

HDFC invokes pledged shares of Reliance Capital worth Rs 16 crore

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd has sold certain pledged shares of Reliance Capital worth Rs 16 crore in the secondary market sale through stock exchanges, the company said on Wednesday. Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) has invoked the pledge on certain shares of Reliance Capital through Axis Trustee Services Ltd.

Jaypee Infra: IRP seeking extension of insolvency process till July 7

Jaypee Infratech's Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) Anuj Jain has filed an application before the Supreme Court seeking extension of timeline for completion of its resolution process till the first week of July. State-owned NBCC and Suraksha group are in the fray to acquire the debt-laden realty firm Jaypee Infratech Ltd (JIL) and complete over 20,000 pending flats for homebuyers.

Uber to hire close to 250 engineers in India to expand tech, product teams

Uber on Wednesday announced it is recruiting close to 250 engineers for its Bengaluru and Hyderabad-based teams, as the company continues to expand the scope of operations for its engineering and product work in the country. The current round of hiring will strengthen the company's rider and driver growth, delivery, eats, digital payments, risk & compliance, marketplace, customer obsession, infrastructure, adtech, data, safety and finance technology teams, a Uber statement said.

Life insurer Bajaj Allianz declares Rs 1,156 crore bonus to policyholders

Private life insurer Bajaj Allianz Life has declared bonuses amounting to Rs 1,156 crore to its policyholders. This includes a special one-time bonus of Rs 315 crore, which is over and above the regular bonus. The company aims to ensure there is adequate support, in these unprecedented times, to its customers in achieving their life goals, the insurer said in a statement

Morgan Stanley tops Institutional Investor's all-Asia research rankings

In the results of Institutional Investor magazines 2021 All-Asia Research Team annual survey announced today, Morgan Stanley Asia Research teams ranked No.1 for the seventh consecutive year. It is the first company in the 28-year history of the Asia survey to achieve the top position for seven years in a row. The survey ranks the region's most highly regarded sell-side analysts by polling 3,800 buy-side investment professionals at more than 1,200 institutions.

Vedanta's Sterlite Copper chief executive officer Panjaj Kumar quits

The CEO of Sterlite Copper (copper smelter unit) Panjaj Kumar has quit Vedanta Ltd for personal reasons, said an official. The controversial 4 lakh ton per annum (tpa) copper smelter plant is located in Thoothukudi and was shut down in 2018 by the Tamil Nadu government. The unit was allowed by the Supreme Court to produce oxygen to supply to the hospitals as the Covid-19 pandemic is raging.

Fitch maintains gold price forecast of \$1,780 per oz this year

Gold prices have been rising globally since April and Fitch Solutions believes there is further upside in the next few months as inflationary pressures remain elevated and pressure real bond yields. "We expect further gains in the coming months amid rising inflation pressuring US treasury real yields, a weak US dollar and renewed waves of Covid-19 infections gripping countries across the world," it said on Wednesday.

HCL Tech sees second wave of Covid impacting sales in April-June

The second wave of COVID-19 in India will have some impact on sales in the June quarter because of higher absenteeism among employees, the senior management of HCL Technologies Ltd said. While the impact of the second wave will be felt by all technology players, it could be higher for HCL Technologies because of the company's high delivery concentration in the Delhi-NCR region, the management told Kotak Institutional Equities in an interaction

JSW Steel pays 85% of total amount for Welspun Corp's steel operations

JSW Steel Ltd has paid 5 bln rupees to Welspun Corp Ltd in the second tranche, as part of the deal to acquire the latter's plates and coil mill division. Welspun Corp earlier received 2.25 bln rupees for the transaction and with this, the total amount received till now is 7.23 bln rupees. The balance payment to Welspun Corp by JSW Steel is subject to receiving certain regulatory approvals and payment milestones, as agreed upon in business transfer agreement.

Sona Comstar sets price band of Rs 285-291/share for Rs 5,550 cr IPO

Auto component maker Sona BLW Precision Forgings (Sona Comstar) on Wednesday fixed a price band of Rs 285-291 a share for its Rs 5,550 crore initial public offer (IPO). The three-day IPO will open on June 14 and conclude on June 16. The bidding for anchor investors will open on June 11, according to the company.

DP Abhushan Limited announces strong financial results

INDORE: DP Abhushan Limited (NSE: DPABHUSHAN) has reported a jump of 152% in consolidated revenue and 46% in its net profit after tax for the fourth quarter ended on March 31, 2021 as compared to the same quarter of previous financial year 19-20.

Similarly, the company has reported record growth of 64% in consolidated net profit after tax and 51% in revenue for the full financial year 20-21 as compared to the previous financial year 19-20. Vikas Kataria chairman and MD of the company has attributed this robust performance partially to the renewed demand surge in gold jewellery as an investment option in the difficult time of Covid pandemic and partially to the company's competitive pricing, quality and its 80 year old brand "DP Jewellers". The company has announced its financial results on Wednesday. The consolidated revenue for year ended March 2021 was Rs 1,218 crore as compared to 809 crore in previous year. Similarly, consolidated revenue for the fourth quarter ended on March 2021 was Rs 590 crore as compared to 234 crore for the same quarter of previous year 19-20. The consolidated net profit after tax for the year ended March 2021 was Rs 27.40 crore as compared to 16.67 crore for the previous year. Similarly net profit after tax for the fourth quarter ended on March 2021 was 8.28 crore as compared to 5.66 crore in fourth quarter of March 2020. During the year, the company has incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary company for carrying out business of jewellery on e-commerce platform to cater the small ticket size of jewellery and gift products made out of gold, diamond and silver. The e-commerce business is yet to be operationalised. The company has total seven show rooms out of which three show rooms were opened in the second half of financial year 2020-21.

Govt bans blending of mustard oil with vegetable oils, effective Tuesday

The government has banned the blending of mustard oil with multi-source edible vegetable oils from Tuesday and prohibited its sales from Jul 1, according to a notification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. The move follows speculations that the recent spike in mustard

oil prices may prompt edible oil producers to blend other edible oils with mustard oil beyond permissible limits. The decision would boost mustard oil consumption in domestic markets. Mustard oil is considered an immunity booster and its demand has risen sharply during the pandemic.

FRONTLOADING FISCAL STEPS KEY TO REVIVAL, SAYS FINMIN

INCREASING PACE OF VACCINATION TO HELP CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT, IT SAYS

INFORMIST/ Mumbai

Frontloading fiscal measures announced in Budget for 2021-22 (Apr-Mar) and rapid vaccination of all adults will be key to reviving consumption and investment in the coming quarters, finance ministry said in its monthly economic review for May.

According to the ministry, increasing the pace and coverage of vaccination will be critical for economic recovery.

"As seen in Jan-Mar, where growth in capex generated positive spillovers for consumption, including in the contact-sensitive sectors, these steps would facilitate recovery post the second wave," the ministry said in the review.

IMPORTS RISE 83%

Exports up 52% in first week of June

NEW DELHI: India's exports grew by 52.39% to USD 7.71 billion during the first week of this month on account of healthy growth in shipments in sectors including engineering, gems and jewellery and petroleum products, according to preliminary data of the commerce ministry.

Imports too rose by about 83% to USD 9.1 billion during June 1-7. Exports of engineering, gems and jewellery and petroleum products increased by 59.7% to USD 741.18 million, 96.38% to USD 297.82 million and 69.53% to USD 530.62 million respectively, the data showed.

However, exports of iron ore, oil seeds and spices recorded negative growth during June 1-7.

Imports of petroleum and crude oil jumped by 135% to USD 1.09 billion. Imports of electronic goods and pearls, precious and semi-precious stones increased by 45.85% to USD 324.77 million and 111% to USD 294 million respectively.

Exports to the US, UAE and Bangladesh rose by about 60% to USD 500 million, 57.86% to USD 173 million and 212% to USD 166.3 million respectively.

Similarly, imports from China, the US, and UAE grew by 90.94% to USD 809.53 million, 89.45% to USD 410.65 million and 164.55% to about USD 400 million respectively.

Zomato elevates Akriti Chopra as co-founder

NEW DELHI: Online food ordering platform Zomato has elevated Akriti Chopra as co-founder, ahead of its Rs 8,250-crore initial public offering (IPO).

According to an internal note by founder Deepinder Goyal, Chopra has been working with Zomato for almost a decade and has held different positions during her stint. "Akriti Chopra (Tuki) has been here for almost a decade. She has undying commitment to Zomato and our well being. She has been one of the strongest pillars of support for Zomato as we weathered multiple ups and downs through these years," Goyal said.

He added that her work has played an important role as the company prepared for its IPO.

"Tuki, I know this doesn't mean much to you because you have always been a founder at Zomato. Sometimes more than me, but never less than me. Thank you. Congratulations Akriti for now officially being a founder at Zomato," he said. Chopra started her stint at Zomato in 2011 as a senior manager of finance.



India's GDP grew at 1.6% in Jan-Mar and contracted 7.3% in 2020-21 (Apr-Mar) as COVID-19 severely hit the economy.

"This momentum of economic recovery has, however, been moderated by the ravaging second wave of COVID-19," the review said.

India was expected to grow rapidly in the current financial year, however, the disruption caused by

the second wave has led to economists revising growth projections downward, as several states imposed lockdowns to stem the infections.

"With state-level lockdown restrictions being more adaptive to learnings from the first wave, manufacturing and construction are expected to experience a softer economic shock in the current quarter," the finance ministry said.

On inflation, the ministry said that while going forward forecast of a normal south-west monsoon may soften food inflationary pressures, a combination of high international commodity prices and logistics costs may push up input price pressures across manufacturing and services.

Petronet shelves \$2.5 bn Tellurian investment plan

AGENCIES Mumbai

An initial non-binding agreement for Petronet LNG Ltd to invest USD 2.5 billion in US energy upstart Tellurian's LNG project in Louisiana in return for gas supplies for 40 years has lapsed, the CEO of the Indian firm said on Wednesday.

The deal, which was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Houston in September 2019, was billed as one of the largest foreign investments in the US to ship shale gas abroad.

Petronet has opened talks with suppliers such as Qatar for sourcing natural gas in its liquid form (LNG) to meet the growing energy needs of the country, its Managing Director & CEO A K Singh told reporters on a call.

The firm's long-term deal to import 7.5 million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar ends in March 2028, and the company has time till December 2023, to decide on extending it, he said.

Petronet had on September 21, 2019, signed an MoU for purchase of up to 5 million tonnes per annum of LNG from Tellurian Inc's proposed Driftwood LNG terminal for 40 years. The deal was concurrent with Petronet making an equity investment of USD 2.5 billion in Driftwood.



The deal was billed as one of the largest foreign investments in the US to ship shale gas abroad

December 2023, to decide on extending it, he said.

Petronet had on September 21, 2019, signed an MoU for purchase of up to 5 million tonnes per annum of LNG from Tellurian Inc's proposed Driftwood LNG terminal for 40 years. The deal was concurrent with Petronet making an equity investment of USD 2.5 billion in Driftwood.

DHFL to extinguish equity shares without any payment to shareholders



New Delhi: Dewan Housing Finance Corp said that equity shares of the company will be extinguished without any payment to shareholders as part of the resolution plan.

"No value was attributable to the equity shares as per the liquidation value of the company estimated by registered valuers appointed under the CIRP (corporate insolvency resolution process) Regulations," the company informed the exchanges.

Accordingly, the resolution plan proposed to extinguish all equity shares. On Tuesday, the company said that its equity shares would be delisted from stock exchanges after the National Company Law Tribunal approved Piral Capital Housing Finance Ltd's resolution plan for Dewan Housing Finance on Monday, subject to certain conditions. Piral Capital's 372-bl-rupee resolution plan for the non-banking finance company has already been approved by lenders, the Reserve Bank of India and the Competition Commission of India.

The National Company Law Tribunal bench rejected a plea by Kapil Wadhawan, a former promoter, that sought a copy of the resolution plan. Wadhawan has been trying to enter into a settlement with the lenders. Earlier, the tribunal asked the lenders to consider Wadhawan's plan, but was later quashed by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.

GAIL net profit jumps 28% in Q4

NEW DELHI: State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) on Wednesday reported 28 per cent jump in March quarter net profit as petrochemical margins soared and gas marketing business turned around on rise in international prices.

Net profit in January-March at Rs 1,907.67 crore is compared with Rs 1,487.33 crore net profit in the same period a year ago, GAIL Chairman and Managing Director Manoj Jain said on a call with reporters.

Higher profitability was mainly due to improved performance of the petrochemical business as well as natural gas marketing and LPG segment, he said.

With the economy rebounding after a stringent COVID lockdown, petrochemical plant operated near full capacity, helping clock 40 per cent higher pre-tax profit at Rs 608 crore.

Improving price saw gas marketing swing back to black with a pre-tax profit of Rs 281 crore as compared to a loss of Rs 73.70 crore a year back.

LPG business saw pre-tax profit



rise 68 per cent to Rs 474.36 crore.

"First and second quarter of FY21 was very bad because of historically low prices. We took a big hit. But we have been able to make up for the losses in the remainder of the fiscal (2020-21). This year (2021-22) should be a good one," he said.

The optimism for the current year stems from crude oil expected to be above USD 60 per barrel, resulting in good margins.

The onset of the second wave of infections which brought back lockdown restrictions impacted gas consumption in April and May, he said. "Last year there was a 50 per cent drop in consumption but this year it was 10-15 per cent and it has returned to near-normal levels

CBI books Gautam Thapar in YES Bank fraud case

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a case against industrialist Gautam Thapar of Avantha Reality and Oyster Buildwell Pvt Ltd among several others for allegedly cheating Yes Bank to the tune of Rs 466 crore.

The CBI officials said that the agency sleuths were also carrying out searches at over a dozen places in connection with the case.

A CBI official said that the agency has filed a case against Thapar, Avantha Reality Limited, Oyster Buildwell Pvt Ltd, Raghuvir Kumar Sharma, Rajendra Kumar Mangal, Tapsi Mahajan unknown officials of Jhabua Power Investment Limited, unknown officials of Jhabua Power Limited, unknown officials of Avantha Holdings Limited, unknown officials of Avantha Power and Infrastructure Limited and unknown public servants and private per-



Thapar and the other accused caused a loss of Rs 466 crore to YES Bank by availing a Rs 515 crore term loan facility in December 2017 and not making the required payments: CBI

sons for the Yes Bank fraud case.

The CBI registered a case on June 1 this year on the complaint of the Yes Bank. The complaint alleged criminal breach of trust, cheating, criminal conspiracy and forgery for diversion or misappropriation of the public money during the period from 2017 to 2019, thereby, causing loss to the tune of 466.5 crore to Yes Bank.

Private Equity investments jump 38% in 2020: Report

NEW DELHI: Private equity investments in Indian companies grew 38 per cent to USD 62.2 billion last year, with inflows into Reliance Industries' telecom and retail ventures contributing nearly 40 per cent of the total value of the deals, a report said on Wednesday.

Barring investments into Jio Platforms and Reliance Retail, the total deal value was down by 20 per cent over 2019 as the volume of large deals of more than USD 100 million dipped by a fourth, as per the report by Bain & Company and India Venture Capital Association.

Overall investment activity remained muted from March to May last year due to COVID-led uncertainties and investor confidence recovered strongly in the second half to pre-COVID levels with late-stage and buyout deals witnessing increased traction, it said.

According to the report, the pandemic also led to a shift in the type of deals made, with investors fo-

cus on alternate investment strategies such as distressed opportunistic sales and qualified institutional placements.

In absolute terms, consumer tech and IT/ITES (IT-enabled services) were the largest sectors in terms of investment value in 2020.

The report said that consumer tech investments were driven by accelerated growth in digital channels and spike in user adoption of on-demand and at-home cross-tech services.

The healthcare sector received additional attention from investors in the pandemic year, with deals growing 60 per cent as companies sought to de-risk their supply chains, it added.

However, high non-performing assets and the impact of the loan repayment moratorium on bank balance sheets led to a 60 per cent decline in investments in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector, as per the report.

Rise in input costs to trigger another price hike for Emami



INFORMIST New Delhi

After taking a marginal price hike in April, Emami Ltd will raise prices of some products again this quarter due to rising costs of critical raw materials, company officials said.

The company is set to raise prices by an average of 3%. The move to raise prices is significant because the company's gross margins took a 250-basis-point hit on year in Jan-Mar due to a rise in raw material costs.

It was a combination of a fall in staff costs, advertising spend and other expenses that lifted operating margins by 380 bps on year. The combined effective price increase from these two hikes will be around 4% as compared to the end of the previous quarter.

The increase in prices will not be uniform with some products seeing a higher price hike, and some seeing a lower hike, Director Harsha V. Agarwal said.

"The decision was taken after evaluating the category performance, what competition is doing, the demand going forward, and other parameters," he said.

Agarwal, however, did not specify the products or the brands whose prices will be increased.

GOVERNMENT CAN CONSIDER COVID BONDS, SAYS FORMER RBI GOVERNOR D SUBBARAO

'RBI money printing should be last option'

NEW DELHI: The central bank can directly print money and finance the government, but it should avoid doing so unless there is absolutely no alternative, former RBI governor D Subbarao said while pointing out that India is 'nowhere' near such a scenario.

He suggested that to deal with the second wave of Covid induced slowdown in the economy, the government can consider Covid bonds as an option to raise borrowing, not in addition to budgeted borrowing, but as a part of that.

"It (RBI) can (print money) but, it should avoid doing so unless there is absolutely no alternative.

For sure, there are times when monetisation - despite its costs - becomes inevitable such as when the government cannot finance its deficit at reasonable rates.

"We are nowhere near such a scenario," he said.

India's economy contracted by less-than-expected 7.3% in the fiscal ended March 2021. For 2021-22, the deficit has been put at 6.8% of the GDP, which will be further lowered to 4.5% by 2025-26.

According to Subbarao, when people say the RBI should print money to finance the government's deficit, they don't realise that the central bank is printing money



The central bank is printing money even now to finance the deficit, but it is doing so indirectly, Subbarao said

even now to finance the deficit, but it is doing so indirectly.

For example, he said, when the Reserve Bank of India buys bonds under its open market operations (OMOs) or buys dollars under its forex operations, it is printing money to pay for those purchases, and that money indirectly goes to finance the government's borrowing.

"The important difference though is this when RBI is printing money as part of its liquidity operations, it is in the driver's seat, deciding how much money to print and how to channel it into the system," he noted.