GREEN DIGEST

EVERYTHING THAT CONCERNS YOUR MONEY

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BYJU's

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IN THIS ISSUE

ABOUT US

Greenvissage is a CFO consulting firm with the passion and expertise in helping companies set up in India and in managing their finances, accounts, payroll, taxes and compliances.
At Greenvissage, our constant endeavor is to help companies achieve growth that is scalable, sustainable and hassle-free through our CFO Consulting and Business Advisory Services.
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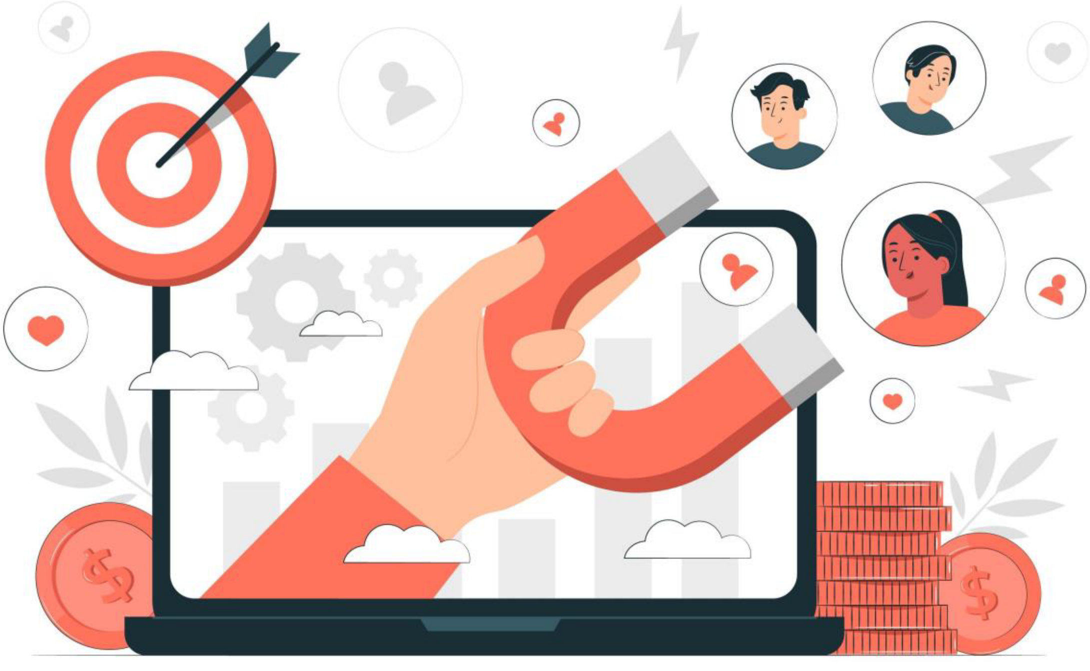


THE BIG STORY

Greenvissage

BYJU's – From studious first bencher to becoming mischievious last bencher – A lesson on how poor corporate governance can ruin businesses altogether.

Introduction

In the bustling classrooms of India, where eager minds yearned for knowledge, a silent revolution was brewing. And at the helm stood a visionary, armed not with chalk and blackboards, but with a digital canvas of infinite possibilities. Byju Raveendran, a maverick with a passion for education, embarked on a daring journey to reshape learning in the nation. With a stroke of brilliance, Byju's emerged as the beacon of this edtech revolution, weaving a tapestry of innovation and inspiration. Through its virtual halls, a symphony of animated lessons danced, captivating students' hearts and minds. Complex concepts transformed into vibrant spectacles, transcending the boundaries of traditional teaching. Byju's became the alchemist of education, blending technology and personalized learning. However, Byju's, once an unstoppable force, soaring to remarkable heights and empowering millions with its innovative approach, is now faltering to survive – grappling with issues of corporate governance. Today, Byju's has become an example for startups on how corporate governance issues can clamp business growth. It's a story of rise and fall, a cautionary symphony of ambition and adversity!

Unsustainable business model

Byju's is an Indian multinational edtech company at its core that provides online learning programs for students in kindergarten through grade 12, as well as professional and graduate education. The company was founded in 2011 by Byju Raveendran and Divya Gokulnath. It experienced rapid growth in recent years, thanks to the popularity of its online learning platform amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The company's valuation has skyrocketed from USD 1 billion in 2018 to over USD 22 billion in 2022. Several factors have contributed to Byju's rise. First, the company was able to tap into the growing demand for online education in India amid the pandemic. The Indian education market is already one of the largest in the world, and there is still a growing number of students who are looking for online learning options. Byju's also developed a strong brand and marketing presence, reaching a wide audience through its television commercials, social media campaigns, and celebrity endorsements. However, Byju's heavy investment in technology was one of the reasons that made it stand out from the others. The company's online learning platform is user-friendly and engaging, and it offers a variety of features that help students learn effectively. However, Byju's rapid growth also came with some challenges. One of the biggest challenges facing Byju's was its high burn rate. The company had been spending heavily on marketing and sales to acquire new customers. This led to losses in recent years. In FY21, Byju's lost INR 2,702 crore (USD 350 million) on a standalone basis. Meanwhile, the company relied on a subscription model, but the company's churn rate is high. This meant that the company was constantly losing money on its existing customers. This forced the company to lay off over 6,000 employees in recent months to cut costs. The layoffs raised concerns about the company's future growth prospects. In addition to financial challenges, Byju's has also been facing criticism for its sales tactics. Parents have started complaining that they were misled by Byju's sales representatives and that they were pressured into signing up for expensive courses. The company has been accused of using aggressive marketing techniques, such as cold calling and door-to-door sales. These challenges led to a decline in Byju's valuation. In January 2022, the company was valued at USD 40 billion. However, its valuation has since fallen to USD 22 billion. In addition to these challenges, Byju's is also facing increasing competition from other online learning platforms, such as Unacademy and Vedantu. Meanwhile, the Indian government is considering regulations that could make it more difficult for online learning companies to operate. Apparently, it seems like business growth issues, however, the problems run deeper.

Acquisition spree and debt trap

In the year 2021, with interest rates at a low and loans being cheap, the tech startup industry thrived, particularly in the field of edtech. Byju's, an ambitious player in the edtech sector, had already raised substantial funding. However, with money readily available and an appetite for expansion, Byju's sought to borrow additional funds. Initially aiming for a USD 500 million loan from lenders in the US to facilitate acquisitions, the company ended up borrowing more than double the amount, securing USD 1.2 billion. Lenders were keen to invest in this high-achieving edtech startup from India and were willing to throw money at it. Byju's went on a spending spree. The company acquired several other edtech companies, including WhiteHat Jr, Toppr, and Aakash Educational Services. These acquisitions were costly and contributed to Byju's mounting debt. Meanwhile, the company has been running television commercials and social media campaigns, and it has been using aggressive sales tactics to acquire new customers. The combination of acquisitions and marketing expenses has led to a high burn rate for Byju's. The debt load has led to concerns about the company's future. And thus, the company has been sued by its lenders in the United States.

Lawsuits and countersuits

In November 2021, prominent investment managers such as Blackstone, Fidelity, and GIC showed great enthusiasm to provide loans to Byju's. However, the situation changed by September 2022 when these lenders became desperate to offload their loans, offering them a steep 36% discount on the principal. Byju's loan process typically involved the company approaching an investment bank to syndicate the loan to investors who would become the lenders. Negotiations took place, resulting in an agreement that satisfied all parties involved. It's common for the original investors to later sell their loans to other investors, often leaving the company unaware of its lenders' identities. At present, Byju's debt carries a 20% discount, suggesting that distressed debt investors, specialized in purchasing such distressed loans from regular investment managers, likely acquired the loans. Consequently, these distressed debt investors took calculated risks, anticipating potential defaults by the company. Their goal is to recover their investment swiftly, often resorting to legal action to ensure repayment. In the case of Byju's, these new lenders, the distressed debt investors, filed a lawsuit in the Delaware Court of Chancery. It's worth noting that the lawsuit wasn't triggered by a payment default, but rather by the lenders' anticipation that Byju's might default in the future, prompting them to act proactively. The lenders claimed a default due to Byju's failure to obtain approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for Whitehat, one of the guarantor companies with a negative net worth. Additionally, the lenders seized on the delay in the company's financial audits as grounds for another default claim. Byju's financials for 2021 had been delayed due to concerns raised by auditors regarding certain accounting practices. Byju's has also faced legal challenges in the US regarding USD 500 million allegedly missing from its US entity, Byju's Alpha. The lenders have sought to gain control of the US subsidiary.

Despite Byju's attempts to negotiate a deal with the lenders, offering assurances of its financial health and making concessions worth tens of millions of dollars, the lenders remained uncompromising. They demanded full repayment of the principal or a significant portion along with increased interest rates. In response to the lenders' inflexibility, Byju's has prepared its defence, highlighting the loan clause that prohibits its transfer to distressed debt investors and raising questions about the lenders' eligibility. Byju's lawsuit alleges that the lenders were under the control of distressed debt dealers, which would violate the terms of the loan agreement. Byju's has categorized its TLB lenders as predatory and moved to disqualify Redwood as a lender.

Creative accounting, resignations

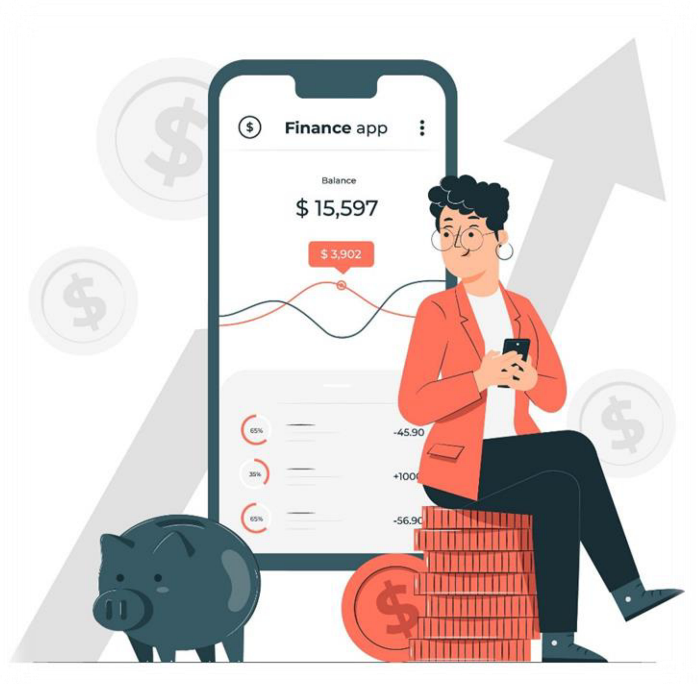
Byju's faced a major setback when its statutory auditor, Deloitte Haskins and Sells, and three external board members resigned, adding to the company's existing challenges. Deloitte, which had been auditing Byju's parent company Think and Learn Private Limited for six years, announced its immediate resignation due to the delayed financial statements for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2022. Last year, Deloitte was also appointed as the auditor for Byju's-owned entities Aakash Educational Services Ltd and Aakash EduTech Private Limited. In addition to the auditor's resignation, all three external directors representing Peak XV, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and Prosus Ventures reportedly submitted their resignations earlier this month. These directors played a significant role as representatives of shareholders. Byju's has named BDO as the new statutory auditor for the company and its subsidiaries, however, the company referred to the news of the directors' exits as speculative and denied the claims made in this regard. Deloitte's resignation letter mentioned multiple letters sent to the company, however, they have not received communication on the resolution of audit report modifications for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2021, nor the audit readiness of the financial statements for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2022. This impeded the start of the audit process. The resignation of an auditor is uncommon, and it is usually preceded by discussions and explanations of the issues at hand. Deloitte had previously expressed concerns about Byju's internal financial controls in its audit report for the fiscal year 2021, highlighting certain revenue recognition practices. Meanwhile, the departure of non-executive directors often occurs due to differences of opinion between the directors and the company's promoters. It is also seen as a move by the resigning directors to avoid future liability for the company's actions. (References: LiveMint, The Ken, Economic Times)

EXPERT OPINION

Greenvissage

What is FLDG? What are the new RBI guidelines on FLDG, and how it changes the digital lending and fintech space forever!

By Amit Chandak, Managing Partner, Greenvissage



Introduction

In the bustling world of finance, traditional banks have held the reins of power, carefully scrutinizing every borrower's creditworthiness. Their approach has been effective, however, often excludes individuals with limited credit histories or those belonging to underserved segments. However, winds of change in the past few years have swept through the financial landscape with the emergence of Financial Technology (Fintech) companies. These agile innovators have disrupted the status quo, providing inclusive financial solutions and digital lending options to previously marginalized populations. However, they also face serious concerns surrounding risk management. Traditionally, fintech lenders relied on credit scoring models and collateral to determine the creditworthiness of borrowers. However, these conventional methods often failed to capture the full picture, leading to suboptimal risk assessment and occasional defaults. Lenders, especially fintech companies, have been grappling with the challenge of assessing and mitigating risk effectively. That's where the FLDG, First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG) comes into the picture.

What is FLDG?

First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG) is an arrangement designed to mitigate the risks associated with lending and borrowing. In this scheme, a guarantee is provided to the lenders by a third party, typically a financial institution or government entity, if the borrower defaults on their loan. The purpose of FLDG is to enhance the confidence of lenders, particularly in situations where borrowers may have a higher risk of default. By offering a first-loss guarantee, the scheme protects lenders against potential losses in case of default. This assurance encourages lenders to provide loans to borrowers who might otherwise be considered too risky, thus promoting greater access to credit. This partnership mitigates the risk borne solely by the fintech lender, making them more inclined to extend credit to borrowers who may not meet stringent traditional credit criteria. FLDG schemes are typically used to facilitate lending to sectors or individuals with higher perceived risks, such as small businesses, startups, or borrowers with limited credit histories. By providing a safety net to lenders, FLDG schemes encourage them to extend credit and promote financial inclusion. It's important to note that the specific details and terms of FLDG schemes may vary depending on the country, financial institution, or government entity involved.

Let's consider an example. Suppose there is a small business owner who wants to secure a loan from a bank to expand their operations. However, the business is relatively new and lacks a substantial credit history, making the bank hesitant to approve the loan due to the perceived risk. In such a scenario, the government or a financial institution could step in and offer a first-loss default guarantee to the bank. This means that if the business owner defaults on the loan, the government or financial institution will cover a portion of the losses incurred by the bank. For instance, if the FLDG scheme guarantees 80% of the loan amount, and the borrower defaults on a loan of INR 1,00,000, the FLDG will reimburse the bank up to INR 80,000, reducing the bank's losses. This assurance enables the bank to lend to the business owner, as the risk is significantly reduced.

Why did RBI ban FLDG earlier?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) initially stopped the First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG) scheme due to concerns and issues related to the guarantee arrangements provided by fintech especially those that were non-regulated. The problem lay in the high guarantee limits offered by this fintech, which in some cases reached as high as 100% of the loan pool. To understand this, let's consider an example mentioned in the article. A fintech or loan service provider (LSP) facilitates a bank with a loan pool worth INR 100 crore. The fintech offers FLDG to compensate for up to 10% of the credit risk associated with the loan pool, which is INR 10 crore. However, many unregulated fintechs were providing guarantees for the entire 100% of the credit risk, disregarding RBI supervision and outsourcing arrangements. The RBI had concerns about the capability of these fintechs to bear such a high credit risk. It questioned whether they had the necessary risk management practices, debt-to-equity ratio requirements, and capital adequacy norms in place. The regulator found that many fintechs were not adequately prepared to handle potential bad loans or defaults. As a response, in August 2022, the RBI imposed a complete restriction on FLDGs, labelling them as synthetic securitisation. This action was taken to address the issues of unregulated FLDG arrangements and ensure the stability and integrity of the banking system.

What are the new RBI guidelines?

Fintech companies offer guarantees to cover certain aspects of their operations, and the new guidelines outline the requirements and limitations for these guarantees. One of the guarantees is the default guarantee, which has been capped at 5% of the portfolio amount. For example, if a fintech company services a loan pool worth Rs 10 crore for a bank, the maximum risk of loss would be 5%, amounting to INR 50 lakh. To ensure the validity of the guarantees, fintechs are required to provide hard guarantees to banks. This means that the exposure must be secured by the fintech through a cash deposit, such as a fixed deposit (FD) maintained with a scheduled commercial bank with a lien, or a bank guarantee marked in favour of the regulated entity (RE). By providing such guarantees, fintech companies demonstrate their financial capability to fulfil their obligations in the event of a default. The RBI also mandates fintech to make strict disclosures regarding their guarantees. For instance, Loan Service Providers (LSPs) must publish on their websites the total number of portfolios and the respective amounts for which FLDG have been offered. Additionally, fintechs are required to have a board-approved policy before entering into any FLDG arrangement. This policy should include eligibility criteria for the FLDG provider, details of the coverage, monitoring and reviewing processes, and information on applicable fees, if any. Furthermore, robust credit underwriting standards need to be in place regardless of the default loss guarantee (DLG) cover. Each time an RE enters into or renews an FLDG arrangement, they must gather adequate information to ensure that the DLG provider will be able to honour the guarantee. This includes a declaration from the DLG provider, certified by the statutory auditor, which includes details on the aggregate FLDG amount outstanding, the number of REs and portfolios covered, and past default rates on similar portfolios. It is important to note that lenders are accountable for identifying individual loan assets as non-performing assets (NPAs), irrespective of the DLG cover. This ensures that lenders are responsible for accurately assessing loan performance and recognizing NPAs on time. The guidelines aim to provide a more accurate view of digital lending NPAs and reduce leniency in underwriting practices by REs. Regarding the underwriting process, the guidelines state that the regulated entity (RE) must have a robust credit underwriting framework in place. This emphasizes the importance of strong credit assessment and risk management practices within fintech companies. The FLDG arrangements can involve both regulated and non-regulated entities. It can be between an RE and an unregulated Loan Service Provider (LSP), or between two regulated entities. Regulated entities include commercial banks, small finance banks, cooperative banks, and NBFCs (including housing finance companies). The duration of the FLDG agreement should be at least as long as the longest tenor of the loans in the underlying loan portfolio. This ensures that the guarantees remain in effect for the appropriate duration.

Impact of the new guidelines

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) new FLDG guidelines bring both opportunities and challenges for fintech companies in India. These guidelines foster fintech innovation, enhance financial inclusion, and promote transparency in the sector, however, the implementation of stricter requirements has raised concerns among fintech players. One significant impact of the FLDG guidelines is the capping of default guarantees at 5% of the portfolio amount. While this measure aims to mitigate risks associated with potential defaults, it poses challenges for fintech companies. The cap limits the extent to which fintech can protect lenders from default risks, potentially affecting their ability to attract investment and expand their operations. The FLDG guidelines emphasize the accountability of lenders for identifying non-performing assets (NPAs) irrespective of the default loss guarantee (DLG) cover. This enhances risk assessment practices within fintech companies, ensuring better identification and management of NPAs. The FLDG guidelines introduce a mandate for fintech companies to make strict disclosures. They are required to publish information on their websites regarding the portfolios and amounts covered by FLDG. This move towards transparency allows borrowers and stakeholders to have a clearer view of the guarantees offered and make informed decisions. However, compliance with these disclosure requirements may involve additional administrative burdens for fintech companies. The revamped FLDG guidelines also have implications for borrowers and lenders. Stricter risk assessment practices and greater accountability ensure that lenders maintain a more accurate view of digital lending NPAs. This reduces the leniency that was observed in the past and promotes more responsible lending practices, benefiting borrowers in the long run. The guidelines also facilitate collaboration opportunities between fintech lenders and traditional financial institutions, leading to a more inclusive and integrated financial ecosystem. LSPs, as intermediaries in the lending process, face specific challenges under the new FLDG guidelines. The guidelines require LSPs to maintain robust credit underwriting frameworks regardless of DLG cover. This emphasizes the importance of thorough credit assessment practices and risk management, demanding higher compliance standards from LSPs. Meeting these requirements might entail additional costs and resources for fintech companies. (References: RBI, Money Control, Inc42)

GREENVISSAGE EXPLAINS

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What is the One District, One Product (ODOP) programme?

The One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, implemented by the Government of India, seeks to identify and promote unique indigenous products from different districts across the country. The primary objective is to enhance the skills and productivity of local artisans and craftsmen, uplift rural economies, and create employment opportunities. Under this initiative, each district is encouraged to focus on a specific product or craft that showcases its traditional expertise and cultural heritage. By providing necessary support and infrastructure, such as skill development training, market linkages, and financial assistance, the government aims to boost the production, marketing, and export potential of these distinct products. The ODOP initiative has gained significant momentum since its launch, with 761 districts participating and showcasing their unique products. It is expected that the promotion and development of these products will not only contribute to the economic growth of the districts but also preserve and promote India's rich cultural diversity. The One District One Product (ODOP) scheme in India has several components, including skill development, capacity building, infrastructure development, and marketing support for the identified product. These components aim to empower local artisans, craftsmen, and small-scale industries by enhancing the quality and marketability of their products. Any individual, group, organization, or industry with expertise in the identified product can apply for the ODOP scheme and avail of its benefits. The scheme provides financial assistance in the form of loans and subsidies to eligible applicants, enabling them to grow their businesses and improve their product offerings. The Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Invest India, in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce, Nagaland, recently organized the ODOP Sampark Event in Nagaland, to create awareness about the One District One Product (ODOP). The event focused on several major highlights, including enhancing market access for Indian products, particularly from Nagaland, in foreign markets such as the European Union (EU) and Switzerland. It also emphasized infrastructure development, such as leveraging the Krishi UDAN scheme for better transportation and expanding railway connectivity. The Union Budget 2023-24 has allocated INR 5,000 crores for the construction of Unity Malls across the country, which will serve as central marketplaces for ODOP products. The event featured an ODOP exhibition showcasing various products from Nagaland, including chilli, fish, coffee, and turmeric. With over 1,000 products selected from all 761 districts, the initiative covers a wide range of sectors, including textiles, agriculture, processed goods, pharmaceuticals, and industrial items. Inspired by the success of the Uttar Pradesh government's ODOP scheme, the central government adopted the concept and launched it as a national initiative. Additionally, the DPIIT has instituted the One District One Product Awards to recognize the outstanding work done by states/UTs, districts, and Indian missions abroad in promoting economic development and realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. (References: National Portal of India, Press Information Bureau, Wikipedia)

Why is India seeking a credit rating upgrade?

In the realm of global finance, credit ratings play a crucial role in shaping the perception of a country's economic stability and investment potential. India, as a burgeoning economic powerhouse, has been striving for a credit rating upgrade to enhance its standing in the international market. With aspirations to attract more foreign investment and improve its borrowing costs, the Indian government has been engaged in discussions with credit rating agencies, particularly Moody's, in an attempt to understand the rating methodologies and address concerns. However, the elusive rating upgrade continues to be a topic of debate and analysis. Credit ratings are critical as they impact borrowing costs, investor sentiment, and the overall perception of a nation's economic health. A higher credit rating signifies lower risks for lenders, prompting reduced interest rates on loans. Additionally, an improved rating can instil confidence in foreign investors, encouraging them to channel funds into the country. These benefits have spurred India's desire to secure a higher sovereign credit rating. However, India's credit rating has remained stagnant at the lowest investment-grade level for over a decade. This has raised questions about the methodologies employed by rating agencies, which some critics argue might be biased against emerging economies like India. The Indian government, along with market participants and analysts, has sought to understand and address these concerns to pave the way for an upgrade. The primary credit rating agencies, including Moody's, Standard & Poor's (S&P), and Fitch, evaluate countries based on various factors such as fiscal discipline, economic growth, political stability, and institutional effectiveness. While India has made significant progress in several aspects, challenges persist. High public debt, limited fiscal manoeuvrability, and structural issues hindered by bureaucracy and complex regulations have impeded India's progress towards a rating upgrade. One of the key points of contention revolves around the rating agencies' assessment of India's fiscal deficit. India has consistently targeted lower fiscal deficits, showcasing its commitment to fiscal discipline. Nevertheless, rating agencies remain cautious, highlighting the need for sustained improvement in India's fiscal position. Moreover, the agencies have expressed concerns over the country's high public debt and its impact on fiscal sustainability, further contributing to the rating conundrum. Another factor affecting India's credit rating is its economic growth trajectory. Despite being one of the fastest-growing economies globally, India has faced challenges in maintaining consistent and robust growth rates. Sluggish economic growth in recent years, coupled with the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, has given rating agencies reason to exercise caution in upgrading India's rating. They emphasize the importance of sustainable and inclusive growth to alleviate concerns surrounding the country's economic stability. Additionally, rating agencies take into account factors like political stability, institutional effectiveness, and ease of doing business. India's vast and diverse political landscape, coupled with bureaucratic hurdles, has often been perceived as impediments to swift decision-making and implementation of reforms. These concerns have been reflected in the evaluation of India's creditworthiness. In response to the challenges, the Indian government has engaged in dialogues with rating agencies, notably Moody's, seeking to comprehend their methodologies better. The government has sought clarifications and presented its case, demonstrating the measures taken to address key concerns. (References: Outlook India, Times of India, LiveMint)

How are new FPI disclosure norms related to Adani Group fiasco?

In a bid to strengthen transparency and ensure better corporate governance, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently announced significant changes to the disclosure norms for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). These new amendments come in the wake of the Adani fiasco, which brought to light certain inadequacies in the existing regulations. By implementing stricter disclosure rules, SEBI aims to enhance market integrity and safeguard investor interests. The Adani Group, one of India's leading conglomerates, faced allegations of non-compliance with regulations, triggering a sharp decline in its share prices. In response to this incident, SEBI embarked on a mission to revise and fortify the disclosure norms to prevent similar occurrences in the future. The board approved the new amendments, signalling its commitment to maintaining transparency and strengthening corporate governance in the Indian market. SEBI's revised norms introduce additional disclosure requirements for FPIs, placing a greater emphasis on transparency and accountability. FPIs are now required to disclose the details of their beneficial owners, including individuals, trusts, or entities holding more than 25% of the investment vehicle. This information aims to enhance transparency and ensure that the ultimate owners behind FPIs are known to regulators. SEBI has also introduced a new category of FPIs known as 'high-risk jurisdictions' to identify entities based in countries that pose a higher risk of money laundering or terrorist financing. These FPIs will undergo enhanced scrutiny, and stricter Know Your Customer (KYC) norms will be applied. FPIs are now also required to disclose the ultimate beneficiary owners on an annual basis, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the ownership structure. Furthermore, any changes in beneficial ownership exceeding 10% of the investment vehicle must be reported within 15 days. The new norms mandate FPIs to submit consolidated reports, including their investment details, across different securities, every month. This step aims to streamline reporting mechanisms and enable regulators to monitor the market more effectively. SEBI's revised disclosure norms hold significant implications for the Adani fiasco. The allegations against the Adani Group highlighted concerns regarding the non-disclosure of the ultimate beneficiaries behind certain FPIs invested in their companies. The introduction of beneficial ownership disclosure requirements directly addresses this issue, ensuring that the ownership structure is transparent and known to regulators. By doing so, SEBI aims to prevent situations where market participants are unaware of influential stakeholders who may impact share prices and corporate decisions. Furthermore, the inclusion of high-risk jurisdictions as a distinct category of FPIs strengthens the due diligence process. This step not only mitigates potential risks associated with money laundering and terrorist financing but also demonstrates SEBI's commitment to upholding international best practices in combating financial crimes. SEBI's new norms also promote proactive reporting by FPIs. The requirement for annual disclosure of ultimate beneficiary ownership and prompt reporting of any significant changes creates an environment of accountability and facilitates a deeper understanding of the ownership dynamics within FPIs. While the new norms are certainly a step towards accountability and transparency, and make it difficult for corporates to hide their beneficial owners, various loopholes are still available to exploit which not only provide cover to the ultimate owners but also ensure that they are publicly untraceable. (References: Economic Times, Indian Express, Live Mint, Hindustan Times)

COMPLIANCE UPDATES

Greenvissage

Goods and services tax

Form DRC-01B for explaining the discrepancy in GST Returns The GST portal now allows taxpayers to explain any discrepancies between the liability declared in their GSTR-1/IFF and the liability paid in GSTR-3B/3BQ before receiving a notice. The system compares the declared liability with the paid liability for each return period, and if the difference exceeds a predefined limit or threshold, the taxpayer will receive an intimation in the form of DRC-01B. In response, the taxpayer must file a reply using Form DRC-01B Part B, providing clarification through an automated dropdown menu and providing additional details about the discrepancy if necessary. (GSTN)

Mandatory geocoding of addresses on GST portal The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has mandated that all GST-registered businesses must geocode their addresses. The move aims to enhance the efficiency of the GST system by accurately mapping the location of businesses. Geocoding refers to the process of converting addresses into geographic coordinates, such as latitude and longitude, which can be used to precisely locate a place on a map. By geocoding their addresses, businesses will facilitate seamless integration of GST data with other databases and enable better decision-making for tax authorities. This initiative by the GSTN is expected to streamline the tax administration process and contribute to the ease of doing business in India. (Business Standard)

Annual return GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C exemptions The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has announced that businesses with AATO of up to INR 2 crore will not be required to file the annual return in GSTR-9. Further, businesses with AATO of up to INR 5 crore will be exempted from filing GSTR-9C, the annual reconciliation statement. (CBIC)

Pre-filled GST Return The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in India is exploring the possibility of implementing pre-filled consolidated Goods and Services Tax (GST) return forms, similar to the ones used in income tax filings. This move aims to streamline the GST return filing process and reduce the compliance burden for taxpayers. (Economic Times)

e-Invoice for businesses with AATO of INR 5 Crore The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has extended the electronic invoicing (e-invoice) system to include businesses with an annual turnover of INR 5 crore or more. This move aims to enhance tax compliance and streamline invoicing processes. With the e-invoice system, businesses will generate invoices using a standardized format, which will then be reported to the government's invoicing portal for validation. This digital transformation is expected to reduce tax evasion and improve efficiency in the invoicing and tax collection process for medium and large enterprises. (CBIC)

Two-factor authentication mandatory for AATO above 100 Crores The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has made it mandatory for taxpayers with an Annual Aggregate Turnover (AATO) above INR 100 crore to adopt two-factor authentication, effective from July 15, 2023. The decision was made to enhance the security of the GST portal and prevent fraudulent activities. Taxpayers falling under this category will be required to use an additional layer of authentication, such as a one-time password (OTP), along with their login credentials to access the GST portal. The move aims to curb unauthorized access and protect sensitive taxpayer information. (CBIC)

GST collection increased by 12% in June The Finance Ministry has reported a 12% growth in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for June, reaching over INR 1.61 lakh crore. The higher collection reflects a positive trend in economic recovery, indicating a gradual revival of businesses. (Financial Express)

For queries or more information about goods and services tax, contact our colleague Ashish at ashish.gandhi@greenvissage.com)

Income tax

New TCS rule to come into effect from October 1 The Indian Finance Ministry has announced that a new Tax Collected at Source (TCS) rule will be implemented from October 1 instead of July 1. The implementation of a tax on overseas credit card expenditures has been postponed by the Indian government. The decision to delay the tax aims to provide more time for stakeholders to adapt and ensure a smooth transition. The tax, which was originally proposed in the Union Budget, is intended to impact India's spending on foreign credit cards and encourage the use of domestic payment platforms. (Economic Times)

■ **The tolerance range for Transfer Pricing remains the same** The Income Tax Department has decided to maintain the existing tolerance range for transfer pricing, which is used to assess the fairness of transactions between related entities. Transfer pricing refers to the pricing of goods, services, and intellectual property between affiliated companies. The department has retained the range at one per cent for wholesale traders and three per cent for other cases, signalling stability and consistency in its approach. The decision provides clarity and avoids unnecessary disputes between taxpayers and the tax authorities. (Business Standard)

■ **Taxpayers with multiple homes are eligible for benefits under 54F** The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) has ruled that taxpayers who co-own more than one residential property are entitled to claim benefits under various sections of the Income Tax Act. The tribunal made this decision while addressing an appeal filed by a taxpayer who owned two properties and sought to claim deductions for both properties. The ITAT emphasized that the provisions of the Income Tax Act do not restrict the benefits to be availed by a taxpayer based on the number of residential properties owned, as long as they fulfil the specified criteria. The ruling provides clarity and relief to individuals who own multiple homes and reaffirms their eligibility to claim tax benefits following the applicable provisions of the law. (Times of India)

■ **Six months imprisonment for late filing of tax returns** Directors of two prominent jewellery companies, Jitendra Jain and Kiran Jain, directors of Saloni Jewellers Private Limited and Yellow Jewellers Private Limited have been handed a six-month rigorous imprisonment sentence under section 276CC read with Sec 278E of the Income Tax Act, for filing their tax returns late. The companies' directors were found guilty of willfully delaying the submission of their tax returns, leading to a significant loss in government revenue. The court's decision serves as a strong deterrent against tax evasion practices and emphasizes the importance of timely tax compliance. (Times of India)

■ **Tax evasion through donations to trusts** The Indian government has implemented stricter regulations to counter potential tax evasion schemes involving donations made to trusts. The move aims to curb fraudulent practices and ensure transparency in charitable contributions. These new norms require trusts to provide detailed information about their activities, including expenditure and funding sources, and additional disclosures consisting of the name, address, and permanent account numbers of donors who contribute more than INR 2 lakh in a single day. The government will also closely monitor the utilization of funds to prevent misuse and redirect the resources towards genuine charitable purposes. This measure seeks to enhance tax compliance and prevent illicit practices that could undermine the integrity of the Indian tax system. (Economic Times)

(For queries or more information about income tax, contact our colleague Sneha at sneha.halder@greenvissage.com)

Customs and foreign trade

■ **The United Kingdom lifts Zero-Duty SOPs** Indian textile companies are expressing concerns as the United Kingdom has lifted the zero-duty benefits for their exports, causing potential financial implications. The UK's decision to withdraw the zero-duty regime under the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) will adversely affect the competitiveness of Indian textile products in the UK market, leading to increased prices and reduced demand. Textile companies fear losing market share to countries that still enjoy zero-duty benefits, such as Bangladesh and Vietnam. The Indian government is urged to take prompt action and negotiate a bilateral trade agreement with the UK to ensure the continuation of favourable trade conditions for the Indian textile industry. (Economic Times)

LPG shipments to attract 15% customs duty and farm cess Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) shipments to India will now be subject to a 15% customs duty and an equal amount of farm cess. The basic customs duty on domestic LPG has been raised to 15% from 5%. The Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) of 15% has also been on the import of LPG cylinders. The decision aims to boost domestic production and reduce imports of LPG. The new rates will be effective from July 1. (Economic Times)

(For queries or more information about customs and foreign trade, contact our colleague Adnan at adnan.ginwala@greenvissage.com)

Corporate and allied laws

SEBI tightens disclosure norms for foreign FPIs The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) board has approved stricter disclosure rules for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). Under the new regulations, FPIs will be required to provide enhanced disclosures regarding their ultimate beneficial owners (UBOs) and the structure of their investment funds. These measures aim to improve transparency and prevent money laundering and illicit activities through the Indian capital markets. The enhanced disclosure requirements will strengthen the regulatory framework for FPIs and ensure greater accountability in their operations. SEBI's decision reflects the commitment to safeguarding the integrity and stability of India's financial markets. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in India may be granted a three-month window to reduce their exposure as per the revised disclosure norms. This extension aims to provide FPIs with additional time to align with the new regulations and adjust their investment portfolios accordingly. The move seeks to ensure a smoother transition and minimize disruption in the financial markets. (Economic Times)

MCA extends reporting due date for business deposits The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has granted businesses additional time to report on deposits received. Keeping in view the transition of the MCA portal, the companies have been allowed additional time to file form DPT-3 for the financial year that ended on March 31, 2023, without paying additional fees up to July 31, 2023. The move aims to alleviate the burden on companies and provide them with more flexibility in complying with the reporting requirements. The extension will enable businesses to accurately disclose and document the deposits they have received, ensuring transparency and adherence to regulatory guidelines.

(For queries or more information about corporate and allied laws, contact our colleague Adnan at adnan.ginwala@greenvissage.com)

Finance and banking

RBI seeks details of companies hiding information used for credit assessment The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has requested credit rating agencies to provide information about companies that have concealed crucial data that was used for credit assessment. This move comes as the central bank aims to strengthen the credit rating process and ensure transparency in the assessment of companies' creditworthiness. (Economic Times)

RBI's Policy Rates remain unchanged at 6.50% The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to maintain the repo rate at 6.5%, citing concerns over inflation and the need to support economic recovery. Despite expectations for a rate cut, the central bank has chosen to hold steady, with the Monetary Policy Committee expressing a cautious approach due to uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy. The RBI emphasized the importance of maintaining price stability and ensuring adequate liquidity in the financial system to facilitate growth. With inflationary pressures and rising global commodity prices posing risks, the RBI's decision to maintain the repo rate is aimed at balancing growth and stability. (Livemint)

IMF developing a platform for Central Bank Digital Currencies The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is actively working on creating a platform for central bank digital currencies (CBDCs). CBDCs are digital representations of a country's official currency that are issued and regulated by a central bank. The IMF recognizes the growing interest and potential benefits of CBDCs and is striving to assist member countries in adopting these digital currencies while ensuring financial stability, security, and interoperability. The platform aims to provide technical support, policy advice, and collaboration opportunities to central banks exploring CBDC implementation. (Investopedia)

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Accounting and management

In Focus: Greenfield vs Brownfield

Greenfield and brownfield investments are two distinct approaches to foreign direct investment (FDI) with varying characteristics and risks. Greenfield investments refer to the establishment of a new business or facility in a foreign country, often from scratch, requiring significant capital and time investment. This approach allows investors to have complete control over the design and operations of the new venture, giving them the flexibility to align it with their strategic objectives.

On the other hand, brownfield investments involve acquiring or repurposing an existing business or facility in a foreign market. This approach offers certain advantages, such as reduced construction and setup time, existing infrastructure, and an established customer base. However, brownfield investments also come with their own set of challenges, including potential environmental liabilities, regulatory compliance issues, and the need for extensive due diligence to assess the condition of the acquired assets.

While greenfield investments provide greater control and customization, they entail higher risks and uncertainties, including market entry barriers and the need to build a brand from scratch. Brownfield investments, on the other hand, present opportunities for faster market entry and access to established resources, but they may require significant investments for renovations and upgrades. Ultimately, the choice between greenfield and brownfield investments depends on various factors, such as the investor's risk appetite, market conditions, regulatory environment, and long-term strategic objectives. Understanding the nuances and implications of each approach is crucial for investors seeking to maximize their FDI potential.

(For queries or more information about accounting, contact our colleague Rahul at rahul.mundada@greenvissage.com)

Payroll and personal finance

- **EPFO higher EPS pension calculation** The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has introduced a new formula to calculate higher pension benefits for its members. This move aims to provide increased financial security for retired employees. The calculation formula takes into account the average salary of the last 12 months before retirement and the duration of the pensionable service. Eligibility for the higher EPS pension requires a minimum of 20 years of continuous service and the member should not have opted for the reduced pension earlier. The EPFO has made the online application process for higher provident fund pensions convenient and hassle-free. Members can easily apply for the higher EPS pension by logging into the EPFO member portal and submitting the necessary documents. By implementing these new rules and measures, the EPFO aims to ensure that retired employees receive a higher pension amount, thereby improving their overall financial well-being during their retirement years (Zee Business).

- **The due date for Aadhar PAN linking expires** The due date for linking aadhar with PAN expired on June 30. Failure to link your Aadhaar card with your PAN card will lead to your PAN card being declared inoperative. It will also lead to the invalidation of income tax returns and therefore, you may not be able to file your income tax returns or receive refunds until the linkage is completed. Additionally, the Income Tax Department will impose a penalty of INR 10,000 for non-compliance. (Financial Express)

(For queries or more information about payroll and personal finance, contact our colleague Snigdha at kumari.snigdha@greenvissage.com)

BUSINESS NEWS

Government

India substitutes US GPS for more accurate NavIC India has decided to abandon the use of the US Global Positioning System (GPS) and instead rely on its indigenous NavIC navigation system, which is considered to be more accurate and reliable. The decision aims to enhance the country's navigation capabilities and reduce its dependence on foreign systems. NavIC, developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), provides precise positioning and timing services across India and surrounding regions. (Eurasian Times)

Master app to facilitate EV Charging A master application is under development to streamline the electric vehicle (EV) charging process in India. This app will enable EV owners to locate charging stations, check availability, make payments, and monitor charging progress in real-time. The initiative is expected to accelerate the adoption of EVs by providing a convenient and user-friendly charging infrastructure. The app aims to provide users with information regarding the location, capacity, and operational status of various charging stations, aggregating data from multiple service providers. Additionally, it will include details about battery swapping stations and different types of chargers. Future updates may incorporate features such as booking and payment functionalities to enhance user convenience. (Economic Times)

Micron receives approval for chip project The Indian government has given clearance for an investment of INR 22,000 crore or USD 2.7 billion by Micron Technology for a chip project. This project aims to boost domestic semiconductor manufacturing in India and reduce reliance on imports. The investment is expected to create employment opportunities and contribute to the country's digital transformation. The government has also sanctioned production-linked incentives worth 110 billion rupees (or USD 1.34 billion) for the plant, which is slated to be constructed in Gujarat. (Times of India)

Fantasy Sports revenue rises 24% during IPL 2023 According to a report by RedSeer, India's fantasy sports revenue increased by 24% during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023. The surge in revenue can be attributed to the popularity of fantasy sports platforms among cricket fans during the tournament (Reuters).

Kerala introduces speedy internet connection to all homes Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has launched the Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON) project, making Kerala the only state in India to recognize internet access as a fundamental right. KFON aims to provide high-speed internet connectivity to all homes in the state, ensuring that internet access is not just a theoretical concept but a practical reality. The project plans to offer free internet connectivity to 20 lakh economically backward families, with the initial phase targeting 14,000 households and 30,000 government offices. The state government has obtained the necessary license and has already connected over 17,000 government institutions and 2,000 homes. Additionally, around 9,000 households have been connected via cable, and general customers can avail of services starting at Rs 299 per month for a 20 Mbps connection (The Indian Express).

2.74 lakh Railway Posts vacant, more than 1.7 lakhs in safety category According to information obtained through a Right to Information (RTI) request, Indian Railways has more than 2.74 lakh vacant positions, with over 1.7 lakhs of them falling under the safety category. The revelation raises concerns about the safety and efficiency of railway operations, as a large number of critical positions remain unfilled. The vacant safety positions include those related to loco pilots, gangmen, and maintenance staff, among others. The central government will have to prioritize the recruitment process and address the manpower shortage in the railway sector to ensure passenger safety and optimal functioning of the railways. (Economic Times)

Economies

Sri Lanka could exit bankruptcy by September The President of Sri Lanka has stated that the country could exit bankruptcy by September. This positive outlook comes as Sri Lanka grapples with its economic crisis and seeks to recover from its mounting debts. Sri Lanka has recently launched a domestic debt restructuring framework to rework its USD 42 billion domestic debt. Its economy is expected to contract by 2% in 2023, after shrinking 7.8% last year. (Deccan Herald)

■ **Canada announces work permit for H1B visa holders from the US** Canada has introduced a new work permit specifically designed for H1B visa holders from the United States. This initiative aims to attract skilled professionals and provide them with an opportunity to work in Canada. The work permit will allow H1B visa holders to quickly transition to Canadian employment, contributing to the country's talent pool and fostering economic growth. (Economic Times)

■ **France riots cause billions in damages to businesses** Riots in France have resulted in billions of dollars in damages to businesses, adding to the economic strain the country has been facing. The protests, triggered by the government's proposed labour reforms, have escalated into violent clashes between demonstrators and law enforcement. Numerous shops, restaurants, and vehicles have been looted, vandalized, or set on fire, leading to widespread destruction. This wave of unrest has further hampered France's recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic and has dealt a severe blow to its already struggling economy. (CNN)

■ **SGX Nifty is now GIFT Nifty** The Singapore Exchange Nifty, or SGX Nifty, has emerged as a valuable tool for investors in predicting the direction of the Indian stock market. This derivative product, which is traded on the Singapore Exchange, allows investors to speculate on the performance of the Nifty 50 index of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE). It had gained popularity due to its extended trading hours and the fact that it provides an early indication of how the Indian markets might perform when they open. The SGX Nifty is now rebranded to GIFT Nifty. The GIFT Nifty will now trade on NSE's International Exchange which is located in International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) GIFT City. The erstwhile SGX Nifty will soon be delisted from Singapore Stock Exchange. (Hindu Business Line)

Corporates

■ **Reliance launches cheapest internet-enabled phone** Reliance has introduced the JioBharat phone, the cheapest internet-enabled phone in India. The device aims to provide affordable internet access to millions of people in the country, particularly those in rural areas who have limited access to smartphones. (Gadgets Now)

■ **Go First seeks USD 122 million funds** Go First, the debt-ridden aviation company, has reportedly sought USD 122 million in additional funds. The airline aims to secure the funds through a mix of equity and debt as it looks to expand its operations and navigate the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Go First plans to utilize the additional capital to strengthen its market position and support its growth plans. (Economic Times)

■ **CCI issues show cause notice to Air India on the Vistara merger** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has issued a show cause notice regarding the proposed merger deal between Air India and Vistara. The notice raises concerns about potential anti-competitive practices and their impact on the Indian aviation market. The CCI has asked the two airlines to respond to the notice and provide clarification on various aspects of the merger, including its potential impact on competition, pricing, and consumer welfare. The notice indicates that the CCI will further examine the merger deal before making a final decision. (Economic Times)

■ **Tata Communications to acquire Kaleyra for USD 100 million** Tata Communications has announced its acquisition of Kaleyra, a cloud communication services provider, in an all-cash deal valued at approximately USD 100 million. This strategic move will bolster Tata Communications' portfolio and expand its capabilities in the cloud communication space. The acquisition aligns with Tata Communications' growth strategy and commitment to providing innovative solutions to its customers. (Economic Times)

■ **Adani Group raises USD 213 million for a data centre project with EdgeConnex** Adani Enterprises had earlier entered into a joint venture with EdgeConnex to build data centres in India. The joint venture has now raised USD 213 million in funding for the project. The data centres are expected to be located in Chennai and Noida with a combined capacity of 67 megawatts. The significance of the data centre has increased in recent times to enable digital transformation and the growth of cloud computing and data-intensive technologies. (Livemint)

■ **GQG Partners and others invest USD 1 billion in Adani Group** GQG Partners, along with other investors, has infused USD 1 billion into two companies of the Adani Group. The investment will be made in Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Adani Green Energy. GQG Partners, a US-based investment firm, aims to tap into the growing opportunities in India's infrastructure and renewable energy sectors through this significant investment. Adani Ports and SEZ operate several ports and logistics facilities in India, while Adani Green Energy focuses on renewable energy generation. The investment will support the expansion and development of these companies, further enhancing their capabilities and contribution to India's economic growth. (Economic Times)

Startups

■ **NSDL files draft papers for IPO** The National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) has submitted draft papers to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its initial public offering (IPO). The IPO includes both a fresh issue of shares and an offer for sale by existing shareholders. IDBI, Union Bank of India, State Bank of India and HDFC Bank shall offer their shares for sale in this IPO. NSDL is the largest depository in India, providing electronic securities depository services. The IPO aims to raise funds for the company's working capital requirements and general corporate purposes. (Money Control)

■ **IdeaForge Technology gains 93% on IPO listing** IdeaForge Technology, the Indian drone manufacturer, witnessed a significant rally on its stock market debut, closing with a gain of 93%. This rally marks the largest surge among all the stocks listed since 2021. IdeaForge's strong performance can be attributed to its successful initial public offering (IPO) and investor confidence in the company's prospects in the growing drone industry. The company has a strong presence in sectors such as defence, homeland security, and industrial applications, which have contributed to its positive market reception. Investors are optimistic about IdeaForge's ability to capitalize on the increasing demand for drone technology, and this successful debut is seen as a testament to the company's potential for growth in the coming years. (Money Control)

■ **Google Pay introduces Aadhaar-based Authentication for UPI** Google Pay has launched a new feature that allows users in India to authenticate their Unified Payments Interface (UPI) activation using their Aadhaar credentials. This feature aims to simplify the UPI activation process and enhance security by leveraging the unique identification system provided by Aadhaar. (YourStory)

■ **PhonePe launches new POS device** PhonePe, the fintech startup based in Bengaluru, has introduced a new point-of-sale (POS) device specifically designed for merchants. The device aims to provide a seamless payment experience for both customers and businesses by enabling secure and convenient transactions. With this POS device, merchants can accept various payment methods, including debit and credit cards, mobile wallets, and UPI-based payments. The device also supports multiple languages and offers features such as transaction history and real-time reporting. PhonePe's POS device aims to cater to the needs of small and medium-sized businesses in India, empowering them to accept digital payments easily and efficiently. (YourStory)

Conglomerates

■ **Apple's market value breaches USD 3 trillion mark** Apple's market value has surpassed USD 3 trillion for the second time, reflecting the company's strong performance and investor confidence. This achievement comes amidst Apple's ongoing innovation and product launches, reinforcing its position as one of the world's most valuable companies. (Reuters)

■ **Google to invest USD 10 billion in Digitization** Google CEO Sundar Pichai has announced a USD 10 billion investment in India to support the country's digitization efforts. He expressed his commitment to India's digital transformation and outlined the areas where the investment will be focused, including infrastructure, digital skills training, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises. The investment aims to accelerate India's digital economy and empower millions of Indians with access to technology and digital services. (Economic Times)

■ **Meta launched Threads, surpassing 50 million signups in a day** Meta's new social media platform, Threads, has achieved a significant milestone, surpassing 50 million signups. Threads that offer features similar to Twitter, such as the ability to follow and unfollow users, post tweets called 'threads' on the platform, and engage in conversations through comments and likes. The platform also includes a trending topics section, personalized recommendations, and a dark mode option. With Threads gaining traction, it poses a potential challenge to Twitter's dominance in the social media landscape, as Meta aims to diversify its offerings and attract a broader user base. (CNBC)

■ **Ant Group's share repurchase values it at USD 79 billion** Ant Group, the financial technology company affiliated with Alibaba, has announced a share repurchase plan that values the firm at approximately USD 79 billion. The plan aims to enhance Ant Group's stability and boost investor confidence following regulatory challenges. The company plans to repurchase its shares from existing shareholders at a premium price. This move comes after Ant Group's initial public offering (IPO) was halted by Chinese regulators in 2020, leading to increased scrutiny of the company's business practices. By repurchasing shares, Ant Group aims to address concerns raised by investors and stabilize its valuation. (CNBC)

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

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ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Key Economic Indicators

Indicator	As on	Current	Prior
GDP Growth (%)	Mar-23	6.10	4.50
Inflation (%)	May-23	4.25	4.70
Unemployment (%)	Mar-23	7.70	8.10
Trade Balance ($m)	May-23	(22.12)	(15.14)
Business confidence	Jun-23	126.00	133.00
Manufacturing PMI	Jun-23	57.80	58.70
Services PMI	Jun-23	58.50	61.20

Global Indices

Index	Country	%
NIFTY 50	India	4.14
BSE SENSEX	India	4.24
INDIA VIX	India	3.71
NIFTY BANK	India	2.13
DOW JONES	USA	(0.42)
NASDAQ	USA	3.03
S&P 500	USA	2.33
FSTE 100	UK	(4.04)
NIKKEI 225	Japan	0.38
SHANGHAI COM	China	(1.08)
MOEX	Russia	4.60
CAC 40	France	(1.40)
DAX	Germany	(2.17)
S&P ASX 200	Australia	(1.06)
BOVESPA	Brazil	1.61
KOSPI	South Korea	(4.33)
HANG SENG	Hong Kong	(5.28)

Commodities Future

Commodity	Expiry	Price	%
Gold	Aug-23	58,747.00	(1.41)
Silver	Sep-23	71,333.00	(0.89)
Crude Oil	Jul-23	6,069.00	2.55
Natural Gas	Jul-23	211.30	16.48
Aluminum	Jul-23	195.65	(5.73)
Copper	Jul-23	722.50	0.96
Zinc	Jul-23	214.45	2.63

Currency Exchange Rates

Pair	Current	Prior	%
INR/1 USD	82.68	82.32	(0.44)
INR/1 GBP	105.38	103.22	(2.10)
INR/1 EUR	90.07	88.66	(1.59)
INR/100 YEN	57.60	59.27	2.82

Cryptocurrencies

Pair	Crypto	Price	%
BTC/USD	Bitcoin	30,174.60	10.88
ETH/USD	Ethereum	1,856.62	(2.44)
USDT/USD	Tether	1.00	0.07
BNB/USD	Binance	236.20	(23.06)

Small Savings Schemes

Scheme	Current	Prior	%
SSCS	8.20	8.20	-
SSA	8.00	8.00	-
NSC	7.70	7.70	-
PPF	7.10	7.10	-
KVP	7.50	7.50	-

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