

Modi wishes Diwali to nation, urges people to popularise Indian festivals

we should welcomingly in-

vite people from other

people from foreign coun-

New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed his monthly broadcast programme 'Mann Ki Baat', on the auspicious occasion of Diwali. In his address, he pitched the idea of "Festival Tourism" and said that we must try to popularise our festivals and invite people from other states and countries to join the festivities.

them," the Prime Minister said PM Modi had taken to to

endeavour to ensure that day of every month I wish you all the best on the auspicious occasion. In states and countries to join Diwali, crackers are used. in the festivities. Every state But, sometimes fires take and religion in our country place. My request is to take has their own festivals and care of yourself and celebrate the festival with great enthusiasm. My very best wishes: PM Modi says as he tries have a keen interest in wraps up his address to the nation on Mann Ki Baat. The

weavers make products by hand, our khadis are made with hands--Something we must buy: PM Modi. Festivals are celebrated to awaken a new consciousness in our lives. In particular, buying something new, bringing something from the market happens in less quantity in

opportunity in itself and I try-buy local things. I remembér thát very well. Whenever keep insisting that our I remember that day, my mind is at peace. All the government related officials, political leaders had honoured the dignity of the judiciary very proudly and did not allow any atmosphere of tension to be created anywhere. This is an example of the strength of unity that gives strength to the country.

On the occassion of 'New Year' the press and offices of WESTERN TIMES will remain closed. There will be no issue of dated 29th & 30-10-2019. Regular edition will publish from 31st October, 2019. Readers may please note

HOLIDAY NOTICE

-Manager







Western Times



The re-election in Monday's federal polls challenges Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to pursue the ruling Liberal party's core agenda in race, refugees, gen-der and the environment -- which secured him his first term in 2015. Despite trailing behind the Conservatives in opinion polls almost until election date, the incumbents have managed to regain voter trust, just enough to retain power. Short of at least 13 seats for a majority of 170 in the House of Commons, he will now depend on broadly left-of-centre parties as he sets out to turn a minority government. Among them is the New Democratic Party (NDP) of Jagmeet Singh with 24 seats, down 15, and the Greens with three. Having lost party status in 2015, the Bloc Quebecois, rooted in Quebec's sovereignty movement, has emerged as the third largest. The electoral arithmetic would now compel Mr Trudeau to focus on building a consensus around common policies, mostly with smaller parties. All the same, as the government would necessarily rely on support, depending on particular issues, the Liberals can not discount the Conservatives, who command 121 seats and a higher vote share than the Liberals.

Monday's verdict also affords Mr Trudeau another chance to rebuild his tarnished domestic record of recent months. His government has made major strides in reducing child poverty, the introduction of a carbon tax and the legalization of recreational cannabis. On the world stage, his robust defence of globalization and multilateralism helped ease tensions during the 2018 Group of 7 nations gathering. More concrete were his efforts to renegotiate the regional trade pact with the U.S. and Mexico. Nevertheless, young Canadian voters felt in the poll run-up that Mr Trudeau had failed to live up to his promise in his 2015 bid of "sunny ways" in politics. The perception grew following accusation that he had interfered with investigations into allegations of corruption by the engineering multinational SNC-Lavalin. Matters were made worse when Jody Wilson-Raybould, the charismatic former Attorney General and Justice Minister, was first shifted and then dropped from the Liberal party. She has now won as an independent. MrTrudeau defence in the Lavalin case that he was concerned about the risk of Canadian jobs may have struck a chord among trade unions. But that seemingly lopsided logic could have done little good to his gender inclusive credentials. With their fresh mandate, the Liberals ought to rethink their general stance in order to live down their image as those who all-too-easily sacrifice principles. Leading a minority government, Mr Trudeau would be aware of the task that lies ahead.



The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu at a meeting with the President of the Republic of Cuba, Mr. Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, on the sidelines of the XVIII NAM Summit, in Baku, Azerbaijan

FM Nirmala Sitharaman to meet PSB CEOs; fund flow to NBFC, MSME likely to be reviewed

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a review meeting with CEOs of public sector banks to discuss various issues, including progress on credit offtake, as part of efforts to prop up the economy. The meeting is expected to review fund flow to stressed NBFC and MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sectors, sources said.

Banks are expected to present report card on partial credit guarantee scheme and fund raising from market to enhance their capital base.

The Centre in August issued guidelines on operationalising Rs 1 lakh crore partial guarantee

scheme under which PSBs MSME, education and percan purchase high-rated pooled assets of financially sound non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

NBFCs, including housing finance companies (HFCs), came under stress following a series of defaults by the group companies of IL&FS in September last year

Besides, the meeting will also assess the progress of first phase of outreach programme held across 226 districts across the country. This will be the second meeting of Sitharaman with CEOs of PSU banks in less than a month.

The first phase of Loan Mela for providing credit to agriculture, vehicle, home,

sonal categories ended on October 7. During the annual performance review earlier this month, PSBs decided to undertake outreach exercise in 400 identified districts. Later, the private sector too expressed

willingness to join the initiative. The second phase will be held in 209 districts between October 21 and October 25, just before Diwali.

Additionally, the Centre will also review loan delivery through PSB loans in 59 mínutes portal. The platform has helped

reduce turnaround time for loan processes in such a way that MSMEs can get an eligibility letter and in-prin-

ciple approval in 59 minutes and can choose the bank of their choice. After the approval letter is received, the loan is expected to be disbursed in 7-8 working days.

Touted as the country's largest on-line lending platform, the portal was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2018 with an aim to make credit access and banking for MSMEs transparent and hassle-free.

The portal sanctioned loans worth over Rs 35,000 crore in less than four months from its launch. As on March 31, 2019, more

we will shed our past and than 50,706 proposals had transform into the future, got in-principle approval she said, adding that 95% of and 27,893 proposals had been sanctioned. the Kapur family's wealth is

YES Bank co-promoter family ready to dilute stake below 8.3% Mumbai: Shagun Gogia, daughter of late Ashok YES Bank's CEO Ravnee in YES Bank shares. YES Bank's CEO Ravneet

Kapur said that the Kapur family is willing to dilute its shareholding in YES Bank below the current 8.3% stake in case a big investor comes on board at the end of the ongoing capital-raising exercise.

YES Bank's single-larg-est shareholder and co-promoter Gogia said that the co-promoter family will extend its full support to the bank's management in its efforts of raising capital.

past are now behind us.

at an advanced stage of get-

ting an investor. There are

many investors who are

keen to enter the bank

given its strong business

I am also confident that

franchise, she added.

lending rates Gogia, who was recently Chennai: Public sector inducted to the board of the lender Indian Overseas private sector lender, told, I Bank would reduce the incannot give a base to where terest rates in retail and miwe are willing to let our cro small and medium enstake fall, but we are willing to dilute our stake in the terprises loans by 25 basis points with effect from Noevent of a large investor vember 1, the city-based coming on board. lender said. Regulatory compliance,

Indian Overseas Bank risk management and govwould reduce the interest ernance functions are fully rate applicable for retail streamlined at present at segment - housing, vehicle, the bank, Gogia further said. education, micro small and We are 100 per cent confimedium enterprises by 25 dent that these concerns of basis points and the revised governance and transparrepo linked lending rate ency that were there in the would be eight percent from existing 8.25% with effect from November 1, it When asked about potential investors in YES Bank, Gogia without specifying any names said the bank is said.

Gill took charge in March

2019 after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) turned down the reappointment of co-

promoter Rana Kapoor as

CEO and MD. In August 2018, RBI has asked him to

leave by January 31, on wor-

ries over corporate gover-

nance and risk manage-

ment of the lender.

Bol, IOB reduce

The decision to revise the lending rates follows the Reserve Bank of India reducing the Repo rate by 25 basis points.

Indian Overseas Bank said it had linked the Repo Linked Lending Rate to its loans to be sanctioned under retail segment and micro, small and medium enterprises with immediate effect.

Infosys wins 13 large deals with contract value of \$2.8 bn

Bengaluru: Infosys posted a 2.2 per cent yearposted a 2.2 per cent year on-year (YoY) fall in the con-solidated net profit at Rs 4,019 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2019. The IT major had recorded profit of Rs 4,110 crore in the year-ago period. Sequentially, the numbers grew 5.8 per cent. The company also revised its FY20 revenue guidance to 9-10 per cent in constant currency terms.

In constant currency (CC) terms, Infosys posted revenue growth of 11.4 per cent YoY while in US dollar terms, the numbers grew 9.9 per cent. In rupee terms, revenue came in at Rs 22,629 crore, up 9.8 per cent YoY and 3.8 per cent QoQ. Operating profit was Rs 4,912 crore, increase of 0.4 per cent YoY and 9.9 per cent QoQ. Operating mar-

ployee value proposition.

The company, however, maintained its FY20 operatand maximizing value for our stakeholders.

dicted Infosys to revise its FY20 revenue guidance upwards given the recent deal momentum, strong posigin was 21.7 per cent. Basic tioning in clients and favourable arithmetic re-

FPIs withdraw over Rs 6,200 crore from Indian capital markets in October so far

New Delhi:Foreign portfolio investors withdrew over Rs 6,200 crore from Indian capital markets in the first two weeks of October, as global recession fears and trade war concerns weighed on sentiments.

Foreign investors pulled out a net amount of Rs 4,955.2 crore from the equities and Rs 1,261.9 from the debt segment, taking the total net withdrawal to Rs 6,217.1 crore during October 1-11, as per latest depositories data.

Overseas investors were net buyers in the preceding month and had infused a net sum of Rs 6,557.8 crore in the domestic capital markets (both equities and debt), according to the data.

The foreign portfolio investors (FPI) in October ing significant headwinds institutions seems to be affecting the foreign investors also.

India's troubled banking and financial sector is definitely making investors jittery

Arun Mantri, technical and derivative analyst at Karvy Stock Broking, said the FPIs have been net sellers so far in October tracking global headwinds.

This has occurred despite the government's major announcements to re-

bal recession, and weak investor sentiment due to the ongoing trade war between US and China, he added. For the future course of FPI flows, he said, in the short to medium term, FPIs flows will depend on the corporate earnings, global trade developments and

vive animal spirits. The ma-

jor reason behind the sell-

ing is the rising fear is a glo-

government actions to curb the slowdown in the economy.

ાં નરેન્દ્રભાઈ મોદી

India rejects RCEP e-

Intersessional Ministerial Meeting of the countries negotiating the 16 nation mega trade deal, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, is expected to wrap up on October 12 in Thailand without finding a common stand on many of the pending issues. Attempts to iron out the existing differences will be carried out in the coming days, it is learnt.

The all powerful Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) which consists of the chief negotiators of all the participating countries is likely to meet on October 17 and 18 to look at India's concerns over electronic data sharing and demands for local data storage requirements. It should be noted that India had proposed certain tweaks in the negotiating text of electronic commerce during the 9th Intersessional Ministerial Meeting that began in Thailand. India wants the RCEP agreement to allow member countries to retain their rights to protect digital data generated from their respective territories to achieve legitimate public policy objectives and to protect its essential security or national interests. Under such conditions, the country wants the freedom to direct commercial entities to locate their computing facilities within the country itself and stop cross border flow of data generated by them to ensure security and confidentiality of such communications. India's position is that such decisions should not be allowed to be questioned by other RCEP members on any ground. While its approach is laudable, experts who are closely watching the developments are not sure the deal may harm their inwhether RCEP members initerests.

8.79% at Rs97.71 lakh crore

in the fortnight to Septem-

ber 27, according the latest

data from the Reserve Bank

night, the advances had

stood at Rs89.82 lakh crore.

ending September 13, bank

credit had grown 10.26% to

Rs97.01 lakh crore.

In the year-ago fort-

In the previous fortnight

Deposits growth, too,

(RBI)



tiating such controls are meant to serve the national interest or essential security concerns. The burden of proof can itself be counterproductive if the national security interest in protecting data is sensitive in nature.Further, there is no certainty that India's proposal will be accepted by other

negotiating countries. The ongoing RCEP Intersessional Ministerial meeting scheduled to end on 12th October at Bangkok in Thailand is the last ministerial before the political leadership of 16 participating countries meet for the 3rd Leaders' Summit on November 4th 2019 in Bangkok. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the summit.which may see the conclusion of the ongoing negotiations and an implementation calendar for the mega trade

ing margin guidance range of 21 per cent-23 per cent. For the quarter ended September 2019, the operating margin came in at 21.7 per cent, up 1.2 per cent on QoQ basis.Our performance was robust on multiple dimensions revenue growth, digital growth, operating mar-gins, operational efficiencies, large deal signings and reduction in attrition said Salil Parekh, CEO and MD. All these are clear signs that we are progressing well in our journey of client-centricity

Most analysts had pre-

and has failed to pick pace so far. More recently, world bodies like IMF, ADB and Moody's have cut growth forecasts of India, which dented sentiments further, Srivastava added.

Harsh Jain, co-founder and COO at Groww said the new FPI/FDI classification might affect the mood of foreign investors for some time.

The reduced GDP forecast by Moody's and other

deal. E-commerce, rules of origin and trade remedies are the only chapters among the 25 chapters of RCEP text that remains to be finalised by the members.

tion in attrition driven by The RCEP negotiations our focus on enhanced em-

were launched by leaders from 10 ASEAN member states (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) and 6 ASEAN FTA partners (Australia, People's Republic of China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand).

While India's official position is that RCEP negotiation will lead to a modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN member states and ASEAN's FTA partners, there are several sections of the domestic industry including dairy sector and automobiles that strongly fear that

arnings per share (EPS) was Rs 9.46, flat YoY and vised guidance implies a 1growth of 7.1% QoQ. The 2 per cent compounded company also announced an interim dividend of Rs 8 per share. Infosys Q2 consolidated Infosys Q2 consolidatedQ2 witnessed another quarter of all-round growth in industry segments and geographies which is a testimony to our strong credentials and client relevance, said Pravin Rao, COO. Large deal wins were \$2.8 bn. We are espe-

quarterly growth rate through Q2-Q4FY20. Analysts at Emkay Global had built in 11 per cent year-onyear (YoY) CC revenue growth for FY20, while those at Sharekhan see growth guidance at 9.5-10.5 per cent. Nirmal Bang Securities, on the other hand, had factored in 3.9 per cent QoQ CC growth and nearly 55 basis points (bps) cross-currency headwind, resulting in cially pleased by the reducrevenue growth of 3.3 per cent in US dollar terms.

went back in hibernation mode after remaining net sellers in September when the inflows were driven by slew of economic reforms announced by the government, said Himanshu Srivastava, senior analyst manager research at Morningstar Investment. However, things have

remained muted after that, as FPIs have turned riskaverse with fears of global recession and trade war gaining momentum.

Moreover, the Indian economy has also been fac-

Ravi Shankar Prasad quotes box office collections to deny economic slowdown

New Delhi: Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad cited business three Bollywood movies did on October 2 to deny that the Indian economy is in a slump. Addressing a press conference in Mumbai, Prasad said that three films generating Rs 120 crore in a

single day are proof enough of a sound economy. I was also told that on October 2, which is observed as one of the national holidays, three Hindi movies garnered Rs 120 crore business on that day. Unless the economy is sound in the country how

can only three movies collected so much business in a single day? Prasad said.

The minister was in Mumbai to campaign for the BJP for the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls. He alleged that some people organized against the government are misleading people over the unemployment scenario.

Several sectors in India have witnessed a substantial drop in sales performance as the economy is faced with a slowdown. India's GDP growth has slowed to a 6-year low of 5 per cent in the June quarter. Industrial output in August shrunk by 1.1 per cent due to poor show by manufacturing and mining sectors. Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman has already announced a slew of measures to address this slump, including corporate tax cut, reforms in the banking sector, and steps to generate demand in the auto industry.

Recently, India dropped 10 places in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index to 68th position, ranking higher than only Brazil among the BRICS nations. In response to this, Prasad listed areas where the country man-

crore.

aged perform well. Look at innovation,

start-ups and market size parameters, we are improving. It is true that we have dropped on some other parameters, he added. These were the only parameters where India managed to perform well in the global competitiveness index. A total of 141 nations were surveyed in Global Competitiveness Index Report on the basis of 103 indicators, which were classified under 12 broad themes.

Indiabulls Ventures, IB Real Estate announce buybacks

Mumbai: The board of directors of Indiabulls Ventures and Indiabulls Real Estate approved a proposal to buy back shares worth up to Rs1,000 crore and Rs500respectively.For Indiabulls Ventures, the buyback price is at a 50.6 per cent premium closing price of Rs99.60 per share. The company's stock closed at Rs103.50 apiece up 3.92 per cent. The buyback is for up to 6.67 crore fully paidup equity shares having face value Rs2 each of the company, representing 12.61 per cent of its total existing fully paid-up equity capital. The buyback size being more than 10 per cent of company's paid-up penses.

equity capital and free reserves will be subject to approval of shareholders by way of a special resolution, through a postal ballot, the company said in a regula-tory filing. The buyback is pr

vember. all eligible existing holders/ beneficial owners of the equity shares including persons who become shareholders by cancelling global depository receipts (GDRs) and receiving underlying equity shares, on a proportionate basis, as on the record date, to be decided at a later date. According to the filing, the buyback size does not include applicable taxes/duties and other incidental and related ex-

New Delhi:Sale of automobiles in India declined again in September by 22.41 percent, the tenth month on the trot as uncertainty over GST cut that ultimately did not happen, kept customers away from showrooms.

Shri Nitinbhai Patel is also seen.

There was however, a perceptible uptick in demand across the country in the latter half of the month with the onset of festive season that propped up the numbers somewhat. It reversed the trend of even a sequential month on month decline that started from June this year.

Over 2 million units were dispatched to dealers by manufacturers across the country during the month. Typically, wholesales are higher during September as dealership stock up in anticipation of a robust festive season in October and No-

The worst hit has been passenger vehicle segment that saw its 11th straight monthly decline. Moreover, the segment has seen a drop in 14 out of the last 15 months.In September, sales declined by 23.7 percent at just 223,317 units. Car sales declined by 33.4 percent, while sale of utility vehicles and SUVs managed to grow by 5.5 percent, helped by new launches like the Hyundai Venue, MG Hector, Kía Seltos and Tata Harrier.

There are some green shoots visible and we can say with certainty that the consumer sentiment has improved with the onset of the festive season, said Rajan Wadhera, President, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). We still cannot say that the worst is over though all indications suggest that going forward there will not be a worst case scenario. Con-

The Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah distributes the Supportive

Equipment for Divyangs at Samajik Adhikarita Shivir, in Kalol, Gandhinagar

district of Gujarat on October 25, 2019. The Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat,

Auto sales decline by 22.4% in September

sumers are inclined to spend more during festivities and with the bountiful monsoons that we have had this year, there should be a revival in rural demand as well. We are hopeful that this will lead to a sustainable turnaround in the industry.

Nevertheless, all major car makers saw high double digit decline during the month. Maruti Suzuki saw a 27 percent drop, while arch rival Hyundai registered a 14.8 pércent drop. Tata Motors witnessed the heaviest drop at 56 percent followed by Nissan at 55.6 percent, Honda at 37 percent, Ford at 32.5 percent and Mahindra at 28 percent. The only company to buck the trend in the month was Renault, which posted a 29 percent growth but that was on a small base and on the back of an entirely refreshed line up of cars including new Duster, Triber and the new

Kwid.

but some green shoots of recovery visible no better. Commercial vehicle segment that is considered a true barometer of the overall economy saw its sales decline by 39.06 percent while the distress in the rural economy was highlighted by the 22.09 percent slide in sale of two wheelers. Sale of motorcycles declined by 23.3 percent while scooters were down 16.6 percent during the month.

Two-wheeler sales: The last time commercial vehicle sales had declined by a faster clip in a month was more than a decade ago in January 2009 when sales declined by 58.34 percent. For two wheelers, the decline was only marginally better than the 22.24 percent drop registered in August 2019, which was its worst decline ever in a month. The previous worst for two wheelers was in the aftermath of demonetization in December 2016, when the dip was 22.04 percent.

The slowdown in the industry is largely on account of a bad festive season last vear which led to the problem of higher inventories, tight liquidity with banks as a fallout of the NBFC crisis and an overall sluggish economy and low consumer sentiment. As many as 280 dealership have shut shop in the last 18 months due to the slow offtake of Other segments fared vehicles.

For first time in FY20, credit grows in single digit Mumbai: For the first Rs118 lakh crore a year ago, the RBI said, adding depostime this fiscal, bank credit arowth slowed to a single its had grown 10.02% in the digit, printing in at a low

fortnight to September 13. On an annualized basis, non-food credit growth decelerated to 9.8% in August 2019 from 12.4% in August 2018.

Personal loan growth moderated to 15.6% in August 2019 from 18.2% in August 2018.

the industry accelerated during the reporting period more than doubling by slowed to 9.38% to Rs129.06 lakh crore from 3.9% in August from 1.9% in August 2018.

However, advances to

Brokerages reduce TCS price targets

Mumbai: Most analysts cut their target price on Tata Consultancy Services TCS after the company reported a softer-than expected set of numbers for the quarter ended September.

Citi has cut target price by 6 per cent to Rs 1,870. Credit Suisse, HSBC, Nomura, Phillip Capital and Invested Securities have cut target price by 2.1-6.8 per cent. Jefferies has cut target price by 8 per cent to Rs 2,300.

Shares of TCS ended down 0.9 per cent at Rs 1,987.05 after falling as much as 3.8 per cent growth in revenue at \$5,517 million for the September quarter compared with the expectation of 1.5-2.5 per cent growth. Keeping currency rates constant, it grew by 1.6 per cent, the lowest in two vears. The operating margin ÉBIT margin was at 24 per cent, the lowest in eight quarters and below the 26.5 per cent margin in the yearago quarter.

TCS reported disap-

Top priority to PMC depositors: Das to FM

Mumbai:Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has assured customers of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank that their concerns will be comprehensively addressed. The minister stated that she has talked RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das who asserted that the concerns of PMC Bank account holders will be kept on top priority.Spoken to governor RBI on the PMC Bank matter. He assured me that clients & their concerns will be kept on top priority. I wish to reiterate that FinMinIndia will ensure that customers concerns are comprehensively addressed. We understand the justified worries of the customers, Sitharaman said in her tweet.The RBI had imposed operational restrictions on the Mumbai based cooperative lender

pointing set of numbers, with revenue growth significantly below estimates. Major segments of BFSI, retail and manufacturing remained weak, so did the US geography, said Phillip Capi-

> The brokerage has maintained a buy rating on TCS. Valuations at 21 times FY21 price-to-earnings might appear expensive, but TCS is a fundamentally superior stock to own, the brokerage said.

Another brokerage Citi maintained a sell call onTCS with a target price of Rs 1,870. Management comments suggest limited visibility in the near term, it said. Citi lowered the target multiple to 21 times from 22 times given the growth and profitability challenges.

It is almost confirmed that the company will grow in single digits in FY20, but the company will continue to outperform Tier-1 peers on growth and margins in the medium term, said Jefferies.

last month on grounds of

weak financial health. The

central bank has capped

deposit withdrawals at Rs

25,000 crore, landing mil-

lions of customers in

trouble.Finance Minister

Sitharaman formed a

panel, comprising of two

secretaries of the finance

ministry, to look into the

PMC Bank case. The panel

will also have one deputy

governor-level official

from the RBI at the meet-

ing to take necessary leg-

islative steps to prevent

such things from happen-

ing in future and em-

power the regulator bet-

ter. In the upcoming Win-

ter Session, the govern-

ment will bring in neces-

sary regulation and

amendments in this

regard.The PMC Bank

fraud came to light after

the RBI found irregulari-

ties at the bank and im-

posed operational restric

tions on the lender.



The Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs, Civil Aviation (Independent Charge) and Commerce & Industry, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri addressing a press conference on Development/Redevelopment of Parliament building, Common Central Secretariat and Central Vista, in New Delhi on October 25, 2019. The Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Durga Shanker Mishra and the Director General, CPWD, Shri Prabhakar Singh are also seen.

India PE, VC investments in Q3 at \$16.4 billion: EY While investments in

real estate increased by 194

per cent to \$2.5 billion over

\$863 million in Q3CY18, the

infrastructure sector made

the greatest impact with in-

vestments at \$5.3 billion, an

increase of 5.9 times com-

pared to the same period in

Q3CY18. This was followed

by financial services sector with \$2.5 billion invested

National Leader Private Eq-

uity Services, EY said, At

\$16.4 billion, Q3CY19 has

recorded the best quarterly

performance ever for PE/VC

investments across all three

main asset classes of private

capital - PE, infrastructure

and real estate. The deal

flow in 2019 has been good

with each successive quar-

ter being better than the preceding one. With in-

creasing interest from large

global pension and sover-

eign wealth funds com-

bined with evolution of new

investment structures like

InvITs and REITs, we con-

tinue to project sustained

growth in real asset invest-

growth of PE/VC invest-

ments. The third quarter re-

corded 40 large deals ag-

compared to 17 large deals aggregating to \$6.6 billion

Large deals of value

ments in India.

Vivek Soni, Partner and

across 63 deals.

Bengaluru: The third quarter of calendar year 2019 has recorded the highest ever quarterly investment by private equity (PE) investors and venture capitalists (VCs) worth \$16.4 billion across 289 deals.

According to the IVCA-EY monthly PE/VC roundup, the total value of PE/VC investments in 2019 till date stood at \$40.3 billion, 7.4 per cent higher than total investments in 2018. Investments in Q3CY19 increased by 69 per cent in value terms compared to the corresponding period last year and grew 37 per cent compared to the previous quarter. In terms of volumes, deals increased by 51 per cent compared to Q3CY18 and were at par compared to Q2CY19 (299 deals). All the quarters of 2019 have recorded a strong growth in deal activity compared to the corresponding quarters in 2018.

The out-performance came on the back of record investments (\$7.8 billion) in the infrastructure and real estate asset classes, a jump of 4.4 times compared to the corresponding period last year, says the report. As a result, these two asset classes have together accounted for 48 per cent of all PE/VC investments in Q3CY19 compared to 18 per cent in Q3CY18.

BSNL hopes to garner more market share after Jio move

Kolkata: To quell angry customers, Reliance Jió Infocomm has started offering 30 minutes of free talk time to users. Customers are

unhappy after the telecom

call charges.

calls to another operator's customers. Reliance Jio claimed

that it had paid Rs 13,500 crore in IUC, since it does

not charge customers for

in Q3CY18 - the highest number of large deals in any quarterly period. Fourteen out of the 40 large deals were in the infrastructure five deals and real estate nine deals sectors and were worth \$7.4 billion. Additionally, six out of top 10 deals in O3CY19 were in the infrastructure three deals and real estate three deals sectors.Brookfield's buyout

of Reliance Jio's tower arm for \$3.7 billion was the largest deal in Q3CY19, followed by Baring PE Asia's buyout CitiusTech Healthcare Technology Private Limited for \$800 million and GIC's \$631 million investment in IRB Infrastructure Developers' roads platform.

However, unlike investments, exits have not had the same momentum as seen in 2018. In 2019, yearto-date PE/VC exits total \$8.1 billion compared to \$8.5 billion for the same period last year (excluding the

mega \$16 billion Flipkart deal). Nonetheless, at \$3.9 billion, the quarter has been the best quarter so far for exits in 2019 helped by \$1.5 billion partial buyback by OYO's founder from the company's early stage investors.

The government's step to rationalize the corporate tax rate and introduce positive changes to the FPI policy are steps in the right direction, and increase attractiveness of India for long-term capital investment relative to its emerging markets peers. In our view, notwithstanding headwinds like volatile oil prices, global trade relationships between the US and

China, and stress in India's credit ecosystem, Indian PE/ VC industry continues to make sizeable commitments and India appears to be on track to develop into one of the large PE/VC markets globally, he adds.

RCEP must not lead to job losses in auto sector

told.

trade agreements) should

not result in job losses and

hurt Make in India, SIAM

President Rajan Wadhera

query on SIAM's views on RCEP. The RCEP bloc com-

prises 10 Association of

South East Asian Nations

(Asean) nations (Brunei,

Cambodia, Indonesia, Ma-

laysia, Myanmar, Singapore,

Thailand, the Philippines,

Laos and Vietnam) and their

six FTA partners - India,

China, Japan, South Korea,

Australia and New Zealand.

no CBU import should be al-

lowed under the pact. Soci-

ety of Indian Automobile

Manufacturers (SIAM) has

been maintaining that free

trade agreements (FTAs)

with competing countries

do not benefit Indian auto-

mobile industry. It has de-

manded that 28 items, in-

cluding hybrid, electric cars

and three-wheelers, be kept

out of the purview of all

earphones, headphones,

bluetooth speakers and

home audio, was domi-

nated by unbranded play-

ers, interest in expanding

market share has gone up

Wadhera further said.

He was responding to a

New Delhi: Proposed mega trade deal RCEP should not lead to job losses, and hurt the government's Make in India initiative, auto industry body SIAM cautioned ahead of the trade ministers' meeting of the bloc in Bangkok.

Trade ministers of RCEP countries will discuss issues related to investment, ecommerce, rules of origin and trade remedies in a meeting in Bangkok on October 12.

According to SIAM, while there has to be give and take being a part of the global economy, under such trade agreements imports of completely built units (CBUs) of automobiles must not be allowed.

Being a part of global trade, there are gives and takes.What we are only saying is that the government should be mindful of two things and I am confident that the government is. Any such thing (RCEP and free

Taiwan's TPV eyes 26% share in audio segment

such pacts.

New Delhi: Taiwan- dio segment, including headquartered TPV, which has the rights to market and sell Phillips audio products and television, is eyeing a 26% share of the growing audio market in India pegged at about \$1 billion on the back of new 'made for India' product

launches. We have presence across 30,000-35,000 outlets for audio. We have market share

of about 20-21% in the segment, Arun Menon, country business head, Philips Television and Audio, TPV Technology said. He added that the auamong organized players too. He noted that earphones and headphones, which accounted for 20-25% a couple of years ago contributed about \$500 million to the industry. One reason for the growth, he said, was ecommerce channels pushing this cat-

egory This has also rubbed off on off-line sales.

BoB to merge MF arm with BNP Paribas AMC

Mumbai: Baroda Asset greater than \$100 million Management India, a continue to drive the wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management India, a subsidiary of BNP gregating to \$12.7 billion, Paribas Asset Management Asia (BNPP AM), will merge their mutual fund business, subject to regulatory approvals.

Both Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management Asia have entered into a binding agreement to merge their business which involves no cash consideration, said BoB.

Post completion of merger, BoB will hold 50.1

be held by BNP Paribas Asset Management.

Subsequently, BoB will own 50.7 per cent of the paid-up capital of the merged entity while BNPP AM will have 49.3 per cent.

The consolidation in mutual fund industry comes at a time when Japanese financial giant Nippon Life Insurance has bought over its joint venture partner Reliance Asset Management stake to emerge as the single largest shareholder with overall investment of Rs8,000 crore for its 75 per cent stake. The erstwhile

Reliance Mutual Fund was Rs27 lakh.

present, Baroda AMC is in the business of managing mutual fund schemes of the Baroda Mutual Fund while BNPP AMC administers mutual fund schemes of the BNP Paribas Mutual Fund.

Baroda AMC has an average AUM of Rs11,320 crore as of March 31, 2019 while it was Rs10.073 crore for BNP Paribas Asset Management India. In FY19, Baroda AMC income was Rs50 crore and BNPP AMC was at Rs96 crore. Baroda Trustee India logged an in-come of Rs25 lakh and BNP Paribas Trustee India was

ture will create a stronger more competitive asset management company in the Indian mutual fund industry with the large distribution network of Bank of Baroda and the expertise of BNP Paribas coupled with the benefit of the firm's ability to source offshore funds.

LigiaTorres, Chief Executive Officer Asia Pacific, BNP Paribas Asset Management said by leveraging Bank of Baroda's large number of branches for distribution and our global experience of managing assets across more than 30 markets, this partnership will enable us to offer products and services to a much larger investor base in India.



The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu at a meeting with the President of the Republic of Cuba, Mr. Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, on the sidelines of the XVIII NAM Summit, in Baku, Azerbaiian

MG Motor to bring out three more SUVs by mid 2021

activity happening at the Volkswagen Group concerning their future plans for India. Skoda at the launch of the new Kodiaq Scout showed us a glimpse into the company's pipeline projects for the next year. According to the graphic, Skoda Auto is done with launching new cars this year the Kodiaq Scout was the last of the lot. Skoda and Volkswagen are now coming up with long-term product strategies.

Mumbai: There is a lot of has confirmed an investment of EUR 1 billion (Rs 8,000 crore) into the India 2.0 plan. The Skoda Kamiq, a sub-compact crossover built on the international MQB-A0 platform, was launched globally in February this year. In the UK, the car comes with two petrol and one diesel engine 1.0TSI (96PS), 1.0TSI (116PS), and a new 1.6TDI (116PS). Expect the Indian version to be shorter to comply with the sub 4-metre rule, and possibly keep it pocket-

The Volkswagen Group friendly in India.

tion for subscribers. been sharply criticized on social media. Users reminded Jio that it promised free lifetime voice calls when it started providing services three years ago. The operator decided to charge users to off-load the pressure of interconnect usage charge (IUC) set by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). IUC is a cost paid by a telecom operator when

operator announced that voice calls. users will have to shell out 6 After Reliance Jio's anpaise per minute for calls to

nouncement was met with other networks. The limitedanger, the operator said that period offer was announced customers would enjoy free less than 48 hours after Recalls till their existing plan expired. If you have reliance Jio announced the charged on or before 9th Customers will get free October, you can continue talk time of 30 minutes the enjoying free call benefits first time they recharge their even to non-Jio numbers, phones. This one-time offer until your plan expires, Reliwill be available for the first ance Jio had said.

seven days from the date Other operators such as BSNL saw a golden opporthe plan was announced, said a person in the know, as tunity in this. BSNL is hopmentioned in a report in ing to boost market share The Economic Times. The following Reliance Jio's deperson said that this cision to charge callers. We scheme has been ansee a silver lining. We expect nounced to ease the transi-3-4 per cent gain in market share from our current lev-The call charges have els due to Jio's announcement, BSNL Bengal Circle CGM Ramakant Sharma told reporters in Kolkata.

Taking a dig at Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea said that like what promised they will not charge on calls to other networks. Relax, there will be no charges on Vodafone calls to other networks. So keep enjoying what we promised you - truly free calls on Vodafone unlimited its users make outgoing plans, it said.

per cent stake in the merged asset management company and the rest will

recently Nippon Índia Mutual Fund.

renamed as PS Jayakumar, Managing Director and CEO, Bank Healthy AUMs: At of Baroda, said the joint ven-

LVB staff on bad loan recovery drive muster.

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India has rejected the proposal for the voluntary amalgamation of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. and its 100 per cent subsidiary, Indiabulls Commercial Credit Ltd., with Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB), the moot question is whether the latter will be able to rise like a phoenix like Dhanlaxmi Bank did, or meet Global Trust Bank's fate.

By putting LVB, which is low on capital and high on bad loans, under prompt corrective action (PCA) late last month even as it was seized of the matter relating to the proposed amalgamation, the regulator probably hinted that it wants the bank to nurse itself back to health, and that the proposed amalgamation, which would have brought in precious capital to sustain the bank, would not pass

The regulator will keenly watch how the PCA, entailing narrowing lending to relatively less risky segments, paring risk-weighted assets, stepping up recovery from bad loans, restricting branch expansion, among others, and a capital raising plan will pan out over the next couple of guarters before it makes the final call.

Given that Dhanlaxmi Bank has been given three vears to repair its balance sheet and come out of PCA in February 2019, the regulator, in the interest of fairness, could be expected to give LVB at least some time to do the same.

The RBI initiated PCA for LVB on September 27, 2019, on account of its high net non-performing assets (NPAs), insufficient Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) and Common Equity Tier 1, negative Return on Assets (RoA) for two consecutive years and high leverage, based on the onsite inspection under the Risk-Based Supervision carried out for the year ended March 31, 2019. The RBI has two nominee directors on the board of the bank.

As at June-end 2019, LVB's net NPAs stood at 8.30 per cent of net advances, against 5.96 per cent as at June-end 2018. Its CRAR at 6.46 per cent is below the regulatory minimum of 9 per cent, which banks have to maintain on an ongoing basis. The bank's RoA was negative in FY2019 and FY2018 at 2.32 per cent and 1.57 per cent, respectively. The bank is in urgent

need of capital to meet minimum regulatory requirements and make further provisions for loan

losses. A bank insider said that when Dhanlaxmi Bank could raise Rs 120 crore on preferential allotment basis in FY2018 in tough market conditions, there is no reason why his bank could not do so now.

Industry players say Global Trust Bank's case was different as it blatantly breached norms relating to capital market exposure, its NPAs jumped to almost 28 per cent of loans and it totted up huge losses. The regulator had to step in to arrange its merger with Oriental Bank of Commerce in 2004, in the interest of the depositors.So, the RBI is expected to give a breather to LVB for some time like it did in the case of Dhanlaxmi Bank. If the PCA does not work out as planned, then a merger with another bank would be the only option that is left.

At -1.1%, IIP growth at lowest level since 2012 in August, led by motor ve- doubledigit expansion for more pronounced in would have been at the expansion for more pronounced in would have been at th

New Delhi: India's factory output contracted for the first time in 26 months in August with both manufacturing and electricity output slipping into negative territory, signalling a further deepening of the broadbased economic downturn.

The performance the worst in nearly seven years may pave the way for a further round of interest rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India in December and force the government to announce more measures to support growth.

Data for the index of industrial production (IIP) released by the statistics department showed 15 out of the 23 industry groups in the manufacturing sector displaying negative growth

hicles, trailers and semi-trailers (-23.1%), and machinery and equipment (-21.7%).

the pace of growth of intermediate goods such as cot-Manufacturing and electricity output conton yarn, plywood and steel pipés halvéd to 7%, standtracted 1.2% and 0.9% reing out as the biggest contributor to the sequential slippage in IIP growth in spectively while mining output remained almost flat, growing at 0.1%. August.

Among the use-based industries, capital goods battling a severe demand shrank for the eighth conslowdown and a liquidity secutive month by 21%, sigcrunch, which together renalling continuing lack of sulted in the GDP growth investment demand, while rate falling to a six-year low consumer durables conof 5% in the June quarter, tracted for the third time in and growth in private cona row, by 9.1%, indicating sumption expenditure consumer sentiment reslumping to an 18-quarter low of 3.1%.The Internamains downbeat. However, consumer non-durables tional Monetary Fund's new and primary goods continmanaging Kristalina Georgieva warned ued to register positive growth, growing at 4.1% that the global economy is and 1.1% respectively. witnessing a synchronized

After

recording slowdown whose effect is

three consecutive months, emerging markets like India, indicating that the multilateral agency may revise downward its growth forecast for India in its biannual World Economic Outlook to be issued. Moody's Investors Service lowered its 2019-20 growth forecast for India to The Indian economy is 5.8% from 6.2% earlier the lowest so far by a major forecasting agency holding that the economy was experiencing a pronounced slowdown partly due to longlasting factors.Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at CARE Ratings said negative growth in consumer durable goods is a concern and the September-December period will hold the clue director for a reversal. E-commerce sales reported in October

do sound promising but it

needs to be seen if this

would have been at the expense of traditional sales from physical shops, he added.

Aditi Nayar, principal economist at Icra Ratings, said the worsening performance of Coal India Ltd. and electricity generation, and the continuing deep contraction in auto production in September could mean that the decline in the IIP is unlikely to be reversed in September. The extent of pickup in consumption in the festive months and crop production in the rabi season will signal whether a material turnaround in demand and economic growth is in the offing, she added. Pace of growth of intermediate goods halved to 7% after double digit expansion for three straight months.

Top priority to PMC depositors: RBI Governor to Finance Minister

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has assured Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman of top priority to the concerns of the troubled customers of fraud-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank.

The RBI Governor's latest assurance for the customers who cannot withdraw more than Rs25,000 from their accounts was made to Ms. Sitharaman, who had already discussed the PMC Bank imbroglio with the RBI chief a couple of times and spoken to him afresh on the issue after meeting harangued bank depositors during her visit to Mumbai.

RBI governor on the

PMC Bank matter, Ms. Rs25,000. Sitharaman said in a post. He assured me that clients and their concerns will be kept on top priority. I wish to reiterate that the Finance Ministry will ensure that customers' concerns are comprehensively addressed.We understand the justified worries of the customers, she added.

The depositors ahead of a press conference at the BJP headquarters in Mumbai, the Finance Minister had agreed to meet them and hear their grievances. She had assured them at the time that she would have a fresh word with Mr. Das to try to expedite the lifting of restrictions on depositors from withdrawing more than

In late September, the RBI had ordered the multi-State urban cooperative bank to stop all business activities for six months and capped withdrawals at Rs 1,000, a limit that was subsequently raised to Rs10,000 and further enhanced to Rs25,000 on October 3.The Rs25,000 limit, the RBI had said, would allow 70% of the bank's depositors to withdraw their entire balance.Expedite permission: I shall request the RBI Governor to expedite the permissions for withdrawal of their money. I can only emphasize this has to be done fairly quickly in view of the urgency and distress faced by customers, Ms. Sitharaman had said.

Western Times <u>Monday Montage</u>

Did Selena just shield ex-beau Justin Bieber's wife Hailey?

Los Angeles, Pop star Selena Gomez has posted an Instagram Live video requesting fans to "stop tearing other women down". The request comes in the wake of

heavy trolling that model Hailey Bieber has been facing ever since Selena released her new single "Lose you to love me". For the uninitiated, Selena's latest song is being billed as heartbreak pop. The number is believed to have references to the stormy relationship she

with Hailey's husband, pop star Justin Bieber.

once shared

The 27-year-old Selena had a blow hot, blow cold affair with Justin from 2010 to 2017, after which the "Baby" hitmaker got together with Hailey, who is now his wife, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Álthough Selena sings with gusto about how she was "replaced" within just two months, widespread trolling of Hailey following the song's release has now forced the pop star to defend the model. Things worsened for Hailey when she revealed on social media that she has been listening to

you". Selena fans took this to be Hailey's hateful response to the "Lose you to love me" number, the Daily Mail report added. In her Instagram Live video, Selena

speaks directly into the camera, asking fans to end the trolling 'l am so grateful for the response this song is getting. However, I do not stand for women tearing women down. And I will never, ever be by that. So please be kind to everyone. It doesn't matter what the situation is, if you're my fans don't be rude to anyone, please,' she said in the

video."Don't go off and say things that you just feel in the moment. Just please, for me, know that that's not my heart and my heart is only to release things I feel that are me and that I'm proud of. And that's all that I'll say," Selena added. Soon, the song's release, Selena fans were drawing a direct connection between the lyrics and her soured relationship with Justin."You turned me down and now it's showing / In two months, you replaced us / Like it was easy / Made me think I deserved it," sings Selena in the 'Beyond fairy tales': SRK wishes Gauri on 28th wedding anniversary



photograph in which he can be seen Mumbai, taking a selfie along with Gauri. Superstar Shah Rukh Khan knows best how to touch someone's heart,

The couple got married on October 25, 1991 and have three kids, Aryan, Suhana and AbRam.

Shah Rukh and Gauri met when they were studying in Delhi University. On the work front, Shah Rukh's fans are waiting for him to announce his next project after the "Zero" debacle last Décember. His special epi-

sode with popular American host David Letterman will go live on Netflix on Friday.

Kanye West opens up about his porn addiction

Los Angeles,

Rapper Kanye West has revealed that he'd been exposed to porn from a young age and was addicted to sex after his mother died in 2007. In an interview to Zane Lowe for his Apple Music Beats 1 show, West opened up about his porn and sex addiction, reports usmagazine.com. The "Gold digger" hitmaker said: "Playboy was my gateway into full blown pornography addic-tion. My dad had a Playboy left out at age 5, and it's affected al-meet every choice I made for the most every choice I made for the rest of my life.From age 5, to now having to kick the habit. And it just presents itself in the open, like it's OK. And I stand up and say, you know, it's not OK." West shared that God helped him beat the addiction. "With God, I've been able to beat things that had a full control of me. That Playboy that I found when I was 5 years old was written all over the moment that I was at the MTV Awards with the Timberlands, the Balmain jeans - before people were rocking Balmain jeans - and the Hennessy bottle," he said, referring to the infamous 2009 MTV Video Music Awards where he interrupted Taylor Swift on stage. "That was such a script out of a rockstar's life. My mom had passed a year before, and I had said, 'Some people drown themselves in drugs. And I drown my-self in my addiction," he added.

protecting

family and allow-

ing hérself to fall in

love. The story is

set on the streets of Mumbai

(Bombay) and

moves from real

life to fantasy, ac-

companied by

much-loved

Bollywood songs.

It is a chronicle of

people who mi-

grate from small

towns, seeking minimal life in the

the awards, Gitanjali said:"The MAMI awards for

'Bombay Rose'

On bagging

maximum city.

her





Vidyut Jammwal:'Commando' franchise is very close to me

Mumbai,

Actor Vidyut Jammwal is overwhelmed with the response to the trailer of "Commando 3", and says he is hoping to "surprise and delight" the audience with the third instalment in the franchise.

The trailer, which released on Thursday, has crossed 17 million views on YouTube in 24 hours.

"I am extremely overwhelmed with the response 'Commando 3' trailer has received! 'Commando' as a franchise is very close to me and the love that I have received from the audience is absolutely gratifying,"Vidyut said.

"As a franchise seeing it progress in the third instalment is satisfying



and I am hoping to surprise and delight my audience just as we did in the trailer," he added.

After the protagonist's fight for love in the prequel and his quest to expose the black money racket in India in the sequel, the third film, directed by Aditya Datt, is about bringing the nation together and the fight against terrorism.

and when it comes to show his affec-

tion towards his close ones, the "Kal

Ho Na Ho" actor doesn't miss any op-portunity. On the occasion of his 28th

wedding anniversary on Friday, SRK

penned a beautiful post for his wife

yesterday....Nearly three Decades and

Dearly three kids old. Beyond all fairy

tales Í tell, I believe this one, I have gót

as beautiful as beautiful can be," he

SRK also posted a monochrome

"Feels like forever, seems like

Gauri Khan.

wrote on Instagram.

The thriller also stars Adah Sharma, Angira Dhar and Gulshan Devaiah.

Presented by Reliance Entertainment and Motion Picture Capital in association with Sun Shine Pictures, the Vipul Amrutlal Shah Production will release on November 29

Mumbai, Filmmaker Gitanjali Rao's animated feature "Bombay Rose" won two prestigious awards at the 21st Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival With Star.

Nominated in the ʻIndia prestigious section, Gold' Bombay Rose won the 'India Gold Silver Gateway Award'and the Manish Acharya Award for New Voices in Indian Cinema'.The awards were announced at the festival's closing ceremony on Thursday.

"Bombay Rose" is the story of a flower



Big win for Gitanjali Rao's 'Bombay

seller who has to choose between



complete what has been the most incredible homecoming for me and the film. I am delighted, for the team, for everyone who contributed in making my Bombay dreams come true. Thank you!" The film had its World Premiere at Venice International Film Festival. Later, it was screened at Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). It also had its premiere at Busan International Film Festival in October.

the

Los Angeles, Hollywood mogul James Cameron says he would not like to change anything about his life.

of the themes of the movie, to bring it back around, is that the emergence of an artificial super-intelligence is inevitable. It's what we call the 'kick the

Cameron's "Terminator: Dark Fate" brings back Arnold Schwarzenegger

James Cameron: Change not always a good idea



Although "Terminator: Dark Fate" is the sixth instalment in the franchise, it is being touted as a direct sequel to 1991's "Terminator 2: Judgement Day".

where he's in a police car and he's cruising along. And his eyebrows have been burned off and his hair has been singed back and there's glycerine on

"I don't think it's a good idea to change anything. If I were unhappy in my life, you might get a different answer,"Cameron said when asked what would he change about his past.

"But I don't think we know enough about causality to be able to make a change because you could get a butterfly effect from the most innocent of changes — the most obvious being to go and whack Hitler before he took over. But that wouldn't change human nature and leaders like that will always emerge. There are certain inevitabilities," he added.

Connecting the concept of time travel with his upcoming" Terminator: Dark Fate", the producer said: "And one

can effect', you know? Sarah Connor kicked the can down the road, by preventing 'Judgment Day' in 1997, but she didn't prevent it from ever happening.It's going to constantly come back. It's like in Chaos Theory what you'd call strange attractors, it's always going to happen, probabilistically."

"So, in a sense this new 'Terminator' sets up this idea that this is going to be an endless struggle, to define what human consciousness is, or which consciousness is dominant on this planet. I kind of like that. Anyway, that's the serious answer to your question.But if I were rotting in prison, I might want to change everything," he added.

Terminator and Linda The Hamilton, as an older Sarah Connor, for yet another action-packed adventuré.

The film ignores the events of the three films that released in between.

Asked what was it like to witness Schwarzenegger and Hamilton back together on screen, Cameron said: 'For me it wasn't so much about bringing back fond memories of us all being on the first set together. I tend to be pretty analytical when I'm making a movie:'Is this working?'

He recalled an incident from the sets. "There was a moment when I first shot Arnold, on the first movie — I was watching his first day's dailies with him. It was about 10 days into the shoot because he joined the shoot a little bit late because he was working on something else. It was a shot

his face and he just looked so fucking cold and machine-like. And I remember that moment — that camera sort of jolts up the side of the police car to his face, and I just thought, 'Holy sh*t. This is great'. And I had the same feeling on this, when I saw him as the T-800. It was, 'This is great! This is what a terminator would look like, Because it's a cyborg. And the 'borg' side of that is the organic part of him — the human flesh that covers the machine endoskeleton," he said. Directed by Tim Miller, "Terminator: Dark Fate["] will release in India on November 1 in six languages: English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

Priyanshu Painyuli wraps up 'Dhaka' in Thailand

Mumbai,

Actor Priyanshu Painyuli has wrapped up work on Chris Hemsworth-starrer"Dhaka", and says working on a Hollywood project for the first time was a

"great learning experience". "It was the best conclusion to the memorable experience we had. It was a great learning experience for me working in a Hollywood production for the first time. They make you very comfortable as an actor which brings out the best in you," Priyanshu said.

"It was a wonderful experi-ence collaborating with all of them especially Chris and Golshifteh Farahani who was an absolute delight to work with. It's an experience I will cherish for a long time to come," he added.

Directed by Sam Hargrave, "Dhaka" is a kidnap extraction drama. The Netflix project has been shot in India (Ahmedabad and Mumbai) and Thailand.

Recently, Hemsworth along with a few key crew members completed the patchwork shoot in Thailand. The project is produced by the Russo Brothers along with Hemsworth. It also stars Rudraksh Jaiswal, Pankaj Tripathi, Manoj Bajpayee and Randeep Hooda.





Los Angeles,

It's Diwali time and actress Kangana Ranaut seems to be in full festive spirit. She is currently in Los Angeles to prepare for her upcoming film"Thalaivi", which is based on the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, J Jayalalithaa. Amidst her work schedule, Kangana took out some time and held a little Diwali bash with the film's team. A few pictures and videos were posted on Kangana's official Instagram handle, which is managed by her team. In the video, Kangana is seen having dinner with her sister Rangoli and the 'Thalaivi' team and also had a

small anarkali firecracker placed on the table to celebrate Diwali. "Diwali came early for Kangana as she preps for Thalaivi in L.A," the caption read. Titled "Thalaivi" in Tamil and "Jaya" in Hindi, the film will be directed by A.L. Vijay, one of the leading filmmakers down South who has earlier directed landmark films such as "Madrasapattinam" and "Deiva Thirumagal". Written by K.V. Vijayendra Prasad of "Baahubali" and "Manikarnika" fame, the film will be produced by Vishnu Vardhan Induri and Shaailesh R. Singh under the banner of Vibri and Karma Media and Entertainment.



Mumbai,

Actress Neha Dhupia says her daughter Mehr has taught her how to manage time.

"Post the birth of my daughter, Mehr, we have learned how to manage time. She has brought discipline in our (Angad and I) lives and my time management skills have become much better," Neha said.

Mehr is Neha and Angad Bedi's first child. The lovebirds tied the knot in 2018 and welcomed their daughter Mehr in November. The actress opened up about embracing motherhood in an episode of "The Love Laugh Live Show", aired on Romedy Now.

When host Shibani Dandekar asked how she manages work life and a baby, Neha said:"I took Mehr on the sets of a show which I was shooting

when she was three months old. At a point, we had to take a shot and at the same time Mehr was hungry and needed to be nursed. I had requested the crew to look away and asked the director to take a close up shot while I was feeding her." Opening up about her hush-hush wedding ceremony, Neha said:"It was very hectic for us to arrange wedding outfits in such a short notice"."I went to a mall to buy clothes but three hours before the mehendi ceremony, I couldn't arrange for the perfect outfit. I was shattered and was indulging on cupcakes in the middle of the mall but somehow we managed! We bought our wedding clothes on a returnable basis from the designers. That's the best thing actually as I don't think I have enough

space to keep that lehenga," she said. Angad says he was a different man before he tied the knot with Neha."I was a commitment-phobic before getting married to Neha," Angad said.



Mukesh Ambani hosts star-studded Diwali bash

Mumbai,

Industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his wife Nita hosted a grand Diwali party here, with celebrities such as Hazel Keech, Sagarika Ghatge, Zaheer Khan and Yuvraj Singh adding more glamour to the glitzy affair.

The lavish Diwali bash was hosted on Thursday for their friends, family and team Mumbai Indians.

Nita picked bright pink ethnic wear for the party, and Mukesh was seen in a kurta-pyjama paired with an orange Nehru jacket.

Isha Ambani chose a lightweight mint green silk sari with floral motifs woven with pure zari for the party. Her maroon blouse added more drama to her look. With flower in her hair, she completed her look with a detailed neckpiece, jhumkas adding a conventional yet contemporary touch to her appearance.

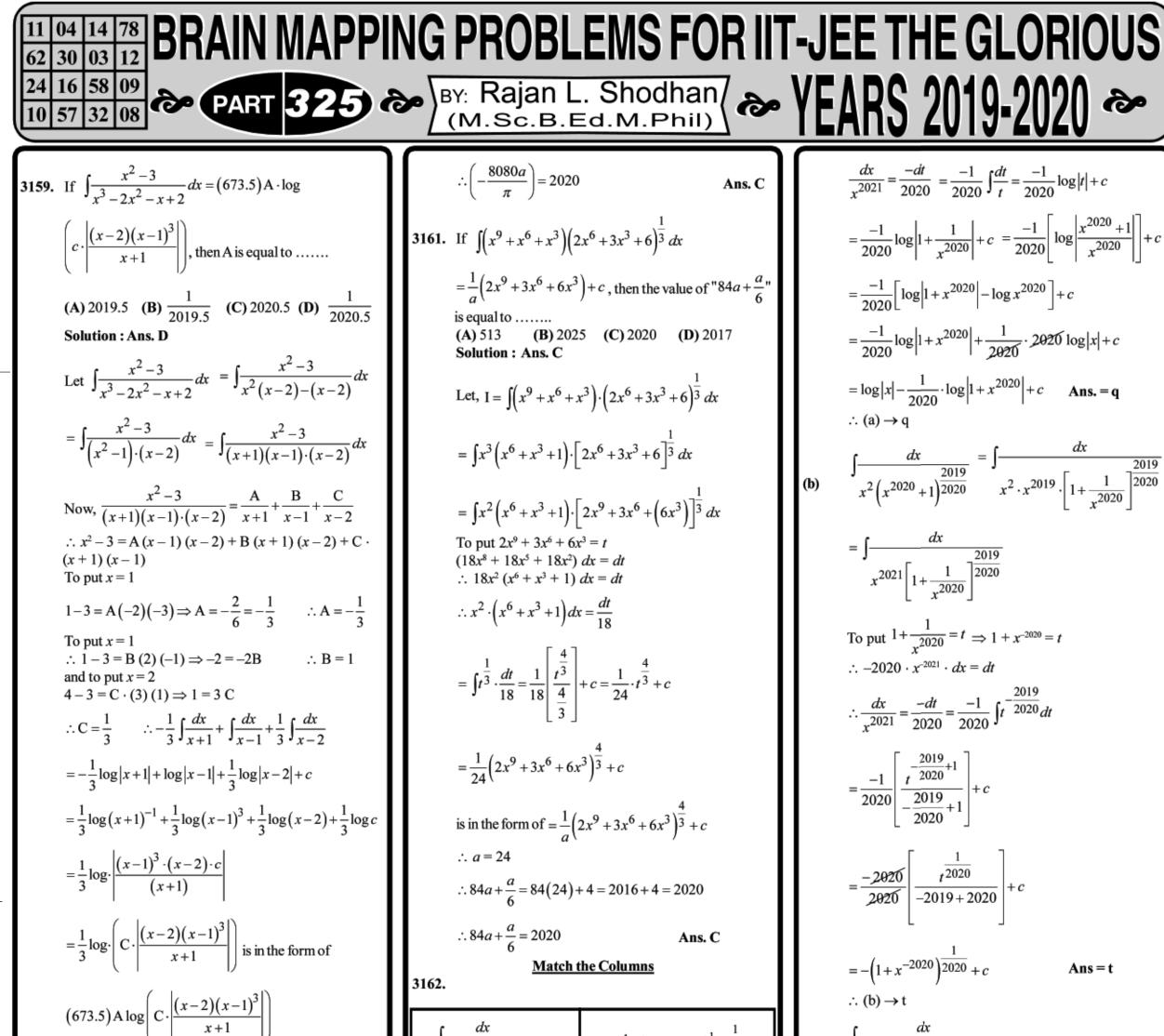


Akash and Shloka looked adorable as they entered hand-in-hand, and were all smiles. Shloka opted for a blush-pink lehenga and Akash looked dapper in a blue kurta paired with a Nehru jacket in the same hue. Hazel arrived for the party with her former-cricketer and husband Yuvraj, looking stunning in a black

one shoulder crop top, a blue lehenga with a golden dupatta adding bling to the look. She took to Instagram to share that Aamir Khan's daughter Ira Khan helped her avoid a last-minute fashion mishap, as she forgot to carry the kurta that she was supposed to wear to the party. Ira lent her top to Hazel. Yuvraj was seen in a black kurta pyjama with a red stole, and was seen beaming with joy as they posed for photographs outside the party venue. "Chak De! India" star Sagarika looked radiant as she picked a bright red attire, teaming it up with black and golden dupatta.She tied her hair in a ponytail. Her husband Zaheer was seen wearing a shimmery black kurta pyjama. Rohit Sharma looked smart in a suit as his wife Ritika Sajdeh looked elegant in a suit. Indian all-rounder Hardik Pandya looked stylish in a kurta.

Neha Dhupia: Mehr brought discipline in our lives

Western Times



$$\therefore (673.5) A = \frac{1}{3} \qquad \therefore A = \frac{1}{3 \times 673.5} = \frac{1}{2020.5}$$

$$\therefore A = \frac{1}{2020.5} \qquad \text{Ans. D}$$

B160. If $\int \frac{dx}{1 + \sin x} = \tan\left(\frac{x}{2} + a\right) + b$, then the value of
 $\left(-\frac{8080a}{\pi}\right)$ must be
(A) -2020 (B) $\frac{1}{2020}$ (C) 2020 (D) $-\frac{1}{2020}$
Solution : Ans. C
Let $\int \frac{dx}{1 + \sin x} = \int \frac{\frac{2dt}{1 + t^2}}{1 + \frac{2t}{1 + t^2}} \left(\text{where } t = \tan \frac{x}{2} \right)$
 $\int \frac{2dt}{1 + t^2 + 2t} = 2 \int \frac{dt}{(t+1)^2} = 2 \left[\frac{-1}{1+t} \right] + c = \frac{-2}{1+t} + c$
 $= \frac{-2}{1 + \tan \frac{x}{2}} + c = 1 - \frac{2}{1 + \tan \frac{x}{2}} + c - 1 = \frac{\tan \frac{x}{2} - 1}{\tan \frac{x}{2} + 1} + c - 1$
 $= \frac{\tan \frac{x}{2} - \tan \frac{\pi}{4}}{1 + \tan \frac{x}{2} \cdot \tan \frac{\pi}{4}} + c - 1 = \tan \left(\frac{x}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4} \right) + c(-1)$
is in the form of $\tan \left(\frac{x}{2} + a \right) + b$
 $\therefore a = -\frac{\pi}{4}$ and $b = c - 1 =$ an arbitrary constant.
 $\therefore \left(-\frac{8080a}{\pi} \right) = -\frac{8080a}{\pi} \times -\frac{\pi}{4} = 2020$

(a)
$$\int \frac{dx}{x[x^{2020}+1]}$$
 (p) $\frac{-1}{2019} (x^{-2020}+1)^{1-\frac{1}{2020}} + c$
(p) $\frac{-1}{2019} (x^{-2020}+1)^{1-\frac{1}{2020}} + c$
(p) $\frac{-1}{2019} (x^{-2020}+1)^{1-\frac{1}{2020}} + c$
(p) $\frac{-1}{2020} (x^{-2020})^{1-\frac{1}{2020}} (x^{-\frac{1}{2020}})^{1-\frac{1}{2020}} + c$
(c) $\int \frac{dx}{x^{2020} [1+x^{2020}]^{\frac{1}{2020}}} (x^{-\frac{2019}{x^{-2019}}} + c)^{1-\frac{1}{2020}} + c$
(s) $\frac{-1}{2020} \log |1+x^{-2020}| + c$
(i) $-(1+x^{-2020})^{\frac{1}{2020}} + c$
(i) $-(1+x^{-2020})^{\frac{1}{2020}} + c$
(A) $a \to q, b \to t, c \to r$ (B) $a \to t, b \to r, c \to s$
(C) $a \to r, b \to p, c \to t$ (D) $a \to r, b \to p, c \to s$
Solution : Ans. A
(a) $\int \frac{dx}{x[x^{2020}+1]} = \int \frac{dx}{x^{2021} [1+\frac{1}{x^{2020}}]}$
To put $1+\frac{1}{x^{2020}} = t \Rightarrow 1+x^{-2020} = t$
 $\therefore -2020 \cdot x^{-2021} \cdot dx = dt$
BY: **Rajan L. Shodhan**
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Ahmedabad-15. Mo.9898423337

$$\int \frac{dx}{x^{2020} \left[1 + x^{2020}\right]^{\frac{1}{2020}}}$$

$$= \int \frac{dx}{x^{2020} \cdot x \left[1 + \frac{1}{x^{2020}}\right]^{\frac{1}{2020}}}$$

$$= \int \frac{dx}{x^{2020} \left[1 + \frac{1}{x^{2020}}\right]^{\frac{1}{2020}}}$$
To put $1 + x^{-2020} = t$
 $\therefore -2020 \cdot x^{-2021} dx = dt$
 $\therefore -2020 \cdot x^{-2021} dx = dt$
 $\therefore \frac{dx}{x^{2021}} = -\frac{dt}{2020} = -\frac{1}{2020} \int t^{-\frac{1}{2020}} dt$
 $= -\frac{1}{2020} \left[\frac{t^{-\frac{1}{2020}+1}}{-\frac{1}{2020}+1}\right] + c$
 $= -\frac{1}{2019} \left[1 + \frac{1}{x^{2020}}\right]^{1-\frac{1}{2020}} + c$
 $-\frac{1}{2019} \left[1 + \frac{1}{x^{2020}}\right]^{1-\frac{1}{2020}} + c$
 $= -\frac{1}{2019} \frac{\left[x^{200} + 1\right]^{1-\frac{1}{2020}}}{\left(x^{2020}\right)^{\frac{2019}{2020}}} + c$
 $= -\frac{x^{-2019} \cdot \left(1 + x^{2020}\right)^{1-\frac{1}{2020}}}{2019} + c$
Ans $= r$
 $\therefore (c) \rightarrow r$
Ans A

(c)

Vestern Times Trade talks between India and

Robert

IndusInd Bank Q2 net rises 52% on loan growth

share price extended losses for the second straight session after the private lender reported Q2 earnings which came below expectations. IndusInd Bank share price hit a fresh 52-week low of Rs 1,192, losing 3% compared to the previous close of Rs 1,228.95 on BSE. The large cap stock has lost 8.53% in two sessions. The bank was top loser on Sensex and Nifty after announcement of Q2 earnings.

While IndusInd Bank share price fell up to 6.45% to Rs 1,225, the stock fell 5.83% to Rs 1,232 on Nifty.

Subsequently, Indusind Bank share price closed 6.15% or 80.55 points lower to Rs 1228.95 compared to the previous close of Rs 1309.On Nifty, the stock lost 6.04% or 80 points to Rs 1,299.55.IndusInd Bank reported a 50% rise in its September-quarter net profit from a year ago due to higher net interest and other income. Net profit for the second quarter stood at Rs 1,383.37 crore, up 50.33%, from Rs 920.25 crore a year ago.

However, net profit fell 3.4% on a quarter-on-quarter basis. According to estimates by eight Bloomberg analysts, the lender was expected to report a profit of Rs 1,416.10 crore.

The bank logged a 32.05% rise in net interest income to Rs 2,909.54 crore in Q2 of current fiscal compared to Rs 2,203.28 crore in the same quarter last year. Other income rose 31.08% to Rs 1,726.66 crore.Tax expenses fell 34.21% to Rs 478.86 crore on a quarter on quarter on basis. Provisions and contingencies climbed

Mumbai: IndusInd Bank 25% to Rs 737.71 crore in O2 from Rs 590.27 crore in the corresponding quarter of last fiscal. Asset quality deteriorated in the second quarter.Gross non-performing assets rose 145.33% to Rs 4,370.20 crore compared to Rs 1,781.36 crore last year. On a quarterly basis, it rose 4.06% from Rs 4,199.66 crore a year ago. Gross nonperforming assets as a percentage of advances in the second quarter stood at 2.19%, from 2.15% a quarter

ago, and 1.09% a year ago. Brokerage Anand Rathi in a report said, Higher accelerated provisioning of Rs 360 crore led to a sequential decline in IndusInd's Q2 earnings. Special mention accounts (SMA) disclosures and the stressed pool suggest no major risk in asset quality. With the weaker economic environment, however, we are building in

in India.

companies in India.

miníster

said.

a day after Union finance

Sitharaman said in the US

that she would prepare a

blueprint for global compa-

to make India as their pre-

ferred destination to invest.

Nirmala

lower loan growth. The stock has been on a weak wicket since September 26 amid persistent concerns over exposure to stressed sectors. It has lost 23% since then when it closed at Rs 1,548 on BSE. Reports emerged at the end of September that IndusInd Bank had exposure to Indiabulls Housing Finance which was issued a notice by Delhi High Court (HC) in response to a plea for probe

into financial irregularities. Delhi HC has also sought a response from Centre and the RBI on the plea seeking a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the alleged illegalities, siphoning of funds and violations committed by the promoters of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. (IBHFL).

US are on the right track, Goyal He added that India is look-New Delhi: Union commerce and industry minister ing to the US for technology, Piyush Goyal at US-India innovation, skills, and qual-Strategic Partnership Forum ity education. India, on the in New Delhi. Goyal said he other hand, offers an attracwas hoping to meet US tive market for US busitrade representative Robert nesses and skilled labour Lighthizer soon. Trade minthat can add value to Ameriister says creating a single can companies, he said. Goyal told a business window for US investments

conference that he was The US-India Strategic hoping to meet US trade Partnership Forum (USISPF), representative Lighthizer soon. he said that the India-US re-Goyal said that by now, lationship is at its best ever India and the US would now and trade relations between the two countries have announced the pack-

have a huge potential age, but for the preoccupawhich is yet to be tapped. tion of his counterpart Rob-Goyal added that the ert Lighthizer first with Usgovernment is working to japan trade negotiations create a single window for and later with discussions investments in India. He with the Chinese side. Therefore, probably, the added that he welcomed finalisation of the trade innovative ideas and solupackage got a little delayed. tions for the creation of this window. Goyal told the forum that his ministry is also

But we have almost resolved the broad contours working to bring down the cost of logistics that have to of what we are going to announce. I don't see any great difficulty in closing the gaps be borne by manufacturing on the first announcement, Goyal's comments came he added.

However, speaking on the sidelines of the event, Goyal hinted that India may not rush to sign the RCEP trade pact, saying that it will nies looking beyond China ensure that its national interest in all sectors are protected before it does so.

I will make a blueprint with which I will approach On RCEP, negotiations for which started in 2012 them and put forward to among the 10 member of them as to why India is a far the Association of Southmore preferable destination east Asian Nations (Asean) and make every attempt to and its six FTA partners, invite them to India, she Goyal seems to suggest that unless all demands of India Goyal referred to the are met, it will not sign the trade talks between India deal, negotiations for which and the US and added that are nearing an end.

Dates are for astrologers

to decide. Every interest of the domestic industry and people of India has to be protected before we execute any free-trade agreement. India will ensure that on services, on investments, in every aspect our national interest is protected first before any agreement is entered into, Goyal said.

The forum, in a conver-sation with Tim Roemer, former US ambassador to India, petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that India is the hotspot in energy investment destination in the world. I invite all energy players to bring their technology and investment here and become a part of India's growth story, he said. Pradhan said that the

country has moved to an open, transparent, processdriven policy atmosphere, and all are welcome to invest. The investing companies must bring technology,

Lakshmi Vilas Bank plans to raise capital Chennai: Private sector

serve Bank of India's decision not to approve the amalgamation with Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. has put an end to the uncertainty over the proposed merger and the lender would continue fund raising.In a regulatory filing, Lakshmi Vilas Bank said the bank acknowl-

FM to meet govt. bank chiefs

Mumbai: The government is ready to bring in capital and good business changes in the laws governing multi-state cooperamodels to India, he added. tives, which also run banks, Energy is increasingly an Finance Minister Nirmala important component of Sitharaman said. She also our bilateral trade. Our said a three-member comcrude oil import from the mittee comprising two sec-USA was almost nil in 2014. retaries of the finance min-The total import of petroistry and a deputy governor leum products from the of the Reserve Bank of India USA including LNG (lique-(RBI) would be set up to look fied natural gas) in 2018-19 into the issues of multi-state stood at over \$7 billion, and cooperative banks. is likely to go up further this year, Pradhan said. Accord-

While Sitharaman said, 'If amendments are going to help us curb malpractices and regulate and empower them better, the RBI will do it. She added that the committee that would look into the matter would take necessary legislative steps to prevent such things from happening in future and empower the regulator. In the forthcoming winter session of Parliament, if necessary, we will be bringing important legislation changes, which may be necessitated.

Before addressing the media, the finance minister also spoke to irate depositors of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank and assured them that the government and the RBI were working to solve their problems. She told them that she would speak to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on this matter.

Sitharaman also clarified that even though multistate cooperative banks are not registered under the RBI, they are still regulated by the central bank and therefore it can be empowered to regulate these banks better.

Bank scam came to light after a whistleblower informed the RBI that the board of the cooperative bank was manipulating books of the bank to give loans to the Mumbai-based realty firm Housing Development & Infrastructure (HDIL).

The economic offences wing of Mumbai police has lodged a case against PMC Bank officials, HDIL group entities and its promoters. HDIL promoters Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, and former PMC Bank chairman S Waryam Singh and former managing director Joy Thomas have also been arrested.The Enforcement Directorate has also filed a money laundering case against the promoter of HDIL and the few board members of the PMC Bank.

FM to meet bankers on October 14, Sitharaman said she had called a meeting with public sector bank chiefs on October 14 to discuss their progress on liquidity infusion in the economy and businesses after the government had given them growth capital. "I will be asking them how much they have lent to NBFCs, retail credit and any other category," she said. She will also discuss ways in which banks can help nonbank finance companies (NBFCs), which are facing liquidity crunch.

She said the govern-ment has taken steps to in-crease credit flow, and has already asked the bankers to organize for the outreach programmes to push credit growth before the festive season after doing proper credit appraisal.

The Rs 4,355-crore PMC

Uco Bank to raise Rs 500 crore Indiabulls Group shares fall after merger bid fails Mumbai: Indiabulls planned to combine in a bid quidity problems. Iosses swelled to 2.37 billion been a lifeblood for every-

Mumbai: Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. plunged, as the rebuff to its plan to merge with Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. put a dent in hopes that shadow lenders could use such combinations to get better access to liquidity. The Reserve Bank of India rejected the merger Chennai-based plan, Lakshmi Vilas said in an exchange filing, without disclosing the reason for the central bank's decision.

Shares of Indiabulls Housing fell as much as 13% in morning trade in Mumbai, while the shadow lender's dollar bonds also slumped. Lakshmi Vilas' shares fell close to 5%.

Hurt by the spreading

isis among India's non bank financing companies, the two lenders had

to increase profitability and bolster capital. Indiabulls was looking to diversify its asset base and get access to low-cost funds, while Lakshmi Vilas Bank needed to raise capital and exit from the curbs placed on its lend-

My sense is NBFCs will now be extra careful in ap-proaching authorities with any kind of merger plan, said Gaurang Shah, senior vice president at Geojit Fi-

nancial Services Ltd. When the merger plan was first announced, it raised speculation that other Indian banks could become takeover targets as more shadow lenders sought t combinations to overhaul their business models and resolve their li-

For Lakshmi Vilas, the RBI's rejection may push it into the arms of another bank or force it to find private equity investors to raise capital quickly. Indiabulls dollar bond

things are on the right track.

fell by a record after regulator rejected its merger proposal Earlier this month, an Indian court and the police moved to begin separate investigations to examine allegations of fraud and misappropriation against Indiabulls and LakshmiVilas. Both companies have denied any wrongdoing.

The RBI cited high level of bad loans and insufficient capital to absorb risks as it brought Lakshmi Vilas uners. der the so-called prompt corrective action last month. Lakshmi Vilas Bank's

rupees (\$33 million) in the quarter ended June. Bad loans accounted for 17.3% of total lending, almost double the industry average.

Other such mergers may go ahead if the RBI is happier with the two parties seeking to combine, some analysts suggested.

The plan would not have created an organization that would be a value add for all stakeholders, Anil Singhvi, founder of proxy advisory firm liAS told BloombergQuint. The RBI would have seen it as a merger of two weak players rather than two strong play-

India has been rocked by a crisis among shadow banks, whose lending has

8.5-10 per cent.

Parekh said.

sions - revenue growth,

digital growth, operating

margins, operational effi-

ciencies, large deal signings

and reduction in attrition,

Infosys CEO and MD Salil

that the company is pro-

gressing well in its journey

of client-centricity and

maximizing value for its

was at USD 569 million

while revenue was at USD

3.21 billion in the said

quarter. The results come a

In dollar terms, net profit

stakeholders, he added.

All these are clear signs

one from small merchants to tycoons. The non-bank financing companies' balance sheets have come under greater scrutiny after the collapse of Infrastruc-

ture Leasing & Financial Services Ltd. last year highlighted broader debt concerns. That's complicating the South Asian nation's battle against a bad-loan problem that it needs to clear up to help promote investment and revive economic growth.

This doesn't mean the end of the road as far as our journey as a financial services player is concerned, Ajit Kumar Mittal, executive director at Mumbai-based Indiabulls Housing said in an interview broadcast on CNBC-TV18.

Calcutta: Uco Bank is looking to raise Rs 500 crore through its Basel III compliant tier-2 bonds in a bid to strengthen its capital base.

The capital adequacy ratio of the bank stood at 10.88 per cent at the end of the April-June quarter of 2019-20 with the government holding a 92.52 per cent stake as of June 30. The board of directors of the bank is set to consider the issue, the bank said.

Uco Bank is among the four banks that have been mandated by the government to increase their regional focus along with Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharahstra and Punjab and Sind Bank. The bank was not part of the merger

ment, the bank may have to consider institutional placements to raise capital in a volatile market.

The bank's scrip was up 0.51 per cent at at Rs 11.85 over the previous close at the Bombay Stock Ex-change. The bank has suffered a net loss of Rs 601.45 crore for the June quarter against a loss of Rs 633.88 crore a year ago. The gross NPA ratio of the bank during the quarter was 24.85 per cent, lower than 25.71 per

cent a year ago. The bank also cut down its net NPA during the quarter to 8.98 per cent from 12.74 per cent last year and hopes to bring it down to less than 6 per cent by

GST Council sets up

a capital requirement of Rs 0-5.000 crore for the entire fiscal.While most of it RBI. is coming from the govern-

The bank also features in the list of 10 public sector banks where the gov-

ernment has decided to infuse a total of Rs 55,250 crore in a bid to shore up their capital base and strengthen balance sheets.

While the bank's board has approved the preferential allotment of Rs 2,130 crore from the government, an extraordinary general meeting has been called for the approval of sharehold-

Earlier in June, the bank had also raised Rs 500 crore from LIC through the issue of Basel III compliant tier 2 bonds

Uco Bank has estimated

said it witnessed a lot of business cycles punctuated with booms and recession.

wards growth and creating value to our stakeholders, i said.Noting that it began its journey in 1926, the bank edges the decision of Apex

Lakshmi Vilas Bank said Re-

served three generation of clients. We are committed to-

bank.LVB said with a legacy of more than nine decades its deposit book was close to Rs 26,000 crore and it had

ing to USISPF estimates, the

India-us bilateral trade is

projected to grow to \$238

trade, commercial aircraft,

oil and liquefied natural gas,

coal, machinery, and elec-

tronics are areas of potential

growth in the US invest-

ments and commerce in In-

dia. Indian industry has an

opportunity to promote au-

tomotive, pharmaceuticals,

seafood, IT and travel ser-

vices to the US market

Sectors like defence

billion by 2025.

of public sector banks announced in August.

March 2020 to come out o the PCA framework of the

AI SPV raises Rs. 7,000 cr. for refinancing debt

New Delhi: Air India plans to raise up to Rs 7,000 crore through one of the largest domestic bond sales this year to repay its maturing loans and restructure stressed debt, three people with the direct knowledge of the matter said.

The company has received an in-principle approval from the government, which will guarantee the proposed bonds, one of the persons told. The national carrier's bonds are expected to have a maturity of 10 years. About 10 financial institutions mostly banks have submitted bids to arrange the proposed bond sale, which is likely to be completed by Marchend the sources said.

Air India Ltd. is planning to diversify its funding sources through domestic bond market by private placement of bonds, which will be backed by guarantee of the government of India, the company said in the Request for Proposal inviting bids from prospective bond sale arrangers.

Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, ICICI Securities PD, Standard Chartered Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Yes Bank are among the entities that have expressed interest to don the role of arrangers, the sources said. Email queries sent to them remain unanswered until publication of this report. Standard Chartered Bank and Yes Bank declined to comment.

Air India is expected to use the proceeds both for refinancing and restructured stressed debt, said the person quoted earlier.

The federal support will improve credit rating of Air India bonds that will be seen as quasi-sovereign papers with triple-A grade. With the government owning responsibility to repay interest and principals, the airline will attain'Structured Obligation' (SO) tag along with the top grade.

The base size of the bond issue may be Rs 2,000 crore with an option to retain oversubscription of up to Rs 7,000 crore, people familiar with the matter said. The final decision is yet to

be taken, they said. The company aims to raise the full money in one tranche before this financial year ends subject to market condition, said one executive involved in the process.

Air India had floated the Request for Proposal seeking bids from merchant bankers, which can help them in raising the bonds. The bonds would be auctioned on the exchangetraded platform.

The government was working on a four-pronged strategy, including a financial package and a brandrefreshing exercise, to revive the national carrier and make it globally competitive, citing aviation minister Jayant Sinha.Air India is expected to use the proceeds both for refinancing and restructured stressed debt, said the person quoted earlier.

Earlier, the government had failed to sell a stake in Air India. Many blamed unrealistic valuation may have led to the failure. On November 5, ET had reported that the government was working on a new strategy, which would involve the government transferring the airline's working capital debt of about Rs 29,000 crore to a special purpose vehicle (SPV) known as Air India Assets Holding (AIAHL). That would more than halve the debt burden

of the carrier, sources had

said.

Infosys Q2 net profit dips 2.2 pc to Rs 4,019 cr; raises revenue forecast for FY20

Bengaluru: India's second-largest IT services company Infosys said its consolidated net profit declined by 2.2 per cent to Rs 4.019 crore for the July-September 2019 guarter.

This is against a net profit of Rs 4,110 crore in the same period last fiscal, Infosys said in a regulatory filing. The Bengaluru-based company's revenue rose by 9.8 per cent to Rs 22,629 crore in the quarter under review from Rs 20,609 crore in the year-ago period. In constant currency terms, this translates into an 11.4 per cent increase.

Infosys also raised the lower-end of its FY2019-20 revenue guidance and the revised forecast now stands at 9-10 per cent growth in constant currency terms. At the beginning of the

reported during the corre-

sponding quarter last year.

Consolidated revenue from

operations during the sec-

ond quarter of current fiscal

was Rs 22,629 crore, almost

10 per cent higher than Rs

20,609 crore seen during

the corresponding period

Infosys reported a net profit

of Rs 3,829 crore during the

September quarter of this

fiscal, 1.2 per cent lower

than Rs 3,879 crore during

In stand-alone terms,

last year.

fiscal, Infosys had said it ex-

Infosys net profit falls 2.2% to Rs4019 crore

Bengaluru: Infosys rethe similar period last fiscal. ported a 2.21 per cent de-Total stand-alone revenue cline in its consolidated net during this quarter was reported at Rs 19,666 crore, up profit for the quarter ended September 30, 2019. The IT 7.5 per cent in comparison to Rs 18,297 crore reported major reported a net profit of Rs 4,019 crore during the in the year-ago period. quarter under review, as Our performance was opposed to Rs 4,110 crore

robust on multiple dimensions - revenue growth, digital growth, operating margins, operational efficiencies, large deal signings and reduction in attrition.

Infosys' operating profit for Q2 FY2020 was 4,912 crore, following an increase of 0.4 per cent on yearly basis, whereas operating mar-gin was 21.7 per cent. We saw expansion in operating margins during the quarter driven by improvement in operational parameters and cost efficiencies.

pects revenue growth of day after larger rival, Tata 7.5-9.5 per cent for FY2019-Consultancy Services an-20. Subsequently, while announced its second-quarnouncing its first-quarter ter results. The Mumbainumbers, the company based firm reported a 1.8 raised its revenue growth per cent rise in consoliguidance for the fiscal to dated net profit at Rs 8,042 crore while its revenue Our performance was grew by 5.8 per cent to Rs 38.977 crore. robust on multiple dimen-

In the September 2019 quarter, Infosys' Digital revenues grew 38.4 per cent year-on-year to USD 1.23 billion, accounting for 38.3 per cent of its total revenues. It has also declared an

interim dividend of Rs 8 per share. Infosys announced its results after the close of trading hours. Its scrip had closed at Rs 815.70 apiece, up 4.19 per cent from the previous close on the BSE.

We saw expansion in operating margins during the quarter driven by improvement in operational parameters and cost efficiencies.

We took the first step towards implementation of our new capital allocation policy by increasing interim

dividend by over 14 per cent compared to FY19, Infosys CFO Nilanjan Roy said.

The company completed its share buyback of Rs 8,260 crore on August 26, 2019, wrapping up its additional capital return programme of up to Rs 13,000 crore announced in April 2018.

Q2 witnessed another quarter of all-round growth in industry segments and geographies which is a testimony to our strong credentials and client relevance. Large deal wins were USD 2.8 billion. We are especially pleased by the reduction in attrition driven by our focus on enhanced employee value proposition, Infosys COO Pravin Rao said.

During the September quarter, Infosys added 7,457 people to take its overall headcount to about 2.36 lakh. Its annualized consolidated attrition was lower at 21.7 per cent in the said quarter from 23.4 per cent in the June quarter.

panel to spur collection New Delhi: With a monthly collection of Goods & Services Tax (GST) dipping to a 19-month low, the GST Council Secretariat has announced setting up of a committee to augment collections and improve administration. The panel has been asked to submit the report within 15 days.

This development took place ten days after the collection for the month of September was found to dip to Rs91,916 crore, the lowest after February 2018. Not only this, the revenue during September declined by 2.67 per cent as compared to the mop-up during September last year. The Government has set a target of collecting over Rs1 lakh crore every month during the current fiscal. The new committee will have 12 members five from the States and five from the Centre beside Joint Secretary of GST Council and Executive Vice President of GST Network (GSTN). Officers from the Centre will include Joint Secretary (Revenue), Principal Commis-

sioner (GST PW), Joint Secretary (Tax Research Unit) Additional Director General (ARM) and Additional Director General (Systems). SGST (State Goods & Services Tax) Commissioner from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Puniab will represent the States. As per the order issued by GST Council Secretariat, any other State could also join the committee on a voluntary basis.

The order made it clear that the committee could consider a wide range of reforms, so that "a comprehensive list of suggestions ma suggested some areas to be considered by the committee. These include systematic changes in GST including checks and balances to prevent misuse. measures to improve voluntary compliance, policy proposals and relevant modifications needed in the law, measures for expansion of tax base, improved compliance and anti-evasion measures using better data analytics and better administrative coordination.

FM faces angry PMC depositors

Mumbai: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman assured the account holders of the crisis-hit PMC Bank that she would speak to the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das once again, convey their sense of urgency and distress and request the latter to expedite grant of permission for withdrawal of money deposited by them in the bank.After scores of affected account holders of PMC Bank staged a protest a protest in front of the State BJP headquarters in Mumbai, Sitaraman who

was in Mumbai to campaign for the State Assembly polls, delayed her interaction with the media. spoke to a delegation of protesters and assured them that she would take up their issue with the GovernorThe meeting with the TMC Bank's account delegations, holders' Sitaraman said that I have been talking to the RBI Governor. On my return to Delhi, I shall oncé again talk to him RBI governor and convey the sense of urgency and distress that the clients of PMC have ex-

pressed before me and I shall request him to expedite the clearing of or giving permission for withdrawal of their monies which are deposited. It may be recalled that on September 24 placed Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank Ltd. under regulatory restrictions, thus barring the bank from carrying out routine and major financial transactions, including withdrawal of cash exceeding Rs 1,000 by each of the depositors, for a period of six months. The RBI subsequently raised the cash withdrawal limit to Rs 10,000 per account and has now scaled up the withdrawal limit to

Rs 25,000 per account. The RBI had said that the directions imposing major restrictions on the PMC Bank had been necessitated because of account of major financial irregularities, failure of internal control and systems of the bank and wrong/under-reporting of its exposures under various Off-site Surveillance reports to RBI that came to the Reserve Bank's notice recently.

Vestern Times

member arbitration panel,

constituted in 2015 to hear

Reliance and its partner BP's

challenge to disallowance

of cost recovery, had asked

the oil ministry to share a

host of documents, includ-

ing those sent, received or

created that "set out the rea-

sons" for the government

that there is no provision

under the Production Shar-

ing Contract (PSC) signed

for the KG-D6 block

awarded to them under the

first bid round of New Ex-

ploration Licensing Policy

(NELP) of targets for oil and

gas production and disal-

lowing cost if they are not

are first allowed to recover

all their sunk cost before

sharing profits with the gov-

ernment. Disallowing a part

of the cost would not just

The arbitration panel

quests made by Reliance-BP

for disclosure of documents

by the government. These

included one for disclosure

of earlier formal but unpub-

Under NELP, contractors

Reliance and BP believe

decision.

met.

Commercial vehicle sales to remain subdued in current fiscal: Icra

New Delhi: ting agency Icra said its outlook for the domestic commercial vehicle industry remains negative for the rest of the fiscal year due to subdued sales amid slowing economic growth and tight fi-

nancing environment. The rating agency be-ves that demand lieves headwinds would continue in the near-term with the likelihood of limited prebuying ahead of the roll-out of BS-VI emission norms.

Given the high inventory levels at dealership and subdued retail sales, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are focusing on rationalizing the inventory in the system prior to the rollout of new emission norms, which would render unsold inventory of existing BS-IV vehicles as obsolete, Icra Ratings vice president Shamsher Dewan said.

Hence, wholesales dispatches are not expected to increase materially over the latter half of the fiscal, he pointed out.

Domestic commercial vehicle (CV) industry volumes are likely to contract by 10-12 per cent during the current fiscal which, coupled with elevated level of discounts offered by OEMs, will exert pressure on earnings and credit metrics of OEMs in the near-term, he added.

The slowdown in the domestic commercial vehicle industry, which started in the second half of finan-

cial year 2019, has accentuated during the current fiscal with volumes contracting by a sharp 19 per cent during April-August 2019 on a year-on-year basis.

The volume contraction has worsened as the year progressed with CV OEMs cutting down on their wholesale dispatches by 33 per cent during July-August period of this year to pare down inventory levels at dealerships in light of subdued footfalls and retail

sales. As per early sales data released by key listed CV OEMs, the situation has further worsened in September 2019 with volumes halving over the year-ago period, Icra said.

The slowdown has been sharp in the medium and heavy commercial vehicle M&HCV truck segment, wherein volumes contracted by 32 per cent dur-ing the current fiscal so far.

The M&HCV truck seqnoted.

nario, he added.

ment has been impacted by the double-whammy of excess capacity along with subdued freight availability, which has suppressed freight rates and kept profitability of fleet operators under pressure, Dewan

Coupled with tight liquidity in the non-banking financial company Space, and expectations of a GST rate cut, fleet operators had deferred their vehicle purchases in the current sce-

New Delhi: Supreme Court, in a setback to the oil ministry, has dismissed its petition against an order seeking disclosure of documents that formed basis for

levy of \$3 billion penalty on Reliance Industries over KG-D6 natural gas output not matching targets. A three-member inter-

national arbitration panel, hearing Reliance and its partner's challenge to the government levying penalty because of unutilised capacity due to production not matching targets, had asked the ministry to share an array of documents that formed basis for its actions. The oil ministry first

challenged the disclosure before Delhi High Court, which on December 18, 2018, dismissed the petition.It then challenged it in the Supreme Court, which on August 5, 2019, dismissed it, saying it was not inclined to interfere with the earlier order.

result in contractors having The government had to absorb those expenses between 2012 and 2016 disbut also result in higher profit share from oil and gas allowed Reliance and its produced to the governpartners from recovering ment. The government the cost of \$3.02 billion for KG-D6 output lagging tarclaimed an additional \$175 gets. The penalty in form of million as its profit share afdisallowance of recovery of ter the cost disallowance in certain costs was levied be-2016. cause the oil ministry and its technical arm DGH felt that agreed to most of the 19 re-

the output lagged targets because the company did not drill the committed number of wells on the fields and created excess

However, from the be-

Instances of the car

that Nano consistently lost

crore.Mistry also termed the

car as one of the legacy

they also warn about risks

such as continuing weak-

ness in the economy, a high

GST rate and increased im-

port costs. Industry execu-

tives also fear the recent

government recent govern-

ment move that increases

the tax outgo of people

earning more than Rs 2

crore to dampen the senti-

ment of their target custom-

ers. Between 15,000 and

17,000 luxury cars were sold

in the first six months of

2019, compared with 20,000

units a year earlier, esti-mates of five people with

knowledge of industry sales

The luxury segment did worse than the rest of the

industry, which is unusual in

India as it typically outper-

hicle sales are estimated to

have dropped 10% during

January-June 2019. While

the year started on a weak

note for the luxury segment

with a marginal decline in

sales, the second quarter

Overall passenger ve-

forms the market.

showed.

SC declines oil ministry request to stay sharing of documents on Reliance penalty lished guidelines in effect ance-BP) following the princapacity. Sources said a three-

between 1997 to October 2007 concerning the classification and/or recovery of general and administrative costs incurred by contractors under NELP PSC.

The other requests of Reliance-BP granted by the arbitration panel included the ministry disclosing July 2011 response to an enquiry from the government auditor (CAG), documents reasoning out decision not to approve revised field development plan that set out reasons for lower output in October 2013 and ones pertaining to the position the ministry took on drilling of development wells.

Reliance-BP say the output in KG-D6 block plummeted because of unforseen reservoir characteristics, including sand and water ingress in wells.

Sources said the arbitration panel also granted Reliance-BP request for disclosure of documents that led to the ministry's representative of KG-D6 block oversight panel to deny approval of work programmes and budget for the block in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Delhi High Court in its December 2018 order stated that the arbitration panel has after examining the requests for discovery directed, wherever necessary, discovery of documents, both by the Union of India as well as the respondents/contractors (Reli-

ciples of natural justice. The oil ministry opposed such disclosure over confidentiality and other secrecy clauses. The court said that the

arbitration panel had correctly kept in mind the provisions of the arbitration law requiring it to"treat the parties equally and give each party a full opportunity to present its case.

Therefore, in my view, if the argument advanced on behalf of the Union of India is accepted, it will stymie the arbitration proceedings; a situation which will enure to the benefit of a recalcitrant party which does not desire a quick resolution of the dispute, Justice Rajiv Shakdher

wrote in the December 18, 2018, order dismissing the oil ministry appeal. Gas production from Dhirubhai-1 and 3 gas field in the KG-D6 block in the

Bay of Bengal was supposed to be 80 million standard cubic meters per day but actual production was only 35.33 mmscmd in 2011-12, 20.88 mmscmd in 2012-13 and 9.77 mmscmd in 2013-14 the years for which the

over \$3 billion penalty was levied. The output has continued to drop in the subsequent years and is now below 2 mmscmd.

Reliance holds 66.6 per cent interest in block KG-DWN-98/3 or KG-D6 in the Bay of Bengal. BP has the rest.

Seven of the 10 Cos lose over Rs 1L cr in m-cap

New Delhi:Seven of the 10 most valued domestic companies suffered a combined erosion of 1 lakh crore in their market valuation last week with HDFC Bank taking the biggest hit by losing over 30,000 crore.

Besides HDFC Bank, the other losers included Reliance Industries (RIL), Hindustan Unilever (HUL), HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance. On the other among the top 10 firms that saw rise in their market valuation. Market capitalization (m-cap) of HDFC Bank dropped the most by 30,198.62 crore to 6,50,446.47 crore.



No Tata Nano production in first 9 months of 2019, just 1 unit sold

has not produced a single unit of its entry-level car Nano in the first nine months of 2019 but sold just one unit in February in the domestic market although it is yet to officially announce that the model has been discontinued.

The company has so far been maintaining that no decision has been made yet on the future of Nano saying production planning of a car is a conscious management of demand, system inventory and planned efficiencies. It has however, admitted that in its current form the car will not meet the new safety regulations and BS-VI emission norms.

As per regulatory filings by the company, there was no production and sales of Nano in the domestic market in September this year, making it the ninth consecutive month that Tata Motors has not produced the small car. After selling just one unit in February this year, the company has also not sold a single unit in the rest of the months of the year so far, according to the filings. Nano, which was un-

New Delhi: Tata Motors veiled in January 2008 at the auto expo with much exa promise is a promise. pectations of being the ginning, Nano courted trouble. It was originally people's car, could not live up to the billing. Its sales planned to be rolled out have been dwindling over

from Tata Motors' proposed the years. Ín the January-Septemplant at Singur in West Benber 2018 period, Tata Motors gal, where it faced intense had produced a total of 297 political and farmer protests units and sold 299 units of against land acquisition. The Nano in the domestic marcompany had to shift its ket, according to the filings. production to a new plant at On the issue of discon-Sanand in Gujarat.

tinuing the Nano, Tata Mocatching fire initially after it tors has insisted that deciwas launched did not help sions on product life cycle is its cause either. Tata had ada holistic view taken after considering the market demitted that the company velopments, regulations made the mistake of proand emerging competitive moting Nano as the cheaplandscape. Any such deciest car.It become a losssions are announced as and making model for Tata Motors with ex-Tata Sons chair-

when they are taken. Company officials had, however, hinted that production and sales of the Nano would stop from April 2020 as Tata Motors has no Govts may Get More Power to Tax MNCs Like Google,

FB tions with Tata insisting that

New Delhi: Mumbai: Countries around the world, including India, will get more power to tax big multinationals such as Google, Apple and Facebook doing business within their borders under a proposed overhaul of decades old rules.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has proposed to expand government rights to tax multinationals, especially big internet firms, by releasing a methodology for such taxation.

The development is a shot in the arm for India which has proposed its own regulations on taxation of digital companies."With the man Mistry, who was OECD report also supportabruptly removed from the post, even went on to claim ing the right to tax, one would now have to see if value, peaking at Rs 1,000 and when the CBDT (Central

India, Bangladesh sign MoU for Chattogram and Mongla ports

New Delhii: Prime Minister Modi's foreign policy initiative use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of goods to and from India during the official visit of Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) wherein Bangladesh allowed the use of its Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of goods to and from India through its territory was signed and exchanged by India and Bangladesh before the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh. The SOP on use of Chattogram and Mongla ports has been finalized after the two countries signed an MOU on 6.6.2015 and an agreement on 25.10.18.The agreement

and SOP permit the movement of goods in Bangladesh through waterways, rail, road or multimodal transport. Eight

Chattogram/Mongla Port to Sutarkandi (Assam) via Sheola ; (iv) Chattogram/ Mongla Port to Srimantpur (Tripura) via Bibirbazar (and vice versa)

The conclusion of the SOP on Chattogram and Mongla ports would reduce distance, time and logistic cost for transport of goods and is a win-win situation for both the economies.

Three landlocked states India viz. Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura will get access to open sea trade routes from Chattogram and Mongla ports via Indian ports.

Tripura will be connected to Chattogram Port through the Maitree Setu on Feni river at Sabroom in South Tripura and Ramgarh in Bangladesh. While Agartala is 135 kms from Sabroom, Chattogram port is 75 kms from Sabroom.

Cargo transportation through IBP waterway route from Kolkata/ Haldia to North East is limited to 2000 ton vessels.

plans to invest further on Ratan Tata's dream car to meet strict emission norm under Bharat Stage-VI and other safety regulations.

for the Nano, any turn-around strategy.He had also Nano was launched in claimed that Tata Motors the market in March 2009 with an initial price of close did not stop producing the to Rs 1 lakh for the basic car due to emotional reamodel despite cost escalasons.

Board of Direct Taxes) finalizes the profit attribution rules.

hotspots and there was no line of sight to profitability This together with the significant economic presence (SEP) amendment could impact several digital companies operating in India, said Ajay Rotti, partner at Dhruva Advisors.

routes are provided under the Agreement which would enable access of North East Region (NER) via Bangladesh. The routes are:

(i) Chattogram/Mongla Port to Agartala (Tripura) via Akhura; (ii) Chattogram/ Mongla Port to Dawki (Meghalaya) via Tamabil; (iii)

Luxury car market recovery

Now, larger ships carrying cargo destined for North East can call at Chattogram and Mongla ports thereby increasing trade volumes and reducing logistic costs.

HDFC's Parekh bats for stimulus package

at Puniab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC), HDFC chairman said it is brutally unfair we have regular loan waivers and corporate loan write-offs but no financial system to protect the common man's savings.

The scam at PMC Bank has affected thousands of its depositors as their money is stuck with the urban cooperative bank's after RBI had put a withdrawal limits at Rs 25,000 per accounts last month.

The restrictions from the RBI came in after it found the bank's exposure to real estate developer HDIL was in too much in excess of what the regulations require and also as the lender hid the NPAs of HDIL.

PMC's exposure to HDIL is around Rs 6,500 crore, which is 73 percent of its loan book of Rs 8,880 crore, as per bank's own admission.

To my mind, there is no greater cardinal sin in finance than misuse of the common man's hard earned savings. It seems brutally unfair that we have allowed a system of loan waivers and write-offs every now and again, but yet we do not have a robust

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Mumbai: Amid the crisis enough financial system to protect the honest common man's savings, Parekh said without mentioning any particular incident half of this year, industry ex-ecutives said, as a slowdown while launching a centre for financial studies by B-school SP Jain.

He said trust and confidence are the backbone of any financial system and one should never underestimate the power of ethics and values.

It is a pity that this is so often eroded, he said, but was quick to add this problem crops up across the world. Calling for encouraging savings if credit were to grow, Parekh said the savings rate at 30 percent of GDP has been showing a declining trend over the past decade.

Household savings is important for any economy and that is why there is likely to be a threshold beyond which lowering interest rates becomes difficult, he said. Our savers prefer assured returns which is why fixed deposits continue to remain the preferred choice of savings, he added. He said the crux of the problem with the financial sector is that the flow of credit to the commercial sector is still clogged.Market cycles are inevitable.But as long as we are able to self-correct, work towards financial sector reforms, bring in enabling policies, encourage true and fair entrepreneurship and have a stable rule of law, I think there is no reason to believe why India would not

retain its rightful place on

the global stage, he said.

likely in 4-6 quarters: BMW India Mumbai: India's luxury dealership didn't help in arresting the demand erocar market shrank by as much as a quarter in the first sion.

Mercedes-Benz announced an 18% decline in sales for the six months of in economic growth and uncertainty around elec-2019, blaming macroeconomic headwinds such as tions made buyers cautious. Manufacturers such as high interest rates, rising segment leader Mercedesimport costs and a liquidity Benz and Audi expect the crunch that has affected the situation to improve in the auto-loan market. coming months, though

Despite the fall in sales, the company's market share has expanded, as the rest of the industry is estimated to have posted a bigger drop some companies in the seqment don't regularly report quarterly or half-yearly sales numbers.

Mercedes-Benz India managing director Martin Schwenk is optimistic about a sales recovery in the third quarter, although he predicts the market conditions to remain challenging.

We have maintained our leadership by sustaining our sales performance despite facing continuous macroeconomic headwinds and a temporary limited availability of volume models," said Schwenk.

The share of luxury cars in India at an average 35,000-40,000 units in the last three-four years, or about 1.17% of the overall passenger vehicle market is the smallest among the large economies. To be sure, there are more than 350,000 millionaires in India.

Industry players fear the April to June was much worse with sales falling market is staring at its bigmore than 30% to 6,500gest decline in growth rates 7.000 units. Introduction of in a decade. Some are also new models and addition of worried about the impact of

India's shift from Bharat Stage IV emission standards to BS-VI, as the increased cost associated with the technology change could discourage more buyers.

Rahil Ansari, head of Audi India, said it was proving to be a tough year for the luxury car industry and he expects the market to shrink in 2019. A high GST rate, higher cess, election season and also the shift to petrol are factors impacting the growth rates. The market should recover some of the lost ground, but that will take around 6-12 months minimum, he said. Also, the impact of switch to BS-VI is unclear at the moment.A prospective buyer who had expressed interest on the top-oftheline saloon for a few months has now started

India contributed to post-blast economic recovery in Lanka

Bengaluru: It is increasingly clear that the Easter Sunday blasts in Sri Lanka could and should have been prevented. Warnings about the group responsible, their intentions and even specific attackers were delivered in well in advance. Both President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe have acknowledged that the information did not reach them and wasn't acted upon.

The two men and their respective parties are still at uncertainty surrounding the shift from BS-IV to BS-VI, which may affect the resale value. Such is the sentiment in the market the customer is either deferring or downsizing its spend in the current environment. A company that bucked the trend was Volvo Car In-

dia, with an 11% growth in the first half. But it predicts the second half to be tough. The rest of the year looks tough. We would be happy to reach last year's numbers. This is, of course, a shortterm phenomenon and I am confident the luxury segment will be back on a high growth path, said managing director Charles Frump.

loggerheads after

decades-long civil war.



News in a Nutshell

Moody's cuts India's FY20 growth to 5.8%

New Delhi: Moody's Investor Service has pegged India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the current financial year at 5.8%, lower than what the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projected last week at 6.1%.India's growth will remain weaker than in the recent past, and the drivers of the deceleration are multiple, Moody's said.

We forecast real GDP growth to decline to 5.8% in the fiscal year ending March 2020 fiscal 2019 from 6.8% in fiscal 2018, and to pick up to 6.6% in fiscal 2020 and around 7% over the medium term, the rating agency said. The fiscal year ending in March 2020 is internally considered by Moody's as fiscal 2019. Moody's also said that though the prospects for fiscal consolidation looked limited, rapid deterioration was unlikely.

GST recast panel starts exercise

New Delhi: high-level panel set up by the government to suggest measures to augment GST revenue collection will hold its first meeting, a senior official said.

The government last week constituted the panel of officers to suggest steps to expand the tax base and check evasion in the backdrop of falling revenue collections under the GST.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections dropped sharply to a 19-month low in September to Rs 91,916 crore, reflecting the slowdown in the economy. The first meeting of the committee is sched-uled to be held on, October 15," GST Council special secretary Rajeev Ranjan said. The committee has been iven 15 days to submit its report, he said.

This is going to be the first comprehensive review of the GST after it was rolled out on July 1, 2017. The 12-member panel, comprising state-level GST commissioners and central officials, has been asked to suggest urgent measures to arrest the fall in tax revenues and steps to be taken to improve revenue collection. The committee should consider a wide range of reforms so that a comprehensive list of suggestions emerge, an official order had said.

Reforms in spectrum pricing likely: Ravi Shankar Prasad

New Delhi: Amid widespread concerns over exorbitant pricing of radiowaves including that of 5G, telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad promised reforms in spectrum pricing and said that auctions will take place in the current financial year.

The India Mobile Congress 2019, Prasad said the government was aware and alive to some problems and challenges being faced by the industry. Spectrum auctions will be done this financial year. We are undertaking some reforms in spectrum pricing, he said.The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) had last year recommended auction of about 8,644 MHz of telecom frequencies, including those for 5G services, at an estimated total base price of Rs 4.9 lakh crore, but the financially-stressed industry that is buckling under high debt had argued that the proposed prices are unaffordable and exorbitant. Some industry players had pointed out that the average price of 5G band auctioned in countries like South Korea, Spain, the UK and Italy comes out to be Rs 84 crore/MHz, whereas Trai's recommended price for the same band is 5 to 6 times higher at Rs 492 crore/MHz.



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar being offered sweets by Union minister and senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad after he was elected as the leader of BJP legislature party, in Chandigarh.

focused innovators with

DP World launches tech accelerator for logistics gistics and supply-chain agency for India, envis-

Mumbai: DP World, a Dubai-based global port operator, launched Log-Xa technology accelerator platform for logistics.

The accelerator platform was launched in partnership with Invest India, Kerala Start-Up Mission and its accelerator partner Start-up Réseau, to en-courage innovation and technology adoption in the Indian logistics sector.

The program will focus on digital technologies like block chain, artificial intelligence, robotics, simulators and internet of things, to identify logisticsfocused technology startups in India.

Technology adoption and innovation will play a strong role in building an integrated logistics plat-form which offer end-toend solutions for cargo owners, said Rizwan Soomar, chief executive and managing director at DP World Subcontinent. DP World wants to en-

courage the creation of a start-up eco-system for lo-

an aim to reduce the costs of logistics in India and make India's exports more competitive. The LogX accelerator program is a unique partnership be-tween DP World, Invest India and the Start-Up Kerala Mission to encourage innovation across the value chain in the logistics sector in India. Stronger technology adoption in the logistics sector will also improve transparency, reliability and predictability in the supply chains across the country. This will be transformative for India, he

added. Log-X plans to onboard up to ten start-Log-X ups, selected through the Start-up India portal, for conducting pilots, with a long-term objective of partnerships, strategic engagements and proof-ofconcept development.The finalized start-ups will be mentored by DP World leadership team and external mentors brought into

the program.

This is a unique partnership and the first in the logistics sector. We are very pleased to be partnering with DP World on this unique initiative to drive innovation in the sector. We look forward to working with the final start-ups who are chosen by the Log-X accelerator platform, said Deepak Bagla, chief executive and managing director at Invest India. Invest India is the national investment promotion and facilitation

Rescuers racing against time to save toddler from borewell in Tamil Nadu

Chennaim

Rescuers are racing against time to save a twoyear-old boy who fell into a 600 feet abandoned borewell near Trichy in Tamil Nadu on Friday even as special prayers are being conducted in temples, mosques and churches across the state for the rescue of Suriith Wilson. Officials said s boring machine which started drilling parallelly to the borewell has drilled 30-feet in four hours but rocks are slowing down the drilling process. Six firefighters have been ready to go down the new well before the boring machine hit the rocky terrain."As the boy is under 88 feet in the tube well, we have decided to trill up to 90 feet by the rig nearby the borewell," said Tamil Nadu

aged to be the first point

of reference for potential

investors. Invest India also

has a series of initiatives

including the India Invest-

ment Grid which show-

cases up-to-date informa-

tion on investible projects,

Start-up India, an initiative

to catalyze and support

the start-up ecosystem,

AGNii, for linking Indian

Health MinisterVijayabhaskar who is supervising the rescue mission Rescuers had resumed their efforts late Saturday to pull out Surjith amid signs that the well could cave in. Rescue efforts had to be suspended for some time Saturday after the vehicle car-

rying the rig developed a snag 15km from the accident spot. The rig was requisitioned from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to speed up the efforts to rescue the trapped toddler, who has now slipped from the ini-tial 25ft to 100ft.

especially after the entry of

Reliance Jio, and the lower

tariff regime that has im-

pacted the financial of mar-

ket players. There has also

been consolidation in the

the telecom services and

their overarching interface

across economy, it be-comes imperative for the

market regulator to keep a

close watch on the devel-

opments in the sector,

namics have undergone a

significant change in recent

past by way of entry of new

player, wave of consolida-

tion, change in competition

strategies and business

models in the sector, he

chairman, the new market

construct has thrown up

many questions such as

whether concentration has

negated the objectives of

competition or the present

level of competition is suf-

pends on telecom services,

There are also ques-

According to the CCI

The telecom market dy-

Given the criticality of

Fair-play lens on telecom

market.

Gupta said.

added.

New Delhi: Fair trade regulator CCI will conduct a study on the Indian telecom sector to assess various competition aspects as the market dynamics have unsignificant dergone changes in the recent past, according to its chairman

Ashok Kumar Gupta. From time to time, the watchdog commissions studies through independent agencies to gather qualitative as well as quantitative information and insights from market participants and assess the state of competition in a given sector.

According to Gupta, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has started the preparatory work for the study

about the telecom sector and it is expected to commence in November.

As a market regulator, it would give us insights into what we need to be watchful of, and what we need to

ficient. This, would also enable the Commission to craft a tions on whether the marcompetition advocacy strategy and recommendations ket power in telecom can tailored to the needs of the be used or misused in motelecom sector, he said. nopolizing any niche market that essentially de-

The country's telecom sector has witnessed a churn with stiff competition,

Diesel stays on Maruti radar Kolkata: Maruti Suzuki around Rs 1 lakh between a

he added.

India Limited is not ruling out the production of BS-VI diesel engines with higher capacity. The company said it needed to study consumer reaction in the higher engine capacity category, based on which it will take a decision. India's No. 1 car maker has already announced that it will stop its diesel programme for smaller engines.

In an email interaction with The Telegraph, C. V. Raman, senior executive director (engineering, quality and supply chain) and member of the executive board, said: "Converting a smaller BS-IV diesel engine to BS-VI will substantially increase the cost difference. Our estimate is that the current price difference of

around Rs 1 lakh between a BS-IV diesel and petrol car will go up to Rs 1.75-2 lakh if we upgrade to BS-VI diesel. At the cost difference, customers may prefer a BS-VI petrol variant to a BS-IV diesel vehicle, especially in

the small car category. However, we need to study the consumer reaction in the higher engine specification.Based on customer reaction and preference we will decide whether to bring in a larger diesel engine vehicle, Raman said.

Reiterating that BS-VI compliant vehicles will not have operational issues running on BS-IV fuel, Raman explained the main difference between BS-IV and BS-VI fuel is the sulphur content.

Manohar Lal Khattar unanimously elected **BJP legislative party leader for Haryana**

Chandigadh, ment." Manohar Lal Khattar was on Saturday elected the leader of the Haryana BJP legislative Party, moving a step closer to

The Bharatiya Janata Party and Dushyant Chautala's Jananayak Janta Party will tours of the government forform the government in

two parties. The Union home minister said the other conmation will be worked out on

of back and forth between the have decided that both the parties will form a government in Haryana together. The chief minister will be from the BJP and the deputy chief minscience and innovation to enterprise, and the Project Monitoring Group to accelerate projects.

Venture capital funds to pull the brakes

Kolkata: Venture capital investment in India in the next two quarters is unlikely to be as robust as the third quarter of calendar year 2019, according to research from KPMG. The total venture

capital investment in the country during the July-September quarter was \$3.5 billion, higher than the second-quarter amount of around \$2 billion. The trend in 2019 is in contrast to the downturn in 2018 but concerns remain over low credit demand in the coming quarters.

The VC market in India the Venture Pulse report showed a wealth of diver-

large-scale sity during Q3 of 2019, with a number of sectors attracting attention from including investors, fintech, logistics, education, social networking, mobility, and more. Of these, fintech continued to be the biggest bet with most deals happening in the payments or insurance space. Given the cur-

rent and projected

growth of e-commerce in

India, logistics companies

able to provide services

for e-commerce compa-

nies are also receiving a lot of attention from VC

investors in the country,"

