

SCHEME WATCH
PM-KISAN

Discrepancies force stop payment to 2.69L farmers, disbursal to 1.19L of them reversed

Payment procedure modified; strict pre-verification to be done

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JULY 3

CASES OF REVERSAL OF TRANSACTIONS IN VARIOUS STATES

Assam	2
Haryana	55
H. Pradesh	346
J&K	29
Jharkhand	22
Maharashtra	32,897
UP	86,314
Uttarakhand	78
Total	1,19,743

IN THE run-up to elections, when the first installment was being made under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana, a discrepancy in the details of names of farmers given by states and the names in the respective bank accounts forced the government to reverse payments in nearly 1.20 lakh cases, government data showed. After discovering the mismatch, stop payment instructions were issued to the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) for accounts of a total of 2,69,605 farmers, out of which 1,19,743 accounts were already credited and these transactions then had to be reversed.

Out of the total 1,19,743 cases of reversal of transactions recorded for eight states, Uttar Pradesh topped with reversal of 86,314 transactions, followed by Maharashtra with reversal of 32,897 transactions. Himachal Pradesh reversed 346 transactions, while the lowest number was seen for Assam with reversal of two transactions.

The issue surfaced when the payments were being processed for crediting in the bank accounts of the beneficiaries and it was noticed that there was a mismatch in the names of the beneficiaries as provided by the state governments and the names as given in the details of the corresponding bank account numbers in some cases. The states were asked to verify this discrepancy. "On the request of the states, stop payment instructions were issued to the NPCI for 2,69,605 farmers. The system could stop credit of these beneficiaries, except for 1,19,743 beneficiaries, whose accounts had already been credited. The NPCI and banks then returned the money of those beneficiaries also on account of Stop Payment instructions," an official said.

Earlier, in a letter to the states on February 28, the central government had flagged the issue of payment being made to some non-beneficiaries.

The Centre had then asked the concerned state governments to facilitate reversal of such transactions for such non-beneficiaries who may want to return this amount to the government and delete them from the database in order to stop further payments to such beneficiaries.

"There was a rush to make the first instalment, so the Centre went broadly by the information given by states given that agriculture is a state subject. The mismatch gets discovered as soon as the details do not match and the whole process does not go

through. For the 119,743 farmers for whom payments were credited, stop payment instructions were issued and immediately those transactions were reversed," a source said. States, in turn, primarily focused on Aadhaar information and the land records, so many payouts happened to beneficiaries who had mismatch in their records or were not completely eligible, the source said. "Income tax details need to be properly looked into to weed out those who paid income tax in previous assessment year," the source added.

The procedure for release of payment to beneficiaries was suitably modified after the initial period and stringent pre-verification procedures were formalised. "The states' Stop Payment requests due to mismatch in the names is now taken in advance so that payment is released only to the beneficiaries whose data matches correctly with the bank account details. Therefore, the possibility of this kind of incident recurring has been eliminated," the official said. On February 24 this year, the government launched a new scheme, PM-KISAN, with an aim to provide income support of Rs 6,000 per annum to all small and marginal landholder farmers' families with cultivable land holding up to 2 hectares.

The government recently expanded the coverage of the scheme to include all landholding farmers, irrespective of the size of the landholdings.

Certain categories of beneficiaries of higher economic strata such as institutional landholders, former and present holders of constitutional posts, former and present ministers/state ministers/MPs and MLAs, professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers, chartered accountants, and architects registered with professional bodies and all persons who paid income tax in last assessment year have been excluded from the ambit of the scheme.

The amount is being credited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries using Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal in three 4-monthly installments of Rs 2,000, subject to certain exclusions.

AIR INDIA LOST ₹491 CRORE TILL JULY 2

Pak airspace closure: Indian airlines incur ₹550 crore loss

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JULY 3

INDIAN AIRLINES have lost over Rs 550 crore due to airspace closure by Pakistan, Minister of State for Civil Aviation (Independent Charge) Hardeep Singh Puri told Rajya Sabha Wednesday, adding the move was a unilateral measure by Pakistan "that followed the non-military counter-terrorism air strike by Indian Air Force against terror camp in Balakot, Pakistan in February 2019".

In a written response to a question in the Upper House, Puri noted that flag-carrier Air India lost Rs 491 crore till July 2, while India's largest domestic airline IndiGo incurred a loss of Rs 25.1 crore till May 31. Budget carriers Spicejet and GoAir lost Rs 30.73 crore and Rs 2.1 crore, respectively till June 20. On Friday, Pakistan extended the closure of its airspace for the fourth time till July 12.

Following airstrikes by Indian Air Force in Balakot, Pakistan had fully closed its airspace on

LOSS DUE TO PAKISTAN AIRSPACE CLOSURE	
Air India (till July 2)	Rs 491 crore
IndiGo (till May 31)	Rs 25.1 crore
Spicejet (till June 20)	Rs 30.73 crore
GoAir (till June 20)	Rs 2.1 crore

Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajya Sabha
Note: Pakistani airspace was closed for overflying on February 27

February 26. While it later opened up the airspace, restrictions on overflying the country still continue — and out of the total 11 air routes in Pakistan's territory, it has opened up two since March. One of these is westbound waypoint over Arabian Sea towards Karachi, Hingol, Gwadar, and the other one is eastbound over Karachi, Badin into Gujarat, India towards Ahmedabad. The closure of routes affected hundreds of east-west flights flying over the subcontinent but westbound flights from airports in northern India such as Delhi, Lucknow, Amritsar etc have been worst affected.

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flight to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan, where he attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, took a detour to avoid entering the Pakistani airspace and the flight took six hours, compared with a 2-3 hour duration in case the aircraft overflew Pakistan.

The restrictions have not only led in longer flight times for passengers but also in higher fuel expenses and operational difficulties for the airlines. Even as some airlines introduced refuel stops for their flights from Delhi to North American east coast, some have cancelled flights altogether. US-based carrier United has sus-

ended its Delhi-Newark flight since April and is likely to resume it in July. Air Canada had said it would suspend daily flight between Delhi and Toronto between June 14 and August 1.

An airline executive said that opening of the eastbound waypoint last month, saves 10-15 minutes in flight time but is still a long way from the pre-Balakot situation. Due to closure of routes that allowed westbound flights from airports in north India to enter Pakistani airspace — instead of taking a detour to Gujarat or Maharashtra and then turning right for Europe, North America or West Asia — most flights saw their durations rise by at least 70-80 minutes. Air India's flights from Delhi to Chicago are stopping in Europe for refuelling. Further, IndiGo's flight from Delhi to Istanbul, which was to be first non-stop flight on route by an Indian carrier has been forced to make a refuelling stop at Doha. Similarly, Spicejet, which was only Indian airline flying the Delhi-Kabul route has cancelled the flight.

Cabinet approves leasing out three major AAI airports

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 3

THE UNION Cabinet cleared the civil aviation ministry's proposal to lease out three airports — Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru — of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) through public-private partnership (PPP) to the Adani group for a period of 50 years. This marked the second big airport privatisation round after Delhi and Mumbai were given to private companies GMR and GVK, respectively.

In February, the Adani group was selected to operate the three airports, in addition to Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram, after having bid aggressively. For the Ahmedabad airport, Adani bid Rs 177 per passenger while the second highest bidder put a bid of Rs 146. Similarly, for the Lucknow airport Adani bid Rs 171, while the second highest bidder put a bid of Rs 139. For the Mangaluru airport the difference was even higher as Adani's highest bid was Rs 115 followed by a bid of Rs 45. The government had invited bids from private players to operate these airports for 50 years on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) adopted the per-passenger fee model this time, which is a modification of the revenue-sharing model that was used earlier in the privatisation of airports such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

As per the lease terms of the PPP agreement, Adani group will be responsible for operations and management of the existing airport assets as well as for designing, engineering, financing, construction and development of the additional air-side, terminal, city-

EXPLAINED

Enhanced revenues likely

WHILE THE privatisation may not immediately lead to higher outgo for passengers, for the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the move could result in enhanced revenues, which may lead to further investment by AAI at tier II and tier III cities for creation of aviation-related infrastructure.

side and land-side infrastructure for the airport.

The airports sector in India was predominantly dominated by two private sector players and experts see the entry of the Adanis as a positive for fostering competition amongst the operators. Under the per-passenger fee model, the airport operator needs to pay fixed charges per passenger on a monthly basis to AAI. For instance, if 1 lakh passengers use a particular airport in a year, the operator pays the charge multiplied by the number of passengers for the entire year to AAI. Charges are paid on monthly basis. This provides an incentive for the airport operator to grow revenue as there is no sharing while AAI benefits from the growth in passengers. However, analysts noted that Adani Enterprises has bid aggressively and will need higher growth to support profitability.

'Residential units' launches dip 11% in H1 2019'

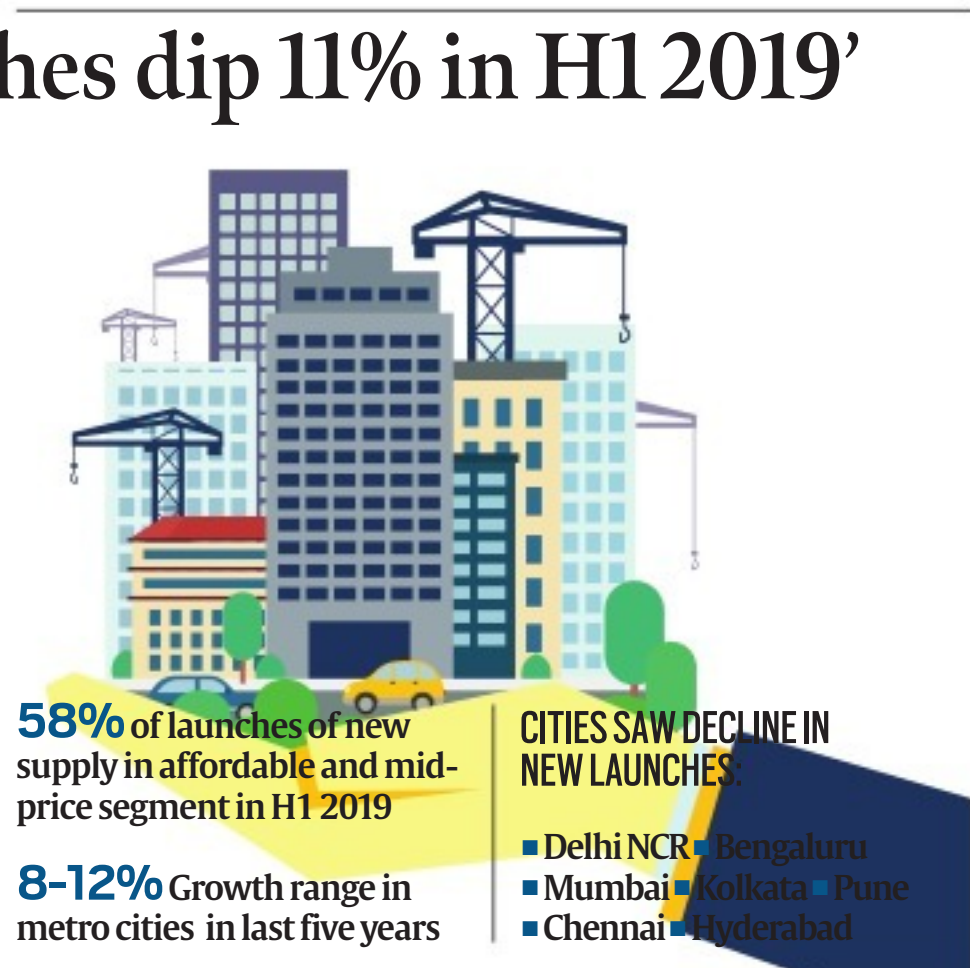
New launches of residential units in seven major cities in the country have decreased by 11 per cent during the first half of 2019, property consultant JLL said

WAIT & WATCH APPROACH: Many developers adopted wait and watch approach during the elections held in April and May and focused on clearing unsold inventory

FUTURE LAUNCHES TO BE MODEST: Going ahead, new unit launches across the seven cities may remain modest as developers realign their product mix to suit market demand

GROWTH IN MAJOR CITIES:
Thane: 22 per cent
Mumbai: 9 per cent (due to shift of offices to peripheral locations)
Chennai: 8 per cent
Kancheepuram: 36%

CATERING TO UNMET DEMAND: Realtors continued to capitalise on demand and supply side incentives of government to cater to unmet demand



Govt may give leg-up for disaster insurance

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JULY 3

WITH NATURAL disasters frequently hitting the country, the NDA government's Budget is expected to announce some tax benefits for insurance policies covering natural disaster so that people can be encouraged to buy these policies.

Sources said the Ministry of Finance has held extensive discussion on the issue with the insurance industry as part of pre Budget discussions. The tax benefit can be on the lines of retail health insurance policies which offer tax benefits to the policy holders which has made the segment as one of fastest growing segments in the country, said an official. "By offering tax benefits, the government can encourage people to buy insurance policies against natural disasters like floods, cyclone and earthquakes where losses can be recovered from the insurance and reinsurance companies," he said.

Currently, the central government and the state governments are compensating for the huge losses to the extent it can, creating

deep holes in public finance.

Also in the absence of an insurance mechanism, the huge gap between economic losses and insured losses has been affecting both common man and economy of the country. "We have seen in the initiatives of central government like Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Ayushman Bharat, Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), insurance is being used as a social security and social empowerment tool to reduce the financial burden for the government through effective risk transfer solutions. A similar measure as part of country's strategy towards disaster management can bring about enormous benefits to the citizens and the government," sources said.

The country has seen many natural disasters in recent times like Chennai Floods, Kerala Floods and Orissa Cyclone - Fani. In fact, after being hit by massive floods that led to over Rs 25,000 crore of economic losses, the Kerala government had invited state owned GIC Re and the second largest global reinsurer Swiss Re to suggest insurance solutions as part of disaster management.

This trend is irreversible and instances like many high-rise fires in the recent past in Mumbai and other parts of India, give grim reminder of potential catastrophic consequences for the government and society at a large. Such consequences have the potential to put enormous stress on the financial resources of many state governments that are already overburdened.

In India, most of the losses suffered in natural disasters are not insured, for reasons such as lack of purchasing power, lack of interest in insurance and ignorance of availability of such covers. Quite a number of insurance companies including joint ventures with foreign insurers are providing catastrophic covers implying that the commercial and private sector can also play an essential role in disaster mitigation with the right incentives, sources said.

The proposal for an insurance catastrophe pool (INCIP) which would have mitigated the sufferings proposed some years ago was stuck with the government with no decision taken about charging of premium and the complex issue of implementing the scheme across the country.

Boeing pledges \$100 mn to help 737 MAX crash families

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JULY 3

BOEING CO said on Wednesday it would give \$100 million over multiple years to local governments and non-profit organizations to help families and communities affected by the deadly crashes of its 737 MAX planes in Indonesia and Ethiopia. The move is a step toward repairing the image of the world's largest planemaker, which has been severely dented by the crashes and its sometimes clumsy response to them.

Boeing faces probes by global regulators and U.S. lawmakers over the development of the 737 MAX, as well as more than 100 lawsuits by the families of victims of a Lion Air crash in October and Ethiopian Airlines in March, which together killed 346 people.

The multiyear payout is independent of the lawsuits, a Boeing spokesman said, meaning it will not go directly to the families.

The \$100 million is meant to help with education and living expenses and to spur economic development in affected communities, Boeing said.

Wage Code Bill gets nod; minimum wage to be linked to skills, geographical regions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 3

MINIMUM WAGES linked only to factors such as skills and geographical regions, which will effectively reduce the number of minimum wage rates across the country to 300, is one of the new proposed features of the revised version of Code on Wages Bill. The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the revised version of Code on Wages Bill, which seeks to define the norms for fixing minimum wages that will be applicable to workers of organised and unorganised sectors, except government employees and MNREGA workers.

At present, minimum wages are fixed on the basis of categories such as skilled, unskilled, semi-skilled, high skilled, geographical regions, and nature of work such as mining and are applicable for 45 scheduled employments in central sphere and 1709 scheduled employments in states. Now, as per the Cabinet approved Bill, the minimum wages across the country would be only linked to factors of skills and geographical regions, while the rest of the factors have been removed, a source said. The 2017 Bill had proposed to link minimum wages to factors such as the skills required, the arduousness of work assigned, geographical location of workplace.

The changes in the Code on Wages Bill is expected to reduce the number of minimum wages across the country to 300 from about 2,500 minimum wage rates at present, the source said.

This approval from the Cabinet was required since the previous version, Code on Wages Bill, 2017, which was introduced in Lok Sabha in August 2017 by previous NDA government and was later referred to Standing Committee, lapsed after the 16th Lok Sabha dissolved in May. The Code on Wages will amalgamate the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. A National Floor Level

CURRENT SYSTEM

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Minimum Wage will be set by the Centre to be revised every five years, while states will fix minimum wages for their regions, which cannot be lower than the floor wage. The current floor wage, which was fixed in 2017, is at Rs 176 a day, but some states have minimum wages lower than it such as Andhra Pradesh (Rs 69) and Telangana (Rs 69), while some have higher such as Nagaland (Rs 115).

The Bill proposes to levy penalty ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh and repeat offences would invite imprisonment along with providing for compounding of those offences which are not punishable with imprisonment. The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions is also expected to be shortly listed for approval by the Union Cabinet, the source said. The first term of the NDA government had proposed codification of labour laws into four codes. The labour and employment ministry had drafted four labour codes: industrial relations, wages, social security and welfare, and occupational safety, health and working conditions by amalgamating, simplifying and rationalising the relevant provisions of the existing central labour laws.

Birla group patriarch Basant Kumar Birla passes away at 98

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 3

THE BIRLA group patriarch and one of the doyens of the Indian industry, Basant Kumar Birla, passed away in Mumbai on Wednesday due to old age ailments. Birla, 98, is survived by his daughters Jayshree Mohta and Manjushree Khaitan. His son Aditya Vikram Birla died in 1995 while grandson Kumar Mangalam Birla — son of Aditya Birla — is the chairman of the Aditya Birla Group.

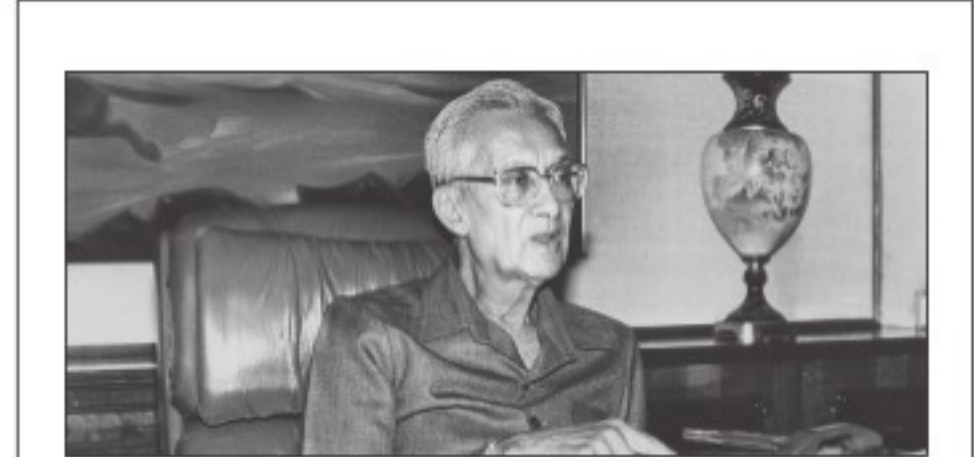
Birla's body would be brought to his house at Birla Park in Kolkata and the cremation will take place on Thursday, Birla group sources said. BK Birla took over as the Chairman of Kesoram Industries

at the tender age of 15. Over the years, he has crafted many success stories which have become part of folklore in Indian industry.

He personally helmed Century Textiles' forays into diverse fields and taken the group from a one-unit enterprise to a multi-faceted entity.

He built the BK Birla group of companies comprising Century Textiles, Century Enka, Jaysree Tea and Industries and Kesoram Industries. Birla was also the chairman of the Krishnarpan Charity Trust, which runs an engineering college named B K Birla Institute of Engineering and Technology at Pilani, Rajasthan and a patron of 25 educational institutions across the country.

Birla, the youngest son of

BASANT KUMAR BIRLA
1921-2019

Ghanshyam Das Birla, was born on January 12, 1921. He focussed on the industries of cotton, viscose, polyester and nylon yarns, refractory, paper, shipping, tyre, cement, tea, coffee, cardamom, chemicals, plywood and

MDF board. BK Birla's son Aditya Birla created his empire that included Grasim, Ultratech and Hindalco. A \$44.3 billion corporation, the Aditya Birla Group is in League of Fortune 500 with a workforce of over 120,000 employees belonging to 42 nationalities. Though Kumar Birla closely worked with BK Birla, two groups maintained separate identities.

BK Birla had earlier said Kesoram and Century Textiles would eventually pass on to Kumar but that never happened. Kumar is the Vice Chairman of Century Textiles. His younger daughter Manjushree Khaitan became the Executive Vice Chairman of Kesoram.

Century Textiles and Jayshree Tea are run by professionals.

Condoling B K Birla's demise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on Twitter, "Basant Kumar Birla was a distinguished industrialist who contributed to our nation's prosperity. He also made a mark as an exceptional philanthropist. His passion for education was well-known. My thoughts are with his family and well-wishers in this hour of grief."

Ficci Secretary General Dilip Chenoy wrote in a letter to Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla. "With over 7 decades of experience in the business world, Birla will be remembered as a celebrated business leader both at home and abroad. The country will never be able to make up for the loss due to his sad demise."

RBI sets up panel to review core investment companies' supervision

ENSECONOMICBUREAU MUMBAI, JULY 3

THE RESERVE Bank of India on Wednesday said it has constituted a working group to review regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework applicable to core investment companies (CICs).

The six-member committee — headed by Tapan Ray, non-executive Chairman, Central Bank of India and former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs — will "examine the current regulatory framework for CICs in terms of adequacy, efficacy and effectiveness of every component thereof and suggest changes", the RBI said.

It will assess the appropriateness of and suggest changes to the current approach of the RBI towards registration of CICs, including the practice of multiple CICs being allowed within a group, the banking regulator said in its statement.

The panel will also suggest measures to strengthen corporate governance and disclosure re-

The six-member panel, headed by Tapan Ray, will "examine the current regulatory framework for CICs in terms of adequacy, efficacy and effectiveness of every component thereof and suggest changes"

quirements for CICs and assess the adequacy of supervisory returns submitted by CICs and suggest changes.

"Over the years, corporate group structures have become more complex involving multiple layering and leveraging, which has led to greater inter-connectivity with the financial system through their access to public funds. "Further, in light of recent developments, there is a need to strengthen the corporate governance framework of CICs," the Reserve Bank said.

Auto industry urges govt to take immediate steps to improve liquidity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 3

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY body SIAM has urged the government to take immediate measures to improve liquidity, especially in the non-banking financial company (NBFC) sector, in order to fuel growth in the sector which has seen sales drop month-on-month leading to even closure of various dealerships.

In a letter written to the fi-

nance ministry, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has urged the government to look into the matter on an urgent basis and take suitable measures to promote flow of credit in the system to facilitate new vehicle purchases.

"As a result of the recent liquidity crisis faced by the NBFC sector and increase in interest rates, vehicle financing in the country has been badly hit, more so in the rural areas," SIAM said.

SECOND ALERT BY DRUG REGULATOR ON MEDTRONIC DEVICES IN 3 MONTHS

CDSCO flags Medtronic insulin pump, issues alert over its cybersecurity risks

Someone 'could potentially connect wirelessly to a nearby insulin pump to change settings,' alert says

PRABHA RAGHAVAN NEW DELHI, JULY 3

INDIA'S APEX drug regulator has issued an alert to healthcare providers, staff involved in managing patients and distributors over cybersecurity concerns related to a few models of US medical device maker Medtronic's Minimed insulin pumps. The alert by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on Tuesday follows the US Food and Drug Administration's (USFDA) own alert flagging these risks.

"An unauthorised person with special technical skills and equipment could potentially connect wirelessly to a nearby insulin pump to change settings and control insulin delivery," stated CDSCO in its alert, a copy of which The Indian Express has viewed.

According to the USFDA, which issued its alert on June 27,

DESIGNED TO COMMUNICATE WIRELESSLY

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has issued alert on models MiniMed Paradigm (MMT-712, MMT-715 and MMT-722) & MiniMed Paradigm Veo (MMT-754) models

These devices are designed to communicate wirelessly with devices like blood glucose meters, glucose sensor transmitters and USB devices

this would allow the person to change the pump's settings to either over-deliver or stop insulin delivery to the patient, impacting their blood sugar level and causing harm. Medtronic cannot update the models to address these cybersecurity risks, it stated, recommending that patients replace the affected pumps with models "better equipped" to protect them.

CDSCO has issued the alert on models of MiniMed Paradigm (MMT-712, MMT-715 and MMT-722) and MiniMed Paradigm Veo

(MMT-754) models, which are designed to communicate wirelessly with devices like blood glucose meters, glucose sensor transmitters and USB devices.

Like the USFDA alert, CDSCO has recommended that healthcare professionals, distributors and those managing patients check whether their models have been affected and seek prescriptions to switch to a model with "more cybersecurity protection."

Patients should keep their insulin pumps and devices con-

nected to them within their control "at all times" and should not share their pump serial number, reads the CDSCO alert. "Be attentive to pump notifications, alarms and alerts," it states, adding that the patients' blood glucose levels should be closely monitored for appropriate action and any "unintended" boluses should be cancelled immediately.

The Indian drug regulator's alert further recommends refraining from connecting the pumps to devices and software that do not belong to Medtronic. It has also recommended disconnecting the USB device from computers when not in use. Medtronic did not respond to queries about how many of the remaining models have been sold and are used by patients here. However, a Medtronic spokesperson said the company notified customers of these potential risks on June 25, adding that the models were from 2012.

"At this time, we have not received any confirmed reports of unauthorized persons changing settings or controlling insulin delivery," the spokesperson told The Indian Express. "Kindly note that the insulin pumps are not being recalled and are not required to be returned. This is a safety notification only," the spokesperson added. Medtronic has initiated recalls of several affected models in the US and is "providing alternative insulin pumps" to patients there, according to USFDA's alert. No patient issues have been reported in India so far, said the spokesperson. "Over the years, we have launched many advanced models of insulin pumps and they are safe for patients."

This is CDSCO's second medical device alert on devices by Medtronic in the last three months. In May, it issued an alert on safety issues related to certain models of the firm's pacemakers.

PIL on PayPal operating 'illegally': HC seeks response from RBI, ED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 3

THE DELHI High Court on Wednesday sought response of the Reserve Bank of India and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a plea alleging that an online payment platform PayPal was operating "illegally" without the central bank's authorisation and should be stopped immediately.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar also issued notice to the RBI, ED and PayPal Payments Pvt Ltd, and sought their stand before the next date of hearing, September 18. The court was hearing a PIL by a financial economist, Abhijit Mishra, who submitted that the operation of PayPal as a payment system in India is in contravention of Section 4(1) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (2007 Act), which provides that no person other than the Reserve

Bank, shall commence or operate a payment system except in accordance with an authorisation issued by the India's central banking institution. The petition also alleged that PayPal does not figure in the list of authorised payment system operators published by RBI on May 27, 2019.

According to the plea, filed through advocate Preet Bahl, PayPal's services are being used by various online travel, clothing and food websites or apps, including Yatra, Dominos Pizza and Myntra.

It alleged that PayPal was also "operating as a foreign exchange dealer in contravention of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)". It also sought probe against PayPal's directors, management and officers of PayPal for alleged malpractice and violation of provisions of Article 21 of the Constitution of India, Payments and Settlements Act, FEMA and Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

BPSL takeover by JSW Steel: SC stays high court ruling

INDUBHAN NEW DELHI, JULY 3

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday paved the way for the Delhi bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to pronounce its orders on approval of JSW Steel's Rs 19,350-crore bid for debt-ridden Bhushan Power and Steel (BPSL), which is under insolvency process.

Expressing surprise on how the Punjab and Haryana High Court had intervened in the resolution process of BPSL, a bench by Justice RF Nariman stayed the HC order that had asked the committee of creditors (CoC) and the NCLT to consider the objections raised by the former directors of the company before finalising any resolution plan.

"Acts like this must be frowned upon and dealt sternly," Justice Nariman said, staying the HC's April 18 order. FE

Services sector shrinks for first time since May 2018

ENSECONOMICBUREAU MUMBAI, JULY 3

WITH ECONOMIC conditions in the services sector weakening, broadly stagnant sales caused the first drop in business activity in over a year, a survey has said.

At 49.6 in June, down from 50.2 in May, the IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index posted in contraction territory for the first time since May 2018. A reading below 50 indicates contraction in the business activity.

Although the labour market showed signs of resilience, there was a notable slowdown in job creation. "Optimism towards growth prospects was sustained, but confidence was down from May," the survey said.

According to survey participants, weak sales, competitive pressures and unfavourable taxation all hampered output.

"New business rose only fractionally during June, with the respective index posting at a nine-

month low.

Survey evidence indicated that some firms secured new work amid successful advertising, while others saw order books shrink due to competitive pressures and weak underlying demand," IHS Markit India Services PMI said.

"International sales increased for the fourth straight month, albeit at the slowest pace in this sequence. Unfinished business continued to rise in June, which panel members linked to delayed client payments. The rate of backlog accumulation was, however, modest and the weakest in the year-to-date," it said.

To assist with their workloads, services companies took on additional staff in June.

"The latest rise in employment was the twenty-second in as many months, but the slowest over this period. Firms that refrained from hiring mentioned that workforce numbers were sufficient to cope with current workloads," the survey said.

BRIEFLY

Composition scheme: July 31 new deadline

New Delhi: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, in a circular issued on Wednesday, said that the deadline for service providers with turnover of up to Rs 50 lakh to opt for the composition scheme and pay six per cent goods and services tax (GST) has been extended by three months till July 31. PTI

Wave Group elevates Sodhi to director-PR

New Delhi: Ravi Sodhi has been elevated to director-Marketing, PR and CRM, of the Wave Group. The conglomerate is involved in fields including real estate, education, wellness and agriculture.

CLP India to buy stake in 3 KPTL assets

Mumbai: Kalpataru Power Transmission (KPTL) announced on Wednesday it had entered into binding agreements with CLP India to sell stake in three of its power transmission assets for an estimated enterprise value of Rs 3,275 crore. ENS

'Treat Huawei as blacklisted': US govt to staff

Washington: A senior U.S. official told the Commerce Department's enforcement staff this week that China's Huawei should still be treated as blacklisted, days after U.S. President Donald Trump sowed confusion with a vow to ease a ban on sales to the firm. Meanwhile, in New Delhi, Indian entities that will supply US-origin technology components to Chinese telecom major Huawei may face penal action under American regulations, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said in Parliament. REUTERS & PTI

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR. Notice Inviting e-Tender. Collection of Toll Tax on Kopranti-Neem Ka Thana-Sikar-Kuchaman Road. UBN No. RRC1920WLOB0097. 6706.05 Lac. 05/19-20.

RAJASTHAN STATE MINES & MINERALS LIMITED (A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise). Notice Inviting e-Tender. Removal of overburden and raising of limestone lumps from Govt. land by deploying suitable machineries at Limestone mines of Golani Distt. Nagaur. Contract value Rs. 1045.00 Lac, EMD 26.30 Lac, Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-.

NMDC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise). Donimalai Complex, PO: Donimalai Township, Sandur Taluk, Ballari Dist, Karnataka-583118. TENDER NOTICE. Tender Enquiry No. DNM/PPT/CIVIL/2019. Date: 05/07/2019.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LTD. (Material Management & Contract Wing). New Power House, Industrial Area, Jodhpur- 342003. E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE. E-Procurement Tender is invited for supply of 36 KV Outdoor VCB Kiosks under TN-1553/UBNJV1920GLOB00055.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR. Notice Inviting e-Tender. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Furniture for First Renewal at Medical College, Bhiwara. UBN No. RRC1920WSOB00118. 337.61 Lac.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD. NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS). SI. No. Tender Inviting Authority Specification No. Total. 1 CE/R-APDRP/IPDS 02, 03 2.

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, JAIPUR. Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004. No. JDA/OSD(RM)/2019-20/D-881. GRAND E-AUCTION OF COMMERCIAL PLOT IN KUBER COMPLEX SCHEME GANDHI PATH, JAIPUR. S.No. 1. Commercial Plot No. 8 (Corner) Kuber Complex, Gandhi Path, Jaipur. Area 10000 Sq.Mt. Height 63.00 Mtr. Ground Coverage 40%. Registration Fee 5,000 Rs. EMD 1.50 Crores. Starting Date 01/07/2019 00:00 Hrs. Last Date 16/07/2019 23:00 Hrs. Bidding Start Date 01/07/2019 01:00 Hrs. Bidding End Date 19/07/2019 15:00 Hrs.

Bihar School Examination Board. NOTICE INVITING e-Tender. (Through e-procurement mode only over https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) Tender Notice No.:- PR 274/2019. Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed, experienced & technologically sound Firms.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-I. O.H.T. BERIWALA BAGH, SUBHAS NAGAR NEW DELHI- 110064. PRESS NOTICE TENDER NO. 21/W-I/(2019-20).

Economy facing only term challenges, can overcome: Parekh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI, JULY 3

BANKER DEEPAK Parekh said it is important to stay optimistic and recognise that the economy will tide over the short-term challenges it has been facing for some time now. In a letter to the shareholders, Parekh — who serves as chairman of mortgage major HDFC — said he is confident that the new government along with the regulators will prioritise re-instilling a culture of trust across the banking and financial sector.

"It is important to stay optimistic and recognise that the economy will tide over some of the short-term challenges it faces," he said, adding however, this should not take away our focus from the broader picture that the country stands tall today.

'The poll outcome is a strong mark of confidence and the country stands ready to welcome patient capital seeking to earn attractive returns.'

DEEPAK PAREKH CHAIRMAN, HDFC

On the strong political mandate that the recent elections gave, he said "the poll outcome is a strong mark of confidence and the country stands ready to welcome patient capital seeking to earn attractive returns." Thanking retail depositors who put their hard-earned money with the mortgage financier, he said HDFC's strength has been its ability to seamlessly straddle between wholesale and retail funding.

'Biz to declare mismatch in GST returns form, outward supplies in annual returns'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 3

THE FINANCE Ministry on Wednesday said that any mismatch in Goods and Services Tax (GST) monthly sales return and outward supply details will have to be reported in annual return form and due taxes should be paid.

In a clarification on annual returns and reconciliation statement, the Finance Ministry said it has received queries from businesses asking whether the primary source of data for filing of the annual return and the reconciliation statement should be GSTR-1, GSTR-3B or books of accounts. Meanwhile, GST and Income Tax officers conducted a joint search operation on premises of Indore-based Paper Trade Links Pvt Ltd and detected GST evasion of Rs 1.25 crore, besides Rs 30 crore cash deposits in bank account in last couple of months, sources said on Wednesday.