access to more international markets. The deal also is expected to result in \$1 billion in annual cost savings starting in 2023, the companies said.

Bond yield declines to 6.41% as FM reaffirms foreign bond issuance plan

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 29

THE YIELD on benchmark bond inched lower on Monday as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reaffirmed plans of issuing overseas sovereign bonds and said the economy could do better with a substantial rate cut.

The benchmark 10-year government bond yield fell by 11 basis points (bps) to close at 6.41 per cent on Monday, putting a hold on the 18 bps climb in yields last week. Yield rose in the previous week after Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das signalled that further interest rate cuts would be dependent on incoming data like inflation and growth numbers.

"Bond yields have fallen as a rate cut in the August MPC now

Auto stocks see massive selling; tank up to 6.5%

Mumbai: Auto stocks tumbled up to 6.5 per cent Monday as investor sentiment were hit after decision to reduce tax rate on electric vehicles and proposal to hike registration fees for old and new vehicles.

Shares of Tata Motors plunged 6.52 per cent, Apollo Tyres 6 per cent, Bajaj Auto 4.99 per cent, Eicher Motors 4.56 per cent, Mutherson Sumi Systems 4.34 per cent, TVS

Motor Company 4.27 per cent, Maruti Suzuki India 4.26 per cent, on the BSE. The BSE auto index dropped 3.55 per cent to close at 15,610.93. Meanwhile, shares of Vodafone Idea Ltd on Monday cracked 27 per cent, eroding Rs 7,126 crore from its market valuation, after the firm's Q1 revenue as well as subscriber base declined. The scrip tumbled 26.81 per cent to close at Rs 6.77 on the BSE. **PTI**

seems very likely given the finance minister's desire for significant rate cuts," said fixed income strategist Rajeev Pawar. "A slowdown in global markets and in the local front cou-

pled has led to a need for further monetary easing with regard to rate cuts, which has been highlighted by the finance minister," said IDFC AMC head-fixed income Suyash Choudhary. **FE**

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NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING – TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE

1. The Government of Tamilnadu has received a Financing (Loan No. IN8499) from the World Bank towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project II and it is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for which this Invitation for Bids is issued.

2. The due date for the tender is extended as follows:

S. N.	Description	IFB No	Sale period	Last date and time for receipt of bid	Date and time of opening of bid
1	Modular Operation Theatre (1)	RSP1/NCB/TRNSP-II/TNMSC/ENGG/19 dt.02.05.19	Upto 20.08.19	21.08.19, 11.00 AM	21.08.19, 12.00 PM
2	Angiography C-Arm based with Angiosuite (1)	RSP2/NCB/TRNSP-II/TNMSC/ENGG/19 dt.02.05.19	Upto 20.08.19	21.08.19, 03.00 PM	21.08.19, 04.00 PM

For details visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in and TNMSC website www.tnpsc.com
DIPR/2615/Tender/2019 General Manager (E)

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
UNIT 2

GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR SUPPLY OF PRE-OWNED WETLAP MACHINE

Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL), which owns and successfully operates a 200,000 tpa Multilayer Coated Board Mill at Mondipatti, Trichy District (Unit 2) in the State of Tamil Nadu, India, is embarking upon a Mill Expansion Plan.

TNPL invites sealed Bids from Suppliers / Dealers / Agents / Mills for supply of used Wetlap Machine (of capacity around 200 BD tpd) suitable for Wet lapping Chemical Hardwood pulp. The Bidder may offer the pulp dryer, if available.

A single stage, two-envelope (Technical Bid and Price Bid envelopes) bidding procedure will be followed. As part of the Non-price Bid, Bidders shall furnish all the technical details of the machine offered along with the age of the machine, place of its operation, basis of offer, whether the machine is in running condition etc., along with commercial terms and conditions of sale. The Price Bid shall have only the price for the offered machine.

Interested vendor may submit their offer to the following address:

Project Management Division
Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited
Kagithapuram 639 136, Karur District, Tamil Nadu, INDIA
Phone : 04324-277001 (10 lines) Extn: 4402 / 4568
Telefax : 04324-277027
E-mail : pmd2@tnpl.co.in, Web : www.tnpl.com

All Bids must be delivered to the above office of TNPL not later than 15.00 hours on 16.08.2019. Technical Bids will be opened at 16.00 hours on the same day in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

TNPL reserves the right to qualify the bids received and / or reject any or all the bids, without assigning any reasons therefor.

DIPR/2613/Tender/2019 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

KMDA KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

e-NIT No.: SE(EB)/T-01(R) of 2019-20

e-Tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer (EB), W.S. Sector, Unnayan Bhawan, 6th Floor, DJ-11, Block-A, Salt Lake, Sector-II, Kolkata-700091 from reliable, experienced and resourceful agencies for the work: **Name of Work:** Laying of DI (K7) distribution pipe line of different diameter ranging from 100mm, 150mm and 200mm, 250mm & 300mm including supply of valve, specials and temporary road restoration upto WBM stage within Bansberia Municipality under AMRUT. **Estimated Amount:** ₹ 12,26,75,949/-.
Earnest Money: ₹ 24,53,520/- **Cost of Tender paper:** ₹ 10,000/-
Time of Completion: 06 months. **Last date of bid submission online:** 26.08.2019. For details contact the above office or visit our both websites. **KMDA/T-267/Expression(4)/19-20**
Visit : www.wbtenders.gov.in or www.kmdaonline.org

Government of Rajasthan Urban Development Department

Website- urban.rajjasthan.gov.in.

No. F.10(132)UDH/3/2018 Part Date: 26 JUL 2019

VACANCY NOTICE

Applications from eligible persons are invited for appointment of one Member in Rajasthan Real Estate Regulatory Authority on recommendations of the selection committee. The format of application, eligibility, remuneration and other condition of service can be downloaded from the website www.urban.rajjasthan.gov.in.

The completed application along with certified copies of relevant documents in support of age, pay scale, present/post employment etc may be sent to the Principal Secretary to the Government, Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Rajasthan Room number 1212, Main building, 2nd floor, Secretariat, Jaipur, so as to reach him on or before **19 August 2019 by 05.00 p.m.** Application form complete in the all respect along with all the annexure can also be emailed on or before 19 August by 05.00 p.m. to dsudh@yahoo.com.
Sd/-
(Bhaskar A. Sawant)
Principal Secretary to the Government, Urban Development & Housing Depp.

DIPR/C/6197/2019

China-US trade talks to resume today but with low hopes for progress

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, JULY 29

TWO MONTHS after US-Chinese talks aimed at ending a tariff war broke down, both sides are trying to temper hopes for a breakthrough when negotiations resume Tuesday on an array of disputes that has grown to include tension over China's tech giant Huawei.

Rhetoric has hardened despite the June agreement by Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping to revive efforts to end the costly fight over China's technology ambitions and trade surplus.

"I don't know if they're going to make a deal," Trump said Friday. "Maybe they will, maybe they won't. I don't care." He repeated his claim that the United States is prospering by "taking in tens of billions of dollars" from his tariff hikes on Chinese products. In reality, those are paid by US companies and consumers who buy Chinese goods.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer are due to meet Tuesday and Wednesday in Shanghai with a delegation led by China's economy czar, Vice Premier Liu He.

Chinese leaders are resisting US pressure to roll back plans for government-led development of industry lead-

'WTO threat showed US arrogance'

Beijing: China on Monday said the US threat to pull recognition of China's "developing nation" status at the World Trade Organization showed its "arrogance and selfishness", ahead of crucial trade talks this week.

Reaction followed a memo issued on Friday by US President Donald Trump to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, stressing that some countries were enjoying lenient treatment by "improperly" identifying themselves

as developing economies.

The Trump administration's demand "further exposed its wayward arrogance and selfishness", Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a briefing Monday.

One or a few countries "should not have the final say" on which nations should be categorised as developing countries, Hua said.

She insisted that China needs to maintain its status as a developing economy to "achieve real trade fairness". **AFP**

ers in robotics, artificial intelligence and other technologies. Washington complains those efforts depend on stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology. Some American officials worry the US is losing its lead.

For their part, American negotiators have resisted Beijing's demand that they remove all punitive tariffs immediately. Washington wants to keep some in place to ensure China keeps its promises. "The same issues that caused the talks to break down are still there," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital

Economics.

"Neither side seems any closer to offering major concessions," said Evans-Pritchard. "It's very hard to see how they can reach a deal this time if they were unable to do that in March."

US priorities include "industrial policy issues such as intellectual property rights, forced technology transfer and subsidies for (Chinese) state-owned enterprises," said Jeff Moon, a former US diplomat and trade official who specialised in China. "Enforcing any agreements is also a top priority."