

NEWS IN BRIEF

India Apr FDI inflows at \$4.5 bln vs \$6.9 bln last year

MUMBAI - Gross foreign direct investment into India was at \$4.48 bln in April, sharply lower than \$6.87 bln a year ago, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India today. In March, FDI inflows were at \$6.42 bln. Total FDI inflows include equity capital, reinvested earnings, and other capital.

RBI net sold \$1.1 bln in FX mkt Apr vs \$4.1-bln buy Mar

MUMBAI - The Reserve Bank of India net sold \$1.14 bln in the foreign exchange market in April as against \$4.05 bln it bought in March, according to data on the central bank's website. On a gross basis, the central bank bought \$2.45 bln in April against \$3.98 bln in the previous month.

Need robust telecom infra for digital revolution, says TRAI head

NEW DELHI - While a nationwide lockdown has led to higher consumption of digital connectivity platforms, India still needs a robust and reliable telecom infrastructure to enable such networks, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Chairman R.S. Sharma said today. "This revolution can not happen unless you provide the underlying layer of connectivity...which is robust, reliable," Sharma said at a webinar. In addition to increasing availability in the mid-band spectrum, which has been earmarked for the 5G auction, Sharma said, there is also a need for increasing spectrum availability in the unlicensed band for WiFi hotspot connectivity.

Marico sees Saffola oil, oats, Parachute segment favourably placed

BENGALURU - Fast-moving consumer goods company Marico Ltd has said that 65% of its product portfolio, including Saffola oil, Saffola oats and Parachute hair oil, is relatively well placed and will benefit favourably from near-term trends, the management of the company said at Axis Capital's Digital Corporate Connect Series.

ShopClues to add 'Made in India' badge to showcase locally made products

NEW DELHI - E-commerce platform ShopClues is adding 'Made in India' badges on products that have been produced in the country as part of its 'Vocal for Local' efforts. The online marketplace has also launched 'Atmanirbhar' section on its platform that will include these locally made products across categories such as fashion, footwear, home and kitchen, electronics, jewelry and watches and groceries, among others.

HDFC mega online property show for Delhi-NCR

NEW DELHI - HDFC Ltd, India's premier housing finance company is hosting a mega online property show featuring over 150 projects from more than 75 renowned developers in the Delhi-NCR region. This will be extended to properties in the Mumbai region next week. HDFC's online fair is an end-to-end technology platform, providing home seekers real time information and connecting every phase of the home buying process at one place.

Century Textiles and Industries Q4 profit slips 44 pc to Rs 80 cr

NEW DELHI - Century Textiles and Industries on Wednesday reported 43.94 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 79.88 crore for March quarter 2019-20 due to the impact of COVID-19. The company logged a profit of Rs 142.50 crore in January-March period a year ago, Century Textiles and Industries Ltd (CTIL) said in a BSE filing.

OECD sees India's GDP contracting in FY21 but growing 7.9-8.1% FY22

MUMBAI - Even as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development expects contraction in India's GDP in 2020-21 (Apr-Mar), it expects the economy to recover sharply and growth to range between 7.9% and 8.1% in 2021-22, depending on whether there is a second wave of COVID-19 cases.

For 2020-21, OECD expects GDP to contract 3.7% in what it calls a single-hit scenario of COVID-19 cases, or decline more sharply by 7.3% if there is a second wave of infections. In March, OECD had estimated that India's economy would grow 5.1% in the current financial year.

India is a member of G-20, a group of 19 countries and

the European Union. As per the OECD Economic Outlook issued today, a single hit scenario refers to 10-week general lockdown followed by targeted lockdown to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.



The double hit-scenario envisages a renewed rise in cases forcing another general lockdown in Oct-Dec. "New restrictions on internal migration and disruptions in supply chains

would have severe consequences on activity and income while external demand would falter again. In this case, GDP is projected to fall by 7.3% in FY 2020-21, compared to 3.7% in the single-hit scenario," OECD said.

It noted that poor informal workers and small enterprises would suffer disproportionately, while weak bank and corporate portfolios would keep investment rate low and weigh on growth prospects.

However, public deficit will spike due to weak tax receipts and the targeted spending needed to support impacted people, banks and small businesses. On the plus side, inflation will remain under control, thanks

to weak economic growth and low oil prices, it said.

"The economy will recover as lockdown measures are eased, but will suffer from scares. Pent-up demand from postponed consumption and inventory restocking will boost activity. Lower oil prices will be a boon for households and companies, inflation, the budget and the current account deficit," it said.

But there could be some permanent loss of income in many enterprises and also for informal workers who have lost their jobs. It said the government's announcement of a support package of 10% of GDP, which includes fiscal and monetary measures, and also credit guarantee schemes.

Indian Hotels Q4 net profit drops 38% to Rs 76.29 crore

NEW DELHI - Tata group hospitality arm Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) on Wednesday reported a 37.75 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 76.29 crore for the March quarter, hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 122.56 crore for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, IHCL said in a filing to the BSE.

Its consolidated total income stood at Rs 1,101.02 crore for the quarter under consideration as against Rs 1,281.55 crore for the same period a year ago, the filing said.

For the fiscal year ended March 2020, its net profit came in at Rs 363.74 crore as against Rs 296.12 crore for the previous year.

Total income stood at Rs 4,595.56 crore for the fiscal year ended March this year,

India's digital ecosystem to be worth \$2 trillion by 2025: Report

NEW DELHI - Jio-Facebook's platform approach can unlock India's digital ecosystem and address a large market that may potentially be USD 2 trillion (around Rs 151 lakh crore) by 2025, across commerce, payments and content, Bernstein said in a report.

Customer behaviour will see permanent shifts to higher digital adoption in e-commerce/online grocery, digital payments and digital content from COVID, it said.

"Reliance Industries and Facebook are building an ecosystem (10 key services) each big enough to provide important and discrete services to the consumer. The core services of the platform are retail/commerce (USD 1.3 trillion), payments (USD 700 billion), content/advertising/others (USD 70 billion) with an overall potential addressable market of USD 2 trillion plus by 2025," Bernstein said.

A platform approach can

unlock the digital ecosystem, as India has the second largest internet users (600 million plus), fastest growing e-commerce (30 per cent annual growth), second largest smartphone users (700 million plus), deep payments network (1.5 billion transactions per month).



"Platform business models have had success in China. For Alibaba, e-commerce (63 per cent share) helps fully capture the digital advertising market (33 per cent share) and digital payments (50 per cent share). RIL and FB could capture a large market share across services (commerce, payments, con-

tent and advertising)," the report said.

Jio and WhatsApp will have access to over 500 million customers in India.

"Monetisation for e-commerce could start with a low take rate and expand over time...Digital advertisement is another large opportunity across the platform (OTT, Commerce, others). Payments could be a game changer with WhatsApp Pay integrated with JioMart," the brokerage said.

It said e-commerce/online grocery, digital payments and digital content "will be net beneficiary from COVID", and added that customer behaviour will see a permanent shift towards higher digital adoption across these categories and benefit the Jio/FB digital platform.

In April this year, Facebook announced an investment of USD 5.7 billion to buy 9.99 per cent stake in the firm that houses Reliance Jio.



Hero MotoCorp sees rural sales recovering faster, cuts FY21 capex

NEW DELHI - Hero MotoCorp Ltd today said it expects rural demand to recover faster than in urban areas in 2020-21 (Apr-Mar), but did not provide a guidance for sales this financial year amid the uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The world's largest two-wheeler maker cut its planned capital expenditure for 2020-21 (Apr-Mar) by 4 bln rupees to 6 bln rupees to conserve cash, which may indicate that the company is cautious about demand. The Delhi-based company said that improved crop production, an expected normal monsoon, lower exposure to lockdown related economic hardships, and the government's fiscal stimulus are likely to aid rural sales in the coming months. Hero MotoCorp has the largest rural penetration amongst India's top two-wheeler makers and the company said around 90% of its retail dealerships had restarted operations since lockdown restrictions have been eased. "Many dealers are reaching 70-80% of the pre-COVID retail levels," Chief Financial Officer Niranjan Gupta said in a post-earnings conference call.

However, sales in Gujarat and Maharashtra, two of the company's five biggest domestic markets, remain low as lockdown restric-

tions in these states are stringent, the company said. The maker of Splendor motorcycles said that currently, its retail sales were surpassing production levels, but the company is quickly looking to ramp up capacity utilisation at its production facilities. The company aims to significantly recover production by increasing capacity utilisation by the end of this month, the company's management said. Hero MotoCorp said it is seeing an increasing trend of customers purchasing vehicles through its financing options and hopes that the push for social distancing will lead to customers preferring two-wheelers to public transport in the coming months.

The Delhi-based company said it had pushed back its plan to add capacity for now and its main focus for 2020-21 would be recovery of sales volumes, cutting costs, improving overheads, and optimising operations. Hero MotoCorp absorbed 1.1 bln rupees as losses due to the unsold stock of Bharat Stage-IV vehicles at dealerships during the lockdown period, which was imposed on Mar 25, as the company decided to compensate all its dealers who had significant stocks and bought back the inventory that remained with them.

CORPORATE GALLERY

Shramik Specials: Central Railway plans, maintains and runs trains during COVID19



Subsequent to the MHA's order regarding movement of migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons stranded at different places by special trains, Railways is operating "Shramik Special" trains from 1st May 2020. As on date, about 600 "Shramik Special" trains have been operated from Central Railway to various states across the country. On request of state government, Shramik special train operation was started from various stations of five divisions of Central Railway. The formation of rakes, sanitization, maintenance of those rakes, fulfilling the requirement of staff, provision of food, co-ordination with state governments, safe, punctual train operation & overall mission "Back Home" was a big challenge under COVID19 circumstances. Running Shramik Specials with maintaining the medical and social protocols as mandated for Covid-19 was a huge challenge thrust upon Railways, which it completed with a great level of success.

NFL signs MoU with training institute to skill youth



To give thrust to the "Skill India" initiative of the Government of India, NFL has started tying up with Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) located near to its plants to train youth in various trades so as to enhance the chances of their employability in heavy and process industry. The Nangal plant of the company in Punjab has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ITI, Nangal to train youth in 12 trades. The students will be skilled under Dual System of Training Scheme under which they will learn theoretical skills in the institute and on-the-job training in NFL Nangal plant. The MoU was exchanged between Renu R P Singh DGM (HR) I/c, NFL Nangal unit and Lalit Mohan, Principal of ITI, Nangal.

PFC signs agreement with Uttarakhand govt to restore infrastructure at Kedarnath



Government-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), India's leading NBFC, signed an MoA with Kedarnath Utthan Charitable Trust, Govt. Of Uttarakhand (SKUCT) for the reconstruction and restoration of Kedarnath town and its surrounding areas. Under the MoA, PFC will provide financial assistance of Rs. 25, 96, 50,498 to SKUCT. The agreement was signed on 8th June 2020. M. Prabhakar Das, Chief General Manager (CSR&SD), PFC and Ila Giri, Additional Resident Commissioner, Uttarakhand (on behalf of SKUCT) signed the agreement on behalf of respective organisations.

Despite corona lockdown, WR all set to face monsoon-2020



After long period of nationwide lockdown due to corona pandemic, while Western Railway is slowly restoring its mainline services by operating special mail/ express trains and have already run more than 1200 Shramik Special trains till now, it had made sure that by the time the wheels of Mumbai's local trains, again hit the suburban section tracks, the service should remain uninterrupted even during the monsoon season. In continuation of its pre-monsoon preparations, despite skeletal workforce during the Coronavirus Pandemic, Western Railway is all set to face ensuing monsoon season and has ensured that there will be ease in running train services without any problems.

WR transports 18.32 lakh migrant labourers in 1219 Shramik special trains



Western Railway has operated 1219 SHRAMIK SPL trains from 2nd May, 2020 to 8th June, 2020, which have carried approx. 18.32 lakh migrant labourers & their families to their desired destinations. Lakhs of migrant workers and their families have been benefited by the Indian Railway's decision to run such Shramik Special trains. The special Shramik trains were also operated to states of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Gujarat, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Maharashtra. Approx. 18.32 lakh passengers have been ferried by Western Rly to their home towns in different states of the country from 2nd May, 2020 to 8th June, 2020.

MOSR, Suresh Angadi, inspects work of Belagavi Station Bldg and Yard Development



Suresh Angadi, MOSR along with Railway officials on June 4 2020 inspected the ongoing works being taken up for construction of new station building at Belagavi. Work of main entry building of Belagavi Railway station could not progress during lock down period. Now with relaxation of lockdown, work has started expeditiously by mobilization of manpower and resources. Suresh Angadi MOSR expressed satisfaction on the resumption of ongoing work. Concrete work of ground level plinth slab for Londa end building and recently casted ground floor slab for Miraj end of the station building main entry. The work is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

SWR manufactures 2,252 personal protective equipments for health workers



Indian Railways Production Units, Workshops and field units have started manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Coveralls for medical and health-care personnel who get directly exposed to the COVID-19 disease when working amongst infected patients. Indian Railways' Doctors, Medical Professionals, other health workers and care-givers are working tirelessly fighting the COVID-19 disease. All these personnel are directly exposed to the COVID-19 disease when working amongst infected patients. As a first line of defence against contracting the novel coronavirus, they need to be provided with a special kind of impervious coverall that acts as a barrier to the virus as well as other disease carrying fluids. As the incidence of COVID-19 disease increases, even though in a relatively controlled manner, the requirement of PPE coveralls is also multiplying.

SWR manufactures 70,451 face masks and 9,532 litres sanitizers inhouse



Indian Railway is taking measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, by taking all out efforts to supplement the health care initiatives of Government of India by producing Masks and Sanitizer in-house. Railways has utilized these face masks and sanitizers for the safety and protection of its staff members, RPF officials, freight service workers and other staff members who are working across the network. In order to step-up measures to prevent spread of Covid-19 virus, SWR has manufactured in-house 70,451 face masks and 9,532 litres of sanitizer up to 07.06.2020. Many of the employees and their families have also volunteered to manufacture the face masks from home and the same distributed to the essential staff.

HDFC Bank, HDFC Securities DigiDemat & Trading facility secures 15K+ customers in first month of launch



As people stay home to prevent the spread of Covid-19, HDFC Bank Ltd has seen a surge in the number of applicants for its newly launched DigiDemat cum Trading facility: an instant Digital Demat cum Trading Account. This service is offered to select, existing customers of the bank in partnership with its subsidiary HDFC securities. Since its launch about a month back, DigiDemat & Trading has secured more than 15,000 new customers. S Sampathkumar Group Head, Liabilities Products, HDFC Bank said, "During the lockdown, the Bank has been innovating to offer digital solutions to our customers so that they can transact safely from the comfort of their homes. This initiative is line with this. We are providing an easy and a quick way to participate in capital markets by providing a complete online account opening process. Its simple, paperless, quick, and convenient."

CORPORATE CORNER

SAIL partners with Apollo Hospital for knowledge sharing & services

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has partnered with Apollo Hospital, in Delhi, for establishing a knowledge sharing platform for the Company, in a step towards better handling of the corona pandemic, at its Company HQ & Unit Hospitals spread across the country. This step has been taken in the wake of current COVID situation in the country as well as while few SAIL employees who had been earlier tested Corona positive, recover from COVID. This is in tandem with the Company's continued initiatives in monitoring the situation to ensure employee's safety and health. SAIL is happy to partner with the Apollo Hospital as it gets back to its mission of building an Atmanirbhar Bharat. Apollo hospital will extend help in sample testing, setting protocols and providing assistance in ensuring SAIL employees can return back to work safely & are assured of the optimum treatment protocols.

SCI reported a net profit of Rs. 302.35 crore for FY19-20

The Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI) declared its audited financial results for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2020, posting a net profit (PAT) of Rs. 113.75 crore for quarter ended 31st March, 2020 as against a net profit (PAT) of Rs. 45.99 crore reported for the quarter ended 31st March, 2019. With this, SCI has reported a net profit (PAT) of Rs. 302.35 crore as against net loss (PAT) of Rs. 121.99 crore for the year FY 2018-19. Though the outbreak of COVID-19 has severely impacted business operations across all industries, timely and effective measures taken by SCI have helped to minimise disruption of operations. SCI emerges as the first public sector undertaking in Navratna/Maharatna category to declare its financial results in the challenging environment of the pandemic.

VIT-AP University students in IBM Hackathon finals

NASSCOM as part of the Futureskills initiative along with IBM had organised a National Online Hackathon - Crack the Covid-19 Crisis. The Hackathon kick-started on 25th April, 2020 where in NASSCOM invited STEM students across India to participate and build practical and effective solutions using technologies such as Cloud, Data & Artificial Intelligence. The objective of this hackathon was to look for innovative solutions to solve India's biggest challenge in the present construct, the national socio-economic crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic. The students of VIT-AP University have shown remarkable skills and attribute their strengths to the university for the facilities it provides for students to hone their skills.

whispersinthecorridors
Dr Suresh Mehrotra

Jaideep Bhatnagar to officiate as Pr DG, PIB

During the absence of K S Dhatwalia, Principal DG, Jaideep Bhatnagar shall officiate as Principal DG, Press Information Bureau (PIB). He is presently posted as OSD, Air News. He is an IIS officer.

Rajendra Chaudhari in race for CMD, HUDCO

Rajendra Chaudhari, Director Commercial, NBCC, appears to be strong contender for the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO).

Anshuman Sharma is Govt Nominee on IDBI Bank Board

The Central Government has nominated Anshuman Sharma, Director, Ministry of Finance on the Board of IDBI Bank.